

Alberta Conference Adventist News

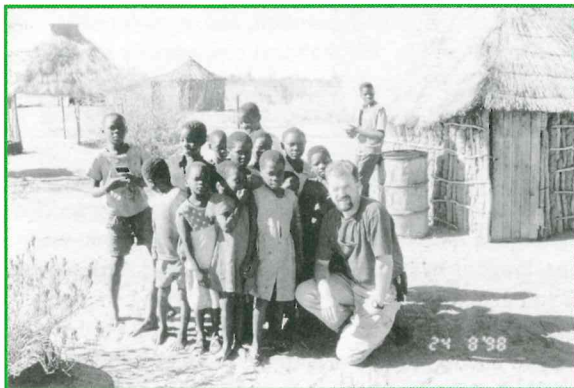
A window of information for Seventh-day Adventists in Alberta

Adventure Into the Endless Kalahari Desert

Pastor Sebastian Tirtirau

1995... The year I fell in love with the great Bushman tribe... I came from Romania to continue my studies at Helderberg College, South Africa after reading Dr. Livingstone's autobiography. I was a 25-year old man and

with several tribes in South Africa, I found out about the remote and primitive Bushman people or San of the Kalahari Desert. That was the time I fell in love with them and I decided to go and become a missionary among them.



Sebastian with the children from Tsumkwe

what was coming into my life would keep me focused on missions for the rest of my life.

I have been adopted by Africa as one of its own. I have never felt better, although my family and I struggled with poverty and sacrifice during the years we spent in Africa. I was working for very little money, but we always had what we needed. God was proving Himself every day. The day I decided to sell everything in Romania and go to Africa was a blessed day in my life and I thank God for that.

While studying Theology at Helderberg College, I wanted to work with native people to know them better and to become their friend. However, in the process of working

In 1996 I was accepted by the Southern Africa Union to go to a place called Bushmanland, Namibia and start a work among the !Kung people of the Bushmen. A friend of mine and I left Cape Town in November 1996 and went by bus to Namibia and from the town of Grootfontein in the back of a truck to Tsumkwe, the main village of the Bushmanland. We spent six weeks there visiting many villages, finding translators, talking to people about Christ, doing many things we never thought

we would do. After all we were interacting with people who have very little sense of time, no sense of property, and very different in their lifestyle from any other humans, much more from Adventists.

However, at the end of the six week campaign, 32 souls were baptized, the first Bushmen to form a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Namibia.

Since then, I have made a covenant with those people that I would support them and build that mission up in the faith of God. We had no means in the beginning and even now every year we rely totally upon God in providing for His mission in the newly found Bushman tribe.

Continued on page 3



**Mature Christian Faith
can be best developed
through meaningful
service projects.**

Valuegenesis Finding

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From the President

Pressing On



We've all heard the story of the graduation address given by Sir Winston Churchill which consisted of but three words repeated three times: "Never give up, never give up, never give up!" It reflects the spirit often revealed in God's Word of those who are faithful to Him. As he neared the end of his life the apostle Paul was able to write, "...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."¹

I recently read the following story of a remarkable man:

Clarence Jordan was a man of unusual abilities and commitment. He had two PhDs, one in agriculture and one in Greek and Hebrew. So gifted was he, he could have chosen to do anything he wanted. He chose to serve the poor. In the 1940s, he founded a farm in Americus, Georgia, and called it Koinonia Farm. It was a community for poor whites and poor blacks. As you might guess, such an idea did not go over well in the Deep South of the '40s.

Ironically, much of the resistance came from good church people who followed the laws of segregation as much as the other folk in town. The town people tried everything to stop Clarence. They tried boycotting him and slashing workers' tires when they came to town. Over and over, for fourteen years, they tried to stop him.

Finally, in 1954, the Ku Klux Klan had enough of Clarence Jordan, so they decided to get rid of him once and for all. They came one night with guns and torches and set fire to every building on Koinonia Farm but Clarence's home, which they riddled with bullets. And they chased off all the families except one black family which refused to leave. Clarence recognized the voices of many of the Klansmen, and, as you might guess, some of them were church people. Another was the local newspaper's reporter. The next day, the reporter came out to see what remained of the farm. The rubble still smoldered and the land was scorched, but he found Clarence in the field, hoeing and planting.

"I heard the awful news," he called to Clarence, "and I came out to do a story on the tragedy of your farm closing." Clarence just kept on hoeing and planting. The reporter kept prodding, kept poking, trying to get a rise from this quietly determined man who seemed to be planting instead of packing his bags. So, finally, the reporter said in a haughty voice, "Well, Dr. Jordan, you got two of them PhDs and you've put fourteen years into this farm, and there's nothing left of it at all. Just how successful do you think you've been?" Clarence stopped hoeing, turned toward the reporter with his penetrating blue eyes, and said quietly but firmly, "About as successful as the cross. Sir, I don't think you understand us. What we are about is not success but faithfulness. We're staying. Good day."

Beginning that day, Clarence and his companions rebuilt Koinonia and the farm is going strong today.²

When Jeanie and I accepted your invitation to come to Alberta just four years ago we dared to dream that perhaps the Lord would return before we would leave this conference. I admit that I'm disappointed that that has not happened. But I am not disillusioned! With Paul I can say to myself and to you, "... *The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here...*"³

As we leave I would urge you to "keep on keeping on!" God is calling all of us to be faithful. If there is any "success" as a result of our faithfulness that "success" belongs to Him! But if we are faithful, we will meet again as we sit down together at His banquet table. I want to meet you there! Until then we leave a part of our heart in Alberta. You have been God's gift to us. As we move on you will continue to be in our prayers and thoughts. Be faithful, my friends, and keep pressing on! We'll meet you "over there."■

1. Philippians 3:12-14 NIV
2. Holy Sweat, Tim Hansel, 1987, Word Books Publisher, Page 188 - 189
3. Romans 13:11 & 12 NIV

Would You Like to be Involved in THE MOST CHALLENGING MINISTRY IN THE WORLD?

MINISTRY WITH THE DEAF

What Makes This Ministry the Greatest Challenge?

What happens when one can not hear....

Music: you can't hear the melody or words of church music

Sermons: you can't hear any sermon ever preached in the Alberta Conference

TV/Radio: you can't hear our Canadian "It is Written" or the Voice of Prophecy

Encouragement: you can't hear the encouraging words of the Pathfinder leader when you did a good job

Fellowship: you can not hear the people who would like to talk to you at the church Fellowship Meal

Counsel: the counsel you need from your pastor

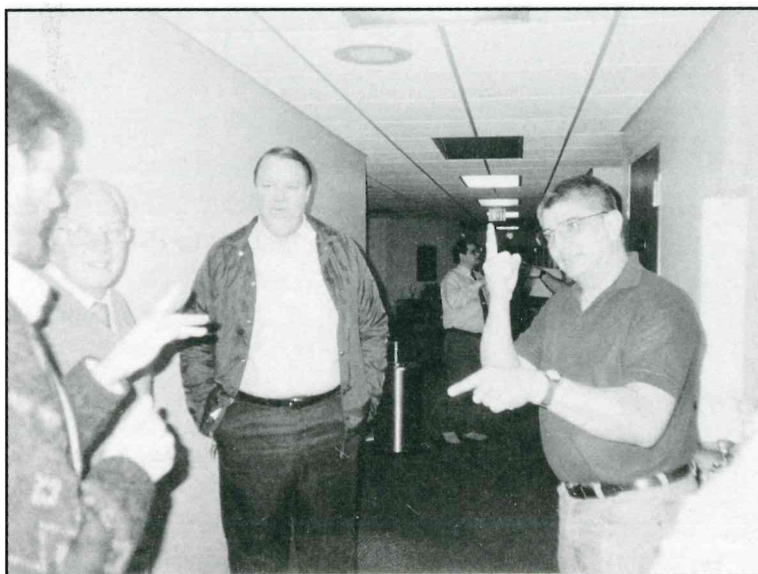
Sabbath School: anyone talking in Sabbath School

Church Business: can't hear anyone talking in the business or board meetings of the church

Camp Meeting: can't hear any sermon preached at camp meeting, or the wonderful musical specials

Prayers: can't hear any prayers offered in church

Friends: friends who would just love to talk with you, but you can't hear them (and they can't understand you.)



Deaf Ministry Leaders in North America in Vigorous Discussion

Not Hearing Means....

It's Tough to Read: It is very difficult to learn to read when you cannot 'hear' the words. The average Deaf person reads on about a grade 4-5 level. The KJV is grade 12 level, and the NKJV grade 9. Much SDA written material is difficult or impossible to read.

It's Very Hard to Socialize: if most people cannot talk with you at church or at a social, it's

lonely. People can write, but very few will ever stop long enough to write.

You Need Interpreting: There are very few SDA interpreters. Public interpreting is \$25-\$40 an hour

It's Harder to Get Work & the Income is usually lower: 80-90% of Canada's Deaf are unemployed or under-employed. It's harder to manage, or send your children to SDA schools. It's extra hard to find work!

It's Difficult to Really Fit Into a Church: When you can't hear, and can't be understood, except through signing or writing — it's hard to build relationships!

The SDA Media Don't Work for You- a large percent of SDA media/TV/radio are useless to Deaf

Communication is the backbone of church life....and when you are Deaf, everywhere the church doors of communication are either closed or so very difficult to go through...

EXCEPT — when a church has prepared for Ministry With the Deaf !

THE ALBERTA CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY DEPARTMENT

Can help you or your church reach out

TO THE DEAF.....

- in your church
- or your community

WE CAN HELP WITH



Alberta Conference Deaf Advisory Committee meeting around the table and long distance via a speaker-phone

- * A Deaf Awareness Seminar for Your Church
- * Information on How to Learn Sign Language: Sign Language Classes, Signing Books, CD-ROM's
- * Ideas on How to Set Up a Deaf Ministry in Your Church
- * How to borrow/purchase the new *Jordan Evangelistic Series in Sign Language*, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" on Video to use with deaf neighbors or friends
- * Videos for Loan: The Bible in Sign Language, The book of Luke dramatized with open captions, the closed captioned version of Net '96, tapes on Deaf Culture, etc.
- * Information about Deaf Ministry across Canada from our Canadian Newsletter

HOW TO RELATE AND WORK WITH DEAF PEOPLE

DO

- * Do learn some Finger Spelling & Sign Language
- * Do give all your attention to the Deaf person
- * Do speak slowly and clearly with a regular tone of voice
- * If a hearing person joins in, do include the Deaf person.
- * When with Hearing, do try to let the Deaf person know what the others are saying
- * Do remember, they are like you, except their language is "Sign Language". The Deaf are your equals. Show respect and don't talk "down" to them.
- * Do get a good book or video about the Deaf, and carefully study into their culture. Understanding their world will bring greater confidence and ease.

DON'T

- * Don't ever refer to the Deaf as 'Deaf & Dumb'. This is now offensive to the Deaf.
- * Do not turn away when talking to a Deaf person
- * Don't cover your mouth or face when talking with the Deaf. They need to see your mouth and facial expressions.
- * Do not let your attention be diverted away to a hearing person and leave the Deaf person out.
- * Don't be afraid to write back and forth. The Deaf often expect to have to write.
- * Don't be discouraged if you have a hard time mastering Sign Language. Ask the Deaf person to sign slowly.
- * Don't give up communicating with the deaf - they need you!

WHAT IS THE DEAF MINISTRY DEPARTMENT DOING FOR THE DEAF?



*A new Signed Evangelistic Series for the Deaf
by Pastor Jeff Jordan [deaf] of Atlanta, Georgia*

EVANGELISM

- * **VIDEOS:** The new Signed series of 'live' videos is the *first* Adventist semi-professional evangelistic series ever recorded for sale—by a deaf pastor. It was recorded during an evangelistic series in the Fall of 1999 near Atlanta, GA, by deaf church-planter, Jeff Jordan. Pastor Jordan is the first deaf M.Min. graduate of Andrew's University Seminary. There are 20 lectures recorded on 10 video tapes. High video quality was maintained by using digital technology from camera through to edited masters.
 - **Closed Captioned Net96, Net98 & Net99:** The closed captioned versions of Net96, Net98 & Net99 are available for loan. These are useful for Deaf and/or *Hard of Hearing* as a knowledge of Sign Language is not needed. The spoken words are written across the bottom of the screen so you can read them.
 - **Keeper's of the Flame:** the excellent eight program series of "*Keeper's of the Flame*" is an acted out and 'on location' story of the Great Controversy. It has 'open captions' and is available on loan.
- * **EASY ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS:** Steps to Christ and the Story of Redemption are now available in Easy English. Also a special edition of Amazing Facts. Several other sets of Easy English tracts are now in preparation
- * **EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS:** We help Organize Interpreting or Captioned Satellite Sermons for Evangelistic Meetings in Edmonton, Lacombe, and Calgary.
- * **INTERNET:**
 - **Canadian Deaf Ministries:** www.tagnet.org/deafministry - this is one of the largest Protestant Resource Center/Evangelistic sites on the Internet featuring materials on Health, Family Life, Deaf Awareness and Bible Study. It also leads you to: a vast wealth of materials available in the Deaf World on Deaf Culture, Sign Language, and many organizations for the Deaf around the world.
 - **Earth: Theater of God's Universe:** www.tagnet.org/theater—this is the first Adventist Internet portrayal of the complete gospel story—using the Great Controversy theme and illustrated with pictures. It is written in Easy English.
 - **Discovery Bible Guides Canada:** www.bibleschools.com/canada—Here Deaf may take the Discovery Bible lessons and have each lesson personally corrected either by a deaf person, or one closely acquainted with the Deaf World.

HINTS:

- * A Deaf person is capable of taking care of himself. He is not crippled — he just cannot hear.
- * Never use the term 'deaf-mute'. The Deaf are not mute.
- * Many Deaf have some speech, but may not feel comfortable talking in public.
- * At socials, plan activities that Deaf can join in with comfort and pleasure.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Missionary work for the Deaf being sponsored in India through funds raised in Canada.

MISSIONARY AND EDUCATIONAL WORK FOR DEAF IN INDIA:

The Alberta Conference Deaf Advisory Committee voted to adopt the 19 million Deaf in India as their *special mission field*. Combining with funds raised across Canada, Canadians are now sponsoring 50% of the salary of the first missionary to the Deaf in India. Funds are now guaranteed for a 50% sponsorship of a second full time worker for the Deaf in India. We are also encouraging individual sponsorship of Deaf children at the SDA mission school for the Deaf in Kamagere, a few hours drive SW of Bangalore, India.

DEAF ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

To help meet this need, the Dept. has started a "*Deaf Advisory Committee*" made up of seven members: Les & Sandy Oslund, Judith Whitford, Kathleen Walls, Chris Johnson and Chair, John Blake. [Interpreter: Alberta Blake] Except for the 'chair', each member is either Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Voted projects have included the Jordan Evangelistic Video Project and adopting the Deaf of 'India' as a special mission field.

AN UNUSUAL CHALLENGE:

Someone may ask the question. **Where are the Deaf in the SDA church?** There are many older people who have become Deaf, but not many younger who are physically AND culturally 'Deaf'. Why? Well, it's *like the chicken and the egg*. Which comes first? If you don't have a Signed program for the Deaf, they will rarely ever come to your church. If a church does not see any Deaf coming, they will

not usually do anything to provide Signing for Deaf. **Solution:** a difficult one — prepare well to minister to Deaf, then go after them in the highways and the hedges, as Jesus told us to do. Who is willing to accept this challenge? If God works on your heart, please let us know. It is a huge challenge and only God can give you what is required to meet this kind of challenge!

DEAF AWARENESS AND SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING:

Deaf Awareness displays/programs are being held around Alberta to help members understand the unique challenge of working with the Deaf. There are an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 severely or profoundly Deaf in Alberta — about 300,000 across Canada — 50 million around the world.

The Alberta Conference **Deaf Ministry Department**

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& *The Alberta Conference Deaf Advisory Committee*
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68506 - 7276
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402-477-4538 (Tty)
402-488-8910 (Fax)
Email: 74531@compuserve.com
A-DDZ Web Site - www.deafadventist.org

Sylvan Lake Pathfinders to go on Mission Trip to Fiji

The Sylvan Lake Pathfinder Club will be going on a mission trip to Fiji this July. They will be building a cabin for a brand new youth camp on Kioa Island. This will then be donated to the camp from the club members.

A number of years ago, Steve Arrington who was the chief diver for Jacques Cousteau was on a dive mission in Fiji. While there, Arrington came upon a Christian boarding school that was going to be shut down because they had run out of operating funds. He was impressed by the devotion of the people to their school and offered to return to the United States and raise funds to keep the school open. Thanks to his fund-raising efforts, the school is fully operational and has productive gardens that supply fruits and vegetables to markets in Fiji.

While diving with the Cousteau Society, Arrington and Jean-Michele Cousteau, Jacques's son, dreamed of opening a youth camp to teach scuba diving to the physically challenged.

Pathfinder Leader, Colins Falesau, was excited to meet Arrington last summer at the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, as he had been a student at the school years earlier. One of the difficulties in starting the youth camp, Arrington said, was acquiring beach property. Falesau mentioned that he had 40

acres of beach property right across the bay from the school that he had inherited. The property could not be sold, but it could be leased. Falesau had always dreamed of being able to develop this land for friends and visitors. He went back to Fiji in November to present this proposal to the Island council and after a lot of discussion, they agreed to allow this non-profit inter-denominational camp to be built on their Island.

In July, the Sylvan Lake Pathfinders will be going to Fiji to the ground breaking ceremony and to build a cabin. They are all very excited to be a part of this mission project.■

For more information, visit: www.dreammachinefoundation.com



Site of the future camp in Fiji

Adventures in the Kalahari/Continued from page 1

In 1998 I went again, this time from Montana where I was the pastor of Hardin and Custer District. This time we built them a church; we took blankets, clothes and toys to help as well as medical treatments. We fixed water pumps, we taught the people how to count, how to wash their faces, and again we talked about Jesus. 1998 was special to me as the Bushman tribe accepted me as one of their own, by proclaiming me part of the Bushman tribe.

In October 1999 I accepted a call to Calgary Central to be the Associate and Youth Pastor. And here God continued to bless this new mission this time in a much greater way. I have never realized how much Canadians are into mission work until I got here. In planning a new expedition this summer to the Kalahari Desert, Southern Africa, I have found that many people from Central would be excited to come with me to minister to those remote tribes of Africa. Thus, this summer, from July 2nd to August 2nd I will leave Canada with a group of 35 people from my church, mainly youth and young adults, to continue what was started in 1996.

This year we plan to buy 1000 blankets for many villages as the temperature in the winter drops from about 32_C during the day to 12_C during the night. We have a group of five medical personnel, construction people to build a mission station for our missionaries, preaching teams, etc. It is just amazing to me how fantastic God works to prosper His mission work for the completion of it as soon as possible.

For those of you interested in knowing more information about this exciting mission, please check us out on our website at: www.tagnet.org/shadowofafrica

I would like to praise God for His continued blessing upon His work and for giving us the privilege to be a part of it. Truly we live in the end as He is raising a young generation to go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to the people of all languages and of all colors.■

We see six billion people here on planet Earth, who all have, to some extent, holes in their souls ... for many years our churches have been strong on doctrine, which is essential, and strong on evangelism, which is also essential, but weak on obeying and implementing fellowship where the "one another" principles of the New Testament are practised—loving one another, exhorting one another ... comforting one another ... Every church needs this third leg because that's where growth really takes place and where scriptural truth can really be applied.

Richard & Paul Meier, Filling the Holes in Our Souls

Dateline

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| April 9-12 | Pastoral Intern's Retreat, Foothills Camp |
| April 21-23 | CUC Graduation |
| May 4-7 | Native Ministries Camp Meeting |
| May 19-21 | PAA Graduation |
| June 9-11 | Innisfree Camp Meeting |
| June 23-25 | SDACC Pastor's Meeting, Toronto |
| June 25-29 | World Ministers Council, Toronto |
| June 29-July 8 | General Conference, Toronto |
| June 29-July 8 | Impact Toronto 2000 |
| Aug. 8-12 | Camp Meeting |

Administrative Changes

Grant Misseghers

Change is a natural part of Conference life. Pastoral and even administrative changes make up the fabric of the work in Alberta. The Alberta Conference is currently in a state of transition as we find ourselves in the unique position of searching for both a president and treasurer.

President Dale Kongorski recently announced that he had accepted a call to pastor in the Washington Conference. "For the past twenty-one years I have been in [conference administrative work]," said Kongorski. "It's time for me to revisit the work of pastoral ministry and I look forward to that." Four of those years of administrative work have been here in Alberta. Kongorski was instrumental in implementing a new policy governance, something he has been very passionate about from start to finish. In a recent conversation with the office staff, he once again articulated how he

appreciated policy governance in the Alberta Conference. Kongorski will be leaving after March 31.

In late 1999, Treasurer Keith Heinrich accepted a call to serve as Treasurer of the Arizona Conference. He continued to serve here in Alberta until mid-February, often dividing his week between the two conferences. Heinrich has served the Alberta Conference for eight years and in addition to the capable handling of his financial responsibilities, he is appreciated for his personable nature.

The Nominating Committee has already begun its work of finding replacements. First priority will be given to finding a new president. The Nominating Committee is expected to recommend a name to the Executive Committee on April 16.

The prayers of the conference and staff go with both Dale and Keith as they take on their new responsibilities. ■

Giraffe University Developing Youth Leadership

Grant Misseghers

Over 160 teens, college students, and youth leaders from across Alberta packed the lodge and cabins at Foothills Camp February 4 - 6 to learn youth leadership and ministry skills from experts from across the North American Division.

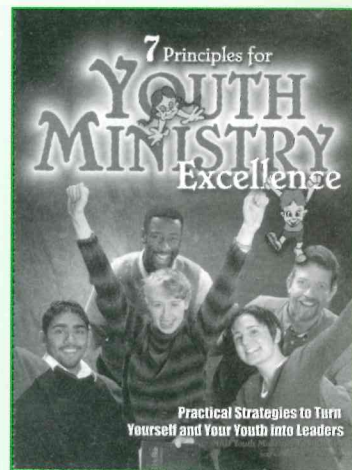
Evangelism; and Wally Lyder, veteran Youth Leader and Seminary student. Other presenters included Ruthie Jacobson, Prayer Ministries Director for the North American Division, who was unable to make it due to a flight cancellation, but still spoke to the group by phone on Friday evening. Also featured was a phone presentation from José Rojas; Youth Director for the North American Division.

The weekend focused on "The Seven Principles for Youth Ministry Excellence" but also had a strong worship and prayer element. Students frequently practiced D.E.A.P. – an acronym for Drop Everything And Pray. The weekend culminated in a consecration service as each of the students

were commissioned to make a difference in their world for Christ.

Please Note: If you attended the Giraffe University weekend, but did not receive your workbook, or if you did not attend but are interested in purchasing a copy of the book, "Seven Principles for Youth Ministry Excellence," the Alberta Conference Youth Department has just received

additional copies. Please call or e-mail to request your copy.
(403) 342-5044, ext 215
gkm@albertasda.org ■



Worship & prayer at Giraffe University



Seminar leaders included Roger Wade, pastor for Youth Ministries at the Ephesus SDA Church in New York and Director of the Black Resource Center; Robert Edwards, pastor for Youth Ministries at the Kansas Avenue SDA Church in California; Randal Wisbey, President of CUC and founder of the Center for Youth Evangelism in Berrien Springs, Michigan; Philip Baptiste, Director of Giraffe University at the Center for Youth



Edmonton Central

On Sabbath, September 18, 1999, Rosel Savoury was baptized by Pastor Warren Kay and welcomed into the fellowship of the Edmonton Central Church. Someone left a Bible Study card in her mail box; she responded and completed the course but wanted to know more. She contacted Pastor Kay for studies and started attending church. Her testimony is that there is no other way to go but to the Cross.



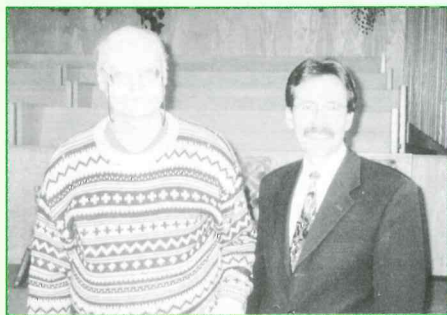
Pastor Warren Kay, Rosel Savoury



Linda Yurkowski, Pastor Warren Kay



Pastor Carolyn Macomber, Kathy Schwarz



Doug Dean, Pastor Warren Kay

On December 11, 1999, Doug Dean rejoined the Edmonton Central Church through baptism. He was first baptized some years ago by Pastor Heghesan and went on to attend Union College. He later left the church but has now reaffirmed his faith in his Saviour and is a regular participant at Edmonton Central Church. Pastor Warren Kay officiated.

On Sabbath, November 20, 1999, Linda Yurkowski was baptized into the Edmonton Central Church by Pastor Warren Kay. Linda attended Net '98 and has been a regular attendee since. She is a keen Bible student and participates in all study programs that the church offers. Welcome Linda!

Kathy Schwarz was baptized by Pastor Carolyn Macomber on October 9, 1999. Kathy is an enthusiastic student at Coralwood Academy and an active member in Pathfinders, Sabbath School and music in the Edmonton Central Church. Her testimony is that she loves her Lord who gave His life for her salvation. Kathy's parents are Dr. Art and Debbie Schwarz.

On December 11, 1999, Doug Dean rejoined the Edmonton Central Church through baptism. He was first baptized some years ago by Pastor Heghesan and went on to attend Union College. He later left the church but has now reaffirmed his faith in his Saviour and is a regular participant at Edmonton Central Church. Pastor Warren Kay officiated.

Christmas Day, December 25, 1999 was made special by the baptism of Lerma Bulahan. She was baptized by Pastor Carolyn Macomber because Jesus loves her, He is her best friend, and as she says, "God is Truth." To commemorate the occasion, Dr. Ron Montano sang "People Need the Lord."

Cristy and Kyle Kay, daughter and son of Pastor and Mrs Warren Kay were baptized by their father on July 10, 1999 during Camp Meeting at Bowden. The ceremony took place in the Little Red Deer River near the Camp. Cristy and Kyle were then welcomed into church fellowship at Edmonton Central Church. Both are active in Pathfinders and the music ministry of Central. They are twins and attend Coralwood Academy.

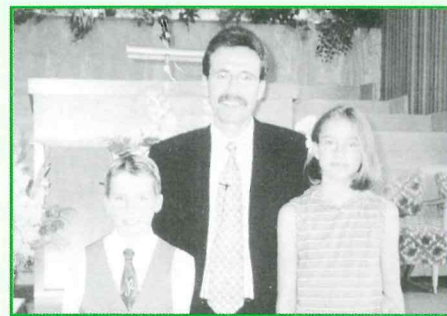
On Sabbath, August 21, 1999, Chloe Baragona was baptized by Pastor Carolyn Macomber into the Edmonton Central Church family. Chloe attends Coralwood Academy and Edmonton Central Church along with her family. She is also active in Pathfinders and in the music of the church. We welcome Chloe to our church family.

Bentley

Tammi Pearson comes from an Seventh-day Adventist family, but only recently decided to be baptized after studying with Pastor John Blake and much spiritual help and support from her sister, Jacquie Sharman. Tammi was baptized on October 2, 1999 at the Bentley Church by Pastor John Blake.



Pastor Carolyn Macomber, Lerma Bulahan



Kyle Kay, Pastor Warren Kay, Cristy Kay



Pastor Carolyn Macomber, Chloe Baragona & family



Tammi Pearson, Pastor John Blake



Beiseker - Level Land

December 18, 1999 was a very special day for two ladies who made a public commitment of their decision to accept Jesus as their Creator, Redeemer and Saviour. Both shared a short testimony of how the Holy Spirit has lead in their lives.

Brenda Fisher was introduced to God in her early years by a religious family whose mother taught her how to talk to God through prayer. Since then she knew and felt that God was important in her life. After experiencing different avenues, she moved from Ontario to Alberta in 1994 where, by the kindness of Cameron and Colleen Grabo, whom she had never previously met, she was again reminded of the ways in which God works. She now finally felt at home! Brenda was eventually drawn to the Adventist Church. Her desire to get to know Christ grew and sometimes it seemed as though she could not spend enough time with her new-found Friend. After extensive and intense study of the Bible with Pastor Werner Seidel, she decided to follow Jesus' example in baptism.

Lynn Andrews shared that she is finally so happy to be a part of a family, something she has never had in life! She, too, searched for many years to know truth, becoming very bitter during her journey, but God kept reaching out in love. Along with the Pastor, an earnest friend and neighbour, Edith Schaber, kept encouraging her and answering so many questions. She says that this is the best thing that has happened to her in the last 30 years!



Brenda Fisher, Pastor Werner Seidel, Lynn Andrews

There were tears of joy as families and friends witnessed the baptisms of Brenda and Lynn. Our prayers are with them as they daily choose to walk with Him, associate with their newly adopted "Family of God," and share their testimony with others.

Vegreville

Two cooking schools were held in Vegreville Thursday evenings from April 8 - May 27 and September 23 - November 11, 1999

On the third Monday of each month, a NEWSTART Healthy Eating Club met. Nine non-SDA's came on January 17, 2000 and since then three more ladies indicated that they would attend in February. NEWSTART cooking classes are planned for the spring.



Retirement

After ten years of work in Canada, Pastor Juan H. Pérez and his wife decided to return to their homeland in Chile. Pastor Pérez and his family arrived in Calgary in 1988 with the mission of starting a Spanish Church in the area. Work was hard in Calgary but the result of God's work, through the Holy Spirit, was always visible.



Elena & Pastor Juan Pérez

Today the Calgary Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church is an organized church with approximately 100 members. Pastor Pérez also officially retired after 35 years of work in South and North America. We wish Pastor Pérez and his family the very best in this enjoyable new part of his life. We will surely miss them!

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Everyone is welcome to attend the annual **Innisfree Camp Meeting**, June 9-11. The guest speakers this year will be Tony Mavrakos from the Potomac Conference and Samuel Thomas from 3ABN. The special music guests will be "Four by Grace Quartet" from Calgary. The camp is located one mile north of Innisfree on highway 870, go to the Graveyard crossroad and turn east 2 1/4 miles. Follow the signs. Lots of room for camping. For more information call: Pastor Brian Bechthold, 780-657-2949, Denise Rottacker 780-763-3703 or Paul Hryhynchuk, 780-592-2422.

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