

Adventist News

A window of information for Seventh-day Adventists in Alberta

An Old Way to Grow the Church Becomes New

Seeds '97

A Church Planting Conference

Picture with me a table, in a humble home in the year 1850. Around the table sits six or seven people who have come to do some earnest praying and planning.

The youngest is 18 years old, just a child we might think. The oldest is James White, he's way up there at 29. What are these people planning? The best method for sharing their convictions and the message that God has given them to give? They aren't a bit satisfied to just start up a church for themselves to worship in and meet their own personal needs. They are thinking much bigger. They are wanting to know how to carry this message to the entire world!

Well, it's happening. They are, of course, long since passed away, but we live to carry on what they started. The message they were concerned about is now circling the globe. People are excited about that message and joining by the thousands every day. But, it seems as though the Holy Spirit is shifting things into overdrive.

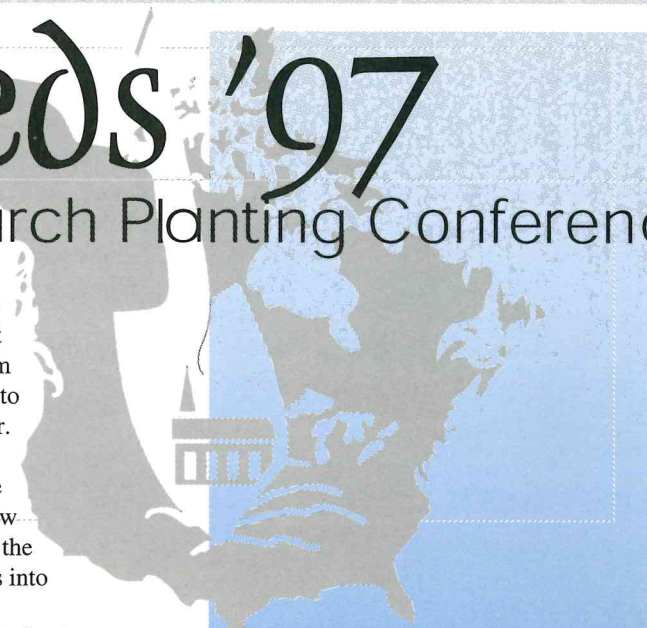
Recently my wife and I had the privilege of attending Seeds '97, a church planting event at Andrews University. Organized by the North American Division Evangelism Institute, this meeting brought in 450 people from North America, England, Australia, New Zealand and other places in the world. Never in our experience had we seen or enjoyed such spiritual enthusiasm. I went wondering what it was going to be like, and left feeling like a tidal wave is sweeping through the church, and we can either be on it, or washed away by it.

Ron and Donna Willey, a dentist and his wife from Illinois, told of how they began to talk to their receptionist about the Bible and had a three way Bible discussion once a week. She wanted her husband to join so he came. That brought in a couple more and so on until they started having a weekly service right in his office. One thing led to another, and now there are 35 members and 70 people attending every week, and they own their own building. The exciting thing is that of those 70 people, not one is an Adventist church member from another church that has come to help. This church is strictly made of former Adventists who weren't attending church, or brand new members. Ron pastors the church, and has trained three others to pastor certain aspects of church life. It is truly a church led by laymen. This is only one of several stories we heard and were blessed by all week.

In the 1890's in North America there was a new church started for every pastor every year. Did you know that in the 1990's there's a new church started for every 124 pastors? The church planting movement began to go downhill after the death of Ellen White, when pastors began to stay resident and pastor specific churches, something she had spoken against. She encouraged lay leaders to look after churches, so that pastors could continue to raise up churches.

Between June of 1996 until August of 1997, in North America, at least 136 new churches have been started. That is a number unprecedented in decades. The record is the year 1900, when there were 394 new churches begun. Judging by the commitment and excitement expressed by the people at Seeds '97, it's only just begun. On the last night, Russell Burrill, organizer of Seeds '97, made an appeal for all those who felt the call of God to become actively involved in planting new churches to come forward. The few who remained seated were not front liners but were dedicated to support in other ways.

Centuries ago, Jesus said the harvest was ripe, it was the lack of reapers that was slowing things down. It's time we take His concern seriously, and ask Him what He wants us to do. Heaven is ready, the Holy Spirit is ready, people are responding and churches are springing up everywhere. Will we let this pass us by? No! By God's grace Alberta *will* be a church planting Conference.



Centuries ago, Jesus said the harvest was ripe, it was the lack of reapers that was slowing things down. It's time we take His concern seriously, and ask Him what He wants us to do. Heaven is ready, the Holy Spirit is ready, people are responding and churches are springing up everywhere.

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Alberta Adventist News

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***Conference resource room open during
 business hours.**

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From the President ...

Unexpected Courage

“**L**ater, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away.” *John 19:38 NIV*

We don’t know too much about Joseph of Arimathea; this is the only story where his name is mentioned in the Bible. What we do know gives us a mixed picture of the man. First of all, he was very wealthy, the Scriptures say. He was also apparently a man who planned ahead because he had already purchased a lovely cave which he planned to use for his tomb. So in my mind I picture a successful businessman who knew how to plan and execute those plans. His willingness to allow Jesus to use his own tomb would also indicate that he was a generous man.

We also know that he was a disciple of Jesus—but within limits: he was a disciple secretly. Earlier (after Jesus healed the man who was blind from birth) the Jewish leaders had announced that anyone who acknowledged Jesus would lose their membership at the synagogue. Apparently Joseph, who was himself a member of the council, didn’t have the courage to openly identify himself with Jesus and His cause. Or perhaps he felt that he could do more good for the cause by remaining in his position on the council. (It is true that Luke tells us Joseph was not among those who consented to Jesus’ death and Ellen White explains that he and Nicodemus were not called to that late night - early morning meeting where Jesus was condemned because it was known among the council that they would question the legitimacy of what had been decided by the others.) Yet he believed in his heart and John is comfortable in calling him a disciple.

But we also know that when it really mattered, Joseph openly identified himself with Jesus. Interestingly, the Scriptures say that it was Joseph (not even Nicodemus who had secretly visited with Jesus at night) who went to Pilate asking that he be allowed to care for the body of Jesus. We had not heard of Joseph previous to this request. We are told in Acts that later a large number of even the priests and rulers became followers of Jesus. But Joseph (and then Nicodemus, who apparently gained courage from Joseph’s action) was the first to openly declare himself for Jesus and identify himself as believing in Him. He seems to have made that declaration while even the 11 apostles were cowering in fear (and Peter was regretting his open denial of Jesus).

In this story I find myself both challenged and encouraged. I am challenged to ask myself if I would have had the courage to openly identify myself with Jesus under those circumstances. I long to think I would have, but even the disciples failed that test. What makes me think I would fare any better than did they? But two members of the ruling council, who had more to lose than nearly anyone, were willing to make that sacrifice under the most demanding of circumstances. There was no popularity to be gained; no crowds to please by their decision. Only courage to follow their convictions! By God’s grace I want to find that kind of courage!

I am encouraged by this story, however, to see that when things in God’s cause seem to be the most discouraging, God has faithful men and women who will step in to fill the needs that exist. As we look to the final conflict that will bring the most difficult circumstances in the history of God’s people, God will prevail. Even when those we expected to be faithful will prove untrue, God’s cause will not fail. (The needs will be met—often, perhaps, by ones we would never have suspected as sympathetic to God’s cause.) And as those unexpected sympathizers demonstrate their courage, others will follow their example and a rich harvest will be ready for Jesus’ return to this earth!■



Pastor André Beyde Ordained

André had been searching for God for many years when he came to Canada from Holland in 1972, to study theater, film, television, producing and directing. In his own way André began a search for a God, having no inner sense of whether or not He existed or what He was like. His search took him to South America, then to Los Angeles. Through rather supernatural circumstances, André met a Seventh-day Adventist family that began to explore the Scriptures with him. He finally came to terms with God.

André was baptized in 1980 in Montreal. There he met his wife Greta, and have been blessed with four children. After completing studies at Andrews University, their church work has taken them to Edmonton, Beaumont, Leduc, Wetaskiwin and presently Pineridge church in Calgary. André has a deep love for the Lord and a strong commitment to see His work progress. We wish him and his family many blessings as they enjoy the honor of working in ministry.



Native American Youth Congress and Camp Meeting

Alma Saddleback gave her heart to the Lord at the Native American Youth Congress in Holbrook Arizona, July 12, 1997. "One of my friends said, 'You've been going with Jesus for three years now'," Alma explained. "Then she said, 'It is time you get married.' So, welcome to my wedding," Alma added, tears streaming down her face. With that, Pastor Emilio Gomez lowered her in baptism in the waters of the river running through the Chevelon Canyon, 15 miles from Holbrook Indian School, in the presence of native brothers and sisters from across North America. Alma is presently enrolled at CUC in the elementary education program preparing herself to serve her people. Please pray for her and her family.



Gospel Detonation All Around

The Gospel Detonation project sponsored by ASI, scattered CUC and PAA students all over the Alberta Conference doing various community service and evangelism projects this past summer. The group was made up of: Adam Diebert, Lorenzo Fiorito, Wendy Gilliland, Jim Hanson, Bill Heinrich, Michelle Maier, Heidi Norhton, Scott Park, Candy Sheffield, Robby Townsend, led by Bruce Proud.

This dynamic group of young people visited many places and had a busy summer with Gospel Detonation! Many prayers were offered, many prayers were answered, and many contacts were made with a wide variety of people. You may have seen and heard part of the group at camp meeting, excited with their story of Providence and leading into the small community of Gleichen.

Another amazing experience, that of a Lutheran colleague of Bruce Proud, who wanted his youth group to do Gospel Detonation. The concept had been shared previously and he had tried several times to duplicate the results of the SDA group without much success. During lunch one day he asked, "How do you do it? How do you get these results?" Bruce explained the procedure and then said, "First you pray that God will give you someone to talk to." "How would I do that?" he asked. "Tell God you want to serve Him and ask Him to put someone in your path who you can influence for Him," Bruce responded. Right then they prayed that prayer.

Upon leaving, no sooner had the two paid and stepped outside the restaurant than a lady ran out after them. She said that she couldn't help overhearing them talk about God, and that she thought God had abandoned her. She wanted them to pray for her. The Lutheran man began to cry as they prayed—the three of them. A follow-up was planned. Two lives were influenced by the power of prayer.

But, there's more to the story! This fine Christian man then asked Bruce if he would come and talk to his group of young people about doing this kind of work. He



Bruce Proud and Heidi Norhton - serving at the Inner City Soup Kitchen

asked, "Where do we get the Bible studies?" Bruce replied, "Don't worry about that; I'll take care of it!" Just imagine an army of Lutheran young people passing out SDA literature!

Pastor Henry Bartsch of the St. Albert SDA Church stated it this way, "We were impressed with their enthusiasm and willingness to help out wherever they were asked. The Gospel Detonation project is one of the best tools we've seen in firing up young people to work for the Lord in practical ways. Their enthusiasm was inspiring and contagious! Bruce Proud, ASI and the students involved are to be commended."

Summer Camp Ministries Report

Thanks be to God for an exciting, safe, and successful summer of camp ministry at Foothills Camp! Special thanks are in order for the fine young people who staff our



lives of young people. The camp atmosphere provided a powerful impact on the camp staff themselves. Five were re-baptized, and one staff made the baptismal commitment for the first time. This positive atmosphere culminated during our Teen Camp—which saw two of our campers baptized on the final Sabbath. It was a powerful week of ministry, and impact in the lives of teens—special thanks to Pastor Lee and Jolynn Gugliotto.

This year saw significant improvements in a number of areas: Advertising; BMX track improvements and four bikes purchased; horse herd greatly improved; a significant investment in new rider helmets; new life jackets for canoeing; more tumbling mats; the construction of Sherwood Forest; and state of the art group initiative materials were provided. These improvements were made within the context of our budget, made possible in part by income generated from the Pathfinder group visiting from Texas. Additional improvements on the grounds included a new Primary building, new sidewalks, improved roads, two new washing machines, and a new heating element for the pool. Needless to say, it was a busy summer completing these improvements.

Camp. We are truly blessed to have such a group of positive young people willing to spend their summer in ministry of this nature.

Our camper numbers increased marginally this summer, from 320 to 335. Registrations for our camp program indicated 57% SDA's, 43% from other or no identified denomination. In addition to the increase in numbers, and the reintroduction of the Sherwood Forest Camp, a special challenge including hosting a Pathfinder group from Texas. This group came for five nights during our Blind and Adventure Camps. Foothills provided meals and accommodations, while the group spent their days sight-seeing in Alberta. They were an excellent group, but certainly provided a logistical challenge!

The camp program challenged campers to "accept Jesus as the answer." It was a call to which 95% of the campers responded positively! It is exciting to participate in a program with that kind of positive impact in the



Summer Camp is changing the lives of young people across Alberta!

Todd Miller



Pastors on Study Leave

Sean Meagher and Grant Misseghers have temporarily left Alberta to take up studies at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan. Sean will be taking the regular Master of Divinity program, while Grant is taking a new, six-quarter program in Youth Ministry. We wish them God's blessings as they begin the rigors of Graduate School.

Sean, Marina and daughter Sarah, Grant and Bonnie in picture.

Florida Governor Lawton Chiles and other state leaders have made the decision to sell some \$835 million in tobacco stocks that were part of the portfolio of Florida's pension fund. Critics had pointed out that because the state of Florida has brought a \$1.4 billion lawsuit against cigarette manufacturers, there was a moral obligation to divest itself of investments in tobacco. *United Press International, 97-05-28*

Exciting New Camp Facility!

"... an addition to the Camp which will serve as a model for camps across the North American Division." This is one response which was echoed by many individuals who visited the all new, "Sherwood Forest." Excitement was expressed by campers, parents, and constituents - as more than one parent indicated, "I want to be a camper again!"

This facility with its 32 beds in four cabins, self contained cook house, and group building elements provides an excellent enhancement to our camp program. Many young people will take advantage of this special camping experience that only Sherwood Forest can provide.

In addition to its role as a summer camp facility, Sherwood Forest will be used by Pathfinder Groups, and for Teen and Youth camping experiences. Sherwood Forest includes many initiative elements; trust fall, balance beam, inclined balance beam, footloops, tire pole, swinging log, climbing net, all aboard platform and more. Each of these elements provide the opportunity for personal accomplishment, team building, and group discussion. The experience of tackling these challenges creates excellent opportunities for spiritual growth as well as character development.

Teamwork gets the tire over the pole!



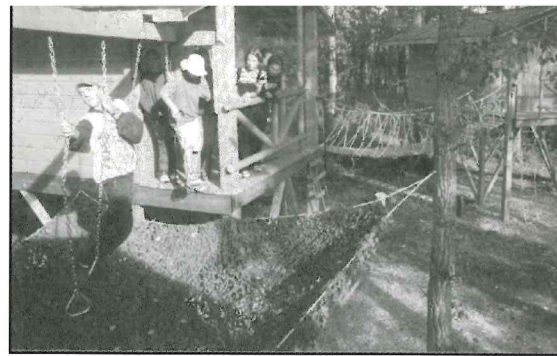
Sherwood Forest was constructed by camp staff during June, with hands on leadership provided by Wolfram Hackenberg. The buildings were designed and built to last for years, with minimum maintenance. The elements have been built with safety nets, and plenty of wood chips, to ensure the safety of those participating. The construction of the facility has cost close to \$26,000 - including labor. The funds were provided by a previous insurance settlement, a significant donation of over \$7000, camp operating, and numerous other donations. Thank you to all who have supported the vision - for many years to come your gift will play a significant role in building our young people.

As we look forward, a vision for further development of Sherwood Forest is in place. A high elements initiative course, complete with safety equipment, will provide an excellent facility for our older youth. This type of course will particularly appeal to those ages 15 and up. This is an age group we have failed to provide adequately for in the past. Can we do something special and significant for them now?

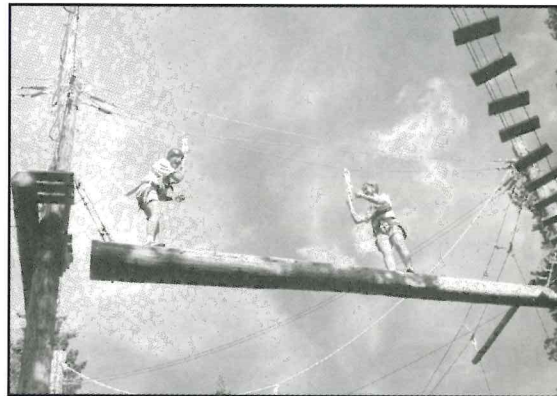
Facilities like this will provide us as a Church, to train our young people to be that "army" Sister White talks about, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!" *Christian Service page 30, 31.* Our

CUC

Canadian University College, CUC's new name reflects more accurately it's degree granting status, and is much better understood in Canada and particularly in Alberta. The change meets the Universities Act and also allows the retention of the acronym - CUC. The logo byline, *Excellence in Seventh-day Adventist Education*, will be included on all correspondence



Teen's tackle the "footloops"



Looking up to the possibilities for our senior youth



Teamwork at new heights for senior youth!

young people will experience victory over personal challenges, realize the beauty of teamwork, and experience an environment of sharing and spiritual growth.

This facility can be provided, with necessary equipment for \$12,000 to \$14,000. Don't hesitate to make inquiries of the Youth department regarding this initiative.

Wanted: Pictures, memorabilia and anecdotal material of CJC/CUC days. Pictures will be returned *if requested*. Please send material to: Canadian University College, Public Relations Department, College Heights, AB T4L 2E5

Beaumont Company

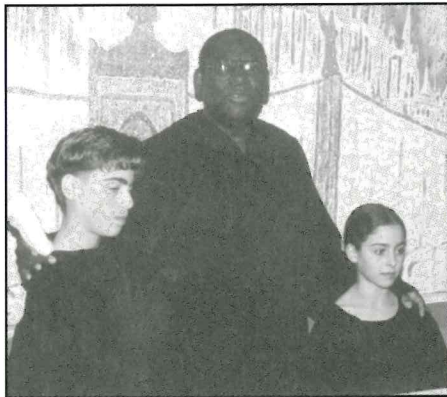
Baptisms by Pastor André Beyde



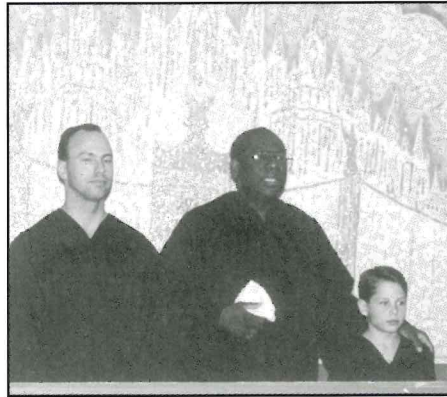
Mike Desabrais



Melanie Mathers



Joshua and Ashley Peer



Steven and David Richter

The Beaumont Company would like to express their deepest gratitude to God for the blessings bestowed through Pastor André Beyde and his family in developing the Beaumont Company this past year.

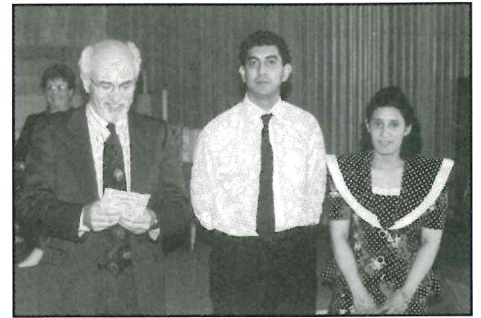
Edmonton Korean Company

During a recent health week, many people were encouraged to change some lifestyle habits. Positive results were seen by all. After distribution of handbills, approximately 60 people attended the meetings. A small group continues to meet to exercise, and to study lifestyle and the Bible.



Edmonton Central

- Baptism - Javier and Marina Ruiz by Pastor Leslie Neal, as a result of Net '96.



- Danisha Shante Lawson daughter of Hazelyn King-Banton and Emmanuel Kabola-Bin, son of Stanislass and Tshimanga were dedicated to the Lord.
- Opal Bruce celebrated her 90th birthday in May.

Calgary Spanish

Baptism - Daisy and Edvin Canales by Pastor Juan Pérez



Fairview

A vibrant VBS - 80 children attended!

Two of the many highlights was a guest from the S.P.C.A. and a forest ranger.



Medicine Hat

Baptisms - Shirley Schafer and Christine Tearce by Pastor Norman Manweiler.



Onoway

"Just Walking in the Rain"

The first annual ADRA walkathon for 15 people, three children and two dogs. The public seemed more receptive and generous in providing sponsorships compared to the regular Ingathering solicitation. One new solicitor received \$150 in donations. Even one dog received \$20 in donations! Plans are underway to make this a regular event.

Sedgewick

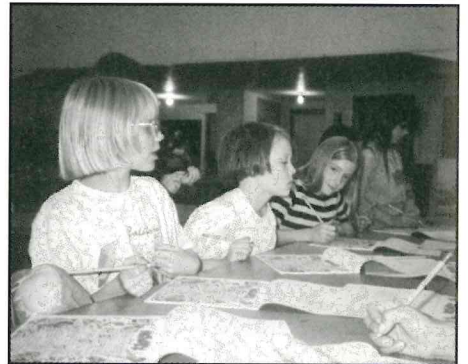
- Patricia Cove was a totally unsuspecting recipient of the 1997 Zapara Excellence In Teaching award. Robert Crux, Alberta SDA Educational Superintendent, made the presentation on June 6. Having recently moved to the Maritimes, Pat's tremendous contribution to Adventist education in Alberta is greatly missed.
- There was an interesting contrast at a recent church service when Alex Befus was presented with a plaque in honor of his 90th birthday, and Ethan and Jordan, infant sons of Scott and Niki Bownes, were dedicated.



Ryley

The Caring for Alberta's Highways program, sponsored by the Alberta Transportation and Utilities, provides safety vests, litter bags and permanent identification signs adjacent to the highway. The signs provide good exposure for the local church to motorists, as well as providing a community service project for its members.

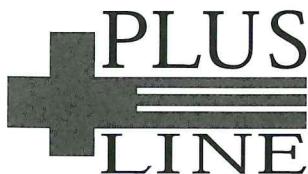
The annual Vacation Bible School is held at a small country hall surrounded by acreages and is very much appreciated by families in the area. A highlight of the week, for the children, was the discovery of a garter snake nest on the playground!



Sherwood Park VBS

A great success with an average attendance of 32 children per day.



PLUS

LINE

Tired of the Run-round?
 Call the Plus Line

1-800-SDA-PLUS

Sylvan Lake



New Sanctuary - Officially opened with appropriate fanfare, speeches, music and candle ceremony to a packed house.



Young People Witness - After a tour through central British Columbia, Sylvan Meadows grades five to nine choir, under the direction of David Bell, presented a concert at the church.



Pastor Juan Perez officiated at the dedication of a bus that Pat Simanton "built", to be driven to Guatemala, packed with gifts and supplies for his school. Pastor Perez' Spanish congregations from Calgary and Red Deer also came to Sylvan Lake for this special event.



Baptism - Jane Akey with Pastor Bob Schafer in a simple outdoor service.

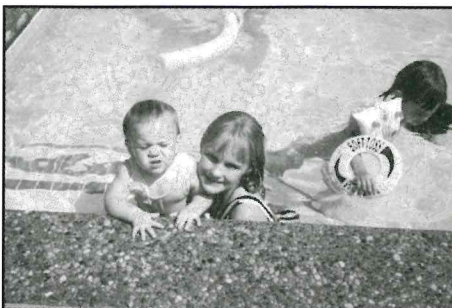


Faith Griffith and Diana Lifford with Pastor Bob Schafer

Baby Dedication - Justin Craig, son of Bob and Cynthia Winsor, was dedicated to the Lord's service.



Vacation Bible School - An excellent week for approximately 50 children



Lost Camera? A camera was turned in to lost and found at camp meeting. If you recognize this picture, please call Marlene at the Conference office (403/342-5044, ext. 206) to identify and claim your camera.

Branson Hospital Update

In March of this year, the Ontario Government had made a decision that ten Toronto area hospitals would close, including Branson Hospital. Recently, after significant input from the community, church and hospital, the decision was reversed and Branson will remain open and become an ambulatory care center. Despite community and political outcry concerning some of the other ten hospitals, the reversal of the decision to close Branson is the only change that was made in the original plan. Branson Hospital will contract it's services with North York General Hospital, and will combine funding sources to work together. Branson will now offer mostly specialty clinics, diagnostic services, outpatient surgery, mental health services, walk-in assessments etc. We praise God for watching over this opportunity to witness in this way.

Bill Spangler

Dateline

Oct. 3 - 4 **Women's Retreat** - Angel Boch and Nancy Buxton, Red Deer SDA Church. Friday 7:30 pm through Sabbath 8:30 pm.

7 **"Divorce Care"** seminar previously advertised to begin on October 7 at Red Deer SDA Church is postponed until January 13, 1998. More information will be passed on to churches mid-December.

9 - 12 **Y2Y/Acts Alive** - Foothills Youth Retreat
 Brian Randone - Drama Outreach Track
 Roger Record - Praise Worship Track
 Guest Speaker - Leadership Skills Track
 Ages 15-21, Cost \$80 (50/50 Sharing with the Local Church)
 Contact Conference Youth Department



11 **ADRA/Community Service Federation** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Alberta Conference office, Red Deer. Speaker Ken Larsen, Director of Material Resources East Coast Warehouse, will be speaking on Matthew 25 during the morning session and on "Shipping with ADRA" in the afternoon. Please call Evangeline at 342-5044, ext 210 if you plan to attend, so that meals can be planned for.

17 - 18 **College Heights SDA Church Homecoming** - 35 Years! A weekend of praise and thanksgiving begins with Friday Vespers at 7:15 pm, and concludes with a Banquet and Old Time March on Saturday night. Don Corkum, church pastor from 1978 to 1984 will be Sabbath's guest speaker. For more information contact Belinda at 403/782-6131 or Fax: 403/782-7779.

CUC

19 **Principal's Council** - CUC
 19 - 22 Teacher's Convention, Canadian University College

19 - 20 **Executive Committee** - Foothills Camp
 26 **Standard Time begins** - 2:00 am

28 **Sedgewick, School Grand Opening Ceremonies** - 7:00 pm; Open House 5-7 pm.
 Elder Kongorski, speaker.

31 - Nov 1 **ASI Rally**, Friday 7:30 pm, Getting Acquainted With God; Sabbath: 9:15 am, What Time Is It?; Potluck; and 2:30 pm, Sharing Time, Phillipines & Romania report. Edmonton Central Church, 10131 - 111 Avenue. Everyone Welcome!
 Guest Speaker: Willard Regester, M.D., California



Nov. 3 - 10 **SDACC Board**, Oshawa

7 - 9 **Adventist Singles Ministry** - The Edmonton Experience - Church service at St. Albert SDA Church; fellowship meal to follow. Events all weekend. Please contact Myrtle in Calgary (403/230-7173); Lois in Lacombe (403/782-4861); Maria in Edmonton (403/472-0894).

7 - 9 **Marriage Encounter** - Stony Plain,
 Contact: Gail & Doug Sell, 403/947-2081

8 **"Next Step"** - Youth Leaders' Seminar, Red Deer, 10 am to 6 pm
 (Lunch included)
 Steve Case - Youth Consultant/Trainer
 Please register - contact Conference Youth Department

11 OFFICE CLOSED - Remembrance Day

14 - 15 **"End Time Events"** - Marvin Moore, Lacombe Community Church

21 **Men's Retreat** - Foothills Camp. Maxon, Friday 7:30 pm, Sabbath, Sunday till noon.

23 **K-12 Board of Education** - Red Deer

Dec. 5 - 7 **Adventist Singles Ministry** - The Lacombe Happening - Sleigh Ride and Christmas Carol Singing. Church service location to be announced later.

7 **Financial Statistical Review Committee** - Red Deer

7 **Executive Committee** - Red Deer

7 **Principal's Council** - Red Deer

25 OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Day

29 OFFICE CLOSED - Boxing Day

Adventist Church Expresses Condolences

London, England—The Seventh-day Adventist Church added its voice to the many others expressing sadness and regret at the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In a message of condolence sent August 31 to the Queen and all members of the Royal Family, the president of the Adventist Church in Britain, Cecil Perry, spoke of the church leaders and members shock and sadness at the news. "Our hearts go out at this time to those closest to the Princess who are experiencing grief and bereavement. We will be asking all our members to pray specially for the Princess' children. May the love and comfort of our God, who was Himself acquainted with bereavement, be with you all at this time."

In a response received the same day from Balmoral castle, the Queen's Private Secretary expressed the Royal Family's gratitude. "The Queen, the Prince of Wales, Prince William, Prince Henry and all the members of the Royal Family are most grateful for your thoughtful expression of sympathy on the sudden and tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The Private Secretary has been asked to thank you for your kindness in writing as you did at such a sad time."

Responsibilities in the Local Church, revised edition, is now available from AdventSource. The manual includes two-page ministry descriptions which can be photocopied for every church office. Also included is a disk with text files for Windows and Mac. The complete package costs US\$29.95. Call 800-328-0525 and ask for catalog #523200.



Adventist Youth An Alberta poster winner

By Naoibh O'Connor

RECORD-GAZETTE STAFF

The odds may have been against Crystal Johnson, a Grade 5 Peace River Adventist Academy student, yet she managed to become a provincial winner in the 1997 Canada Day Poster Challenge.

Johnson received the good news from the Alberta Canada Day Committee, May 12, with a certain amount of surprise.



"I still can't believe it," she said.

The nature lover's poster was inspired by her visits to the family cottage in Golden. "I like it there. It's peaceful," she said.

Across Canada, 37,000 entered the poster challenge, with 2,225 from the province of Alberta alone. With only 12 of the 28 Academy students entering the contest, few were optimistic about their chances. "One reaction of the school was, our school is so small, nobody will win, said one of the two teachers working at the school, Kelly Smith. "It goes to show you can't win without trying. I was really pleased."

Crystal, one of the 12 provincial winners, received a book entitled Celebrate Canada and a \$50 cash prize. Being somewhat practical, she intends to use the money for her education or to buy something she needs.

Wedding Bells!

Persons phoning or dealing with the Education office have had a chance to meet Christie Unrau. In early October Christie will marry Dwight Dreger and will move to Port Hardy, B.C. Her efficient work and cheerful attitude will be missed here in the office and in the field. We wish Christie and Dwight God's blessings and lots of happiness.

From the Editor...

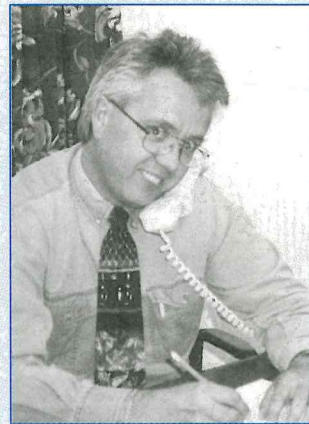
"Go Therefore and Make Disciples..."

Disciple is one of those great, rich words. We refers to Jesus' closest earthly friends as His disciples. Jesus taught us what it means to be a disciple. He said that a disciple is one who: "bears his cross and comes after me." Luke 14:26 and "Gives up everything," Luke 14:33. Probably all Christians would view themselves as disciples, yet some of these statements fit like new shoes... they pinch a little.

I have come to the conclusion that too many Christians in general, and Adventists are not exempt, are educated in the facts and truth of discipleship, but not held accountable as to whether or not they obey what they are taught. I am guilty of that as a pastor preparing people for baptism. It's easier to sit and go through a series of Bible studies on Christianity, than it is to slow down and encourage the application of that truth in the disciple's life. Too many disciples are educated beyond their obedience.

For example, when a person is invited to accept Jesus Christ as savior, the depth of that truth needs to be explored, accepted, and experienced. The communication with God through prayer should not only be taught, but modeled until the disciple "gets it." The truth of the second coming is a fact that needs to be prepared for. The beauty of the Sabbath is much more than the recognition that sunset Friday to sunset Saturday is the Bible Sabbath. New disciples need to experience the joy of Sabbath rest. The doctrine of spiritual gifts needs to be taught individually so that people know how to serve God.

To be educated beyond obedience is a curse to the disciple, and a frustration to the one doing the discipling. Many reading these words will inwardly admit that they know more than they are doing, and believe more than they are experiencing. This is why the church lacks power, and this power shortage can only be overcome as we first look to Christ as a model for us as disciples, then be a true follower and do as He says. May God make us all more than hearers of the word but doers also. (See James 1:22-25)



Bill Spangler, Editor

Cyberspace Soul-Winning

At least four baptisms have resulted from on-line Bible lessons offered through It Is Written's web site created less than a year ago. It was designed as an online follow-up to Net '96 by volunteers Darryl and Cheryl Hosford.

When they offered the Voice of Prophecy's Discover Bible Course on line, they didn't realize they would soon be correcting lessons for over 700 participants starting the series. So far, 47 have graduated from the course, at least five have begun attending Adventist churches, and a former Adventist has returned to church and is now giving Bible lessons as a result of this ministry. Darryl and Cheryl also hold weekly Bible studies in their home and help their local church in western Pennsylvania.

You can visit It Is Written's web site at www.iiw.org.

Transitions

- Jim Burgess, Health/Temperance Director, Alberta Conference (additional responsibility)
- Don Johnson, Rocky Mtn House, lay pastor
- Warren Kay, Edmonton Central, senior pastor
- Les Miller, Korea
- Bruce Proud, Yellowknife, pastor
- Les Sayler, Mtn. Sanctuary Company, Canmore, interim pastor, (additional responsibility)
- Brian Wahl to Monterey Bay Academy, CA as chaplain and teacher