

Alberta Conference Adventist News

A window of information for Seventh-day Adventists in Alberta

Victor Schulz - ADRA

Alberta Community Services

Alberta Conference administration had a dream to establish a strong community services program in the province with centres in major cities to bring relief from human suffering and to be a means for the local churches to make a meaningful contribution to society by bringing health and healing to the local community. The centre—the one in the capital city—is no longer a dream. It's already a reality!



A partial group of the professionals and community leaders that comprise the Board of Directors

Office and seminar space has been provided on the main floor of the Royal Alex Place in Edmonton with no leasing charges! The landlord provided 400 square feet of space for an emergency supplies depot - also no charge! The ten-story building houses the Council of Hospitals, the Alberta association, the Edmonton, the Edmonton, and many other Large signs erected in of the building now let the ADRA Alberta the Adventist Commu- tre is located there. are a witness in the the city, given that an cars drive past every



The Royal Alex Place building in Edmonton, where the ADRA Alberta offices are located

An outstanding sionals and individuals different churches in the board. An excellent

was formed that oversees the work of the centre.

After a needs assessment study, the following programs and seminars are being offered using computerized Power Point illustrations, instructor's kit, participant's workbooks, over

Continued on page 6



“A disciple is one who

- * walks with God**
- * lives the Word**
- * contributes to the work**
- * impacts the world”**

Friendship With God, p.11

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Alberta Adventist News

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From the President...

Revealing the Father



By now some of you may realize that the book of John - especially chapters 13 to 17 which contain Jesus' last words with His disciples before His death—is one of my favorite passages of Scripture.

I've shared from these chapters several times before in this column. In this issue I would like to take a look at John 14:1-7.

So far it had been a rather sobering evening for the disciples. First they had been silently rebuked for their pride and selfishness when Jesus knelt before them and washed their feet. He had then announced that one of them would betray Him and Judas had quickly left their meeting. Then He told the disciples He was going to leave them and that they could not come to the place He was going. And, if that wasn't enough, he had just told Peter that before the night was over he would deny knowing Jesus three times.

Now Jesus, ever the Lover of souls, seeks to bring some comfort and hope to His disciples. "I know that I've shared some astonishing and depressing news with you. But don't be troubled," He says. "I still love you. You know you can trust in God; you can trust in Me too. Actually I am going away so that I can prepare places in my Father's house for you to be with Me there. You can depend on it! If I go prepare those places for you, won't I come back to bring you to those places so that you can be with me? Of course I will. So now you understand where I am going and how to get there-by trusting in Me." (verses 1-4, my version)

It appears that the disciples were perhaps nearly in shock as Jesus informed them that He was leaving them very soon. He had been telling them for some time of His coming death and departure but they had not comprehended what He was talking about. Now, it was becoming clear that very soon He was going somewhere that they could not go. The shock of that idea must have prevented them from hearing His words to them. Jesus had just told them where He was going. "I'm going there (to my Father's house) to prepare a place for You," He had said. "And if I go...I will come back and take you..." But Thomas said, "We don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?"

While the misunderstandings and doubts the disciples demonstrated were not what the Lord had hoped for, their situation and His response to it illustrate an important truth for us today. In His response to Thomas Jesus essentially told them, "All that really matters is that You know and follow Me. I'll lead You to the Father. No one can get there except through Me."

There are many times we don't understand what is happening to us in this world. We can't see where the circumstances that God permits to come into our lives are leading us. But the really important thing is to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus. He is "the way and the truth and the life." If we are focused upon following Him—if we keep our attention on what His Word and His Spirit teach us—we will be led to the Father and to the "many rooms" that Jesus has prepared for us in the Father's house. God sent Jesus to show us the way. We are safe in following Him, even when we may not be able to see clearly why He is leading us in the ways we are being led. In fact, Jesus says in the next verse, if you "knew Me you would know My Father as well. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him!" Knowing Jesus is knowing the Father. Following Jesus is following the Father. Surrendering to Jesus is surrendering to the Father! "I and My Father am One." He is "the way and the truth and the life!" Praise God for providing so abundantly for us!

We marvel at and appreciate the revelation that Jesus gave us of what the Father is like. It is really how we know the Father. And yet it is our privilege and responsibility to make a similar representation of the Father and His character to our world. No, we will never as fully or perfectly reflect His character as did Jesus. But He calls upon us to become lights to the world revealing what the Father is like. Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Paul says that God had called him by His grace "to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..." (Gal. 1:16). Again Paul says, "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (1 Cor. 3:18).

It seems that God's method of revealing Himself is through human instruments. The man Jesus was, of course, the ultimate revelation. But He calls upon us to reflect His character as well. What an awesome opportunity – to show the world what God is like!

From the Volunteer Ministry Co-ordinators...

John & Alberta Blake - Deaf Ministries

Exciting things are happening in Deaf Ministries:

- * The Calgary Deaf Ministry/Sign Language class that started last November, has been meeting this spring as a 'conversational sign language' group. They met with the Blakes for a special planning session on May 31 at the Calgary Central Church. A Conference evangelism budget has been approved for interpreting evangelistic meetings in Calgary this fall. Kathleen Walls has been acting as the Deaf Ministry Coordinator in Calgary.
- * The Edmonton South Church is conducting a sign language class for interested members. The coordinator is Pastor Marian Rochford, who worked in deaf ministries the Harmony Church in Toronto before moving to Alberta. Judith Whitford, herself deaf and a member in Edmonton South, is working with Marian in teaching the class.
- * An official Alberta Conference Deaf Advisory Committee has been formed. They met in April and voted to work with a



Deaf Fellowship Sabbath for the deaf in the Alberta meeting at the Edmonton South church in April 1999. The deaf get together monthly and rotate to meet in each of their home churches around Alberta. They have done this now since 1987

special video evangelism project of video taping Pastor Jeff Jordan's evangelistic series in Atlanta, GA, this fall. They also voted to adopt India, with its 19 million deaf, as a special area for deaf mission emphasis.

* Church leaders in India now realize the great needs of their deaf. Money has now been sent for a half year's salary for the first full-time deaf pastor in India. Through an appeal in the *Canadian Adventist Deaf Ministry Report*, almost \$2,500 has been raised for the airfare to send Thompson Kay, Director of Adventist Deaf Ministries (ADM) in Lincoln, NE, to India this fall to help organize the work there.

- * Over 30 direct links to Easy English Bible lessons can be done online through the Adventist Deaf Ministries web site from Lincoln: www.deafadventist.org.
- * A Deaf Ministry evangelism CD-ROM is now available for those who are deaf or who work in direct evangelism with the deaf.

Werner & Geri Seidel - Family Ministries

The purpose of Family Ministries is to enhance Alberta families by teaching skills and approaches to situations commonly met in interpersonal relations.

Presentations have been made in several churches by the following individuals: Wanda Johnson, Marriage Preparation and Enhancement, Assertiveness Program, 403-347-8554;

Ken Lebel, How to Help Your Pastor Prevent Burnout, Surviving Family Transitions, 403-782-7916 ; Werner and Geri Seidel, Personhood, Communication, Human Development, 403-947-2686; and Dene Shipowick, Community, 403-782-3381, ext. 386, or 403-885-4815. Appointments for the fall and next year are now being booked.

Watch for more information on the annual Couples' Romantic weekend. The time and place will be announced later. But plan to spend the last weekend of January in the mountains.

Family Ministries has openings for presenters with expertise in areas such as parenting, teen issues, conflict resolution, and other family topics.

For more information, call 403-947-2686.

Nicola Sydenham - Women's Ministries

"Women of Faith" was the theme for this year's Alberta Women's Retreat. Kathy Yergen, previous Women's Ministries Director, in great faith and prayer brought the women's retreat to the Holiday Inn, Red Deer. One hundred and seventy-eight ladies enjoyed wonderful vegetarian meals and the comfort of their hotel rooms. The guest speaker, Adelle Campbell, was absolutely awesome. She demonstrated how she was a woman of faith through her personal testimony. Our breakaway speakers were Shari McDonald Hagen, Carolyn Osmond and Corrine Vanderwerff.

The joy of fellowshiping and bonding that occurs at Women's Retreats can't be explained—only experienced! One woman put it this way, "Once you've experienced it, you can't shake it off. You carry it with you wherever you go. It is contagious!"

Ladies, plan to attend the 1st Women's Ministries Retreat in the new millennium on March 10-12, 2000 at the Black Knight Inn, Red Deer. The keynote speaker will be Ginger Church from Review & Herald. Pray that all the women in Alberta will have the opportunity to attend this retreat.

For more information, call 403-782-1440.



Linda Calderbank - Native Ministries

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those

days.” Joel 2:28, 29. These prophetic words are being fulfilled before our eyes at the Hobbema church as nine to twelve year old native children have begun a prayer ministry of a magnitude beyond our wildest dreams. It was their idea and they are sure our little church building will not be able to accommodate the crowd that will be coming. Praise God for the pure faith of the young.

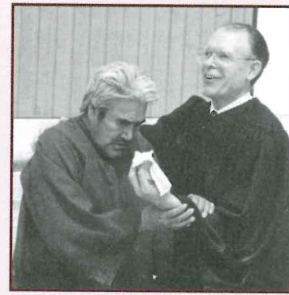
During the Native Camp Meeting in June, three precious souls gave their hearts to the Lord and were baptized: Elizabeth and Jack Little Youngman from Siksika Nation and Frieda Yellowbird from Hobbema. Frieda quit her job because her employer would not give her Saturday off to come to camp meeting to be baptized. Frieda had studied off and on for about five years and one night she had a dream and was told to go to the little church in the townsite. There she began studies with Pastor Frank Johnson and

decided she wanted to be baptized. Please pray for these individuals that they may be strong and stand the tests of Satan.

For more information, call Alma Saddleback 403-782-7375, Linda Calderbank 403-347-9351 or Pastor Frank Johnson 403-783-3694.



Frieda Yellowbird



Jack Youngman



Elizabeth Youngman

Jim Burgess - Health Ministries

The weekend of May 7-9, 1999 contained everything and more that those attending were anticipating. The second annual Family Health Workshop was primarily planned and hosted by Darlene Blaney, co-owner of “Nature’s Promise” Health Food Store in Calgary, along with Dr. Reuben Lorenson, Health Educator and Researcher for the Gimbel Eye Centre, and in cooperation with volunteer Conference Health Department Director, Pastor Jim Burgess.

At Foothills Camp, the participants were greeted by an entryway adorned with gems of thought, words of wisdom and spoonfuls of inspiration. Each huge scroll added an insight into the secrets of good health.

The participants were treated to full-meal deals with choices-a-plenty—each meal demonstrating the tastiness possible within the vegan (complete vegetarian) lifestyle.

Those who checked in on Friday evening came from points as far away as Medicine Hat, Grimshaw and North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Over eighty registrants attended including nine non-SDA’s who came due to their contacts at the Blaney’s “Nature’s Promise” Health Food Store.

Dr. Lorenson presented two sessions on Sunday as well. One session demonstrated the practical points of presenting a vegetarian cooking class. The second session was a hands-on whole wheat bread-making experience.

The guest speaker was Dr. Winston Craig, Chairman of the Nutrition Department at Andrews University as well as professor of Nutrition and director of the dietetics internship program at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Dr. Craig conducts nutrition seminars and lectures on herbs throughout the West-

ern World. He has done research on trace minerals, herbal remedies, the impact of photochemicals and the role of diet in cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Craig has authored several books on nutrition and written over seventy-five articles for scholarly journals and lay publications. He is an assistant editor of the *Journal of Health and Healing* and the editor of the Vegetarian Nutrition Dietetics Practice Group newsletter, *Issues in Vegetarian Dietetics*. He is also responsible for the timely *AU Nutri-Fax*, a quarterly newsletter from the Nutrition Department of Andrews University, which is available from that institution or can be downloaded from their web page www.andrews.edu/nufs



Dr. Winston Craig

Dr. Craig shared the famous research of Dr. Breslows’ nine-year study in which seven key health habits showed significant improvement in health and longevity. He also shared up-to-date information on the ongoing Adventist health study being carried out by Loma Linda University.

Parents with young children who wished to attend the weekend workshop had the opportunity to give their undivided attention to the seminars because their children were taken care of and taught godly lessons and healthy living by Wendy Kinch from Calgary and Marianne Hussell from Ryley, supported by their husbands and children.

Plan ahead for next year’s Family Health Workshop scheduled for May 11-14, 2000. This is a unique opportunity for family units to hear, taste and experience healthful living.

For more information, call/fax 780-464-6393.

Rita DaBreo - Prayer Ministries, Calgary Region

Alberta Prayer Ministry Teaching Team is an arm of "Prayer—The Heartbeat of Life," Alberta Prayer Ministries. Their mission is to inspire all Christians to a more consistent and meaningful prayer life. Their goal is to encourage more individuals to pray in their homes and churches. The team has a passion to help churches establish vibrant and successful prayer ministries through training and equipping prayer coordinators.

Some of the churches the team has visited are Calgary Bridgeland, Calgary Southside, Calgary Pineridge, Airdrie, Canmore, Vegreville, Beauvallon, Mirror, and Edmonton South. The program involves an all-day seminar in which the following team members participate: Don and Marlene Sinclair, Celestine Bishop, Richard Ginn, Jeremy Satnik, Kevin McLaren, and Brandon Lang.

God has blessed the Prayer Ministry Team tremendously and they praise Him for the many kind remarks, letters and cards. An international prayer chain has been established and God has blessed with an abundance of answered prayers. If you have prayer requests or praises for answered prayers, call 403-293-1715.

A Tribute to All Volunteers

Many of you spend numerous volunteer hours in various planning committees, projects and programs of the Alberta Conference, your local churches and communities. We salute you for your generosity and sacrificial giving in time and talents. We wish we could list all your names and describe in detail your generous offerings. But words and space are inadequate to accomplish it in this issue. I trust that you will continue to bless His people with gifts-oriented ministries and needs-oriented evangelism in building the kingdom of God and to spread the knowledge of a soon-coming, loving Saviour.

Dale Kongorski, President

From the Churches...

Sherwood Park

Sherwood Park SDA Church has many members who donate their time in service to others but three ladies deserve special mention.



Iris Camber addressing more than 90 of the 120-140 Sherwood Park Care Center volunteers at a luncheon being held to honour them for their contribution

Iris Camber began volunteering at the Sherwood Park Care Center in 1972. She has worked on bake sales, shopping trips, bazaars and yard sales to help raise money to purchase items to be used in helping people who need special care. For the past seven years she has been president of the Volunteer Board for the Sherwood Park Care Center, a job which requires both time and dedication. She has also volunteered for the Cancer Society and the Salvation Army annual campaigns. Since 1984 she has been knitting and sewing for those in need and now continues donating her beautiful handiwork to the New Home Immigration and Settlement Center. She also knits mittens for Coralwood Academy for children who have lost theirs or do not have any.

Ann Kutcher began volunteering around January 1984, just about the time she retired from her work at the Sherwood Park Care Center. First she attended the Volunteer Board meetings and then

helped with the bazaars, yard sales, and Christmas parties. In November of 1986 she became treasurer of the Volunteer Board, a post she still holds. Ann has been sewing nightgowns for residents and various articles to be sold at the bazaars. She also helps residents on shopping trips and goes to the swimming pool to help out with aquasize. She has taken residents for regular walks and, as pictured, helped sew quilt blocks knitted by a blind resident. Ann has volunteered well over 2000 recorded hours for the Sherwood Park Care Center alone.



Ann Kutcher with former resident Isabelle Schwaub

Olga Huk volunteers regularly at Coralwood Adventist Academy. She works with the Grade one and two teacher, reads with and to the children, helps with their classroom work and even goes out to play at recess time. She helps with the preparation and serving of the monthly hot lunch and also does photocopying and laminating to help the teachers. She says that getting to know the children and helping them out is a very rewarding experience which she enjoys. *Carol Dunfield*



Olga Huk

College Heights/Lacombe

The Lacombe Community Food Bank and Clothing Centre has been in operation for approximately 12 years and is operated by volunteers from the College Heights and the Lacombe Community Churches.

Their Mission Statement is that "The Lacombe Community Food Bank and Clothing Centre be a liaison between those unable to meet basic human needs and those who want to help them by interfacing resources with needs through compassionate assistance to restore them to full functional living."

Last year has been a busy year with 482 food hampers given away plus 44 Christmas hampers. A total of 673 people were helped, 374 adults and 299 children. It is estimated that the total value of hampers amounted to \$37,500.

During the year cash donations that came in amounted to \$4,933.91. This money was used to purchase items like powder milk, peanut butter, rice and other things which make a more nutritional hamper. The residences, businesses and churches are very supportive with this program and help keep up with the demand.

Food drives are sponsored by the Lacombe Pathfinders, the Lacombe Christian School and the public schools in the County of Lacombe. Two major food stores supply the food bank with produce and bread on a daily basis. Many people detest coming to the food bank; it's the last thing they want to do so when they do come they are very shy. When the hamper is given out, their faces light up and then they know there is hope and someone does care.

There are presently eight volunteers working in the food bank. In the clothing centre (store) there are five volunteer ladies receiving and sorting clothing, toys, kitchen wares, etc. Approximately 8 to 15 bags and boxes of used items arrive on a daily basis. The clothes come from Lacombe and county and some from Red Deer. The clothes are then sorted for the centre, ADRA, and the Red Deer Clothing Recycling Co. Clothing is sold for \$1- 2.00 per item to those who need it. Some are not able to purchase at any price so they are given they need. The ADRA packing facility at Beauvallon picks up an average of 45-50 bags per month. The Red Deer Clothing Recycling Company picks up approximately 13 bags per month. The quality of the donations received is very good, so only a few bags are discarded each month.

The proceeds from the sales of goods pays for utilities and maintenance of the building. Donations have been made to Hurricane Mitch, local help for children with cancer, or purchasing some items for poor families in need. Also, in June, a birthday party is hosted for seniors in the Seniors' Lodge.

Anyone is welcome to visit the facility at 5225-53 Street, Lacombe. Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.; Thursday 7-9 p.m. and Friday 1-3 p.m.

Lorence and Bernice Nahorney

ADRA - Continued from page 1

head transparencies, videos and other materials: Grief Recovery, Managing Life Stress, Positive Parenting, Talk So Your Teen Will Listen, Understanding Temperaments & Emotions, Sex and Counseling, Marriage Seminar, Seven Steps to Financial Freedom. Wellness-Assured Seminars on asthma, cancer, cholesterol, diabetes, fitness, high blood pressure, nutrition, pregnancy, stress, weight, etc. Smoking cessation and natural lifestyle cooking will

Sylvan Lake

Sylvan Lake SDA Church has been taking its turn at the Red Deer Soup Kitchen. Leader, Lynn Seland, is helped by many volunteers.

Maryann Bell is the director of the Sylvan Lake Food Bank which is housed in the Adventist Church. Ruth Eaton and many others assist. Barb and Ray Grosso are kept busy at the Rocky Mountain House Food Bank on Mondays and Thursday. They pick up foods from the shopping centers and cook and wash dishes at the Soup Kitchen. Several people from the church share their help and talents at the Seniors' Lodge in Sylvan Lake.

Marianne Walsh has been a classroom volunteer at the Sylvan Meadows school for two years. Ralph Seland takes his shift on line with help/support service. Maryann Bell has just completed training as an advocate for "Victims' Services." Edna Mannerfeldt directed the Food Bank for many years. She canvasses for the Kidney Foundation and is a volunteer driver. *Helen Anderson*

Leduc

On the fourth Sunday of each month the Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church participates in a Soup Kitchen Ministry at the Inner City Mission in Edmonton. This ministry came about as the result of an outreach idea by young adults and other supporting members of the church. This ministry is conducted under the guidance of the church board and any funds used to support this ministry come out of donations given to the community services fund. IGA grocery store donates all the bread and desserts each month, and the preparation and serving of the food is done by volunteers. We serve a bowl of soup, a sandwich, a pastry and hot chocolate or juice. *Ken Klatt*

Teens Raise Money For ADRA

On the evening of June 5, when most of the young people in Peace River were out partying and celebrating graduation, the teen class consisting of eight youth and one counselor held a wake-athon from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. to raise money for ADRA.

They held a praise service of their own design for a sundown vesper service. They took turns praying every hour and sharing their testimonies with each other.

They watched a movie and analyzed it and went rollerblading around town at 3 a.m. in full protective gear. While out they were stopped by a police officer who was wondering what a group of young people were doing out at that time of the morning. They were able to share with the officer what they were doing and why.

The total amount that these ambitious young people raised was \$800 for ADRA. Praise God for our young people and the lessons that they can teach us. *Andrea Van Dieman*

also be offered. A health appraisal program that is a computerized health screening in the areas of health age, coronary risk, stress profile and fitness score is also offered.

For more information, call or write to ADRA Alberta, Suite #105, Royal Alex Place, 10106-111 Ave., Edmonton, AB T5G 0B4; Ph: 780-471-5565; Fax: 780-471-5566; e-mail: adra@ecn.ab.ca; office hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From Individuals, About Individuals...

Connie Letniak attended Weimar classes at camp meeting for two consecutive years about twelve years ago. She loves experimenting with healthful cooking and has been doing so from a very early age. She has taught cooking classes as far away as Dawson Creek as well as at home in Consort and surrounding communities. Her interest in the health of her friends and neighbors has lead her to volunteering in Consort's Healthy Community Project, a three-year pilot project with the Alberta Government to improve the health in the local community. Her presence there lead to her being asked to sit on the Community Health Council for East Central Alberta and also the Steering Committee for the new Primary Health Care Plan. It seems the Government is beginning to focus health care on prevention rather than cure. Connie is also instrumental in opening and helping maintain a food bank for the Consort area.

Christine Hocken of Innisfail and **Marion Stanley** of Lacombe, recently donated several hours of their precious time in assisting Evangeline and **Carol Nicks** to organize the Alberta Conference Resource Room and input information into a computer software program that will facilitate loaning of resources to local church leaders. An inventory list will soon be available through Internet.



Marion Stanley



Christine, Carol and Evangeline

September, 1999

Baptisms

Edmonton Central



May 8, 1999: Roy Huston and Pastor Warren Kay



April 10, 1999: Troy and Kathy Davis; their son, Ethan, and Pastor Kay

Sherwood Park, April 10, 1999



Kelly Kutzner with Pastor Jim Burgess

Olds, April 17, 1999



Edna Johnson, Evelyn & Harley Brightman

Colleen & Melvin Meharry, affectionately known as "angels of mercy," bring relief and joy to many who are in need. Their help comes to people of Red Deer in various ways: hospital visitations, helping in the soup kitchen, giving Bible studies, doing carpentry work, giving rides to church, fixing a leaking pipe, and, of course, praying over the many prayer requests! What a picture of God's love!



Colleen & Mel Meharry

Sheila Beaudoin has been involved in volunteer clerical work for the Mistahia Health Region in Grande Prairie. She has also been doing volunteer work promoting the "Party Program," which is involved in educating youth against drinking and driving. She also accompanies her husband on ten to twelve of his Bible studies every week.

Neva Strand from the Red Deer Church volunteers two days a week just to help make life better for people. Mondays she goes to the auxiliary hospital and helps with the aged and Tuesdays she works at the soup kitchen.



On Sabbath, April 10, 1999, Edmonton Central honored Archie and Opal Bruce for their many years of leadership in Edmonton Central. Clarence Grosso presented them with a plaque commemorating the event. Opal Bruce now resides in the Sherwood Park Care Centre and Archie has also relocated to a condo next door to the Care Centre

Wilderness Survival Weekend A Great Success!



In May, the Lacombe Community Church sponsored a survival weekend in the Rocky Mountains. Paul Lehmann and a small group who went on this adventurous trip had a wonderful time building their own shelters for the night and learning to survive in the wilderness

Kelly Smith Wins "Excellence in Teaching" Award

Every year the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada gives out seven "Excellence in Teaching Awards." This year's winner for Alberta was Kelly Smith. Kelly has been teaching Grades 2-6 at PRAJA for the past three years, since graduating from CUC, and has demonstrated the qualities of excellence throughout. When Bob Crux, former Superintendent of Schools for the Alberta Conference, gave the award to Kelly, he stated, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Kelly has consistently shown how much she cares for her students.

Editorial



The publican in the temple, the one who prayed the simplest of prayers and was radically forgiven, is really a startling figure in the Bible. He's mentioned only once, in just a few short words. His language is simple and his demeanor is that of a broken, humble man. "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow and said, 'O God, be merciful to me for I am a sinner.'" (Luke 18:13 NLT)

I say radically because we have the inside track on heaven's assessment of him. It's so easy to judge other's experience and say, "Well, heaven would or would not accept him/her..." but we only speak from opinion or feelings. With this man, Jesus tells us exactly what his status is. He was justified. Simple. Completely justified. Forgiven and free! How fabulous!

To the pharisees of his day, and to the pharisees of today, this type of person is an irritant. You can hear it, can't you? "For years I've kept the Sabbath right (impeccably I might add), I've eaten right, prayed right, lived right, and this guy, whom I'm very thankful I'm not even slightly like, goes home justified! Please explain this to me!"

It's very simple really. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous. "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call sinners to turn from their sins, not to spend my time with those who think they are already good enough." (Luke 5:31,32 NLT) When those who obviously need repentance stand out to us, it's likely because we don't realize how much we need it ourselves. But the good news of the gospel is that the same grace that justified the publican, is also available to the rest of us. Isn't the gospel wonderful?! Even the righteous can be saved when they are willing to admit that they are in need of forgiveness!

Bill Spangler

Re-Dedication of West Edmonton Church, October 8-9, 1999

The West Edmonton Church has just completed an extensive renovation of its present facility. Subsequently, a re-dedication service is being planned for this church on October 8-9, 1999. The Friday evening service at 7 o'clock will be a consecration service and former pastor, Sinclair Kydd, will be the guest speaker. On Sabbath, October 9, Pastor Robert Samms will speak for the divine service. There will be a gospel concert on Sabbath afternoon. All are invited to join us for this important convocation.

Eustace Williams

Dateline

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| September | 19-22 | Pastor's Meetings, Foothills Camp |
| | 26-29 | Intern's Retreat |
| October | 3-5 | Teachers' Convention, Foothills Camp |
| | 15-Nov.13 | Net New York '99 with Doug Batchelor |
| Dec. | 27-28 | Christmas & Boxing Day, Office Closed |

Year 2000

| | | |
|--------|----------|---|
| March | 10-12 | Women's Retreat, Black Knight Inn, Red Deer |
| | 17-19 | Men's Retreat with Dick Duerksen |
| May | 11-14 | Family Health Workshop |
| June | 29-Jul 8 | General Conference Session 2000, Toronto |
| August | 8-12 | Camp Meeting, Foothills Camp |