

Alberta Conference Adventist News

A window of information for Seventh-day Adventists in Alberta

From the President

Best Wishes for a Very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year

I was traveling east on the 401 having left Toronto Pearson Airport enroute to Oshawa. It was 6:00 PM and the rush hour traffic was moving slowly, very slowly. My finger was on the "seek" button of the radio trying to find a station with something good to listen to. Suddenly I came upon a station playing Christmas season music. I thought, "This will be good" and continued to listen. At the completion of the piece of music the DJ announced, "This is your Christmas music station, playing Christmas music nonstop until Christmas". It was mid November.

As I listened I how nice it is that an early start. But, as piece of music after notice something and mental count. Most of played really had the real reason for the The selections ranged With Boughs of Holly" and other more



First, there were three secular songs before a carol in which the birth of Christ was mentioned. Later, I waited through five pieces before once again there was a Christ-centered song. Somehow the birth of Jesus Christ, as the focus of Christmas, seemed to have slipped into a minor role for the Christmas season in the choices that disk jockey made.

Will Jesus Christ be the center of your Christmas? I certainly hope and pray that, indeed, He will be. With Jesus the center of our Christmas we can be assured of real joy, true joy. After all, this is the season to be experiencing real happiness as we gather together with friends and family and keep Jesus the center of our activities, our gift giving, and our festivities.

As we enter the Christmas season we are reminded that another calendar year is drawing to a close. It gives us occasion to review the past few months of this year. During this year our Conference has seen a number of evangelistic activities in such places as Bonnyville, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Spruce Grove, and Whitecourt . You have made this possible by your financial support and by your active participation. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have had a part in one way or another in bringing others to a saving knowledge of our Saviour through receiving the Word of God.

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*Evangelism works
for those who work it*

Mark Finley

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Alberta Adventist News

Marlene Holdal	Editor
Ruth Proud	Layout

Office Hours

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m.

Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

37541 Hwy 2, Red Deer County AB T4E1B1
Phone (403) 342-5044 Fax (403) 343-1523

e-mail: abconf@albertasda.org

website: www.albertasda.org

From the President (continued)

We are pleased with the number of those who have received the Word, have given their lives to Christ and have become members of our church. However, we are mindful of the story Jesus told of the Sower and the Seed. You will also remember that his disciples asked him what this parable meant (Luke 8:9). And then He gave the meaning of the parable. He said, "The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." (Luke 8:11-15 NIV)

We are praying for our new members and I am requesting that you do too. The devil is not standing by idle as he sees those taking their stand for Christ. We are praying that the Word of God has found fertile soil and will not be rooted out. Please pray for our new members and do what you can to help them bask in the love of Jesus this Christmas season. And, dear new member of our church, be assured that we are praying for you and hoping that you too will keep Jesus the center of your Christmas.

My wife, Judy, and I wish each and every one of you a very happy Christ centered Christmas and God's continued blessings in the year 2005. Who but God knows what is ahead for each of us in the New Year. However, we do know how He has led in the past year and that we can continue to put our confidence in Him.

Bill and Judy Olson

Service / Awards

ODETTE BOILY - Vegreville Town Council



Odette Boily, member of the Vegreville Adventist church, was recently elected to serve on the Vegreville Town Council.

Odette purchased and recently renovated the Vegreville train station into a vegetarian café, now known as the "Station Café." Odette is excited about this unique outreach ministry in her community and is pleased with the warm reception and interest shown by the people in Vegreville.

In one section of the building Odette maintains a health treatment center.



Station Café



Photos courtesy of Vegreville News Advertiser

ED KNOX - Mayor of Coalhurst

Ed Knox was elected mayor of Coalhurst on October 18, 2004. He is a married man of 42 years to the same woman (smile), father of four and grandfather of 12.

He moved to Coalhurst in 1993 and began on council in 1995. He was Deputy Mayor for five years. He has served on numerous committees through the past several years including the AADAC (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) Board for six years.

Ed's educational background includes a Bachelor of Business Education Degree (1980); Masters Degree in Administration (1985); and numerous Certificates in Administration and Municipal Government.

Ed is actively involved in conference and church activities. He has served as the facilitator/vice-chairperson of the Alberta Conference Executive Committee for several years and was re-elected to continue his service as a member of the Conference Executive Committee for the next four years. He also holds the office of elder and church board chairperson of the Lethbridge Church of Chimes Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Upon his election as mayor of Coalhurst, he wrote a letter in the town newspaper thanking the people of Coalhurst for supporting him but he also put in it that he thanked God for His presence during the campaign. Everything came out in the town news except for the recognition of God's presence during the campaign. He had a little talk with the lady who did up the writing and kindly reminded her that when he writes something up to go in the town news be sure and check that it all goes in!

Ed retains his faith in each thing he does. Meetings with the town that were held on Saturday changed when he got on council. This made the other councilors happy to have their weekends free.



Darlene Blaney Receives "The Divine Servant®" Sculpture Award

At the recent CHIP Summit held in British Columbia, Dr. Hans Diehl presented various awards to individuals who have served in extraordinary ways to promote health evangelism in their sphere of influence.

Darlene Blaney, NCP, and Health Ministry Volunteer Ministry Coordinator in the Alberta Conference, was presented with this prestigious award which was an induction into the CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) "Hall of Service" for her outstanding service in a professional manner with a servant's heart. Darlene has actively pursued her passion in promoting a healthier lifestyle as a mortal and moral issue.



One example is the health program at the 2004 Alberta Camp Meeting this past summer which was conducted with great care, a rare devotion, and professionalism. She has also shown great leadership in dealing with the media to enrol hundreds of people in the CHIP program throughout Alberta (especially the Calgary area), and organizing various CHIP Chapters as a program for follow-up after the completion of the CHIP program.



The sculptured award, "The Divine Servant®," depicts Jesus Christ washing the feet of Peter which is scripturally based on John 13: "Now that I your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Well-known artist, Max Greiner Jr, of Texas, created the award. The message of sacrificial love, humility, and servanthood is difficult to receive today, just as it was by the disciples. In preparation for making this artwork, Greiner experienced footwashing with a friend to better understand Christ's example. He learned that it is more difficult to have your feet washed, than it is to wash the feet of another.

Congratulations to Darlene as one of the recipients of this award because we know of her untiring "passion" and we also know that God will continue to use her mightily in helping us to live healthier, happier lives!

STAN BELL - Red Deer County Councillor

Stan Bell, 47, is a life long resident of Sylvan Lake. For the past six years he has been serving his community as a County Councillor for the Red Deer County and has served on various committees over the year.

He has just been re-elected for another three-year term. Stan also has an Agriculture business doing custom spray application for area farmers.

Stan and his wife of 23 years, Debbie, have three children: Nicole, 21, married to Blaine Proud, lives in Peace River; Lance, 19, is attending Mount Royal College and Lindsey, 16, is in grade 10 at PAA.

Not only is Stan serving his community, but he is also serving his church as well. He has been an elder in the Sylvan Lake Church for 19 years with 16 of those years, including the present, being the Head Elder. The dedication and commitment he has shown to the church and the community around him is very appreciated and respected by many.



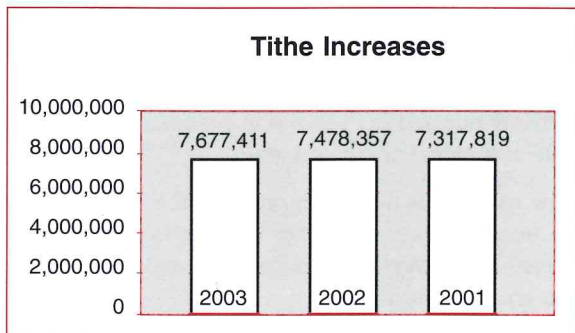
From Your Conference Treasury

December Donation Suggestions

As you consider your yearend gifts to the Lord, we offer these donation suggestions, together with appreciation for your faithful support throughout the year. May God bless you and yours as you fellowship together at this special time of the year, and may He give you His peace, health, and prosperity in the New Year.

Tithe

Please review with the Lord your tithe giving during 2004 as you remember that He asks us to bring "... all the tithes into the storehouse." Don't miss God's promise to the faithful, that He will "... pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10



Christian Education

Our Conference Church Schools, Canadian University College, and Parkview Adventist Academy all depend on charitable gifts to continue offering First Class Adventist Education. Gifts for general support or for Student Financial Assistance are always welcome, or you may wish to contact a particular school to ask about special projects.

Mamawi Atosketan Native School

Approximately \$30,000 is yet to come in from pledges and donations to complete the funding of the Mamawi Atosketan Native School Building Project. Thank you for remembering your pledge or for making a special gift.

Personal Ministries

Many personal ministries of the Alberta Conference that operate "on a shoestring" would be blessed by your gifts. These include: Deaf Ministries, Health & Temperance, Native Ministries, Religious Liberty, Single Ministries, Children's Ministries, Prayer Ministries, Pathfinders, Adventurers, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, and Family Ministries. All of these are led by Volunteer Ministry Co-ordinators who freely give of their talent and time. Your financial support would be a great encouragement.

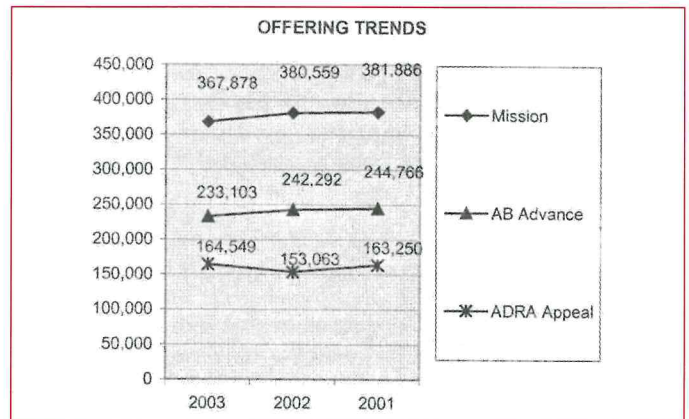
Church Family Budget

Just like our own families, our Church Families require financial support to keep the heat on, to keep the lights burning brightly, to provide Bible Study Guides for adults, youth and children, and to provide church member nurture and community outreach. Thank you for regularly supporting your Church Family Budget.



Alberta Conference Advance

Donations to Alberta Conference Advance support Conference-wide ministries such as Christian Education, Foothills Campground, Summer Youth Camps, Church Building and Repair Grants, and Evangelism Grants to churches. Within recent years this offering has declined while the need for support has increased. Please consider increasing your Alberta Advance donations on a regular basis, and an extra yearend gift, if possible, to make a big difference this yearend.



World Mission

Mission Offerings have been on the decline in Alberta over the past three years, although they are needed more than ever to share the Gospel. As the Lord impresses you, please consider regular and special World Mission offerings. As of October 31, 2004 donations showed a 1.83% increase.

Blessings

The first blessing you will receive will be the great satisfaction of knowing you are giving according to your ability as a member of the Family of God. After that, watch for ways in which the Lord will bless you abundantly "... above all that you ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

Carolyn Osmond, VP Finance

Where to Make Donations

Donations may be either given at your local church or sent directly to the Alberta Conference. In either case, please clearly print exactly what your donations are for, such as "Tithe," "Church Family Budget," "Alberta Advance," "World Mission," "Evangelism," or particular ministries.

2004 Tax Deductible Charitable Receipts

To receive a 2004 Tax Deductible Charitable Receipt, donations must be given at church or to your Church Treasurer no later than December 31, 2004. If mailed to the Conference Office, donations must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2004.

October 31, 2004 Tithe and Offering Report

<u>Donations to Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Tithe	\$5,801,912	7.67%
Missions	259,908	1.83%
Alberta Advance	182,702	4.35%

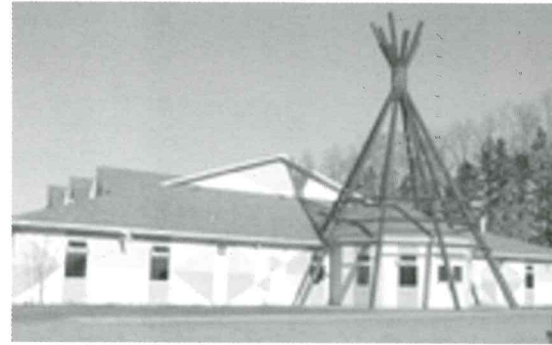
Other Charitable Gifts

You may wish to consider other Church or Canadian Charities in your giving plans, however, please remember that the Government of Canada does not allow the issuing of Charitable Receipts by a Canadian Charity unless the donation is given to that charity or to another Registered Canadian Charity. The Canadian Government does not allow the issuing of Charitable Receipts for money, materials, equipment, building materials, etc. to be taken out of the country. When donating to other charities, it is usually preferable to send your gift directly to the charity. You may find out if a particular charity is registered in Canada by visiting the following website:

[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/charities/
online_listings/canreg_interim-e.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/charities/online_listings/canreg_interim-e.html)

MAJOR GIFT FOR MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Excitement ran high the first week of December as Mamawi Atosketan students watched the installation of their playground. The playground was not part of the budget for the new school



building, but was made possible this fall by a major donation of \$50,000 from a dedicated, anonymous Alberta Conference couple. Another generous donation covered installation costs. Students and staff see the playground as a miraculous answer to their prayers for exercise equipment for recess and physical education. They send appreciation "From the bottom of our hearts." In Eternity we will rejoice at the results of this gift and of all the gifts that have supported this children's ministry.

EVANGELISM – It Is Written Calgary Crusade



If the Lord has blessed you significantly, you may wish to consider a significant gift to take His Gospel to Albertans who don't know Him yet. Approximately 20 public evangelism series were held in Alberta in 2004 and more are planned for 2005, including the Calgary City-Wide *It Is Written* Crusade in April 2005. *It Is Written* has asked the Alberta Conference for over \$200,000 for Calgary alone, of which generous church members have donated \$100,000 so far. The Lord is happy to receive gifts at every giving level to finance the sharing of His Gospel in the great city of Calgary.

Other Evangelism projects include *It Is Written* in Edmonton in 2006, Student Door-to-Door MagaBook and Church Growth programs that began summer 2004, Bible Worker Training, Evangelistic Equipment Grants, Adventist Media Advertisements, and Pastoral and Lay Evangelistic Series. Altogether, \$1 Million could be put to work right now to hasten our Lord's return.

Thank you for considering a very special gift for the Year of Evangelism.

Alberta Church News

First Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Retreat



The first ever retreat for deaf was held at the Watson Lodge Center in Kananaskis, Alberta, Oct. 1-3, 2004. Six Seventh-day Adventist deaf and six hearing connected with the Alberta Conference

'Deaf World' had a fabulous weekend together with fellowship, hiking, and having excellent self-prepared meals together. The weather was super and everyone had a wonderful time!

The Watson Lodge complex especially caters to the disabled, and the whole group was able to rent both sides of a six-bedroom duplex (a helpful door between the two sides of the duplex) for only \$160 complete. Rules for this type of group require that 1/3 of the group must be severely disabled in some way. The participants brought their own food and bedding.

The Deaf Ministry group was so thrilled with their weekend together that they are planning on getting together twice a year for another Deaf Retreat. They hope in the spring to have an invited guest from the Seventh-day Adventist Deaf leadership in the US.

Pastor John Blake, Deaf Ministries Coordinator

Where are these people?

If you have an address for the following individuals, please contact the Interest Coordinator for the Lacombe Community Church (403) 782-5870:

Lynne and Nicole Boser
Heidi Cook
Cindy, Michelle, Randy Boucher
Hans Pete Dendorfer
Darcy Dubois
Gary Henry
David, Joy and Jason Hewitt
Marie Jeanveau
Miguel Mesa
Doris and Ivan Montenegro
Ho San Park and Nam Yong Park
Paul Ritter
George and Jill Vandendorp
Gordon Weber

CAAA 25th Anniversary Celebration

On the weekend of September 3-6, 2004, the Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Foothills Camp—the very place it began 25 years earlier.



Pastor John Adams introducing Pastor Wayne Williams

The organization was started by a group of dedicated, hard working members of the Caribbean community who felt this need to bring together people, especially children of Caribbean parents in order to teach them about their parent's culture and to develop friendships and relationships among young people of the same *elk* and to give them a basis of support from which to operate, in other words, a sense of community.

The guest speaker, Pastor Wayne Williams, Senior Pastor of a two-church district in the Toronto area, was very well received and appealed to all ages. At the altar call, approximately 41 people, of all races, responded to the appeal for baptism.

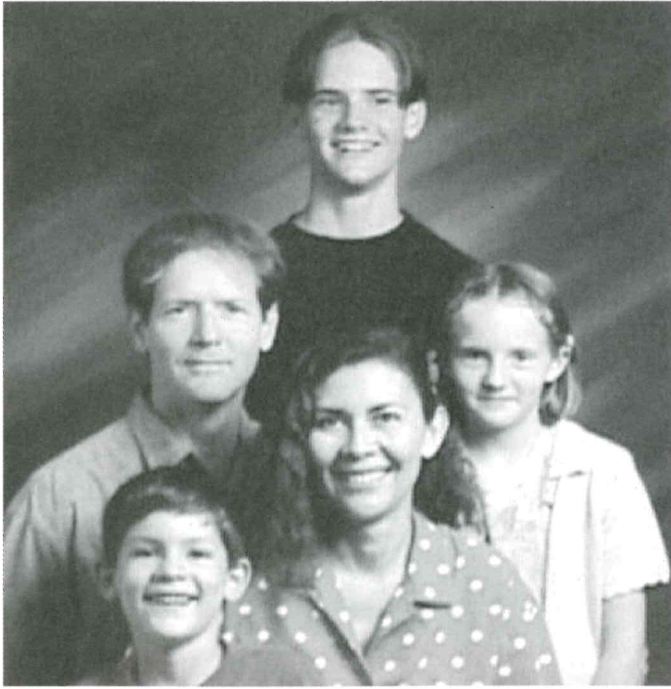
On Saturday night and also Sunday morning there were a variety of games and social events. On Sunday evening, there was a fabulous banquet, catered by a respected Toronto chef, Keath Otto and Clarence Williams of Calgary. Entertainment was provided by a number of talented volunteers and cultural groups hosted by Dr. Errol Lawrence and Greg Balder, a CUC student. Throughout the weekend, great music was provided by a Bridgeland Church choir led by Innocent Bvochora as well as a couple of outstanding solos by Devon Powell.

Pastor John Adams, Conference Ministerial Director

College Days 2004-2005

Interested in attending Canadian University College and want to know more about your educational options? Come to College Days! Apply now for the weekend of March 10-13, 2005.

To request a College Days application contact Lorraine Wombold, Marketing and Enrolment Services at: 800.661.8129, opt 1; 403.782.3381, ext 4006; fax 403.782.2455; or email lwombold@cauc.ca.



DAVID GEORGE Maskwachees Company (Hobbema)
David, Lu, Benjamin, Yuel and Elannah



LEO & JEN LAUNIO Calgary Parkdale and Southside Churches

New Pastors

CUC Theology Club Visits Conference Office

Approximately 30 young men and ladies taking Religious Studies at Canadian University College came to visit the Conference office on November 25, 2004. This was a first ever known visit by a Theology Club where the young people were exposed to the workings of the various departments in a conference office. After a tour of the building and offices, lunch was served while the conference officers gave time for questions and answers. Perhaps now they will be able to answer for themselves a question in their minds as to what really goes on in a conference office — “Do they do any work there?”



God's Swimming Lesson

One afternoon we were very hot because we had just finished painting the boy's dorm. Julee, Sophie and I decided we wanted to walk upriver and float down to cool off. As we were leaving I put the keys in the zipper pocket of my bathing suit. We had fun as we walked about half a mile upriver, talking about God. We jumped in and floated down the river. But when we got out at the college I realized I had not zipped the pocket that the keys were in. They were attached by a long cord that was hanging out of my pocket and now they were nowhere to be found. My heart sank as I realized that keys are incredibly hard to come by in the jungle and I had lost one of the only master sets for campus.

We decided to walk the trail once again to see, if by some impossible chance, they had fallen out. We walked for a couple minutes when Sophie (leading the way) stopped and suggested we ask for God's help. I prayed and told God about our situation and asked Him that if it was His will could He please take the keys (even if they were at the bottom of the river) and put them along the trail where we could find them. I asked Him to do this so we could glorify His name and so that we could have the precious keys back. Then we started walking again and about 5 literal seconds after we had prayed Sophie spotted the keys by the side of the trail hanging on a bush. The keys could have caught on the bush and pulled out of my pocket, but the keychain was soaking wet! I had not been wet, my swimming suit was not wet (yet), the bush was not wet, the ground was not wet, nothing was wet except the river from where my guardian angel took them. He was saying, “I love you so much! I care about the smallest details of your life. I sent my Son to pay an infinite price so that you can live. Why do you doubt me? Why does a little miracle like this thrill you so much when I have already performed the greatest miracle possible; your Salvation? Trust me Love me. Be thrilled, but do not lose sight of the gift of my Son.

Pastor Matt and Julee Smith, formerly associate pastor at Calgary Central Church are now serving as missionaries at the Davis Indian Industrial College in Guyanna, South America.

Local Church News

BENTLEY

Bicycle Outing Day

The Bentley Church plans a bicycle outing for its members - one in the spring and one in the fall - on the many bicycle trails within the City of Red Deer. Many church members from young to old join in rides of varying degrees of endurance required.



(l-r) Pastor John Blake, Pastor Bob Burke, and Curtis Krenzler

They then have a supper together in the park by Bower Ponds. This was Bicycle Outing Day, Sept. 25, 2004.

Surprise Baptism!

For a number of years Curtis Krenzler and his family have been attending the Bentley church. However, Curtis had never been baptized.

Pastor Bob Burke, during his two years as the official CUC student pastor of the Bentley church, had built a good relationship with Curtis and his wife, Monica. Later, Curtis was working briefly near the Sedgewick church and the relationship was strengthened with Bob and his wife, Ruth, now pastoring in that area. Curtis decided that he wanted to be baptized in his

home church, but he wanted it to be a complete surprise to both his extended family and the Bentley church.

How could this possibly happen? Well, it worked out that the Potter's Place church had asked if they could use the Bentley church that afternoon for a baptism. So, as the Bentley members who arrived Sabbath morning became aware of the preparations for a baptism, they were correctly told about the baptism in the afternoon.

It had been planned for some time that Pastor Burke would take the service that Sabbath morning



Pastors Blake and Burke, Curtis

August 27, and nothing appeared really unusual. While the 'extra long' closing hymn was being sung, Pastor Burke slipped out and quickly put on his baptismal robe. At the end of the hymn, there was a knock on the inside of the baptistry door, and Pastor Blake went over and opened the doors. The whole congregation was shocked to see Pastor Burke and Curtis standing in the baptistry! Needless to say, the congregation was delighted to know of Curtis' decision, and immediately following his baptism, Curtis was voted into the fellowship of the Bentley Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor Blake explained that this was not quite the normal procedure for baptisms, but since Curtis had especially requested that it be a complete surprise to everyone except the pastors and his wife and children, it was decided to honor his request.

Pastor John Blake

BONNYVILLE

Sabbath October 16th, was a high Sabbath of celebration and rejoicing in Cold Lake, Alberta when 10 precious souls took their stand for baptism or profession of faith, one was rebaptized and nine new members were received into the membership in the Bonnyville Seventh-day Adventist church. Hosted by the



(l-r) Pastor Justis St Hilaire, Jerryn Schmidt [Bible worker], Jessica Blum, René Dery, Denise and Bill Richardson, Brian Powell, Deanna Powell, Donald Pachapis, Dave & Wendy Barnes, Pastor Darrell Beaudoin

Bonnyville church and held at the 'Four Wing Cold Lake' Air Force Base, Pastor Justis St Hilaire conducted the 'Revelation of Hope & Healing' prophecy seminar. His nightly messages were Christ centered and compelling.

Among the newly baptized are two members of the Four Wing Air Force squadron and their wives. Not included in the photo are eight children ages 2 to 16 years who will be loved and nurtured in the Bonnyville church family.

About six other seminar attendees have indicated a sincere commitment to attend our weekly Bible studies in Cold Lake and Sabbath services in Bonnyville.

This reaping comes as a result of much prayer, planning, and hard work from about 40 regional church members who collectively visited each home in Cold Lake with seminar handbills and reserve seating tickets. Nightly child care facilitated by the Bonnyville church members made it possible for visiting parents to attend the seminar.

The Bonnyville church has now exceeded its seating capacity and plans will inevitably be made to build a larger church building or plant a new church in Cold Lake. *Pastor Darrell Beaudoin*

CALGARY SOUTHSIDE

On September 17, 2004 five precious souls were accepted into the fellowship of Calgary Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism. After the baptism, Teodora Barinan, David Wilson, Michael Cabrera, Jenni Rose Paclarin, and Lorda Lorenzo were welcomed by church members, friends, and family members and then joined a potluck dinner at the Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church. *Sally del Socorro*



CALGARY SPANISH

The congregation in the Calgary Spanish church rejoiced as yet another baptism took place on November 6, 2004. It was a touching experience to notice the real conversion experiences of the baptismal candidates and how the Holy Spirit transformed their lives. The Canadian Bible Society donated beautiful age-related, engraved Bibles that were presented to each candidate.

Pastor Victor Schulz



Pastor Victor Schulz, Christopher Villacorta, David Ramirez, Linda Villacorta, Tania Torres, Elsa Schulz

CALGARY GARDEN ROAD & BRIDGELAND

The Lord's Hand is at Work

As the time drew closer and the lay-workers prepared for what would be a long three-week evangelistic series, there was never a better time to experience the Lord's hand at work.

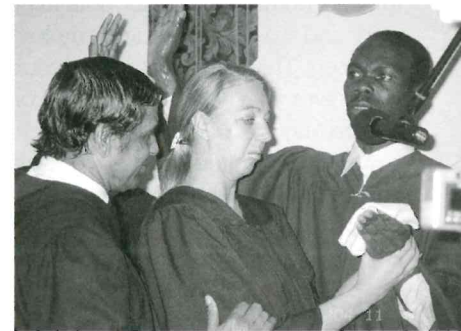
It all started when two churches, Garden Road Seventh-day Adventist Church and Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church, decided to join forces to proclaim the Good News of the gospel. Every night for three weeks there was a meeting with Thursday as the only day off. The guest presenter was Dr. John Trusty from Washington, DC, a good friend to Pastor Ishmael Ali and a true man of God. Everything was ready to go and on opening night Sabbath, October 16 at 7:00 pm, all were ready to greet the visitors at the door. It didn't seem like too many people were coming for the first couple of nights but as night after night went by the pews began to fill up and by the end of the series the pews were full to capacity and overflowing. Every day, all day

long, the prayer warriors were on their knees praying for Dr. Trusty, for the entire series, and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Local artists such as the 4G's, Prophecy, students from CUC, and Canadian Gospel Recording artist, Reuben Latour from Winnipeg, gave a

concert on the closing night. On Sabbath, November 6, 22 people gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized and on Sabbath, November 13, three more decided to give their hearts to Jesus and were baptized.

Donna Grimsley, Communication Secretary



Pastor Reynold Ferary and Pastor Ishmael Ali baptize Elizabeth

HANNA

The members of the Hanna Church experienced great joy on Sabbath, August 14, 2004, when Katheleen Connors and Arlen Ferguson were baptized and accepted as members of the church. Friends of Katheleen attended and shared in the joyous occasion. Besides Arlen's parents, his grandparents and aunt from Calgary were present. Arlen's parents and Pastor Steve Yaceyko studied with and reviewed the Bible lessons with Arlen in preparation for his baptism. Katheleen had studied with her friends and with Pastor Brian Hawes before she moved to Hanna. Then, Pastor Steve studied the Discover Bible lessons and reviewed the Bible doctrines with her. As Katheleen and Arlen follow in the footsteps of Jesus their Saviour and Lord, may they help many others to come to Him and become His followers, too.

Pastor Steve Yaceyko



JANUARY CREEK COMPANY

The Little Church That Could

January Creek church, in Peers Alberta its small but caring congregation.

The vision of the members of the January Creek company is to bring the Good News to the people of Peers and area.



Utilizing their resources such as the town's small but growing lending library, and various outreach programs such as hosting a movie night, a live performance by Walking on Water Ministries (WOW Ministries), a baby shower for new resident in the

community, collections for the food bank, hampers for families in need, nutrition seminars, bulk mailings of the Discovery Bible cards and sharing books, and employing a Bible worker for a summer). This small but friendly church group is seeking to touch lives with the Gospel in that community.

On May 29 2004, January Creek joined forces with our sister company in Whitecourt for a baptism. Pastor John Adams baptized Gershom Alexander into the January Creek company.

On October 2, 2004, January Creek Company again joined

with the Whitecourt Company for another baptism. Felipa Friesen, who has been attending January Creek for a few months while taking Bible studies with elder, Henry Fletcher, was baptized by Pastor Garry Rumble. At present there are three youth concluding their studies for baptism.

On October 27, 2004, Pastor Rumble and Pastor Potgieter conducted a beautiful wedding ceremony at January Creek company hall as Felipa was married to Elmer Dubois. It was the first January Creek wedding and the congregation is still vibrating with the excitement of it all.

January Creek is pleased to welcome Pastor Garry and Ethel Rumble to their congregation. He came to this area in September and has been busy ever since.

Each Sabbath in this little country church, new faces and new blessings come each week.

*Nerissa McNaughton,
Communications
Secretary*



LACOMBE COMMUNITY

In August, the Lacombe Community Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a six-night Vacation Bible School (VBS). It was an exciting time for all the children involved, beginning on a Sunday evening with sixteen children, and ending on the following Friday evening, with twenty-six children in attendance. During the VBS, a total of forty-five children attended.



The children responded very well, and brought friends and acquaintances. Everyone enjoyed the "Lava Lava Island" theme of the VBS. The "Daily Challenges" were especially popular,

with the children doing "good deeds" in their homes and neighbourhoods; the "good deeds" were rewarded with additional "lava" being added to the model volcano set up in the church fellowship area.

Each evening session was divided into four parts: Bible study time and discussion of the life of Jesus; outdoor playtime, with the assistance of David Smith; craft time, with the leadership assistance of Jorlene Sawchuk; and, last but not least, snack time, coordinated by Maria Morris. Each of the four program parts had its own appeal, with many of the children identifying the outdoor games as special, while others favoured the Bible study time and the craft project sessions. Some of the neighbourhood children arrived without supper, and they appreciated the snacks.

Many thanks are due to those who assisted so willingly with the VBS program. It would not have been possible without their help and support. Special thanks are due to Thelma Parker, Program Director, for the hours spent in planning and coordinating.

A number of follow-up efforts are being planned in support of this VBS program, including a Children's Church, for which the support of the church congregation is most valuable. We believe that God supports such efforts, too.

*David and Thelma Parker, Communications Secretaries
Pastor Jacques Morris, Photo*

LETHBRIDGE

All heaven rejoiced as two more of God's children joined the family of God! Bill Scullen and Sheila Marak were baptized on September 4, 2004 in the Old Man River near Lethbridge by Pastor Mike Lemon.

Richard Oevering



MILLWOODS COMPANY

What a year it has been, and my, how our family is growing! It was with joy that we gathered at Edmonton Central SDA Church to celebrate the baptisms of Patricia and Carlos Vado in July — and more recently in Mill Woods, to celebrate the dedication of Tyreese Mosonyi with his parents, Dawn and Frank, in November. This first year as a Company has fore-shadowed God-blessed years to come.

Although our Evangelistic Meetings that were originally scheduled for this fall have been postponed, your prayers for God's work in this area of the vineyard are always needed and appreciated. We've had the joy of participating in Family Life Seminars with Pastor Djkwich of ADRA, experienced the blessings of new and regular visitors in the pews, joined in praise with concert performers, and look forward to worshipping, sowing and growing together in 2005.

Lena Andrew



All smiles: (l-r) Carlos Zado, Patricia Zado, daughter Rebecca, Pastor Terrance Horrell, Zelannie Assigba

PEACE RIVER

Health and wellness was the order of the day when the Peace River church hosted and concluded their first CHIP program with great success in the month of November 2004. Seventeen



individuals joined the program, and what a joy it was to see the exuberance and enthusiasm as the chippers began losing the unwanted pounds and gaining the new found energy they came seeking for.

One gentlemen said that for the first time ever he was now walking, drinking water, and eating new foods he had never before enjoyed. Others gave testimonies of increased strength, more regular walking and exercise programs, lowered blood sugars for those with diabetes, decreased cholesterol levels, and a general overall sense of well being. Even the pastor benefited greatly as a CHIP participant, and could say that CHIP is unquestionably a great community outreach tool.

God truly blessed, and Peace River is already looking forward to the next Coronary Heart Improvement Project. Special thanks to Lorraine Wearden, Terri Proud, Taralynn Lyons and all the other helpers for their leadership, clear presentations, eager involvement

Pastor David Beaudoin

PONOKA

Youth Outreach for Heaven (YOH)

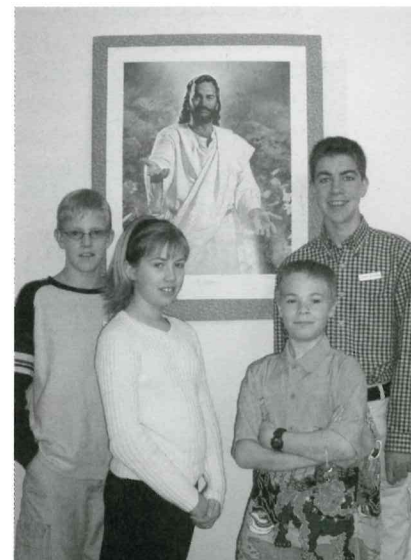
"It is with great pleasure that I serve the Ponoka church youth ministry as their pastor and friend," says Pastor Toby Wong. YOH all started with four core, young members of who decided to form a youth group with a mission to reach out to other young people for the Kingdom through social and spiritual interaction. They wanted to have worship, fellowship, and "root beer" floats! They meet at the Woodlands Adventist School gym once a week. They study together, play games and have floats!

The group began meeting with six in attendance but soon there were 18-20 kids, some from the community of Ponoka as well as church school students. It has not been difficult to see the depth of spiritually found in these young people as they mingle together each week.

The YOH group is on fire for the Lord and they have plans to do greater things in the future, such as teaching crafts, forming hobby groups, and handing out tracts in the town of Ponoka.

This is a form of friendship evangelism that is invaluable in any community. Why not start something in your community?

Pastor Toby Wong/Darleen Kirwan, Photo



POTTER'S PLACE COMPANY

Inspirational Testimony From a New Friend



Too often we think of a guest speaker as someone who comes from another place with expertise or at least some practice in public speaking. But Potter's Place has recently been blessed with a special speaker of a different kind. On October 30, as part of the Potter's Place Children's Activity Program (Potter's CAP) Wrap-up, Cindy Andrews, local mother of six, shared the story of how she came to know God and continues to grow in Him. Not many of us can honestly say that our testimony involves such exciting things as bringing down drug dealers or entering the witness protection program, but Cindy Andrews can. In spite of terrible abuse, the death of a child, and many other heart-wrenching trials, Cindy and her children—Potter's CAP regulars—remain cheerful and trusting in our gracious Father. Her talk was truly inspiring and all who heard it look forward to hearing more from Cindy!

Food for the Body and the Soul

In a continuing effort to get to know the members of their community in North Red Deer, Potter's Place members recently hosted a pancake breakfast for their friends and neighbours. On November 15, members went door-to-door with invitations for one and all to eat breakfast at the church on the coming Sabbath morning and were happy to see that several people

responded favourably to the call. While Randa Dahr, Lynda Heppner, and Crystal Holloway cooked up some mouth-watering eats, church members and community members alike visited and were refreshed with each other's company. Many new friends were made and a positive reputation continues for their church group.

Crystal Holloway, Communications Secretary

RED WILLOW COMMUNITY

November 6 was truly a day of celebration at Red Willow Seventh-day Adventist church in St. Albert. Ten individuals chose to commit, or recommit their lives to Christ - five through baptism and five through profession of faith. All present were touched by the personal testimonials given, and were poignantly reminded that it is never too early or too late to accept Jesus as your personal Saviour. To conclude a meaningful service, Pastor Dan Rochford presented a challenge to the congregation to guard these individuals as a shepherd would tend to his flock - always gently guiding them with love and acceptance.

Pastor Dan Rochford



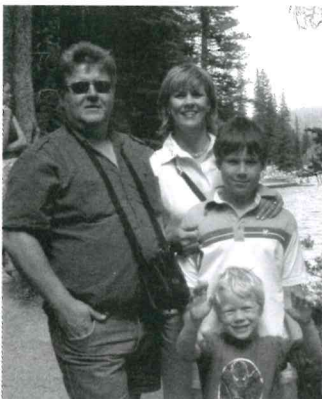
Justin Boller, Laureen Falk, Nova Gould, Ken Oates, Carrie Oliva, Carlo Oliva, Carmelle Positos, Todd Walters, Kyle Lewis

RED DEER

Red Deer church rejoiced when Johan and Annetjie Kritzinger, and their son, Japie, recommitted their lives to Christ, and were baptised at Red Deer SDA Church on May 15.

The Kritzingers are from South Africa. Johan is an

Emergency specialist working at Red Hospital. Annetjie is a nurse. Japie is in school and Marius is in kindergarten. They realized the Bible truth through watching Dr. Walter Veith's DVD series given to them by another SA doctor who lives in Two Hills. They are on fire for the Lord and enthusiastically share God's truth wherever they can.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

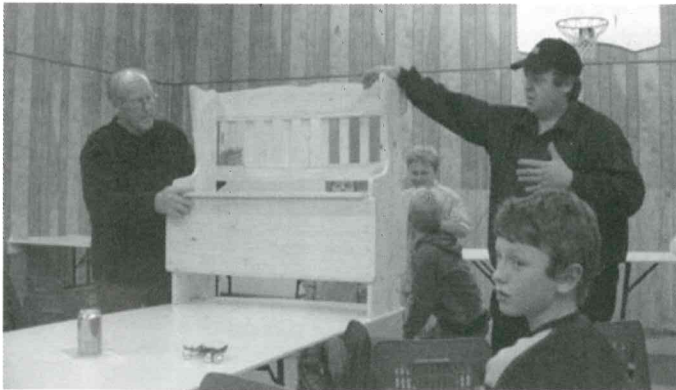
Al Cherny had been an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in various places in the past but due to discouraging problems in his life he had drifted away from Christ and the church. Some years ago he began attending the Rocky Mountain House church occasionally and as time passed by, his attendance became more frequent and regular. Just before the end of the evangelistic series with Pastor Les Saylor, Al decided to be baptized and rejoin the Church he had always regretted he had left.

Al Cherny baptized by Lay Pastor, Don Johnson



SEDGEWICK

On November 21, 2004, the Sedgewick church held a fundraiser supper and auction, raising \$2,512.35 for the youth mission trip scheduled for spring break, 2005. Nineteen youth and eight adults, mainly from the Sedgewick and Camrose



Auctioning a bench to the highest bidder!

churches are planning to go to help rebuild the Hogar Infantil Refugio orphanage at Villa Aurora, Sonora, Mexico. The orphanage, which is ADRA recognized and supported, has to relocate. The group also plans to conduct a Vacation Bible School program while there.

The mission group, under the enthusiastic leadership of Ruth Burke, has been fundraising since the spring of 2004 with a Mother's Day breakfast, slave auction, yard sale, car wash, and fall festival. They also baked and sold about 200 pies, as well as sold other items at farmer's markets. Plans call for a skate-a-thon, talent show, and benefit concert.

*Glen Carley, Communications Secretary
Dale Trefz, Photo*

SYLVAN LAKE

The 17th Annual Inter-Church Sacred Christmas Concert entitled "Comfort and Joy" was held on November 28, 2004 and hosted by the Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church was filled to more than capacity for both the afternoon and evening program. Since the inception of the annual concert in the Sylvan Lake community, more than half of the concerts have been held in the Seventh-day Adventist church. It is evident that the community appreciates the acoustics, fine décor and warmth of the church. Each year, several Sylvan Lake church members sing in the Sacred Massed Choir and there were many other church members who help organize, set up the PA system, and collect the offerings. The offerings collected this year were for the Sylvan Lake Extended Care Society and to provide "Bibles for Grads."



Janet Griffith, Photo

VEGREVILLE

The members of the Vegreville Church rallied around in full force to assist Jeannie Windels as she coordinated the second annual Christmas Bureau Benefit Concert that was held on November 28, 2004 with approximately 150 in attendance.



Fiddlin' Kiddlins preparing to play their violins under the direction of their teacher Heather Soldan

The Fiddlin' Kiddlins and the United Church Handbell Choir presented the featured music. Seventh-day Adventist members of the area churches and members of the community presented musical selections and a children's story interspersed with narration which included a Christmas message ending with an invitation to give the gift of our hearts to Jesus.

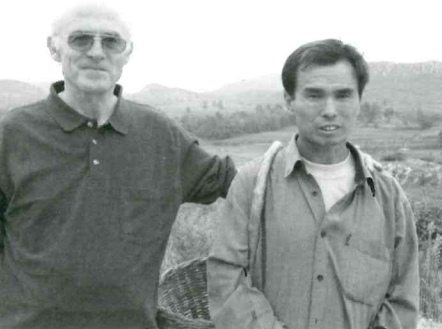
The book *Desire of Ages* was given to adult participants; *Passion of Love* to the younger participants and the youngest participants received Bible story coloring books.

The collection for the Christmas Bureau was \$644.83 in cash plus new clothes, toys and food. After the program everyone enjoyed refreshments of herb teas and cool juices.

*Sandra Elkow, Communications Secretary
Jeannie Windels, Photo*

Deaf Ministry Research Trip To China

In September, Pastor Blake, Director of the *Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department*, made a 17-day trip to China. The purpose was to research the possibilities for



Pastor Blake out in the Chinese countryside with the second Adventist deaf person he found in China. This man only knew home signs, and had never been to school. Yet, he was bright and a real help



The Deaf school in ShijiaZhuang where we are hoping that American Sign Language can be taught by an Adventist American Professional

beginning a formal ministry to the 20-50 million Deaf in China.

Blake found and visited two baptized SDA Deaf. One was a young lady, Jane, in Hong Kong who was attending a church there with her interpreter, Elaine Lee, a SDA English language teacher in one of our SDA schools in Hong Kong. The other was a deaf man out in a farm village about a six-hour drive southwest of Beijing. A third person was a deaf mother who has never been baptized though was part of an Adventist family.

Dr. Arthur Schwarz, formerly of the Edmonton Central Church, and now Director of ADRA China, had invited Pastor Blake to make a presentation on Sept. 13 to the ADRA China Board. This presentation was the first section of a two-part

presentation appealing for help in the setting of up a Center for Deaf in Shenzhen, a new territory of China right next to Hong Kong. For several months, Blake had been in contact with an American deaf lady teaching in China, Jennifer McLean. Jennifer gave the other section of the joint 70-minute presentation. However, ADRA felt that though the project was a very good one, they could not take it on themselves, but were willing to help Ms. McLean find funds.

Pastor Blake also made a trip to ShijiaZhuang, a city of 2.6 million about four hours southwest of Beijing. Blake had been invited to do research in this area by Dr. Una Underwood and her husband Jim. Blake stayed at their apartment while visiting the local deaf school and researching possibilities for Deaf Ministry.

While staying with Jim, Blake learned of a deaf man out in the farm village, and they hired a van and drove out to find the

deaf man. It was a very interesting trip for 60-70% of the Chinese still live in the little farm villages. In this village, each of the 500 inhabitants live with their families in little walled compounds - about the size of a small city lot here. Within that compound they had their home, some facilities for a few animals, area to work and live, etc. Each family had one huge bed and it appeared that everyone slept on the same bed. The bed could be warmed in the winter with a small fire underneath or with the smoke from a huge cooking 'wok' outside, but this appeared to be the only source of heat in the winter.

Both the President of the China Union, Elder Wu, and Secretary, John Ash III, met with Pastor Blake and discussed ideas for follow-up in Deaf Ministry. Blake also had time to work with Debbie Schwarz on several of her 'Debbie and Friends' conversational English language Adventist World Radio programs. They discussed many aspects in the area of Deaf Awareness. This program is heard around the world on AWR.

Plans call for further research in finding more Adventist deaf in China, helping Jane and Elaine expand their outreach in Hong Kong, and possibly working with a professional 'interpreter' from Spokane, WA to do pioneer work in ShijiaZhuang. This would involve teaching American Sign Language and working in conjunction with Jim and Dr. Una's English Language school business. This 'pioneer' would have to learn Chinese sign language as she taught American Sign Language, befriend the students, and later work to befriend some of the 30,000 Deaf in the region.

Blake found the culture of China extremely different than that in North America. It is much more group orientated, with much less emphasis on the private individual. There is a strong undercurrent of being sure one 'saves face' in business or personal relationships. And, there is a profound regard for doing business through the building and maintaining of 'relationships'.

Religious liberty is guaranteed for the individual, but the government has many rules guiding in the ability to share one's faith, or in meeting in religious groups. He found that the SDA church in China varies greatly from one area to another - partly as the result of the 'Three Self' government movement.

Pastor Blake feels the trip was very worthwhile, and is very appreciative of the missionary spirit of the Alberta Conference Administration Committee who authorized his expenses from his regular travel budget!



Elaine Lee (left) a teacher in one of our SDA schools in Hong Kong, interpreter for the first deaf person Blake found in China, Jane (right)

EDMONTON CENTRAL

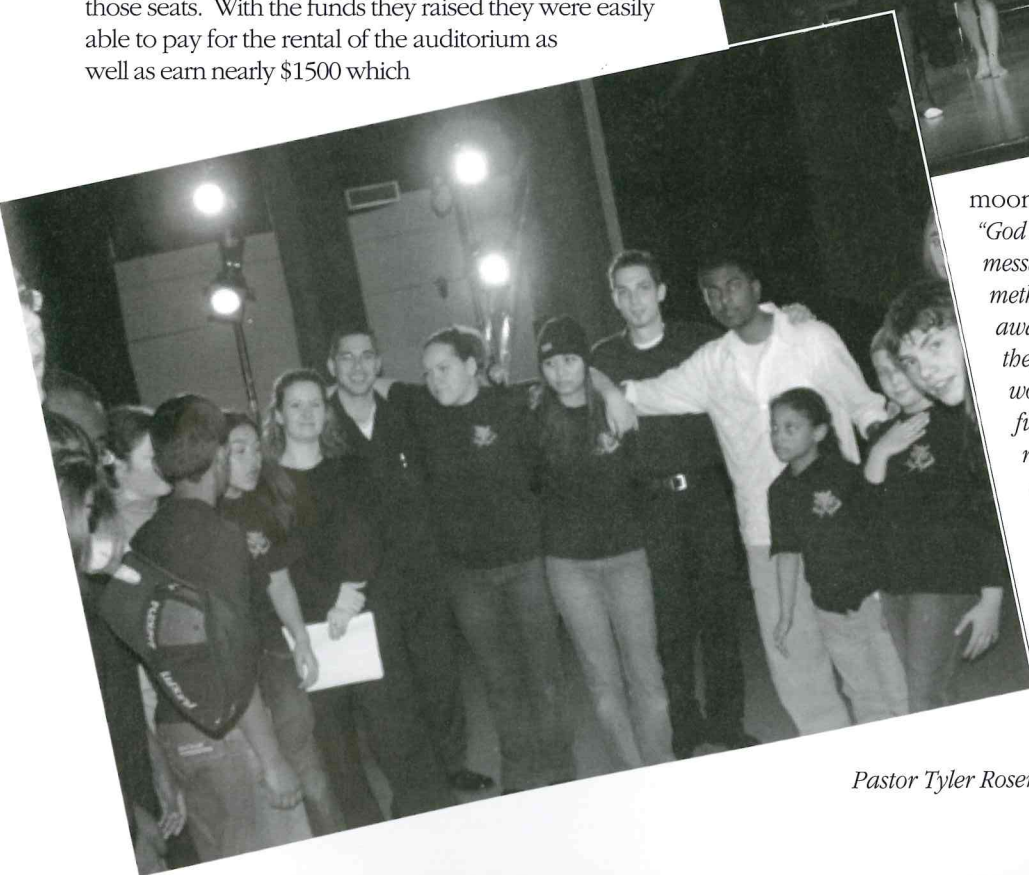
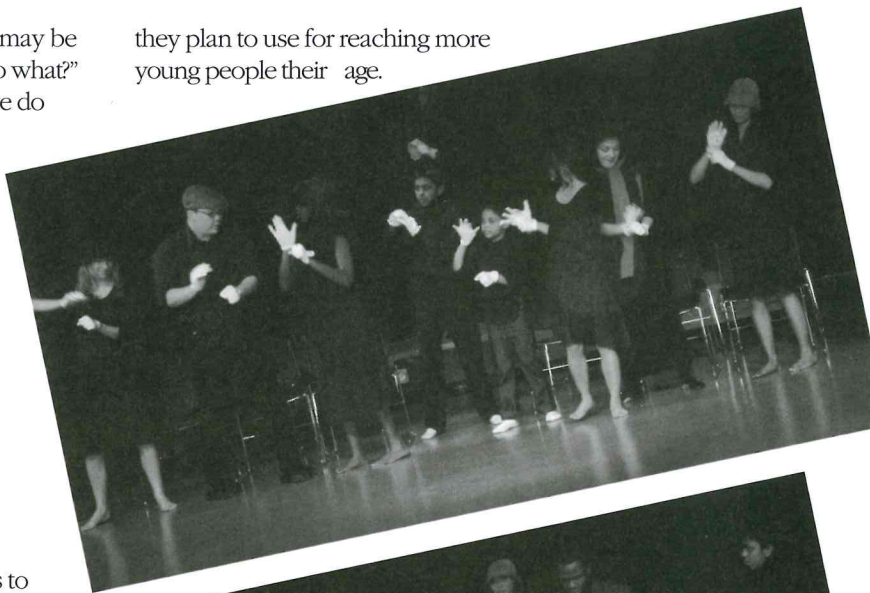
Edmonton Youth Concert: "You Know How We Do ..."

Like me, after reading the title of this concert you may be asking the same question, "you know how we do what?" The answer to our question is "you know how we do church." It may not be a proper English sentence as we know, but it is a statement that young people in Edmonton understand. With the various 'cool' clichés, and 'sweet' slang that have rapidly become part of the next generation's dialect, *'you know how we do...church'* is a positive statement that the youth of Edmonton Central used to share with their non-Adventist friends that they enjoy participating in church and sharing their knowledge about God.

On this particular night the youth, led out by Rai Sheik, organized a variety of presentations including solos, instrumentals, sign language choirs, and choreography to share a message that God is all about love. Practicing every week for four months, with full support from their church, they took it upon themselves to rent an auditorium in the downtown Public Library.

They invited their families, neighbors, and most importantly their friends from school to attend the concert in hopes that some may become interested in what church is really about...a reviving relationship with Jesus. Out of the 250 seats in the auditorium the youth were able to sell enough tickets to fill over 200 of those seats. With the funds they raised they were easily able to pay for the rental of the auditorium as well as earn nearly \$1500 which

they plan to use for reaching more young people their age.



Once upon a time, not many moons ago a divinely gifted author wrote "God selects His messengers, and gives them His message; and He says, "Forbid them not." New methods must be introduced. God's people must awaken to the necessity of the time in which they are living..." With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!" [Reflecting Christ p242; Gospel Workers p66] Brothers and sisters of Alberta, God is fulfilling this promise in our Conference today, even as you read these words. For God has promised His people that, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength...that You may silence the enemy..." (Psalms 8:2)

Pastor Tyler Rosengren, Associate Pastor, Edmonton Central

Weddings/Obituaries

WEDDINGS

Jason and Christina Zavers publicly announced and renewed their vows in a ceremony of marriage October 24, 2004 at Sedgewick, AB and are making their home in Edmonton. Jason is the son of Bert Zavers and Alaire Ball-Zavers and Christina is the daughter of Blair and Victoria Durie.

OBITUARIES

Alexander E. Befus Born September 3, 1907 in Calgary. Died October 13, 2004 in Killam. Surviving: Spouse Ruby Befus; son Elwyn (Maddie) Befus, Armstrong, BC; daughters Virginia (Phillip) Meyer, Olympia, WA, Georgia (LeRoy) Hirschhorn, Sedgewick, Constance (Dennis) Zbaraschuk, Lynwood, WA; 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He served as an elder for many years and as an honorary elder the last number of years.

Conrad A. Hackenberg Born March 21, 1933 in Germany. Died October 11, 2004 in Smoky Lake. Surviving: Spouse Ester Hackenberg; son Marko Hackenberg, Grande Cache; daughter Sonja Rebsomen, Bellis, AB; four grandchildren.

Audrey McCarty Born July 27, 1920 in Mundare. Died September 27, 2004. Surviving: Spouse Melvin McCarty; son Leonard (Linda) McCarty, McBride, BC, daughters Eunice Wentz, McBride, BC; Elsie (Glen) Stanley, McBride, BC; Marj (Norman) Rooke, Duncan, BC; Esther (Les) Sayler, Ponoka, AB; sister Joyce (Adolph) Tilstra; 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Audrey found joy in collecting for ADRA, handing out Bible School enrollment cards and *Happiness Digests*, and doing community services work for her church.

Tripina Najaaro Born December 29, 1936. Died September 9, 2004 in Edmonton. Surviving: One brother Serjio Najaaro; one sister Rosalia Najaaro.

Violet Nichols Born June 3, 1911 in Wilke, SK. Died May 19, 2004 in Red Deer. Predeceased: Spouse Ira Nichols. Surviving: Son Jon (Denise) Nichols; daughters Ethel (Allan) Williamson; Dolly (Carl) McMillan; Kit (Cliff) Sawchuk; sister Ivy Hanky, Fort Saskatchewan; 28 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren. Violet was active in the Dorcas society for many years.

Anne Thir Born September 22, 1917 in Hamlin. Died October 2, 2004 in Edmonton. Predeceased: Spouse William. Surviving: Sons Don (Loretta) Thir, Allan (Millie) Thir, David (Kathy) Thir, and Elmer Thir; daughters Marie (Roy) Barrow, Shirley (Nestor) Knysh, and Pauline (Lawrence) Lakusta; 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren.

*Be Generous
this Holiday Season and
help someone in need.*

**Give ADRA
Annual Appeal
Sharing Certificates**

Visit www.adra.ca or call
1-888-274-2372 for details

Dateline

Dec 23 - Jan 3	Office closed
January 5	Staff Meeting & ADCOM
16-20	Toronto Pace-setters in Evangelism Training
23-25	Camp staff interviews at CUC
26	ADCOM
February 2	Staff Meeting & ADCOM
4-6	CUC / PAA Board
18-20	Single's Retreat – Foothills Camp
18-20	Prayer Retreat – Red Deer
20 (tentative date)	NW Region Town Hall, Grande Prairie, 10am
21	Family Day (office closed)
25-27	Pathfinder Retreat – Foothills Camp
26	Edmonton Region Town Hall, (tentative date) Southside, 6pm
27 (tentative date)	NE Region Town Hall, Beauvallon 10am
March 2	Staff / VMC Meeting & ADCOM
4-6	Men's Convention – Foothills Camp
10-13	CUC College Days
11-13	Youth Rally – CUC
11-13	Women's Retreat – Black Knight Inn Red Deer
20	Executive Committee – Red Deer
28	Easter Monday (office closed)