

# What's it Mean to You?

*“If it's real—if it's your people, you don't give up.”*

Jose Rojas  
Past Director of Youth Ministry  
& founder of Volunteer Missions, North American Division  
Evangelist & President of MOVEMENTUM



Jose Rojas knows that hope and Adventist education can change a life.

“I grew up in East LA,” says the Native American. “I witnessed my first homicide at the age of 8.”

As one who still feels the stigma born by those with Aboriginal roots, Jose understands what drives so many of Canada's Aboriginal youth to despair and suicide—five to seven times more often than non-Aboriginal youth.

Jose knows it's hard for the average North American to grasp what it's like to come from a place where hope is limited. But he sees hope for the Cree of Maskwacis in Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS)—Canada's only Adventist mission school.

Jose believes that despite the best intentions of the Samson Cree Nation, which he visited extensively, its state-of-the-art high school will not stop the violence and suicide.

The reason is simple reason: “Cree kids need more hope.”

That's why this August, Jose helped launch The Bridge Campaign to build a high school at MANS.

Jose found transformational hope through his Seventh-day Adventist education. His life and dynamic ministry stand in striking contrast to that of his brother Jerry—who did not go to an Adventist high school and died begging for his life on the streets of LA.

*“To see a Seventh-day Adventist logo at a place that needs it, to come in and see overcrowded classrooms,” Rojas says with emotion, “I say, ‘Thank you, Jesus!’”*

*“I am the result of those who sacrificed to give so that I might receive an education,” Jose says choking back tears. “This is real, folks. We are the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These are our children.”*

*“Lord, this school is a project of faith,” concluded Jose. “Make us faithful—for the sake of our children.”*



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN  
NATIVE SCHOOL

THE  
**BRIDGE**  
CAMPAIGN

BE PART OF THE BRIDGE  
TO CHANGE THE FUTURE  
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