

# MESSENGER

Temple



Time



## Understanding Stewardship



Talent





# What Does It Really Mean?



Photo: Jason Ivany

**Once we clean out all the debris from the channels to our heart, God will pour out all of the resources of heaven; the entire universe is watching for this union of human effort and divine power.**

*by Don Upson,  
Treasurer of the  
SDA Church in Canada*

**F**or years I have been amazed at the reaction during seminars, worship services, and devotional times when the audience learns we are going to discuss stewardship. Why is that? What is your reaction right now when you learn this entire article is about stewardship? It is no secret among church pastors that if they announce that on a certain date they will speak about stewardship, attendance on that day will be the lowest of the year. What is there about us that makes us resist this topic?

Let me make an observation that I hope will not offend anyone: I think the reason people get uncomfortable about stewardship is because speakers on the topic usually have an ulterior motive — fundraising. It seems that the only time people hear about their stewardship responsibility is when we want to extract monies for some worthwhile cause.

Let me put your mind at ease in case you are still reading this article. I am not after your funds. I am only interested in setting the record straight on what stewardship really means. In fact, when the first instance of stewardship occurred in the garden of Eden, there were no money, fundraising, or church programs in existence. So stewardship must mean something other than that.

## Management Role of Christians

Perhaps the best place to start is with the dictionary. We find there that the term stewardship means being personally responsible for managing the goods of another. The person may be held accountable for his or her ability to manage.

Terms that seem to be associated with being a steward, are foreman, superintendent, supervisor, and manager. I would be like to have you use the term manager and recognize that as a Christian you are managing the affairs of your Master. This is the way the Bible describes it in Mark 13:34-37. This is a very important point — to think that God has entrusted us with the entire universe. Just to give you an earthly comparison, would you give that kind of trust to anyone and everyone? It would be like writing someone a blank cheque.

Another reason for our discomfort with the word stewardship may lie in the fact that it makes us the managers of God's goods, when we may want to be the owners. If you don't believe that I am right, think back to one of the first words your children spoke right after "ma-ma" or "da-da." As I recall it was "mine, mine"; that tells us a lot about ourselves. However, we must realize this principle because whether we accept it or not, someday we will be held accountable for how we have managed all that has been entrusted to us (see Romans 14:12). The concept encompasses far more than our treasure. It is also our use of time, the utilization of our talents, and how we care for our temple, or body.

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### **Money = S . . .**

Why then did Jesus spend so much time talking about money, and why do almost two-thirds of His parables seem to focus on material things? It is because of another trait of human nature. In fact, another “S” word — selfishness. We associate money with security and success. This position makes us feel that we do not need to depend on God. It is a way that Satan has used to make us feel that we are the owners instead of the managers. We begin at a very young age to want warm milk and a blanket, and as we get older the cravings just get more expensive. Therefore, money has become a visual representation of life and our priorities. We either put God first in every way or we don't, and it is evidenced by how we spend our treasures. We must give of ourselves as a result of our love to God, or it becomes a works trip where we try to buy God's love.

### **Shifting the Focus to the Heart**

The church must change its focus from *what* people contribute, to the *reasons* behind their involvement. Our first priority is to realize how much you and I need the love of Jesus in our lives. This will take a heart transplant. It means

giving up my selfish heart of stone, and receiving the trusting, loving heart of Jesus. Ellen Whites states this clearly in *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 52. From these types of messages, it is easy to see how important it is for every Christian to understand the principles of life management.

If we are willing to follow some simple steps that the Lord has provided for us, the work of the Lord will once again be able to move forward in a mighty way. Instead, however, it has been slowed as a result our selfish desires. We get hung up on carpet colors, pew styles, and who should be the head deacon, instead of spending time praying, studying, and listening to the voice of Jesus as He tries to help us manage our lives according to His principles.

### **Unleashing God's Power**

Do I believe the results would be different if we allowed God to be first in our lives? Yes! If we put God first, others second, and ourselves last, we are following the way John 15 describes the ten commandments. God will then be able to pour out His Spirit without measure, and the gospel message can spread across this great country and to all the world. It will make the truth impressive, and it will convince your friends and neighbors that they should join with you in choosing Jesus as their personal savior.

I believe the church will then move forward as an energized team, led by God and empowered by His Spirit. This will create a force that the world has not seen since the days of the apostles. We need to develop a unified spirit. We live in a multilingual, multicultural country, which gives us the opportunity to use our abilities and gifts in many different ways. This should be a unifying factor instead of one that divides us. If we focus on self we will fail, but if we focus on Jesus and His mission statement, Philippians 4 says, we will not fail.

### **Clearing the Debris**

Once we clean out all the debris from the channels to our heart, God will pour out all of the resources of heaven into a final thrust that will result in an end to selfishness, sickness, sadness, and sin. Then His faithful managers will exchange the perishable things of this earth for the eternal riches of heaven. The entire universe is watching for this union of human effort and divine power, the result of which will be out of this world. God makes a simple statement in Malachi 3; He says, “Return unto me, and I will return unto you.”

Friends, I believe that when we once again allow God full control of our lives, we will be able to experience life at its fullest. Read at your leisure Matthew 6:33, where it says if we put God first all the rest will be added to us. I am convinced that when this becomes our personal conviction, we will know what stewardship really means. ■

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# What are Canadian Advent

## **Stewardship comprises everything in life.**

*Eustace Williams, pastor  
West Edmonton Church, Alberta*

When you think about stewardship, the thing that comes to mind first is the means that God has put in your hands to use to the best of your ability to help and bless others; first the tithe and then offerings as you are able.

*Norman Gascoyne, church treasurer  
Edmonton, Alberta*

## **God loves a cheerful giver. When we give cheerfully, regardless of the amount, He blesses the gift and makes up for any deficiency in the life of the giver or receiver.**

*Kathy Yergen, author  
Lacombe, Alberta*

When one exercises his stewardship to God, God fulfils His promises. We have personally experienced it as we have educated four children through college on only one salary.

*Dale Kongorski  
Alberta Conference president*

## **Stewardship means unconditional love and service.**

*Bob Spratt, retired teacher  
Bluffton, Alberta*

Stewardship is giving of your time, money, and talents to increase God's kingdom.

*Brenda Proud, homemaker  
Foremost, Alberta*

## **Stewardship is an awesome gift that God has given, to not only declare His wonders and glories, but also to live and share them with one another.**

*Olga Cook, hospital human resources  
director and head elder  
Bronte SDA Church, Ontario*

A while back, I came across a very pertinent definition of true humility; it reads as follows: "True humility is to realize from the heart that everything we have and everything we are comes from God." It applies well to our time. Time, talent, temple, and treasure. In my life, by God's grace I have studied the gospels with the book *Desire of Ages* to behold Jesus, and it has led me to generously and happily serve my family, my church, and my community.

*Andree Dupuis, communication skills instructor in interpersonal relationships  
St. Hubert SDA Church, Quebec*

God's love for me has touched my heart and compelled me to walk with Him. My goal is to spend one hour in Bible study and prayer every day. I read devotionals and books that nurture my faith mornings and evenings. When time permits I sing five songs and read five psalms before I pray. Recently I told a friend that I've learned a lot in a few years, just by staying away from time wasters. I do not spend much time watching TV or talking on the phone, and I commit myself to do at least one hour of volunteer work per week at my local church.

I've been a vegetarian for many years, but recently I've added more fruits and vegetables to my diet. When I go out with my son, instead of carrying cookies in the car, I take fresh fruit; I put a gallon of water in the fridge, which he drinks sometimes instead of juice. I was happy to hear him say recently that he will stay away from junk food in order to be a strong basketball player. I've marked my calendar to take a walk every Tuesday evening in addition to the few blocks I walk twice a week during the day. I've already lost a few pounds.

Now that I live on a tight budget, I've stopped buying lots of new clothes and recycle those I have. I buy durable shoes and clothes so that I may support God's work with my tithes and offerings.

I try to grow in grace and to help others in their Christian faith, because I owe to the Savior all that I am.

*Sergena Obas, secretary  
Longueuil, Quebec*

When done properly, there is more than enough money to do what needs to be done through church family budget.

*Myrtle Grovet, retired  
New Norway, Alberta*

To me, stewardship is the entrustment of another's property for the purpose of safekeeping, to be returned to the owner, without loss, when needed or requested. The phrase "without loss" refers not only to its original value but also to its potential gain during the time of entrustment.

*David Dixon, restaurant worker and  
Sabbath School teacher  
Bronte SDA Church, Ontario*

## **Stewardship is being a tenant of God's property.**

*Carys, university student, Ontario*

## **Stewardship is being able to sustain a good budget, being faithful in tithing, having a good family relationship and a good Christian home.**

*Joesh Barron, postal employee and  
personal ministries leader  
Bronte SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means the use of our resources of time, money, and talent to forward the work of the Lord.

*Phyllis Blackwood, retired  
College Park SDA Church, Ontario*



# ts' views of stewardship?

Stewardship is a relationship, a responsibility, and an accountability.

*Hilton Garnett, pastor  
Scarborough SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means handling God's gifts to me in a responsible manner.

*Rose Bennett, deaconess  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*

**Stewardship means trusting God implicitly as Malachi 3:8-10 suggests. I know stewardship is an important ingredient that helps to cement my relationship with Him. Experience has shown that as long as I hold up my end of the bargain, God is faithful in doing His part. He has always satisfied my needs.**

*Margaret Eiber, retired  
Belleville SDA Church, Ontario*

I consider it an honor and privilege to be in God's family. There is no better way of showing my heavenly Father my love and gratitude than in being faithful in loving witness and giving financial support to His cause. I am the one who is being blessed when I claim His wonderful promises.

*Mae Young, retired  
Kingston SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means to be faithful in all that the Lord has given me.

*Wilfred Freeman, member  
St. Thomas SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship is recognizing that everything in my domain is from and belongs to God. Everything I have I give, in thoughtful openness, to God's plan. This is done with joy and excitement, to wonder how it will help, and to await what God will give me next to oversee and give.

*Kurt Cao, teacher/therapist and  
Sabbath School teacher  
College Park SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means a partnership with God. It is giving back to Him what is already His.

*Bonnie Sharpe, ABC sales clerk  
College Park SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship is managing God's entrusted treasures, time, body temple, and talents in accordance with God's will.

*Ulysses Guarin  
Kingsway College financial officer  
Willowdale SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means the devotion of my time, talents, and treasures to the service of the Lord.

*Pearl Johnson, member  
Apple Creek SDA Church*

**As far as I see it, stewardship is dividing everything I have with God and humanity.**

*Earl Smith, mechanic and youth leader  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship is sharing responsibly in the use of God's treasures and giving a good account to God.

*Glenna Ogilvie  
government finance employee  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*

**Stewardship means that I am a caretaker of all that God has given to me, and I must give an account to Him, who is the Owner.**

*June Lee Young, member  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship is keeping a good eye on the things that God has given to you and taking care of them until He returns.

*Dwayne Hall, high school student  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means accountability for the things that God places in your possession.

*Copeland Hall, entrepreneur/  
photographer and church elder  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means being responsible for the gifts that the Lord has entrusted to me.

*Susan Dugard, member  
St. Thomas SDA Church, Ontario*

**Stewardship means giving of yourself, not so much financial support but more of your time and effort. Stewardship is more of a personal contribution.**

*Damon Thorne, social worker  
College Park SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship to me means the faithful and honest management of God's property. My life, health, time, or money. All that God has entrusted to me.

*Dee Pettit, member  
St. Thomas SDA Church, Ontario*

Stewardship means to be faithful to God in tithes and offerings.

*Doreen Freeman, member  
St. Thomas SDA Church, Ontario*

**Stewardship is to serve Christ physically, spiritually, and financially.**

*Ed Desjarlais, chairperson  
Alberta Conference Native Ministries*

To me, stewardship means giving of my time, my talents, and my efforts to do the Lord's work.

*Bridget Benjamin  
nurse and deaconess  
Apple Creek SDA Church, Ontario*





# You've Already Won the Lottery: Discovering and Applying Your Spiritual Gifts



## CRAFTSMANSHIP



As I buckled down to start writing this article, the front pages of the local newspapers were featuring the story of a 21-year-old receptionist in Toronto who had just won \$21 million in the lottery — the largest single winner in Canadian history.

"Wow!" I thought. "What freedom!"

Who hasn't fantasized about what they would do with a win of a few million dollars. Quit your job? Buy a new car? Pay off your mortgage? Provide for family members? Travel? Perhaps go back to school? Make some sound investments?

Okay, those are the basics, but what would you do next? . . . Are you still thinking?

### What Would Be "Your Cause"?

Many — hopefully, most — of us would then ponder how we could use our "disposable" funds to make the world a slightly better place.

Provide scholarships for worthy students? Create shelters for battered women? Support disaster relief organizations? Become active in environment protection campaigns? Fund research and development of new technologies? Set up education programs in Third World countries? Assist the homeless, disabled, unemployed, seniors, troubled teens, orphaned children, recovering addicts . . . ?

It's easy to imagine how many calls you would get from charitable organizations. So many worthy causes could benefit from your support; how would you decide where to allocate your money?

### We're All Rich

By now you may be thinking that this is rather a pointless exercise. What are the odds that you or I will ever "hit the jackpot"?

But it seems to me that determining how to make a positive impact on our surroundings is hardly an empty exercise. We all have resources, in various combinations of money, skills, and time. Thanks to God's goodness, we all have "won the lottery" and have something to share.

A few years ago, my church organized several seminars to help members determine their spiritual gifts. The process was challenging, affirming . . . and fun!

Of course, we were already familiar with Ephesians 4:11-12: "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

But the seminar gave us the opportunity to analyze ourselves more deeply and to identify very practical applications for our gifts.

### Your Personal Servant Profile

All of us are called to serve, to make an impact or contribution in a special way, using the unique combination of gifts that God has provided to us. Some fortunate individuals have a very clear picture of the role the suits them best, while others need to search a bit to find a comfortable fit. When you do find your niche, you will feel motivated and fulfilled in a way you never thought possible.

Discovering your individual "servant profile" requires that you determine three key aspects: your passion, your spiritual gifts, and your personal style.

### Passion » Where you are best suited to serve

When assessing your passion, you may consider asking yourself some of the following questions:

- If you could snap your fingers and know that you wouldn't fail, what would you do?
- What conversation would keep you talking late into the night?
- What I would like most like to do for others is . . .
- My friends would say I am really interested in or passionate about . . .
- Five positive experiences in my life, which have a common trend, have been . . .
- These experiences were meaningful because . . .
- At the end of my life, I'd love to be able to look back and know I've done something about . . .
- The issues or causes I feel strongly about are . . .

Based on your answers to these questions, you will sense what you have a passion for. We all have things we care more about than others. This does not mean that other causes are less worthy; we simply find that there are certain things we care so much about that we are motivated to make a commitment to them and take action.

### My passion is:

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## HOSPITALITY



## ADMINISTRATION





## Spiritual Gifts » What you will do in your area of service

God has designed His church to function as a body. Using this analogy, we recognize three elements to serving as a body:

- the uniqueness of the believer
- the diversity of believers within the church
- the interdependence of believers

God has carefully selected each believer's spiritual gift and place of service: *"To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."* 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

While your passion reveals your inner desire, your spiritual gifts indicate your task abilities. They answer the "What should I do?" question. The following list of gifts is drawn from several Biblical passages, including 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4:

**administration • apostleship • craftsmanship • creative communication • discernment • encouragement • evangelism • faith • giving • healing • helps • hospitality • intercession • interpretation • leadership • mercy • miracles • prophecy • shepherding • teaching • wisdom**

### My spiritual gifts are:

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## Personal Style » How you will serve

Personal style is sometimes referred to as personality or temperament. It describes your most natural way of relating to others. The questions to answer are:

- How are you energized: people-oriented or task-oriented?
- How are you organized: structured or unstructured?

These tendencies or styles vary in intensity, so you should place yourself along a continuum of mild/moderate/concentrated.

Many of us fail to realize that any spiritual gift can have any personal style. For example, there are many types of evangelists — confrontational (think of Peter), intellectual (Paul), testimonial (the blind beggar in

John 9), relational (the tormented man in Mark 5), invitational (the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4), and serving (Dorcas in Acts 9).

### My personal style is:

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## Fitting the Pieces Together

Once you have defined the three aspects of your servant profile, list some possible ways in which you could serve. Get other members in your church to brainstorm along with you (hopefully they would also have completed their own servant profile). If your role or activity doesn't currently exist in your church, go ahead and envision new directions and possibilities.

Remember that passion, spiritual gifts, and personal style are interrelated; therefore, people with the same spiritual gift can serve in very different ways. Compare the two following examples: Linda has a task/structured style. With her gift of hospitality, she coordinates the rotating schedule of potluck lunches designed to welcome visitors and new members. Barbara's people/unstructured style works best with her hospitality gift when she invites neighbors to accompany her to church social activities. While both women have the same spiritual gift, Linda serves better on an organizational level, while Barbara serves on the personal or relational level. Both women are needed to minister effectively to those who are in need of hospitality.

Whether you are a new or a mature believer, whether you have a few hours or many to share, whether you serve on a short-term project or an ongoing program, there is a ministry waiting just for you. As you serve in ways that reflect who God has made you to be, remember: God has not only given you a unique set of gifts, but He has also promised to be with you every step of the way. ■

*by Shelley Nolan,  
managing editor of the Messenger*

**To obtain more information on how to discover and implement your spiritual gifts, contact**

**AdventSource at 800/328-0525 and ask for the Connections training kit, which includes videos, guides, and workbooks.**



WISDOM



HEALING



CREATIVE COMMUNICATION





# Distributing Your Tithe Dollar: What We Do with What You Give

**T**ithe is sacred and vital to the spiritual health of God's people — it is our response to God's goodness and creatorship. In turn, tithe provides the resources needed to support the mission of the church, whether it is received in large amounts or small amounts similar to the "widow's mite." The real outcome of a tithe dollar is the richness of life experienced by the faithful giver and the priceless souls introduced to God through the various ministries made possible by tithe funds.

The following presentation discloses the use of tithe funds as reflected in a typical conference operation. This report particularly features the circumstances of the Ontario Conference. The graph below illustrates the distribution of our tithe dollar in Ontario, showing how it is divided between the various programs and activities of the conference.

The distribution of our tithe dollar adheres to the guidelines set forth by the church in the use of tithe funds. According to Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy guidelines, tithe may be used for the following purposes:

- support of pastors, evangelists and ministers
- world wide General Conference program
- soul-winning support personnel — conference departmental directors and staff, evangelistic and nurturing ministries
- conference operating expense
- subsidies for specific activities — youth camps, camp meetings, evangelistic initiatives
- Bible/religion teaching and support personnel in schools
- retired employees

In faith we see that the Lord continues to provide for the needs of the church through the commitment of His people. In confidence we continue to experience the manifestation of His Spirit. And in eager expectation we anticipate the day of His appearing, when finally the Master and His stewards will meet face to face for eternal fellowship. ■

*by Nelson Tabingo  
Treasurer of the Ontario Conference*

**33¢** Support of pastors, pastoral interns, and Bible workers. We recognize the leadership of this group in various programs, evangelistic outreach, and local church nurturing.

**20¢** Allocated to the General Conference. This provides support for the world wide projects of the General Conference.

**16¢** Assistance for the Christian education program of the conference. This is used specifically for Bible/religion teaching and support personnel in our schools in Ontario and at Canadian University College in Alberta.

**8¢** Assistance for the operations of the SDA Church in Canada.

**8¢** Administrative and general expenses of the conference, including accounting, local church auditing, secretarial and support staff, and the board of directors' meeting-related expenses.



**3¢** Direct evangelism, including assistance given to local churches for evangelistic crusades, Net '96 and radio and television programs.

**2¢** Camp meeting expenses and assistance for the operation of New Frenda Youth Camp.

**1¢** Assistance for the publishing program of the conference. Literature evangelism is considered a vital component of our ministries in Ontario.

**1¢** Small conference subsidy. This is consistent with the program of the North American Division, where larger conferences such as Ontario share about 1% of their tithe income to assist the smaller conferences in the North American Division. We have three conferences in Canada that fall in the small conference category.

Note: Due to rounding, the figures in the graph add up to 101¢.



# The Value of Adventist Education

*by Rosetta Bobb,  
a Grade 11 student  
at Greaves Adventist Academy  
in Montreal, Quebec*

**A**dventist education has played a major role in the development of my mind so far. My parents sent me to Seventh-day Adventist schools, although they did not know the true value of taking this action. Now I am reaping the benefit of their decision, because I am learning the meaning of love, respect, self-esteem, and true education.

The world is full of confusion, and an Adventist education is helping me to know why I exist and to find my true self. In Greaves Adventist Academy, I am learning about God and how to communicate with other human beings. I have also learned how to love, to be courageous and confident, and to recognize the value of life. The moral integrity that I am learning, by being in this Adventist school, will help me to deal with the confusion in the world.

I used to think that it does not matter what someone does for a living as long as they earn a lot of money. I have discovered, however, that many people are confused because they are doing meaningless jobs, just for money, and have no job satisfaction. At Greaves Adventist Academy, I have come to understand that there is a difference between my wants and my needs. I know that it is better to work for the satisfaction that I can get from doing a job, rather than the money only.

In this school, teachers show respect to everybody, and students are not just numbers like in ordinary schools. The education here is more intensive, since teachers care for students and pay attention to them individually.

The teachers are very godly, and they are concerned with students' problems. Teachers at Greaves Adventist Academy look at things morally rather than economically or scientifically. In other schools, teachers do what they should but do not bother to observe the results. The teachers in this school strictly enforce discipline, and they make a difference because they are always talking about God, and they show us the character of Jesus. ■







ADRA Canada

## Lessons from Laos



I wonder what is keeping Todd?\* If he doesn't get here soon, he's going to miss the plane!" Nadia Bettencourt and I were seated on a tiny plane in Vientiane, Laos, waiting to take off for Luang Namtha in the northern part of the country.

"He said he'd be here, and if he misses this plane, he'll be stuck. This is the only flight going to Luang Namtha this week," said Pau Mahn, Todd's assistant and our interpreter.

The pilot started making his final preparations to start taxiing down the runway. As the engines began to rev faster, there came a loud banging on the airplane's door. The pilot slowed the engines, and the door opened.

"That was close! I'm not usually late like this!" huffed a red-faced Todd as he boarded and took his seat.

Four hours later, Nadia and I sat exhausted in our hotel room. As I fearfully looked around the room, Nadia reassured me. "We'll only be here for two sleeps. We can handle that."

### The Privilege of Plumbing

I shot her a doubtful look, then took in my surroundings. The wooden floor had major gaps that made me seriously question its qualifications as a floor. It had been partially covered by an old tablecloth in an attempt at either the concept of wall-to-wall carpeting, or to hide how disturbing the spaces in the floor were. The holes in the wall really perturbed Nadia. She strategically hung some of our clothing to discourage curious eyes from the adjacent rooms. Our beds were wooden slats with very flat rugs across them. My bones cringed at the idea of two nights of sleep here. Yet, we were the privileged, pampered ones of this voyage: we had indoor plumbing in our room! A small closet revealed a squat pot and a shower hose, along with a tap which produced water. Todd informed us that this was the best hotel

in the area, and it cost a whole \$6 a night to stay there!

After settling in to our "posh" accommodations, the next order of business was getting lunch. It was hot, hot, hot, and we were dusty and sweaty. Lunch was served very hot, hot, hot, which made us even more sweaty, but that was a blessed alternative to being sick, sick, sick. We had to be extremely careful about what we ate and drank in order to remain healthy — definitely a goal I was striving for.

### Learning About Germs

After lunch, we headed to a village where ADRA Canada has installed a water pump. The curious villagers gathered to meet us, and then they attended a health lecture. They were being taught the importance of covering their food to keep flies away, and of washing their hands after going to the bathroom and before eating. They also learned about the importance of using proper latrines instead of the bush or the river for toilet facilities. To us in Canada, it sounds sort of funny that people don't automatically know these things, but the truth of the matter is that they don't understand what germs are and how dangerous they can be.

For supper that evening, we feasted on watermelon and drank bottled water. We had to keep up our water intake to prevent us from getting dehydrated and sick. Believe me, I was terrified about getting ill in a place like this. We soon discovered that electricity was available for only four hours at night. As soon as it came on, the local band started playing loudly in the hotel's bar. Exhausted as we were, Nadia and I wondered how we going to sleep to the tune of Laotian rock and roll. Somehow we managed.

### Latrine-Installation Project

The next morning, we quickly got ourselves together and headed out to a





by Kay Bacchus,  
Communication Coordinator,  
ADRA Canada

village where ADRA Canada is sponsoring a latrine project. More than 700 people will benefit from the installation of proper facilities. Under joint sponsorship by ADRA Canada and ADRA Australia, ADRA Laos hopes to install more than 2,000 latrines in this area before the year ends.

We inspected the progress of the project and spoke with a number of the villagers. Pleased with what we saw and heard, we proceeded to another village. Here, the people desperately want ADRA to help them construct a proper well. The wells that they had dug are very shallow and are terribly contaminated. Through Pau Mahn, we learned that they are very willing to pay for some of the expenses and that they would talk some more with ADRA Laos about this project possibility.

At the third and last village we visited, the local women were actively involved in a well-digging project. Buckets were lowered into the hole and were filled with clay by two workers digging at the bottom of the well. When they were full, the women and children heaved the buckets up to the surface.

Todd and some villagers offered to lower me down into the well, but being dressed in a long skirt, I didn't think it was such a good idea. Besides, it smelled terrible.

### Making the Future Brighter

I was really struck by how poor the people were. They don't like being poor, but they don't have the education or the means to escape this way of life. What really bothered me was that I felt so uncomfortable in this environment. I missed the luxuries of home terribly, and I felt fortunate that I had to deal with this kind of lifestyle for only two days. These people have to live daily in these conditions. We visited the hospital, and I was appalled that such deplorable conditions could exist in a healthcare institution.

Finally, as I was seated once again on



Hundreds of people will benefit from latrine installations sponsored by ADRA

the airplane, I reflected on what I had experienced during my two-day stay in Luang Namtha. We can only hope and pray for better days for these fascinating people. The Laotians need our love and genuine support. They are hardy and tenacious, possessed with a vision of a brighter future for the next generation. However, they cannot do this alone. Together, we can all help to make it happen.

As the plane began to rev its engines and slowly moved out toward the runway, I realized once again that Todd was not with us. Before I could ask the question, there came a banging on the door. A red-faced, huffing Todd boarded the plane, exclaiming, "That was close! I'm not usually late like this..." ■

\* Todd Bruce is the director of ADRA Laos.



ADRA's well-digging projects help Laotians replace shallow, contaminated wells



## 21st Century Classroom

The education department at Canadian University College is preparing to step into the future with its 21st-century classroom. Classrooms in the future will be very different from those that are currently used: they will be technologically-enriched environments, utilizing telecommunications, satellite access, video and digital components, and optical technology.

A generous donation from the Lindgren Foundation will make such a classroom and its equipment a reality. Students will learn to operate an array of equipment:

- powerful computers
- LCD panel/overhead and opaque projectors that show computer screens, 3-D objects, or other documents to the class
- the electronic chalkboard that provides printed copies of material written on the board for class members or transmits the information to their computers
- the camcorder and digitizing cameras
- modems
- scanners
- virtual reality with surround sound that can portray realistic experiences within the classroom
- the video wall
- color laser printers
- software

Armed with this knowledge, education graduates will be able to enter classrooms confident and competent in the use of information technology.

The education department has the vision that the 21st-century classroom, along with satellite and/or Internet access, could link Adventist teachers across Canada, provide for distance education experiences, and enhance meaningful interchanges

between Canada's Adventist schools and CUC students and faculty.

Dr. Clarence Lindgren, who established the Lindgren Foundation, is interested in many aspects of CUC's program: in addition to making the 21st-century classroom possible, his foundation has also given liberally to the science centre and the new organ. His interest in the school began in the early 1930s when he

spent five "great years at CJC" [Canadian Junior College].

With the 21st-century classroom, the newly-earned NCATE accreditation (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education), and God as the master teacher, CUC will have one of the best Christian education departments in North America. ■

## Scholars Visit CUC to Research

Two scholars visited Canadian University College over the summer to work on archaeological materials housed there. The school is the repository for all finds and records from the important excavations at Tall al-'Umayri in Jordan, one of two sites excavated by the Madaba Plains Project, the Adventist archaeological excavation in the Bible lands. Since the late 1960s, this project has been the largest archaeological project in Jordan and one which most scholars consider to be among the top two or three excavations in all of the Holy Land.

Dr. Dorothy Irvin, from Durham, North Carolina, spent over three weeks studying and preparing to publish hundreds of textile objects found at Tall al-'Umayri, the site which is directed by Larry Herr, CUC professor of religious studies and archaeology. The objects she studied include spindle whorls for spinning goat hair, wool, and linen (flax), and objects associated with clothing, such as pins, buttons, and decorative beads.

Dr. Gloria London, from the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, spent four days working on the pottery from Heshbon, the first site dug by Adventist archaeologists in the 1960s and 1970s. London's work focuses on everyday pottery: where people found their clay, how they mixed it, and how they fired it in kilns. Ultimately, she hopes to be able to isolate features of individual potters.

This fall an archaeological computer expert, Karen Borstad from the University of Arizona, will arrive to put the finishing touches to the large database which will compile all of the excavation records. When she is finished, it will be possible to enter data from many seasons of digging into one database and to add more data as excavations progress. The ultimate package will contain millions of data items, including digital photographs and studies by specialists on specific objects.

More scholars will visit CUC in the near future to work on the materials stored there. The ones who have visited have been very impressed with the research and storage facilities at CUC. ■



Education faculty (left to right): John Hoyt, June Fiorito, Keith Leavitt, Carolyn Doss, Jim Jeffery, department chair



## Teens Share Love of Christ

**T**heir lives were down to the wire. Both teenage girls were experiencing kidney failure and possibly premature death unless a suitable kidney transplant could be found. Stress. Fears. Anxiety. They understood each other like no other two soul mates.

The girls talked about important issues — life and death questions. And when the shadows of fear threatened to envelop them, Keri Griffiths shared the love of the living God with Anjie Hartsell. It was a natural high and a deep comfort for both of them. Soon Anjie, age 16, was asking if she could go with Keri to the Open Door SDA Church in Abbotsford, B.C. Thirsting for more spiritual food, she also requested Bible studies.

Miracle followed miracle. Both girls received kidneys and a treasured lease on new life. With new life came a fresh appreciation for spiritual treasures. Anjie, who by now was 18, was also born again and was baptized in April.

"It's a story that's really exciting. It really grabs people when they see teenagers sharing the gospel," says Pastor Colin Griffiths. The baptism was alive with excitement and rejoicing as four other young people were also baptized into the Open Door church family. These vibrant individuals — Julie Atha, Garnett and Wanda Lennox, and Lara Pifer — are a tremendous blessing as they join the Lord's family. They have all experienced special features in their spiritual journey toward making a commitment to Jesus.

At the Open Door church, baptisms are happy occasions. On this day, the sound of birds and waterfalls recreated the natural serenity of a walk in the woods as Pastor Colin described what it means to be committed to Jesus. Following the Lord is never to be

taken lightly, he said. Many centuries ago, followers would silently mark the sign of a fish in the sand to indicate that they were Christians. When someone was going to be baptized, believers were particularly careful not to give themselves away because they could be killed en route. Hard to imagine. Yet we must be aware of this fact, said Pastor Colin. While we Christians in Canada are not persecuted now, we must always be alert and acknowledge the sufferings of being a true Christian. In some parts of the world today, being a Christian is still a life-threatening decision, the pastor said. But this is not a depressing thought, because following Jesus is the best decision a person can ever make.

Heartfelt lyrics and uplifting melodies filled the church as guitar, banjo, and maracas mingled with delighted voices. Three Open Door Adventist Christians also shared what it means to them to follow Jesus. They spoke of challenges, elation, peace, and grace. Jamie Townley shared one of his favorite verses: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33, New International Version. ■

by *Trudy Beyak*



**Back row: Pastor Bob Pifer and Pastor Colin Griffiths; middle row: Lara Pifer, Julie Atha, and Anjie Hartsell; front row: Garnett and Wanda Lennox**



## ■ O N T A R I O

### Conference Selects New President

On September 7, the board of directors of the Ontario Conference selected Derrick Nichols as the new conference president. Nichols replaces Rick Bacchus, who served as president for the past eight years and who is now returning to pastoral ministry.

At the time of his appointment, Nicholas was the senior pastor of the Kingsview Village SDA Church in Etobicoke, a Toronto suburb. He has pastored several other churches in the conference since 1989 and has served on the conference board of directors and other conference committees.

Prior to 1989, he was a pastor/evangelist in the Central Jamaica Conference; a pastor/evangelist, youth and education director in the Cayman Islands Mission; and member of the executive committee of the West Indies Union Conference. Before Nicholas responded to the call to pastoral ministry, he worked in industry in various management roles.

His family includes his wife, Adalgisa, an administrative secretary, and three children, who are attending Atlantic Union College. ■

### Windsor Church Completes New Facilities

The Windsor church recently celebrated the grand opening of its new church school, foyer, kitchen, pastor's study, secretary's office, and gymnasium. Pastor Gordon Houston brought this project to completion just before he took a new position at the College Park church in Oshawa. His leadership and contributions will be remembered for some time, as will his wife, Frances, who is special in the hearts of the young students she taught. ■



Derrick Nichols

### Finding a New Family



Left to right: Pastor Fedir Popovitch, Larisa Ermakova, Igor Popovitch, Yuri Danylych, and Mrs. Popovitch

This summer, the members of the Toronto Ukrainian church were happy to witness the baptism of three new young people. One of the new members, Larisa Ermakova, had a particularly interesting story to share.

Ermakova arrived in Canada, alone and pregnant, from Kiev, Ukraine. She was an atheist, but when she saw an ad for the Ukrainian SDA Church in a Russian magazine, she decided to visit. The church members welcomed her in, providing her with extra clothes and helping to arrange housing.

She says, "The church felt like a family. At the same time, I also met God, and He too became my family."

Ermakova was baptized before returning to the Ukraine, and she is now waiting to return permanently to Canada. ■

### North Bay Dedication

On May 24, members and friends gathered to burn the mortgage and celebrate the dedication of the North Bay SDA Church. Rick Bacchus, president of the Ontario Conference, gave the dedication sermon. Other participants included Vassel Kerr, ministerial secretary of the Ontario Conference, and Olavi Orpana, a former pastor of the North Bay church. Shirley Fahlgren brought a personal message and letter from Premier Mike Harris, congratulating the congregation on its achievement. Similar warm wishes came from the office of Bob Wood, the Nipissing federal



Left to right: Rick Bacchus, Ontario Conference president; David Cassivi, city counselor; and Dave Higgins, Ontario Conference education superintendent, cutting the ribbon in the church's new entrance



member of Parliament, and Mayor Jack Burrows.

Carolyn Flowers outlined the history of the church, while former pastor Fred Irish focused on the challenge of elevating the building from a one-story to a two-story structure and the renovations that resulted in the beautiful facility the congregation enjoys today.

The current pastor, Daniel Bhookun, welcomed the Kingsway College Singers and the North Bay and South River choirs and expressed heartfelt thanks for what "God hath wrought." ■



## ■ MARITIMES

### Miracle at Camp Pugwash

Just nine days prior to the opening of the 1997 camp meeting at Pugwash, Nova Scotia, a knockout was delivered to our administration in the form of "ultimatums." We had been upgrading our facilities a bit at a time, year by year. This year, at the last minute, we discovered that nearly half of our housing units would be "gyproced" or shut down. This necessitated raising and leveling, as well as drywalling and rewiring, just under 50 units.



Fellowship and labor at Camp Pugwash

Canceling our camp meeting and refunding tickets was a horror we could not readily address. Consequently, a work bee of 70 men, women, and children converged

on a Sunday to address the issue. After rallying to the cause, we were ready to welcome Elder Folkenberg and Elder Karst of the General Conference, and a wonderful cast of speakers for perhaps one of the most wonderful camp meetings ever. A few weeks after camp meeting, a second work bee of more than 50 people came in and, in one long Sunday, took the old roofs off of the two barrack-style row housing units and replaced them with state-of-the-art metal roofing.

When God's people see a need and feel that God is involved, it seems that there is little they cannot do. ■

by Bob Lehmann, President of the Maritime Conference



An energetic group of Maritimers ensured that accommodations at Camp Pugwash would be upgraded in time for camp meeting

## ■ MANITOBA / SASKATCHEWAN

### Youth Plan Their Own Baptism Service

The members of Erickson, Dauphin, and Winnipegosis churches rejoiced together as they witnessed the baptism of five of their teenagers in June. The young people were introduced to Jesus and the Adventist church through their parents, Alma and Claus Stuhm, Tony and Barb Garroich, and Daniel and Denise Martin. After attending Net '96 meetings, they decided to commit their lives to Jesus. The program on that Sabbath was planned and conducted by these youth and was a great blessing for all who attended. The ceremony was followed by a lunch where families, friends, and visitors got acquainted. ■



Front row, left to right: Rudy Stuhm, Jonathan Martin, Jose-Ann Martin; back row, left to right: Stephen Garroich, Pastor Daniel Martin, Rhonda Stuhm



## ■ QUEBEC

### Canadian Students Featured in *Insight* Magazine



When song leaders strike up the familiar chorus "I'm too young to march in the infantry," Canadian students Sylvette LaTouche, age 20, Michelle Lessey, age 21, and Omar Jarvis, age 20, of Montreal, Quebec, enthusiastically add their voices to the melody. The trio knows the song's lyrics by heart, but somehow the positive refrain "I'm in the Lord's army" never registered before. With "too young" ringing in their ears, the three students anticipated serving the Lord later, when they were "old enough" to be spiritually ready.

It wasn't until one of their friends was hospitalized with a terminal illness last year that the young people began to reconsider their theory. They were accustomed to seeing older church members visit the sick and shut-ins, but never really pictured themselves doing that. Abandoning all inhibitions, the trio rushed to their friend's bedside. Soon frequent hospital visits and intercessory prayer not only comforted their sick friend and his family, but impacted their own lives as well.

The realization that they weren't too young to serve God propelled the friends into action. There were homeless to feed, sick to be visited, lonely to comfort, and immeasurable opportunities to share God's love.

Excited to share the way God is blessing their efforts, and hoping to encourage more of their friends to get involved in Christian service, Michelle and Sylvette sent their story to *Insight* magazine. Impressed, *Insight* editors featured the young people and their article in the August 30 issue of the weekly teen periodical.

Seeing their photograph on *Insight's* cover is exciting for Sylvette, Michelle, and Omar. Still, recognition isn't what's important to these three friends. They're just happy to know that people of all ages can serve the Lord. ■

by *Cassandra Nesmith*

## ■ NEWFOUNDLAND / LABRADOR

### Converted Facility Opens New Channels of Outreach

When the Lethbridge school closed several years ago, the church members were concerned about what to do with the building. After careful inspection, it was determined that the original building housing the one-room school was structurally sound. After some members approached the conference about renovating the building, a decision was made to tear down the new section and preserve the original building.

Baxter Winsor led out in the demolition and renovation project, and the final result is an attractive and functional building. An efficient kitchen, along with the good-sized hall, provides opportunity for fellowship dinners and cooking schools. Several community outreach programs have been held, with an exciting response from the community.

The church has received various requests for cooking schools, and the latest class thanked the members for doing important work in Newfoundland. One person even donated equipment for the church's planned new fitness center.

Compassion and encouragement is the keynote to the church's weight control program, held every Monday evening. Sixty women have come to get weighed-in on a professional medical scale, have their blood pressure taken, and watch a 15-minute Adventist video on health. Articles, recipes, and samples encourage and focus them in the right way. To finish off, there is an aerobic exercise program that helps participants get their heart and lungs in good shape. After making some changes in their lives, there are many who have normal blood pressure and more energy. They have also asked the church to do another cooking school just for them.



In response to community requests, the Lethbridge church has hosted several popular cooking classes



This interest in health has inspired the church members to begin a fitness center with exercise bicycles, videos of beautiful scenery, and a machine that will actually produce ozone. ■

by Daniel Maier, pastor of the Lethbridge SDA Church



Conversion of the Lethbridge church's former school facility has enabled the congregation to make fitness facilities available to the community, as well as other outreach programs

Marino Romito, who asked the students to start the school year by turning their lives over to Jesus. The majority of the students did this by literally nailing their names to a cross.

After a refreshing night's sleep in the chalets and a hearty breakfast, we divided all the students up into 12 teams and had them participate in activities which focused on unity, team-building, and trust. On Sunday, the student association held their yearly tradition, the mega marathon, where all grades competed against each other in activities such as body boarding, swimming, cardboard rolling, and plugging holes in a 50-gallon drum filled with water. The atmosphere was overwhelming and fantastic as each grade frantically worked against the clock. Congratulations to the seniors, who won the event with the fastest time. Afterward, there was ample time to go skiing, Seadoing, canoeing, or napping.

Great things are planned for the rest of the year to keep the momentum going, and we know that we are going to have a fantastic year. ■

by Jennifer Teixeira

## ■ KINGSWAY COLLEGE

### School Trip Launches a New Year

What a start! We are off to a great year here at Kingsway College! Not just because 175 students are enrolled and there is a fantastic school spirit and unity, but also because we have a new dynamic principal. David Branum comes to us from Spring Valley Academy in Dayton, Ohio, with his wife and two small children. He has a master's degree in educational administration as well as a bachelor of science degree in accounting; he has been teaching for 10 years.

A week before school was to officially start, the staff went on an all-day canoe outing to Algonquin Provincial Park. Departure time was 5 a.m.! The goal of the trip was to foster a sense of appreciation for each other in the way of teamwork. Although some were hesitant about this fairly strenuous activity, we enjoyed a wonderful day together and got to know each other a little better.

To officially get the year under way with a bang, 197 students, faculty, staff, and family members spent the first weekend of the school year at Camp Frenda, which is situated on Muskoka Lake three hours north of Oshawa. During the weekend, we introduced our theme for the year — One in the Spirit — where we will be focusing on unity, spirituality, and family. Sabbath began with vespers, which was led by Pastor

### What did students have to say about the opening weekend trip?

"I think the school trip was a great idea because we got a chance to meet different people in our class and make new friends." *Talina Higgins*

"I found it really united the school because everyone participated in all the activities, and it was really good spiritually. It also gave us a chance to see how people are outside of the school environment and to get to know them better." *Michelle Orjukka*





■ SDA CHURCH IN CANADA

**Doukmetzian Moves to General Conference**

After seven years with the SDA Church in Canada, Karnik Doukmetzian has moved to the General Conference to take up the role of claims counsel with Adventist Risk Management. At the SDACC, Doukmetzian was director of legal and public affairs, religious liberty, and trusts.

**1997 Zapara Awards**

The North American Division Board of Education, believing that the purpose of Adventist education is best met through excellence in teaching, seeks to recognize and encourage quality in the teaching ministry.

Since 1989, Thomas and Violet Zapara have made it possible for the church's K-12 school system to provide tangible appreciation for excellence in teaching. The Zaparas have provided a generous gift which recognizes distinguished elementary and secondary classroom teachers with a \$1,000 award.

Teachers receiving the Zapara award meet specific criteria: spiritual credibility, respect of peers and administration, concern for students, competence in teaching, commitment to quality education, professional development and participation, involvement in church and community, and current denominational certificate.

This year's honored teachers will be the last to receive a Zapara Award. ■



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**Loretta Knopp**  
Deer Lake SDA School  
British Columbia Conference

**Legal Notice  
Christian Record Services, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of Christian Record Services Inc. will be held at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada board room, Oshawa, Ontario, Friday, November 7, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect the officers and board members for the ensuing year; to consider possible changes in the constitution and by-laws; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the board. Each constituent is urged to attend.

*O. Parchment, Chairman*  
*P. Page, Secretary*



## ■ Births

**Tyrone Peter Quinn Benson** was born July 1, 1997, to Lyle and Cherie Benson of Terrace, B.C.

**James Lane D'Aragnon Ganson** was born Jan. 6, 1997, to Dean and Mindi Ganson of Terrace, B.C.

**Jarrett Daniel Thomas Harrison** was born May 8, 1997, to Reg and Jill Harrison of Terrace, B.C.

**Lovene Lea Operana** was born Aug. 18, 1996, to Bert and Marivel Operana of Terrace, B.C.

**Sydney Ashton Smith** was born July 2, 1997, to Darryl and Sara Smith of Edmonton, Alta.

## ■ Weddings

**Jayde Mason and Daniel Graham** were married July 20, 1997, in Ryley, Alta., and are making their home in Killam, Alta. Jayde is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Goertzen of Armstrong, B.C., and Dan is the son of Lois Graham of Lacombe, Alta.

**Charlene Banash and Matthew Hymanyk** were married July 20, 1997, in Edmonton, Alta., where they will be making their home. Charlene is the daughter of Harvey and Shirley Banash, and Matthew is the son of Robert and Beatrice Hymanyk.

**Stephanie Kennedy and Arthur Mann** were married Aug. 9, 1997, in Foxtrap, Nfld., and are making their home in Oshawa. Stephanie is the daughter of Cathy and David Kennedy, and Arthur is the son of Maggie and John Mann.

**Cindy Law and Paul Mayo** were married July 13, 1997, in Terrace, B.C., and are making their home in McBride, B.C. Cindy is the daughter of Tom and Marilyn Law, and Paul is the son of Harman and Anne Mayo.

**Myla Michele Irene Kindopp and Murray Ross Stene** were married May 18, 1997, in Red Deer, Alta., and are making their home in Lacombe, Alta. Myla is the daughter of Idella Kindopp of Lacombe, Alta., and Murray is the son of Constable and Mrs. Henry Stene of Prince Albert, Sask.

**Rhonda Motschieder and Rajeev Sukumaran** were married July 20, 1997, in Oshawa, Ont., and are making their home in Scarborough, Ont. Rhonda is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Motschieder, and Rajeev is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sukumaran.

**Janet Anne Wasylyshen and Jonathan Earl Velasco** were mar-

ried July 27, 1997, in Kananaskis Valley, Alta., and are continuing their studies in Loma Linda, Calif. Janet is the daughter of Jerry and Joyce Wasylyshen of Lacombe, Alta., and Jon is the son of Nemi and Adela Velasco of Dayton, Ohio.

## ■ Anniversaries

**Lloyd and Vera Culy** of Prince Albert, Sask., celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 20, 1997. The Culs have one son, Avery (Vaila); and two daughters, Jan (Ernest) Semchuk and Venita (Ken) Elkow. They have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Levern and Ruth (Schafer) Krenzler** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 3, 1997. Levern has more than 36 years in denominational work. He pastored in two conferences and served as departmental director in two conferences as well as at the SDA Church in Canada national headquarters. Ruth worked eight years at North York Branson Hospital. The Krenzlers have three daughters, Gaylene (Dan) Border of Gresham, Oreg., Donna Lee Dassenko of Portland, Oreg., and Janice of Calgary, Alta. They have four grandchildren.

**Dr. Wilford and Anne (Krause) Tetz** of Lacombe, Alta., celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Dec. 29, 1996. The Tetz' have six children: Beverly (Fred) How, Carol (Glen) Rick, Jim (Shirley), Gerry (Karen), Jack (Cindy), and Douglas (deceased) (Debbie). They have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**Harry and Lenina White** of Chiliwack, B.C., celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 10, 1997. They have pastored in the British Columbia and Washington conferences. They have two sons, Jim of Saskatchewan and Ron of Texas; and two daughters, Myrna (Gallant) of Saskatchewan and Linda (King) of Washington.

## ■ Obituaries

**Phyllis Mary (Pettipas) Boutilier** was born Jan. 29, 1940, and died Aug. 23, 1997, in Seabright, N.S. Surviving: husband David Boutilier; son Raymond Melvin (Darlene); brother Gerald Kinsac; half brother George Brown of Lake Charlotte; sister Jean (Ronnie) Redmond of Sackville; half sisters Rita (Fred) Robichaud of Halifax, Geraldine Banbery and Pauline Day of Dartmouth, Eileen (Sonny) Manuel of Five Island Lake; and two grandchildren.

**Helen Mae (Rambo) Comm** was born Apr. 27, 1922, near Consort, Alta., and died Aug. 4, 1997, in Kelowna, B.C. She was predeceased

by her husband, Harvey, in 1982. Surviving: sons Garth of Wenatchee, Wash., and Grant of Edmonton, Alta.; daughter LaVal of Mesa, Ariz.; sisters Elsie Weis of College Place, Wash., Lillian Wyszong of Battle Ground, Wash., and Mary of Lethbridge, Alta.; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Bertha Lippert** died Aug. 23, 1997, in Lacombe, Alta., at the age of 97. Surviving: son Ben (Shirley); daughters Elsie Mitton, Clara (Ross) Smyth, Lynn Lewis and Ruth (John) Taylor; sisters Edna Moch and Katy Nitz; and brother August Bauman.

**William Mandzuk** was born Aug. 17, 1905, in Ukraine, and died July 10, 1997, in Kamsack, Sask. He was predeceased by his brother John and sister Anne Shaede. Surviving: brothers Harry of Oshawa, Ont., Fred (Katie) of Langley, B.C., Michael (Dorothy) of Kamsack, Nick (Lydia) of Veregin, Sask., Steve (Sophie) of Brantford, Ont.; and sister Mary Nahirney of Simcoe, Ont.

**Josephine Anna McMurray** was born June 19, 1917, in Borden, Sask., and died July 19, 1997, in Prince Rupert, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband Bruce in 1974. Surviving: sons Norman (Linda) and Richard; and two grandchildren.

**Arden Morton** was born Aug. 28, 1937, in Ford Bank, N.B., and died Nov. 26, 1996, in Wetaskiwin, Alta. Surviving: wife Brenda; children Charlene (Freeman) Courier, Lorna (Karl) Feucker, Garland (Yvonne), Marshall (Ronda), Marlin and Melody; mother Hartie; sisters Donna (Henry) Pflieger and Allie (Larry) Alward; brother Eric (Grace); and six grandchildren.

**Daniel Kent Pulsifer** of Hatcher Lake, N.S., was born Oct. 1, 1972, and died Aug. 7, 1997. He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather Earl Pulsifer. Surviving: wife Shari-Ann Lisa (Hatcher); son Tristan; parents Sandy and Stella; sister Victoria Jean Boutilier; paternal grandmother Muriel Pulsifer and maternal grandparents Geanetta Nickerson and Walter Holder.

**Nancie J. (Hurshman) Richardson** was born Apr. 12, 1950, in Halifax, N.S., and died July 9, 1997. She was predeceased by her brother Larry Hurshman. Surviving: sons Kevin C. Armstrong of Greenwood, N.S., and Corey D. Richardson of Elmsdale; daughter Marnie Richardson of LaHave; and two grandchildren.

**Olga Stanley** was born Apr. 20, 1911, in Syringa Creek, B.C., and died May 19, 1997, in McBride, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband, Clarence Iden. Surviving: sons Gordon of Kelowna, B.C., and

Glen of McBride, B.C.; sisters Nettie Thiessen of Kelowna, B.C., and Mary Siemens of Red Deer, Alta.; brothers Ben Siemens of Lacombe, Alta., and Ernie Siemens of Mirror, Alta.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Pearl Strutz** of Edmonton died July 8, 1997, at the age of 94. She was predeceased by her husband George. Surviving: sons Peter (Helen) of Loma Linda, Calif., and Walter (Mary) of Oakmont, Calif.; daughter Mary (Don) Rowland of Edmonton, Alta.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Osta Aminda Vikstrom** was born Feb. 29, 1904, in Norway, and died Aug. 5, 1997, in Kelowna, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband John and her son John. Surviving: daughter-in-law Joy of Vancouver Island.

**Anna Wetzel** died Aug. 27, 1997, in Bashaw, Alta., at the age of 91. Surviving: sons Roger of Calgary and Harvey (Terri) of Ponoka, Alta.; daughter Norma (Harvey) Bechthold of Airdrie, Alta.; sister Martha Taylor of Lacombe, Alta.

## ■ Advertising Policies

### PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
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- The Messenger assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements. Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the SDA Church in Canada.

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- **Classified advertising** — \$18 for 50 words or less; 30 cents for each additional word.
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- **Discounts** — 10 percent discount for three or more consecutive insertions without copy changes.

## Deadlines

January issue: **Oct. 27**  
February issue: **Nov. 24**  
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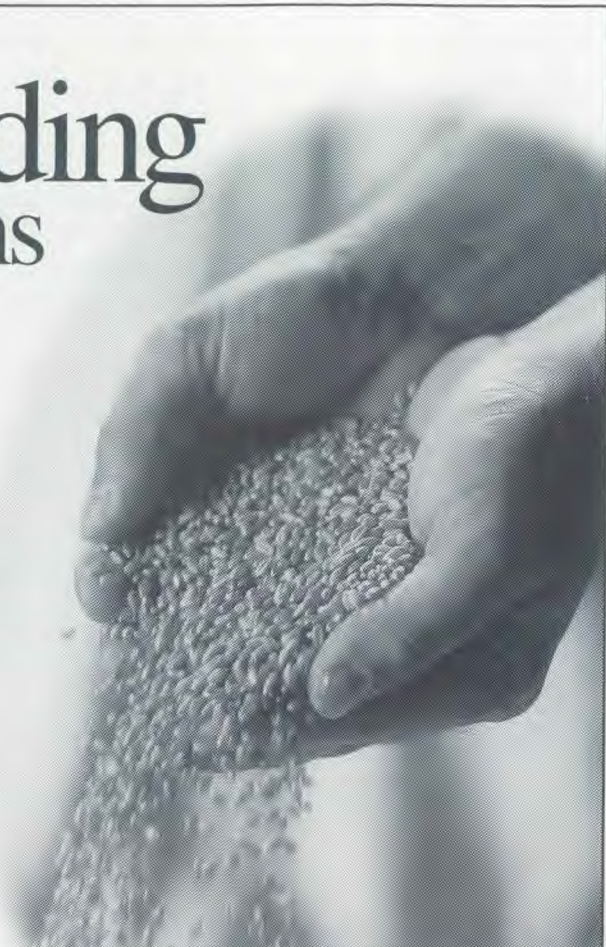
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Managing Editor — **Shelley Nolan**  
[snolan@compuserve.com](mailto:snolan@compuserve.com)  
Production Assistant — **Joan Tanasichuk**  
[joant@compuserve.com](mailto:joant@compuserve.com)  
Circulation Coordinator — **Nicole Jordan**  
[njordan@compuserve.com](mailto:njordan@compuserve.com)

**1148 King Street East  
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 1H8  
phone 905/433-0011  
fax 905/433-0982**

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**SDA CHURCH IN CANADA**

1148 King Street East  
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8  
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

**President** — Orville Parchment  
[74532.356@compuserve.com](mailto:74532.356@compuserve.com)  
**Secretary** — Claude Sabot  
[74617.3275@compuserve.com](mailto:74617.3275@compuserve.com)  
**Treasurer** — Don Upson  
[74617.3303@compuserve.com](mailto:74617.3303@compuserve.com)  
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[74617.3300@compuserve.com](mailto:74617.3300@compuserve.com)  
**Associate Treasurer** — Clareleen Ivany  
[74532.2135@compuserve.com](mailto:74532.2135@compuserve.com)  
**Communication/ASI** — Ralph James  
[74617.3630@compuserve.com](mailto:74617.3630@compuserve.com)  
**Coordinated Ministries** — John Howard  
[74617.3456@compuserve.com](mailto:74617.3456@compuserve.com)  
**Education** — Mike Lekic  
[102555.2540@compuserve.com](mailto:102555.2540@compuserve.com)

**CONFERENCES**

**Alberta:** Dale Kongorski, president; Bill Spangler, Messenger correspondent; 37541 Hwy #2, Red Deer County, AB T4E 1B1, phone 403/342-5044  
**British Columbia:** Reo Ganson, president; Ken Wiebe, Messenger correspondent; Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4P5, phone 604/853-5451  
**Manitoba/Saskatchewan:** Dan Jackson, president and Messenger correspondent; 1004 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700  
**Maritime:** Robert Lehmann, president and Messenger correspondent; 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E 1A6, phone 506/857/8722  
**Newfoundland:** Dave Crook, president and Messenger correspondent; Box 2520 Mount Pearl, NF A1N 4M7, phone 709/745-4051  
**Ontario:** Derrick Nichols, president; Dirk Zinner, Messenger correspondent; 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 7M1, phone 905/571-1022  
**Quebec:** Nilton Amorim, president and Messenger correspondent; 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H 3M3, phone 514/651-5222

**Deadlines**

January issue: **October 27**  
February issue: **November 24**  
March issue: **January 2**





# The Messenger Asks

## When planning your offerings, which programs are the highest priority for you, and why?

We live in an age where there are countless charities and causes which ask for our financial support. As most people are not wealthy enough to be able to contribute to everything, we must make choices. Supporting our church programs is a different matter in several ways, but we are asked to be good stewards of God's gifts. We must without question support God's work through tithes and offerings, but we should also be informed as to how these monies are used to meet people's needs. I like to ask myself the following questions of charitable causes before I consider contributing, and I think it is reasonable to ask them of church projects as well.

1. Does the program try to address issues that I believe in?
2. Will the money be reaching those who need it?
3. Does it have clear goals? Is the program well organized?
4. Has the program been successful in the past?
5. Most importantly, after prayer, do I feel that the Lord is leading me to support this program, or am I directed to support another cause?

If I am satisfied with the answers to these questions, then I am confident that I have done my duty as a good steward in using the resources God has given me.

**Andrew Vermeer**  
*North York, Ontario*

There are several things that primarily determine my giving to charitable causes.

1. In addition to tithe, I give to the church on a systematic basis, as a percentage of my income. I have confidence in the fact that my monetary gift is utilized to minister to the most pressing needs of the local church budget, as well as

the conference and world budgets, as determined by dedicated members in committee. I think that the systematic giving, without specific knowledge of use, fosters a degree of unselfishness in the giver that can't be achieved in any other type of giving.

2. I also give to projects in which I become personally involved through my time because the endeavor is something in which I believe and from which I can see direct results for the money invested. In this instance the amount is determined more by the need than by any fixed pattern.
3. The third reason I give is as the result of an appeal, direct or during a service, where I feel that the person making the appeal is passionate about the project, personally involved, and that the money will be used to benefit individuals. If I know the individual making the request, it is much easier to give with confidence that the funds will be channeled to the intended use.
4. Although I also give from time to time as the result of telephone calls, or door-to-door canvassing, the amounts are not significant and are only given if a charitable receipt is obtained. This type of giving is more in the nature of being nice to the person who called, than in showing any particular type of interest in the charity being supported.

In summary, I believe in giving where I can see a personal impact, either through my time and efforts, or those of other dedicated Christians, serving unstintingly where God has placed us.

**Mary Lou Toop**  
*Oshawa, Ontario*

For the past several years, my church (Willowdale) has promoted the combined giving plan, which I routinely follow; in some ways, I am thankful that I don't have to determine what church programs to support every two weeks. The combined plan provides for 65% of the freewill offerings going to the local church, 20% used for Ontario conference programs and projects, and 15% for world field needs. As far as I am concerned, this is a reasonable partition, and so I support combined giving. It also neutralizes spur-of-the-moment decisions based upon emotional offering appeals, which may have more charisma than church utility bills, for example.

While I regularly contribute to the combined giving plan, I also contribute to other church projects. Typically these are charities with which I have or have had personal experience.

- As a parent of three smaller children attending a church that is approximately 40 years old and heavily used, many of the children's areas are beginning to show their age. For the past few years, our church has been rejuvenating the areas and replenishing the supplies with current materials. In our three youngest children's divisions, parents are encouraged to stay with their children in Sabbath School. I believe it is important for us to present contemporary spiritual programs which will not only impress the young children but also their parents, who then may affirm or reaffirm their commitment to our church and its programs.
- SDA educational and musical projects also appeal to me, given my education background of Adventist-only schools and interest in music. The beneficiaries of these programs are typically the youth,



January issue (deadline — October 27)

**What are your opinions about Sabbath employment in essential services?**

February issue (deadline — November 24)

**How do you talk about religion and/or your faith with your coworkers?**

who are the church's future.

While we each have varied giving patterns and program interests, it is encouraging to see the progress the church has made during the past several years in its worldwide mission, due in part to the freewill offerings that we each contribute.

**Jeff Brown**

*North York, Ontario*

When planning my offerings, I follow a three-step process: a) return God's tithe, b) give an offering, and c) distribute the offering proportionately. The tithe is holy and is not negotiable. Offerings, on the other hand, are given systematically, not on a Biblically-mandated percentage but rather "as God has prospered us." The following list shows my highest priority in terms of offerings.

Tithe — 10% of my income to support the gospel ministry of the world church.

Local church budget — 3 to 5% to support the local church mission and ministry and physical maintenance of the church.

Ontario conference — 2% is recommended. However, the amount I give varies from month to month. I give this offering to support the non-tithe projects of our conference. This usually includes secondary education (Kingsway College), evangelism, the youth camp, etc.

World budget — 3% is recommended. Offerings given for this budget will help to maintain and expand the mission of the world church. Whenever I give offerings for the world budget, I'm constantly reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

I believe the offering system teaches a

person to consider his own responsibility to God without regard to what others may or may not do. This means that each individual is to recognize his individual responsibility to God. "So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12. I also believe that every need which arises in God's work should be considered as another opportunity to renew our expressions of love and gratitude for His continual blessings. Never should we think of offerings as a duty or an obligation, but as a privilege. Remember, Jesus "emptied heaven" to save us.

**Pastor Abraham Swamidass**

*Windsor, Ontario*

This year is an exciting one for me. In planning for offerings over the years, it never was much of a problem because 20% of what we earned could be used for tax-deductible receipts and usually I had more receipts than I needed. But last year, up to 50% of our income could be deducted for taxable purposes, and this year 75%. Now all of a sudden, I find myself praying, "Lord, may I earn enough so that I can give 75 percent. I don't see that happening yet, but the potential is there, and so in planning, a couple of things have jogged my memory. More than ever, I want to see Jesus return.

I remember hearing a sermon where it said, "When the character of Christ should be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim His own." I never could figure out what that meant. But in the Sabbath School lesson a few weeks ago, the statement from *Christ's Object Lessons* was there, "Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love to his brother. But we can never come to possession of this Spirit by trying to love others.

What is needed is the love of Christ in the heart. When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously. The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to bless and help others springs constantly from within."

I was excited. It seems that the character of Christ is reproduced when the impulse to bless others springs constantly from within. Therefore, when making the priorities for my offerings, first of all, I believe that tithe should be taken out first, and I try to always do it if I earn by the week to pay by the week, if I earn by the month, I return by the month. I lost one of my best friends to the church when he waited for the end of the year to return his tithe but found the money was too much; he never returned it but has also never been to church since.

After tithe, I think of trying to bless others and look at it in two ways. Thinking of Matthew chapter 24, I like to give to agencies such as ADRA who give to the poor right here and overseas. I also give to the Native work in Canada; as we know that God wants the gospel to go to all the world, it certainly must first go to our own Native people. And then I look at other entities such as *It Is Written*, which one third of Canadians watch, so I feel my money is well spent.

As my wife and I go over our offerings, we usually try to see where they can be used most effectively. In fact, my wife for years worked for one purpose — just to have money to give to offerings. What a joy to see the gospel go forward. And what a joy to constantly from the heart try to bless others, or as it might be said today "make other people happy."

**Elder John Howard**

*Oshawa, Ontario*





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