

# What's it Mean to You?

*“I want my art to help build a church in Maskwacis.”*

*Jeanie Spratt, 2016 Nicodemus Award Winner*

**A.K.A. AJ McCoy**  
Artist, past *Adventist Review*  
illustrator & MANS Supporter  
Bluffton, Alberta



Jeanie Spratt is adventurous by nature. Couple that with a talent for observing and painting nature and a passion for First Nations people, and you have one tenacious artist who's determined to bring Christ to the children of Maskwacis, Alberta.

Though Jeanie changed her name to “Spratt” when she married photographer and teacher, Bob Spratt, she continued to sign her paintings as AJ McCoy, as she did when she apprenticed under master painters at the *Review*. She became internationally known as a wildlife painter, collected by art lovers such as Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Jeanie's passion for wildlife, however, was eclipsed by a new passion when she met the children of Maskwacis.

As Bob shouldered the difficult role of principal of the Church's Native School in Alberta, Jeanie supported his work through the week and became known as “Kokum” (Grandmother) as she helped lead out in church on the reserve each Sabbath. Jeanie used her art to connect her beloved young people to Jesus, to make Him more real.

That passion didn't change when she and Bob retired. As Jeanie continued to paint and be an integral part of the Maskwacis church, a new vision came to her: she could see a dedicated Adventist church rather than the rented facility with its limitations—a church with a real baptistery that had the feel of an outdoor stream with rocks and greenery like that of the Battle River that runs through the reserve.

So Jeanie's donating her gift to that cause. While she lives, the proceeds of paintings sold from Jeanie's website go to support the tiny Maskwacis congregation, and in her will, Jeanie has given the Alberta Conference the right to those proceeds, to be used for the Maskwacis church.

Someday, Jeanie dreams, there will be a remarkable baptistery in Maskwacis, filled with students from MANS.

**To view Jeanie's art and reproductions, go to [www.ajmccoyart.com](http://www.ajmccoyart.com)**



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