

Alberta
**Adventist
News**

DECEMBER 2015



**SUPER
MANS**

The sky is the limit

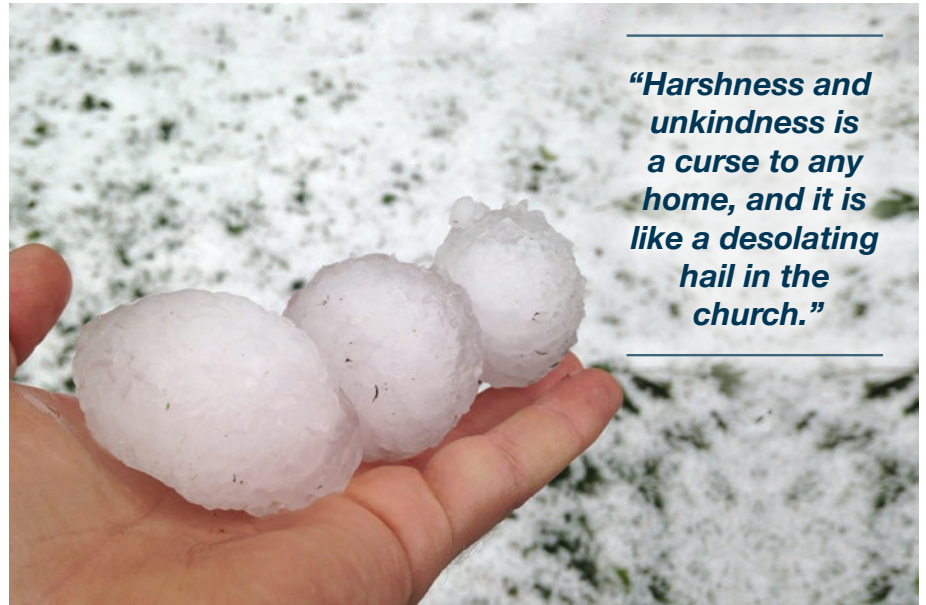
An Unpleasant Storm

July 21, 2015 dawned bright and sunny in Central Alberta and all indicators pointed toward a great day. But by 6:30 p.m. rain clouds were forming in the western horizon, yet not ominous enough to be of concern to ball players on the diamonds in Lacombe. By 7:00 o'clock—a few rain drops—then without warning the heavens opened, not with rain, but hardball size hail stones, and just as solid. People dove for cover. In 15 minutes Lacombe lay under a blanket of white—like a winter snowstorm. City streets moved with rivers of ice, plugging storm drains.

It ended as quickly as it began, but not the devastation. Grain fields were destroyed, vegetable gardens were ruined, flower beds pounded, windshields smashed, vehicles dented, roofs destroyed, and vinyl siding punctured. Virtually no one escaped without damage, and insurance companies paid heavily.

Evidently Ellen White was aware of the devastation hail could cause. She used its effects as a simile when she wrote to a brother in New Zealand. She said, “Harshness and unkindness is a curse to any home, and it is like a desolating hail in the church.” The context would indicate the brothers referenced had exacting personalities, for she wrote, “I have a message for you brethren in New Zealand, which I must bear to you either by pen or by voice. You must die to self, be crucified to self, and become learners in the school of Christ... He will regret that he has not been full of mercy and good fruits, that he has boasted and talked much...” Then she added, “put away all hardness, all denunciation of your brethren, all criticisms, and lie broken at the feet of your Lord.” Evidently harshness, hardness, boastfulness and criticism are like desolating hail, causing destruction and ruination, repairable—if at all—only at immense cost.

Perhaps the wise man’s words are appropriate here. “A word fitly spoken are



“Harshness and unkindness is a curse to any home, and it is like a desolating hail in the church.”

like apples of gold in settings of silver” (Proverbs 25:11). Though one may purchase an apple for relatively little cost, there is significant nutritional value in an apple. The adage, “an apple a day keeps the doctor away” has some merit. But the wise man is not talking of literal eating apples. Consider his statement, “A word” (that is even ONE word rightly spoken) is like APPLES (plural) of gold. Imagine an apple of solid gold; its weight about 10 pounds or 120 ounces (12 oz. per gold pound). Its value today would be about \$180,000. Yet because it’s plural, meaning more than one but no indications how many more - one word spoken in kindness, in gentleness, compassionately, with humility, and without criticism or judgement, is of inestimable value.

So how did your day begin—bright and sunny? We all know storm clouds can gather quickly and even without warning—but don’t let it hail. Harsh, hard words can be destructive. Boastfulness and criticism is like desolating hail and the damage can be costly, if not beyond repair.

To the brother in New Zealand Ellen White appealed, “Do not make much

of slight differences of opinion, and so separate heart from heart; but see how you can love one another, even as Christ has loved you. See how you can forgive those who have trespassed against you, even as you want your Heavenly Father to forgive your trespasses. Then you can be definite in your requests to God. You will bear the heavenly credentials which is His own righteousness, and you can say Christ does hear and He does bless, and you can say, ‘I am His and He is mine.’”



Ken Wiebe
President
Alberta Conference

Highlights

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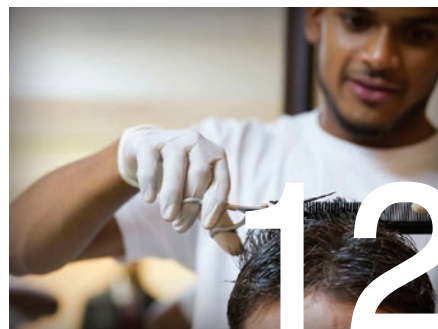
Total Praise Performs at GC-NAD Meetings

Six members of MANS sign language performance group, Total Praise, performed at the NAD Year End meetings in Silver Spring, Maryland.



ACS Update

The annual Inner City/Community Services offering collected in December is now being taken over by the Alberta Conference.



A Cut Above the Rest

"Hair Cutz 4 Humanity," a hair cutting ministry started by a university student, is active at the Red Deer Soup Kitchen.

Index

- 2 Message from the President
- 4 A Cup of Cold Water
- 6 Department News
- 13 Devotional
- 14 Adventist Book Centre
- 16 Sunset Calendar 2016
- 18 Feature: SUPERMANS Takes Off
- 21 Education News
- 23 PAA News
- 24 Church News
- 29 Announcements
- 30 Means & Meaning

A Cup of Cold Water

For many people the highlight of General Conference Session is the amazing display of the international colour and culture when delegates from around the world gather together to display their countries and report progress made in their fields of service. If you have ever had the opportunity to attend such a session in the past or were able to view the recent one on the Hope Channel, you can probably understand why this might be true. It certainly is a privilege for one to be able to see this impressive display in person. Yet for myself, what lingers in my heart and mind the most about the session in San Antonio, Texas, are two matters which are perhaps much more basic and mundane.

The main meetings of the General Conference took place in the Alamo Dome. Not realizing at the time I made my reservations at the historic Crockett Hotel, the hotel was located adjacent to the Alamo, not the Alamo Dome. That was a real surprise, but one of my two favourite memories from San Antonio, Texas. David Crockett, after whom the hotel was named, is still a significant person in American history. His heroic defense of the Alamo against Santa Ana's army from Mexico in the 1800s is still reported today in both fact and folklore.

Since the Alamo was only across the street from my hotel, I walked by it repeatedly on the way to the convention hall or General Conference. It is amazing the old fortress still stands as a symbol of courage and determination. However, meeting Pete, the caretaker, and talking with him about his work on the grounds of the Alamo is quite memorable for me. Peter is a Christian and is free to share his faith in Christ. Though he's not a Seventh-day Adventist, he mentioned current events taking place in the world,

and expressed interest in Bible prophecy, something we both had in common.

Peter had noticed the Christian tie I was wearing. Perhaps that's why he felt comfortable to share his faith. Despite the intense heat in San Antonio, I still wore a dress shirt and a Christian tie. I wasn't in Texas to be a tourist to visit sites like the Alamo. Nor was I a delegate to the General Conference, yet I felt it was important to dress appropriately, for I was representing Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. How about you? Do you realize your life is an influence on others, even

by the clothes you wear and the life you live?

The second practical memory from Texas has to do with bottles of water. They became a significant symbol of practical Christianity.

It was about a 15-minute walk from the Crockett Hotel to the convention hall, and about 20 minutes farther to the Alamo Dome. While walking in the hot, muggy humidity I noticed the many police officers who were at every intersection and crosswalk along the route. Police cars were parked at each of these strategic locations. Some officers were by their motorcycles while others rode bicycles on the sidewalks outside the convention center. There was bumper-to-bumper traffic everywhere.

Most people ignored the officers and never even spoke to them. However, as I walked by them I greeted them. Finally I thanked one for helping us get safely through all the intersections. He responded by telling me that they were there to be a "visible presence" in case anyone intended to hurt people who had come from so many countries to attend the General Conference. He couldn't understand why people would hurt others in the name of God. It didn't make any sense to him, and it doesn't make any sense to me either. It was after hearing

this I recognized that these officers were ready to risk their lives to protect us so we could attend this religious convention. This led me to wonder and ask God what I might do to express my appreciation for their service in our behalf. As I waited for some indication from God what I could do, a Bible verse came to mind: "And whosoever shall give to drink... a cup of cold water." Matthew 10:42

That was it—I could give officers a bottle of cold water and thank them for their service. So on Friday afternoon and Sabbath morning, as I walked to the convention hall and Alamo Dome, I stopped and made the offer, "Hi, I'm from Canada. May I give you a bottle of cold water?" Most surprisingly accepted the water.

Later on my way to and from the Sabbath School and worship services, four of the officers recognized me from a distance and called out to me, thanking me for the water I had given them. It really wasn't much for the service they were providing, but it made a difference in their lives.

So reader, what practical act of kindness might you do for someone else this week that could express appreciation for them? Even something small, like "a cup of cold water," could make a difference in someone else's life.

Even something small, like "a cup of cold water," could make a difference in someone else's life.



Larry Weidell
Pastor
Wetaskiwin/Warburg Churches

What's it Mean to You?

“Outdoor School is geared toward having a good time. It really helps your relationship with God, too.”

Luke Ganson, Grade 7
College Heights Christian School
Outdoor School enthusiast



Luke Ganson is an adventurous and enthusiastic camper. He's been to Outdoor School, Family Camp and Junior Camp—sometimes back-to-back. Every one of them, he says, is “really, really fun,” but if Luke had to pick a favourite, it would be Outdoor School—a unique education initiative that's made possible by a collaboration between the Education Department and the Youth Ministries Department of the Alberta Conference.

A special part of the Grade 5 and 6 curriculums designed by the Conference Education Department, Outdoor School gets kids in Adventist schools out of the classroom and into the open air. For one week, students and teachers from across the province come together to learn survival skills and participate in engaging, hands-on classes that teach subjects ranging from history and science to team building and goal setting.

“They make it fun,” affirms Luke, recalling his team raft building experience.

The hands-on, experimental learning approach is one of the things that sets Outdoor School apart. It also gives students the opportunity to get their hands dirty in the name of scientific discovery.

“We spent a whole day trying to catch bugs in the swamp,” recalls Luke, “then we had to try and identify what we found.” Who knew there's shrimp in Alberta waters?

As much fun as it is to build rafts and catch bugs, for Luke, the best part of Outdoor School is his fellow campers. “It's a nice way to socialize because we meet lots of new people from different schools. The staff there are also very kind and very skilled—they can sing and play guitar!”

From interactive lesson plans to enthusiastic singing and continuing “cliff hanger” stories in worship, the Outdoor School experience connects students to spiritual lessons found in God's two great books, and leaves kids anxious to experience more of both.

—Myken McDowell



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Centre for
Youth Ministry
Alberta Conference

News



Participants of the Edmonton youth event YES!

The Youth of Edmonton Say, “YES!”

On October 8-10, the youth of Edmonton said, YES! (Youth Empowered to Serve). YES! is a ministry that engages and networks youth and young adults in Service Ministries (Ministries of Compassion) for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. The mission of YES is to develop an active spirit of service among youth and young adults.

An important part of YES is the network of young people throughout North America who engage in random acts of kindness, strategically planned service events, disaster response and emergency relief. These young people demonstrate compassion, and follow Christ’s example in meeting the needs of others. This network consists of affiliations with vari-

ous schools, youth organizations, and youth ministries, and community service.

On Sabbath October 10, the Edmonton Filipino Church was packed with youth from across Edmonton. “It’s great to see so many youth from Edmonton come to learn about community service,” said Ron Yabut, senior Pastor. “I didn’t know that Adventist Community Services (ACS) was made up of so many different ministries...like elder care, disaster response and mentoring,” said Pastor Kingsley Moyo, youth pastor for the Edmonton Filipino Church.

Shawn Robinson, YES coordinator for the NAD, came to Edmonton for the weekend and empowered youth in the area of Community Service. Robinson informed the youth what ACS comprised of and equipped over 100 youth with the tools to do a community needs assessment, community survey, and how to understand working with millennials. —Submitted by Lyle Notice

Adventist Community Services Update

I want to let you know about some exciting changes happening within the Alberta Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) Department.

The responsibilities of collecting offering for the National Canadian Community Projects that ADRA Canada previously handled, has recently been transferred to the Local Conferences. The annual Inner City/Community Services offering collected in December is now being taken over directly by the Alberta Conference. ADRA Canada will no longer be collecting offering for inner city projects.

What does this mean for you? Well,



on December 12, when the Inner City Offering is collected at your local church, the funds will go directly to the Alberta Conference Community Services Department to later be distributed throughout our Conference.

Your December 12 offering will help local community service operations like the Red Deer Food Kitchen run smoothly and successfully throughout the coming Year.

Other Community Service Projects running throughout the Alberta Conference include:

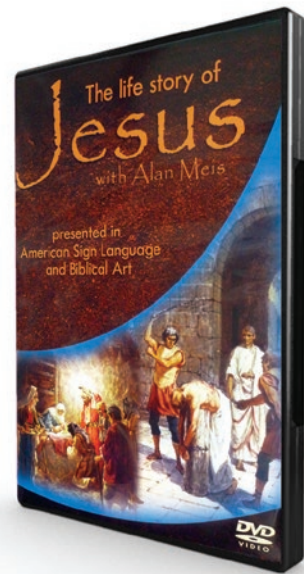
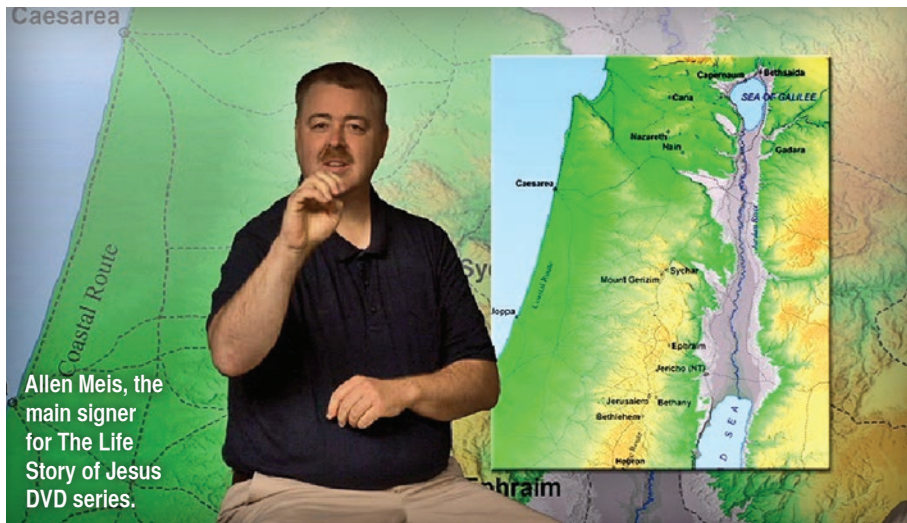
- **Stormco (Service to Others Really Matters).**

- **#REACH1, which is a project that empowers youth to reach someone in their local urban community.**
- **The Lacombe Food Bank.**
- **Mamawi Atosketan Native School Breakfast program.**
- **Community Services/ Disaster Response.**

Now that you know about this change, please help support your local ACS projects by giving to the December 12 offering.

If you would like to know more, please check out our website at www.albertaadventist.ca/acs or email me at lnotice@albertaadventist.ca.

Remember, together we can serve communities in Christ’s Name! —Submitted by Lyle Notice



The Life Story of Jesus DVD series for the Deaf.

The Life Story of Jesus, DVD Series for the Deaf, Now Complete

Back in 2005, the Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department produced a two hour DVD with Esther Doss and Edgemont Video called: *Our World: A Theater in God's Universe*—a condensation of the story of the Bible. It has been used in many countries—especially in central Africa.

We decided to expand the 19 minutes in that single DVD to cover all of Jesus' Life Story in chronological order. In this new series, there are over 500 paintings and over 150 maps and modern pictures from the Holy Land. The set of two DVD's contains 8 hours of video highlighting 29 locations where Jesus ministered.

Everything is done in Sign Language with Esther Doss doing the ten chapter Introductions, and Allen Meis presenting all the basic material. Allen commented at the end of the recording sessions that "it was the hardest two weeks of his life." Most of the 700 picture takes had to be re-done more than once. Pastor Blake would read the script out loud while Esther or Allen would sign for the camera. However, Esther's and Allen's voicing of the script is recorded on the actual DVD.

Blake wrote the script in 2008 and in December of that same year made a trip to the Holy Land to get pictures. Many donations have come in for this

project from across the North American Division. Donors such as VersaCare of California, the NAD, and Mrs. Kryswaty from Alberta, just to mention a few.

Before actually recording the series in 2013, it was shown in the Lacombe Community Church and at the Alberta Conference Camp Meeting. Viewers were encouraged to watch for errors and make suggestions.

We thank V. Pires & the "It is Written picture library and the "solvemyfamilyproblems.com" organization for most of the paintings. Also, Dr. Larry Herr who allowed use of many of his Holy Land Pictures. Others also kindly contributed pictures as shown in the DVD credits! Script help came from Kris Johnson and Pastor Ian Cotton.

The purpose of this series is to help the viewer come to love Jesus more and develop a close and saving relationship with Him.

If you wish to purchase this DVD set, it is available through the Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department. The cost is \$20 + shipping. However, there is a Christmas special on now. You can purchase both DVD sets, *Our World: A Theater in God's Universe* and *The Life Story of Jesus* for a combined price of \$27 including shipping anywhere in Canada or the USA. To contact Pastor Blake,

please phone (403) 784-3798 or email johnblake1941@gmail.com. Remember, these DVD's are designed specifically for the Deaf and are all in Sign Language, though they have a voice track to accommodate hearing friends or relatives who may be watching at the same time.

Pastor and Mrs. John Blake,
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PO Box 308, Clive, AB
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Website: www.deafhope.org



Pastor John Blake
 Deaf Ministry Department
 Alberta Conference

Larry and Janet Hall
with grandkids (Jaxon,
Kalaeb, and Kai).



Alberta Conference Retirements

Larry Hall

Whether teaching in the classroom, preaching from the pulpit, or wrestling with administrative responsibilities, Larry Hall, Secretary/Vice President for Administration for the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has arduously aspired to fulfill his call to serve God. After 38 years of service in Canada, he is now retiring.

Pastor Larry, the term he considers “my most endearing name,” grew up in the fishing village of Newtown, Newfoundland, the oldest of four boys. He faithfully attended the local Anglican Church with his mother, and had his first meaningful encounter with Jesus at age twelve. He recalls an early Adventist seed planted: “My dad would turn on VOAR and ‘Lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring’ still resounds in my ears.”

He pursued degrees in Physics and Secondary Education at Memorial University in St. John’s, NL. While com-

pleting an education practicum, he was assigned to teach under Don Hodder—a Seventh-day Adventist Physics teacher, and a man who lived out his Christian principals. “We didn’t talk a lot about religion, but I observed him and was fascinated that a physics teacher, a man of science, was a dedicated Christian.”

During his first teaching assignment at Goose Bay, Labrador, Pastor Larry made searching for faith a matter of prayer and Bible study. He learned and became convicted about the seventh-day Sabbath and other fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. One day he picked up the phone and called VOAR. He introduced himself and stated that he wanted to be baptized. There was a notable silence. The gentleman on the phone promised to pass on his request to church leadership. In a short amount of time, James Campbell, Newfoundland/Labrador Mission President came knocking on his door. It

was decided that there would be no delay in his baptism, December 31, 1977.

“My conversion to Christ in my mid-twenties was transformative,” says Pastor Hall. “I had left home somewhat angry and rebellious, travelled some wrong pathways, but now I found what I was looking for—a Biblical, Christ-centered worldview that made sense to me!”

The next several years of life included: teaching in denominational schools, pastoring a district, and attending Andrews University to work on a Religion degree. It was at Andrews University that Pastor Larry began to seriously date Janet Humphries, whom he married a year later. “Janet has helped to balance me throughout the years. She is always by my side to encourage and support me.” Two daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandsons complete their vibrant family.

For Pastor Hall, “Working as part of a team to advance God’s work” has been

most gratifying. He has served in six Canadian Conferences as teacher, pastor, and administrator. Most recently, we acknowledge his contributions and dedication to the Alberta constituency for the past eight years as Ministerial Director and Secretary/Vice President for Administration.

One of the greatest challenges Pastor Hall sees for the future in the Alberta Conference is addressing the need for congregation infrastructure. “We have about 26 congregations that have no facility,” he said. “In addition there are schools and our Foothills Camp that are in constant need of upgrades to meet the

growth demands. The work is advancing rapidly and we need to keep pace.”

During retirement (beginning in January of 2016), Pastor Larry looks forward to a lighter schedule that will include serving in a part-time capacity in his current position, until a replacement is found. He is also eagerly anticipating large doses of time with his three grandsons, immersing himself in reading from his personal 4000-volume library, and spending time bird watching, gardening, and travelling.

If you have been blessed to encounter Pastor Larry Hall at least once, you will readily recognize qualities of kindness,

gentleness, and deep commitment to God. His parting words to all whom he has come to know and love during his time in leadership are, “There is a sense of urgency for the times in which we live. Let’s use our gifts to help others embrace a message of hope and wholeness in anticipation of Jesus’ return. Among the many winds of doctrine clamoring for our attention, distracting us from our mission, it is comforting to remember, Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of His Church! Encourage one another and be faithful!”

God’s blessings to you, Pastor Larry, as you journey to the kingdom!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Romans 1:16-17 NKJV

Darlene Reimche

Darlene Reimche is responsible for a number of departments at the Alberta Conference—Adventist Single Adult Ministries, Sabbath School, SAGE, and Children’s Ministries. She will retire on December 31, 2015, yet idleness will not be part of the mix that she is anticipating.

Darlene grew up in Grandview Flats, BC, seventh of eight children. Music and work were two key elements in her life—then and now. She attended CUC and Andrews University. In the following years, she taught in Newfoundland and BC—a truly coast-to-coast experience! Her gifts and skills readily transferred to the position of Children’s Ministries Director with the BC Conference for over 15 years. In BC she also worked in a variety of capacities, including working with food service for camps and special functions. For the past five years, the Alberta Conference has been blessed with Darlene’s talents and efficiency.

While at CUC, Darlene was re-baptized to affirm her deep commitment to her God. She steadfastly lives by, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you



hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

In the coming years, Darlene intends to intentionally savour the sweetness of Gala apples, pause to enjoy the many birds which come to her feeders, wander afield to identify more birds, vacation often at Sechelt—along the coast of BC, and continue to serve part time as Single Adult and S.H.I.N.E. Ministries Volunteer Coordinator.

A new Community Service ministry in Clive will also benefit from Darlene’s experience. The Adventists in Clive

and the Lacombe Community Church submitted a proposal to the Revitalization Committee in the Village of Clive to secure their community hall for the cost of utilities and insurance. Darlene will coordinate cooking and health classes, along with other community events. Sounds like a busy retirement schedule to me.

We send Darlene forward with gratefulness for her contributions to the Alberta Conference constituency and with prayer for continued blessings from our Heavenly Father! —Submitted by Linda Steinke

Total Praise Performs at GC-NAD Meetings

On October 30, six members of Mamawi Atosketan Native School's sign language performance group, Total Praise, preformed for the top administrators and conference presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the church's year end meetings in Silver Spring, Maryland.

"I will never forget it in my entire life," affirms one of the Total Praise performers. "I felt like we were famous."

With only two weeks to prepare, it was an incredible feat on the part of the school and the larger community to make the trip possible. Not one of the students had valid passports or had been on a plane before, but in true Mamawi Atosketan form, teachers, parents and even members of the band worked together to make it happen.

"I'm so proud of my daughter and the school," said Lori Baldry, parent of Jersey Threefingers, Grade 7. "This is such an honour for the school and the students to get to go. And I wish I could go too! This program is absolutely amazing. It is both fun and mesmerizing to behold."

Another parent writes, "Thank you so much for taking care of our kids. They may never get a chance to do something like this again in their life. We love what you are doing here at this school and it means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it. It is just like a big family here at this school."

After the whirlwind trip, Total Praise director Cheri Notice remarked in a Facebook post that after spending time

"We love what you are doing here at this school and it means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it."

with "near Adventist royalty" like Ted Wilson and Dan Jackson, her students "commented that they loved all the care and encouraging words they received from these leaders. They don't know who these people are but they will always remember how they made them feel. In the end, the girls were the ones that felt like royalty."

Opportunities like this can inspire others. A student who didn't attend has already decided, "I'm going to join Total Praise next time so I can go too." They also have the potential to bring children closer to God. One student

remarked, "I want to learn more about Jesus so I can tell other people. I really hope we get to do this again sometime."

—Myken McDowell is the communications assistant for The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School.



MANS students in company of Principal Gail Wilton (far right) and Total Praise Director Cheri Notice (left) meet Larry Blackmer (far left), VP for Education at the NAD Education Department.

It was LIT in Edmonton

With the help of Enoch Attey, a youth worker at Ihuman Youth Society, LIT (Let's Talk Intentionally) vol 2, took place at its newly renovated location.

The theme for this year was, "The Church Is Big enough." As Cheri Notice sat comfortable on the couch, the crowd listened intently as she spoke of the importance of remaining in the church. "The church is big enough for you, your pains, your joys, your past, your ideas and your difference...God is big enough to handle everything you're afraid of."

After the introduction of the theme, youth were encouraged to form groups and sit in a circle to dialogue. They were tackling the subject of how to bridge the gap culturally between the younger generation and the older generation. Kelvin Kublall, a

fourth year Religious Studies student from Burman University, shared his thoughts, "I believe that the church is big enough for the young and the old, but we need to come together with an open mind to talk, share and express feelings and ideas...there is no reason why different ideas and views can't co-exist together as believers of Christ."

Richard Gray, a Burman University graduate, encouraged discussion on the subject of "Engineers vs. Architects," the idea that young people will be designing and building the future of our church in the 21st Century by combining community, compassion and creativity. In essence, Gray expressed that in our church we need both engineers and architects; one to create and build the foundation and the other to innovate.

Through out the conversational worship experience, hosted by Dane Alexandre, there were expressions of music and poetry. Praise was lead out by Chelsea Bartholomew on acoustic guitar and The Penguins Green, made up of Enoch Attey and Joe Adante.



One of the LIT participants.

Poetic expression through spoken word was freshly articulated by Jessica Francis, Jonathan Paul, Stephanie French and Pastor Kingsley Moyo.

The last topic that was up for discussion was a tough and sensitive issue. The issue entitled, "Broken Crayons Still Colour: Identity, Homosexuality and the Church." The authentic and candid conversation was facilitated by Brittney Hudson, a Burman University Student. Jordane Smith shared, "Many times we don't get to hear about people's inner struggles and their personal journey.... It was freeing to hear a testimony of how God is working in someone else's life."

The conversational experience in Edmonton was truly LIT, as the urban post-modern generation likes to say. Let's Talk Intentionally was intentional about facilitating conversations that young people usually have in their private circles.

At times there was conflicting ideas, different opinions and even visible disagreements...but we came together to have a LIT conversational worship experience. One week after the event, Stephanie French one of the performers wrote on Facebook, "I miss this already...can we have another one?" —Submitted by Lyle Notice



David Benjamin playing the trumpet.



Pastor Saustin Mfune, Associate Children's Ministries Director at the General Conference.



Some participants of the 2015 Alberta Conference Children's Ministries Convention held at Foothills Camp, October 23-25.

Alberta Conference 2015 Children's Ministries Convention

The 2015 Alberta Conference Children's Ministries Convention held at Foothills Camp, October 23-25, entitled "REACHing Children for Jesus" was an event that will not soon be forgotten. Guest presenter, Pastor Saustin Mfune, Associate Children's Ministries Director at the General Conference, proved to be a "short man" (how he described himself) with many wonderful talents. His presentations included: You Cannot Go through Life Stoning People, 10 Commandments for Raising Godly Kids, Communication That Raises Spiritual Giants and Safe Guarding Our Set Apart Time. Pastor Mfune's gift of music was demonstrated through his great singing voice and through his authorship of some very creative songs for children. Other presenters throughout the weekend included a warm welcome from Pastor Ken Wiebe, a Dye-cut machine demonstration by Rhonda Clausen and an introduction to the new Volunteer Screening program by Vicky Ford. —Submitted by Darlene Reimche

Kelvin Kublall cutting someone's hair at the Red Deer Community Services Centre.



A Cut Above The Rest

What do you get when you have a group passionate about youth ministry, a skilled leader, and the opportunity to do community service? You guessed it, a unique and interesting urban ministry called "Hair Cutz 4 Humanity" also known as #1Beat.

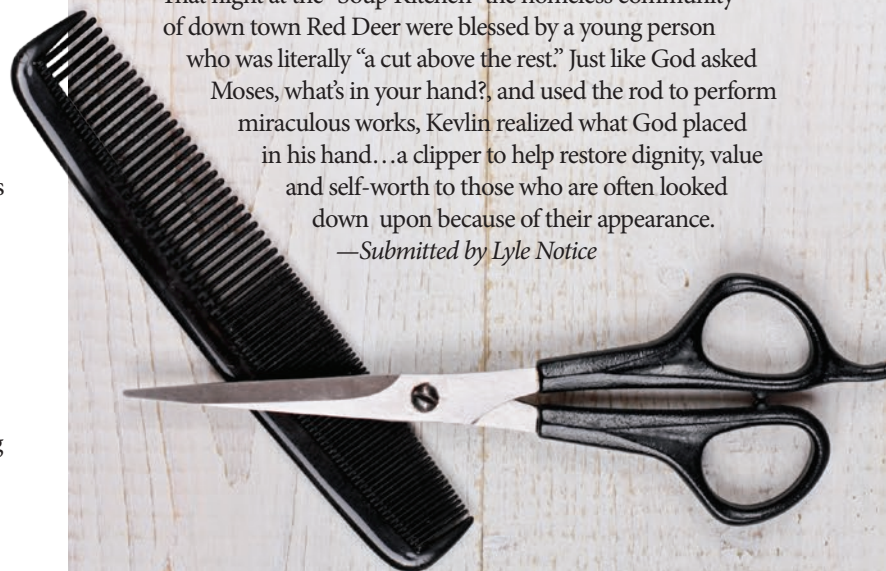
"Pastor Lyle, I have this cool idea for the homeless down town Red Deer. . .my passion is hair cutting and I want to give free haircuts to the homeless. I want to help restore dignity and a sense of value to those who can't afford haircuts," said Kelvin Kublall, a fourth year theology student from Burman University. And that's how Hair Cutz 4 Humanity was started. It just took one person. . .a young person to step up and step out in faith. . .who was willing to be a "cut above the rest."

Kelvin, the self-taught barber, began learning to cut hair at a very young age. "I learned to cut hair because I never had good hair cuts. People used to make fun of me, so I always wanted to learn to have a fresh haircut and I wanted to learn how to give a fresh haircut," he said.

"It's great to see our clients get their haircut. . .they feel so proud. . .and they love the attention they are getting. . .which they usually never get," said Ataleen Werner, Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Director.

That night at the "Soup Kitchen" the homeless community of down town Red Deer were blessed by a young person who was literally "a cut above the rest." Just like God asked Moses, what's in your hand?, and used the rod to perform miraculous works, Kelvin realized what God placed in his hand. . .a clipper to help restore dignity, value and self-worth to those who are often looked down upon because of their appearance.

—Submitted by Lyle Notice



INSIGHTS FROM A PAPER CLIP

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." NLT

This is no ordinary paper clip, mind you. Let me explain . . . When one works with paper, numbers and fasteners all day long like I do at work, the things that one can get excited about may seem a bit odd to someone outside the number-crunching desk job realm.

This fastening device that I'm talking about came into my possession when one of my co-workers handed in a fairly routine expense report. Let me rephrase that: the report and receipts attached were quite standard but the paper clip holding them together was HUGE! Longer than the palm of my hand and as wide as two of my fingers, this golden monstrosity had captivated my attention. This day, which had been pretty similar to many other work days, suddenly became unique. It may seem like I'm making a mountain out of a mole hill, but I think God can take the simplest things in life and get our attention, if we let Him.

It occurred to me that this paper clip is like the Good News. Receiving it from someone caused my ordinary day to shift into excitement and this new object now had the focus of my undivided attention. Growing up a Seventh-day Adventist, I have not had the experience of someone sharing the Good News with me for the first time and

experiencing the thrill of discovering something so profound. This brings me to my second thought, we should always be ready to share the Good News with others because we never know who God will send our way. And we never know what impact it will have on changing their lives and leading them to Jesus.

As I was driving to the gym for soccer practice later in the day, something hit me, well, not literally. But before we get to that, let me just say, no unsafe driving practices were involved in the making of this anecdote. Now, I remember driving through Lacombe's new traffic circle wishing something could be done about the sun shining so precisely under my visor and straight into my eyes. I thought about the paper clip looped around my finger and realized that despite it being a really astounding tool it was still just a paper clip. If I held it up by the visor it wouldn't be able to protect my eyes from the sun shining in. That wasn't its job. For argument's sake, I did reason with myself that it might have been able to secure a piece of cardboard or something to my visor to extend the

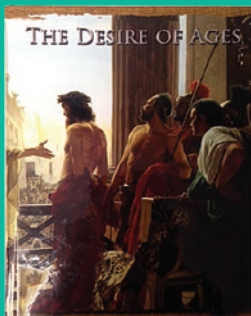
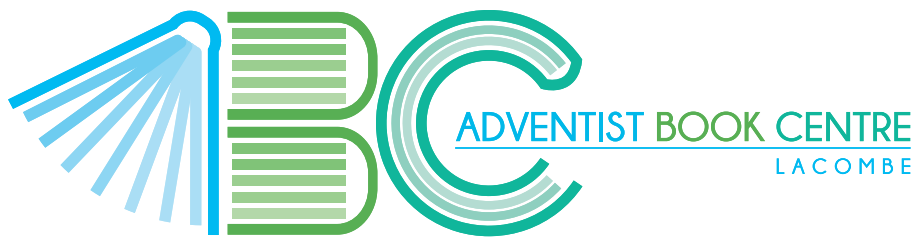
bottom down an inch or two. But I think we would all agree that in and of itself, a paper clip would make a lousy sun block. It reminded me that each one of us are made for a purpose and it's important to recognize and use the special gifts God has given us. It would be a bit silly if this paper clip spent all its time trying to be a sun visor. Not only would it do a terrible job, but all the time it spent trying to do a job it wasn't meant for would be time not used to excel at something it could have been great at!

The last thought I want to share with you occurred to me as I was heading to a women's ministry committee meeting. If I can create meaning and value in a life-less piece of metal, how much more can my attitude towards others impact them and those around them. If I can get excited about a paper clip and make it special by the way I treat it, how much more important is the way I treat those around me. I have the power to make someone feel valued and important or small and insignificant by the way I treat them. Luckily, I have a paper clip to remind me to always be mindful of what kind of value I am creating in those around me.

The next time you see a paper clip, and it may be quite often for some, I hope you remember these four things. 1. God loves you and enjoys seeing you smile. 2. Always be ready to share with others the Good News of Jesus. 3. Each one of us are made for a purpose and it's important to recognize and use the special gifts God has given us. 4. Make sure to build people up, not tear them down.

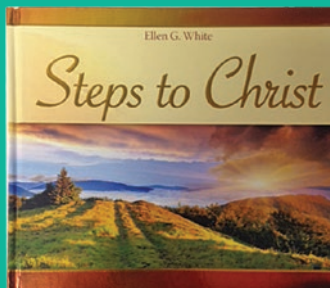


Stephanie Ferguson
Junior Accountant
Alberta Conference



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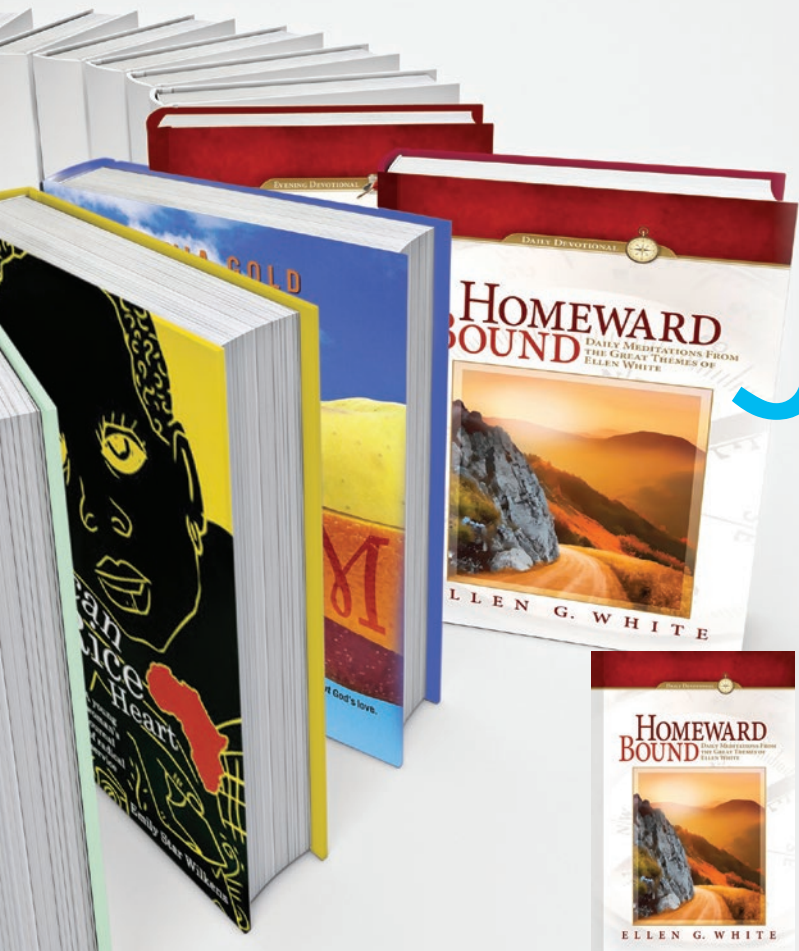
Cedar Lake Chicken Patty
Regular: \$5.20
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Alberta Book Mobile - albertabookmobile@albertaadventist.ca
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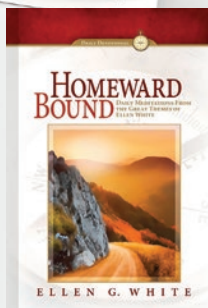
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday - Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday: Closed
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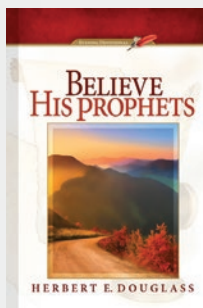
Reflecting Jesus Every Day

Adult • Morning • Women • Young Adult
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2016 Devotional Books



Homeward Bound
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Believe His Prophets
(2016 Evening Devotional)



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(2016 Women's Devotional)



Help! I'm a Parent
(2016 Parenting Devotional)



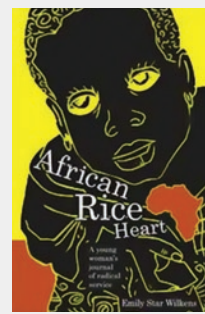
Hugs From Jesus
(2016 Preschool Devotional)



God's Big Idea
(2016 Primary Devotional)



Llamas, Leopards and Lizards
(2016 Junior/Earliteen Devotional)



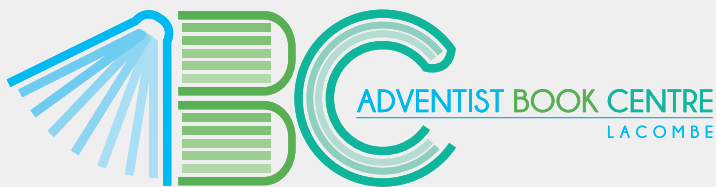
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SUNSET



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13, 2016

	Friday Sunsets	Beauvallon	Calgary	Canmore	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Hanna	Lacombe	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Yellowknife
JANUARY	01	4:16	4:39	4:44	4:24	3:55	4:35	4:28	4:30	4:40	4:30	3:16
	08	4:24	4:47	4:52	4:32	4:05	4:44	4:37	4:39	4:48	4:38	3:30
	15	4:35	4:57	5:02	4:43	4:17	4:56	4:47	4:49	4:57	4:47	3:47
	22	4:48	5:08	5:13	5:55	4:31	5:09	4:59	5:01	5:08	4:58	4:07
	29	5:01	5:20	5:25	5:08	4:46	5:23	5:11	5:13	5:19	5:09	4:27
FEBRUARY	05	5:15	5:32	5:37	5:22	5:02	5:37	5:24	5:26	5:31	5:21	4:45
	12	5:29	5:45	5:50	5:36	5:17	5:52	5:37	5:40	5:43	5:34	5:06
	19	5:43	5:57	6:02	5:50	5:33	6:07	5:49	5:53	5:55	5:46	5:27
	26	5:57	6:10	6:15	6:03	5:49	6:2	6:02	6:06	6:07	5:57	5:47
MARCH	04	6:10	6:22	6:27	6:17	6:04	6:36	6:14	6:19	6:18	6:09	6:07
	11	6:23	6:34	6:39	6:30	6:19	6:50	6:27	6:31	6:29	6:21	6:26
	18	7:36	7:45	7:50	7:43	7:34	8:04	7:39	7:44	7:41	7:32	7:46
	25	7:49	7:57	8:02	7:56	7:49	8:18	7:50	7:56	7:51	7:43	8:05
APRIL	01	8:02	8:08	8:14	8:09	8:04	8:32	8:02	8:08	8:02	7:54	8:24
	08	8:15	8:20	8:25	8:21	8:19	8:45	8:14	8:21	8:13	8:05	8:44
	15	8:28	8:31	8:37	8:34	8:33	8:59	8:26	8:33	8:24	8:16	9:03
	22	8:41	8:43	8:48	8:47	8:48	9:13	8:37	8:45	8:35	8:27	9:23
	29	8:54	8:54	8:59	9:00	9:33	9:27	8:49	8:57	8:46	8:38	9:43
MAY	06	9:06	9:05	9:11	9:12	9:17	9:40	9:01	9:09	8:56	8:49	10:03
	13	9:18	9:16	9:21	9:24	9:31	9:53	9:11	9:21	9:06	8:59	10:23
	20	9:29	9:26	9:32	9:36	9:45	10:05	9:22	9:31	9:16	9:09	10:42
	27	9:40	9:35	9:41	9:46	9:57	10:17	9:31	9:41	9:24	9:17	11:01
JUNE	03	9:48	9:43	9:49	9:55	10:07	10:26	9:39	9:49	9:32	9:25	11:17
	10	9:54	9:49	9:55	10:01	10:15	10:33	9:44	9:56	9:38	9:31	11:29
	17	9:58	9:53	9:59	10:06	10:20	10:38	9:48	10:00	9:41	9:35	11:37
	24	10:00	9:55	10:00	10:07	10:22	10:40	9:49	10:02	9:43	9:36	11:39

16 CALENDAR

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 6, 2016

	Friday Sunsets	Beauvallon	Calgary	Canmore	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Hanna	Lacombe	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Yellowknife
JULY	01	9:58	9:54	10:00	10:06	10:20	10:38	9:48	10:01	9:42	9:36	11:35
	08	9:54	9:51	9:56	10:02	10:15	10:34	9:44	9:57	9:39	9:32	11:25
	15	9:47	9:45	9:51	9:56	10:07	10:27	9:38	9:51	9:34	9:27	11:12
	22	9:37	9:38	9:43	9:47	9:57	10:17	9:29	9:43	9:27	9:20	10:55
	29	9:26	9:28	9:33	9:36	9:44	10:05	9:19	9:32	9:18	9:10	10:36
AUGUST	05	9:13	9:17	9:22	9:24	9:29	9:52	9:09	9:20	9:07	9:00	10:15
	12	8:59	9:04	9:09	9:10	9:13	9:37	8:54	9:07	8:55	8:47	9:54
	19	8:44	8:50	8:56	8:55	8:56	9:21	8:40	8:53	8:42	8:34	9:32
	26	8:28	8:36	8:41	8:39	8:38	9:04	8:25	8:37	8:28	8:20	9:09
SEPTEMBER	02	8:12	8:21	8:26	8:22	8:20	8:47	8:09	8:21	8:14	8:06	8:46
	09	7:55	8:05	8:10	8:05	8:01	8:29	7:54	8:05	7:59	7:50	8:23
	16	7:37	7:49	7:54	7:48	7:42	8:11	7:37	7:59	7:43	7:35	7:59
	23	7:20	7:33	7:38	7:31	7:23	7:52	7:21	7:32	7:28	7:20	7:36
	30	7:03	7:17	7:22	7:14	7:04	7:34	7:05	7:15	7:13	7:04	7:13
OCTOBER	07	6:46	7:02	7:07	6:57	6:45	7:17	6:49	6:59	6:58	6:49	6:49
	14	6:30	6:46	6:52	6:41	6:27	6:59	6:34	6:43	6:43	6:34	6:27
	21	6:14	6:32	6:37	6:25	6:09	6:43	6:19	6:28	6:30	6:20	6:04
	28	5:59	6:18	6:23	6:10	5:52	6:27	6:05	6:14	6:17	6:07	5:43
NOVEMBER	04	5:45	6:06	6:11	5:56	5:36	6:12	5:53	6:00	6:05	5:55	5:22
	11	4:33	4:55	5:00	4:44	4:22	4:58	4:42	4:48	4:54	4:44	4:02
	18	4:23	4:45	4:50	4:33	4:09	4:47	4:32	4:38	4:45	4:35	3:44
	25	4:14	4:38	4:43	4:24	3:59	4:37	4:25	4:30	4:38	4:28	3:29
DECEMBER	02	4:08	4:32	4:37	4:18	3:51	4:30	4:20	4:24	4:33	4:23	3:16
	09	4:05	4:30	4:35	4:15	3:47	4:26	4:18	4:21	4:31	4:21	3:07
	16	4:05	4:30	4:35	4:14	3:45	4:26	4:18	4:21	4:31	4:21	3:04
	23	4:08	4:32	4:37	4:17	3:48	4:28	4:21	4:24	4:34	4:24	3:05
	30	4:14	4:38	4:43	4:22	3:54	4:34	4:27	4:29	4:39	4:29	3:13

SUPER MANS

What began as a Sabbath School class experiment has emerged as SUPER MANS—a program and “superhero” that’s encouraging kids across Alberta to use their power to do good.

Takes Off

By Myken McDowell

It started with the Edmonton South Church, when primary/junior division leader Linda Greaves brought a project proposal to Pastor John Murley. The idea was simple: to provide her Sabbath School class kids with \$20 apiece to invest, trade, sell or otherwise grow into something bigger for the benefit of Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS). “I had heard of this type of thing being done in another Church many years ago,” says Pastor Murley, “we were looking for a way to teach children how we can trust God with our money, and that He will cause the money to grow if we trust Him.”

The kids of Edmonton South Church took that message to heart. Then eight-year old Nakita Greaves, for example, took her \$20 and purchased ingredients to make her own “Temple Fuel” granola that she sold in personalized boxes at various church functions. Other kids made organic cookies, granola bars, cinnamon buns, chocolates; even Argentine specialty cakes were available for sale. Still others sold crafts like hand-beaded hair clips, ceramic piggy banks and homemade soap.

“It was a tremendous project,” Pastor Murley reflects, “God took \$320.00 invested from the Church funds, and the kids turned in just over \$5,000.00 in just a few months.” The mission funds were donated in support of MANS.

REACHing Out

When the families of the Edmonton South Church asked to have the program expanded so that all ages could experience the fun and spiritual excitement of partnering with God, the Alberta Conference took note. The concept fit perfectly with the REACH strategy recommended by the North American Division (NAD) to keep Conference projects focused on church mission:



The “Education for discipleship” component was clear; kids (and their parents) were experiencing stewardship principles in an exciting and fun way.

“Alignment within the Church” was also key; everyone in the group was working toward benefitting a Conference mission, so whether an individual makes a lot or a little, the cumulative impact was far greater and they experienced the joy of being “comrades” in advancing a church project.

The recipient of the proceeds is a school designated as a mission by the NAD, so the “Community outreach and evangelism” component was clear.

Why not give every Alberta Adventist kid the opportunity to experience hands-on Adventist values?

Super Kids, Super Heroes in Training

Building on Edmonton South’s success, SUPER MANS was launched—Small Useful People Expanding Resources for MANS. By giving kids an opportunity to use their creativity and talents to help other kids get a good education, learn about God, and have a better life, every Alberta Adventist child can participate in an experience that has the Faith Heroes Hall of Fame as its goal.

We know from *Christ’s Object Lessons* the most effective way to teach is to connect the lesson to real life. That’s what SUPER MANS does. SUPER MANS connects real Seventh-day Adventist values to a real Seventh-day Adventist mission situation. The following are just a few of the examples of what can be achieved when super kids (and their adults) get involved:

The Boucher Family

When Mark and Shirleen Boucher, parents of Kaylie (7) and Brenna (10) first heard about the project in 2012, they were eager to get involved—eager, in part, because they are passionate about the cause. Having taught for a year at one of the band-operated schools on the Maskwacis-Cree Reserve, Shirleen experienced first-hand what is reputed to be the toughest reserve in Canada. “It’s a different world,” says Shirleen, “really, a different world.”

For the children of Maskwacis, MANS represents sanctuary and hope in a community that, unfortunately, is probably best known for its high incidents of gang violence and drug trafficking. Getting involved with the project meant the Bouchers could work together to make a difference in that community. In 2012, they did it by making and selling granola bars and handmade bath salts. This year, the Bouchers are offering childcare services on Saturday nights in the church basement so that busy parents within the church can go out for the evening (“Date Night,” smiles Shirleen, who got the idea from a Bonnyville news item in the last Alberta Adventist News—September 2015 edition).

“It’s a chance to work together as a family,” says Shirleen, a professional childcare worker and certified teacher who also heads one of the children’s Sabbath Schools. Brenna is particularly excited about the idea, as she has a special talent for entertaining pre-school age kids. Kaylie looks forward to playing with other kids and showcasing her artistic talents at the arts and crafts table—she loves to draw. Mark’s role, as steady support, is to fit in where needed.

Shirleen, Brenna, Mark and Kylie.



Three Guys Sweets and Treats Score Big on Taste and Ambition: Mac Smith, Ethan Wutzke and Christian Wutzke tested various flavours of their homemade ice cream at an Edmonton South Side Church movie night. The break-away favourite ice cream flavor is raspberry ice cream made with raspberries from the Wutzke garden. The fourth guy is Ethan Christian’s dad, Rich Wutzke (quality control and delivery).



Three Guys Sweets and Treats

What’s more fun than three boys banning together for a good cause? Ethan Wutzke, Christian Wutzke and Mac Smith put their heads together and became the founders of a new ice cream company, Three Guys Sweets and Treats. The three guys are making one-of-a-kind ice cream flavours and selling it by the pint. They are all confident the project will raise lots of money—who wouldn’t like a pint of homemade ice cream made with raspberries from the Wutzke garden?

As they got a taste of popular success in pre-selling their ice cream at a church event that showcased participant’s products, one of the friends got excited about continuing the company after the fund raising is done—maybe even running the company while going to middle school!

“If it were that easy, eh?” smiled Mac’s mother, Edmonton lawyer Shelley Smith. Shelley was motivated to participate with her son by the important life lesson she saw presented by the opportunity. “This is a good lesson for Mac to learn,” she says, “that when it is for God, amazing things happen.”

There are practical lessons too. “They sold many pints at a recent church movie night,” says Shelley. “Now to make the ice cream!”

Sport Your Support

To participate in SUPER MANS

Request your Seed Grant by going to www.mans1.ca and send your name, home address, phone number and T-shirt size to TheBridge@mans1.ca. Also include the name, phone number and e-mail address of the adult who has agreed to assist you. Don't worry grown-ups! You can support SUPER MANS too! If not actively engaged in the grant program, you can support SUPER MANS by sporting the T-shirt: \$25 long sleeve, \$20 short sleeve (size hint: SUPER MANS sports on adult size medium in the photo).

Photo Ops

SUPER MANS will be appearing around Alberta along with a "transforming" cut out. Sign up for updates on where SUPER MANS is headed next www.freshalbertayout.ca. In between, you can catch SUPER MANS at the Alberta Conference office in Lacombe (5816 Hwy 2a) and get your picture taken there. Send photos to TheBridge@mans1.ca and we'll post it in our SUPER MANS Gallery at www.mans1.ca. When you take a selfie with SUPERMANS, please post it to social media with the hashtag #SUPERMANS.

SUPER MANS Appearances

SUPER MANS will be appearing at an event near you.

- **Pathfinder Winter Retreat**, Foothills Camp (January 29, 2016)
- **Teen Youth Rally**, Foothills Camp (February 26, 2016)
- **Adventurer Family Camp**, Foothills Camp (May 6, 201)
- **Canadian Adventist Youth Summit**, Burman University (May 11-14, 2016)

A Message from SUPER MANS

Everyone loves a good super hero story where good overcomes evil. Help save the world today by investing in the lives of young people at Mamawi Atosketan Native School. By helping out today you are helping save a life for eternity!

Thanks to Dean Brent (Van Rensberg) and the students at the REVIVIFY Gospel Concert who gave a spontaneous offering in support of SUPER MANS."

—Pastor Lyle "SUPER MANS" Notice



Nakita's 2012 "Temple Fuel" granola came in personalized cereal boxes.

Anthony, Linda and Nakita Greaves are working together for a second time to raise money for Mamawi Atosketan Native School.

The Greaves Family

Following the success of her "Temple Fuel" Granola, 11 year-old Nakita Greaves is excited about SUPER MANS. "Temple Fuel was a lot of fun to make, and because I tend to be an entrepreneur, it was also a lot of fun to sell! I liked the fact that it not only tasted good, but that it was healthy too." Her customized cereal boxes were emblazoned with Corinthians 6:19-20.

In this way, Nakita was able to highlight how our bodies belong to God, and at the same time, raise money for kids in need.

Nakita's parents, Linda and Anthony, decided to participate with their daughter because they see it as yet another opportunity to teach valuable life lessons. "As a home schooling mom for the previous five years, everything tends to become 'a lesson' in

our home! Nakita is often heard saying to me, with a laugh... 'Is this another one of your life lessons Mom?' I guess I really took Deuteronomy 11:19 to heart," Linda says with a smile. "Being part of the previous and current investment projects has become a vehicle to 'hopefully' instill some of those life lessons. My husband and I want Nakita to learn to be an empathetic, loving and giving member of the family of God, and we feel that entrepreneurial stewardship can help us advance towards those goals."

Looking ahead, Nakita has a few reasons to be excited about her involvement in the SUPER MANS campaign. "For one, because I like the name," she explains, "and because I had a good experience with the first project. I'm praying that God will inspire me and my family and we will make His new project fly!"

And that's the point: To soar with Him.

Pastor Lyle Notice wearing a SUPER MANS t-shirt.

Junior High Outdoor Education

Each fall the Junior High students at College Heights Christian School get to spend several days in the great outdoors. They have a chance to experience canoeing, rappelling, backpacking, and—through these activities—learn much about teamwork.

A river expedition for 130 Grade 7 & 8 students from all Seventh-day Adventist schools in Alberta, along with teachers and volunteers, met at Kerry Wood Nature Centre on September 14, 2015 to set out on a three-day trip. This large group was divided into three mini flotillas that followed each other down the Red Deer River. Although the weather was rainy and windy, it was with smiles that the students practiced their canoeing skills. Kevin Kiers, the leader and organizer of the trip, incorporated science into the trip by having students test the water quality of the river and discuss the impact it has on the surrounding environment.

During the same time as the river expedition, the Grade 9 students from all the Seventh-day Adventist schools in Alberta met at Cavalcade, about half an hour past Nordegg. There the students were challenged with a variety of activities such as rappelling down a cliff and over a large overhang, and participating in “The Grade 9 Amazing Race,” which

taught orienteering skills. They were also introduced to backpacking, with a trip up the beautiful Cline Creek trail. All of these events encouraged the students to build relationships based on teamwork, while instilling a love of being in nature.

During the last week of September, the CHCS Outdoor Education Class (Grades 7-9) went backpacking in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. For about half of the students, this was their first experience with backpacking so there was a steep learning curve on how to most efficiently pack their backpacks, hike up and down hills, and be prepared to survive in the wilderness. The first day was a steep 1.5 km hike into a gorgeous campsite by Elbow Lake. Some of the group still had a lot of energy after arriving at the camp, so they took a few hours to summit a nearby peak. They were rewarded with a breathtaking view from the top, and even got close to a few mountain sheep.

In the evening, students learned how to camp leaving no trace, filter their drinking water, start a campfire, and tricks on staying warm during the chilly night. The second day included a 6 km hike through rugged forest scenery, and it was well worth the effort. The students set up camp at Tombstone backcountry campground, and then prepared to go on a 4 km day



The Outdoor Ed class hiked 1.5 kms to Elbow Lake where they set up camp for the first night.

hike up to Sheep Lake. Everyone was amazed at the view of the mountains near an old Ranger’s cabin, which included a steep grassy hill and a valley leading onto a beautiful mountain range. On the third morning, the students broke camp in record time, as the prospect of warm beds at home, and delicious home-cooked food filled their thoughts. They fought through the pain of blisters during the final hike while admiring the beauty of Kananaskis in the fall, until they gratefully sunk into their bus seats for the ride home.

—Submitted by *Jai Dubyna*,
Grade 7 Teacher.

* Reprint with permission from *Glimpses*

On the second day, the group hiked 6 kms to their second campground. This picture was at a rest stop along the way.



Days after their return from their GC performance, MANS' Total Praise signing group joined with Burman University's Unspoken Testimony to raise funds for the Maskwacis reserve church.



Signing and Shining — Showing God's Love and Sharing Hope

Combining a university sign-language choir with a junior high sign-language choir is a “representation of what heaven will be where people from different backgrounds and experiences join together to worship Jesus in complete harmony,” says Cheri Notice, Grade 6 teacher at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS). Notice is also director of Total Praise (MANS) and Unspoken Testimony (Burman University-BU)—both signing choirs who minister with sign language interpretations of musical selections.

Unspoken Praise (combined choir name) was part of a concert in the Burman University church the evening of November 6. The concert was a fundraiser for the Maskwacis Seventh-day Adventist Church which currently operates on the Samson Reserve. Over \$2000 was raised to assist in providing materials for the children's Sabbath School classes as well as expanding their summer outreach program to include additional Native communities in western Canada. (Donations can be made on an ongoing basis through the church's website, www.maskwacisadventist.ca or mailed to: PO Box 778, Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0.)

“The greatest testimonies are seen and not heard. My students not only hear about God's love, but they are able to show others how He is slowly changing their lives for the better through sign language.”

Mrs. Notice combined the two choirs because it represents the partnership of Burman University with the Maskwacis community. Bringing MANS Junior High students into a partnership ministry with university students affords opportunities to observe what university life is, and gives them hope that they can accomplish great things in their lives. “Ministering with the Burman students allows MANS students to know that they are cared about by a larger community of students and Christians. It is also a great way for the university students to truly understand the power of ministry to heal others and unify people.”

Mrs. Notice further comments, “This ministry encourages me because I

am able to see how God has used the little that I have and blessed it beyond my imagination. My MANS students and my BU girls inspire me daily with their tenacity, commitment, resilience, and their faith. We are all working together to create an environment of hope and to spread Jesus' love.

“The greatest testimonies are seen and not heard. My students not only hear about God's love, but they are able to show others how He is slowly changing their lives for the better through sign language. We need to pray that God can use us to continue to have a life changing impact on the lives of these young people and their awesome community.”

Grade 6 student Larell says, “The concert with the Burman University girls was fun because we were able to sign all together. My favourite song to sign was ‘Holy, Holy, Holy.’ Learning sign language helps me learn more about God. Last year I didn't talk much. This year I am more excited about school and I'm more confident.”

To Mrs. Notice and ALL others who work to empower children/youth to develop their God given potential, thank you! Together we can grow!—Submitted by Linda Steinke.

Time to Learn

Mrs. White wrote that in order for education to be complete, “the time of study must be divided between the gaining of book knowledge and the securing of a knowledge of practical work” (AH 508.3). While the practical skills needed for 2015 look a little different from those of the early 20th century, a whole host of new experiences are allowing PAA’s education to reach beyond this building and prepare students for life beyond high school.

In addition to ongoing educational encounters, PAA students are getting excited about some co-curricular opportunities underway. With a staff First Aid instructor, PAA is promoting health and well-being for all students. Many of PAA’s students who begin apprenticeship programs while still in school are required to complete the prerequisite certifications of Standard First Aid and Workplace Safety, and now PAA is helping these students get one step ahead by offering these in conjunction with Career and Life Management. In the process, these courses are making the school a safer, more caring place for everyone to be.

Wednesday afternoons have opened up for Math, Science, and Humanities teacher collaboration. The block has been labeled as “Flex Time,” and provides a 3-hour window for a variety of activities and applications. The idea is to take concepts



Week of Prayer speaker, Nwamiko Madden, shares his Bible-based responses to the candid questions of students.

that students must master in the classroom and connect them with real world questions, such as, “Do we live in a stable or unstable ecosystem?” and “Why do pop rocks pop?” as well as “What is the best strategy to win at Rock-Paper-Scissors?”

Not only does Flex Time force students to practice the skills gained in class, but it is also great for building school community. Students who would likely never end up together in classes get to team up and tackle political attack-advertisements, or learn the mathematical method behind cutting a cake.

Students are encouraged to sign up for as many Flex activities as they wish to, and, as each subject-session only lasts one hour, the rest of the mid-week break can be used to catch up on class work and study.

The most encouraging aspect of the increased focus on learning outside the classroom is to see students embracing Flex as a time of personal growth. It all became clear on the Wednesday of PAA’s fall Week In Spiritual Emphasis. Nwamiko Madden, Alberta Conference Personal Ministries Assistant, was the speaker for the “OUTSTANDING” themed programs and wanted some time to connect with students beyond the morning worship meetings. He took over a discussion for the Humanities

Flex Time and used his enthusiasm and expertise to field all kinds of questions.

According to facilitating teacher, Kristy Grovet, “He was quite surprised at the depth of the questions and the students really appreciated what he had to say.” While what these students learned won’t be given a grade, it will be tested. The opportunity for students to consider new ideas and pose insightful questions is directly aligned with PAA’s commitment: students will have the confidence to face every challenge, the skills of discernment and motivation; as well as a personal and dynamic faith that encourages them to continue growing in Jesus long after they leave PAA. —Submitted by Katelyn Ruiz, Director of Public Relations at PAA



Grade 11 students (L to R) Nadine Potts, Barbara Kiers, and Busi Dzingirayi worship in Chapel.



PAA students enjoy each other’s company and the newly renovated school facilities.

Packing the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at Edmonton South Church.



Edmonton South Church Supports Operation Christmas Child

Over two weeks, members of the Edmonton South Church donated money for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Supplies were bought and a group of approximately 35 people met on Saturday, November 21 in the evening to assemble the boxes. With more than \$1600 raised, the church was able to pack and pay for the shipping/handling costs of 44 boxes.

Although it was a lot of fun to pack the boxes and be together, the magnitude of the gift being given to each child was not lost on any participant. Toys, hygiene products and school supplies were among the treasures that children will find when they open their boxes. However, what may be the greatest treasure are the handwritten notes and coloured pictures put in each box. These messages were notes to let each child know that they are special, being thought of, and most importantly, prayed for.

We do not know whether these boxes will one day lead a child to God but we know that this was one opportunity to honour God through giving of our time and money. The fruits of our donation are not for us to feel good and to have done our duty, but to be used as God's instruments so that He may be glorified in all things. —Submitted by Carole & Reinhardt Tonn

IMPACTing Edmonton Still

As most readers of the Alberta Adventist News are aware, the Impact 2015 meetings in Edmonton are officially over, but the impact on the City of Edmonton is still ongoing. Approximately 275 individuals were baptized as a direct result of the meetings with many ongoing Bible studies and baptisms planned for the future.

John Murley, pastor of the Edmonton South Church, reports that "Bible study enrollment cards continue to come in at a rate of about 2-3 per week. The cards are not just from residents of the City of Edmonton either. Bible study requests have come from other parts of Alberta such as Red Deer and Vermilion." These requests have been forwarded to churches in those cities, while local requests are being forwarded to churches

in Edmonton who are in close proximity to the person's address. In addition to the efforts of the local churches, Adam Bially, an Alberta Conference Bible Worker, is working daily to ensure that the requests are being followed up.

The legacy of the IMPACT 2015 project will undoubtedly be the two church plants that were birthed into existence by the Edmonton area churches. Christ the Way Church is located in Edmonton south area and Abundant Life Church in the far west. Both of these new church plants are alive and well and most importantly growing with similar weekly attendance of approximately 70-80.

The momentum that IMPACT 2015 has had within the churches of the greater Edmonton region has been significant—the

lay training, the prayer initiatives, the united evangelistic effort, the thousands of Bible studies given, the motivating influence we've had on other cities and conferences to do something similar cannot be understated. The efforts of hundreds of volunteers, who believed in the vision and invested their resources and talents into growing fruit for the Kingdom was incredible. —Submitted by John Murley



Sylvan Lake Church Events



Sylvan Lake Church Baby Dedication of Olive Grace Marcinyk on June 27, 2015. Parents: Jason and Leanne Marcinyk. Dedicated by: Pastor Warren Kay (left).



Bert Frost was baptized by Pastor Bill Spangler at the Sylvan Lake Church on November 7, 2015.



Leanne Marcinyk was baptized by Pastor Warren Kay at the Sylvan Lake Church on June 27, 2015.



Morris Snedon (left) was baptized by Pastor Enock Okwaro (right) in the Whitecourt Adventist Church on May 9, 2015.

Edmonton Central Church Women's Ministries Event

The words "Thank you" are two of the most essential words in the English language used to express our gratitude. On Sabbath, August 22, 2015, the Women's Ministry Team at the Edmonton Central Church took time to say "Thank you" to some outstanding individuals in their church and community. Personal invitations were extended to volunteers from Hope Mission and Mosaic Centre, organizations known for their charitable work in Edmonton. Some church guests were involved in finding housing for those in need; others were advocates for those dealing with legal issues; a number of the volunteers

provided food, comfort or empathy as needed. It was truly heartwarming to hear how these individuals donated their time to help others.

Each volunteer was given a monetary gift certificate along with a certificate of recognition for their years of service to the community. Lunch was provided by the Edmonton Central Church.

When we show love and compassion, even in simple, practical ways, we are a part of God's ministry to His people. May we determine to be the kind of people who serve others unselfishly.

—Submitted by Ina Martin, Women's Ministry Leader, Edmonton Central Church



Women's Ministries event, Edm Central.



Women's Ministries appreciation Sabbath, Edm Central Church.



Participants of the ADRA Canada Ration Meal challenge held at Edmonton South Church.

Lethbridge Church Organizes Community 5km Run/Walk Fitness Challenge

The Lethbridge Adventist Church conducted a new community event on June 7, 2015 that is going to become an annual event and grow in scope and attendance with God's help.

Lethbridge has a very large running community, and as a result, holds several running races of different distances each year. These races can be very competitive and usually require an entry fee of some kind with medals presented to the

top three finishers. The challenge of the Lethbridge Church was to offer something that emphasized health and fitness, rather than finishing first. The Lethbridge Church community event organizers saw the need for their sponsored event to be free in hopes that it would encourage more to get involved. Thus the "5km Run/Walk Fitness Challenge" was born. No entry fee and no official tracking of participant's times or placements. All participants were winners.

Edmonton South Church Listed as Top Ration Meal Fundraising Team in Canada

Approximately 100 members of the Edmonton South Church participated in the ADRA Canada Ration Meal challenge on October 24, 2015. Rosa Galdamez, Edmonton South Church ADRA Ambassador, organized a two part program so that members could choose between using the ration bars provided by ADRA Canada or to take part in a hosted simple meal luncheon (beans and rice), similar to that served in a refugee camp. "Taking on this challenge helped our church experience what life is like for those who do not have enough to eat and gave us the opportunity to fundraise to help end hunger," said John Murley, pastor of the Edmonton South Church.

The church set a goal to raise \$1000, but instead raised \$7544. As a result, ADRA Canada has listed Edmonton South as the top fundraising team in all of Canada. All funds raised will be matched by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Edmonton South members are happy to have done a small part to raise awareness of the plight of refugees throughout the world. We look forward to next year's event! Thank you Rosa for being a great leader! —Submitted by John Murley

Calgary Central Church Homeschool Club Participate in Operation Christmas Child

There are many ways to reach out to our communities, both near and far. For the past 3 years, one of the ways the Calgary Central Church homeschool club has chosen to touch lives is through packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child on the 1st Tuesday of November. For many in the club, parents and children alike, this event is one of the highlights of the school year.

The time together started with a devotional reading about the story of 6-year-old Sarah from Drayton Valley, Alberta. The first shoebox she packed for Operation Christmas Child was in 1993, the first year of Samaritan's Purse OCC program. Although she excitedly hoped to hear from the child that received her gift, she didn't know the incredible impact her box had until six years later. This story reminded the group of how important every item in each box really is, not only to the child that receives it, but to their families as well.

Anticipation and excitement were on the faces of all of the 13 children as they stood around the tables with their empty Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes. Each was just itching to pack their boxes with special, handpicked items.

Families contributed whatever new items they could and then all items were placed on four long tables end-to-end and organized into sections. Hygiene and school supplies, such as soap bars, notebooks and pencil crayons are the most needed items, but just as important to a child though are balls, small stuffed animals and sheets of stickers. It took less than an hour and a half to get the job done, from assembling the boxes, filling them, and then adding a special personalized note to each one. This year 50 boxes were packed.

Samaritan's Purse OCC program is not just a shoebox filled with some needed items. Instead, it's one of many ways to introduce children and their families all over the world to the love of Jesus. Giving in this way reminds us that Jesus needs us to cooperate with others to be His hands and feet here on earth to touch the world with His love. —Joanne Burns, Calgary Central Church



Calgary Central Church participates in Operation Christmas Child.



Participants and organizers of the Lethbridge Church sponsored community 5km Run/Walk Fitness Challenge.



Participants of the Lethbridge Church sponsored community 5km Run/Walk Fitness Challenge.

Emphasis is on the fun, health, and fitness aspect of running. Commemorative t-shirts were ordered a head of time and wore by approximately 50 participants. Nearly 60 individuals stayed by for refreshments that were provided by the

Lethbridge Church after the event finished (fresh-cut fruit, water and Gatorade). Free copies of *Vibrant Life* and “Sabbath Rest” magazines were made available for people to take. The pastor of the Lethbridge Church, Shawn Brummund, stated, “We

are looking forward to next year’s event in June, and trust that it will increase awareness of health and fitness throughout our community, as well as the Seventh-day Adventist’s desire to bless and inspire all people.” —Submitted by Shawn Brummund

Rocky Mountain House Community Service Centre Alive and Well

In 1965, the Rocky Mountain House 20-member church became a reality with the building of a new structure. One of the members, Vivian Bell, knew a lot of people that needed help. A Dorcas Society (which is today’s Community Services Outreach) was started in two rooms of the church basement. “We got clothing from the members and the work began,” recalled senior member Hazel Thomsen. “Mr. & Mrs. Allen, would go out on Hwy #22 and ask the people if they needed any help and if they wanted to have Bible lessons they could do at home. The Bible lessons were corrected and returned each week. This was our mission. This was our beginning. People came in freely.”

The zeal and the vision of the membership (about 25 currently attending) are not changed today. By the mid-1980s, the Community Services program literally outgrew its basement facility. Money from the Alberta Conference to build a facility was not available at the time, but a spirit to move forward in faith was strong. Member, Don Thomsen, builder by trade, built a structure in the centre of the town to serve the community to the present day.

The Adventist Community Service outreach is well received by the community. It is a busy place on a weekly basis providing clothing, baked goods (donated by Sobey’s), and literature to anyone in need. The Centre is open every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Dedicated church and community members share the responsibility of cleaning/sorting clothing and opening the centre. Approximately 50 people drop by the Centre weekly to get items they need. No money is required or expected, but donations are accepted. “Those who stop by enjoy the weekly visits they share at the Centre,” says Eileen Robertson, current Community Services Director.

As special occasions are celebrated (Christmas, Easter, and more),



Betty Leskosek faithfully sorts clothes for the Adventist Community Centre in Rocky Mountain House each week.

“Visitors to the Adventist Community Centre appreciate the baked items available to them donated by Sobey’s,” says Eileen Robertson, Community Services Director.

invitations are extended to those who visit the Centre to join the celebrations with the Rocky Mountain House congregation. Several have attended and only God is in charge of the outcome of those visits. The mostly senior workers have commented that they look forward to younger members coming forward and catching the vision. Those who work at the Centre are quick to acknowledge and appreciate the continuous support from the community and surrounding areas. Working together brings positive results.

In addition to the weekly opening of the Centre, the Rocky Mountain House Community Services group raise funds which are in turn directed to ADRA, Operation Christmas Child, worthy student fund, and others. They also provide food vouchers when made aware of a need.

Thank you, Rocky Mountain House membership for your faithfulness and dedication in serving your community!

—Submitted by Linda Steinke

New Members Welcomed at College Heights Church

Several young people from the College Heights Adventist Church were baptized over the summer.



McKenna McLeod baptized by Pastor Anthony Kern at Alberta Camp Meeting, August 8, 2015.



Cheyenne Welch celebrated her baptism (with Pastor Adam Diebert) at Alberta Camp Meeting, August 8, 2015.



Arianna and Anyarose Hyde were baptized at the Manitoba/Saskatchewan Camp Meeting 2015.



Chris Holland speaking at the Calgary REACH training weekend.

REACH Calgary Training Seminars a Success

Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church was buzzing with excitement and anticipation on Sunday, October 18, 2015. The gym was filled with people from the various churches, all eagerly sharing with each other what they had learned over the past five days and their thoughts on how to share it with their communities.

The purpose of these workshops was to give church members the opportunity, ideas, and tools to reach their communities for Christ and do it easily and effectively.

These sessions are a vital step in the upcoming It Is Written evangelistic meetings to be held here in Calgary, April 2016.

The 5-day training event began on Wednesday, October 14 at the Garden Road Adventist Church. It continued to be hosted at different local Adventist churches during the weekend. Throughout this time, Chris Holland, speaker/director of It Is Written Canada, highlighted ways to find and give Bible studies, how to start small groups, and gave practical ideas on reconnecting with missing members. He clearly showed the importance of comprehensive evangelism and our responsibility to touch those around us with Christ's compassion.

At the Calgary Central Church, Sabbath and Sunday workshops expanded the choices by adding topics on health.

Many speakers from both Canada and the US were invited to be part of this event. Each focused on different areas of health outreach. It was a privilege to have speakers such as Randy Bivens, Wiemar's Life and Health Network, Darlene Blaney, Alberta Conference Volunteer Health Ministries Director, Evelyn Cole-Kissinger from Lifestyle Matters in Michigan, Simbarashe Charumbira from Edmonton, Alberta, Dr. Edwin Noyes, author and lecturer from Oregon, and David Fiedler from Enderby, BC. No matter which workshops were chosen, the theme was the same: you don't have to be a health professional to touch your neighbours with the Good News of our Adventist health message.

As someone who attended and enjoyed the workshops, I found it especially encouraging to see how easy it was to use these tools for outreach. In my conversations with church members, I realize that there is a strong desire by many to do something meaningful in our communities. This weekend was a wonderful start.

God is moving among His people and this special weekend inspired each of us to work together with Him as we REACH Calgary with our message of hope and wholeness.

Check out www.reachcalgary.ca for more information on the specific topics from this seminar. —Submitted by Joanne Burns, Calgary Central Church



Bags of Love Ministry Growing Across Alberta

“In a very short time, Bags of Love has shifted its course in a big way,” says Jewel Lien, the spark behind much of the work in Alberta (and other provinces). Bags of Love is a ministry that has a powerfully positive effect on communities because of its profound impact upon children. Sadly, children sometimes have to be removed from their homes. If Bags of Love is in place, the child receives a bag containing a blanket/quilt, teddy bear, toiletries, book etc. to help provide a morsel of comfort during tumultuous times.

Very recently, Brent, a Social Work Supervisor from Red Deer joined the growing team. He is overseeing the establishment of Bags of Love in Red Deer, Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, Stettler, Drumheller and other Central Alberta points. “Brent has been a main player in bringing this ministry to Central Alberta. God just keeps opening doors for us!” says Jewel. There is also a new Bags of Love presence in Edmonton.

In the midst of all the excitement of expanding work, Jewel says, “We need help!” Right now, the plea is two-fold:

1. There is huge demand for the bags in which to put the items. They are simple to sew and you don't even have to put in a drawstring. (The bags are easier to transport this way and Jewel and her team prefer to insert the drawstring.) The pattern is available on the Alberta Conference website at www.albertaadventist.ca/acs. Please call Jewel Lien at (780) 663-2135 or email her at me_jewel@hotmail.com to arrange for drop off location for the bags that you have sewn.

2. If your church—large or small, is looking for a positive way to have a presence in your community, Bags of Love is tested and proven positive! Contact Jewel as above. Even if you are uncertain, contact Jewel. Once you hear her presentation and passion for the Bags of Love ministry, you will be ready to jump on board.

She will provide a presentation to your group along with all the tools to get started. By being God's hands and feet in the community, we will show others of His Love.

More details are available in a recent *Alberta Adventist News*—March 2015 edition.

—Submitted by Linda Steinke

Bags of Love for children going through hard times.



Announcements

The Alberta Conference Women's Ministry Retreat will be held April 1-3, 2016 at the Red Deer Sheraton Hotel. Online registration will be available starting December 20, 2015 at www.albertaadventist.ca/wm2016. For more information, please contact Denise Nichols by phone at (403) 342-5044, ext. 237 or email dnichols@albertaadventist.ca.

In memory



Marjorie Sayler, May 22, 1922 — October 8, 2015

After a life well lived, Marjorie Sayler passed away at the Strathmore hospital on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the age of 93. She was born on May 22, 1922 at New Norway, Alberta. She maintained exceptionally good health up to her final days without the need of medication. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her and quietly remembered by her family every day.

Marjorie Alida — what a beautiful name, what a beautiful person. Those who knew her best will always remember her sweetness and gentleness. She had such a peace in life. When given adversity, she focused on the positive. Marjorie loved her family and friends; she enjoyed gardening, cooking, baking, sewing, knitting, crocheting and reading. Her hands told the story of how hard she worked. Her character was an amazing story of love, wit, wisdom, strength and courage. She loved to share stories of her childhood and youth. She had a strong faith in God and He gave her the strength and direction for each day. She was a devoted wife and mother.

Marjorie was the last survivor of 10 siblings. She was predeceased by her husband Walter in September 2000 and is survived by her five children: Glen (Irene) Sayler, Don (Jill) Sayler, Joan (Kenton) Ziegler, Gordon Sayler and Darrell (Carol) Sayler, as well as six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Passion for a Lifetime: Jeanie Spratt (aka “AJ McCoy”) began drawing at the age of three but didn’t realize until college that her gift had any value. Though she’d planned to be a nurse, “The Lord has some interesting ways of twisting and turning our lives,” she says, and she’s happy for His leading into art and the inspiration she’s able to share with others. Her paintings, which are owned by such collectors as Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, can be seen and purchased online at www.ajmccoyart.com. Jeanie is directing her proceeds to the support of the Maskwacis Adventist Church.



JEANIE’S GIFT OF BEAUTY: Donating Intellectual Property

Jeanie and Bob Spratt are adventurous by nature. The couple, who are passionate about the Conference’s mission in Maskwacis (formerly “Hobbema”), came to Alberta to work with Native Ministries and fell in love with the children at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), where Bob became principal in 1994. Jeanie, who had worked at the Adventist Review for eight and half years as an illustrator, signing her work as “AJ McCoy,” soon found herself immersed in the life of the school and the mission church.

Jeanie’s lush mural depicting the pastoral life of First Nations in a time past adorns the entrance to MANS, but no such artistic panorama greets visitors to

the church—a rented facility on Samson band land. That’s something Jeanie wants to change; she’d dearly love to see a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist church on the plot of private land designated for that purpose. So Jeanie came up with a plan: she would use her artistic skill and recognition to help build up a church.

Under copyright law, in Canada, the creator of a work has the right to designate who will benefit from the work during their lifetime and for 50 years after their death. Jeanie, whose work is found in private collections—including those of the US Department of the Interior and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands—is directing the money she gets from sales of her work sold on www.ajmccoyart.com to the mission church in Maskwacis.

Jeanie’s also put a clause in her will that gives her proceeds from her paintings, which will continue to be sold after she passes away, to the Alberta Conference, to be for the church at Maskwacis. She has detailed plans for a naturalist baptistery that she’d dearly love to paint in a new church building—one dedicated to housing the Maskwacis Adventist congregation.

What a wonderful legacy! Jeanie’s work, which mainly depicts animals and nature, testifies to the beauty of God’s creation, and her will continues a stream from that work to support a cause that’s dear to her—one

that will change the course of many lives.

Though “AJ McCoy” has raised funds for wildlife conservation by donating her work in Africa, Central America, Europe and North America; been exhibited by Game Conservation International; and published in *Sports and Field*, *Montana Outdoors* and *Signs of the Times*, Jeanie has chosen to ultimately put her treasure where her heart is—the Adventist mission church of Maskwacis.

Alberta Conference
Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Putting God First and Last



Lynn McDowell, LLB & Certified Specialist in Planned Giving
Director of Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Alberta Conference (403) 342-5044, ext. 233

Intellectual property, which includes works of art, writing, and other creative expression, is a valuable asset. People who create and other intellectual property have the right to control who uses them and how they appear. These rights continue for another 50 years even after the author passes away, and can be given away by will.

DID YOU KNOW?

What's it Mean to You?

“A lot of us are marginalized, but Blind Camp is a place you can go and feel like you're a part of something.”

Anthony Hodgetts, Calgary
Blind Camp regular
Planned gift donor



Anthony's been going to Blind Camp since the 1990's, so when Christian Record transferred responsibility for the camp to the Alberta Conference in 2013, he was understandably nervous about how that would impact his favourite camp. What he found is that camp got even better.

The activities, for example, became even more adventurous—but not reckless. He experienced his first true campfire when campers were bussed to the bottom of Jacob's ladder to roast marshmallows over a real fire. “Even people with lots of medical needs,” observes Anthony, “there's less focus on the disability than on what you can do.”

Indeed, what blind campers do over the course of a week is comparable to what seeing people do at a typical summer camp: archery excursions, ceramics classes, hay rides and even water skiing!

“I never thought it was possible,” says Anthony. “A lot of blind kids get isolated. At Blind Camp, they find out they can do anything. To see the other guys succeed is pretty great.”

Blind Camp isn't just for kids. It serves all ages—from 7 years to 70 years. “Everyone I've ever talked to has had a great time,” Anthony says. “People love it because we're just like everybody else at camp. You're not treated like a handicapped person, you're just a person.”

Anthony is so happy with his experience that he included Blind Camp in his will. “I see the good it does for kids and I want to see it continue,” he says. Though he doesn't attend Sabbath services at home, he believes God provided the extra funds needed to extend camp to include a Sabbath. “That Sabbath day is a real bonus,” he says.

By putting Blind Camp in his will, Anthony is helping to ensure that the Alberta Conference can continue to witness through Blind Camp. It's a planned gift from a grateful heart.

“Really,” says Anthony, “it's kind of a way to say ‘Thank you.’”

—Myken McDowell

FOOT HILLS CAMPO
“A PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG”

Centre for
Youth Ministry
Alberta Conference

Alberta Conference
Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Putting God First and Last



Women of Strength & Beauty

*2016 Women's Ministries Retreat
Sheraton Hotel - Red Deer, AB
April 1-3, 2016*

*"Who can find a woman of strength
her price is far above rubies" Proverbs 31:10*

Register today
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