

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is speaking into a microphone and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is dark with several out-of-focus, warm-toned lights, suggesting an indoor event or conference setting.

Alberta Adventist News

ALBERTAADVENTIST.CA/AAN

Camp Meeting **HIGH LIGHTS**

SEPTEMBER 2019 EDITION

+ ElevateX Conference + What's In Your House? + Treasurer's Report

THE PURE IN HEART



*Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God**

Matthew did not often use the word “pure,” but in this passage it signifies “clean.”

This is the one place in the New Testament where purity is predicated on the *heart*. When we think about the heart, it is usually within the terms of either being a physical organ or a vessel of the emotions. Here, however, it stands for the whole of our inner state, thought, and will, as well as emotions in a psychological sense; the source of mankind’s collective energies; the focus of personal life; the seat of the rational, emotional, and volitional elements in human life. Hence, within the heart lies the moral and religious condition of humanity.

This beatitude leads us to purity at the very center of our being. Jesus said, “Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (15:19). The heart is not the place where we naturally expect purity, yet Jesus demands purity of it.

To be pure in heart is to be pure throughout. “Who shall ascend into the mountain of the

Almighty, into the Holy place of God? He that has clean hands and a pure heart” (Ps. 24:3–4,). The consequence of this kind of purity is that *they will see God* (cf. Ps. 73:1). There is a sense and measure in which this is true of life here and now. The pure in heart see God in a way that the impure will never know.

The truth is we must yearn for God’s holiness. Without holiness, no one will see the Lord in heaven (see Heb. 12:14). The beatific vision is only possible here on earth to those with pure hearts. Otherwise, one cannot see the King now. Sin befogs and beclouds the heart so that no one can see God.

Let us individually consider what is the record made in the books of heaven concerning our life and character, and our attitude toward God. Has our love for God been increasing during the past year? If Christ is indeed abiding in our hearts, we shall love God, we shall love to obey all His commandments, and this love will continually deepen and strengthen. If we represent Christ to the world, we shall be pure in heart, in life, in character; we shall be holy in

conversation; there will be no guile in our hearts or upon our lips. Let us examine our past life and see if we have given evidence of our love for Jesus by seeking to be like Him, and by working, as He worked, to save those for whom He died. (Ellen G. White, *Lift Him Up*, p. 325)

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:26–27)

As we draw close to Christ, our hearts are changed; we no longer yearn for the material or mundane, but instead purity and holiness, which are the *summum bonum* (“the highest good”) bestowed by God.



Wayne Williams
Secretary/Vice President
Alberta Conference

• Matthew 5:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

is a print and digital media publication of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Communication Director/Editor
Eric Ollila

Co-Editors Jenny Nickel & John Simon

Graphic Design Mishell Raedeke/omnidesign.ca

Photo attribution

Alberta Adventist Communication
unless otherwise noted

Submission Guidelines
albertaadventist.ca/aan

Submissions
albertaadventist.ca/aansubmit

ALBERTA CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Address:

5816 Highway 2A,
Lacombe, AB
T4L2G5

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (403) 342-5044
Fax: (403) 775-4482

Email: info@albertaadventist.ca

Twitter: ABAdventist

Facebook: ABAdventist

Instagram: ABAdventist

Website: albertaadventist.ca

Elected Officials

President Gary Hodder

Secretary/VP for Administration

Wayne Williams

Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Keith Richter

Board Members/EXCOM

Gary Hodder—chair

Wayne Williams

Keith Richter

Benjamin Arias

Miguel Brown

Norman Ewing

Massiel Davila-Ferrer

Vicky Ford

Rayette Hetland

Curtis Letniak

Lara Melashenko

Japheth Ndhlovu

Terri Proud

Melanie Semchuk

Middin Galve-Sumiller

Deborah Silva

Sheldon Trenchuk

Griffin Webster

Departmental Directors

Ministerial & Evangelism Director George Ali

Sabbath School & Personal

Ministries Director Olaf Clausen

Human Resources Officer Vicky Ford

Education Superintendent Ronda Ziakris

Planned Giving & Trust Services/

Philanthropy Director Lynn McDowell

Foothills Camp Director Troy McQueen

Youth Director Lyle Notice

Communication/IT/Media Director Eric Ollila

Risk Management/Project

Development Director

Llew Werner



Highlights

Encounters With Jesus

A brief recap of Camp Meeting from different perspectives.

20 What's In Your House?

As they prepare to celebrate 50 years of providing Adventist Christian healthcare, Sherwood Care receives special recognition for the difference it is making in Alberta.



23 ElevateX Conference

A worship, discipleship, and transformation conference for postmodern youth, taking place in Banff, Alberta.

39 Local Woman Recognized for Fostering Diversity and Inclusion

Mr. Ronald Orr (UCP), MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka recognizes an Alberta Adventist woman, Tabitha Phiri, for fostering diversity and inclusion in Alberta.

Index

18 Department News

02 Message from
the Vice President

24 Treasurer's Report

26 Church News

04 From the Editor

40 In Memory

08 Devotional

42 Means & Meaning

Part 2

The Importance of Effective Delivery Systems: *Some Room to Improve in Alberta Conference*

In the last issue, the critical importance of effective delivery systems was introduced. Several examples from Melinda Gates' book, *The Moment of Lift*, were quoted about how effective delivery systems were the difference between success and failure in addressing health issues with effective solutions. At the end of last issue's editorial article, I asked the question about whether we, as a church, have adequately addressed the questions of delivery in the area of spreading the gospel?

Today, I want to apply this question directly to my departments (Communication/IT/Media) and the publications of

the Alberta Conference, including this magazine. Do we have effective delivery systems in place, within the Alberta Conference, to ensure that all publications that we produce reach the intended audience? Do we have an effective, efficient delivery system in place to ensure that when we send out a publication that is intended for every member, that the publication actually reaches every member?

It has become obvious to me, since assuming the role of communication/IT/media director last August 2018, that while we have many mechanisms in place that could accomplish the effective delivery of our

publications to each member, there seems to be a gap between the medium and the member. Therefore, we do not currently have an effective delivery system in place for all of our publications, including the *Alberta Adventist News* magazine, to reach our members.

The purpose of *Alberta Adventist News* magazine is "to inform and encourage the church members of the Alberta Conference." More specifically, we want to inform church members about what is happening across the province within the Adventist Church. We want the churches to feel a sense of connectedness and community with one another. We want to encourage our

“

An effective delivery system, in my estimation, would actually deliver each publication to all members, or at least those who would like to receive the publication.”



members in their journeys with Christ and help foster their growth therein. In addition, each department of the Alberta Conference, from time to time, produces additional materials and publications that the various directors wish to be distributed throughout the churches, to each member of the Conference. Each of these publications have their own, unique, intended purpose and target audience within the Conference.

An effective delivery system, in my estimation, for *Alberta Adventist News* and the various administrative

and departmental materials that are intended for Alberta Church members would actually deliver each publication to all members, or at least those who would like to receive the publication. That would include all or the majority of the 12,094 members and potentially the majority of the additional 2,904 non-members who periodically attend our services. It would also include provisions to ensure that publications being sent out are relevant and beneficial for the audiences they are targeting. Yet, the testimonies, statistical

numbers, and observations I have gathered over the last year indicate we have significant room to grow in regard to this area of delivery.

Here's the data for AAN Magazine, as of August 2019:

- Out of 12,094 members, 8,376 family units, and 2,904 non-members who periodically visit our congregations, we have requests from the Alberta churches for about 3,800 AAN magazines.
- Although published digitally on our website and ISSUU.com, a nominal number of individuals access the AAN magazine online, even though it is advertised and distributed on the website, in social media, and the *Weekly eNews*.

¹ Statistic from eAdventist.net as of August 2019

² *ibid.*

FROM THE EDITOR

- Several congregations request a number of magazines that would effectively cover less than 25% of their membership.
- Some churches have admitted to throwing all or some of the AAN magazines in the trash.
- Some churches have returned to the Conference as much as 50–100 of the AAN magazines that were originally distributed to them.

This data sends at least one clear, obvious message: namely, the majority of our members simply do not receive and are therefore not getting sufficient opportunity to read the *Alberta Adventist News* magazine. Similar or worse results are found when considering the delivery of departmental materials to church members.

One of the immediate questions that comes to mind is whether or not the magazine or publications are relevant. Do members of the Alberta Conference feel the AAN Magazine and departmental literature are relevant to them?

Another question that arises is whether or not members are aware of the magazine and/or materials that are being disseminated from the Conference and its various departments



Do members of the Alberta Conference consider the AAN Magazine and departmental literature to be relevant to them?

and administration. And further, are sufficient channels being used to effectively deliver these publications to members in a convenient and easy-to-use fashion?

These and others are among the top questions with which we are currently grappling in the Communication/IT/Media Department.

While some of the questions are more involved and time-consuming than others are, there are basic steps that the Alberta Conference Communication/IT/Media Department is taking to help address the various issues that have been raised. One of these steps includes establishing and/or clearly identifying primary publications and channels for distribution of mass communication to members.

At this point, this is what we have for primary publications and channels:

Primary Publications for Mass Communication to Members

The Alberta Conference has the following primary publications that are used for mass communication to members:

1. *Alberta Adventist News* (AAN) magazine (quarterly print and digital publication)
2. *eNews* (weekly email)
3. The Alberta Conference Website with Announcements albertaadventist.ca

Primary Channels Alberta Conference Uses to Share Mass Communication to Members:

1. Email via *Weekly eNews* or direct from Administration
2. Facebook: facebook.com/abadventist
3. Twitter: twitter.com/abadventist
4. Instagram: instagram.com/abadventist
5. Website: albertaadventist.ca



Eric Ollila
Communication/IT/Media Director
Alberta Conference

Did you know the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church...

Is made up of

12,088
members

8,385
family units

2,943
visiting
non-members

(Source: eAdventist.net, August 2019)



Serves and administrates



- » 1 book store
- » 1 summer camp
- » 1 administrative office
- » 10 elementary schools

- » And 85 congregations (68 churches, 16 companies, and 1 registered group)...
- » Is affiliated with 1 nursing home



Employs 324
individuals

(Source: Alberta Adventist Treasury Department and Human Resources)



Has a geographical territory that consists of the entire Province of Alberta and a portion of the Northwest Territories, with a combined and estimated population of nearly 4.1 million people

(Source: 2016 Census)

Is the second largest Seventh-day Adventist Conference in Canada...

(Source: eAdventist.net)



And did you know, the *Alberta Adventist News Magazine* is the official print and digital media publication of the Alberta Conference with the intended purpose of keeping you informed about what is happening in our entire field?

Read Alberta Adventist News (AAN)!

Coming to a local Adventist Church near you...



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

ALBERTA CONFERENCE

By **David Asscherick**
 Pastor at Kingscliff Adventist Church

Draft Away

Have you ever heard of drafting? Sure you have, but perhaps not the kind of drafting I'm thinking of. Drafting can refer to:

1. *Refining several preliminary versions of a piece of writing.*
2. *Governmental enlistment of young men for mandatory military service.*
3. *A brilliant aerodynamic technique that significantly improves one's athletic performance.*

The drafting I want to bring to your attention is the third type. It takes place in cycling (and other forms of racing). Drafting means to get right behind another rider, so close that your front wheel is almost touching the rear wheel of the cyclist in front of you. I'm talking about a matter of inches (or cm). You do this while you're clipping along at 20-30 mph (30-50 km/h).

Does this sound like a bad idea? When you first try it, it certainly feels like an awful idea. There is simply no chance of stopping if

the person in front of you suddenly hits the brakes. The distance is far too small and the speed way too fast to react. In addition, your forward vision is almost totally blocked by the person in front of you, so you have essentially no chance of seeing anything anyway. If the front rider hits the brakes, you are absolutely going to smash right into him or her. In large races, like the Tour de France, the stakes are even higher: drafting groups can have 100 riders or more. This means if something goes wrong out front, you're looking at one massive metal-and-flesh-and-bone pile up.

So why do it then? The answer is to reduce wind resistance and thus decrease the effort needed to travel at a certain pace. In certain conditions, drafting can reduce the needed energy input by more than 50%. That means you're laughing and giggling in the second, third, or fourth position, while the cyclist out front is huffing,

puffing, and, as cyclists say, "pushing air." The increased efficiency and decreased effort is astonishing.

Similarly, we are all riding in a race—the Christian's race. But we were not meant to ride alone. We are essentially relational beings, designed to live better when together in community. Admittedly, relationships are risky. But Jesus is our great Leader who is always trustworthy. Draft behind Him, invest in those around you, and I assure you the reward will be great!

I recently did the Rainbow Ride, a local 102.5-mile (165 km) race. It was my first large group ride, and it was awesome! The ride starts with a steep and winding climb, followed by a fast descent, and about 30 miles (50 km) of relatively flat roads. I got past the first big climb and descent feeling strong. But there was a problem, a big one.

I was alone.

I pedaled hard and fast (for me) and my cycle computer

read 22 mph (35 km/h). My heart rate raced unsustainably high. I knew there was no way I could keep this up for another five hours. I could see a group of 15 cyclists not too far ahead, but they were pulling away fast. No chance of catching them now.

I struggled on for 15 minutes. Then he showed up.

Bob.

I did not know Bob, but when he caught me, he slowed a bit and said, “hop on” (translation: “follow me”) with such a cheery positivity that I immediately obliged. In cycling vernacular, Bob is a “beast.” He’s big, strong, and fast. He was slower up that first big hill, but the flats were his bread and butter. Suddenly, my heart rate had dropped 40 bpm and my speed went up nearly 7 mph (11km/h).

Bob changed everything. He was stronger, fitter, faster, and more experienced. He plowed ahead merrily while I just held on for the ride. This impossibly long ride suddenly became

not only possible, but downright *enjoyable*. Cycling inches behind him made a world of difference. It’s impossible to appreciate how amazing this technique is until you’ve experienced the relief it brings yourself.

Bob saved my race.


And in a very similar way, Jesus saved my life.

Friend, stop struggling alone and get behind the One who is stronger, fitter, faster, and more experienced than you. Let Him lead out and charge into the wind. He says to us—also with an irresistible and cheery positivity—“Follow me!”

Life Lesson 1: Remember who the Leader is.

Life Lesson 2: Unlike drafting in cycling, you can never get too close to Jesus!

My own translation: “Let us cycle with patience the race that is set before us, drafting behind Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Draft away, child. 

Reprinted by permission from
Light Bearers.org June 2019,
Alberta Adventist News





Jeff Potts



Don MacLafferty



W. Derrick Lea



Josué M.
Anguiano-Vega



Leslie N. Pollard



Daniel Saugh

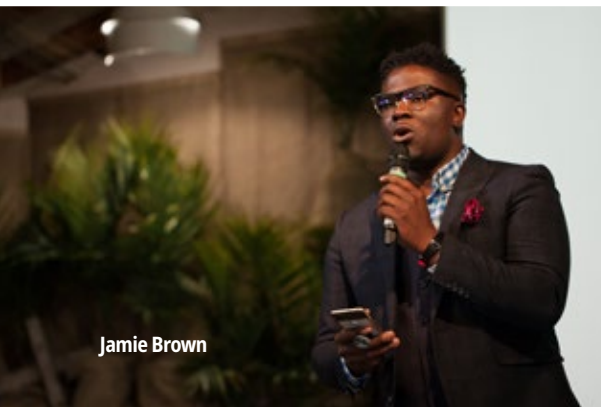


Michael
Mupfawa

Due to the General Conference Session planned for next summer, the 2020 Camp Meeting dates are July 17–25. Plan to come and enjoy this spiritually refreshing event.



The Melashenko Family Singers




Jamie Brown



Olaf Clausen



Lynn McDowell



Story by **Jenny Nickel**

Photos by Jennalee Shafer Photography
and Danelle Wright Photography

Report

Alberta Camp Meeting 2019

Encounters With Jesus

Randy Roberts,
Senior Pastor, Loma Linda
University Church.

What an opportunity to spend a week dedicated to seeking encounters with Jesus! Foothills Camp was alive from July 12–20 with folks of all ages who came to do this at the Alberta Conference 2019 Camp Meeting. There were sermons, seminars, prayer and praise times for adults, and meetings and activities for children and teens. Main auditorium speakers shared messages based on people in the Bible who had encounters with Jesus. These speakers included Randy Roberts, Senior Pastor of the Loma Linda University Church, Lonnie Melashenko, Columbia Union Conference revivalist, Joedy Melashenko, Ambassador for Gospel Outreach, and Leslie Pollard, President of Oakwood University. At 7:00 a.m., you would find Don MacLafferty sharing a devotional to begin the day, and a little later in the morning, Jo Anne Davidson shared pictures of Jesus in the plenary session. The Melashenko Family Singers blessed us with a concert on Sunday evening and special music numerous other times.

A wide choice of seminars for adults were available—health, youth, grief recovery, using social media for church growth—to mention a few. Leaders in the children's divisions worked hard to prepare interesting Bible stories and activities. Also, there were varied age-based opportunities for horseback riding, water activities, high ropes, etc. On Sunday, everyone enjoyed the International Food Fair, and families enjoyed the afternoon Fun Time. There was time to visit with new and old friends, browse in the ABC, visit the Education Barn or Burman booth, enjoy walks in nature, and best of all, have personal encounters with Jesus. AAW



Sabbath praise
and singing.

Encounters With Jesus: Alberta Camp Meeting 2019 From a Teen Perspective

By Kalista Ziakris

Encounters with Jesus. The theme for Camp Meeting 2019 quickly became a reality in my experiences this week. I attended as many meetings as I possibly could down in the teen tent and was extremely blessed by Pastor Pedro Perez's gift of reaching youth in a spiritually relatable way. I felt Jesus' presence so strongly manifested throughout the tent and could see the impact it had, not only on me but also on so many of my peers and other youth. While at camp, I had the opportunity to work on the livestream team, so I also spent much of my time up in the main auditorium. Here I continued to learn how Jesus was

working in my life and our church through the messages I heard from Pastors Lonnie and Joedy Melashenko. From each meeting I attended, I gained something that I am now able to carry with me in my walk with Christ as a young person in today's world.

Every experience I had at Camp Meeting was a blessing to me, but I especially enjoyed attending the education seminars daily throughout the week. It was refreshing to hear how Dr. Anguiano-Vega believed in the power of youth in churches and schools and empowered other educators to help their youth reach their full potential as well. As a young person, it can often seem

“

I felt Jesus' presence so strongly manifested throughout the tent and could see the impact it had, not only on me but also on so many of my peers and other youth."

like now is too soon and your opinion is not being taken seriously, but this Camp Meeting I learned that we do have the power to make a difference, and that is something I will carry with me as I move forward in my journey. My encounters with Jesus throughout Camp Meeting 2019 are an experience I'll never forget, and I can't wait to see what happens next. **AAN**



Pedro Perez, Pathfinder and Adventurer Director for the Florida Conference.



Left photo: Jo Ann Davidson presenting her heartfelt sessions about Jesus.
Right photo: Pat Koller, Cree First Nations having morning prayer.

Bottom photo: Lyle Notice interviewing Mamawi Atosketan Native School senior high school students, Jade Rabbit and Tessa Potts, during Sabbath Morning Live.



Uniform Ministries Parade, Sabbath afternoon, July 13.



Encounters With Jesus: Alberta Camp Meeting 2019 from a Young Mom with a Son in Primary Class


By Jacynda Nichols



Pastor Samuel Cadiz with primary class, 2019. Pastor Paul Antunes in the back ministering with his guitar.



Clockwise: Kevin Wilson presenting his seminar to young adults at The Tea House; Children and adults, alike, enjoy tossing water balloons at the "Smack a Staff" booth during Family Fun Time; Primary Division during one of their song services; Water tubing is always a big hit!

Having the opportunity to spend time at Camp Meeting is such a blessing! The excitement and joy my child experiences by going to his meetings are so great to see. The songs and stories he learns there will stay with him all his life. While he's in class, I get the chance to hear amazing speakers and have my spiritual cup filled as well! God's love shines through these leaders and volunteers, making it such an incredible experience for the kids. They really go above and beyond to share Jesus and His love with the children. My son is already asking when Camp Meeting starts again! 

Education Department at the Alberta Camp Meeting

By **Brent van Rensburg**
Associate Education Superintendent

During the Alberta Camp Meeting, the Education Department had a booth set up where children and adults could come and find out information about our schools. Here they could also learn about giveaways of prizes—Chromebooks and \$300 education vouchers to be used at our schools. Many people filled out the ballot and then attended the education seminar with presenter Josh Anguiano-Vega, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Administration and Leadership at La Sierra University. Here they gleaned valuable information and then waited to see if their names would be drawn for a prize. Unfortunately, not everyone won a prize, but those who did were very thrilled. Congratulations to our winners:

Chromebook Winners

Harton Family (Calgary Area)
Corkum Family (missionaries in Asia)
Vasquez Family (Red Deer Area)
Van Scheik Family (Lacombe Area)
Van Wart Family (Sylvan Lake Area)

Educational Scholarships (\$300)

Steinke Family (Edmonton Area)
Heimann Family (Ponoka Area)
Van Wart Family (Sylvan Lake Area)
Werner Family (Lacombe Area)
Antunes Family (Calgary Area)



Happy winner of a Chromebook.



Chad Steinke



Janeth Vasquez



Clockwise:
 Happy winner with her Acer Chromebook; Cody Heimann with his \$300 Scholarship Voucher; Brayden Werner winner or a Scholarship Voucher as well; Debbie Corkum showing her prize.



First Nations Adventist Training Levels 1 and 3
Indigenous Wellness Coach Preparation
Practical Hands on Learning
September 15-22, 2019
Camp Hope, B.C.

fnat.ca imsdacc.com Sponsored by the Indigenous Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

DEPARTMENT NEWS



In December 2018, the Surrey church organized a "BigDay" with special presenters and invited guests. Samuel now even has his personal conversion testimony on the Internet.

Understanding the Challenge of Working For the Deaf

Through the years in North America, there have been many attempts to work for profoundly Deaf people who are largely dependent on Sign Language. Some attempts have prospered and some have basically died away with nothing to show for all the effort put into the work. There are many challenges in working with the Deaf in their own culture.

The Deaf population is usually small and very scattered, because of this, it is hard to build up a viable group and train deaf leaders while trying to fit into a "hearing church." There will be some deaf children with hearing parents who grow up connected with a church, but usually the parents' church has little or nothing for the Deaf. Deaf Adventists may move into

a new area, but when they go to the nearest hearing church, again there is usually nothing for them. Hiring interpreters can be very expensive—like \$400 to \$500 per month for weekly interpreting. Most churches can't or won't afford this expense for one or two deaf members. Sometimes, someone in the church takes a special interest and learns to sign. This has taken place



Mat (left) found that Samuel (right) had no one to interpret for him in the Surrey, BC church, so he worked to help him, and as a result, the Deaf Ministry is advancing.

Are there special rewards for working with the Deaf? Yes, when working judiciously *with*, and not just *for* them, there can be wonderful results, victories gained, souls saved, and deep, lifetime friendships formed.

The Deaf need to be told about the gospel. Yes, the work for the Deaf can be difficult and challenging, but we desperately need capable people who will train and faithfully continue with the work. They themselves need to be trained in leadership so the work will not fall apart if a pioneer hearing leader moves away.

Surely Jesus will not return until the Deaf have also had a chance to learn about the Three Angels' Messages!

Pastor John Blake,
 Alberta Conference
 Deaf Ministry Department
 PO Box 308, Clive, AB
 TOC 0Y0
 (403) 784-3798
 Email: blake@deafhope.org
 Website: deafhope.org



John Blake
 Volunteer Deaf Ministry Coordinator,
 Alberta Conference

in the Surrey Church in BC as it is now working to help grow Deaf Ministry.

Another challenge in Deaf Ministry is that it sometimes attracts hearing-endowed people who may reflect a sort of “do-gooder” attitude. Sometimes these people like to plan for and control the Deaf, rather than training them to work for their own people. The Deaf Community can sometimes be suspicious of “hearers” who come barging into their local culture. It can take time for them to win the confidence of those in the “Deaf World.” If the Deaf suspect mixed motivations, those trying to do something in Deaf Ministry may get a cool reception or even be repulsed.

Deaf people in their own culture can be very frank and even critical. They may have grown up in a hearing home

and missed learning the social graces and kinder ways to say things. Some ‘Hearing’, who work with the Deaf, can at times be hurt by things said too frankly and thus be turned away from this ministry. Another challenge is that SDA church hearing interpreters may get burned out because the local Deaf have become too dependent on them—interpreting not only in church, but also in other situations.

I maintain that Deaf Ministry is the most difficult ministry in the church. Why? For every difficult work, whether it is for Muslim, Native, or Hindu peoples, that group has within it the challenge of a largely hidden small population of Deaf. We tend to not see this need, and so they usually fall between the cracks in most Adventist evangelistic endeavours.



By Adam Deibert
Chaplain for Sherwood Care

What's in Your HOUSE?

Located just outside of Edmonton, Sherwood Care has been providing quality care for 50 years.

As they prepare to celebrate 50 years of providing Adventist Christian healthcare, Sherwood Care receives special recognition for the difference it is making in Alberta, as well as attention across the province and beyond.

When you've been doing something for 50 years, it becomes second nature. After a while, you may even take for granted that it's something special because it seems to take no extraordinary effort to make it happen. However, now and again you get a reminder of just how much of an impact is made by what you do when someone comes by and says, "That thing you're doing, it's pretty amazing!"

Sherwood Care, a 100-bed facility providing long-term care services, is the only Seventh-day-Adventist-owned-and-operated health facility in Alberta. Since our inception, we have been known throughout the surrounding community for our warm, family atmosphere, exceptional care, and dedicated, compassionate staff. We regularly receive feedback from families about how much they appreciate that their loved one can call this place home, and we regularly seek input from residents, families, and staff on how we can

“

After all,” we reasoned, “we’re just living out our mission statement, to provide care based on Christian principles and ideals to the people we serve.”

make what we do even better.

Because this has been embedded in our culture since we opened in 1969, we don’t often consider, and perhaps even take for granted, just what a difference we really make. Besides this, being around for half a century means we tend to see ourselves as one of the older, smaller facilities when compared to newer, more modern spaces. Recently, however, we got a special reminder that what we do is unique and making a difference, not only in the lives of those connected with our care home, but across Alberta and beyond.

The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) conducts surveys of resident families

regarding their experiences in long-term care. The most recent report, released in the fall of 2018, ranked Sherwood Care in the top 10 (of 157) long-term care facilities in the province and #1 (out of 36) in the Edmonton zone. While we were honoured by this recognition, at the time we really didn’t think it was anything too special. “After all,” we reasoned, “we’re just living out our mission statement, to provide care based on Christian principles and ideals to the people we serve.”

It was only when HQCA contacted us to do a feature on our organization, highlighting one of the unique aspects of the wholistic care we provide, that we began to

understand that we really do have something special to offer. In the weeks that followed, HQCA representatives came to see “what is in our house” (see Isaiah 39:4), and in turn went out to tell the story of Sherwood Care, through both a written narrative and YouTube video*, to any and all who would listen.

The experience has been humbling, but also inspiring. Humbling because, unlike Hezekiah’s answer to Isaiah, we have no state-of-the-art buildings to show off; no great displays of wealth to impress our clientele. Inspiring because it is the high-calibre people who give their very best in caring for our residents, their families, and each other and the rich display of whole-person service we provide that have really caught the attention of others in our field.

However, what is truly amazing is that beyond respect and admiration, we find a desire for emulation, as people from throughout Alberta and even across Canada contact us to ask pointed and intentional questions about how they can bring what we have into their facilities. This in turn has opened a way for us to share the greater message of what makes Sherwood Care different—our recognition that it is by God’s blessing and guidance that we are what we are.

In our own eyes, we knew that Sherwood Care was “special,” but didn’t really understand how. After all, when you’ve been doing something for 50 years, it becomes second



Residents receive quality care from loving staff in a home-like setting.



Sherwood Care, a 100-bed facility providing long-term care services, is the only Seventh-day Adventist owned-and-operated health facility in Alberta. Just recently, we were ranked as one of the top ten long-term care facilities in the province and the #1 facility in the Edmonton zone for quality of care. We at Sherwood Care believe God has given us a unique ministry to care for a vulnerable population and their families at the end of their life journeys, and we count it a privilege to do so as representatives of Jesus Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This fall, we are celebrating our 50th anniversary of providing quality care in a Christian setting. We invite you to join us for a weekend of celebrations on September 27–29 as we reflect on the history and future of Sherwood Care and recount God’s rich blessings. We’re excited to show you our home and tell you our story!

Mark Your Calendars!

Please join us for a weekend of fun, reminiscing, and celebrating the rich history of Sherwood Care!

Everyone is welcome!

RSVP 780-467-2281 | info@sherwoodcare.com

2020 Brentwood Boulevard N.
Sherwood Park, Alberta. T8A 0X1



Friday, Sept 27
1:30-4 pm | Open House
6:30 pm | Evening Worship

Saturday, Sept 28
2-4 pm | Concert in the Park

Sunday, Sept 29
1:30-4 pm | Carnival & Community Event

nature. However, seeing what we do through the eyes of others and hearing our story from their experiences has brought home to us the truth of the promise, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden; and nobody lights a lamp to be hidden under a basket, but to be placed on a lamp stand where it can shed its light for all to see. In the same way, let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14–16).

We at Sherwood Care believe God has given us a unique ministry to care for a vulnerable population and their families at the end of their life journeys, and we count it a privilege to do so as representatives of Jesus Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This fall we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sherwood Care. Please join us for a weekend of celebrations on September 27–29** as we reflect on the history and future of Sherwood Care and recount God’s rich blessings. We’re excited to show you our home and tell you our story. *To God be the glory, great things He has done!*

*You can read the story and watch the video at

hqca.ca/health-care-provider-resources/qe/ltc-sherwood

**Complete details for the weekend events can be found at our website, sherwoodcare.com

DISCIPLESHIP
WORSHIP
TRANSFORMATION

ELEVATEX

ELEVATEX.CA

ElevateX Conference

The world is changing. Technology is advancing; it has us more connected, and a new app is being created every day that somehow makes life a little easier. However, in saying all of this, although we are more technologically connected than ever, many youth are having a hard time staying connected to church.

That's why Pastor Olaf Clausen and I decided to create the ElevateX Conference. ElevateX is a worship, discipleship, and transformation conference for postmodern youth.

Our main goal is to attract and engage urban, postmodern, millennial, young adults across the North American Division to this event. We want to reach the millennial demographic by speaking their language—talking about the things about which they are taking. Topics will include leadership, environment, social media, media, music, politics, secular culture, urban culture and ministry, urban church planting, social justice, entrepreneurship, youth culture, LGBTQ, finances, etc.

We have some amazingly talented guest presenters.

Pastor
Damian
Chandler



Our keynote speaker is Pastor Damian Chandler from California, with worship music by Jamie Browne and West of Here.

The location set for this event is the beautiful Banff Center for the Arts.
Date: November 15–17, 2019

Double Occupancy: (includes convention fees, meals,* and room with two occupants)—\$299

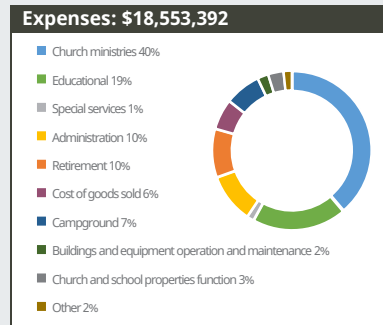
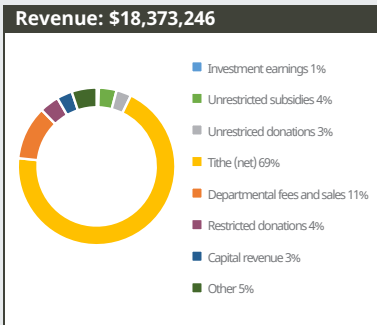
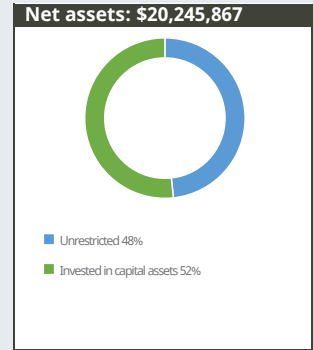
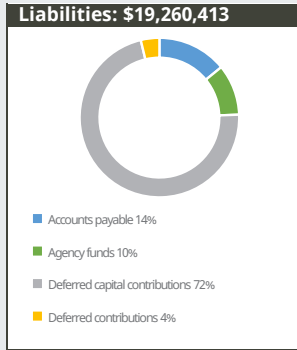
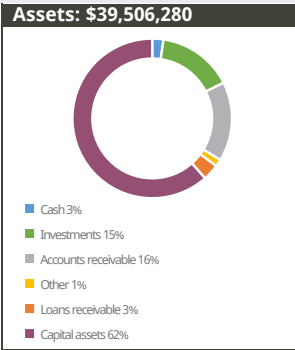
Quad Occupancy (includes convention fees, meals,* and room with four occupants) —\$199

Registration Only (includes convention fees and meals*)—\$125

*Meals include breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

—Submitted by Lyle Notice, Youth Director for Alberta Conference

Yearend 12/31/2018



REPORT TO GOVERNANCE 2018 | The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Treasurer's Report

In June 2019, the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church held its annual Financial Statistical Review meeting. Attendees at this meeting include the Board of Directors and regional delegates who have a business and financial background. They reviewed the 2018 Audited Financial Statements and the North American Core Policy audit of the Conference. The Auditors concluded that the "overall Financial Statements are fairly presented".

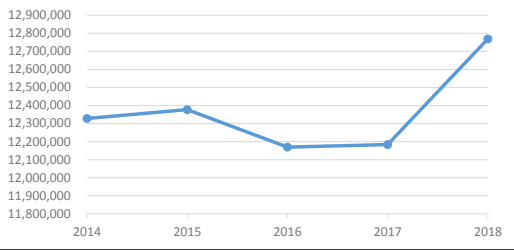
We are including with this report several of the dashboard items on the Conference's financials provided by the Auditors. These items are inclusive of our ABC Christian Book Store. As you can see, the Tithe had a year of rebound and we are thankful for the faithfulness of our members. In the recent past the Conference was blessed with healthy financials and we used that opportunity to increase our funding in evangelism and youth ministries, particularly in 2015 and 2016 operations.

As the economic realities of Alberta unfolded, however, we put a concerted effort forward to balance our operating budgets.

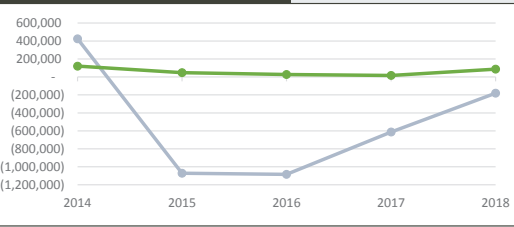
The largest areas of our expenditures are for local church ministries and our 10 schools across our conference, as shown on the dashboard. This is mostly made up of Pastoral staff, chaplains for our schools and funding the religious portion of education, youth activities, evangelism, and other programming like Camp Meeting.

Yearend 12/31/2018

Tithe income (net)

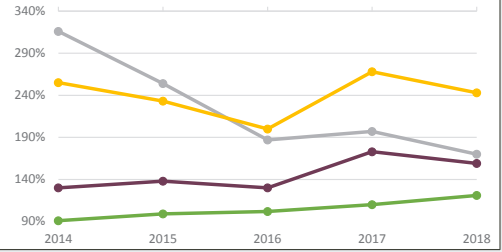


Net income



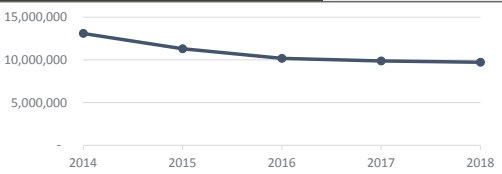
→ Total ABC

Working capital and liquidity



— Liquidity
— Working capital - overall
— Working capital - ABC
— Working capital - Operating with long-term investments

Unrestricted net assets



— Unrestricted net assets

Key financial events

ABC acquired mid 2014

REPORT TO GOVERNANCE 2018 | The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

As we highly value our youth in Alberta, we are unique in providing chaplains for our large schools as well as funding several youth pastors. Despite some cutbacks, we were able to increase our funding of youth activities for 2018 by 19%.

We have two other quick thoughts we would like to share. Firstly, the camp expenses were abnormally high in 2018 and will be again in 2019 due to the cost of repair which was initiated by the insurance company, of the hail damage from the large

hailstorm 2 years ago. Secondly, after purchasing the ABC from Pacific Press which was losing money at the time, the store has had a small profit every year since, with revenue of \$1.8 million and expenses of \$1.7 million, these amounts are included in the dashboard Revenue and Expense chart, leaving us a small surplus. We thank God for His faithfulness in our Conference and simply wish to serve and honour Him with the finances He has entrusted to us. Thank you for all your support and prayers.



Keith Richter
CFO/Treasurer
Alberta Conference

Epic Church Wins Award for Outreach in Red Deer

After four consecutive years of service, Epic Church was voted to be the "Best Water Station" at the Red Deer Marathon.



Epic members Stephanie Ferguson and Hannah Hackett help runners stretch along the way.

Over the past five years, Epic's philosophy on outreach has been shaped by the desire to partner with organizations already recognized for their excellent work in the community. The church has arranged volunteer activities in conjunction with the Red Deer Fire Marshal, Central Alberta Community Services Centre, Red Deer Food Bank, Central Alberta Ronald McDonald House, and more. However, the most anticipated community engagement comes each May with the opportunity to host an aid station for the Woody's RV World Marathon race in Red Deer.

For four years running now, the small congregation of Epic Church has supplied 40+ volunteers to mix and serve electrolytes and provide necessary first aid and encouragement to athletes who have trained for endurance running in the form of a 10K, half-marathon, or full-marathon race.

The crowds pass through the aid station in a matter of mere moments, though some linger to chat, share their stories, or thank those who volunteer to be part of the support team. While the encounter is brief, it allows us to practice our hand at overwhelming encouragement,



Plaque awarded at volunteer event, 2018.



Epic volunteers Elke and Brian Holly hand out electrolytes to runners.



2019 volunteers celebrating with a wonderful breakfast.



Epic Church and Red Deer Church pastor, Moises Ruiz along with Epic volunteer Jodian Millen provide runners with a boost.

loud and supportive enthusiasm, and unabashed joy at another's achievement—qualities that positively impact us as a group far more than does the impression we leave with our community.

In preparation for the 2019 race day, the Race Committee extended an invitation to attend a thank-you event for volunteers where we were

pleased to accept an award distinguishing our group as the “Best Water Station” of the race. The marathon's volunteer coordinator, Gregg Roach, talked about Epic's commitment to this service and the city, mentioning that we'd even been called on to fill in for other stations that didn't have enough hands to do their duties.

—Submitted by Katelyn Ruiz, Outreach Coordinator at Epic Church

The commendation came from a survey completed by a good portion of almost 1,400 race participants who each remembered that Epic Church had supported them best.

How wonderful to be part of a community where the church is celebrated for its ability to uplift and cheer on anyone who passes by!



Josue Lachica was filled with joy to accept Jesus, Pastor Romy Daquila baptizing him.



Numeriano 11 Cedilla surrendered his life to God, baptized by Pastor Jinwook Lee.



Pastor Jinwook Lee baptizing Darlene Cedilla.

Nichole Cedilla accepted Jesus and was baptized by Pastor Romy Daquila.

A Day of Rejoicing for Okotoks SDA Company

During a four-day church campout at Foothills Camp near Bowden, four people were baptized on Sabbath June 29. Jinwook Lee, pastor of the Okotoks SDA Company, and Pastor R. Daquila, who has been extremely helpful in forming the company, baptized the candidates. All four were overjoyed to become members of God's church. One older man gave a moving testimony and cried tears of happiness and regret, saying, "Why did I wait so long? Why did I waste the time?" Two additional candidates are having Bible studies and would like to be baptized soon.

The Okotoks SDA Company is a lighthouse in the community. Members are looking for an



Mighty Rock Pathfinder Investiture with Cherié Wilson from AB Conference.

appropriate piece of land to build a church and would appreciate your prayers.

Soon after the Okotoks Company was formed, the members desired to have a Pathfinder program. Many church members, young and old, joined the Mighty

Rock Pathfinders. An investiture program was held right after the baptisms.

It was a wonderful, spiritual, four-day camping trip out in nature. The attendees felt God's presence and were blessed and renewed.

—Submitted by Ria Schurig, Communication Director, Okotoks SDA Company

The Okotoks SDA Company Is Celebrating

On May 11, the Okotoks SDA Company celebrated the first anniversary of being given company status by the Alberta Conference. It has been growing slowly but steadily. The members are very appreciative of the guidance of Pastor R. Daquila, who, although retired, has been very helpful.

The Okotoks Company has been meeting in small groups for mid-week prayer meeting. Prayer is a very important part of their get-together. Members invite guests to come and study with them. Most members live in Calgary but attend church in Okotoks faithfully.

The Church youth are very active and, on April 20, 2019, were in charge of the divine service. Everyone received a blessing from being there and appreciate the gifts the youth have been given by their heavenly Father.

In January of this year, after returning from studies in the USA, Jinwook Lee became our pastor. He



also ministers to two other churches in Calgary.

The Okotoks Company has been renting the Lutheran Church for weekly worship but are hoping to build their own church soon. There is much work to be done in Okotoks, and the members request your prayers that they may be a blessing to this community.

—Submitted by Ria Schurig, Communication Director, Okotoks SDA Company

Ladies

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ALBERTA WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020!

Our Guest Speaker, Dilys Brooks, is the Campus Chaplain of Loma Linda University where she provides spiritual care for the students, faculty and staff. She is passionate and enthusiastic about assisting individuals of all ages to know Christ personally and accept His call to become change agents in the world for the kingdom of God. She is happiest when she is preaching, teaching or singing about Jesus. Dilys is a partner in life and ministry with Dr. Delroy Brooks, the Pastor of the Juniper Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fontana, California. They are raising their children Micah and Matea along with their dog Snow in Colton. Her life is informed by Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God."

APRIL
17-19
2020

LOCATION:

Cambridge Hotel (formerly the Sheraton) in Red Deer

GUEST SPEAKER: **Dilys Brooks**

THEME: **Better Together**

THEME TEXT:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12


Seventh-day
Adventist Church
ALBERTA CONFERENCE





ALBERTA

CALGARY CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

1920 13 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1L3

**MISSION
DISRUPTION**
NAD Evangelism Institute



Speakers



Marc Lien
Church Planter
San Antonio, Texas



Errol McLean
Associate Director
NAD Evangelism Institute



Hugo Villalobos
Pastor
Upper Columbia Conf.

Registration is free, but required. Visit nadei.org.

SEPTEMBER 27 - 28, 2019

Peace Hills Adventurer Club Celebrates First Year

Wetaskiwin Church celebrates with children at Investiture Services

On June 27, 2019, the Wetaskiwin Church joyfully celebrated the first completed year for the Peace Hills Adventurer Club. The church is grateful to have this Adventurer ministry restarted after many years without it.

Our year-end service saw 26 wonderful children invested in the club and receiving sashes laden with award patches and pins, reflective of their learning, growth, and skill development.

The Wetaskiwin Church extends its gratitude to the Alberta Conference

Adventurer Executive for its support during our first year back into the uniformed ministries and thanks our local club director, instructors, and parents for their dedication to this ministry during the year. We also want to encourage any church in the Alberta Conference that has not yet started a local Adventurer Club to support the children in your church and community and give prayerful consideration to doing so.

We eagerly look forward to the next club year and hope you will too!
—Submitted by Pastor Jason Williams

The Peace Hills Adventurer Club during Investiture Ceremony at the Wetaskiwin Seventh-day Adventist Church, June 22, 2019.



Farewell at Edmonton Central SDA Church

Yes, it was time to present his last sermon to the members of the Edmonton Central SDA Church. A Sabbath, no doubt, we will remember for years to come.

On April 27, 2019, Pastor John Wesley took a step back from shepherding his congregation after serving as the senior pastor for 18 years. The Alberta Conference representatives for this special occasion were Pastor George Ali, Ministerial Director, and Pastor Keith Richter, Chief Financial Officer. Pastor Ali expressed

that the absence of Pastor Wesley will create a great void in the Alberta Conference. He spoke about his calm approach, great work ethic, and mostly his unwavering commitment to his calling.

Sermon: Farewell to Ephesus

After acknowledging its officials, Pastor John Wesley thanked the Conference for accommodating him and allowing him to step aside from being the senior pastor.





Pastor Wesley receiving his farewell gifts and painting, signed by church members.



George Ali presented Pastor Wesley with a framed NAD Ministerial Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his faithful service.



Protect the young adults who are coming back into the church. They are giving us a second chance and we need to love them, embrace them, and allow them to lead."

He mentioned that it gives him great satisfaction knowing that the church will be cared for spiritually. Pastor John's last sermon was taken from Acts 20:17–21, in which he reminded us that Paul's ministry was a divine calling from God. The apostle told the Ephesian elders that they should never take a vacation from shepherding the flock. We were also cautioned that false teachers would try to ravage the church, but the elders need to protect it and watch over God's people. The enemy will try to destroy all for which we have worked. Caring for God's people includes feeding them spiritually, leading them gently, and warning then firmly. Pastor Wesley reminded us that since God is in control of the future, we need not fear. The final

words of caution from our Shepherd were, "Protect the young adults who are coming back into the church. They are giving us a second chance, and we need to love them, embrace them, and allow them to lead."

I reflected on my pastor's final sermon. It touched me and also made me do some soul searching as I was reminded of how important it is to have a vital relationship with Christ and a willingness to serve others. We all need someone who models what it means to follow Jesus; someone who always speaks with boldness and pushes boundaries. Pastor John Wesley modeled how to lead by serving in humility and love.
—Presented by Ina Martin, Edmonton Central Church—Children's Sabbath School Department



Celebrating

Canada in West

Story and photos by
Linda Wilkinson

A short article highlighting Abundant Life SDA Church's recent Canada Day com

It's always fun to have a party, but even more so when that party is to celebrate Canada Day with as many friends and neighbors as possible. That was the goal of the third annual Canada Day celebration at Abundant Life SDA Church in West Edmonton. And while the outdoor fun—which included crafts, games, prizes, tattoos/stickers, and bouncy castles—was rained out after two hours, there were still approximately 400 people from the neighboring community who came and enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast and activities.

Abundant Life's annual events, which

include Victoria Day and Canada Day celebrations and delivering hampers at Christmas, are becoming well-known in the community of Glastonbury. In fact, some attendees even said that the event is their go-to Canada Day celebration. This year, one community member shared that this annual event has become part of their family tradition and they have taken a family picture at this event for the past three years. Neighbors appreciate that it is close to home, free, and offers lots of activities for the whole family.

This year's organizer is Head Deaconess Cindy Hernandez, and while this was



Clockwise: Craft time; lots of fun activities found under the red tents, including crafts, tattoo and sticker station, and prizes; volunteer George cooking up yummy pancakes for 400+ friends and neighbors; volunteer Diana helping a friend choose a fun, temporary tattoo.



Edmonton

community pancake breakfast

her first year organizing Victoria Day and Canada Day events, she was not intimidated at all. She not only planned all the intricacies of the events, but enlisted many volunteers. “We have a lot of helpers, a lot of good people here. When there was a need, everyone just stepped up and helped.”

Everyone, from the pastor to the elders, deacons, deaconesses, church leaders, and many members, showed up to support the event and meet the neighbors. That is, after all, the goal of this four-year-old company—to get to know and meet the needs of the people in the community ... and continue to grow.



Ponoka Church News

Recently, the Ponoka Church was blessed with three baby dedications. Many friends and relatives attended to support each family and pledge their help to raise these precious girls.

—Submitted by Carol Morton,
Communications Secretary



McManus family with Pastor Dave holding Hazel.

Sabbath, May 4, 2019, a second high day for our church family, as Jorel and Aneta McManus dedicated baby Hazel, a new sister for Liliana, to the Lord.

Sabbath, May 11, 2019, our church family shared in the joy of a third baby dedication when Pekka and Sarah Maattanen dedicated Meena, a new sister for Isaac and Lilja, to the Lord.



Lukas and Michaela with Michaela's mom, and Pastor Dave holding Abigail.

On Sabbath, April 6, 2019, Lukas and Michaela Lipus brought their first child, baby Abigail, to the Lord for dedication.



Maattanen family receiving a blessing from Pastor Dave.

“

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven..."

Matthew 18:3 (NIV)



Indianapolis 2020 General Conference World Session

SAVE THE DATE

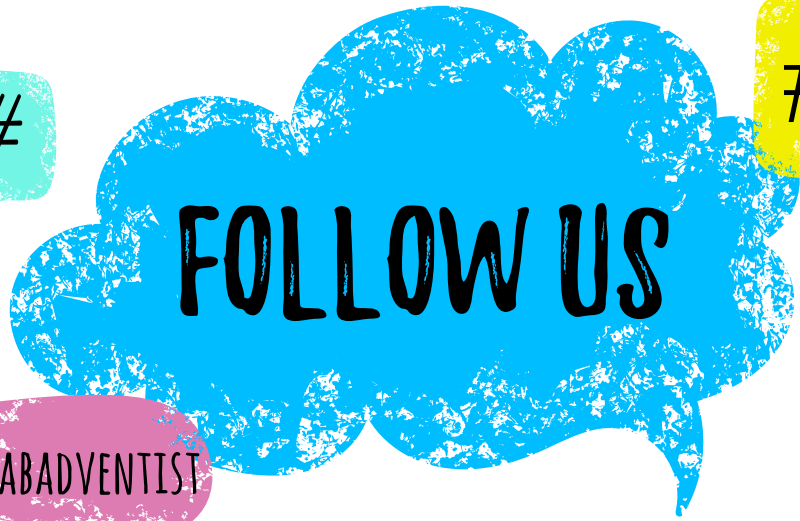
JUNE 25 - JULY 4

Indiana Convention
Center & Lucas Oil
Stadium Indianapolis,
Indiana, USA



session.adventist.org

IN
DY 2020



facebook.com/abadventist

twitter.com/abadventist

instagram.com/abadventist

Bonnyville Church Baptism

On June 15, the Bonnyville Church witnessed the baptism of ten souls, nine of whom were youth! Our community is glad to welcome each one of them in loving fellowship and discipleship as we wait for our Saviour's soon appearing.

—Submitted by Nadine Sebetlela



Stay connected with your Alberta Adventist family...

Read Alberta Adventist News!

Coming to an Alberta Adventist Church near you:

- March
- June
- September
- December

Alberta Adventist News is an official, quarterly print and digital publication of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To learn more visit albertaadventist.ca/aan





Local Woman Recognized for Fostering Diversity and Inclusion

By **Mr. Ronald Orr (UCP)**
MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka

It is an honour to congratulate Tabitha Phiri for winning a Diversity Award for her passion to foster diversity and inclusion in Alberta. She is an outstanding citizen who has committed the last decade of her life to making Alberta a welcoming province for all.

Over the last six years, she has coordinated three research projects in the areas of economic security, domestic violence, and immigrant settlement programs. She has also worked as the Program Coordinator of Domestic Violence and Research for the Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association (CAIWA).



Phiri is a passionate advocate for marginalized minority groups and believes that employers, community service providers, elected leaders, and educators can meaningfully effect change in the lives of immigrants who are working hard to start a new life in Central Alberta.

Again, I would like to congratulate Tabitha Phiri on receiving this award and look forward to working with her in the future.

Ronald Orr was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Lacombe-Ponoka on May 5, 2015, and was re-elected on April 16, 2019.

Mr. Orr currently serves as the deputy chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

He has previously served as a member of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services and the Standing Committee on Families and Communities.

Mr. Orr has a master's degree in theology and is an ordained minister. He also holds a journeyman carpenter's ticket and a registered housing professional certificate and has previously owned a general contracting business.

His community involvement includes board positions with a number of charitable organizations, including the Gull Lake Centre and Calgary's Mustard Seed Society.

He also served as a public information officer for the municipal emergency management team for the village of Clive, Alberta.

Mr. Orr was born in Calgary and has lived in Lacombe-Ponoka for 13 years. He and his wife, Donna Marie, have three children.

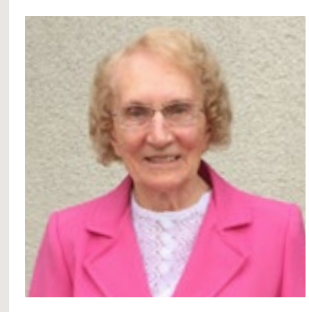
Mr. Ronald Orr (UCP)
MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka



This article is reprinted with permission from the office of Mr. Ronald Orr (UCP), MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka, and first appeared on Lacombe Online lacombeonline.com/local/local-woman-recognized-for-fostering-diversity-and-inclusion

Irene Schafer

October 25, 1919 - June 25, 2019



On June 25, 2019, the Warburg Church family was deeply saddened by the loss of one of its longest-serving members and a dear sister in Christ, Irene Schafer (nee Knopp).

Irene was one of a number of founding members of the Thorsby Church, which later became the Warburg Church, and faithfully served in numerous capacities in its ministry over the years. Most notable was her 60 years as local church treasurer, which was celebrated in 2010. Sister Irene also played the church's organ for many of her years as an active member, and did so even up until April of this year, just before her illness in May. She was well loved and will be greatly missed by family, friends, and in a special way, her Warburg Church family.

Irene is survived by her husband of 30 years, Peter Schafer; her son, Randy (Henriette) Comm; grandson, Steven Comm; brother, Elmer Knopp; and a wide circle of extended family and friends.

The funeral service for Irene was held at the Warburg Pioneer Community Hall on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 with Pastor John Gilbert officiating. Interment took place at the Warburg Seventh-day Adventist Cemetery.

In memoriam donations are gratefully accepted by the Voice of Prophecy or Leduc Community Hospital Foundation.

Today, Irene sleeps in Jesus and awaits the call of her Lord on the great resurrection morning when He shall come again!

Louis Lukas Synowec

October 11, 1922 - February 11, 2019

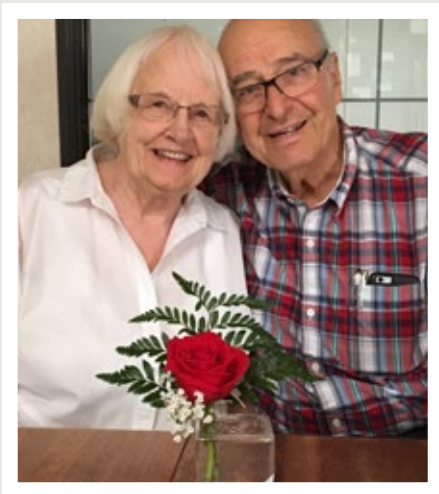
Louis Lukas Synowec was born on October 11, 1922 in the Ukraine and died on February 11, 2019 in Bonnyville, Alberta. He will be remembered for his kindness and immense contribution to the establishment of the Bonnyville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Louis is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters, Elizabeth (Allan) Reed and Jane (Luis) Urzua; four grandchildren, Nathaniel Reed, Jonathon Reed (Haley), Jarett Blume (Jennifer), and Renessa Porter; and four great-grandchildren, Janelle Porter, Katelyn Porter, Chloe Porter, and Camden Reed. Louis was predeceased by his daughter, Zonia; grandson, Lauren; parents, Mathew and Maria; and siblings, John, Harry, and Bill Synowec, and Nancy Golinowski.

IN MEMORY

Ralph Oral Garner Jr.

July 7, 1933 - March 28, 2019

Ralph Oral Garner, Jr. was born on July 7, 1933 in Caracas, Venezuela to missionary parents. He spent the later years of his childhood in Texas and Pendleton, Oregon, going on to study at Walla Walla University and then dentistry at Loma Linda University. Ralph and Jean, married for 63 years, raised their children in Calgary, Alberta where he became a vibrant contributor to church and church-school life. He loved music, the outdoors, and more than anything, knowing he was a child of God. He passed away suddenly on March 28, 2019, and will be missed by his surviving family: his wife, Jean Garner (nee Klokied); their five children, Doug, Arlene, Shelley, Julie, and Scott (Leanne); and the legacy of nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A wonderful reunion is planned for heaven.



Want to know what's happening in the Alberta Conference?

Get the latest news and updates with **Alberta Adventist Weekly eNews!**

Subscribe here:
albertaadventist.ca/ewnewssubscribe



How do you



Good causes abound. What factors make Canadians choose a cause, and are Alberta Adventists any different?

Just last year, the Rideau Hall Foundation and Imagine Canada published a landmark study of Canadian giving. It covered the past 30 years, and for someone as curious and proud of my Canadian roots as I am, it was an eye-opener.

As Canadians, we're humbly proud of our peacekeeper role in international politics, and our general desire to help. For example, Canadians cite our socialized medical system as one of the top two values that makes them feel Canadian. Always curious about what makes Canadians tick, I quickly turned to the charts on values.

Values and Religion

Among those who attend church weekly, 72% cite religious obligation as a motivator for giving. The same regular church attendees are, however, more motivated by personal belief in the cause (91%), and compassion towards those in need topped all motivators at 95%. Of

great interest to me was that “Contribution to the community” was more motivating for the church-going group than whether they were personally affected (only 66% cited “Personally affected” compared to 88% “Contribution to the community”), which suggests true altruism and perhaps devotion to the people they feel are part of their community—perhaps their religious community.

I stood a little taller, too, when I saw that religious obligation (and tax credits) have a huge impact on the amount given: when asked to donate to a religious cause, these church-attending donors give almost twice as much compared to the amount contributed to other causes by those who say they are not motivated by religious obligation.

I might have sat back complacently beaming about how wonderful religious people are and the apparent proof that Christians (dare I say “Adventists”) are the “salt of the earth”—had I not read further.

Decide?

BY LYNN MCDOWELL

DID YOU KNOW?

The Alberta Conference directly operates three on-going gospel outreaches:

- Maskwacis Congregation & Mamawi Atosketan Native School
- Summer Youth Outreach Team, serving Alberta, BC and NWT
- Yellowknife Constituency Church

Are We More Compassionate?

I don't know whether Canadian Adventists are more compassionate, less compassionate or just as compassionate as other Canadian Christians. But even assuming we're a little bit more compassionate, there isn't much difference between those who attend church each week and those who hold a university degree when it comes to citing "Compassion towards those in need" as a motivation for giving

(95% compared to 93% of those with university degrees).

Hmmm.

"Personal belief in the cause" turns the tables just a bit: those with university degrees are a little more likely to cite "Personal belief in cause" as a motivator (93% compared to 91% of regular church goers), even if they don't feel any religious obligation.

Double Hmmm. Could it be that becoming more aware of the world in a thoughtful atmosphere is itself a catalyst for compassion? Some of our biggest donors to The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School had never heard of Adventists before, and I don't know whether they professed any religion, but they were well-educated. Does adding religion to a thoughtful, aware environment produce more aware, generous people?

The Alberta Church: Something Special

There's no study on it, but without a doubt, mission trips, the Student Missionary program, Sabbath School mission stories, the Golden Rule, Burman University's Scholars' Program, Community Services and soup kitchens as well as Conference-operated continuous outreaches (ex: MANS) do help us think outside our personal bubble.

In all these ways, the Alberta Church has something important and special to contribute to making us compassionate and generous people. The Alberta Church, from the Conference to the local congregation, brings home the importance of lending a hand to "the least of these." Made in His likeness, those in need are, Jesus tells us, our opportunity to minister to Him.

As we reach out together with people we know—whether through monetary gifts or being His feet on the street—we experience joy, challenge and success together. We build community, celebrate, and remind each other, as we meet week by week, that we can make good things happen.

Together, we can light up the world.

Alberta Conference
Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Putting God First and Last



Lynn McDowell, JD, CSPG
Director of Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Alberta Conference (403) 342-5044, ext. 233



THE ALBERTA CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH TOWN HALL MEETINGS

September 12, 2019

Calgary Central Church
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Calgary area and South/
Southeast– Medicine Hat and Lethbridge

September 26, 2019

Red Willow Community Church
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Edmonton area/
Northeast and Ft. McMurray (Live Stream)

April 16, 2020

Northwest Area
Place and time to be determined
Grande Prairie/Peace River/
Surrounding areas and Yellowknife (Live Stream)

May 4, 2020

Central Area
Place and time to be determined



Seventh-day Adventist Church
ALBERTA CONFERENCE