

Alberta Adventist News

DECEMBER 2017



**I have come
into the world
as light, so
that whoever
believes in
me may not
remain in
darkness.**

John 12:46

Dreaming of a Bright Christmas

As a child, every September, I would begin dreaming of Christmas. It was the one time of the year when most, if not all, of the family could be together. It was a time when our local school would perform its annual Christmas program. It was the time of year when the local merchants of our small local Newfoundland community would host our annual Christmas parade. It was also a time associated with our mummering tradition—going house to house dressed in old clothes and having neighbours guess who we were. It was a time of food and music and giving. Truly Christmas was the brightest time of year for me.

As a Christian, Christmas has come to mean all of that and so much more. Let me make a few suggestions as to what goes into making Christmas bright for me today. First, a bright Christmas includes; making room for Jesus. The Inn that Joseph and Mary came to on that first Christmas eve

had no room for them of the Christ soon to be born. I have often wondered how the lives of the Innkeeper would have changed if they had made room in the Inn. How their hearts would have been blessed then, and forever.

As Christians today, we need to make room in the Inn. The no-vacancy sign needs to be taken down. It may mean we have to remove some things from the Inn of our hearts. Things like envy, hatred, jealousy, doubt, and replace them with things like joy, peace, and the happiness we find in knowing Jesus.

A bright Christmas includes worship. We should follow the example of the Angels & Shepherds who sang the glory song on that nascent Christmas eve. We worship God for his creative power in giving us freedom from our sins and making us Sons and Daughters of God.

A bright Christmas must also include the grace of giving. The magi set the example in the gifts they brought to Jesus. Jesus

would respond by giving his very self on the cross. We can express our giving to Jesus by giving to others. Our gifts can be in remembering and blessing those less fortunate this Christmas. It is good to bless our family and friends; it is even more rewarding to bless those who least expect it.

From my family to yours, may this be a beautiful and bright Christmas.



Gary Hodder
President
Alberta Conference

Is a publication of the
**Alberta Conference
Communication Department**

5816 Highway 2A
Lacombe, AB
T4L 2G5

Phone: (403) 342-5044
Fax: (403) 775-4482
Email: info@albertaadventist.ca
Twitter: albertasdaconf
Facebook: ABAdiventist
Website: www.albertaadventist.ca

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Administration

GARY HODDER President

WAYNE WILLIAMS Secretary/VP for
Administration

KEITH RICHTER Treasurer/Chief
Financial Officer

Do you enjoy taking photos?

Submit your best Alberta Conference event/nature photos for a chance to have one printed in the *Alberta Adventist News* or on the front cover. To be considered, photos must be in JPEG format and be a minimum of 5 megabytes in size. Please email submissions to aan@albertaadventist.ca and include information about the event and caption for photo, date photo was taken, photographer name and contact information.



Cover photo and other images contributed.

Submission Guidelines

www.albertaadventist.ca/aan
Please email submissions to
aan@albertaadventist.ca

CONTENTS

Highlights



The Quest for Community

It's not good to be alone. Yet, many of us feel lonely. We hunger for belonging. We yearn for community. We crave connection.



Dreaming of a Bright Christmas

As Christians today, we need to make room in the Inn. The no-vacancy sign needs to be taken down.



CHCS Junior High Outdoor Education

Gaining a better understanding of nature as well as developing many lifelong skills is what the Outdoor Education program provides.

Index

- 2** Message from the President
- 6** World News
- 8** Extreme Philanthropy
- 9** Deaf Ministries
- 10** ABC Christian Store
- 12** The Quest for Community
- 13** Department News
- 14** Education News
- 16** Sunset Calendar 2018
- 18** Church News
- 21** Means & Meaning
- 22** Announcements

Parrot Preachers

Grandma María was the first member of the Colon family to become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. She loved Jesus very much and it didn't take long for people in her neighborhood to realize that fact.

Grandma lived in a big house in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. The house was always a bustle of activity. In the basement, Grandpa operated a furniture factory. Every day you could hear the sounds of saws, hammers, machines, spray painting guns, and workmen shouting above the noise as they made all the beds, dressers, cabinets, tables, and chairs. The smell of wood shavings and spray lacquer blended together with the heat and humidity of the tropics.

Upstairs, life was very busy too. Several of Grandma's children were now grownups and lived in the house. They had their children, which of course were Grandma's grandchildren. And then there were all the neighborhood kids who would come and visit. The delicious smells from the kitchen were always an attraction for those who passed by the big house, and Grandma was always there to invite them in for a glass of water or a meal. Grandpa would often be seen loading the factory truck with furniture to be delivered to the various stores in town.

Grandma was the only Adventist Christian in the family. That was not easy. When family worship time came, she always invited the members of the household to join her for singing, Bible reading, and prayer. Sometimes there were those who would join her, but most of the time Grandma found herself alone on the back porch with God and her two parrots. Their names were Pepe and Suzie. How she enjoyed having family worship! She would sing songs and read the Bible aloud, and sometimes would even preach to her parrots when there was no one else around for her to talk with.

Soon Pepe and Suzie began to learn to sing some of Grandma's favorite hymns. Her favorite hymn was Santo, Santo, Santo... (Holy, Holy, Holy...). Every time Grandma would start to sing that hymn, Pepe and Suzie would begin to sway back and forth with their necks



stretched out, singing the song with all their might. Grandma also repeated certain words and phrases from sermons she had heard. Her parrots learned those, too. It wasn't long before one or the other of the parrots would shout, "Prepárate pecador, que Cristo viene!" ("Prepare sinner, the Lord is coming!").

Pepe and Suzie were kept in a cage at the top of the steps that came up from the basement to Grandma's back porch. In Grandpa's basement furniture factory there was one worker, named Carlos, who was very lazy. Carlos would saw a board and then he would take out a cigarette to smoke while he rested for a while. Every time Carlos' corner of the factory got quiet, Pepe and Suzie would call out his name, "Carlos!" Then they would add, "Get to work!" ("Trabaja!") in a scolding voice. This would make Carlos very angry. He got so angry that one evening, as he climbed the stairs from the factory, he opened the latch of the parrot cage and left it open.

Early the next morning while it was still dark, one of Grandma's neighbors woke up to the sound of voices just outside her window. "Santo, Santo, Santo..." ("Holy, holy, holy...") "Prepare sinner, the Lord is coming!" The neighbor lady ran to her window and peered out into the darkness. Again came the song and the warning cry, "Prepare sinner, the

Lord is coming!" With that, she hurried out to the street only to find others who were asking each other, "Did you hear what I heard?"

Grandma heard the commotion and joined the group. She happily announced that her parrots must be up in those trees.

Soon Pepe and Suzie were back in their cage, leaving Grandma to explain to her neighbors how it happened that her parrots learned to sing and preach! Some of Grandma's neighbors said they wished they knew more about the Bible, so Grandma offered to give them Bible studies. Several of them gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized.

We all know that Pepe and Suzie were just repeating words and sounds they had heard Grandma say in family worship. They didn't really understand what it all meant. But we know about the love of Jesus from the Bible. Jesus is our friend, and we can tell others of His love. If Pepe and Suzie could witness for Jesus by just repeating sounds, how much more we could do by intelligently sharing our love for Jesus with others!

—By Gaspar & Mary-Ellen Colon

Source: *Families Reaching Families: Family Ministries Planbook*. Silver Spring, MD; Department of Family Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1993.

Reprint from the Adventist Family Ministries website <http://family.adventist.org>

What's it Mean to You?

“I know what happens when we choose children, sacrifice for, and educate them.”

Larry Wilkins, Honorary Chair of the Bridge Campaign

Owner & CEO of
External Affairs
Medical Spas



It seems as though my involvement with Mamawi Atosketan was simply inevitable.

When I was one-year old and my brother a little older, the court awarded us in a custody battle to my paternal grandmother. Nan was Mohawk, born on the Tyendanaga Reserve, living in Toronto and married to my Poppa, an Ojibway Indian. She sacrificed a full pension to stay home and mother us. Together, they taught me about love, family and sacrifice, but mostly about love. She chose us.

I spent my teenage years going to school and flying back and forth to the Arctic to work in construction. My father saw that I was lost and told me he would send me to any university in the world if I would go. Beach Boys were cool back then so I chose California, and he chose Pacific Union College.

The Canadian dollar was at an all-time low. My dad had to move into a tiny little rental to keep up with tuition. Knowing his sacrifice so that I could be the first in my clan to attend a school of higher learning, I worked hard and graduated near the top of my class. I was so impressed with the Adventist school system that when my son was of age, I sent him to a Canadian University College. He's now a physician.

My life has taught me a few rules that I have written in stone:

- Love the children—all children—even when doing so requires sacrifice.
- We give everything we can to our kids, but sometimes it's not all good; sometimes they need additional help. For me and my son, the Adventist School system was that help.
- From those to whom much is given, much is expected.

I have extremely high expectations for the children of MANS. I believe in them. I know them. I know what happens when we choose children, sacrifice for, and educate them. I know who they will become. They will lead the next generation and teach them their own life lessons. Gratitude will guide their lives.

Contribute to the campaign to build MANS' high school at www.mans1.ca or make cheques payable to the Bridge Campaign, C/O Alberta Conference, 5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5.



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

World News



NAD Year-End Meetings 2017

Daily devotionals from each morning of NAD Year-End Meetings 2017 are available to watch online at <https://www.facebook.com/NA-DAdventist>. Interviews with first ever NAD president, Charles E. Bradford, as well as first NAD treasurer George H. Crumley discuss the early struggles and victories of the newly formed NAD. Watch worship presentations by former NAD treasurer Juan Prestol-Puésan and former NAD associate secretary Rosa T. Banks as they led committee members to the feet of Christ before business sessions began.

Year-End Meetings 2017 focused on “New Perspectives”. Find the NAD President’s Report, NAD Executive Secretary’s Report, and NAD Treasurer’s Report, along with summary articles and live-streamed video footage online at <http://www.nadadventist.org/article/1073743601/news/current-and-archived-news-stories/2017-current-news-archives/2017-nad-year-end-meeting-news-and-presentations>.

TED-Style Life-Enrichment Talks Attract Hundreds in Australia

Twenty-minute presentations focus on “health, hope, and happiness.”

BY JARROD STACKELROTH & MICHAELA TRUSCOTT, ADVENTIST RECORD

More than 800 people attended a TED-style weekend of presentations held in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia, Nov. 4-5, and more than double that number watched online.

PROPHETICA 2017 featured a diverse list of presenters, including award-winning cookbook author Sue Radd, leading lifestyle disease researcher Ross Grant, radio host and history buff Lyle Southwell, and former punk rocker turned pastor David Asscherick.

The 20-minute presentations included numerous ways for audience members to participate in Q and A sessions, including a mobile text line, meet and greet sessions and meet the host dinners.

The event was held at the Empire Theatre, and event organizers say they were happy with the turnout as a first-of-its-kind event.

Event organizer Julian Archer was thrilled by the community response. “It was so encouraging to our amazing team to see hundreds of people from all walks of life purchasing tickets to an event that offered them the latest scientifically-proven techniques for increasing their health, hope, and happiness.”

While many attendees were from the local area, quite a number traveled up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) to attend the event. There was also a group from Vanuatu.

In attendance was a group of 14 theology and ministry students and three faculty members from Avondale College of Higher Education (NSW).

The students found the opportunity to hear such polished presenters beneficial and will take back skills and techniques learned from the short but information-heavy presentations.

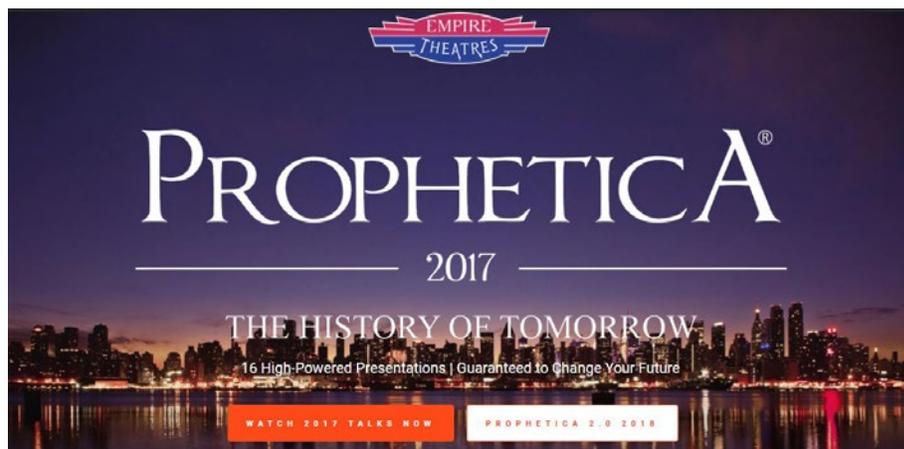
“The caliber of the speakers and their knowledge of the subject matter was fantastic,” said Aniele, a third-year student.

The group was sponsored by the Avondale Ministerial Training Scholarship Fund, set up in 2001 to help support ministry and theology students with potential for full-time ministry to pursue extra learning experiences.

The PROPHETICA 2017 team has been asked to consider holding similar events in other cities.

You can watch the PROPHETICA 2017 presentations on the group’s website at <http://prophetica.com/#about>.

Reprint from <http://www.adventistreview.org>



NAD Welcomes More Than 600 Guests to Grand Opening of New Headquarters

Early morning clouds gave way to bright sunshine on Oct. 26, 2017, as the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD) welcomed guests to the grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony at its new headquarters in Columbia, Maryland.

“This is our home ... we are delighted you are here,” welcomed Daniel R. Jackson, current NAD president. Jackson described the purpose of the headquarters, saying, “This building does not stand for human progress, for human ingenuity. It stands to serve the purposes of the almighty God.”

More than 600 people gathered for the 2 ½ hour event. Attendees included state and county government officials, NAD employees, the NAD Executive Committee comprised of church leaders from across North America, military chaplains, musicians, former NAD administrators, Adventist HealthCare officials, and other honored guests. A smaller group attended an evening reception also tied to the grand opening celebration.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the main entrance of the headquarters. It included prayer by former NAD president Don C. Schneider, acknowledgments, a presentation of the state flag from the Maryland Secretary of State John Wobensmith, and the raising of the flags with the Allegheny East Conference Drum Corps and the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church Pathfinder Flag Bearers. Once the ribbon was cut by NAD officers and select officials and guests with commemorative scissors, the crowd streamed through the lobby to the building’s main auditorium and overflow room.

Warm Welcome

Jackson welcomed the congregation to the dedication portion of the event. Highlights of the program included remarks by Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference (the Adventist church’s mid-Atlantic region); invocation by G. Thomas

Evans, NAD treasurer; a special recognition segment by a G. Alexander Bryant, NAD executive secretary; and dedicatory remarks by Jackson.

The Takoma Academy choir and a Spencerville Adventist Academy musical ensemble performed during the dedication. Adventist pastor and recording artist Wintley Phipps, who has performed for several U.S. presidents and numerous dignitaries during his career, sang “Amazing Grace.” Three video presentations were viewed, including a greeting and prayer from Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference (Adventist world church) president, a historical perspective with NAD timeline, and a pictorial perspective of the building’s renovation process.

McClure, son of Alfred C. McClure, former NAD president who passed away in 2006); and Bonita Rodriguez, daughter of Barbara and Robert L. Dale, former NAD secretary.

Community Connection

As the sun slipped in the sky, the complementary late-afternoon reception featured a welcome by attorney Orlan Johnson, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the NAD; remarks by Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes and Baltimore County Executive Kevin B. Kamenetz; and a message read by a representative for Sheila Jackson Lee, an Adventist and U.S. congresswoman from Texas.

During the evening, Sarbanes shared his engagement with Adventist entities. “When I was a lawyer I represented a number of [Adventist] health care organizations across [the country],” said Sarbanes, whose district includes both the church’s world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, and the new NAD headquarters.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church makes a huge impression on people because of the extent to which it connects with which-ever community it resides in,” Sarbanes said. “This is going to be no exception. You can already tell there’s a sense of connection with the Howard County community. It’s a great match—Columbia is a very diverse place, a lot of different perspectives, a lot of wonderful people, and I think that reflects who the Seventh-day Adventist church is as well.”

Pleased with the Adventist representation in Maryland through the health care system and NAD employees, Kamenetz echoed Sarbanes’ comments. “The church is helping people grow, and improve their lives—who wouldn’t want you as a neighbor?” he said. “It’s great to have you here.”

—By Kimberly Luste Maran, assistant director of Communication for the North American Division. Reprint from the Seventh-day Adventist Church North American Division website <http://www.nadadventist.org>



NAD officers and honored guests cut the ceremonial ribbon at the North American Division Headquarters Grand Opening Celebration.

Photo by Pieter Damsteeght.

Before Artur Stele, a general vice president of the General Conference, offered the dedication prayer, the NAD officers lead the congregation in a litany of scriptural passages as selected by Shirley Burton, a former communication director for the NAD.

“We dedicate this building to the glory of God the Father, to the honor of Jesus Christ our Savior, and to the praise of the Holy Spirit,” said Stele. He concluded with “Lord, bless all activities done here—to glorify Your name.”

Honored guests included Charles E. Bradford, former NAD president; Schneider; George H. Crumley, former NAD treasurer; Juan R. Prestol-Puesán, former NAD treasurer and current GC treasurer; Scott

Extreme Philanthropy

On September 20, 2017, the eye of Hurricane María plowed through Puerto Rico and left 3.4 million residents without power and limited access to resources like clean water. In the wake of the nearly category 5 storm, there have been calls for celebrities and regular citizens alike to help the suffering people of the island. Media footage of the devastation and heart-wrenching stories of the victims have spurred a profusion of charitable endeavors. Numerous celebrities have used their fame as a platform to garner awareness and support, made significant donations, pledged proceeds of record sales, and even offered their private jets to transfer patients to the USA.

All of these efforts are laudable and most likely come from a genuine desire to use fame and fortune for good, but the type of philanthropy practiced by the stars is feeble and impotent compared to the greatest act of selfless devotion this world has ever seen. The Son of God didn't write a cheque from the comfort of a cushy throne. He didn't embark on a televised tour, bodyguards in tow, to peer into decimated homes. He didn't participate in a celestial telethon to

Hurricane María,
Dominican Republic.



raise universal awareness to the plight of earthlings. The philanthropy he undertook meant giving up his heavenly home and getting his hands dirty, or rather, irreparably scarred.

Imagine the following proposal is presented to a prominent philanthropist or celebrity:

Ok, so here's the deal. We really appreciate your offer to help but the only thing you can do is kind of involved. A cheque with a hundred zeros wouldn't do a thing to help these people out of their predicament. We know how much you love your home and family but the plan requires your physical presence. And we're not talking a short-term visit.

You'll need to fully integrate into their society and actually live with them in their third world nation for, not months, but years.

I know it's a lot to ask, but this is a complex process. If you're passionate about their survival, it's the only way to save them. You'll have to give up your career. Also, we need you to keep a low profile so don't expect the usual creature comforts,

indoor plumbing and fine dining you're used to. We will get you into the country and then you'll be responsible for forming a coalition and trying to convince as many people as possible that they are in grave danger. This ideology will be controversial and completely at odds with the status quo belief system. You and your supporters will likely be extremely unpopular.

Which brings me to the part that could be a deal-breaker for you, but hear me out. The anthropologists involved in this mission are pretty certain that the leaders of the nation will end up seeing you as a threat and a nuisance. You should know there's a good chance they may resort to violence. We'll do what we can to protect you but it's possible this mission will end in your termination. The people who believe the truth and are prepared to leave their homeland will be given amnesty in developed countries and thereby be saved from the impending apocalypse that will sweep through their own country. They'll be free to begin a new life in safety and peace because of your sacrifice.

You've publicly declared that you're fully committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure their survival. So what do you say? What do you think that celebrity would say? What would you say? Christ said yes. And we are saved. —By Beth Nichols

Reprint from Glimpses

What to Do If You Have a Deaf Person Visit Your Home in the Holidays

Having a deaf person come to visit with your family can be a wonderful, or a difficult situation. If your family is prepared, then it can be fulfilling for everyone.

It is important to note that there are two types of deaf persons. There are a lot of parallels between them, but some strong differences.

Deaf (#1) A person who was born hearing, speaks well, but has become extremely deaf (probably is older), but does not sign. They are not familiar with the 'Deaf Community'

Deaf (#2) A person who is profoundly Deaf, probably does not speak clearly (if at all), is part of the 'Deaf Community' but whose basic form of communication is usually through sign language.

Deaf (#1) Person still is part of the hearing culture, but is probably becoming more and more cut off from the 'Hearing World.' They may be feeling very lonely! However, because they still talk clearly, they can communicate to you quite well. But, to communicate with them, you may have to resort mostly to writing and/or speaking slowly and clearly so they can see your mouth—if they do some lip reading.

Deaf (#2) Person can be a greater challenge if they don't lip read and you must communicate to them and from them mostly through writing. If they are deeply involved in the 'Deaf Community', they may not be as lonely as Deaf #1, but depending on the circumstances, could feel very 'left out of things' at your home unless you do your best to keep them in the loop and use the best communication that works for them—in your circumstances.

Here are a number of things to think through. Most of the points will apply to both Deaf (#1) and Deaf (#2).

1. Constantly remember to keep the deaf person in the loop as to what is happening - probably through writing—as needed.
2. At meal time, it may be appropriate to have them offer the grace at the table. If in sign language, then the 'Hearing' need to keep their eyes open to see the signing!
3. If the TV is used, make sure that it is set for captioning. If you are going to show a DVD, try to have chosen one that has captioning or sub-titled. It is almost discourteous to show one without captioning.
4. If you play any group games, try and feature ones that require little or no talking. Examples would be pool, pick up sticks, Chinese checkers, air hockey, etc.
5. Have pen and paper handy for everyone to use so they can visit with the Deaf. Don't leave the Deaf in a corner feeling isolated and alone! If they are left out, they may just resort to reading, TV or their cell phone.
6. If appropriate, you may be able to communicate using texting on your and their cell phone—texting is now used by nearly all Deaf.
7. You may wish the Deaf (#2) to teach you (and/or the group) a few simple signs like: food, water, time, home, yes and no. Here is an excellent Online Sign Language Dictionary: <http://www.lifeprint.com>. If they were going to be in your home for several days, it would be good to have them teach you the signed alphabet. You may be able to learn it in about an hour. Here the alphabet is quickly taught on YouTube:(skip the ad!) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY-hAAMDQI-Q> You could get a head start on this site!
8. There are many Adventist Deaf HOPE TV programs signed or captioned in 5 different languages. These programs are available Online 24/7 and could be helpful in some circumstances. You can choose what you want to watch: <http://www.hopechanneldeaf.org>.



Deaf love to visit around a meal when sign language is used, but writing will also work.

May God give you the love, wisdom and the gift of hospitality to minister to any Deaf during the holidays, or on any occasion!

Pastor and Mrs. John Blake,
Alberta Conference Deaf
Ministry Department
PO Box 308, Clive, AB
TOC 0Y0
(403) 784-3798
Email: blake@deafhope.org
Website: www.deafhope.org



John Blake
 Volunteer Deaf Ministry Coordinator,
 Alberta Conference



Food Sale

WayFare Dairy Free

- Sour cream - **\$6.45**
- Cinnamony - **\$6.95**
- Cheddar - **\$6.65**
- Nacho - **\$6.65**
- Ranch - **\$6.50**



Heritage Food

Single cans & Cases of cans



25% OFF



Punjabi Daal
Vegan **\$7.00**



Chana Masala
Vegan **\$7.00**



Stuffed Turkey
by Gardein
Vegan **\$11.75**

Eden Organic



Mexican Rice & Beans
Organic **\$4.20**



Cajun Rice & Beans
Organic **\$4.20**

ABC Christian Store Information

PHONE: (403) 782-4416
1-800-661-8131
LOCATION: 1 - 5230 College Ave, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G1
WEBSITE: www.albertaadventist.ca/abc
EMAILS: ABC Lacombe - abclacombe@albertaadventist.ca
Alberta Book Mobile - albertabookmobile@albertaadventist.ca

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

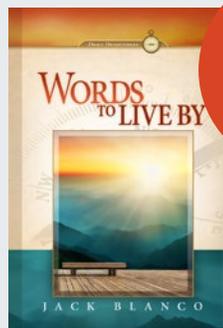
Devotional Inspiration for 2018

Devotional Boxed Gift Set 2018

This attractive, boxed set makes a beautiful gift for those special people on your list. The boxed set includes both adult devotionals for 2018, *Christ Triumphant* (2018 Evening Devotional) by Ellen G. White; *Words to Live by* (2018 Adult Devotional) by Jack Blanco



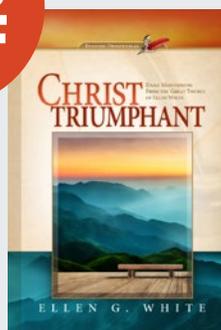
Book Sale



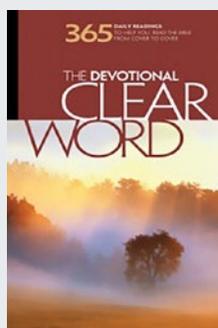
25% OFF

Words to Live By
(2018 Adult Devotional)
by Jack Blanco

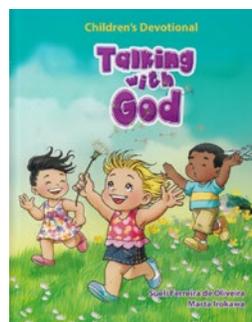
Words to Live By was written for busy people who long to grow in their walk with Jesus.



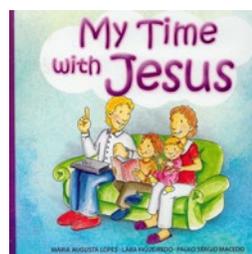
Christ Triumphant
(2018 Evening Devotional)
by Ellen G. White



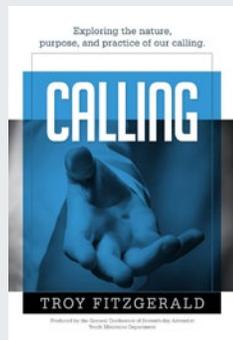
Clear Word Devotional
by Jack Blanco
\$55.99



Talking with God
(2018 Primary Devotional)
by Sueli Ferreira de Oliveira
and Marta Irokawa



My Time with Jesus
(2018 Preschool Devotional)
by Maria Augusta Lopes,
Lara Figueiredo, &
Paulo Sérgio Macedo



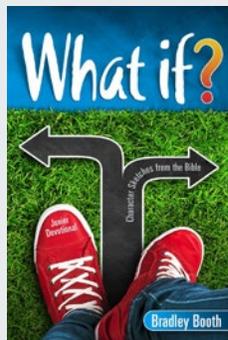
Calling
(2018 Young Adult Devotional) by Troy Fitzgerald

Calling is for anyone seeking to know, and do, the will of God. It is for those who find themselves in a season when fleshing out God's plan is especially relevant.



God Space
(2018 Teen Devotional)
by Tompaul Wheeler

In life's ruthless race God can seem like so much outer space. But life's more than a long fight for last place. The answer is to give God more than just shelf space—and go from self-centeredness to discipleship.



What If?
(2018 Junior Devotional)
by Bradley Booth

This junior devotional draws lessons on the importance of obedience, kindness, courage, and prayer—and shows how making poor choices can often lead to serious consequences.



Notes of Joy
(2018 Woman's Devotional)
by Carolyn Rathbun Sutton

This daily devotional book for women shares that lasting joy is only found through Christ and through the avenues He provides for us—families, friendships, mentors, creation, and yes, even challenges and trials.

Before creating Eve, God observed of Adam, “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18, NIV). It’s still true today. It’s not good to be alone. Yet, many of us feel lonely. We hunger for belonging. We yearn for community. We crave connection.

Fortunately for us, the New Testament reveals a God-given plan for experiencing authentic biblical community. In fact, Jesus designed His church to be a community in which people are loved and cared for, encouraged and appreciated. Christ’s plan for the church is summed in the “one another” texts of the New Testament.



The Quest for Community

The scriptures outline at least 23 different things we’re commanded to do for each other in the church. These are imperatives. Notice some of them...

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love”
(Romans 12:10).

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you”
(Romans 15:7).

“Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

“Be kind and compassionate to one another”
(Ephesians 4:32).

“Encourage one another and build each other up”
(1 Thessalonians 5:11).

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling”
(1 Peter 4:9).

“Have fellowship with one another” (1 John 1:7).

If the church today were to become intentional about obeying these commands, our quest for community would be over. The vital question is this—what is the best vehicle for us to accomplish Christ’s mandate?

Maybe we find a clue in the

way Jesus chose to live His life. Jesus was committed to a small group of twelve men. Jesus lived in community with those first disciples. They went places together. They did ministry together. They did life together. They lived in authentic biblical community.

The early Christians did the same.

They constantly met in small groups in each other’s homes. “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47, NIV).

Is it any wonder the early church grew so quickly? Love like that is so attractive. Those early believers were radically committed to each other. They ate their meals together.

They helped each other. They loved each other in outrageous ways—even selling property to share with those who had need. They lived in authentic biblical community.

Friend, there really was a church like that. And if community like that can happen in the first century in Jerusalem, it can happen in the twenty-first century in Lacombe or wherever you live. Could it be that small groups are the key to authentic biblical community today? Could it be that our quest for community is leading us back to this New Testament model? Could it be that God is calling you to join a small group?

Reprint from Glimpses

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:46-47, NIV



Jeff Potts
Lead Pastor
College Heights Adventist Church

Alberta Conference Youth Leaders Conduct Province Wide Listening Tour



Lethbridge Youth and Young Adults attend Alberta Conference Youth Department Listening Tour.

Many times within our churches, youth are seldom given an opportunity or platform to speak freely. The Youth Department personnel of the Alberta Conference recently traveled across Alberta and the Northwest Territories (Yellowknife area) to hear from the youth. They called it a “Listening Tour” because they actively listening to the needs and desires of the youth. The young people had an opportunity to share their ideas about the church and what they would like to see in youth ministry.

The concept came about when the Alberta Conference Youth Department leaders sat down to plan for the next five years. Alberta Conference Youth Director, Lyle Notice, states, “We thought instead of us just planning programs, let’s get some context from our youth and then start planning. As David Benjamin and I traveled across Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray on our listening tour, we found that all youth wanted the same thing, to be heard.”

By visiting with the youth and meeting them on their turf, Notice and Benjamin focused on creating a safe place for the young people to share what was on their hearts.

Several topics were consistently shared at each location. The youth want to know how to share their faith with unbelievers, they want to do more community outreach and they want to learn how to better lead out in worship at their local churches.

Oh yeah, and I can’t forget, they love teen youth rally and would like to see more teen youth rallies in the near future.

Thanks for your support of Youth Ministries throughout the Alberta Conference. —Submitted by Lyle Notice, Alberta Conference Youth Director



ENCOUNTER

ADVENTIST CURRICULUM

This curriculum is being introduced in all our Adventist schools in Canada this school year, and we need your help. Though the Bible is the only textbook, the program includes a wealth of resources that help make the teaching of Bible come alive for our children. These represent the best methods and freshest thought that Mrs. White was referring to. Please help us and our teachers to share Jesus with our children. Please give generously to help provide these Bible resources for our schools.

The Alberta Conference needs 10 sets (one set/school) of the Encounter Bible curriculum. Each set includes: 1 kit for grades 1-4, 1 kit for grades 5-8, and 1 main school kit. Kits cost approximately \$1000 US each.

For more information, please contact your local Adventist school or Janet Hall at the Alberta Conference office by email at jhall@albertaadventist.ca



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

NOTE: A short video is available at vimeo.com/229158645/0795f8ca74

CHCS Junior High Outdoor Education

Gaining a better understanding of nature as well as developing many lifelong skills is what the Outdoor Education class at College Heights Christian School program provides. This is an options class for Junior High students and is taught for part of the school year. Recently I was able to interview one of the students, Luke Ganson, about one of their recent fall backpacking trips.

Q: Luke, can you tell me where you went and how long your class was gone backpacking?

A: We hiked around Lake Minnewanka. It was a three-day trip and we hiked approximately 30 km throughout our backpacking expedition.

Q: Making a three-day trip must involve some preparation. What did you individually have to do to prepare for the trip?



Luke Ganson, Grade 9 student at CHCS.

A: Well I had to pack my backpack, so I packed three days worth of food, plus snacks. I also packed all my sleeping stuff like a tent, mat and sleeping bag. Then clothes for the three days and additional warmth like a down jacket and a thick hoodie. Finally, miscellaneous gear: knives, stove and flashlight.

Q: Trips like that are memorable. What was a fun memory you have from the trip?

A: On the second day we were camping beside a glacier lake and about ten of us went and swam in the lake for about 20

minutes! We had a great time and then went straight to the fire to warm up.

Q: Would you say that God was part of the experience?

A: Well he was visible to me throughout every part of the trip. Every time you looked at the scenery around you it was breathtaking and you instantly knew that this did not happen by chance, that God was with you at that very moment. But the most memorable moment was when I was just about ready to get into my tent for the night and a deer came like within a foot of me for about a minute! When I tried to reach out and touch it, the deer ran away. My friend was watching the whole thing and was worried for my life because our teacher said they can sometimes be aggressive, but luckily that part never happened. I had never been so close to a wild animal before and it was just a feeling I will never forget.

Q: What would you say to someone considering Outdoor Education at our school next year?

A: Ha ha, well I have been trying to convince lots of people to come because there's nothing like it. You just feel alive and filled with God's love all the time. Our school always travels far from cities, and it's really nice to have the disconnection from the busyness of school and life. You just come back refreshed and closer to God than ever. So for me, it's a no-brainer to take a couple days and have an experience of a lifetime.

—Submitted by Charissa Hawes

CHCS Junior High Outdoor Education Class.





North American Division Accreditation Team Gives MANS a Big Thumbs-Up

As a full-fledged Seventh-day Adventist senior academy, Mamawai Atosketan Native School is subject to the same scrutiny as every other Seventh-day Adventist school in Alberta and throughout North America. Upon completing the team visit Nov. 10-13, Dr. Larry Blackmer, head of the NAD Education Department who led the visit, wrote: *“The committee was overwhelmed with the dedication and commitment of the administration and faculty to the well-being of the students. The administration and faculty of MANS work cooperatively to ensure a safe, nurturing, welcoming and inclusive environment. It was also recognized that the current principal has built a cohesive, collaborative, and supportive team that exemplifies the richness of the caring Christ-like atmosphere on campus.”*

Revelation of Hope in Whitecourt

Whitecourt Seventh-day Adventist Company held a two-week *Revelation of Hope* evangelistic series from October 21 - November 4 conducted by Pastor Michael Corbel. The meetings were held at the Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre. It was a blessing to see many members in attendance as well as a few visitors. Pray for Whitecourt as the Gospel message goes out and seeds are planted!—Submitted by Michael M. Corbel, Pastor of Whitecourt/Edson Churches

Pastor Michael Corbel speaking at the *Revelation of Hope* series in Whitecourt.



2018 SUNSET CALENDAR

Seventh-day
Adventist® Church



ALBERTA CONFERENCE

5816 Highway 2A,
Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5
Phone: (403) 342-5044
Fax : (403) 775-4482
info@albertaadventist.ca
www.albertaadventist.ca



This is a publication of the Alberta Conference
Communication Department

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 11, 2018

2018 OFFERING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

06 Local Church Budget
13 Local Conference Advance
20 Local Church Budget
27 Religious Liberty* (WB)

FEBRUARY

03 Local Church Budget
10 It Is Written Canada* (WB)
17 Local Church Budget
24 Local Conference Advance

MARCH

03 Local Church Budget
10 Adventist World Radio (WB)
17 Local Church Budget
24 Local Conference Advance
31 NAD Evangelism

APRIL

07 Local Church Budget
14 Canadian Christian Record
Services* (WB)
21 Local Church Budget
28 Local Conference Advance

MAY

05 Local Church Budget
12 Disaster & Famine Relief*
(WB)
19 Local Church Budget
26 Local Conference Advance

JUNE

02 Local Church Budget
09 Canadian French Ministries*
(WB)
16 Local Church Budget
23 Local Conference Advance
30 Canadian Native Ministries*

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS 2018

March 31 - Inter-American Division
June 30 - North American Division
September 29 - Northern Asia-Pacific Division
December 29 - Southern Asia-Pacific Division

MISSION INVESTMENT PROJECTS 2018

North Pacific Union
Lake Union

*(WB) Designates an offering that is part of
the World Budget Special Material.

	Friday Sunsets	Beauvallon	Calgary	Canmore	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Hanna	Lacombe	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Yellowknife
JANUARY	05	4:21	4:44	4:49	4:29	4:01	4:41	4:34	4:36	4:45	4:35	3:23
	12	4:31	4:53	4:58	4:39	4:13	4:51	4:43	4:45	4:54	4:44	3:39
	19	4:43	5:04	5:09	4:51	4:26	5:04	4:54	4:56	5:04	4:54	3:57
	26	4:56	5:15	5:20	5:03	4:41	5:18	5:06	5:09	5:15	5:05	4:17
FEBRUARY	02	5:10	5:28	5:33	5:17	4:56	5:32	5:19	5:22	5:27	5:17	4:38
	09	5:24	5:40	5:45	5:31	5:12	5:47	5:32	5:35	5:39	5:29	4:59
	16	5:38	5:53	5:58	5:45	5:28	6:02	5:45	5:48	5:51	5:41	5:20
	23	5:52	6:05	6:10	5:58	5:43	6:16	5:57	6:01	6:02	5:53	5:40
MARCH	02	6:05	6:17	6:22	6:12	5:59	6:31	6:10	6:14	6:14	6:05	6:00
	9	6:19	6:29	6:34	6:25	6:16	6:45	6:22	6:27	6:25	6:17	6:20
	16	7:32	7:41	7:46	7:38	7:29	7:59	7:34	7:40	7:37	7:28	7:39
	23	7:45	7:53	7:58	7:51	7:44	8:13	7:46	7:52	7:48	7:39	7:58
	30	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:04	7:59	8:27	7:58	8:04	7:58	7:50	8:18
APRIL	06	8:11	8:16	8:21	8:17	8:13	8:41	8:10	8:16	8:09	8:01	8:37
	13	8:24	8:27	8:33	8:30	8:28	8:54	8:22	8:29	8:20	8:12	8:56
	20	8:36	8:39	8:44	8:42	8:43	9:08	8:34	8:41	8:31	8:23	9:16
	27	8:49	8:50	8:55	8:55	8:58	9:22	8:45	8:53	8:42	8:34	9:36
MAY	04	9:02	9:01	9:07	9:08	9:12	9:35	8:57	9:05	8:52	8:45	9:56
	11	9:14	9:12	9:18	9:20	9:27	9:49	9:08	9:17	9:03	8:55	10:16
	18	9:26	9:23	9:28	9:32	9:40	10:01	9:18	9:28	9:12	9:05	10:35
	25	9:36	9:32	9:38	9:42	9:53	10:13	9:28	9:38	9:21	9:14	10:54
JUNE	01	9:45	9:41	9:46	9:52	10:04	10:23	9:36	9:47	9:29	9:22	11:11
	08	9:52	9:47	9:53	9:59	10:13	10:31	9:43	9:54	9:36	9:29	11:25
	15	9:57	9:52	9:58	10:05	10:19	10:37	9:47	9:59	9:40	9:33	11:35
	22	10:00	9:55	10:00	10:07	10:22	10:39	9:50	10:01	9:43	9:36	11:39
	29	9:59	9:55	10:00	10:07	10:21	10:39	9:49	10:01	9:43	9:36	11:37

Camp 2018	Date	Age
Blind	July 1-8	All
Watersports/Horsemanship Specialized Camps	July 8-11	13-17
Adventurer Camp Sherwood Forest 1	July 22-29 July 22-29	6-10 9-12
Junior Camp Sherwood 2	July 29-August 5 July 29-August 5	10-13 13-17
Teen Camp Sherwood 3	August 5-12 August 5-12	13-17 10-14

Register online at www.foothillscamp.org

CAMP MEETING 2018: July 13 - 21

Adventist Book Centre - Lacombe

Phone: (403) 782-4416 • Toll Free: 1-800-661-8131

Fax: (403) 782-5990 (Order Desk)

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 4, 2018

2018 OFFERING SCHEDULE

JULY

- 07 Local Church Budget
- 14 Women's Ministries* *(WB)*
- 21 Local Church Budget
- 28 Local Conference Advance

AUGUST

- 04 Local Church Budget
- 11 Andrews/Loma Linda Universities* *(WB)*
- 18 Local Church Budget
- 25 Local Conference Advance

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Local Church Budget
- 08 Fall Mission Appeal* *(WB)*
- 15 Local Church Budget
- 22 Local Conference Advance
- 29 Burman University*

OCTOBER

- 06 Local Church Budget
- 13 Voice of Prophecy Canada* *(WB)*
- 20 Local Church Budget
- 27 Local Conference Advance

NOVEMBER

- 03 Local Church Budget
- 10 Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)* *(WB)*
- 17 Local Church Budget
- 24 Local Conference Advance

DECEMBER

- 01 Local Church Budget
- 08 Adventist Ministries of Compassion Canada* *(WB)*
- 15 Local Church Budget
- 22 Local Conference Advance
- 29 Canadian Evangelism*

**(WB)* Designates an offering that is part of the World Budget Special Material.

	Friday Sunsets	Beauvallon	Calgary	Canmore	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Hanna	Lacombe	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Yellowknife
JULY	06	9:55	9:52	9:58	10:04	10:17	10:36	9:46	9:59	9:41	9:34	11:29
	13	9:49	9:48	9:53	9:58	10:10	10:30	9:41	9:53	9:36	9:29	11:17
	20	9:41	9:41	9:46	9:50	10:01	10:21	9:33	9:46	9:30	9:23	11:01
	27	9:30	9:31	9:37	9:40	9:48	10:10	9:24	9:36	9:21	9:14	10:43
AUGUST	03	9:18	9:21	9:26	9:28	9:34	9:57	9:13	9:25	9:11	9:04	10:23
	10	9:04	9:09	9:14	9:15	9:19	9:42	9:00	9:12	9:00	8:52	10:02
	17	8:50	8:55	9:01	9:00	9:02	9:27	8:46	8:58	8:47	8:39	9:40
	24	8:34	8:41	8:46	8:45	8:45	9:10	8:31	8:43	8:33	8:25	9:17
	31	8:17	8:26	8:31	8:28	8:26	8:53	8:16	8:27	8:19	8:11	8:54
SEPTEMBER	07	8:01	8:11	8:16	8:11	8:08	8:35	8:00	8:11	8:04	7:56	8:31
	14	7:43	7:55	8:00	7:54	7:49	8:17	7:44	7:54	7:49	7:40	8:08
	21	7:26	7:39	7:44	7:37	7:30	7:59	7:28	7:38	7:34	7:25	7:44
	28	7:09	7:23	7:28	7:20	7:11	7:41	7:12	7:21	7:18	7:10	7:21
OCTOBER	05	6:52	7:07	7:12	7:03	6:52	7:23	6:56	7:05	7:03	6:54	6:58
	12	6:35	6:52	6:57	6:46	6:33	7:05	6:40	6:49	6:49	6:39	6:35
	19	6:19	6:37	6:42	6:30	6:15	6:48	6:25	6:33	6:34	6:25	6:12
	26	6:04	6:23	6:28	6:15	5:58	6:32	6:11	6:19	6:21	6:12	5:50
NOVEMBER	02	5:50	6:10	6:15	6:01	5:42	6:17	5:58	6:05	6:09	5:59	5:29
	09	4:37	4:58	5:03	4:48	4:27	5:03	4:46	4:52	4:58	4:48	4:09
	16	4:26	4:48	4:53	4:36	4:14	4:51	4:36	4:42	4:48	4:38	3:51
	23	4:17	4:40	4:45	4:27	3:02	4:40	4:28	4:33	4:40	4:30	3:34
	30	4:10	4:34	4:39	4:20	3:54	4:33	4:22	4:26	4:35	4:25	3:20
DECEMBER	07	4:06	4:30	4:35	4:15	3:48	4:27	4:19	4:22	4:32	4:21	3:10
	14	4:05	4:29	4:34	4:14	3:45	4:26	4:18	4:21	4:31	4:21	3:04
	21	4:07	4:31	4:36	4:16	3:47	4:27	4:20	4:22	4:33	4:22	3:04
	28	4:12	4:36	4:41	4:20	3:51	4:32	4:25	4:27	4:37	4:27	3:10

Edmonton Central Church Starts Community Focused Programs

In early 2016, Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church board and the pastoral team met and studied the book *Mission-Driven Church* written by Paul Brantley, Dan Jackson, and Mike Cauley church officials from the North American Division (NAD). They decided to accept the challenge of a church transformation process, that would lead to a new way of life, a cultural identity and a new way of reaching out to our communities.

A REACH Initiative Coordination team was selected and held their first meeting on July 30, 2016. Their task was to plan a Mission-Driven church rather than a Mission-Drift church, a work that could only be carried out under the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom. The first requirement was to survey the spiritual climate of the church, the church board and the pastoral team and to identify the church members' talents, passions, and gifts, through a Spiritual Gifts assessment.

On October 15, 2016, REACH Initiative was officially launched. For over three weeks, the pastors preached on talents, passions, and gifts. Jesus' words, "If you want to follow me, take up your cross and follow me," Luke 9:23 was emphasized and unity became one of the keys to success in

achieving transformational change as was evidenced in the early church.

In December 2016, the REACH Initiative team planned for assorted ministry services to our community under the newly registered www.kingswayinstructionalcentre.com. These services included: free music lessons, free financial literacy, free math tutoring, healthy vegetarian cooking and fitness classes. On April 2, 2017, there was a feeling of excitement as church members/volunteers received the first applicants. About 35 volunteers led by elder Bob Ramsay were ready at 8:00 am to welcome them. About thirty community members were in attendance. One wonderful Muslim lady came to take a course and to make new friendships. The courses ran from eight to twelve weeks long, every Sunday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m..

June 24, 2017 was Community Service Awards Day. Our community members who had successfully completed their courses, along with members of the Edmonton Police Service and Fire Department, agreed to join us during the worship hour to receive their certificates.

On Sunday, July 2, 2017, another day for community/church interaction, we hosted



Pastor John Wesley with members of the Edmonton Police Service at the Edmonton Central Church on Community Service awards day.

a Canada Day Pancake Parking Lot Breakfast for about 160 community members.

On July 8, over 60 church leaders attended our visioning session. New REACH, vision and mission statements were presented to the church on September 23.

As we prepare to launch four new courses by Kingsway Instructional Centre this fall, may the Lord continue to be our guide as we rededicate our commitment to be a missional church for His Kingdom.

—Submitted by Debbie Sinaga

Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant Receives Company Status

The Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant celebrated their official recognition of church company status on Oct 28, 2017. Elder Keith Richter gave a stirring sermon message on the blessing of belonging to God's remnant church and then an appeal for church members to come forward to register their names and become official supporters of the Fort Saskatchewan church company - 29 individuals came forward. To God be the



status. — Submitted by Darrell Beaudoin, Pastor of the Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant



Lacombe Parkland Adventurers.



Sylvan Lake Lighthouse Adventurers.



Conference Rep's, Master Guides and Club Directors.



Lacombe Parkland new instructor's that were inducted.

Central Alberta Induction Ceremony

Red Deer Falcons, Sylvan Lake Lighthouse and Lacombe Parkland Adventurers Club joined at the Sylvan Lake Adventist Church on November 4, 2017 to welcome 48 new members (39 children, 9 Instructors) to the Alberta Conference Adventurers family. During this special ceremony, adventurers explained the meaning of the Adventurers law, placed their name on the altar and lighted the class candles. As part of the official welcome, they also completed their uniform by getting the scarf on, adventurer pin, membership cards and certificates. We were blessed to have the presence of the Youth Department officials, Adventurers families, The City Councillor for Lacombe and the community in general. This ministry is off to a great year of learning, fun and growing up for Jesus.



Sylvan Lake Pathfinder Induction

Sylvan Lake Church held a Pathfinder Induction Service, November 11, where six Pathfinders and three leaders were inducted.

Edmonton Youth Share Jesus with Local Seniors

The children of the Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with their teachers and parents, have been faithfully taking their Sabbath school programs to the Venta Care residence and Dickinsfield Care Centre for almost a year.

Upon a recent visit to the Centre, the seniors and their staff were delighted to listen to the children as they sang and played a variety of musical instruments. Staff cheered as the children repeated Bible verses from memory. At the end of the program, the seniors who recently celebrated birthdays were presented with birthday cards and gifts. The gratitude and words of appreciation from the seniors was of great encouragement to the group.

A broken life can be renewed when it is touched by God's love. In the Old Testament, we read that the Prophet Jeremiah



watched a Potter working, he noticed that if an object was marred the potter would simply reshape it (Jer. 18: 1- 6). We are never too badly broken for God to reshape

us. He loves us all in spite of our imperfections.—Submitted by Ina Martin – Junior class Sabbath School teacher, Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Coming home from school, I would always feel sick when I saw my house. I'd drop my things on the porch and refuse to go inside. I don't remember ever voluntarily going in that house."

—Ty Gibson



HopeChannel

download the story here:
hopetv.org/thoughtears

Christmas Candles



DID YOU KNOW

The Alberta Conference receives year-end tithes and offerings in other ways besides cash. Gifts of shares, gifted directly to the Conference rather than cash received after sale, can yield more benefits to you and the Conference. It's a surprisingly efficient way to shift capital gains from Canada Revenue Agency to a cause you choose.

BY LYNN McDOWELL

A Jewish home seems like an unlikely place to experience the true meaning of Christmas, but I suppose stranger things have happened.

I recently visited Celia and Richard, who had shared their home with our family on several occasions as our daughters, who are now on their own, progressed from Grades 3-12 together. This was, however, the first time that we had shared a Friday night meal. As Celia began to recite the Hebrew blessing over the lit candles, Richard interrupted her to give me his phrase-by-phrase translation.

I was struck by the sublime humanity of it all: Celia, having to re-collect her train of thought after each interruption, soldiered on with good humor and grace. Richard glowed with excitement as he shared the nuances of the Hebrew (did you know that “commandment” and “connection” come from the same root word?). Above

“The meaning of Christmas can turn up in surprising places.”

all, Richard’s translation of the blessing over the glowing candles spoke of wholeness and connection — or wholeness through connection—within our person, with each other, and with the “Source of blessings...Source of all our power, Ruling Principle of the universe.”

In short, God is good. God is supreme. God wants connection with us and wants us to be whole.

Though there were and are those in the Jewish community who regard the Hebrew name for God as too sacred to utter, Richard translates the two syllables that comprise that name as “Divinity beyond our knowing/Manifest in our reality.” God with Us has always been a mystery.

As I listened to the ancient blessing that ended with “we feel connected in the act of kindling the light of the Sabbath,” the Light of the World took on new meaning. God reaches out to us in a special way each Sabbath, but there was one grand gesture, one burst of Light that changed our connection forever. The darkness cannot extinguish this Light because this “Divinity beyond our knowing/Manifest in our reality” is the Ruling Principle of the universe.

This Christmas, as we light the candles and remember God’s grand gesture, let’s respond with thanks and wholeness, returning all that is our Lord’s due: our means, our meaning, our whole heart. 

Alberta Conference
Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Putting God First and Last 



Lynn McDowell, LLB &
Certified Specialist in Planned Giving
Director of Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Alberta Conference (403) 342-5044, ext. 233

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ponoka Seventh-day Adventist Church Missing Members:

1. Deanna Albers
2. Gail Albers
3. Gerald Anderson
4. Joanne Bell
5. Susan Bell
6. Terry Bell
7. Tod Bell
8. Susan Bordeau
9. Deon Chant
10. Glen Chant
11. Anges Cherneki
12. Gregory Dedio
13. Shelly Dedio

If you have contact information for any of these individuals, please email Jana Heimann at janadheimann@gmail.com.

Do you enjoy taking photos?

Submit your best Alberta Conference event/nature photos for a chance to have one printed in the Alberta Adventist News or on the front cover. To be considered, photos must be in JPEG format and be a minimum of 5 megabytes in size. Please email submissions to aan@albertaadventist.ca and include information about the event and caption for photo, date photo was taken, photographer name and contact information.

Has Your Address Changed?

Please be sure to let your church clerk know if your address has changed or will

be changing. This helps to keep our records up to date, as well as ensuring that you will continue to receive the Messenger and Adventist World magazines. If you're not receiving these magazines, please contact your clerk, or the conference office at (403) 342-5044, ext. 210.

Ten Days of Prayer

As you are making plans for the beginning of the new year, remember that resources are available for the Ten Days of Prayer from January 10 -20, 2018. The website has all the information you will need to lead your people in this prayer experience together. www.tendaysofprayer.org.

This year the emphasis is Jesus Our High Priest. I invite you to check it out. The Revival and Reformation website: www.revivalandreformation.org also has information to enable you to have a day of Prayer the first Sabbath of each quarter. There are other valuable resources on that site as well. Browse around and see what is available for your own spiritual walk. For more information, please contact Warren Kay by email at wkay@albertaadventist.ca or phone (403) 302-9292.

Alberta Conference Substitute Teachers

The Alberta Conference Office of Education invites applications from

Seventh-day Adventist persons who are Alberta Certificated teachers to substitute for the current school year. There are schools from Edmonton to Medicine Hat. For more information, please visit <http://subs.albertasdaedu.org>.

2018 Devotionals Now Available

The ABC now has 2018 devotionals for all ages. All 2018 devotionals are now on sale until the end of January 2018. Orders for the 2018 devotional books can be placed through your local church or by calling the Lacombe ABC at 1-800-661-8131. For more information, please see page 11 of this edition of the *Alberta Adventist News*.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Married 165 Years

This past spring and summer, the Wetaskiwin Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated with the couples the milestone of their marriages. Dennis and Dianne Braun celebrated 50 years on August 18. Art and Eunice celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on April 15 and John and Linda Gilbert celebrated 50 years on June 4. All the couples spent their anniversaries with their family and friends. We wish them many more years to come.

Dedications

On Sabbath, November 11, 2017 Pastor Bill Spangler had the honour of dedicating Pastor Thandazani and Sibonginkosi Matilda Mhlanga's daughter, Nomsa Naomi to the Lord.



SAGE ALBERTA WINTER OUTING

Overview

This outing is being planned for 3 nights during March 2018 (Mon-Wed), at the William Watson Lodge in Kananaskis Country, located on the edge of Lower Kananaskis Lake at the southern end of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, and is approximately 150 km southwest of Calgary. The dates will be dependent on the availability of one of the double cottages at the lodge.

Glen Brown is planning to make the lodge cottage reservation in early January (5th if a cottage will be available in early March).

Arrive: After 4 p.m. Monday **Leave:** By 11 a.m. Thursday

Pastor Don Corkum will be leading out in morning and evening worships.

Cost

For 3 nights: **\$70.00 per person.**

Registration will be accepted on a **first-come, first-registered and paid basis**, with a maximum of 14 people (or less, depending on the size of the cottage).

Registration

Register by January 26, 2018
Call Glen Brown (780-462-0548)
or email: brown_g_j@telus.net

Payment

On or before January 29, 2018
payable to the Alberta Conference
c/o Penny Marcinyk, (403-342-5044, ext. 201).



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, orange shorts, and a large blue backpack, stands on a dark, rocky mountain peak. She is looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a bright, golden sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene with a warm, orange glow. The woman's shadow is cast on the rock in front of her.

Courage for the Journey

2018 Women's Ministries Retreat
Sheraton Hotel - Red Deer, AB
May 11 -13, 2018

"Now faith is
confidence in what
we hope for and
assurance about
what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1

MORE INFORMATION

www.albertaadventist.ca/wm2018

Phone: 403-342-5044