

MANS in Adventist Media

The Back Story on *Adventist Review's* February Feature and Hope Channel's Upcoming Broadcast

“felt like we were famous,” said one of the students selected to perform at the North American Division meetings in Washington, D.C., this past fall as part of Total Praise, the signing group of Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS). Her words were “prophetic”: Adventist media has turned the spotlight on MANS and its mission of hope and wholeness for First Nations children and families.

“Mamawi Atosketan Native School: A True Adventist Mission,” *Adventist Review*, February 2016 issue

The school’s journey from obscurity in rural Alberta to a five-page “Connect” feature is a miracle story in its own right, according to *Review* feature editor Sandra Blackmer. Sandra wrote the story based on interviews collected by the NAD vice-president for Education, Larry Blackmer. Upon returning from MANS, Larry Blackmer discovered that the interviews he collected had vanished from the recorder. Sandra was crushed: she was depending on the recordings to write what she believed was a very important story. The cost of getting new interviews seemed prohibitive—and then a miracle happened.

“It seems unbelievable,” Sandra wrote to Lynn McDowell, the director of planned giving/philanthropy for the Alberta Conference, “but I just now was able to access Larry’s interviews at MANS! I’m so excited—and so grateful to the Lord! The files didn’t show up when I connected my recorder to my laptop to transfer them to my computer, nor on the recorder itself. They truly weren’t there. I checked every folder on the recorder. Then I did another interview for a different story, and that didn’t show up this morning either. So I started playing around with the recorder, hitting various buttons, and all of a sudden a higher total number of interviews popped up—and there [the MANS interviews] were!”

True Christian professional that she is, Sandra was able to meet her press deadline with praise and credit to God for the miracle He had performed on behalf of His children.

Hope Channel Broadcast

The anchor of Hope Channel, Canadian pastor Brad Thorp, was mesmerized by scenes from the video on the landing page of www.mans1.ca, the website that aims to share what’s happening at Canada’s mission school and raise funds to build a much-needed high school. Footage of a student in traditional regalia was selected as the perfect opening for a 28-minute TV program to be aired this spring on Hope Channel.

“We have a special program featuring Native Ministry and bringing hope to literally millions of people across North America who have never really heard the gospel in the clear, beautiful way that the Bible presents,” said Thorp in his on-camera introduction to interviews with Principal Gail Wilton; Total Praise director and Grade 6 teacher, Cheri Notice; and a host of others, including the SDACC president, Mark Johnson; SDACC vice-president Dennis Marshall; and Alberta Conference president, Ken Wiebe.

Having visited the school some years earlier and seen footage his son took of the difficult circumstances in which MANS students live, Thorp understands the importance of expanding the mission school and the critical hope it offers to teens on what’s reputed to be the toughest reserve in Canada.

“I hope [this broadcast] arouses lots of interest in building the high school,” said Thorp. ■

Lynn McDowell is director of planned giving/philanthropy for the Alberta Conference.



See for Yourself!

The *Review* and *Hope Channel* have graciously permitted their material to be reproduced and shared.

- “Mamawi Atosketan Native School: A True Adventist Mission”—*The Adventist Review* story by features editor Sandra Blackmer with photography by Larry Blackmer takes readers inside the largest mission school in North America. Read the complete story on the *Review* website, at www.adventistreview.org/1602-31 or on the Alberta Conference website, at www.alberta.adventist.ca/mans-AR.
- “Mamawi Atosketan Bridge Project with Hope Channel”—This Hope Channel broadcast can be viewed at www.albertaadventist.ca/mans-video or ordered as a DVD by emailing a request to TheBridge@mans1.ca.

