

Alberta Adventist News

SEPTEMBER 2017

The struggle
for the minds
and hearts
of the next
generation

**Encounter
Adventist
Curriculum**

Blue Zones article
leads to baptism

Leaky Bucket



Some years ago, I read a story about a gardener and his leaky bucket. The gardener worked at a government building doing the grounds and ensuring a beautiful variety of flowers were in bloom during the summer months.

Each morning the gardener would take two buckets and walk to a stream at the far end of the garden with the intent to use this natural water to water the flowers in the garden. As he arrived back each morning an attendant took notice that one of the buckets had a hole in it and was only half full. One morning the attendant couldn't take it no longer and asked the obvious question. Are you aware that one of your buckets is leaky? Why do you continue to use the broken bucket and return with only one and a half buckets of water? Why don't you discard the broken bucket and replace it with a perfect bucket?

The gardener took the young man with him the next morning and showed him the

lovely wild flowers that were growing along the path. These flowers were watered by the leaky bucket. One morning he would carry the bucket in his right hand and the next morning in his left hand so that both sides of the path could be watered. The gardener knew all along that one bucket was leaky and he took advantage of this fact to water the flowers while on his journey.

Perhaps there are times when you feel like a leaky or broken bucket. That you do not have as much to offer as someone else. Perhaps you do not have as many talents as someone else or you cannot give as much as someone else or you cannot sing or speak as well as someone else. Rest assured that Jesus already knows this and is taking advantage of your shortcomings so you can be a blessing in his work.

Wherever you find yourself, bloom where you are. This may come in the form of your prayer life—remembering the needs of others daily. This may come

in the form of a phone call to a person unable to get out to church. It may come in the form of giving a ride to a student attending the local university who needs a ride to Church on Sabbath morning, or in a myriad of other ways that Jesus may lay on your heart. After all, Jesus can use broken buckets in his work.



Gary Hodder
President
Alberta Conference

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Do you enjoy taking photos?

Submit your best Alberta Conference event/nature photos for a chance to have one printed in the *Alberta Adventist News* or on the front cover. To be considered, photos must be in JPEG format and be a minimum of 5 megabytes in size. Please email submissions to aan@albertaadventist.ca and include information about the event and caption for photo, date photo was taken, photographer name and contact information.



Cover photo and other images contributed.

Submission Guidelines

www.albertaadventist.ca/aan
 Please email submissions to
aan@albertaadventist.ca

Highlights



Blue Zones Article in National Geographic Leads to Edmonton Baptism

God uses various methods to reach those who are searching for Him.



SAGE Outdoor Education Centre

The SAGE Outdoor Education Centre at Foothills Camp is well underway.



Ground Zero in the Great Controversy

The struggle for the minds and hearts of the next generation.

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News



SAGE Outdoor Education Centre, Foothills Camp.

SAGE Outdoor Education Centre

The SAGE Outdoor Education Centre at Foothills Camp is well underway. Alfred Breitkruez, whom SAGE contracted to do the main structure, has finished his work except to put in the doors. Help is needed to complete the remaining steps of the building project such as:

1. Seal around the building so animals cannot get under it.
2. Wiring— we are going to have a generator when power is needed.
3. Do the decking, railing, ramp and steps.
4. Siding
5. Insulation
6. Finish the wall interior
7. Flooring
8. Soffit and fascia work. John Maattanen has agreed to lead this.

9. Landscaping
10. And many other smaller jobs

Please consider helping SAGE complete the Outdoor Education Centre. Even one day will be much appreciated. Please contact Herb Kennedy, the building coordinator, with the times you are available to help at (403) 391-3121 or by email at hngkennedy@shaw.ca.
—Submitted by Marlene Holdal



Ministerial and Evangelism Update

The Ministerial and Evangelism department of the Alberta Conference exists to provide training and resources to pastors and elders to share the Good News of the coming Saviour and to demonstrate His love and grace in our daily interactions.

In 2016 our goal was to increase the conference membership by 4%. However, our membership grew from 11,353 to 11,646 in 2016, which is a 2.58% increase in membership. This year we have approved 38 evangelism budgets and as of August 29, 2017, the membership stands at 11,845 and for this we say praise God because lives are being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Highlights

In Calgary, a Burmese group had been meeting in homes and studying the Bible with friends. They decided to invite a pastor who could speak their language to conduct an evangelistic series. In July, a three-week series concluded and 12 individuals gave their lives to Jesus through baptism.

At another evangelistic series in Calgary, 31 individuals committed their lives to Christ through baptism and in Edmonton, 11 gave their hearts to Christ through baptism and at another series in Edmonton, 9 more individuals were baptized, and it continues by the grace of God.

As we continue to allow the Lord use us for the promulgation of the Gospel, may our hearts burn within us with a passion to bring hope and wholeness to those we encounter.

A special welcome to Pastor Jeff Potts and his wife Nancy to the College Heights Church. His

years of experience in pastoral ministry will be a tremendous asset and blessing to the church and community.

Joining Potts at College Heights is Pastor Matthew Piersanti and his wife Amy and kids. Piersanti recently graduated from Andrews with a MDiv. and is an energetic young man with a passion to work for the Lord.

Adam Bially was recently assigned as youth/assistant pastor at Calgary Central Church. Bially previously served in the Alberta Conference as a Bible worker under the supervision of pastor John Murley at Edmonton South and we are happy to welcome him and his wife Kimberly to our pastoral team.

Listed below are some of the most recent pastoral assignments /changes:

Rod Davis

New Role: Volunteer Church Planting Coordinator—Edmonton area
(*Rod will continue his pastoral duties at Sherwood Park*)

Ron Henderson, pastor

New District: Olds and Mirror
Start Date: September 15

Oscar Halvorson, pastor

New District: Lacombe Community/Rocky Mtn. House
Start Date: September 15

Joseph Augustin, pastor

New District: Christ the Way/ Abundant Life (*Edmonton*)

Anthony Kern

Seminary
Start Date: August 1

Reynold Ferary, pastor

New District: Edmonton African Fellowship/West Edmonton



Adam and Kimberly Bially.



Jeff and Nancy Potts.

Roberson Dorelus, pastor

New District: Edmonton African Fellowship/West Edmonton

Adam Deibert

New Role: Chaplain, Sherwood Care (*Edmonton*)
Start Date: September 15

Norman Cid

Moving back to the US
September 13

Shawn Brummund

Moved to the US in July

Myles Gillespie, pastor

New District: Lloydminster/Bonnyville
Start Date: August 15

Kingsley Moyo, pastor

New District: Edmonton Filipino/Edmonton Ghanaian

Jeff Potts, pastor

New to Alberta: College Heights Church

Ted Deer

Chaplain, Burman/PAA

Adam Bially

New District: Youth/Assistant Pastor, Calgary Central
Start Date: July

Allan Perez

New District: Edmonton South, Youth/Assistant Pastor

Matthew Piersanti

New District: College Heights Youth Pastor/CHCS Chaplain

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2018 • MAY 11-13

Save THE date

SHERATON HOTEL • RED DEER



Alberta Conference
Youth Department

Listening TOUR



Lyle Notice
Youth Director



David Benjamin
Assistant Youth Director

TOUR DATES

September 9, 2017 EDMONTON (Edmonton Central Church)

September 16, 2017 RED DEER (Epic Church)

September 30, 2017 MEDICINE HAT/BROOKS (Medicine Hat Church)

October 14, 2017 CALGARY (Calgary Central Church)

October 28, 2017 LETHBRIDGE (Lethbridge Church)

November 19, 2017 FORT MCMURRAY (Fort Mac Church)

December 2, 2017 YELLOWKNIFE (Yellowknife Church)

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What's it Mean to You?

"I want to be the first one in my family to finish school. I want to see how far I can go."

Shaneek
MANS Class of 2020
Honor Student since 2013
Future PhD



"I love school!" says Shaneek. "Some people call me 'Strange' because I like math!"

Not her teachers. In fact, her math and other teachers keep Shaneek supplied with textbooks a year or two beyond her grade, and Shaneek works on them after she finishes her class assignment—usually in no time flat.

Beyond having an aptitude for it, Shaneek loves math because it reminds her of her father, who was also good at math but passed away when Shaneek was 8. "It brings me closer to him and makes me happy," she says dreamily. And she's got lots to be happy about besides math: with near-perfect daily attendance, Shaneek's on top of her academics, an athlete, a competitive Shawl Fancy Dancer, and she's with people she considers "family" every day at school.

The family aspect of MANS—being safe, belonging, and valued in an often-harsh world—is so important that Shaneek left what many would consider a great opportunity to attend a big First Nations school in the city last year. On her own initiative, she got herself back "home" to MANS and hasn't regretted it one bit. "It's calm and organized, and very friendly—warm like a family."

"I want to go to university and study for a government job to help aboriginals," she says with anticipation. "There's a new high school being built," Shaneek beams at the thought of the new MANS high school campus, then adds, "but I'm going to have to wait until Grade 11!"

But that's OK. For now, Shaneek's just happy to be home.

—By Lynn McDowell

Contribute to the campaign to build MANS' high school at www.mans1.ca or make cheques payable to the Bridge Campaign, C/O Alberta Conference, 5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5.



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**
RR 2, Ponoka, AB T4J 1R2

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

November 2-5, 2017

SAGEALBERTA

Fall Retreat



“I must listen to the gospel. It tells me not what I must do, but what Jesus Christ the Son of God has done for me.”

Martin Luther

Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Reformation in 1517, signified his firm conviction that salvation came to us by Christ alone and what He has done for us, and thus he nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg church.

NOTE: Morning meetings each day begin at 10:00 am to enable commuting for those who choose to do so.

Reflections on the Protestant Reformation

At Foothills Camp

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Trevor O'Reggio

Professor of Church History, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University.

The SAGE Fall Retreat provides another opportunity for fellowship and a learning time for seniors in Alberta.

Dr. O'Reggio's presentation topics include:

- Precursor Events and the World of the Reformation
- Radical Reformers and the Seventh-day Adventists
- The German Reformation
- Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
- Luther on Marriage and the Family
- The Impact of the Reformation

TO REGISTER: Contact Vic Fitch by phone at (403) 302-0231 or email jdvfitch@gmail.com

TO MAKE PAYMENT: Contact Penny Marcinyk at the Alberta Conference, (403) 342-5044, ext. 201 or email pmarcinyk@albertaadventist.ca.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is OCTOBER 19

Why a Special Deaf Culture?

The “Deaf World” has a unique culture. It tends to go past political and even ethnic borders. It is the glue that ties together “Deaf” around the world. To be accepted in the deaf culture will be natural for the profoundly deaf. However, a hearing person may struggle for full acceptance unless they sign very well and are seen to treat Deaf on their own level, not as inferior to “The Hearing.”



Signing a song at the Harmony church in Toronto.

Sign Language

Probably the strongest glue within the deaf culture is that “The Deaf” have their own visual “Sign Language.” Yes, like the Hearing, there are many varieties of Sign Language - somewhere between 70 and 400 depending in how you count each type of this visual language. Signing is composed of hand symbols that each represent a concept, like our printed or spoken words in English. These signs are often simply the logical way to visualize a concept. ‘Finger Spelling’ is using a separate finger formed sign for each letter of the alphabet, so you can spell out a word for which there is no sign. ‘American Sign Language’[ASL], as mostly used in the USA and Canada, uses a word order more like French. However, a few Deaf sign using mostly English word order. Other Deaf will use ASL word order when signing to other Deaf, but an English word order when signing with a hearing person.

Different Cultural Values and Habits

Instead of calling out to get the attention of a deaf group, someone may flick the lights. Or, instead of clapping their hands, they raise

them, twisting their wrists/hands in vigorous motion!

When two Deaf meet for the first time, their first question may be “What deaf school did you attend?” This may be asked even before their name is given. In years gone by, deaf schools became the defacto training centres for Deaf Culture. More recently, Deaf in Hearing schools has slightly weakened the unique Deaf Culture. However, Deaf Clubs and support groups - even Deaf Churches - are very important to Deaf. Here they can talk freely in sign and don’t have to put up with Interpreting.

Interpreting is very important for the Deaf World, but is almost a necessary evil, for it is often so inferior to just signing back and forth. Interpreters make mistakes and it can be hard for interpreters to be the go-between for the Hearing and the Deaf. I have seen Deaf extend their Deaf Sabbath School time instead of joining the Hearing for the church service where they must use an Interpreter. When interpreting is necessary, Deaf like skilled interpreters, but they are often not available in our smaller churches. And, interpreting for just one church service can cost over \$100 if a non-member interpreter must be hired.

Deaf expect eye contact more than do Hearing. Turning away may be considered rude when other sounds distract the hearing person who was signing to a deaf person. It is considered impolite for a hearing person to abruptly turn away from signing with a deaf person when another hearing person pushes in and starts trying to talk with the hearing person, leaving out the deaf person.

A Unique Culture with its own Habits and Norms

The Deaf even have their own jokes. A joke might be a story of how deaf people

outsmarted a hearing person and had the last laugh. A ‘deaf joke’ may not have much meaning unless you are also Deaf.

A profoundly Deaf person who marries a hearing person may have to pay a slight penalty in the deaf world. Total acceptance may be withheld because the Deaf has married out of their culture and may appear to be trying to straddle both worlds.

Working for the Deaf

A hearing person who just plunges into the Deaf World may at first find more rejection than acceptance. One’s attitude to Deaf and their own ability to sign, are very important. Too often in the past, Deaf have been dictated to, manipulated or even cheated by the Hearing. Thus, the Deaf World has some protective fences and one may have to earn full acceptance from the Deaf. This may take time and a lot of careful loving coupled with prayer for Divine guidance. But, the Deaf must also have a chance to hear/see the gospel and see it lived out before them. For too long we as a denomination have usually let the deaf fall through the cracks in our evangelism and ministry. Our prayer is that this will change as members come to see the need.

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



John Blake
 Volunteer Deaf Ministry Coordinator,
 Alberta Conference

The North American Associate Director of Deaf Ministry, Esther Doss (hearing), signing. Her parents were both deaf and she classes herself as a “Hearing Deaf Person” because of the deaf culture home that she was brought up in.





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ABC Christian Store Information

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LOCATION: 1 - 5230 College Ave, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G1

WEBSITE: www.albertaadventist.ca/abc

EMAILS: David Toews (Manager) - dtoews@albertaadventist.ca
Alberta Book Mobile - albertabookmobile@albertaadventist.ca
ABC Lacombe - abclacombe@albertaadventist.ca

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Wednesday:	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday:	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday:	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday:	Closed
Sunday:	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featured Products



Each month there are selected products on sale by the case as well as our four can price discounts. October will see the fall Bookmobile pricing on most cases and we are featuring Beyond Meat frozen products, Heritage Health Foods and Loma Linda Blue label cans.

WINNER



Tara Lyons, winner of the ABC Christian Store's camp meeting draw of a new Samsung Tablet.

"Coming home from school, I would always feel sick when I saw my house. I'd drop my things on the porch and refuse to go inside. I don't remember ever voluntarily going in that house."

—Ty Gibson



HopeChannel

download the story here:
hopetv.org/throughtears



Camp Meeting 2017 Highlights

Camp meeting 2017 could be summarized in a few words such as glorious, reflective, spiritual, worshipful, fellowship, communal, refreshing, and renewing. This was certainly an interesting experience being tucked away for two weeks in the picturesque settings of Foothills Camp. Coming from Ontario where Camp Meeting is held at the International Convention Centre near the Toronto International Airport for one day- having a two-week convocation was quite a change.

On Friday, July 14 a steady stream of RVs and motor vehicles of all kinds, shapes and sizes descended upon the campsite which had been sparsely occupied, but was now tightly packed with happy campers. There were on average approximately 4000-5000 attendees over the weekends with fewer during the weekdays. I was unsure if I could survive comfortably in my assigned camper; however, after the first rainfall while hearing the pitter patter of rain drops on the camper roof and windows, I felt right at home. The camp ground was teeming with excited campers who came with their families and friends, people of all ages, color and culture, who mixed and mingled together. A truly fitting depiction of what heaven will be like.

A sense of pride and admiration filled my heart as I saw all levels of administrators,



teachers, pastors, office workers, Foothills Camp staff, lay volunteers and leaders at all levels working together to ensure the smooth running and efficiency of the Camp Meeting experience. It was evident that the spirit of the Lord was at work as we listened to the spirit filled messages from our guest speakers and inspiring workshops given by presenters from across North America, the Inter-American Division and Australia. From the quieted, steady and inspiring messages of Gordon Pifher to the fiery, engaging, and spirit-infused messages from Hyveth Williams. Overall, there was both music and message fitting for all worshipers-those who came truly hungry for the word of God left full and filled as a result of the outpouring of the Spirit.

Ministry took place at all levels from the children, early teens, young adults, adults



and seniors who were there for a blessing. We thank God for His blessings and for the leadership of Pastor Gary Hodder and the entire Conference team of full-time workers and volunteers.

I can't wait for Camp Meeting 2018! By God's grace, I hope to see you all. —Submitted by Wayne Williams
VP for Administration/Executive Secretary

Jesus Our Redeemer

This last year, Debbie and I had the opportunity to take a holiday in Rome, as a part of a reformation tour. There were many amazing places we saw. However, the scene that struck a deep cord within me, a scene that haunts me and continues to play over again in my mind is the Scala Santa.

The Holy Stairs, as they are also known by, are stairs believed to be from Pilate's judgment hall in Jerusalem that Jesus Himself climbed. Whether these are the stairs or not had nothing to do with what troubled me. As part of the process of gaining an indulgence (the removal of the punishment for sins committed), devout Catholics climb the stairs on their knees while praying. Many of you know that I grew up as a Roman



Scala Santa, Rome.

Catholic and believed that these forms and rituals would save me. And while not doubting their sincerity and faith, my heart broke as I watched individuals and families climb the stairs. I was struck by two distinct realities. The first is that there are millions of people across Canada who are ignorant about the efficacy of the forgiveness and grace of God in this life and in the life to come. And secondly, God is about to do something big to change that! Our visit to the Scala Santa pierced me to the core and its influence was felt for the rest of our trip.

This came in the context of my mulling over an ancient Old Testament passage. It is found tucked away in a small book classified as one of the minor prophets. Although no minor task, Habakkuk was a prophet of God during the later part of the 7th century BC under the evil reigns of King Manasseh and King Ammon, a time when Judah was steeped in apostasy. Desperately pouring out his heart to God, Habakkuk begins the book by asking God, "How long Lord will I cry and you will not answer?" God answers by saying He is raising up the Babylonians to punish Judah. Why was God going to punish

Judah? For its persistent rebellion against God in worshiping the gods of the surrounding nations. In Habakkuk 2:18, 19, the prophet asks, "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, the molded image, a teacher of lies, that the maker of its mold should trust in it, to make mute idols? Woe to him who

says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet in it there is no breath at all."

Here is the uncanny connection with the ruins of ancient statues, temples, basilicas, and monuments dedicated to the worship of pagan gods and the associated lifestyles. All of them are systems of earning salvation and appeasing the wrath of either pagan gods or the Christian God. In light of this same type of reality, Habakkuk prays in chapter three and says, "...O LORD, revive Your work..." (Habakkuk 3:2).

Revive Your work. There was a brief revival under Josiah, but God's people eventually returned to apostasy and after ignoring countless warnings, Judah was finally led into captivity. When the 70 years predicted for their captivity ended, some chose to remain in Babylon, while others went back to Jerusalem. However, it seemed as if Judah went to the opposite extreme and over the course of the next several hundred years, the religious leaders developed a system of form and ceremony that included over 600 commandments. Was this the revival God was looking for? Was this what Habakkuk was praying for? No. Borrowing from the Apostle Paul, they had a form of godliness but were denying its power. So many of us experience the same in our lives today. What can God do? What will God do?

He turned the world upside down by sending His son Jesus. Jesus not only had a ministry of reconciliation to pay the price for sin, but a ministry that brought hope and healing. Through the ministry of Jesus Christ,

His people were to see an example of how to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. How was this to be done? In Matthew 4:23 the Bible says, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people." The results of this, as recorded in Matthew 4:25 were that, "Great multitudes followed Him."

After Jesus ascended to heaven, this pattern continued with His church. In Acts 9, the Bible records two events in the ministry of Peter. First, he heals a lame man. What was the reaction of the people who witnessed this? Acts 9:35 says, "So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord." Then Peter raised Dorcas from the dead. Acts 9:42 states, "And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord." We see that the gospel was demonstrated in practical ways, people saw it and then they followed and believed in the Lord. Philip, the deacon, worked in Samaria and the results? Acts 8:6 says, "And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did." The people of Samaria saw and experienced the power of the gospel message in action and practically demonstrated.

What does that mean for each of us today? God is coming at His appointed time to take His people home...will we be ready? Will we have facilitated the readiness of others? Today, may each of us commit our time and resources to readying ourselves and others for His appointed time.



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director
It Is Written Canada

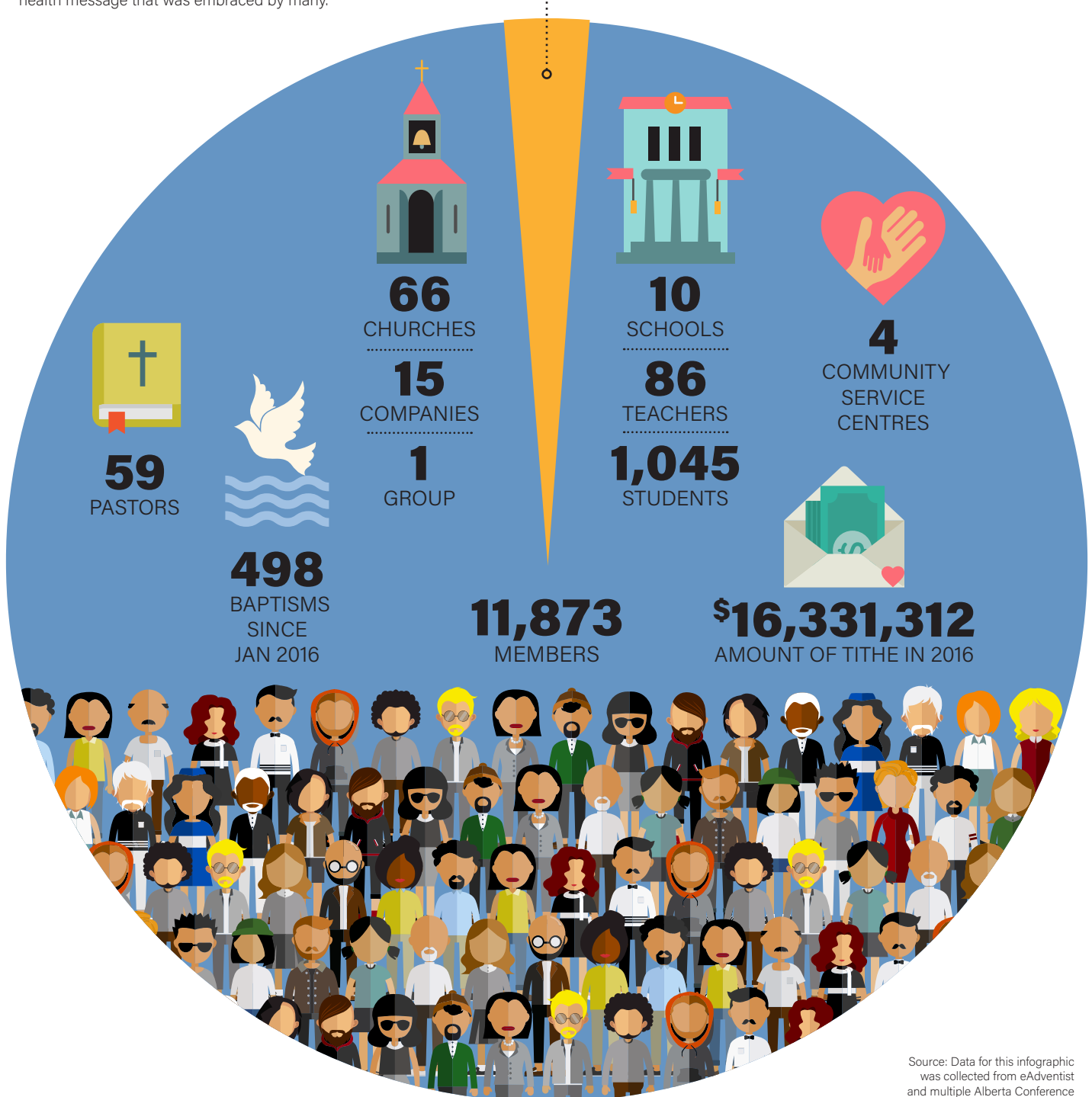
AT A GLANCE Alberta Conference

The **Alberta Conference** was first organized July 24, 1906 at the third annual session of the Alberta Mission Field in connection with the third annual Adventist camp meeting held in Red Deer. There were six charter churches at the time: Ponoka, Leduc (German), Leduc (English), Harmattan, Leavings, and Rush Lake, with approximately 330 members in total. The leaders were C. A. Burman - President, J. W. Boynton - Vice-President, and S. Lowry - Secretary-Treasurer. The rapid membership growth of the Alberta Conference in those early days can be attributed to: converts from the labors of the early pioneers and ministers (literature and books had a big part to play), settlers from outside Alberta coming for available land (people arrived in groups to settle in Alberta), and a strong emphasis on the health message that was embraced by many.

The Alberta Conference is the second largest conference in the Canadian Union (which includes seven conferences) in regards to membership; Ontario being the largest. The Alberta Conference membership is currently 11,873 and continues to grow at a rate of 2.58% per year.

2.58%
GROW RATE
PER YEAR

Mission Statement: To reach Alberta and its portion of the Northwest Territories with the distinctive, Christ-centred, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness.



Source: Data for this infographic was collected from eAdventist and multiple Alberta Conference department directors/records.

What's it Mean to You?

"I think my life would be very different if I'd gone to public school."

Krista Abt

MANS Class of 2017

Maskwacis Community

Youth Role Model

Future teacher



Krista's photo
by Dean K. Ward of
Highview Photo.

Krista started her academic career at MANS' stimulating Grade 1 classroom. Now she's part of the Class of 2017, recognized by Maskwacis as a Youth Role Model.

Krista's one of the 39% of Canada's First Nations youth who finish high school. What's more, while in high school, Krista created and sold beautiful beadwork earrings and medallions, tasted sea water and crossed the Rockies with her classmates on the way to Port Hardy, BC, and dreamed of a bright future—all while holding down an after school job at Pizza Hut.

Now a supervisor, Krista's proud of juggling academics and increasing responsibility at work. Krista's positive experience with her teachers made a big impression on her and influenced her career goals. "All the teachers I had since Grade 1 were really good", says Krista.

Krista looks forward to becoming a teacher or counselor, because she knows first hand the difference they can make.

—By Lynn McDowell

Contribute to the campaign to build MANS' high school at www.mans1.ca or make cheques payable to the Bridge Campaign, C/O Alberta Conference, 5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5.



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**
RR 2, Ponoka, AB T4J 1R2

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

Ground zero in the great controversy:

By George R. Knight

George R. Knight, EdD, is professor emeritus of philosophy and church history at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, United States.

The struggle for the minds and hearts of the next generation

Hiroshima! Ground zero! I was standing at the spot above which the world's first atomic bomb detonated. Frightful in its consequences. Shattering in its implications. The world was never the same.

- Ground zero is where the action takes place.
- Ground zero is where change happens.
- Ground zero is where the course of world history is shifted in new directions.

Ground zero and education

Ground zero in the great controversy between Christ and Satan is the struggle for the hearts and minds of the next generation. Education is not something that takes place at the edge of human history for the benefit of children and young adults. No! Education stands at the very center of where the future is going. The education of today's young people will shape tomorrow's world. Hitler understood the strategic importance of education.¹ As a result, one of his early moves was to gain control of the schools because he saw them as shapers of the next generation as he sought to fulfill his mission of world domination, the Nazi millennium.

Hitler not only sought to control education through the schools but also by such avenues as the media and the Hitler Youth movement. He utilized every avenue possible to control and shape the minds of the young because he knew that their minds and hearts would determine his success. In short, Adolf Hitler realized the basic truth that education is ground zero in the great struggle for world dominion. Education for Hitler

was not only an “evangelistic” technique to win the hearts and minds of the young but also a tool that prepared leadership for the future of the National Socialist movement. And Hitler was not alone in grasping that fact. Hundreds of miles to the east, Joseph Stalin and the Communist Party followed the same pattern in Russia.

For both Hitler and Stalin, education was central to the accomplishment of their mission. With that truth in mind, secularist George S. Counts has pointed out that “to shape educational policy is to guard the path that leads from the present to the future. . . . Throughout the centuries since special educational agencies were first established, the strategic position of the school has been appreciated by kings, emperors, and popes, by rebels, reformers, and prophets. Hence, among those opposing forces found in all complex societies, a struggle for the control of the school is always evident. Every group or sect endeavors to pass on to its own children and to the children of others that culture which it happens to esteem; and every privileged class seeks to perpetuate its favored position in society by means of education.”²

Likewise, Counts observed that the failure of revolutions has been a record of the failure to bring education into the service of the revolutionary cause. Revolutionary bodies will possess no more permanence than the small bands of idealists who conceived them if the children of the next generation cannot be persuaded to push the revolution to its logical conclusion.³

Jesus knew the significance of that truth. One of the titles central to His ministry was *didaskalos*, which means “teacher” or “master.” Instructing His 12 disciples was

the focal point of His mission because He knew that without trained leadership, His mission would have no impact on the future. And one of His last commands was for His followers to take His message to all the world. That command should be called the **Great Educational Commission** because at the very heart of that commission was the charge to teach all that He had taught.

Martin Luther, too, realized the centrality of education. At the very core of the Reformation was the doctrine of justification by faith as taught in the Bible. But people could not truly grasp that all-important understanding unless they had a Bible in their own language. So Luther translated both testaments into German. But that would do no good unless people could read. And it was that insight that eventually led to the development of universal public education. In 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Ninety-Five Theses, we need to remember that the great initiator of the Protestant Reformation was primarily an educator. He knew that if the truths of the Reformation were to prosper that its leaders needed to invest in education, especially along two lines: (1) the education of future leaders and (2) the education of the populace in the principles of the Bible.

The Puritans who settled the New England wilderness of North America in the late 1620s and early 1630s grasped that same idea. As a result, by 1636 they had established Harvard to train leaders, and in 1642 and 1647 they had legislation in place



for compulsory elementary and secondary education so that children could be taught Puritan principles.

Similar thoughts led to the development of public education in the young United States. The same can be said regarding the rise of Roman Catholic education. Every movement needs both leaders who understand its principles and a populace in harmony with them.

In the modern world, the struggle to control the minds and hearts of the young is still on the front burner. Thus the United States has been shaken for the past half century by the “culture wars”⁴ regarding what should be taught in the schools. The plain fact is that those who control education have the power to shape the future.

Ellen White had no doubts about that truth. “By a misconception of the true nature and object of education,” she wrote, “many have been led into serious and even fatal errors.”⁵ Again, she wrote, “The necessity of establishing Christian schools is urged upon me very strongly. In the schools of today

many things are taught that are a hindrance rather than a blessing. Schools are needed where the word of God is made the basis of education. Satan is the great enemy of God, and it is his constant aim to lead souls away from their allegiance to the King of heaven. He would have minds so trained that men and women will exert their influence on the side of error and moral corruption, instead of using their talents in the service of God. His object is effectually gained, when, by perverting their ideas of education, he succeeds in enlisting parents and teachers on his side; for a wrong education often starts the mind on the road to infidelity.”⁶

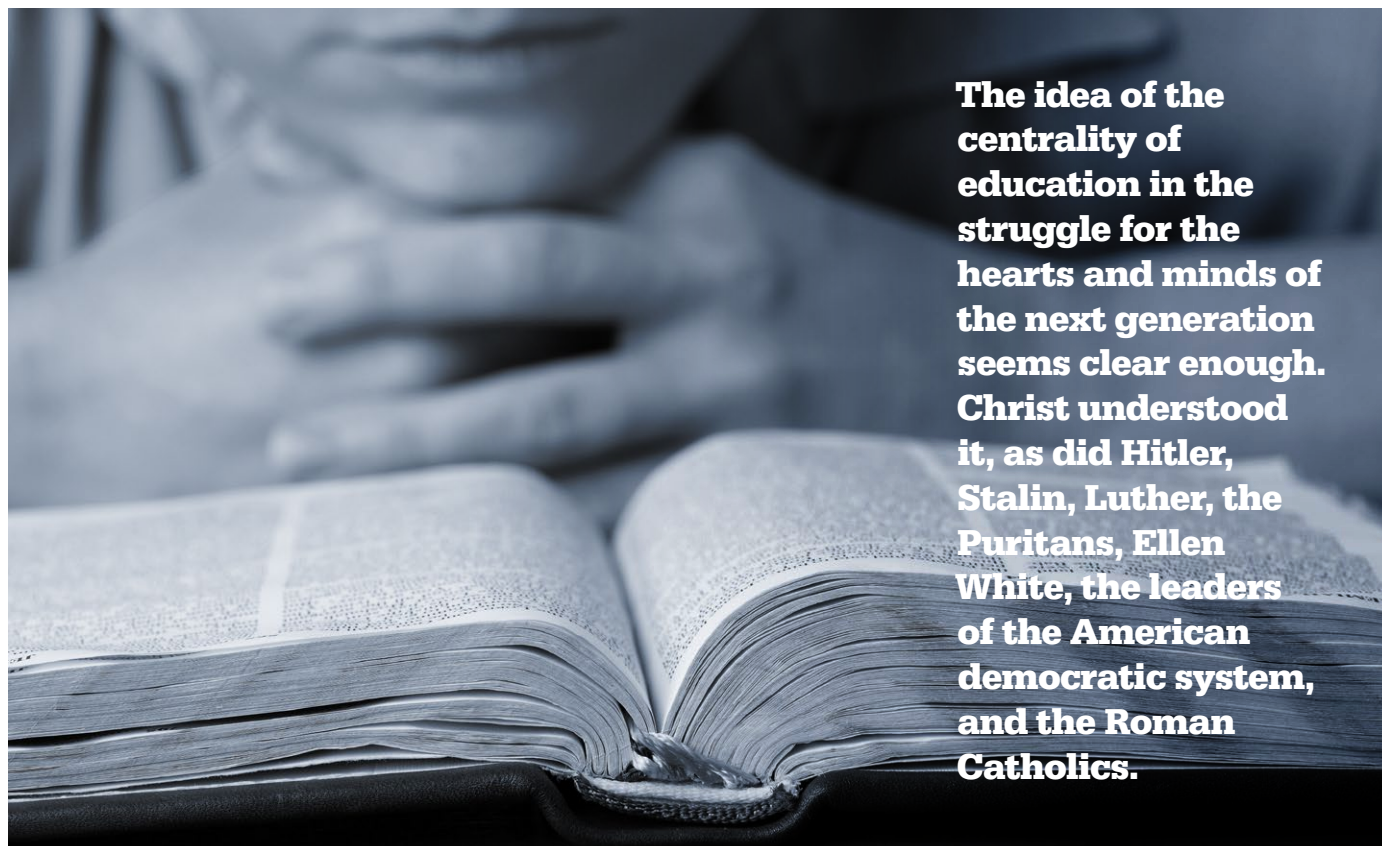
Some do not get it

The idea of the centrality of education in the struggle for the hearts and minds of the next generation seems clear enough. Christ understood it, as did Hitler, Stalin, Luther, the Puritans, Ellen White, the leaders of the American democratic system, and the Roman Catholics.

But some Seventh-day Adventists have failed to grasp one of the most elementary facts of political and religious history—namely, that education stands at ground zero in the great controversy.

For example, some pastors, and even administrators, have argued that Adventist education “is stealing money from evangelism.” A concerned church member has written that “the pastor of my church has decided that Christian education is irrelevant and not soul winning and therefore our local [Adventist] school should be closed so as not to waste any of the money that he could be putting into his evangelism to win souls. . . . He has even presented a sermon on the evils of not bearing fruit, which is a great sermon topic, except when his whole point was that our academy does not bear any visible fruits and therefore should be closed.”

From that perspective I wonder how our pastor/friend would have evaluated the ministry of Jesus, who worked with



The idea of the centrality of education in the struggle for the hearts and minds of the next generation seems clear enough. Christ understood it, as did Hitler, Stalin, Luther, the Puritans, Ellen White, the leaders of the American democratic system, and the Roman Catholics.

His disciples for three years and went to the cross without one of them having been converted. But the *New Testament* tells us that they eventually got the point and became mighty evangelists. Jesus had planted seeds that over time sprouted into a worldwide harvest. That is what educators of all types do.

Yet it is one of the sad facts of Adventist history that the denomination had a difficult time supporting Christian education. It would be nearly 20 years before the denomination established its first successful school. That 1872 school became Battle Creek College in 1874, the year that Adventism sent its first official foreign missionary.

The development of the denomination's first college and the sending of its first missionary in the same year was no accident. The Adventist leadership had come to recognize that it had a duty to preach the three angels' messages to all the world. And, if it was to do so, it needed an edu-

cational system to prepare pastors, editors, translators, and other skilled individuals to work not only in English but also in other languages.

It was mission that led to the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And at its best a conscious recognition of mission stands at the very heart of Adventist education.

That truth is further emphasized by developments in the ongoing history of Adventist education. The establishment of a college to train leadership was good in itself, but it only fulfilled half of the educational imperative. The other half was the establishment of an elementary system to guide the hearts and minds of the young in their earliest and most formative years. But that would not take place until the 1890s, 50 years after the Millerite disappointment.

The decade itself is of interest because it was during the 1890s that Adventism truly became a worldwide movement. In 1890, the denomination had only 8 missions

with a handful of missionaries, but by 1900 it had 42 missions around the world with nearly 500 missionaries. But that was just the beginning. By 1930 the church was supporting 8,479 evangelistic workers outside of North America representing 270 missions.

The 1890s also witnessed the turning point in Adventist education. The church entered the 1890s with 16 schools, but it exited the decade with 246. And, as with mission, that expansion would continue, with over 600 schools in 1910 and more than 2,000 in 1930.

Once again we see that mission expansion and education go hand in hand. At its very best, Adventist education and Adventist mission partner on at least two levels. First, as the denomination entered new areas of the world, it realized the need to train leaders.

Thus the 1890s saw the establishment of Adventist training schools and colleges in the far corners of the earth.

The second great change in Adventist education during that decade was the development of a worldwide elementary system through the urging of Ellen White, who wrote that there should be an Adventist school established where there were as few as six children.⁷ The elementary system functioned as an evangelistic arm of the church to win the hearts and shape the minds of the young in their formative and most impressionable years.

Shane Anderson highlighted the importance of education when he wrote that “in my experience Adventist education is one of the most effective ways to prepare young people for the second coming of Christ.... I believe that our schools—rightly run—are more successful at doing this than any other single evangelistic method, including Revelation seminars, church planting, felt-needs evangelism, or contemporary worship services. Also I believe that Adventist education has been the key to propagating our unique Adventist mission in the world. It has been the medium for shaping our values, finding our spouses, and raising Advent-minded families. Adventist education has even provided a nationwide and, yes, global sense of connectedness and community.”⁸ The most important words in Anderson’s statement are “rightly run.” Just what is it that Seventh-day Adventist schools are supposed to teach through dedicated Christian teachers who have a firm commitment to the Adventist Church and its mission?

Adventist educational essentials ⁹

That question brings us to the three essential goals of Adventist education. The first is to prepare young people to function successfully in this present world. Education for excellence in this life and success in this world is an essential aspect of Adventist education. But if that is all it achieves, it has failed. After all, that is also the function of the public or government schools. And they often do an excellent job in accomplishing that goal.

That thought brings us to the second great goal of Adventist education, which Ellen White hints at in the opening paragraph of her book *Education*. “True education,” she writes, “means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man.”¹⁰ In other words, Adventist education is for this earth. But it is more. It is also education for eternity.

That goal comes into sharp focus in Education’s first chapter and again in its fourth as Ellen White repeatedly sets forth education as a “work of redemption.” “The teacher’s first effort and his constant aim,” she writes, is to help students come into a saving relationship with Christ.¹¹

With those forceful ideas Ellen White sets forth education as evangelism. And with that fact she places education at the center of the great controversy and views teachers as God’s agents or ministers in the struggle over the hearts, minds, and souls of the coming generation. Adventist education is not at the edge of the church’s mission to the world but, rather, one of its most crucial elements.

But there is a third aspect of the Adventist educational commission—namely, the teaching of its unique doctrinal package and especially the denomination’s apocalyptic understanding and the implications of that understanding for worldwide mission and the Second Advent.

Adventism’s unique task is to preach God’s end-time apocalyptic message found in Revelation 14:6–12 to all the world. That understanding has led generations of Adventist young people to give their lives in obscure mission fields and has prompted older church members to sacrifice not only the nearness of their children but also their financial means to fulfill the prophetic imperative. It has also placed education at the center of the denomination’s agenda.

In conclusion, it should be noted that Adventist schools are unique institutions that fill a special place in the great end-time controversy between Christ and Satan. As such, they not only prepare students for

life in this world, they not only introduce young people to Jesus as Lord and Savior, but they also inspire the coming generation with an understanding of God’s end-time apocalyptic vision with the aim of leading them to dedicate their lives to that vision and the advent of their Lord.

1 See George R. Knight, “Adolf Hitler and Ellen White ‘Agree’ on the Purposes of Education,” *Journal of Adventist Education*, 65, no. 1 (2002): 4–11.

2 J. Crosby Chapman and George S. Counts, *Principles of Education* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1924), 601, 602.

3 George S. Counts, *The Soviet Challenge to America* (New York: John Day, 1931), 66, 67.

4 James Davison Hunter, *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America* (New York: Basic Books, 1991); Jonathan Zimmerman, *Whose America? Culture Wars in the Public Schools* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 2002).

5 Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1913), 49.

6 Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education* (Nashville, TN: Southern Publishing, 1923), 541.

7 Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), 6:199.

8 Shane Anderson, *How to Kill Adventist Education (and How to Give it a Fighting Chance!)* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 2009), 12.

9 For a more complete discussion, see George R. Knight, “Education for What?” *Journal of Adventist Education*, 79, no. 1 (2016): 6–12; George R. Knight, *Educating for Eternity: A Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Education* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2016), 63–108.

10 Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1903), 13. 11 *Ibid.*, 15, 16, 30.

“Ground zero in the great controversy: The struggle for the minds and hearts of the next generation” by George R. Knight first published in the June 2017 issue of *Ministry*,[®] *International Journal for Pastors*, www.MinistryMagazine.org. Used by permission.

MANS High School Construction Update

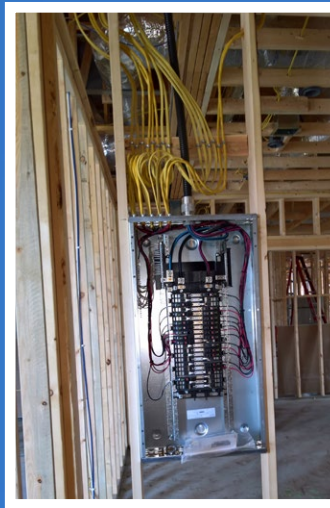
With the 2017-2018 school season commencing at Mama-wi Atosketan Native School (MANS), students and visitors to the campus will be greeted by the proud stance of a new MANS High School as it transforms from vision to reality. All look forward with anticipation to its 2018 opening date.

Over the summer, hints of lively colours have started to appear as the exterior of the building moves towards completion. Within a short period of time, the school will be closed up in preparation for the colder season. Work has also progressed inside the school as the electrical, plumbing, and heating systems are being installed. The task of putting up drywall will start soon.

Watch for the next update to come soon.

—Submitted by Llew Werner

Clockwise:
Mechanical room;
outdoor angular
view; framing.



Grade 3 Students Recite Memory Verses by Heart



Twice a month, Chaplain Oliver, Alberta Conference Prison Ministry Volunteer Coordinator, visits the Grade 3 class at Coralwood Adventist Academy. He begins with prayer and then shares a Bible verse followed by a story that pertains to the theme of the text. He ends with prayer and the kids look forward to his next visit leaving them time to think and ponder what he has said. His stories are life changing and the kids are dedicating their lives to Jesus. He builds relationships and at the end of the school year, although we are sad to see him go, all the children recite 17 memory verses by heart. He in return gives them a Certificate of Excellence and encourages them to keep the Word of God in their heart. Pastors make a huge impact in students' lives and we are very grateful for the time and effort it takes for Chaplain Oliver to rush from one prison to the next to meet his bi-weekly obligations. Thank you Chaplain Oliver.

—Submitted by Rayette Hetland

Grade 3 teacher at Coralwood Adventist Academy



ENCOUNTER

ADVENTIST CURRICULUM

Back in 1913, Mrs. White wrote that the teaching of Bible should have our freshest thought and best methods. Never in the history of the world is this more important for our children than right now. Consider a Bible class where every student's relationship with Jesus is nurtured, based on their solid knowledge of the Bible, so that they can be challenged to make an eternal difference in our world.

That's the goal of the new Adventist Encounter Bible curriculum. It is designed, not only to give students content knowledge of the Bible, but to lead them into a personal relationship with Jesus and inspire a passion to share Him with others.

"This pioneering Bible curriculum is what the church has needed for decades. It is relational, wholistic, and thorough, yet at the same time theologically respectable and Biblically insightful. The genius of this approach is that you have featured personal relationships and the challenge to grow spiritually while at the same time introducing students to significant Bible study and discovering learning along with the basic Christian and Adventist doctrinal understandings." (George Knight)

At a recent Encounter training, teachers described

the program as " ... deeply spiritual," "a wonderful path to Jesus," "an opportunity to experience discipleship in my Bible class." "Our church is finally taking Bible class to another level," said another. "Bible can be the most exciting of all subjects!" There has never been a more important time for us to focus on reaching our young people for Jesus."

This curriculum is being introduced in all our Adventist schools in Canada this school year, and we need your help. Though the Bible is the only textbook, the program includes a wealth of resources that help make the teaching of Bible come

alive for our children. These represent the best methods and freshest thought that Mrs. White was referring to. Please help us and our teachers to share Jesus with our children. Please give generously to help provide these Bible resources for our schools.

The Alberta Conference needs 10 sets (one set/ school) of the Encounter Bible curriculum. Each set includes: 1 kit for grades 1-4, 1 kit for grades 5-8, and 1 main school kit. Kits cost approximately \$1000 US each. For more information, please contact your local Adventist school or Janet Hall at the Alberta Conference office by email at jhall@albertaadventist.ca



Adventist Education

A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

NOTE: A short video is available at vimeo.com/229158645/0795f8ca74

Practicing Practical Faith

Looking back on the 2016-2017 school year at Parkview Adventist Academy, it is easy to identify the moments when God came through. On a personal level, students may recall tests they did not fully prepare for, well-received presentations that came together in the last moments, or special prayers and conversations speaking directly to their needs at that time. As a school, PAA can reflect on God's provision of the right personnel to give our programs direction and meaning, the divine inspiration of school families and alumni to pray for and with administrators, and the blessing of students who were curious and motivated to improve their community by "Shifting the Atmosphere." These moments are now celebrated, but in the middle of them, we tend to forget the incredible amount of faith needed to persevere. The new school year is just beginning, and faith is just as necessary.

Through a prayerful hiring process, three additional staff members have joined the team: Holly Kay is PAA's new teacher of Religious Studies and assorted electives; Emile Ndezeki is taking over some Social Studies; Zack Loxdale teaches Science and is looking forward to starting a Panthers Track and Field team. New students now fill the hallways as they join in on the daily fun, each of them demonstrating the important element of faith as they attempt new challenges, fill leadership roles, and start to get involved in campus life by contributing to PAA's new spiritual theme for the year: Run the Race.

Faith is a discipline grown only through practice. Exercising the different elements of faith—confidence in things hoped for and assurance of things unseen (Hebrews 11:1, NIV)—will help to keep students and staff alike on track. Encouragement can be drawn from the story of Joshua, newly-appointed leader of a young nation, preparing the Israelites to march around Jericho. He hoped for an outcome that would allow his army to have not only access to the secure city, but



Grade 10 RS class joins together for one last service project.



Newly graduated seniors relax after exams.



Students and Teachers on the last day of 2016-2017

also affirmation that God was going before them into the Promised Land. Joshua had not yet seen the inside of Jericho, but was assured that the Lord would deliver it into his hands. With those two elements in place, Joshua sent the priests with the ark of the covenant, as well as all his armed men, to march around the city for six days before the main event. On the seventh day, they were to march seven times, coordinate a wave of noise, and "then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go

up, everyone straight in" (Joshua 6:5b, NIV). Nothing like this had been done before. The soldiers, priests, leaders, and every person of each tribe had to have faith that God would come through.

The 2017-2018 school year has never happened before. Students, teachers, administrators, and PAA families must put their trust in God

to fulfill the promises He has made. In the meantime, we will all practice having confidence in things we hope for and the assurance of things yet unseen. PAA's teachers are hoping for opportunities to direct students' hearts to Jesus and minds to new knowledge. With this hope, they approach each new school day with the confidence that their classroom is the best possible place for those interactions to occur. Students hoping to complete another year of academic schooling have not seen their coursework, grades, or scheduling decisions. Still, each of these young folks will be practicing faith every day as they show up, put in their time and best efforts.

The Biblical encouragement is that the story of Joshua's faith is mentioned in Hebrews 11: "By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days" (vs. 30, NIV), which means the practice paid off.

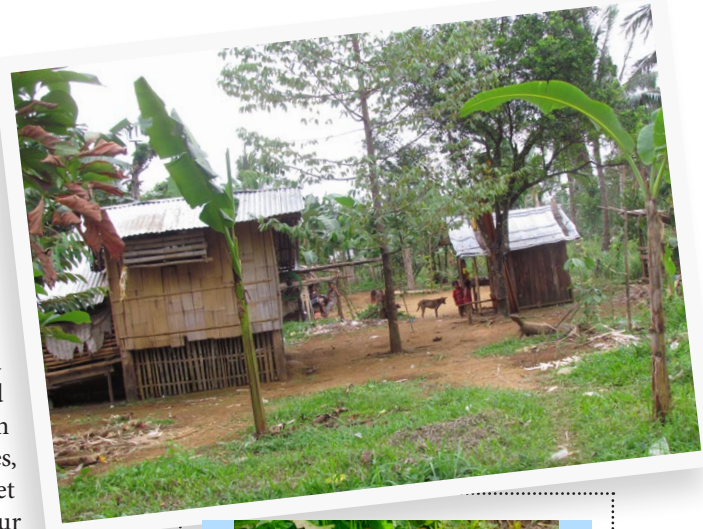
As the school year moves forward, there will be many opportunities to develop practical faith. It is the prayer of all PAA teachers and staff that this may be a place where the faith of our young people grows to such an overwhelming degree that together we can enjoy what God has planned for us (Hebrews 11:40). Until then, we practice.—Submitted by Katelyn Ruiz



Philippine Mountain Ministries

In the November edition of the Alberta Adventist News, there is an article titled, "Evangelistic Opportunities in the Philippines." This is a follow-up report of that mission trip mentioned that took place in April 2017. The group left from Vancouver, BC with approximately 700 pounds of medical supplies and clothing that had been collected for distribution.

The evangelistic efforts to the tribal mountain people of Mindoro was a great success. All glory goes to God! Thank you to all those who supported this effort with your finances and prayers. Our Canadian team of seven (Amber Andrews, Christian Blixrud, Esther Crumb, Karen and Brian Hawes, Lorne Saylor, and Susan Windels) arrived in Manila at 3 a.m. We were met by Pastor Jorge Punghulan who arranged for two vehicles to transport our belongings and supplies to the Conference office in San Refael, San Pablo City. We had one day to acclimatize and get ready to travel early the next morning to the Island of Mindoro, where we began our work in the mountains.



One of the main challenges we faced was that the village had no water source. Water was needed for cooking, drinking, washing, and for flushing the toilet. The young men joined the villagers as they carried water from a spring half a kilometer away. We were all grateful for that service of love.



The Mangyan Village people came every night to the meetings with their children. For the first time these wonderful tribal people heard songs of praise to Jesus! For the first time they heard praying to their Creator God. For the first time they heard of Jesus and His love.



After a 45 minute climb up a very steep mountain, we made it to the village that would be home for the next nine days. All our shelters were made of bamboo, coconut and banana leaves. We had to construct tarped shelters that would serve as bedrooms for most of the team. Our meeting place was a bamboo framed structure with a tarp thrown over to keep the rain out. As you can see from the picture above, the kitchen wasn't very fancy but it managed to get the job done.



The Holy Spirit was in this village long before we arrived. On the last Sabbath before we left, 67 individuals were baptized at the river. What a beautiful sight. Last year, a land slide covered 200 homes and left the people homeless. Although Satan tried to destroy the people through water and flood, Jesus came to seek and save. The same water that previously destroyed homes was used to baptize those who accepted Jesus. What a moving experience.



Help Needed for Remaining Paglantayanan Projects

For this village to grow in their faith, they need a very simple church as the one pictured below. **Cost: \$5,000**

A Carabao is a great asset when it comes to hauling sand and gravel. We would like to provide this village with a small herd to be used for projects in their area. **Cost: \$1,200 (\$600 each)**

1.7 km of pipe and fittings are needed to supply the village with clean drinking water. **Cost: \$2,000**

May God bless you as you consider how you can help in providing means for this little group of God's children.

If you are interested in taking part in a mission trip with Philippine Mountain Ministries, please contact Pastor Brian Hawes by email at bhawes@shawcable.com or phone (587) 377-3044.

Donations can be made Online through the Ponoka Seventh-day Adventist Church website or by cheque.

All donations will receive a tax deductible receipt



Edmonton Central's Active Children's Sabbath School

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

The Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church believes that children are a gift from God and we celebrate another year of healthy spiritual growth for our church children. The following classes are offered for our children: Cradle roll (ages 0-2); Kindergarten (ages 3-5); Primary (ages 6-9); Junior (ages 10-12); Earliteen (ages 13-14); and Youth (ages 15-18).

According to an African proverb, it takes a whole village to raise a child. It also takes a congregation to nurture children spiritually. I thank God that there are committed parents and teachers at Edmonton Central who are dedicated to help our children learn about God. We are grateful for teachers who sacrifice to be in the classroom on time on Sabbath mornings to welcome each child.

Back in the 1960s, I can remember spending many Sabbath hours in a little chapel that was made of pebble dash stones and wood. The furnishings were an old piano, pictures of angels made of felts and little carved wooden chairs that we sat on Sabbath after Sabbath. It was such a delight for me to be happily occupied by the teacher as she taught us songs and Bible



Edmonton Central Cradle Roll Sabbath School

"According to an African proverb, it takes a whole village to raise a child. It also takes a congregation to nurture children spiritually."

verses. From her heart sprang a flow of wisdom and cheerfulness to God that I will never forget, even though I did not grasp the full meaning of those Bible verses and songs until many years later in life.

As I consider my spiritual journey, I am indebted to a host of individuals and

my Sabbath school teachers are definitely included in those who helped nurture me spiritually.

One of the greatest struggles that we face today is how to keep our children in the church. Can we somehow motivate our children to be excited about Jesus?

I believe there is a way. It takes commitment and hard work, but it is eternally worth it. We cannot afford to lose even one child. Let us do all we can as parents and as a church family to keep our children connected to Christ and His Church.

"With such an army of workers as our children, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming saviour might be carried to the whole world!" E.G. White, Education, P. 271.
—Submitted by Ina Martin

Canada Day in Sherwood Park: Our Recipe for an Amazing Community Outreach Event



Booths setup by Sherwood Park Church for Canada Day Community Event.

Canada Day, a great time to try new and exciting recipes to share with family and friends. For the Sherwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, God truly blessed with an incredible opportunity to try out something new and exciting this past Canada Day. The Prayer Ministries team, Pathfinders, and a number of volunteering members joined together to share with and serve the community during this year's celebrations. Below is our simple recipe that made for a great Canada Day community outreach event.

What a blessing it was to be able to share with our neighbours; we're looking forward to more opportunities to reach out to the community again next year. It was wonderful to see so many children at the Pathfinders' tents for crafts, the numerous individuals who stopped by the Health Age booth, and everyone who stopped to grab a free book or bottle of water. It was our prayer that through this community outreach event the Sherwood Park and Strathcona County community would be connected to the "living water" that would "become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:10, 14, NIV)

—Submitted by Courtney Lucas

Photos by Pastor Rod Davis

Amazing Community Outreach Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1,000 bottles of water
- 600 fun crafts for the kids
- Lots of great Adventist literature as well as Vacation Bible School (VBS) invitations
- Health Age Tests using iPads
- Many eager and cheerful volunteers
- Suitably-located church in the heart of the community
- Prayer, prayer, and more prayer

Instructions:

Be sure to mix in prayer liberally before and throughout the outreach for best results. Mix and mingle with those passing by. Bake in the hot sun for as long as it takes but let stand under tents to prevent from overheating. Serves: a lot of people who may not know God.



Edmonton South Bids Farewell to the Kerns and Welcomes the Perez Family

July 29, 2017 was a sad day in the Edmonton South Church as we said good-bye to Pastor Anthony & Cassandra Kern and their two children, Lydia and Amelia. The Kerns began their ministry at Edmonton South just two short years ago. Anthony is headed to Andrews University where he will complete a Masters of Divinity Degree.

On August 12, 2017, the Edmonton South Church welcomed Pastor Allan Perez and his wife Fernanda. Allan, who was formerly an assistant at Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, will assume the same role at Edmonton South. Allan previously served at Red Willow Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Albert. We welcome the Perez family and look forward to their ministry at Edmonton South.



Jonathan Geraci, pastor of the Yellowknife Seventh-day Adventist Church, presenting a health seminar at Moose Island, Northwest Territories.

Sharing the Christ Who Cares at Moose Island, Northwest Territories

“You may have had a different picture of how an evangelism event should look like, but this is exactly how God wanted it to be,” began a deep booming voice at the front of the small community hall in Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories. Wonder Ndhlovu, a member of the Yellowknife Adventist church, came to preach the sermon on Sabbath morning. He along with Sulad’s from Kitwanga, BC, a missionary family from California and 15 Yellowknife Adventist church members all made the road trip out to

the end of the highway where Deninu K’ue (translated as “Moose Island”) is situated on the south shore of Great Slave Lake. Two locals sat listening in the back row as Ndhlovu continued on to tell a childhood story of how his leg would have been amputated if it weren’t

for his father clinging tightly to Jesus in prayer to save it.

We welcomed town elders from other local denominations and the local Pentecostal church pastor to the program held August 11-12. It was two full days of powerful preaching, health seminars, engaging discussions, and lasting conversations. This event was particularly encouraging to our new-to-the-faith member, Prim, who helped organize the event and is the only Seventh-day Adventist living in the community of approximately 500.

The sermon neared its end when Ndhlovu’s words convicted my heart, “We go on mission trips to preach the word in order to convert souls. But sometimes it ends up being our own souls that need to be converted.” We may not know the full effect of our presence in this community until Jesus arrives, but I knew for certain on that day I needed to hear that message and be reminded to cling tighter to Jesus. Thank you to all who came from near and far, and even way far out who supported this incredible event.—Submitted by Joanna Grant



A group of young people singing at Moose Island, Northwest Territories for a two day community event.



Pastor Anthony & Cassandra Kern and their two children, Lydia and Amelia.



Pastor Allan Perez and his wife Fernanda.



Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant to Apply for Company Status

After four years of ongoing mission work, the church family in Fort Saskatchewan is happy to announce that they have reached the numerical point of applying for church company status. Including children, there is approximately 40 attending each Sabbath.

The Fort Saskatchewan church plant project was an ambitious endeavor by the Alberta Conference four years ago, to place a Bible worker and pastor in the

area to begin the process of establishing a Seventh-day Adventist church presence.

The work began with door to door canvassing to generate Bible study interests which developed into initiating a variety of felt need community outreach programs. After the first year, a venue was established to begin holding church services and the congregation has been growing ever since. Darrell Beaudoin, local church pastor, says,

"Through our ongoing outreach programs we have had 30 to 40 guests frequent our church services and we look forward to the day when we can see more accessions as a result." There have been several baptisms from their mission work in Fort Saskatchewan with more being prepared.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the Fort Saskatchewan mission project.—*Submitted by Darrell Beaudoin*



a **FREE inspiring music program** that traces the history of God's promises, His faithfulness to us, His purpose for us, and the culmination of all things at "The Appointed Time" through music and the spoken word.

Featuring Vocalists:

Joel Brousson

Charles Haugabrooks

Jennifer Silva

Dino Tsatalbasidis

Sofia Tsatalbasidis

Christine Wollmann

Instrumentalists:

Joel Brousson, cello Charolet James, piano Eduardo Solá, violin Lily May Tsatalbasidis, piano



PLEASE JOIN US OCTOBER 7, 2017 AT 7:00PM

Sheraton Red Deer Hotel

3310 50 Avenue, Red Deer, AB

Thinking Outside the Box at

As part of the vision cast by the Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association, the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church agreed to conduct a spring evangelistic series in 2017, but this one was different. The Edmonton South Evangelism Committee strategized at length and encouraged its members to think outside the box. The result was what we called the “REAL PROJECT”—far from the cookie cutter model of traditional evangelism.

The Project saw Edmonton South use its church building as a community resource centre. We strategically planned a five-week program where by we used the church on weeknights (mostly Wednesdays) and offered community minded programs that focused on health and well-being. Local health professionals and artists provided services and training to the community for free. Here is what the lineup looked like:

The “Real Project” also saw Pastors Murley and Kern team up to preach ten messages on Friday and Saturday nights during the five weeks. They focused their attention on REAL questions people ask about the Bible, such as, “How Do I Know God is Real?” or “Real Solutions for Real Problems.” Here is their sermon line-up.

- April 19**
ree 30 Minute Messages to Community Members using professional therapists

- April 26**
Free Forum on Depression with Dr. Pratap Chokka

- May 3**
Free Learn to Paint Night with professional artists

- May 10**
Free Community Health Screen with Kathy Fortunat, Bsc

- May 16**
Public Screening of “Eating You Alive”

- May 17**
Free Introduction to Vegetarian Cooking with Beverly Edwards Haines

- April 21**
Is God Real

- April 22**
Is the Bible Real

- April 28**
The Real Reason behind the Mess We are in

- April 29**
Real Solutions for Real Problems

- May 5**
The Real Truth About a Soon Return

- May 6**
Real Answers for the Human Problem

- May 12**
The Real Truth about the Dead

- May 13**
How to Real Rest

- May 19**
How to Have Real Health

- May 20**
Is There a Real Church on Earth Today

Twenty thousand brochures were mailed throughout the surrounding community. Each session was filled by local community participants. The feedback was very positive.



The Real Project brochure campaign sent out to Edmonton South residents.

Edmonton South

I'm excited to report that on May 27, 2017, six individuals were baptized including: Michael Zylenko, Spencer Goodhope, Dana Goodhope, Alesha Goodhope, Oleksii Zahreba, and Lorena Rivera



Pastor Murley and Michael Zylenko



Spencer Goodhope



Oleksii Zahreba (left) and Pastor Kern



Pastor Murley and Dana Goodhope



Pastor Murley and Alesha Goodhope



Pastor Murley and Lorena Rivera



Community health seminar at Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church during the Keeping It Real community project.



VBS Program at Coralwood Adventist Academy.



Edmonton Filipino Church Conducts VBS Program at Coralwood Adventist Academy

On July 24-28, the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted its first Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Coralwood Adventist Academy. The Cactusville theme for the VBS focuses on the significance of knowing, accepting and living out the unique purpose that God has entitled every child.

The program was coordinated by Lerma Magbago, the Edmonton Filipino Church's Children Ministry Leader. The youth and parents assisted in delivering the programs to the enthusiastic children. Aeyra Biton, one of the main presenters of the program and who dressed as "cowgirl," inspired and made the five-day event exciting for the children.

There were five stations during the VBS program: prayer, story, craft, game and snack stations. Children took turns participating in all the stations.

During the first night of the program, 46 children ranging in age from 3-12 years old, were excited to get started. Also present were some older siblings, parents and friends. Even more children came on the last three nights.

Sheila H, a mom of four, believed that, "The church must execute more programs such as this that caters to the needs of young people to learn and be equipped of God's Word." Despite her hectic schedule at work, she made sure to accompany her children every night as she wanted them to experience what

VBS taught her when she was younger.

Abi, age 10, a major character who acts in the general session, emotionally told me that, "It was only during this VBS that I realized that I have a God-given talent in acting and a sense of leadership. If it weren't for this opportunity to lead out, I might not have realized it at all."

"Having friends!" was the answer of a 4-year-old An, when asked what her favourite part of the VBS is.

Learning the Bible today is competing with a fast pace of life controlled by video games, television, and computers, but by the Grace of God, many were inspired by what they learned and excited for next year's VBS program. —Submitted by Lerynne Biton and Bernardo Lacanilao

West Edmonton Church Conducts Mental Health Workshop



Photo: Pastor Brad Dahr speaking during the *Butterfly Effect* workshop in May held at the West Edmonton Adventist Church.

On Saturday, May 27, 75 people arrived at the West Edmonton Seventh-day Adventist Church to experience *The Butterfly Effect*, an interactive mental health workshop for youth aged 14-25 years. At the conclusion of the workshop, seven young people came forward for help with their mental health.

Presented by COME2LIFE (www.come2life.net), *The Butterfly Effect* teaches spiritual, emotional, and relational tools so that youth can develop resiliency, strength, and healthy responses when faced with emotional chaos. The COME2LIFE team discusses suicide, depression, anxiety, self-harming and eating disorders. Their message is, you're not alone and there is help, hope and healing when life is chaos.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT HELP, HOPE, HEALING WHEN LIFE IS CHAOS

The COME2LIFE team consists of youth and adults with expertise in social work, psychology, teaching, youth leadership, and pastoral ministry. Our team members have certification in mental health first aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), and/or are depression and anxiety recovery facilitators. In addition to The Butterfly Effect,

COME2LIFE also presents single topic, interactive discussion Hope Groups and is preparing for an 8-week Depression and Anxiety Recovery workshop led by youth for youth. For more information, see the COME2LIFE website, www.come2life.net, or contact Pastor Brad Dahr at (587) 334-7572. —Submitted by Bernice Moise, Social Media Manager for COME2LIFE

Blue Zones Article in National Geographic Leads to Edmonton Baptism



A lesson taught to me as a youngster was to always lock the door behind you. As I grew older I discovered that there is an exception to the rule when you work for an active church that has an inviting presence in the community.

Like most Tuesdays the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist staff meeting ended around 11:30 a.m. However, on this occasion, Pastor Murley was away on holidays and Pastor Kern and I had no one to try to convince to buy us lunch. As we were organizing a few things before the afternoon's schedule, we heard the door open. Was the piano tuner here? Did one of the deacons forget their keys? Did Pastor Kern order pizza? For these inquires the answer was no. A young woman named Jasmin Kottle all the way from Berlin, Germany had dropped by to visit. With Pastor Kern and my combined knowledge of Germanic linguistics, we were prepared to share three or less German words. Thankfully, she spoke English very well.

As we conversed about what brought her to our church, she told us about her schooling in dietetics and how she had come to Edmonton to learn English as she was preparing for another degree in Social Work. We soon learned that she had recently started working for

an agency in the community that helps people who require assisted living. On the day in question she had been visiting the Library at King's College and came across an article in a *National Geographic Magazine* entitled "Blue Zones: The Science of Living Longer." In the article Jasmin had read about the longevity of Seventh-day Adventists and their emphasis on a healthy lifestyle. After reading this, she had decided to find some local Adventists. On her way home from the library she noticed the sign for the Edmonton

South Seventh-day Adventist Church and decided to stop in for a visit.

As we talked with Jasmin, it was clear that she wanted to know more about Seventh-day Adventists. Pastor Kern and I eagerly gave her some reading material about what Adventist believe and walked her to the door, not knowing if we'd ever see her again. To our delight, she was in church the next week... and the week after that. Jasmin

soon joined a small group Bible study and participated in various church activities. I'm excited to tell you that Jasmin was baptized March 4 in the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church by myself (Adam Bially) and Pastor John Murley. It was extra special to see many of her co-workers present for her baptism and to have her parents watching the livestream online from Berlin.

God uses various methods to reach those who are searching for Him. May God bless Jasmin exceedingly, abundantly as she returns to Berlin to finish her degree in social work.
—Adam Bially, Youth/Assistant Pastor Calgary Central Church



Jasmin Kottle getting baptized at the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church by Pastor Murley and Adam Bially.

Note: Adam was a Bible worker in Edmonton South at the time of writing this article.

31 Individuals Baptized at Calgary Garden Road

On May 13-27, 2017, the Calgary Garden Road Seventh-day Adventist Church launched an evangelistic effort themed, "Footprints of Hope." Because of collaboration between members and leadership, the harvest was great and God tremendously blessed. With the blessing of God and the inspired nightly presentations of Pastor Glen Samuels, President of the West Jamaica Conference, 31 individuals accepted Jesus and joined the church through baptism. We thank God for what he has done and continues to do. We thank Pastor Glen Samuels for his ministry. We also thank the Alberta Conference for their continued support throughout our evangelistic planning.



Group photo of the May 2017 baptisms at Calgary Garden Road.

Sylvan Lake

Nathan Joch (left), re-baptised and Naomi Joch (right), baptized June 10, 2017 by Pastor Bill Spangler at the Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Also, Sophia Cherubin was accepted by Profession of Faith that same day.





CANADA 150

Canada Day Pancake Breakfast Served to 1500 at Edmonton South Event

Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church served its 7th annual Canada Day Pancake breakfast to 1500 people on July 1, 2017. With Canada Day falling on Sabbath this year, the community event and activities were tailored around what deemed appropriate for Sabbath observance.



With word coming to us that many of the other local community groups in the neighbourhood had canceled their Canada Day events and were telling folks that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is where they should go, it was essential that we plan an event that our community and church could be proud of. The planning committee decided to tailor the event around evangelism and outreach. In preparation for the event, a special postcard was mailed to 5000 homes throughout the neighbourhood. The invitation stated that the annual Pancake Breakfast was continuing this year but there was going to be some changes due to Canada Day following on Sabbath. We clearly wanted people to know that this was going to be a community event with a spiritual focus.

July 1, 2017 dawned beautifully as expected. Due to it being Sabbath, the big tent in the field across from the church, tables, chairs and all the various stations had been setup on Friday. It wasn't long before people began to line-up in advance of the 9 a.m. start time. Throughout the event, a Christian music group sang traditional and contemporary Christian music and the pastors shared 15 minute talks every hour. Also, a VBS program was held outdoors for the children who attended the event. Over all, approximately 1500 individuals were served breakfast consisting of pancakes, syrup, mixed fruit, juice and water. Each adult was also given a gift bag that included: a copy of Steps to Christ, a video on why there is so much pain and suffering in the world, and various flyers advertising VBS and Coralwood Academy.

A special thanks to the 150 volunteers from our church who helped make this year's Canada Day event a success. Sev-



Ryan Reeves running the Canada Day Vacation Bible School.

eral individuals who attended the event have requested Bible studies and all are looking forward to next year's Canada Day event. It truly was a day of evangelism like none other.

I am reminded of the Bible passage in Mark chapter 3:1-3 where the crowds watched to see what Jesus would do on the Sabbath. Jesus asked that crowd "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good, or to do evil..?" I am so glad that the answer clearly is to do good.

—Submitted by John Murley



EDMONTON SOUTH BAPTISMS



Paul Osachuk was baptized by Pastor Kern on July 8.



Dan Zylenko is husband of Ursula Zylenko and was baptized on July 29 by Pastor Murley. He and his family attended the Islam and Christianity series with speaker Tim Rosenberg in 2016 and has been attending ever since.



Trish Proskiw was baptized on July 29 by Pastor Murley. Trish attended the "Real Project" in April of 2017 and after a couple of meetings indicated that she would like to study the Bible.

Way Klo Htoo Meh has been attending Edmonton South with his wife for the past couple of years. He was baptized on July 8 by Pastor Kern following completion of Bible studies.



Ursula Zylenko was baptized on July 29 by Pastor Murley. She and her husband were baptized the same day. She and her family attended the Islam and Christianity Series with speaker Tim Rosenberg in 2016 and has been attending ever since.

Amber Church was baptized on July 29 by Pastor Kern. She stopped by the Edmonton South Church one day and asked if someone would study the Bible with her. She and her son Shae attended those studies together and both were baptized on the same day.

Judd Dudley has been attending Edmonton South for approximately three years. He is the son of Baptist Missionaries who are now retired and living in the USA. Judd was baptized July 29 by Pastor Kern after several months of Bible studies with pastors Kern and Murley.



Shea Cumby is the son of Amber Church. He attended Bible studies along with his mother and was baptized with her on July 29.

Valerie Coish began attending Edmonton South in the spring of 2017. She came because she was curious about what Seventh-day Adventists believed. She enjoyed the worship services and decided that this was where she wanted to be and requested baptism. After completing her Bible studies, she was baptized on August 26 by Pastor Murley.

Zachary Williams was baptized by Pastor Kern on July 29 following completion of Bible studies.

Beauvallon Seventh-day Adventist Church

On June 10, 2017, the Beauvallon Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated as two new members officially joining the congregation. After a faithful journey in pursuit of knowing God and His word, Murray Aarbo (left) made the decision to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church and was baptized by Pastor Brad Dahr (centre). On that same day, the church was pleased to complete the membership transfer of Yoland Bent (right) from Jamaica. The church has been blessed to have these two new members join our mission. The Beauvallon church has been actively serving the communities between Two Hills and St. Paul for almost 100 years.



Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pictured above is seven individuals who were baptized on July 15, 2017 at the Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church. Another five individuals (not pictured) were baptized the following Sabbath. They're all part of the Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Burmese group. The decisions for baptism came as a result of a three-week series that was held at the Bridgeland church by Pastor PL Biakchawna from India.

Edmonton Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Company

On August 12, 2017, the Edmonton Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Company concluded its first evangelistic series that ran from August 4, to August 12, 2017.

The congregation was honoured to have Pastor Kwesi Ansah-Adu, President of the Quebec Conference, as the speaker for the series. Ansah-Adu encouraged the attendees to place their trust in Christ. The words of the prophet Isaiah came true in our midst "...so shall my word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). At the conclusion of the series, eight individuals accepted Christ and were baptized including one profession of faith.



Leduc Seventh-day Adventist church

Alex and Raphael Silva were baptized on July 1, 2017 at the Leduc Seventh-day Adventist church. They moved that same week to Manitoba where they are making their home with their parents. We wish them God's blessing in their walk with Him.



SAGE Alberta Fall Retreat, Foothills Camp

"Reflections on the Protestant Reformation," is the theme for the upcoming SAGE Alberta Fall Retreat. November 2-5, 2017, at Foothills Camp. Dr. Trevor O'Reggio, Professor of Church History, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, will present the following topics:

- Precursor Events and the World of the Reformation
- Radical Reformers and the Seventh-day Adventists
- The German Reformation
- Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
- Luther on Marriage and the Family
- The Impact of the Reformation



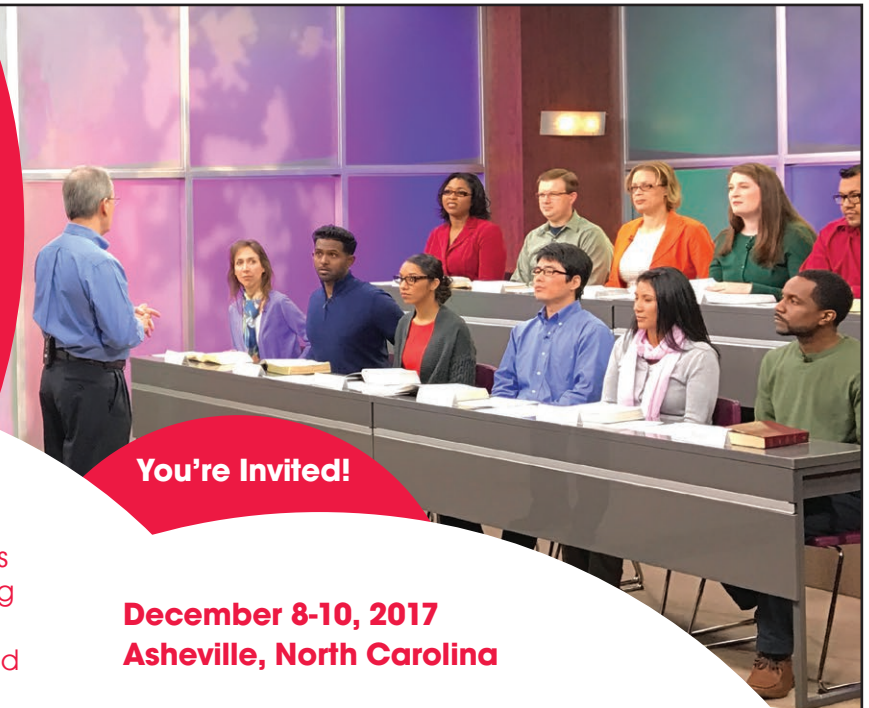
Morning meetings begin at 10 a.m. to enable commuting for those who choose to do so.

TO REGISTER: Contact Vic Fitch by phone at (403) 302-0231 or email jdvfitch@gmail.com.

TO MAKE PAYMENT: Contact Penny Marcinyk, Alberta Conference, by phone at (403) 342-5044, ext. 201 or by email pmarcinyk@albertaadventist.ca.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 19, 2017. If you are age 50+, you won't want to miss this event.

CELEBRATION OF HOPE 2017



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December 8-10, 2017
Asheville, North Carolina

Receive more information and register online at celebrationofhope.tv or by calling **301-680-5221**

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Featuring Mark Finley, music by Naomi Striemer, and a live Hope Sabbath School.



HopeChannel

Of Hearts and Treasure: Alberta Couple Creates Life-Changing Scholarship

BY LYNN McDOWELL

Imagine living in a home without books, and that no one in your family ever finished school. Imagine hoping that the gunshots you heard aren't going to come any closer, and wondering whether there will be anything to eat tomorrow. Does this sound like your grandfather's wartime immigration story? You know—the one that gets told around the Thanksgiving table, the one that has a kind-hearted neighbour who made a difference in it? It's happening right now in Maskwacis, and the story is about to take a turn.

As the stories of Adventist families move through the generations, there's someone who was the first to go to college. In Canada and even in Loma Linda, that school was often Canadian Junior College or CUC or Burman University, and the rest is a dramatically changed family history. Yes, it's a struggle, yes, most have to work summers if not throughout the year, but because we believe that young minds are where the Great Controversy is being waged in earnest, Adventism has a world-wide educational system. That system includes Mamawi Atosketan Native School, and some kind-hearted Adventist neighbours have created a scholarship with a message, and it's just for the students of MANS.

What's in a Name

The Cornerstone Academic Scholarship—the name alone will provide opportunities for deep discussion: Christ, the cornerstone that was cast aside, as so many indigenous youth are, becomes the foundation. They can build their lives on that cornerstone, and they in turn need not be cast aside. They can become part of building something important. They can

“Because we believe in academic excellence. We want to support individuals who have demonstrated their ability and willingness to work hard and achieve success.”

be cornerstones in indigenous communities that advance.

“Why a scholarship for MANS students?” said one of the donors. “Because we believe in academic excellence. We want to support individuals who have demonstrated their ability and willingness to work hard and achieve success.”

No Free Rides

Recipients will have been honour students at MANS, and completed their first year at university or trade school. This is a huge boost, because, contrary to popular belief, the 39% of First Nations students who finish high school don't automatically get a free ride through university. In Maskwacis, funding from bands and parents is in short supply. The economics and social change can be daunting, but if they get through the first year with honors, the Cornerstone Academic Scholarship will help ensure they can graduate from university, too.

“We believe in the ability of indigenous young individuals to compete and be successful in society,” continues one of the

anonymous donors. “We want to see young people from Maskwacis become academic leaders in their chosen field. We want young people to know that Jesus Christ provides the model for service to others.

“It is our hope that the graduate will one day dedicate his/her knowledge and skills to the betterment and advancement of the indigenous communities. We want to impress upon the recipient the importance of relying on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the Cornerstone of his [or her] life.”

There's a pause, and the Divine love that shines in the transformational acts of Good Neighbours hits home: “As donors, we want to demonstrate to the students of MANS that Christ cherishes them.”

Call the Conference office (403-342-5044) or go to www.mansica to see a catalogue of the ways you can contribute to The Bridge Campaign and change family histories in Maskwacis.

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Alberta Conference (403) 342-5044, ext. 233



Shaneek, an honour student at
MANS, started high school this fall.

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

Shaneek's photo by Dean K. Ward of Highview Photo.

Educating
children
and youth
for time
and eternity



Alberta Conference
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