

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

2004

Session Reports

September 26, 2004

President



My wife, Judy, and I arrived in Alberta in February of this year, 2004, to take up our duties as president of the Alberta conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is good to be back home again with each of us having been born here in Alberta and having served in the Alberta Conference in the past as Secretary-Treasurer.

One of the first things we did was to take a close look at the direction this Conference was going or was intended to be going. In asking about this we were directed to the vision points presented and approved at the 2001 general meeting of Conference Constituency delegates. Eight points were clearly delineated:

1. Revival of True Godliness;
2. Loving Relationships;
3. Truth and Spirit-filled Worship;
4. Small Companies;
5. Christ's Method of Evangelism;
6. Ministry that Matches Our God-given Spiritual Gifts;
7. Leadership Development;
8. Healthy Organizations.

In the short time that I have been here I have observed that these points of vision have been pursued with varying degrees of success. Certainly the incumbent executive committee has been giving direction to administration in pursuing these ends. They have put in place a governance model that incorporates these points as comprising the "strategic plan". So much of the essence of the plan is dependent upon the application of its principles by local pastors in their assigned areas of responsibility with the support of conference administrative personnel. But, they cannot do it alone. They need the participation and support of the laity.

True Godliness continues to be a state of spirituality under constant pursuit. This calls for individual heart searching. One's individual time studying the Word of God, spending time in prayer, and sharing of one's faith contributes to successful realization of this objective. I am concerned, however, with what I have observed to be less than full local church membership attending Sabbath School in some of our churches. For many of our children, the Sabbath School may be the only spiritual training they receive during the week. Busy full days spent by working fathers and mothers negate the time they are spending with their children instructing them from the Bible and Bible lessons prepared for them. Lack of personal time with God's Word and a diligent prayer life tend to allow for a "creeping compromise" of some of our fundamental beliefs to the point where the proper observance of the Sabbath, personal adornment, the nearness of the Second Coming of Christ etc. are called into question. Where we really are in this regard is a matter for personal reflection but I must admit to being somewhat concerned from my experience in this Conference thus far.

Public evangelism continues to be a tried and proven method for reaching lost souls with several successful campaigns

having been held during the past three years and others being planned for the immediate future. Individual personal faith sharing through friendship evangelism and small group formation complements the public efforts and provides for the "reaping". (Eight new companies and fellowship groups were started during the past three years.) I am pleased with the lay initiative including that of several of our youth. Many other churches and companies are reaching out to their communities by way of cooking schools, better living and healthful living programs, religious surveys, music programs and etc. But there is so much more that could be done on a personal basis if more individuals had that "passion for souls". I wish I could report 100% church member involvement in soul saving but we are currently falling short.

Inspiring meetings have been held for church leaders (pastors, local elders, and involved lay persons) with the objective of equipping these persons for evangelistic and nurturing activities. Presenters have shared their success stories, the methods that resulted in their success and above all their dependence upon the Spirit of God working with them and using them. We admit to a weakness in not following up on what attendees have gone home and done after attending such meetings.

Christian education for our young people in Seventh-day Adventist schools, academies, and colleges has been a high priority in the Alberta Conference although not specifically addressed in the eight-point vision statement. This Conference provides financial subsidies for the educational institutions, provides Bible teachers/chaplains for senior academies and provides administrative leadership. In some instances there are more non Seventh-day Adventist students attending our church sponsored schools than there are Seventh-day Adventist students. Such "mission" schools are presented with real opportunities for sharing a loving God. In May, 2003, the Mamawi Atosketan Native School was opened near the native community of Hobbema and currently operates with approximately 180 students in attendance at the close of the 2003-04 school year, being taught by ten staff members.

Currently the Alberta Conference has 8,800 members. In the year 2006 we will be celebrating one hundred years since the establishment of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Surely there are many more persons throughout Alberta whom we can expect to want to belong to a church whose members profess to "keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus". We cannot be satisfied with what we have accomplished during the past three years, successful as it may have been. We have yet a very urgent work to do. We know what the word "harvest" means here in Alberta. Indeed, the fields are "ripe".

Jesus is coming soon!

William M. Olson
President



Marlene Holdal
Administrative Secretary

Executive Secretary / Stewardship /ADRA & Adventist Community Services



THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE:

1. Is associated with the President as an executive officer, shall serve under the direction of the Executive Committee and shall act as the vice-chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Report:

The secretary has supported the president in preparing agendas for the Executive Committee meetings and has accompanied the president in church visitation addressing issues affecting the spiritual growth and well being of the local church members and church leadership.

From August 1, 2003 to February 9, 2004, the secretary served as the acting president of the Alberta Conference when Elder Frank Tochterman left to serve as the president of the Southern New England Conference, while waiting for the arrival of Elder William Olson from the Trans European Division.

2. Is responsible for keeping the minutes of the Constituency meetings, the Executive Committee meetings, and the Administrative Committee meetings and to provide copies of the minutes of these meetings to those who should receive them.

Report:

Minutes of all the duly called meetings are sent to respective committee members by email or by fax as well as provide hard copies at the next duly called meeting. These documents are also kept inside the vault of the Alberta Conference main office.

3. Is responsible to provide information as may be requested by the president or by the Executive Committee.

Report:

Note the statistical summary report of membership, baptisms, profession of faith, transfers and removals for the last three years included with this report.

4. Is responsible to perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

Report:

The Secretary has attended and acted as advisor to most of the Regional Management Team meetings. He has alerted all the chairpersons of the RMT of the regular meeting schedules as well as provided up to 50% of the agenda items for each meeting.

He has visited and preached in at least 85% of all churches and companies in the Alberta Conference.

He serves as vice-chairperson of the K-12 Board.

He works in association with the President and the Treasurer in formulating strategies and initiatives and their implementation in order to fulfill the vision of the Alberta Conference.

He provides information to all conference workers (Teachers, Pastors, Office support staff, Volunteer Ministries Coordinators) regarding the implementation of the working policies of the Alberta Conference and the North American Division.

Service Records

The Secretariat Department is responsible for keeping the Service Records for all conference employees safe, accurate and current. We are happy to report that the service records of all our workers are up to date. Thank you so much for the work of Marlene Holdal in this aspect of our ministry.

eAdventist.net or Membership Ministry

This is a new initiative of the North American Division. It is a web-based method of online membership transactions and recording church membership. Records of members are added through baptism, Profession of Faith, or by letter of transfer. Members are removed through transfer, death or removal. In the future all transactions will be done online and forms will be obsolete.

The Alberta Conference is now online. Joyce Wasylyshen is responsible for this aspect of the Secretariat ministry. She received training in Chicago and is under ongoing training with the eAdventist.net support staff. The next step will be to train the clerks in all our churches and companies to do online clerking. You will be hearing from us regarding this in the near future.

We thank each church clerk for sending the statistical and membership reports every quarter. Reconciliation of membership records is an integral part of the clerk's work. This, too, will soon be accomplished online.

Statistical Summary			
Membership			
Membership	2003	2002	2001
January 1	8,641	8,460	8,336
Added:	615	476	517
Removed:	-450	-295	-393
Net Gain:	165	181	124
December 31	8,806	8,641	8,460
Percent Increase:	1.91%	2.14%	1.49%

Statistical Summary			
Baptisms & Profession of Faith			
	2003	2002	2001
Baptisms & Profession of Faith:			
Baptisms:	147	173	177
Profession of Faith:	20	23	44
Total:	167	196	221

Statistical Summary			
Churches/Companies			
In 2002 two Companies were closed:			
Vermilion Company			
Taber Company			
One church was closed:			
Myrnam Church			
In 2003 three companies were organized:			
Whitecourt Company			
Parkland Company			
Potter's Place Company			
One church was closed:			
Peoria-Smokey Church			

Statistical Summary			
Actual Attendance			
	2003	2002	2001
Actual Attendance:			
1 st Quarter	4,697	4,786	3,797
2 nd Quarter	4,842	4,272	4,258
3 rd Quarter	4,854	4,540	4,606
4 th Quarter	4,901	5,064	4,728

Statistical Summary			
Actual Attendance			
	2003	2002	2001
Non-SDA Guests			
1 st Quarter	317	301	159
2 nd Quarter	281	240	169
3 rd Quarter	343	191	121
4 th Quarter	325	237	226

Statistical Summary			
Churches/Companies			
	2003	2002	2001
Churches/Companies			
Organized Churches:	53	54	55
Organized Companies:	12	9	11
Total Churches & Companies	65	63	66

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

Aspects of Our Life We are Accountable for:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Time</i> | <i>Treasure</i> |
| <i>Temple (Body)</i> | <i>The Kingdom (Evangelism)</i> |
| <i>The Environment</i> | <i>Ties (Family)</i> |
| <i>Talents</i> | <i>Testimony</i> |

Report:

1. The Stewardship Department held seminars in several churches.
2. The Stewardship team preached in several churches on Stewardship.
3. The monthly Stewardship publication, "Stewpot," is made available through the "FYI" e-mailed to all pastors and church leaders.
4. The magazine, Dynamic Stewardship, is distributed to all the pastors three times a year. This magazine contains sermons and valuable information on how to improve our stewardship relationship with God.
5. During the 2004 church officer election, each church is encouraged to appoint a Stewardship leader.



Calgary
CHIP
graduates

ADRA / ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES

ADRA Annual Appeal

1. The ADRA Appeal is an annual event in the Seventh-day Adventist Church which occurs August to December each year when members of the church are given the opportunity to raise funds by soliciting from their neighbors, or holding a banquet, or organizing a Walk-a-thon, or having a sale.
2. The money raised is sent to the ADRA National Headquarters in Oshawa, where with the matching program of the Canadian Government, allocations are made to provide assistance to developing nations to meet their needs.
3. A percentage of the money raised from each of the churches comes back to the church to finance the community services project of that church.

2003	2002	2001
\$164,549.00	\$153,063.00	\$163,250.00

Adventist Community Services (ACS)

This is the aspect of our church ministries that extends help to those in need in our community. This is practical religion.

The partial report received to date mentions the following community services initiatives in our local churches:

1. Food and Clothing Banks
2. Feeding Program for the Homeless
3. CHIP Programs
4. Neighborhood Clean-up Program
5. Cooking Classes
6. Healthy Eating Programs
7. Computer Literacy Programs
8. Stress Management Programs

ADRA Affiliates

In addition to what the ADRA National Headquarters is doing to help supply needs in developing countries, there are also several organizations that are ADRA affiliates that send containers from Alberta to developing countries each month with goods that are needed there.

ADRA Symposium

The Alberta Conference hosted the annual nation-wide ADRA symposium at Foothills Camp April 15-18, 2004. Approximately 60 individuals representing all the seven conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada were in attendance. There was time for training for the different community health ministries programs and a time for sharing ideas through reports that were given by the Adventist Community Services coordinators from the different churches.

Irma Hartley coordinated the preliminary preparation for this symposium and the attendees appreciated the professional manner in which it was done.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference will host the 2005 annual nation-wide ADRA symposium.



Nation-wide
ADRA
Symposium
attracted some
60 individuals

*Romulo Daquila
Executive Secretary / Stewardship / ADRA Director*



*(l-r) Joyce Wasylyshen, Administrative Secretary;
Irma Hartley, Secretary, ADRA / Adventist
Community Services*

POLICY GOVERNANCE UPDATE

The Alberta Conference Experienced a Financial Crisis

Many believed that the financial crisis could have been prevented if there was an ongoing process of monitoring of the financial situation of the Conference. It was suggested that the Carver Model of Governance provided such monitoring and also it made the Administration more accountable to the Executive Committee and the Constituency.

A group of experienced administrators and church leaders spent countless hours of working together in meetings to provide the Alberta Conference the a draft of a Policy Governance that would fit the Alberta Conference. The draft was presented to the Executive Committee and the final document was brought to the entire constituency during the 46th Constituency Session of the Alberta Conference.

In the minutes of the 46th Constituency Session of the Alberta Conference, we have this record:

GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Carver Model of Governance is primarily for administration of not-for-profit institutions; it defines more carefully the role of the board of directors and administration. It clarifies, brings distinction and balance to the responsibilities between board and administration. The President would not serve as chair of the board. This would free him to use his time better for visioning rather than fighting fires. Often the board does not function effectively; much time is wasted in rubber stamping items the board has little knowledge of. The best of the Carver Model of Governance was taken and made into 14 recommendations that were presented at the last Session. They are currently being implemented.

PILOT PROJECT REQUEST OF THE SDACC AND NAD

Moved and seconded to request the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and the North American Division to authorize the Alberta Conference to be a pilot project which would allow Alberta to have a member of the Executive Committee, who is not the president of the Conference, to serve as chairperson.

1998–20 PILOT PROJECT REQUESTED OF THE SDACC AND NAD

VOTED: to request the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and the North American Division to authorize the Alberta Conference to be a pilot project which would allow Alberta to have a member of the Executive Committee, who is not the president of the conference, to serve as chairperson.

- Notes:
1. *The Pilot Project proposal was submitted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada for approval.*
 2. *During the Executive Committee meeting on September 13, 1998, an Executive Committee Facilitator and an Associate Facilitator were appointed. The facilitator served as the chairperson of the Executive Committee, not the Conference President.*

1998–129 EXCOM FACILITATOR

VOTED: to ask Ken Fox to serve as Executive Committee Facilitator

1998–130 EXCOM ASSOCIATE FACILITATOR

VOTED: to ask Ian Hartley to serve as Executive Committee Associate Facilitator.

In the 47th Constituency Minutes:

2001–25 POLICY GOVERNANCE PILOT PROJECT

VOTED: that we define the next three years as a time frame when the pilot project will be completed, and that secondly that we place a clearly defined objective evaluation process in place to determine the success or failure of the implementation of the policy governance model of governing in the Alberta Conference.

On July 23, 2004, Elder Dan Jackson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, wrote a letter addressed to both Ken Fox, Facilitator and Frank Tochtermann, President, stating among other things that:

“The SDACC board declined to endorse the recommendation of the Alberta Conference Board that the Alberta Governance Model be recommended to the North American Division for a pilot project status.”(See letter attached)

Executive Committee Meeting, October 27, 2002

2002–076 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

WHEREAS the pilot proposal has been sent back for review, and
WHEREAS there has been a concern on the effectiveness and perception of the current governance model, and
WHEREAS the Executive Committee desires to review the model as originally intended, it was

VOTED: to review the pilot project model to bring the governance practice of the Alberta Executive Committee into compliance with the Alberta Conference Bylaws and the North American

Division Working Policy and that recommendation be brought to a special Executive Committee meeting before April 30, 2003.

2002-078 **GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

VOTED: to appoint the following members of the Governance Review Subcommittee;

1. Frank Tochterman, EXCOM Facilitator
2. Ed Knox, Vice EXCOM Facilitator
3. Romulo Daquila, Executive Secretary
4. Carolyn Osmond, Treasurer

and further, in addition to these names, four (4) EXCOM members were chosen from six names that were nominated. These four were chosen by secret ballot. They are:

1. Randy Barber
 2. Leroy Kydd
 3. Errol Lawrence
 4. Dale Trefz
- * Vera Hyde as alternate

NOTE: The Governance Review Subcommittee met and brought a draft of the recommendations at the June 22, 2003 Executive Committee meeting.

- (a) The name of the document will be, “**The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Executive Committee Governing Policies**”
- (b) This document is in harmony with the Alberta Conference Bylaws.
- (c) This document is in harmony with the Bylaws of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.
- (d) This document is in harmony with the North American Division Working Policy.
- (e) This document will consist primarily of the original materials of the “Policy Governance” model.
- (f) This document is consistent with the intent of providing accountability and monitoring to ensure that the administration is accountable to the Executive Committee and the constituency for its decisions.

2003-051 **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (June 22, 2003)**

VOTED: to defer the full discussion of the draft of the report of the Governance Sub-Committee to the next EXCOM meeting due to the fact that many of the EXCOM members were absent, and to recommend that the Governance Review Committee meet before the report is brought to the EXCOM.

2003-064 **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (September 21, 2003)**

VOTED: to continue the line-by-line study of the proposed Executive Committee Governing Policies at the next EXCOM meeting and that a corrected copy of the draft be presented to the EXCOM members on or before the date of the next meeting.

2002-077 **POLICY GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

VOTED: to appoint a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, composed of a broad range of governance experts, to report to the specially called Executive Committee meeting prior to April 30, 2003.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Name of Committee: Governance Review Subcommittee

Purpose: To review various board governance models with the intent of finding a governance model, or creating a draft hybrid governance model, to recommend to the Executive Committee for consideration, refinement and enhancements.

Powers: Recommendation only

Members:

1. Executive Committee Facilitator and vice-facilitator
2. Four members of the Executive Committee with lengthy governance expertise, either on the Executive Committee or in other venues
3. Conference Officers

Quorum: Simple majority

Scope of Work:

1. Research types of governance models operating in the NAD that are compliant with NAD policy but also accommodate either policy governance or some other form of governance accountability.
2. Obtain written documentation regarding any NAD governance models that might be interesting to the Executive Committee.
3. Review these governance documents (from No. 2), for recommendation to EXCOM, either in whole or in part.
4. If the subcommittee finds nothing to recommend in its entirety, the subcommittee will structure a draft model of governance composed of NAD compliant policies, governance policies selected from current EXCOM policies, and any policies recommended in part from its research of other models.
5. The Committee is not limited to researching only NAD governance models, but may investigate any governance model that may have possibilities.
6. The subcommittee will recommend to EXCOM a governance model that does not necessitate any amendments to the NAD working policy constitution and bylaws for local conferences.

2003-068 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOVERNING POLICIES (October 24, 2003)**

VOTED: that because there are still several items that needed to be discussed concerning the Executive Committee Governing Policies and the time allotted was not enough, the line-by-line study of the policies will be continued on Sunday Morning, October 26.

2003-079 **GOVERNANCE REVIEW REPORT (October 26, 2003)**

VOTED: to approve the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Executive Committee Governing Policies with all the recommended changes and editorial corrections, with the exception of

Section III.B.1. A special committee is to be formed to study this section and a report be submitted to the next EXCOM meeting. This committee is made up of the conference officers, Ian Hartley, Ron Sydenham and Richard Thorp.

2003-095 **GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (December 7, 2003)**

VOTED: to postpone the final discussion and decision of the draft of the Executive Committee Governing Policies to the February 22 EXCOM meeting when the new president will be present. The sub-committee appointed to study certain portions of the document should meet and to bring a recommendation to the EXCOM.

2004-013 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOVERNING POLICIES (February 22, 2004)**

VOTED: that the process as outlined in the *Executive Committee Governing Policies*, as voted in the October 26, 2003 be implemented in the operation of the Alberta Conference and that:
I. GOVERNANCE PROCESS, 1. Annual Executive Committee Planning Cycle (on page 6 of that document), and **III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/STAFF RELATIONS, B. Delegation of Officers**, section 2 and 3 (on page 12 of that document), be studied by the respective committees and to bring reports to the next EXCOM meeting on March 28, 2004.

2004-026 **GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (March 28, 2004)**

VOTED: to accept the report of the Governance Sub-Committee as presented. Additional reports will be submitted to the Executive Committee on the following items:

1. Clarification of the "Officers' Boundaries"
2. The standing Sub-Committees
3. The Executive Committee Planning Cycle

2004-040 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL SUB-COMMITTEE CYCLE (April 25, 2004)**

VOTED: to approve the Executive Committee Annual Sub-Committee Cycle as circulate and per attached.

2004-041 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (April 25, 2004)**

VOTED: to approve the Executive Committee Sub-Committee Structure as circulated and as per attached.

At present the Executive Committee of The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates under the guidelines of:

- a. **The Act (Bill Pr7)**
- b. **The Bylaws**
- c. **The Executive Committee Governing Policies**

All these documents are in harmony with the Bylaws and Policies of The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and the North American Division Working Policies.

Romulo Daquila
Executive Secretary

Treasury



Conference Treasury Staff (Left to Right): Carolyn Osmond, Treasurer; Kim Lebel, Accountant; Curtis Polishuk, Auditor; Penny Marcinyk, Administrative Secretary; Robert Holdal, Associate Treasurer. These individuals represent a total of 4.2 full-time equivalent positions in Treasury.

Treasurer's Appreciation

I would like to express appreciation to the Conference Office Treasury Staff pictured here, as well as to each church and school treasurer serving so faithfully throughout the Alberta Conference. These are all behind-the-scenes employees and volunteers whose untiring efforts support all Conference departments and all local churches and schools. We also express appreciation to each member of the Alberta Conference whose faithful stewardship supports the many ministries of the Conference. We are all working together to fulfill Jesus' great commission:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

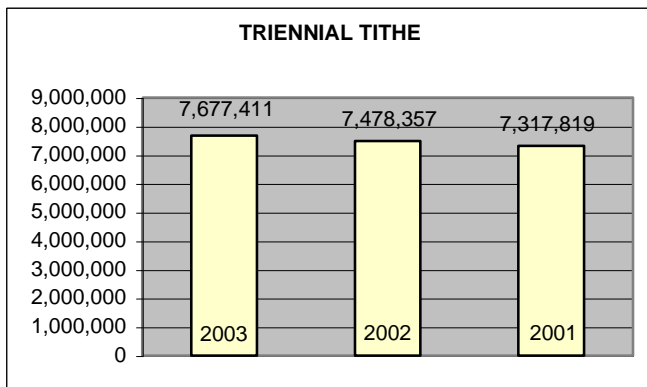
TRIENNIAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Jesus' words in Matthew 6:20, 21

The Treasury Department reports the following blessings laid up for eternal life during this Triennial period:

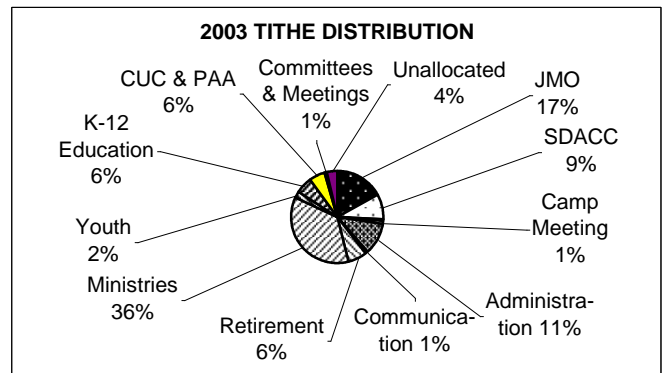
Triennial Tithe

The Lord has blessed with Tithe increases over the three years of the Triennial, as illustrated here:



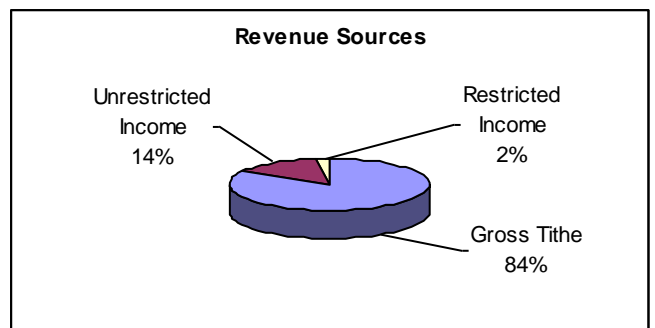
Tithe Distribution

The distribution of Tithe for the Year 2003 is shown here. The initials JMO stand for Joint Ministries Organization, a committee that meets Canadian government requirements to oversee the distribution of Canadian Tithe for the use of the North American Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The percent sent to the JMO has been steadily decreasing, from 18% of Gross Tithe in 2001 to 17% in 2003. Over this same period the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada decreased its percentage from 10% to 9% of Gross Tithe.



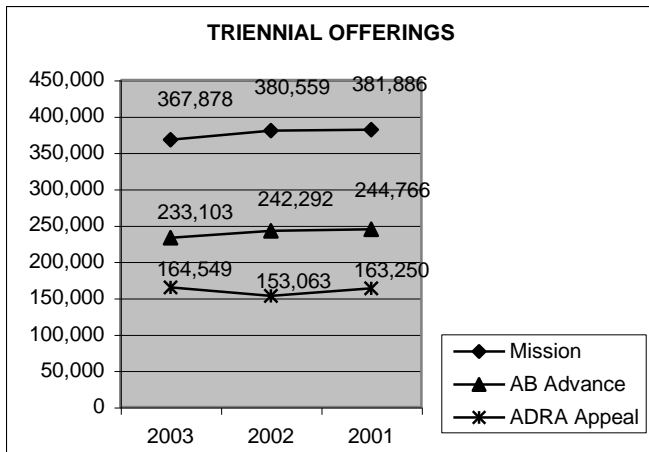
Revenue Sources

The Alberta Conference operates on three major sources of revenue: Tithe, Restricted Income and Unrestricted Income. Of these three, the Tithe is by far the greatest source, as illustrated here. Restricted Income consists of specified donations and appropriations from higher organizations for specific purposes. Unrestricted Income is from donations, appropriations and other income that may be used for any purpose of the Conference.



Triennial Offerings

The three major offerings shown here are an indication of Triennial Offering patterns. Both Mission Offerings and Alberta Advance Offerings decreased at the end of the Triennial while the ADRA Annual Appeal increased. This is a good time for Sabbath School and Church leaders to emphasize freewill offering appeals and to review the manner in which offerings are announced and taken up at each meeting.



- Held Stewardship, Trust and Fund Raising Seminars.
- Held annual Regional Treasury Meetings to update local church and school treasurers.
- Took the Conference Budget to annual Regional Meetings.

Challenges for the New Triennial

- Raising an extra \$1 million for Evangelism initiatives.
- Doubling Alberta Advance Offerings.
- Coping with the three highest years of retirement funding; expected to decrease after the next triennial period.
- Dealing with the Campground's failing infrastructure and increasing accommodation expectations.
- Developing expanded Fraud Prevention Policies and educating the treasury system across the Conference.

Nothing Will be Impossible

The Treasury Staff is well aware that of ourselves we can do nothing, but "... with God nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:37 We also know that whether in our spiritual life, or in our financial life, "... neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase." 1 Cor. 3:7 (All texts from NKJV.)

We thank God for the blessings of this Triennial and look forward to His future miracles.

*Carolyn Osmond
Treasurer*

Alberta Advance Offering

Alberta Advance is a special offering taken once a month for the advancement of Conference programs that are not supported by Tithe, such as Church Building Appropriations, General Evangelism, Youth Camp Operating, Church School Operating, a portion of College and Academy Appropriations, Student Financial Assistance Three-way Matching Fund, and Foothills Campground. All of these are worthy causes that benefit many of our young people and many of our churches but funds have been too low to respond to all the calls for grants and appropriations in these areas.

We are recommending the Alberta Advance Offering as a project for the new triennial: Every church and every church member is urged to consider an increase in Alberta Advance giving to provide funds equal to the need in these areas. As a Conference, if we could double our giving to Alberta Advance it would help a lot to care for the areas this offering is expected to cover.

Audited Financial Statements

Members of the Alberta Conference Financial and Statistical Review Committee have reviewed audited Financial Statements annually. Audited Financial Statements for the triennial period 2001, 2002 and 2003 will be available on request at the Constituency Session. In addition, the Treasurer will present a Triennial Financial Report at the Session.

Triennial Projects

- On a regular basis, Conference Treasury plays a very active role in enabling financial support to the extent possible for every department of the Conference. Treasury also plays a role in financial education and campground and property management. Listed here are several projects from this triennial:
- Upgraded Foothills Campground with new cabin windows, doors, floors and beds; a new lodge roof; new kitchen equipment; upgraded services for 54 existing RV sites; and added 60 new RV serviced sites.
 - Assisted the Mamawi Atosketan Native School Building Project with land acquisition, fund raising, all building related transactions, and committee work.
 - Upgraded the Yellowknife Mission Church Sanctuary.

<u>HARVEST ALBERTA EVANGELISM GOALS</u>	
Calgary <i>IT IS WRITTEN</i> Evangelistic Series Launch date: October, 2004 Meetings begin: April 1, 2005 Henry Feyerabend / Billy Santos	\$200,000
Bible Workers 20 trained for Calgary / Edmonton	\$150,000
Evangelistic Equipment Video projectors	\$150,000
Pastoral and Lay Evangelism Evangelism funding requests from churches	\$200,000
Seventh-day Adventist Church Media Awareness & Name Recognition Radio and television spots	\$100,000
Youth Summer Evangelistic Programs MagaBook program Summer program for Theology students to assist churches	\$200,000
Total:	\$1,000,000

MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

A Constituency Story . . .

On a chilly spring day, April 14, 2002, hundreds of Alberta Conference constituents gathered at a rural site in the County of Ponoka to break ground for the new Mamawi Atosketan Native School building project. After the project was dedicated to the Lord, attendees moved to a fund raising banquet where with cash and pledges they enabled construction to begin.

The decision to build a new First Nations school was taken at a special meeting of the Alberta Conference Constituency held August 27, 2000. However, due to delays related to land purchase, the regular Constituency Meeting of May 6, 2001 extended the time frame until after the land could be purchased.

Land Acquisition

Finding and purchasing the ideal building site did take longer than expected. The Building Committee looked for a 15-acre parcel, rural enough to be away from town but close enough to First Nations communities to be a short bus ride. After negotiating unsuccessfully for two sites, the search seemed to be at a standstill. That was when the Lord appeared to step in and revealed to Pastor Frank Johnson a quarter section the committee had not known was for sale. This land was owned by a couple who had moved to British Columbia, and a patient couple they turned out to be as they waited for payment through several delays.

Just as suitable land became available a neighbouring farmer objected to the proposed school building and Ponoka County held a hearing on the matter. Presenters for the Conference included Ken Fox, Ian Hartley, Linda Calderbank and Carolyn Osmond. The Hearing was told about the history and purpose of the school and was reminded that the Adventist Church had been in Ponoka County since 1904, with both churches and schools. In the end, the Hearing decided in favour of building the school on the site and the County issued a development permit.

Troublesome times were not over, however, as the neighbouring farmer obtained leave to appeal to the Alberta Provincial Court of Appeal, but only on the grounds that the Ponoka County Hearing Committee had not been voted in by County Council for the year in which they were operating.

Finally, after much prayer and waiting on the Lord, the farmer offered to drop the case. Delays substantially set back the project but the quarter section was purchased on January 21, 2002. A year later on January 15, 2003 the 145 acres not needed for the school were sold, leaving a school site of 15 acres.

Building Begins

Just after the Ground Breaking in April 2002, everything was in place to begin construction. The project began with Alfred Breitreuz, the Volunteer Project Manager, on the job, together with a handful of volunteers. The site was cleared, the foundation was excavated and put in, together with frost walls, the block walls for the gymnasium went up, and then the entire concrete floor was poured. The building was framed and the

roof went on shortly thereafter. A successful project was off to a good start.



Construction begins April 2002.

Volunteers Save Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars

One disappointment was that Maranatha International could not come as an organization because they required a year and a half lead-time after the money was on hand for the project. There wasn't time to wait for Maranatha to come officially, but during the summer a group of Maranatha volunteers came on their own. And the call for help that echoed across the Conference each week was responded to by many members. Sometimes there were not enough volunteers; other times there were too many; but regardless of the number, it can safely be said that the volunteer project manager and volunteer labour saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. It must also be said that Principal Linda Calderbank, her husband, and her teachers and teachers' aides, as well as their spouses, all took up whatever work was closest at hand.

Teacher Carol von Gunten volunteer painter, is pleased to help.



Caesar Nawalkowski, another dedicated volunteer, gave long hours and lots of energy to help with construction.

The Timeline

When building began in April 2002, it was hoped by many that the school would be ready for the new school year; however, that was not to be. As fall came on and the project was ready for specific trades it became harder and harder to keep the needed crews on the job. But the Volunteer Project Manager and his faithful band of volunteers soldiered on.

Work on the new building continued right through Christmas 2002 and into the New Year 2003. By now teachers were beginning to move things to the new school and at the end of January 2003 all the teachers and students made the Big Move. The volunteer work of students from the upper grades of College Heights Christian School was invaluable to the moving process. Other friends of Mamawi also volunteered or were conscripted by the Principal. And a donation of office furniture from Chipeur Advocates in Calgary arrived at the right time to supply teachers' desks for the new classrooms.

The Official Opening

The Lord provided a beautiful, sunny Alberta day for the Official Opening of the Mamawi Atosketan Native School on Sabbath, May 10, 2003. The new school gymnasium was full to overflowing with well-wishers, financial supporters, students and their families and volunteers who had worked on the project. Attendance was estimated at over 350.

During the Opening Ceremony, special appreciation was expressed to the Volunteer Project Manager, Alfred Breitreuz; to Volunteer Coordinators Ceasar Nawalkowski and Nick Sidorko; and to Ernie Nolan and Ruby Sidorko for outstanding service. Several recognitions were given to the Principal, Linda Calderbank, also Chair of the Fund Raising Committee, and to her staff of teachers, all of whom worked on the project far beyond their normal duties. Ken Taylor, Chair of the Building Committee, accepted appreciation for his work and that of the committee members.

Other individuals accepted plaques to represent various financial donors to the project: Monte Church represented the North American Division; Nilton Amorim represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada; Isaac Zayachkowski represented the Alberta Conference Constituency; Alex and Elizabeth Tym represented all donors and particularly Mrs. Tym's Aunt, Mary Kryzowaty, the project's first individual major donor, who was unable to be present; Cliff Buelow's contribution of drilling the school's well was representative of the work of all volunteers, whose free labour greatly contained the cost of the project. Kora Desjarlais accepted a plaque in honour of her father, Ed Desjarlais, whose vision and encouragement inspired the ministry of the Alberta Conference for his First Nation's people.

A Benefit Banquet and Concert featuring Forrie Werner and Joe Pearles ended a perfect day.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at grand opening May 10, 2003

Enrolment Doubles

September of 2003 found the principal and teachers faced with a new challenge: Not enough space for the many students who wanted to attend the new school! Although the school was built for an increase of students from 90 to approximately 150, no one anticipated the 179 students who showed up. And no one had the heart to turn any away. So the two portable classrooms owned by the school from the old site were pressed into service on the new site. Enrolment remained high throughout the 2003-2004 school year. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" The new school attracted almost twice as many students to hear about their Saviour and to learn at His feet.

The Final Touch – The Tipi

The new school was finished inside and out and bulging at the seams with students and yet one thing hung on the School Board Chairman's mind: The Tipi shown in the architectural drawings was still missing. So the Chairman, Pastor Ian Hartley, consulted one of his church members, Frank Corliss, and working with him and Alfred Breitreuz, the Volunteer Project Manager, they used their expertise to design and construct the Tipi. IPSCO Steel of Red Deer donated all the steel pipe that makes up the Tipi, a saving of thousands of dollars. Building Committee Chairman Ken Taylor joined the group to raise the Tipi during the last week of January on the coldest day of the year, while snow and wind whipped the site. But in spite of weather conditions, the Tipi rose gloriously with the addition of a spotlight that highlights it after dark. Later, Caesar Nawalkowski and Ernie Nolan put a metal school sign in place on the Teepee.

Open House 2004

On May 7 and 8, 2004 Mamawi Atosketan Native School held its annual Open House for its students, parents and supporters. Friday afternoon featured spectacular Native cultural events and an evening meal. Sabbath afternoon guests enjoyed a student program, a school video, an Opening Ceremony for the Tipi, a Keynote Address by Conference President Bill Olson, and an evening banquet.



Native hoop dance captivated the audience at Open House, May 7, 2004

The Story Continues . . .

"Mamawi Atosketan" means "Working Together." From beginning to end, the new school building was made possible by the Alberta Conference Constituency "working together."

From beginning to end, the faithfulness of members "working together" in donations, labour, time and talent made it all possible. And from beginning to end, the Lord's invisible hand was "working together" with the project, for, as we know from scripture:

"Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it."
Psalm 127:1 KJV

May the project not be in vain, but may it be one way of answering the Saviour's invitation:

"Suffer little children to come unto me, ...
for of such is the Kingdom of God."
Luke 18:16 KJV

*Carolyn Osmond
Treasurer*

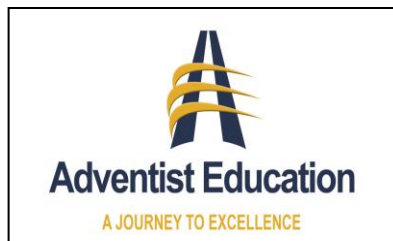
MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT INCOME & EXPENSE As of July 31, 2004	
INCOME	
2000 Donations	110,091
2001 Donations	95,013
2002 Donations	156,211
2003 Donations	233,001
2004 Donations to July 31	10,380
Alberta Conference Grant	300,000
Total Income to 7/31/2004	904,696
2004 and 2005 Pledges	36,820
Total Projected Income	941,516
EXPENSE	
Building Cost	839,906
Land Cost	66,280
Other Expense	34,914
Total Expense	941,100
Projected Gain/(Loss)	416
<i>Donations and expenses shown were audited to December 31, 2003.</i>	

Mamawi Atosketan Native School complete with tipi





children & youth
for
Time
&
eternity



succinctly states the mission of the Education Department of the Alberta Conference. In order to accomplish this mission, teachers, pastors, parents, students, constituents, and we, the Education Department staff, are all a piece of the Master Piece puzzle. Without you, Adventist Education in Alberta would not be successful.

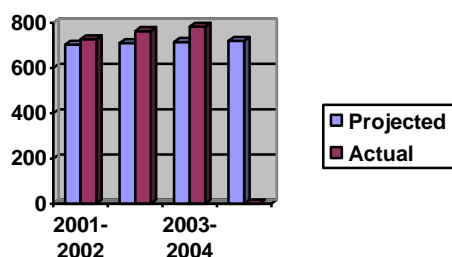
A dedicated group of teachers, administrators and support staff are devoted to helping each child grow to reach their God-given potential. All teachers hold Alberta Learning Certificates and teach Alberta Learning Curriculum wrapped in a Christ-centered approach. This includes worships, assemblies, Bible classes, Bible studies, and a Christian perspective in all content areas. Service activities from a community food bank drive to world mission projects play a vital role in developing a caring attitude in our students.

SDACC EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

To recognize excellence among it's teaching staff at the elementary and secondary level, the SDA Church in Canada has developed an Excellence in Teaching Award program. Teachers across Canada that meet the criteria, are nominated by the local conference office of education with the cooperation of school principals and boards, to receive \$500, a certificate and plaque to recognize their commitment to Adventist Education. Alberta Teachers that have received this distinguished award are: 2001-2002—Kevin Kiers (CHCS), Nancy Weber (SSS); 2002-2003—Karen Schafer (CHCS); 2003-2004—Marion Deer (CWAA) and Karen Landry (CHCS).

ENROLLMENT

For the last three years we had an average enrolment increase of approximately 3% each school year.



In comparing the projected enrolment with the actual enrolment, we are encouraged because the real enrolment has

also increased over the last three years. A consistent growth pattern is emerging even though the expected population numbers have not been attained.

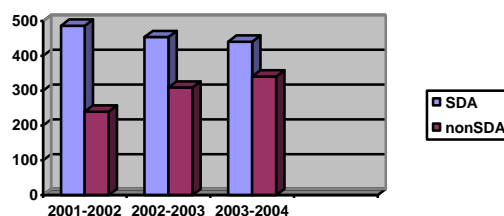
SCHOOLS

To date, the Alberta Conference operates eight schools K-9 and one senior academy K-12.

School Name	Grades Taught
Chinook Winds Adventist Academy Calgary	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	K-10
Sylvan Meadows Adventist School, Sylvan Lake	1-9
Woodlands Adventist School Ponoka	K-9

Three schools have closed in the last three years: Level Land Junior Academy (Beiseker), Peace River Adventist Junior Academy (Peace River) and Sedgewick SDA School (Sedgewick).

At a small schools conference held by Alberta Learning, it was suggested that outside the Edmonton-Calgary corridor along Highway 2, small public schools are struggling to maintain their viability. We see this evident in the Adventist school system in Alberta, as well. See the following chart to compare enrolment the last three years for SDA/non-SDA. Our vision is to increase the number of schools operating as a result of evangelism and outreach projects spread throughout our churches and communities.



SCHOOL EVALUATIONS

Alberta Learning has continued their private school evaluations over the last three years. All the Seventh-day Adventist schools in Alberta have been evaluated by the government at one point or another and the inspectors have been very

pleased with what they found happening at our schools. These visits have been a great opportunity for growth as well as reaffirmation for the teachers and administrators.

In addition, our schools are subject to the North American Division school evaluations. In the past three years, eight of the nine schools have had the NAD evaluation done with six of them being done during the 2003-2004 school year. The evaluations have shown that teachers, students and parents know and understand that Adventist Education is available to them because they want to get to know Jesus as their personal friend and Saviour.

SDACC SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR ALBERTA

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, Education Department conducted a survey entitled Adventist Education in Canada Parents' Attitude Survey. The preliminary findings for the Alberta Conference are as follows:

- A. Key Issues Surveyed
 - a) Spiritual Focus
 - b) Academic Excellence
 - c) School Accessibility
 - d) School Administrators and Teachers
 - e) Interpersonal Relationships and Student Personal Development
 - f) Safe Learning Environment

Spiritual Focus Attitude Statements Ranked

- Students are helped to develop personal relationship with Jesus
- Spiritual growth is fostered in the school
- Character development is a priority in the school program
- The program of spiritual activities at the school is excellent
- Participation in community service projects is encouraged

Academic Excellence Attitude Statements Ranked

- Teachers are competent in their subject area
- A variety of teaching and learning activities are provided to help the student learn
- The academic program at the school is of high quality
- The school provides a variety of extracurricular activities
- Students have access to a variety of resources to help them succeed in learning

School Accessibility Attitude Statements Ranked

- Conference subsidy to the school should be increased
- Adventist schools should accept government funds
- The school is conveniently located
- School facilities are adequate for high quality education
- Local Church subsidy to the school should be increased
- Sending children to the Adventist school is affordable

- School Administrators and Teachers Attitude Statements Ranked
- School administrators and teachers are committed to the principles of Adventist education School administrators and teachers are fair when dealing with students
- School administrators' and teachers' lives are consistent with the Adventist beliefs and lifestyle
- School administrators and teachers are responsive to parents' suggestions

Interpersonal Relationships Attitude Statements Ranked

- Teachers care about students
- Positive social relationships are encouraged at the school
- The students and teachers of the school have a positive working relationship
- Students feel that the teachers are their friends
- A positive self-concept is fostered at the school

Safe Learning Environment Attitude Statements Ranked

- The school is a safe and orderly environment for learning
- Sexual harassment is NOT a problem at the school
- Supervision of students at the school is adequate
- Drug abuse is NOT a problem at the school
- Discipline problems are handled effectively at the school
- Bullying is NOT a problem at the school

Ranking of Reasons for Sending Children to Adventist Schools Alberta / Canada

- Spiritual Focus—66% / 69%
- Safe and Caring Environment—44% / 49%
- Dedicated School Personnel--29% / 31%
- High Quality Academics—26% / 34%
- Social Life—20% / 16%
- Other—9% / 8%
- Convenient Location—7% / 8%
- Affordable tuition—6% / 9%

Ranking of Reasons for Not Sending children to Adventist Schools Alberta / Canada

- High Tuition Costs—21% / 14%
- Distance from Home—20% / 13%
- Lack of Transportation—7% / 5%
- Lack of High Quality Academics—6% / 7%
- Other—6% / 7%
- Home Schooling—6% / 3%
- Lack of Spiritual Focus—5% / 3%
- Lack of Extra-Curricular Activities—4% / 5%

What part of the puzzle do you fit into?

CONFERENCE PROJECTS

OUTDOOR SCHOOL / OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor School is more than a camping trip. Using this hands-on approach to nature is unique way to meet some of the learner expectations required by Alberta Learning. We currently offer an Outdoor School program for Grades 5 / 6. One hundred twenty+ 5th and 6th graders come together at Foothills Camp to enjoy learning from God's second book—nature. Activities include: pond study, river study, dissecting,

canoeing, electricity, crafts, trees, birds, bubbleology, rocketry, survivor game, spy vs. spy game, singing, spiritual talks and walks, campfires, eating the bulrushes, making pine tea, making new friends, enjoying the great outdoors, Sherwood Forest, and best of all, learning more about Jesus our Forever Friend. Grade 5/6 students that are home schooled or attend public school are welcome to join in this wonderful experience.

Students that have participated in the Grade 5/6 program have made the following comments: "I wish I could flunk Grade 6 so I can come back next year!" "This is school? No way!! It's too much fun!" "I wish school could be like this all the time!" "Thanks for the fantastic week!"

Outdoor Education is a program offering an unforgettable opportunity for students in Grade 9 to experience God in nature. Options offered have included a three-day backpacking trip at Cline River, a three-day canoe trip down the North Saskatchewan River, and base camp at Foothills Camp where the students have learned orienteering, wilderness survival and first aid, fire building, and high ropes course. Outdoor Education Staff are carefully selected and have expertise and experience in the activities in which they lead.

EVANGELISM / MISSION PROJECTS

CWAA – Chinook Winds Adventist Academy includes in its growth experience a trip to the mission field every two years. The project this triennium took them to Costa Rica where they poured the foundation and partially constructed a church for the people of the village in which they visited. This experience leaves many young people with changed lives and a desire to visit another country in need at a future date.

SMAS – Sylvan Meadows Adventist School students along with adults were joined by a group from Hazelton, BC who traveled to Nicaragua to touch a life for Jesus. The participants focused on building two classrooms for a school, providing a variety of clothing items, medical and sports supplies for the people of the local area. The project provided the students with an opportunity to experience the joy of service as well as providing a first hand understanding of how to work with people of a different a culture.

BACKYARD MISSIONS – Higher Ground Christian School, College Heights Christian School, Peace Hills Adventist School, Coralwood Adventist Academy, as well as the remaining other schools in the conference were involved in programs which provide students with an opportunity to take bread door to door; visit hospitals, carry out random acts of kindness, create and share programs for seniors' lodges, and clean streets and roadways in communities. These acts of service provide students with opportunities to experience how important they are to a community in which they live.

AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) is a government initiative, which provides funding for creative projects that have potential to improve student learning.

Accelerated Reader Program – The Accelerated Reader Program has provided the schools in the conference with a tool to help students enjoy reading material at their level. The funds were used to provide books and a software program that contains an evaluative component, which establishes a comprehension and readability level for each student. The teacher can then provide reading materials at the appropriate level so each student can achieve success. Even though this

project lasted one year it is still being used at each of our schools because of the benefits it has provided students, an increase in their readability level in some case up to two grade levels.

Brain-based Integrated Thematic Instruction Model – This present project's goal is to not only improve student learning but create a uniquely Adventist educational system. The goals of the program follow the directives spelled out in Mrs. White's book, *Education*. The objectives that will be developed follow three specific themes. The first addresses the need for young people to learn and reflect proper values and morals, life skills and life-long guidelines. The second component looks at applying those skills in a community setting, a community at school, home and the world. The final criterion addresses the topic of curriculum and how it can be incorporated into the school program. To learn more over the next five years visit a school in the conference and see Adventist Education in action.

FUTURE PLANS

Western Canadian Teacher's Convention – August 22-25, 2004 is when all the SDA Teachers in Western Canada met at CUC for a Western Canadian Teacher's Convention. This is a program funded by the SDACC. The theme of the week was "*Adventist School Practices that Matter Most.*" Teachers and administrators met and learned from each other more about Adventist school practices that matter most.

North American Division Teachers Convention 2006 – For the second time, teachers from across the North American Division will come together in Tennessee for a Teacher's Convention. There will be many helpful seminars, workshops, and breakout sessions where teachers and administrators can again be inspired and continue to be a vital part of the "puzzle" of Adventist Education. Monies are presently being set aside by the SDACC and the Alberta Conference for this once-every-six-year event.

Outdoor School – Our future plan is to expand the outdoor school concept to Grades 1-4 on site and a Grade 7/8 historical outdoor school program.

Isaac Zayachkowski
Superintendent of Education



(l-r) Janet Griffith, Assistant; Evangeline Medavarapu, Secretary; Curtis Polishuk, Accountant; John Howard III, Technology

YOUTH



The Youth Ministry Department wants to keep your kids in the church! We face a crisis in our church. The statistics taken over the last two decades show that we have been and continue to lose about half of our young people—about 50% of our youth leave the church. How can

we stop this? We also have found that most people will make a decision for Jesus before they turn 18. If they have not made this choice prior to turning 18, the chance of them ever making a decision for Jesus diminishes severely. With these things in mind we need to look at what each of us can do to help children and youth decide to follow Jesus, and then work to make sure they feel like they belong and are wanted in their church. As well we need to give them opportunities to serve both Jesus and their church, because the statistics all show that if they feel they are accepted unconditionally, and involved in their church, they are more likely to stay in the church. I pray that God will help this department and each church find ways to minister to our young people.

Accomplishments

A. Youth

- 1) November 2002. SDACC Youth Summit in Montreal – ten delegates from the Alberta Conference attended this event which provided training for the delegates in different ministry areas.
- 2) November 2002. Youth Visioning Weekend – A group of about 20 youth and youth leaders came together to give input on the future of Youth Ministry.
- 3) One of the items that came from the visioning meetings was the creation of Youth Councils. Youth Councils have been set up in Edmonton and Calgary to promote unity and regional cooperation in youth events and planning. So far there have been a couple events in each region:

Edmonton

- Picnic in the Park – July 2003
- Youth Rally – Feb 2004
- Camping Trip – June 2004 – Calgary
- Games at a Park – June 2003
- Gym Night/Supper/Vespers – Jan 2004

- 4) Mission Trip to Thailand. Eleven youth and adults from the Alberta Conference joined another 29 people from across Canada to participate in several outreach projects at Mission College, and to attend the General Conference Youth Congress in Bangkok. They were able to interact



with approximately 2000 Seventh-day Adventist young people from around the world.

B. Summer Camp

- 1) In 2003 we had a 13% increase in camper registrations over 2002.
- 2) Beginning in 2003 we began visiting all SDA schools in the Conference promoting Foothills Camp.
- 3) We are endeavoring to achieve more financial self-sufficiency for the summer camp by both increasing camper registrations and a systematic plan to increase fees.
- 4) Every year we welcome hundreds of non-Adventist children and teens to our camp. It is an amazing opportunity to share Jesus with these children, in many cases for the first time. It is truly rewarding to see many young people make commitments to Jesus by the end of the week.

Upcoming Events

- 1) SDACC Youth Summit – Winnipeg – September 2004 – Forty-four people from the Alberta Conference registered as of June. Participants were given the opportunity to learn tangible ministry skills that they can bring home to our conference.
- 2) Young Adult retreat – October 15-17, 2004 – Foothills Camp. Kent Hansen will be the guest speaker. He is an author and speaker from Review and Herald Publishing.
- 3) Youth Rally – September 23-25, 2005 – James Black – NAD Youth Ministries Director has consented to come and speak for this weekend.

Future Goals

- 1) Create of a Central Alberta Youth Council to help build unity within the local churches, and continue building the overall Conference Youth Ministries program.
- 2) Creation of a Steering Committee to help develop a Young Adult ministry in the Conference.
- 3) Creation of websites for Youth and Young Adult ministries (The Young Adult site is created and ready for launch).
- 4) Development of activities in both Northwest (Grande Prairie) and Southeastern (Medicine Hat / Lethbridge) regions of the conference.

Richard Williams
Youth Director



Irma Hartley, Secretary



The Ministerial Director, in conjunction with the Conference President and the Secretary, has organized and conducted several *in-office* mentoring programs for intern pastors. The largest group totaled 16, in 2003. In addition, we have set up *Intern / Mentorship* programs for many of these pastors.

Since the arrival of Elder Bill Olson, we have resumed Annual Ministerial Evaluations for all pastors. At present the Ministerial Department is drawing up annual contracts for pastors with definite guidelines and expectations. This will be similar to the contracts for teachers and it will provide better protection for all workers.

Since 2001, we have commissioned and ordained nine workers to the work of God here in Alberta.

The Pastoral Advisory and Evangelism Committees are relatively strong and doing a fine job.

Three years ago we began the annual Elder's Retreat where Elders and their spouses can come aside for a weekend of training, have their questions answered, make acquaintances and learn how the Conference operates. This program has helped our church leaders to be better equipped in their ministries.

In recent years, even though funding is tight, the Alberta Conference has carried a large share by hiring more Canadian University College graduates than any other Conference, at a ratio of 3:1. These young men and women are proving to be a real asset to the work here in this Province.

As I travel through this great vineyard of Alberta from week to week, I realize how massive and daunting the task is. Many of our churches are small with few or no children and with only a handful of faithful, elderly members attempting to keep the flame of Adventism alive.

It is my prayer that by God's grace and with His power, we can all experience a revival of true godliness that will re-ignite a passion for lost souls and set this Province on fire for Jesus Christ. I also pray that our churches will be revitalized and that the large churches will spawn more and more churches from their congregations.

EVANGELISM / PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Since the **Seeds Conference** in the fall of 2001 until **Harvest Alberta Institute of Evangelism Training Workshop 2004**, we have had at least **seven** major training sessions here in the Alberta Conference. In spite of little growth, however, there is a ray of sunshine in the area of church planting. In the ten years prior to 2000, only a few churches were planted with some success.

Since 2001, seven groups and companies were started and all of them are, by God's grace, are still weathering the storms.

This past summer we began two new programs: **Magabook**, formerly known as Alberta Youth Challenge (AYS), and **Summer Bible Worker** program. The Bible Worker program is designed to preferably assist our smaller churches in obtaining Bible study interests. It is also to assist pastors in training their members in the field with door-to-door work and provide the young people with practical training in ministry while earning a scholarship. Two other projects we are considering, as funds become available, are the possibility of adopting church planting as a conference-wide program and using trained Bible Workers to assist churches and pastors.

Because the year 2004 was set aside as the *Year of Evangelism*, we endeavored to raise enough funds to help every group that wanted to conduct a series of meetings or do some innovative evangelism.

Two citywide evangelistic meetings are planned for April 2005 and 2006 in Calgary and Edmonton, respectively. We will take every opportunity to establish two new churches after these meetings are completed.

As we look to the future, it is my belief that there needs to be a paradigm shift in the way we deliver ministry:

1. We need to adopt church planting as a way to grow this Conference.
2. We need to train and make use of Bible Workers to help with Kingdom growth.
3. We need to encourage our members to get involved in Friendship Evangelism (one-to-one).
4. We need to support and encourage churches and members to be involved in their community by doing good works (Matthew 5:16).
5. We need to organize strong intercessory prayer groups to pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon each of us and especially upon His work in these last days.
6. We need greater financial support for evangelism in all its forms.
7. We need committed, dedicated members to step up to the plate and make themselves available for service in God's vineyard. Nonetheless, it takes God's Spirit to do God's work and it is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts." Zechariah 4:6

*John Adams
Ministerial / Evangelism
& Personal Ministries Director*



(l-r) Joyce Wasylyshen, Evangelism & Ministerial Secretary; Irma Hartley, Personal Ministries Secretary

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY (ASAM)



ASAM is a ministry for Adventist single adults 25 years and older. The statistics are presenting a vivid reality that nearly 50% of the population over the age of 25 is single. Single, as never married. Single, as in divorced. Single, as a parent with a child or children. Single, as in a beloved spouse that has died. Single, as in ALONE, LONELY, AFRAID, NOT KNOWING WHO TO TURN TO, or NO ONE TO TALK TO THAT UNDERSTANDS. Sad facts but are very real facts.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church on all levels has had to take a hard look at what was being done or not done, for this portion of its membership. February 2004, the General Conference held its first ever North American-wide conference on Single Adult Ministry in conjunction with Cook Ministries. The weeklong conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona. The consensus was, we (the Seventh-day Adventist Church) as a whole, are way behind in our ministry to singles compared to what other denominations are doing for this portion of their membership.

We, the ASAM of the Alberta Conference, have picked up this challenge and have been working quietly these past five years. We have adopted this mission statement: "To provide a safe, accepting environment and to encourage personal and spiritual growth to other singles." How to accomplish this? It has been a big challenge to reach all the singles within the Alberta Conference we have tried through announcement in bulletins, church programs and phone calls. There are many individuals that are unaware of what ASAM actually is.

In the past five years we held an annual weekend retreat in February, with weekend themes of: "Refresh and Renewal", "Acceptance", "Caring and Sharing", "Stress Reduction", "Friendships". During our 2003 "Stress Reduction" retreat, Cameron Johnson, consultant on stress from British Columbia, came as our featured guest. The 2004 February retreat on "Friendship", Ken Lebel, a family counselor in Red Deer, Alberta was our featured guest.

Those that attended the retreats were very appreciative of the topics presented and the candor of the speakers. The attendees were given relevant tools that a single adult, single parent, widowed or divorced individual can use to face life with its unique hurdles that enables us to get over and get on with life.

Those that have attended an ASAM Retreat have been refreshed, had fun, and came away with new courage. Over and over again we heard comments such as: "I didn't know what to expect! It was wonderful!" "I feel like I've come home for a weekend!" "Haven't had such a warm weekend of acceptance and love in ages!" "When is the next one? I want to bring someone next year!"

The church as a whole has been ministering to couples and families. Ministering to singles is a new challenge that needs to be met in each church and district. Pastors, members, are there individuals that would be helped by this ministry? There are a few individuals that have been working within ASAM, use them as an ASAM facilitator within your district or region. The

General Conference placed a challenge at the February ASAM convention that each church or district have an ASAM officer to work with the conference volunteer ministry co-coordinator. Adventist Singles Adult Ministries is not a secret! Spread the word! We all need to pray and encourage one another, with loving kindness.

The next ASAM Winter Retreat is February 11 – 13, 2005 at Foothills Camp. Registration and payment required by January 30, 2005. For information, and registration call Lois Graham 403-782-4861 (leave message with name, phone number) or email: lfgraham@telusplanet.net (message line: ASAM Feb 2005 Retreat).

Lois Graham
Adventist Single Adult Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

ADVENTURERS

The Alberta Conference greatly appreciates the services of Ruth Riffin who faithfully dedicated her time and energy to the success of the Adventurer Clubs in our conference during the past several years.

Lorelei Domaschuk of Lacombe has accepted the volunteer leadership role for the Adventurer Clubs in the conference. We look forward to great things happening for our young people.

DEAF MINISTRY



There have been many exciting things happening in the Deaf Ministry Department in the past three years.

We have been working toward a **nurturing program** with monthly Deaf Fellowships from Calgary to Edmonton, plus usually a twice-yearly trips to meet with deaf in the Fraser Valley in BC. Our yearly Canadian Mini-Camp meeting for the deaf in Hope, BC helps fill a need for both nurture and companionship in the SDA deaf world! Our 2-3 times per year "Canadian Deaf Ministry Report" helps keep deaf members, Deaf Ministry workers and church leaders up to date on current news.

Not only do we keep in stock most of the available SDA easy English publications for deaf in Canada, but also we have worked with Adventist Deaf Ministries [ADM] to publish a special easy reading *Baptismal Manual* now in use around North America. I have had two articles about Deaf Ministry published in the *Adventist Review*, and one in the *Ministry Magazine*. We have had a Deaf Ministry booth almost every year at both the BC and Alberta Camp Meetings.

We are working to help **train** both deaf and hearing in Deaf Ministry. Deaf Ministry / Sign Languages classes have been held during two camp meetings in Alberta, and three in B.C. We have just helped sponsor one of our young single deaf from Calgary to attend the one-week North American Deaf Reach lay training workshop in June in Arkansas.

Outreach has been greatly blessed in North America as ADM has been using our "Jesus Loves You" painting by Pauline Lee to attract interest at their booth at Deaf conventions. The '**Canadian Deaf Ministries**' web site at: www.deafhope.org continues to attract many and serve as an excellent resource base hitting both the # 2 and # 3 spots when you type 'deaf ministry' into the 'Google' search engine.

For our video projects, a new Canopus DVStorm computer video editor was bought in January 2002, and has since helped turn out six projects in American Sign Language - the natural language of the deaf: two 3-minute documentaries for camp meeting, a 13-minute comprehensive Deaf Ministry documentary, a five-program Family Life Seminar and an eight-lecture health series. The Family life series was actually taped at a public seminar in Calgary in 2002 with deaf professional Family Life Counsellor, Francisca Trexler. The video health series was done by Pastor Alfred Griffith and is based on the book and CD, "*Proof Positive*" by Dr. Neil Nedley, lecturer last year at the BC Camp Meeting and often seen on 3ABN. The series uses rear-projection PowerPoint presentations to illustrate each lecture.

The latest production is a new 100-minute DVD production done at Edgemont Video showing the whole plan of salvation from the beginning to end. The massive library of "It is Written Digital Media" was combined to select the finest pictures to provide most of the 236 painting and pictures. A separate signed explanation goes with each picture explaining in chronological sequence the story of the Great Controversy.

In 2002 I became convinced that I must visit the expanding overseas Deaf Ministry program being sponsored in India by members in Canada. Deaf pastor Jeff Jordan accompanied me to visit six areas of India. They viewed the new church for the deaf that is now built in Southern India - donated by a member in BC and land supported by members here in Alberta. There are now five full-time Deaf Ministry workers in India sponsored by Gospel Outreach USA and another five sponsored by Gospel Outreach Canada. Funds are now available to increase the total number of workers to almost 13.

Funds are now being sent to a special project to train 10 deaf women in sewing and tailoring and to receive their own machines at the end of the 12-month course - funding from "A Better World" and the Easter Community service sponsored by the Lacombe Ministerial Association. Plans for the future include a new video series on helping deaf families with budgeting and family finance, an expansion of Deaf Ministry to the most populous country in the world, China, and possibly an easy reading version of a doctrinal book like *Bible Readings*.

Pastor John Blake
Deaf Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



Family Life Ministries in Alberta exists to aid individuals and families to develop an understanding of their role and privileges in supporting one another on the road to the Kingdom of God. Topics presented included the following: Communication, Parenting, Personhood, Couples' Relationships, Marriage and Boundaries.

Appreciation is expressed to those who have spoken on behalf of stronger family ties and settling of differences, etc. These all have added to awareness of the importance of happy families and supportive relationships with one another.

Geri and I have accepted invitations to speak in the following churches:

October 1, 2000 – Sedgewick
September 14, 2002 – Vegreville
June 2, 2001 – Chetwynd, BC
November 30, 2002 – Ryley
September 29, 2001 – Rimbey
March 29, 2003 – Boyle
May 24, 2002 – Garden Road
January 31, 2004 – Fairview
August 10, 2002 – Beauvallon
May 28-29, 2004 – Fort McMurray

Also during this triennium, we have facilitated a Couple's Retreat at the beautiful Sawridge Hotel in Jasper. The retreat included a devotional time, showing of a video by Gary Smalley or similar topic, fellowship time and recreation. Dates were as follows: Feb. 2-4, 2001; Feb. 1-3, 2002; Feb. 7-9, 2003. Attendance reached as high as 26 couples who chose this weekend as a time of renewal.

Those of you who were at Foothills Camp Meeting 2003, may have attended the "Loving Relationships" seminar which Geri and I conducted. Relationships such as: parent-child, husband-wife, child-child, employer-employee, pastor-member, teacher-student, and God-you were discussed.

Life is about relationships; we can't avoid them, so it is important that we each understand them and make them mutually beneficial. After all, relationships can help prepare us for the kingdom of God. In that Better Land we will have a loving relationship with Jesus and with those who also choose to accept Him.

Pastor Werner Seidel
Family Life Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

HEALTH MINISTRY



It has been a good experience and honor to be a volunteer health coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Conference of Alberta for the past five years.

Over the past three years, there have been a number of projects and goals achieved. May of 2004 was the 6th Annual Family Health Workshop held at Foothills Camp. This is a weekend full of energy and excitement! Each year, I arrange one or two guest speakers along with myself who present a number of topics dealing with health. This year's guest speaker was Dr. Nebblett. Other years we had speakers such as Dr. Neil Nedley, Dr. Winston Craig, The Brewers, Frank McMiller, etc. These weekends are focused around the entire family. Children's programs are scheduled with crafts, cooking, nature walks, singing, etc. In the past, I would teach an all-day hands-on cooking course on Friday beginning Thursday evening. This year, due to the changes at the camp in the kitchen, unfortunately we are unable to continue this practice, which was greatly missed. These weekends are about evangelism. It is my goal, though Adventist based, to welcome everyone and make them feel comfortable. By the end of the weekend, we usually have one or two people

requesting information on attending a church near them, which makes the whole weekend worth its weight in gold! (Originally when I began this weekend six years ago, I was inspired when reading Ellen G. White's book where she mentions that when Jesus was wanting to reach the people, He took them away from the cities and worldly attractions to the country where they could hear His words clearly through nature and peacefulness. This was my motivation and ambition to go to the country and present the health message.)

I regularly travel presenting a variety of workshops and seminars as well as present the Sabbath message. Over the past three years I have traveled north to Fairview, Edson, Edmonton, east to Hanna, Drumheller, central to Stettler, Airdrie, Olds, Lacombe, Red Deer, and, of course, Calgary. I enjoy promoting and presenting a variety of health programs such as the CHIP program (which my husband and I are directors of in Calgary), StepFast, Dr. McDougall's programs, etc. I hope to not only present these, but my main focus has been to help the churches choose which program is best fitted for their budget and number of participants. I have helped to plan a number of mall expos around Alberta, as well as help start up a number of "Veggie Dinner Clubs" which again is outreach ministry oriented. In May 2004, I presented a variety of health programs and motivation speeches at the ADRA symposium.

Three years ago, I was the health speaker for the Alberta Camp Meeting, and over the past two years, have planned, organized and facilitated the guest health speakers for camp meeting week.

Health is my mission and my passion. I believe the "last days" are here, and have seen first-hand the desire people have to learn about health, then dig a little deeper to find that missing spiritual component. I believe there is nothing more rewarding than to watch people accept the message and truth. We can only sit in "awe" as we realize God has personally chosen us to be His special tools!

*Darlene Blaney, RNCP
Health Ministry Volunteer Coordinator*

MEN'S MINISTRY



For the last three years, Alberta Men's Ministry has enjoyed an increased presence in the lives of many Alberta Men. The occasion that brings men together from across Western Canada is the annual Alberta Men's Ministry Convention held the first weekend in March. Men from as far away as Oshawa, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Kelowna have attended. The majority of our attendees are Alberta Men who have found this to be a unique place and time for spiritual growth. The highlight of each convention is our guest speaker and his presentations about being Godly men. Every year the presentations seem to get more timely and urgent and as a result become more meaningful. Also included in the weekend convention are large helpings of good food, powerful singing sessions, joyous gatherings of old and new friends, boisterous athletic events that really let everybody know whether the Gospel is getting through, and testimonies from brothers to encourage your experience. As many of our convention attendees know, Alberta Men started having retreats about seven years ago. Four years into our annual get togethers, Pastor Richard O'Ffill emphatically stated "men at war do not retreat." It's in man's nature and makeup to take a stand and

also to do. Hence it was not difficult to change the name to incorporate "men at war, convening to take action." I personally have enjoyed the new view of our annual huddle. The sessions have clearly become a call to action that many men would not dare miss. God has declared that a spiritual war is going on in men's hearts and on Planet Earth; many men have avoided, to their detriment and demise, the cutting edge of spiritual awareness, empowerment and brotherhood. These aspects of the Christian life may not come to the fore at a men's retreat. Therefore, a men's convention it will be. Alberta Men feel God is calling us to take a stand.

The most exciting part of Men's ministry is "doing." At the 2004 convention we talked about our need for ministry, mission and action and many stood to declare their energy to involvement at home and in our community. Our communities are filled with agencies that could use help. We don't have to have everything flavoured with Seventh-day Adventist. We can take our graciousness with us wherever we go and with whatever we do. Other people need to see God's people mingling with them in their assemblies, rather than us being cloistered in some stuffy, sterile committee room. Let's join our hearts, heads and hands to work in God's vineyard, just like we work for ourselves. A couple of weeks ago a program was announced at the College Heights church to get our large church involved in community outreach. Many of our church members signed up to join charities and service clubs to do more good things for "our neighbors." God bless those who took a stand.

To supplement our home mission, Alberta Men have, in partnership with ADRA, been attending a village in Belize to bring health and hope to some very wonderful people. For two years (2003 / 2004) Alberta Men and associates (some ladies) have travelled south after our annual convention in March to help with building construction projects to enhance community living and meaningful Christian outreach. A water treatment facility is in place and a lovely work station has been constructed to promote community living. We are developing a bond with a small church company and a large village community to bring medical and educational services to people who, just like us, want more for their children.

Exciting plans are already on the drawing board for March 9-23, 2005. The local medical clinic was condemned in March 2004 while our mission team was there. We feel God clearly informed us that the next Valley of Peace project be a new medical clinic. Please call Irma at the Conference office if you would like to help or would like to go.

Alberta Men want to keep moving forward. It takes little effort to stagnate or retreat. Some goals we have forged for ourselves include: a) having 200 men at a convention by 2007, b) increase our visibility at the local church level, namely, through deacons, teachers, c) facilitate meaningful involvement from the local church to community outreach, d) using the convention as a springboard for programs that work, to other individuals and communities, e) to take that God-given "Manly Risk Taking" spirit to new heights for the world, the community and yourself.

God bless Alberta men who deliberately and meaningfully advance the cause of Christ.

*Brian Townsend
Men's Ministry Volunteer Coordinator*

NATIVE MINISTRY



The Mamawi School has been the central focus of Native Ministries in the last three years. See report printed on the centre pages.

Linda Calderbank
Native Ministries Volunteer Coordinator

PATHFINDERS



During the past three years our membership grew each year. We have approximately 200 Pathfinders and staff distributed amongst nine active clubs. The number of clubs we have fluctuates from year to year, ranging from approximately nine to as high as twelve.

Our clubs are involved in a variety of activities throughout the year. Highlights of the past three years include: mission trips (both locally and abroad), senior visitation – including workshops, yard work and home improvement, Pathfinder organized and executed church services on Pathfinder day, ingathering and carolling, community service, food bank drives, campouts, field trips, fund raisers, unit work and honors.

The Pathfinders themselves thrive on mission trips and community service and for many churches Pathfinders are the most active presence the church has in the community. Through community-based activities, Pathfinders have the opportunity to not only “share their faith,” but in return continue to “build their faith” by transferring their faith into action.

The conference sponsors three main events beyond the activities we encourage our clubs to participate in yearly. They are: staff training, winter retreat and May camporee.

Highlights of staff training included a survival training weekend in Kananaskis, where our staff and teen leaders participated in activities to build their outdoor leadership skills, and a full weekend of courses on how to lead a club and build faith and challenge Pathfinders, with Norm Middag, retired NAD Pathfinder Director in November of 2003.

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 is the high point of the year for most Pathfinders. Each May long weekend, clubs come together for an activity-based weekend. In 2001, we went to Fort McLeod. Pathfinders worked on their Pioneering and Indian Lore honors. Field trips included Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump, Fort McLeod and Fort Whoop Up. Staff at these three places worked with us to fulfill the requirements necessary for completing the honors. Pathfinders also learned how to make a rope bridge. In 2002 and 2003 we used Foothills Camp. In 2002, Pathfinders chose prior to camporee from a list of honors they would like to complete such as marine mammals, fungi, skateboarding, reptiles, orienteering, fire building, knot tying, CPR and others. In 2003 our theme was “Footprints of the Pioneers” and our activities helped us to learn about our past,

how our church pioneers lived and the legacy they have left to us. We even had a chance to taste bannock baked in a tin can oven! Yummy!

Carol Morton
Pathfinder Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

PRAYER MINISTRY

Why am I in prayer ministry? **Because**, I have experienced God's miraculous power in my own personal life through prayer! My desire is for every person in the Alberta Conference to have the taste-and-see-that-the-Lord-is-good-experience in their personal life as well as in their soul-winning experience.



“As we seek to win others to Christ, bearing the burden of souls in our prayers, our own hearts will throb with quickening influence of God's grace. Our own affections will glow with more divine fervor; our whole Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful.” *Christ Object Lesson*, p. 354.

It is the earnest desire of the Prayer Ministry in Alberta to encourage, inspire, and increase the awareness and power of prayer in the lives of those who serve in the Prayer Ministry as well as the general constituency of the Alberta Conference.

During the last three years we have tried to do just that by holding prayer retreats, prayer vigils, prayer brunches and other events in different regions of the Conference. Men and women who have experienced the joy of prayer (others praying for them!) and have seen the evidence of God's leadership in their lives, in turn came forward with their testimonies, gifts and talents to assist enthusiastically at these prayer events. Many thanks to the various churches in Alberta who partnered in hosting these spiritual events. We have been blessed with inspirational messages from Pastor Romulo Daquila, Dr. Winston Ferris, Ruthie Jacobsen, Randy Maxwell, and others.

It is the prayer of the Prayer Ministry that each church, each home, each individual will come to know and experience the power of prayer **through personal experience** and that our prayer life and testimonies would bring many to a love relationship with the God who invites us to pray. “Call to me and I will answer and show you great and mighty things.” Jeremiah 33:3.

“If the members of the churches would but put to work the powers of mind that they have, in well-directed efforts, in well-matured plans, they might do a hundredfold more for Christ than they are now doing. If they went forth with earnest prayer, with meekness and lowliness of heart, seeking personally to impart to others the knowledge of salvation, the message might reach the inhabitants of the earth.” *Review & Herald*, April 1, 1893.

Plans are under way for future prayer initiatives: (1) Youth and young adults with a powerful speaker, (2) Couples and families with a speaker who is an author, pastor and counselor, and (3) A major training event for prayer teams and local church coordinators.

“ A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.”
1 SM, p.121.

May the LORD bless us as we **take the time to pray!**

*Evangeline Medavarapu,
Prayer Ministry Volunteer Coordinator*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS / RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



I am writing to thank you for your support of Religious Freedom and to review with you the Religious Liberty work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta since the last constituency session. Here is a list of some of the things you should know about:

1. A pharmacist who refused to dispense an abortion drug was reinstated in her employment and vindicated by her profession. I represented her in negotiations with her employer and with the College of Pharmacists. Together with Bishop Henry of the Roman Catholic Church I spoke on her behalf at a public meeting in Calgary earlier in 2004. Another public meeting, in support of her cause, is planned for October 12, 2004.
2. The Supreme Court of Canada heard three appeals in January of 2004 in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada intervened to support freedom of religion. The appeals involved Jews and Jehovah Witnesses who suffered religious discrimination in Quebec.
3. Barry Bussey, a lawyer in Ontario, has been appointed to represent the Adventist Church at the national level to promote religious liberty. Mr. Bussey has filed a factum on behalf of the Adventist Church in the Marriage Reference.
4. Cari Dominguez, the Head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and member of the Adventist Church, traveled to Ottawa in September of 2003 to meet with the leaders of the Adventist Church, the American Ambassador to Canada and Canadian Members of Parliament, including Senator Anne Cools.
5. In October of 2003 I introduced the Editor of *Liberty* magazine, Lincoln Steed, to Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family. At dinner they had the opportunity to discuss a positive relationship between the Adventist Church and Focus on the Family. Watch for an article from Dr. Dobson in a future issue of *Liberty* magazine.

The next few years hold many more challenges. Here are some of the issues we will be focusing on this year:

MARRIAGE

We will help our members and our government understand the nature of marriage and family established by God at creation. A copy of the summary of some of our arguments in support of marriage entitled “The Secular and Democratic Case for Marriage” is available upon request from the Conference office.

I have filed a factum in the Supreme Court of Canada in the Marriage Reference. My clients are Senator Anne Cools and the Honourable Roger Gallaway, M.P. It is their position that the Supreme Court should not change the nature of marriage.

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Members of the Adventist Church continue to face discrimination in the work place. We are committed to the goal of respectful advocacy on behalf of members of the Adventist Church in Alberta who face discrimination from:

1. Employers;
2. Education institutions;
3. Government;
4. Professional regulators; and
5. Trade unions.

Please pray for them and us as we work together for religious liberty.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

During the last few years, I have spoken in support of religious liberty in many parts of North America, including a North America Division Conference in Virginia in August of 2003. If you would like me to speak in your area, please contact me at (403) 537-6536 or e-mail: gerald@chipeur.com.

*Gerald D. Chipeur
PARL Volunteer Coordinator*

SABBATH SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



“The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.” (1 Corinthians 4:20)

Oh, how I wish we could keep this in mind when it comes to our Sabbath Schools!

Over the past three years I have visited an average of six churches per year conducting Sabbath School Training events. (I visit any churches to which I have been invited. So, if you want me to come to your church, invite me and I will be there.)

The original purpose of Sabbath School was that of ministering to the spiritual needs of our children and young people. However, I have discovered that many of our churches tend to side line our children's programs, although most churches have no shortage of Adult Sabbath School teachers and classes. To be fair, some of our churches have some topnotch children's programs, which are run by very dedicated and spirit-filled volunteers. One of my main objectives has been to steer all our churches in this direction. Without our children we have no future! Mrs. White pleaded, “Oh that all (Sabbath School teachers) might make this their one object: to save the souls of old and young!” *Worker*, Sept. 1893, p.155.

The aim of the Sabbath School Training events has been to offer Sabbath School teachers and leaders practical information on how to reach this objective (“the salvation of souls”) through:

1. Study of the Word
2. Fellowship
3. Community Outreach
4. World Mission Emphasis

As Augustine put it, "The worst sin is for us to curve in upon ourselves." Too often Sabbath School fails to go beyond the debating and discussions in the classroom. Sabbath School has tremendous potential to be a lot more than just talk. As Mrs. White wrote, "Christianity is always intensely practical." (*Messages to Young People*, p. 200).

As the Sabbath School and Children's Ministries Coordinator for the Alberta Conference I have primarily concentrated on training events, which can help our churches to become intensely practical and directed towards the salvation of souls.

*Pastor Mike Lemon
Sabbath School & Children's Ministry Volunteer Coordinator*

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



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



Alberta Women's Ministries' vision is that each local church would establish a Women's Ministries Department.

Churches that the Women's Ministries Director has visited by preaching and / or an afternoon training /mentoring program:

Sherwood Park	May 29, 2004
West Edmonton	March 6, 2004
Lacombe community	December 2003
Olds	November 15, 2003
Bentley	July 2003
Wetaskiwin	March 8, 2003
Calgary Central	February 15, 2003
Lacombe Community	November 9, 2002
Sedgewick	October 5, 2002
West Edmonton	June 8, 2002
Edmonton Central	February 16, 2002

This year the Beiseker Women's Ministries celebrated their 10th anniversary Christian Women's Friendship Supper. Each year they invite the ladies from the surrounding communities to attend this event. This supper is planned by 20-25 Adventist ladies. A total of 200 ladies attend.

College Heights Women's Ministries holds an annual Christmas Tea. The attendance varies from 50-60 and more than a third are non-Adventist.

Alberta WM is in the process of building their own website which will help communication with the local churches.

The Women's Ministries offering is taken the first Sabbath of Alberta Camp Meeting and is designed to be used to accomplish training for leadership and for creative evangelism and outreach. This offering is a North America Division-wide offering. One of the ways to use this offering is a program which is widely promoted in Canada is the Heart Call program. This program is designed to reach out to those who were once

members and to bring them back to experience the love of Jesus.

Alberta Women's Ministries is hoping to have a coordinator for Heart Call to work closely with the WM director. This ministry focuses on women who are not presently attending their local church.

Women's Retreats	2002	2003	2004
Theme	The Tapestry of Voices	Women of Light	Colours of Grace
Speaker	Andrea Luxton	Rose Otis	Mary Maxson
Place	Black Knight Inn	Red Deer Lodge	Black Knight Inn
Attendance	208	205	~160~
Non-Adventist	13	12	11
**WARM fund Offering	\$971	\$990	\$1500
**WARM fund Recipients	23	27	21
# of ladies attending the training at the retreat	23	25	12

~ Attendance was down because of local church evangelistic outreaches

** **Women Assistance Retreat Ministry**

WARM fund is an offering taken at the retreat and used for the following year to give support to those who need financial assistance to attend retreats.

*Nicole Paradis-Sydenham
Women's Ministry Volunteer Coordinator*



*Irma Hartley, Secretary
Volunteer Ministries*