

# Alberta Adventist News

ALBERTAADVENTIST.CA/AAN

*Season's Greetings!*

**BEING THERE:**  
The Grand Opening

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION

Peace on Earth + First the Seed + Bridge Campaign Donors + 2018 Camp Highlights



# Peace on Earth

This is the time of year when I reacquaint myself with the stories surrounding the Nativity. Among those stories is the one of the shepherds out in the field as recorded in Luke chapter two and verse eight and on: “And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people.”

I put myself in the sandals of the Shepherd on that quiet, lonely, starlit night. Being the guardian of the sheep, he was always alert to potential dangers. Among his greatest fears would be the howling of a predator, sounds of a rustler set upon stealing his sheep, or the poverty that often came with his profession. Angelic messengers were a new threat that he had not experienced before.

Fear was not unique to the shepherds alone. People living in our modern society are also filled with fear. We fear wars, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis and a host of other terrors that are both increasing in frequency

and nearness to where we live. Closer at hand, we fear health concerns found in the form of diseases such as cancers and ever increasing mental health concerns.

Jesus is the master of relieving our fears. We see this illustrated throughout His ministry. The demoniacs were a fearsome spectacle for the disciples with their lacerations and bruises and crusty blood. Jesus commanded their release and return to sanity. During the ferocious storm when life seemed perilous, Jesus was found asleep in the boat. Upon awakening, He is surprised at the consternation and speaks those commanding words, ‘Peace be still.’

The fear of the disciples was echoed by my oldest son when he was about 3 years of age. We were tobogganing on a hill in Sylvan Lake. We hit an unexpected bump and were elevated some distance into the air. My son called out, ‘Lord save us, or we will perish.’

“

The angel said...  
Do not be afraid;  
for behold I bring  
you good news  
of a great joy  
which shall be for  
all the people.



The words of the Angels served to quiet the shepherd’s fears, “Do not be afraid.” Jesus reminds us that these words apply to all times and circumstances. To all mankind comes the very same freedom from fear. That unconquerable sense of peace gives us the unique ability to face every danger. This is a heritage

available to every child of God. No matter what danger may confront us, no matter what set of circumstances may threaten to overwhelm us, our lives can be entrusted to the care of an all caring God who has granted us His peace.



**Gary Hodder**  
President  
Alberta Conference



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Dr. Richard Bird



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The Only True Standard

“

A tender spirit, a gentle, winning deportment, may save the erring and hide a multitude of sins.”

.....

Even the sentence, “Thou that judgest does the same things,” does not reach the magnitude of his sin who presumes to criticize and condemn his brother. Jesus said, “Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”

His words describe one who is swift to discern a defect in others. When he thinks he has detected a flaw in the character of the life he is exceedingly zealous in trying to point it out; but Jesus declares that the very trait of character developed in doing this un-Christlike work is, in comparison with the fault criticized, as a beam in proportion to a mote. It is one’s own lack of the spirit of forbearance and love that leads him to make a world of an atom. Those who have never experienced the contrition of an entire surrender to Christ do not in their life make manifest the softening influence of the Saviour’s love. They misrepresent the gen-





# of Character

*Why beholdest thou the mote  
that is in thy brother's eye?*

*Matthew 7:3*

tle, courteous spirit of the gospel and wound precious souls, for whom Christ died....

Christ is the only true standard of character, and he who sets himself up as a standard for others is putting himself in the place of Christ. And since the Father “hath committed all judgment unto the Son” whoever presumes to judge the motives of others is again usurping the prerogative of the Son of God. These would-be judges and critics are placing themselves on the side of antichrist, “who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

The sin that leads to the most unhappy results is the cold, critical, unforgiving spirit that characterizes Pharisaism. When the religious experience is devoid of love, Jesus is not there; the sunshine of His presence is not there.... There may be a wonderful keenness of perception to discover the defects of

others; but to everyone who indulges this spirit, Jesus says, “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 125, 126).

Not until you feel that you could sacrifice your own self-dignity, and even lay down your life in order to save an erring brother, have you cast the beam out of your own eye so that you are prepared to help him. Then you can approach him and touch his heart.... A tender spirit, a gentle, winning deportment, may save the erring and hide a multitude of sins. The revelation of Christ in your own character will have a transforming power upon all with whom you come in contact. Let Christ be daily made manifest in you, and He will reveal through you the creative energy of His word—a gentle, persuasive, yet mighty influence to re-create other souls in the beauty of the Lord our God (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 128, 129).

Source: *Lift Him Up*, Ellen G. White, p. 335 AM



# DEPARTAMENTAL NEWS

## Deaf Around the World

**D**eaf around the world face major differences in how they are treated and what facilities are available to assist them. In the USA and Canada there are laws requiring closed captioning on television and Deaf individuals have excellent educational opportunities from Kindergarten through University. Here in North America, there are also many organizations giving various types of support to the Deaf.

In India, a Deaf person may have opportunity to go to a 'Deaf school' if they live in the city, but not if they come from the thousands of little

villages still prevalent there. Over 50 years ago, before there was a school for the Deaf in Alberta, one of our Deaf members from Northern Alberta had to go all the way to Montreal. When she was taken to the train station and had to get on the train, she did not understand what was happening because neither she nor anyone in the family could sign for her. Fortunately, she received a good education and for many years served as a secretary in an Alberta government position.

In some parts of the world, families with a Deaf child are

embarrassed and even resort to hiding them, or largely keeping them back from society. We know of a situation in Mongolia where for years a Deaf son was hidden in the home whenever company came. A while ago in China, Deaf people were embarrassed to be seen 'signing' while walking down the street.

As a church, Adventists have had some accommodation for the Deaf but 99% of our churches around the world still have nothing for the Deaf community.

Ellen White talks about meeting a Deaf man, Brother



The Deaf Ministry team at the last 2015 General Conference with Dr. Larry Evans and helpers at the Deaf Ministry booth. Many excellent contacts were made with leaders from around the world!



There were 80 special needs people baptized during the Kenya Special Needs Camp Meeting. About 70 of those baptized were deaf. Attendees travelled from 11+ African countries to attend | Kenya Nakuru.



Dr. Larry Evans, General Conference Director for Special Needs, as he delivers a morning message to the packed audience at the Kenya "Special Needs" Camp Meeting.

Kimball, who made special efforts to reach out to other Deaf. Today the General Conference has an 'Office of Special Needs' and sponsors a website for Deaf Ministry [[www.adventistdeaf.org](http://www.adventistdeaf.org)] with signed or captioned video's available in five languages. HOPE TV has a 24/7 website [[www.hopechanneldeaf.org](http://www.hopechanneldeaf.org)] where Deaf can choose what they want to watch. Gospel Outreach currently sponsors about 49 Lay Bible Workers for the Deaf in 15 countries - many of these workers are Deaf themselves. Three different 'signed' church services are available on the internet in the USA covering two time zones. [See [www.deaf-churchonline.org](http://www.deaf-churchonline.org) at 11.30 ET on Sabbath mornings]

Our Alberta Conference has a Deaf Ministry Department offering a good number of

signed or captioned DVD's available, free for Deaf. Also, there are a limited number of 'Easy Reading' publications available for Deaf. For about 17 years we have had a Deaf Ministry booth in the Resource Tent at Camp Meeting.

In August 2018, I attended a large "Special Needs" camp meeting in Kenya. Between 400 & 500 of the attendees were either Deaf or interpreters for the Deaf. This may have been the largest assembly of Adventist Deaf ever in the history of the SDA Church. Gospel Outreach Lay Bible Workers and Global Mission Pioneers from 11 African countries came together for special training in a new 'Story Method' of Bible teaching as taught by Pat Gustin from Gospel Outreach.

More funding is needed to incorporate Deaf Ministry

into the basic thinking of the Church as we reach out to the world Deaf community. Although there is much more needed in reaching out to Deaf around the world, there has been some wonderful progress and we praise God for a new emphasis in reaching out to Deaf around the world!

Pastor and Mrs. John Blake,  
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**John Blake**  
Volunteer Deaf Ministry Coordinator,  
Alberta Conference

—Submitted by John Blake, Alberta Adventist  
Deaf Ministry Director / October 5, 2018





The Summer Youth Team with their Camp Director, Kevin Kiers (far right in photo), enthusiastically shared a beautiful song of praise at the final Saturday evening of Camp Meeting.

**“We Believe the Time is Now”** was the theme of the Alberta Camp Meeting held July 13 to 21, 2018. Main auditorium speakers were Ivan Williams, Ministerial Director of the NAD; Ella Simmons, General Vice President of the GC; Neil Nedley, Founder/Director of Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery; and Nilton Amorim, Retired previous Secretary of the SDACC. Don MacLafferty, Founder/President of InDiscipleship led out in the early morning worship each day. While adults could choose to attend the seminars of their choice (topics included Optimal Mental Health and Physical Health, the Book of Revelation, Small Groups, Community Outreach and Growing Young Adventists) there were activities for children of all ages. A special event held on Sunday, July 15, was the Wrap-up Celebration of The Bridge Campaign. It was a time of thanksgiving for the raising of over \$4.9 million to build the Mamawi Atosketan Native Junior and Senior High School and the Leon Ingraham Industrial Arts Centre. Many attendees participated in the Kairos Blanket Exercise which shared the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. The



Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial Director, was the featured guest speaker for the first Friday evening and first Sabbath morning and evening meetings.



Gary Hodder, AB Conference President, delivers the charge to David and Tania Guzman at David's ordination service held the first Sabbath of Camp Meeting.

SAGE Outdoor Education Centre was opened and dedicated that day also. The Pathfinder Parade, Food Fair, Musical Concert, and Prayer Opportunities were just a few of the numerous events available. —Submitted by Jenny Nickel





**GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH,  
A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.**

# SUMMER CAMP 2019



**June 30 - July 7**  
Camp for the Visually Impaired

**July 7 - 10**  
Watersports Specialized Camp

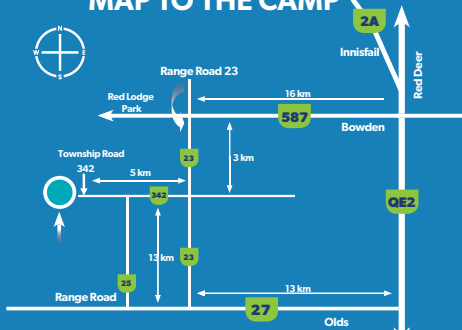
**July 7 - 10**  
Horsemanship Specialized Camp

**July 21 - 28**  
Adventurer Camp & Sherwood Forest 1

**July 28 - Aug 4**  
Junior Camp & Sherwood Forest 2

**Aug 4 - 11**  
Teen Camp & Sherwood Forest 3

## MAP TO THE CAMP



**FOOTHILLS CAMP**  
LIVE THE ADVENTURE

## SUMMER CAMP INFO

	DATE	AGE	COST
Camp for the Visually Impaired	June 30 - July 7	ALL	\$40
Watersports/Horsemanship Specialized Camp	July 7 - 10	13-17	\$310
Adventure Camp	July 21 - 28	6-10	\$280
Sherwood Forest 1	July 21 - 28	9-12	\$310
Junior Camp	July 28 - August 4	10-13	\$290
Sherwood Forest 2	July 28 - August 4	10-13	\$310
Teen Camp	August 4 - 11	13-17	\$290
Sherwood Forest 3	August 4 - 11	10-14	\$310

**Register before May 31 and receive a FREE CAMP GIFT.**

Register online today at [FOOTHILLSCAMP.CA](http://FOOTHILLSCAMP.CA) email: [info@foothillscamp.ca](mailto:info@foothillscamp.ca) (403) 342-5044 ext. 210



# PLAN TO ATTEND: Camp Meeting 2019

If you were one of the 2500+ church members who attended Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Camp Meeting last July 2018, you were blessed beyond measure. Each year camp meeting attendance continues to grow as the Alberta Conference membership approaches 12,000 and every participant receives a memorable experience.

Camp meeting is truly a wonderful opportunity for a spiritual reboot along with the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to make new friends.

The biblical principles of coming together for sacred convocation is embedded into the Adventist way of life and even more so as we see the day of our Lord's return drawing ever closer. Hebrews 10:25.

From camp meeting set-up to the last day to say goodbye, the spirit of camaraderie and brotherly love is seen and heard throughout the Foothills Campground.

The pastors and camp staff have done an amazing job in providing the very best and uplifting Bible learning experience and recreational activities for all ages. Some have testified that this year's inspirational speakers and seminar sessions were the best ever.

If you are looking for an opportunity during next summer holiday planning to be with your



The Taito Family's beautiful music inspired the audience at the Sunday evening meeting | Alberta Camp Meeting 2018.

family in a meaningful restful atmosphere, why not consider Alberta SDA Camp Meeting scheduled for July 12 to 20, 2019. You'll have plenty of recreational activities to partake of for the whole family; water skiing, horse back riding, swimming, recreational field sports and much more.

You can view a video of this year's campmeeting extravaganza here: [shorturl.at/hADN4](http://shorturl.at/hADN4)

—Pastor Darrell Beaudoin

Adventurer's and Pathfinder's in full uniform, assemble to March through the Campgrounds for their annual Uniform Ministries Parade the first Sabbath of Alberta Camp Meeting 2018.

Photos by David Benjamin.





CAAA's 39th Annual Family Retreat, Aug. 31-Sep. 3, 2018 at Foothills Camp.

## Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta

The Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta (CAAA) 2018, kicked off with a gospel concert in Calgary on February 3, in support of Black History month. While the inclement weather impacted attendance somewhat, those who made it had a wonderful evening praising God through music. Guest artists from Calgary and Burman University came together under the banner of love. August 31-September 3, 2018, marked the 39th year of CAAA's annual family retreat at Foothills Camp. The theme for this year was "God's Got Your Back", and campers were de-

lighted to receive back scratchers in their registration packages. Pastor Gregory Nelson from Kingsboro Temple SDA Church in New York, was the speaker for the weekend. Pastor Nelson preached the word verbally and in song. This dynamic preacher and worship leader touched the hearts and souls of many with his relevant, thought provoking messages. Over 500 people attended Sabbath services, some traveling from various parts of the province to worship with us for the day. This year saw CAAA embark upon its first Business Extravaganza in Calgary on September 16. Over

40 businesses showcased their services at the Genesis Centre. This created a great opportunity for networking and learning about local businesses in the area. Community members who attended, as well as participating businesses, expressed their appreciation for such a tremendous initiative. CAAA is gearing up for 2019, which marks their 40th anniversary. Great things are being planned for the retreat on August 30-September 2, so check out [www.mycaaa.ca](http://www.mycaaa.ca) for more information.

—Submitted by Sharon Long,  
President, Caribbean Association  
of Adventists in Alberta



# Filipino Camp Meeting 2018

The 2018 Filipino Camp Meeting, “Empowered for God’s Work”, was held at Foothills Camp with approximately 900 in attendance. The guest speaker for the adults was Pastor Eliseo Sacay from the Northern California Conference where he coordinates Asian ministries. Pastor Levi Estores, a pastor from BC, spoke to the Youth.

—Submitted by Benjie Arias, President, Filipino Canadian Association (Alberta)



Calgary Northwinds Praise Team leading worship Friday night.



Benjie Arias, president, Filipino Canadian Association (Alberta) welcoming attendees.

Dr. Mikhail M. Kulakov,  
5th Annual Russian Speaking  
Camp Meeting, Alberta.

# Fifth Annual Russian- speaking -Adventist Camp Meeting in Western Canada

*Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth...  
(Isaiah 1:2 – The Bible, M. M.  
Kulakov, M. P. Kulakov)*

On September 13-16, 2018, Russian-speaking Adventists from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia gathered in the picturesque Foothills Camp and held their fifth annual camp meeting.

The Foothills Camp became a three-day home, a place of worship and fellowship for more than 100 adults and 60 children who took a break from their day-to-day lives.

Prominent Adventists, Dr. Mikhail M. Kulakov and his wife Lyudmila S. Kulakova were the Camp Meeting's guest speakers. Dr. Kulakov was the first rector of the Adventist Theological Educational Organization in the USSR, then the Russian Federation "Zaoksky Theological Seminary", and now Dr. Kulakov is a professor of religion and philosophy at Washington Adventist University, USA. Moreover, Dr. Kulakov, in collaboration with over 19 multi-denominational scholars and scolastics, participated in the creation of an interdenominational contemporary Russian translation of the Bible. Dr. Kulakov's wife Lyudmila, is

an Adventist public figure who frequently speaks in churches and at camp meetings.

Visitors to the Camp Meeting had the opportunity to learn about the incredible and exciting experiences of Dr. and Mrs. Kulakov as well as the miracles that God worked in their lives, and most importantly, how the modern Russian translation of the Bible was created. Also, visitors to the camp meeting took part in worship services, Sabbath School, thematic discussions, concert of amateur music performance, and children's programs.

The fifth annual convocation of Russian-speaking Adventists was a spiritual and socially enriching event to all those who attended. All campers received a motivational spiritual message and parted in anticipation of the next Camp Meeting in September 2019.

— Vadim Foya (member of Edmonton South SDA Church), Secretary of the Association of Russian-speaking Adventists in Western Canada (2016-2018)

Email: christianedmonton@gmail.com

Web: christianedmonton.ca/camp-2018





Photo by Nwamiko Madden.

# BEING THERE:

Grade 11 honour student Shaneek and her sisters in traditional regalia perform in Butterfly dance style at the Grand Opening in the new gym.

*Many Communities Celebrate the Opening of Mamawi Atosketan Native School Junior and Senior High School*

MANS' cake decorated by Heidi Morehouse, Assistant Superintendent/ Prairie Adventist Christian ESchool.





Pulling together a celebration for several communities is an exciting, labour-intensive exercise and an emotional high. At the historic September 28 event, church officials from as far as Washington, DC and the leader of the Samson Cree Nation came together with more than 300 members of the Alberta Conference and donors from all walks of life to celebrate.

Together, we celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in the story of life-changing education at MANS, but we also celebrated the goodness of The Creator, the family to which we all belong, and the amazing things that can be accomplished when we Mamawi Atosketan — keep working together. [AAN](#)

**From Crowd to Community:**  
Top: Chief Vernon Saddleback, Lynn McDowell, & MLA Bruce Hinkley.

Middle & Bottom: Dan Jackson, President, North American Division.

More than 300 guests came together to celebrate the opening of the new high school, joining together in a traditional First Nations community finale - the Round Dance.

Top photo by Eric L. Ollila;  
other photos by Dean Ward, Highview Photo.







**Ribbon Cutting Moment:** Curtis Clarke, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education; Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation; Gail Wilton, Principal; Shaneek, Grade 11 student; Larry Wilkins, Honorary campaign chair and owner External Affairs Medical Spas; Gary Hodder, President, Alberta Conference.

**A Welcoming Symbol:** Students appreciate the cultural respect expressed by the tee pee-style main entrance and the natural gathering place nestled between the tee pee poles flanking the doors of the gym provided by First Nations businessman Danny Chase (Chase Office Interiors, Vancouver).



**Bridge Campaign Staff in Debbie Letniak Library and Media Room:** Warren Kay (Congregation Liason); Jenny Nickel (Campaign Administrative Assistant); Lynn McDowell (Campaign Manager).

**NAD personnel and other dignitaries grace the Opening:** L to R - Keith Richter, Treasurer, Alberta Conference; Bruce Hinkley, MLA Wetaskiwin/Camrose; Dr. Larry Blackmer, NAD Vice President for Education; John Jagersma, Executive Director, Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta; Dan Jackson, President, NAD; Ken Wiebe, Past President, Alberta Conference; Larry Wilkins, Honorary Chair of the Bridge Campaign for MANS; William Piersanti, Contractor; Lynn McDowell, Director Planned Giving and Bridge Campaign Manager, Alberta Conference; Giles Royer, Executive Vice President Industrial, Bird Construction; Janet Griffith, Director Education, Alberta Conference; Cody Vigeant, Program & Communications Associate, CWB Welding Foundation; Ken Denslow, NAD Assistant to the President; Gary Hodder, President, Alberta Conference.



**Catch the Grand Opening Videos at: [Vimeo.com/albertaadventist](https://vimeo.com/albertaadventist)**



**Total Praise gives  
Praise and Thanks:**  
Senior members of Mamawi Atosketan's sign language interpret a praise song--a performance that brought tears to the eyes of Chief Vernon Saddleback and others.



**A Firm Foundation:** Eric Ollila, Communication Director of the Alberta Conference, mans the guest book table that featured a video history of the school and those who helped lay the foundation for its success. The Donor List commemorating those who funded and built the elementary school in 1984 (behind the table) will be installed in the original school building across campus, which is now exclusively for K-Grade 6 students.





Mamawi Atosketan  
Junior & Senior High School

**Ingraham Family Celebrates Leon's Third Industrial Arts Centre:** Three generations of Ingrahams and 30 plus friends and relatives from as far away as Grandview and California turned out to celebrate. Pictured in the lobby of the Industrial Arts/CTS Building by Leon's plaque are Scott, Chip, Jodie, Arthur, Evelyn, and Lauren Ingraham.



The Leon Ingraham  
Career and Technology  
Studies Building







**Street Appeal:** The main entrance to the new high school was designed by Zayda Steinke, whose architectural designs, from buildings to signage, have been well-reviewed in architectural literature.



**Top right photo:** Chief Vernon Saddleback.



**Handcrafted Thank You:** Top Donor and Honourary Chair of the Bridge Campaign Larry Wilkins receives a traditional gift of beadwork from beadwork artist Krista Abt (Class of 2017), who is now a student at Red Deer College.



**Special thanks to Denise Nichols, event coordinator**





# Bridge Campaign Donors!

The people and organizations whose names appear on these pages contributed funds to The Bridge Campaign and helped make the new high school buildings and campus a reality. Due to the limitations of old computer programs, we may have missed some names. Please let us know if you donated to the campaign and do not see your name by contacting Jenny at (403) 342-5044 x 233 [jnickel@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:jnickel@albertaadventist.ca).

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- |                             |                                |                                   |
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The names on this wall represent those who generously contributed monetarily to making this building possible. Many more individuals and Alberta businesses contributed in important and meaningful ways. All who have had a hand in making this dream a reality contributed goodwill and faith in the ability of Mamawi Atosketan students

To achieve academically

To become wise and compassionate agents for change and

To emerge as leaders and helpers who draw strength from the Creator and their Cree heritage.

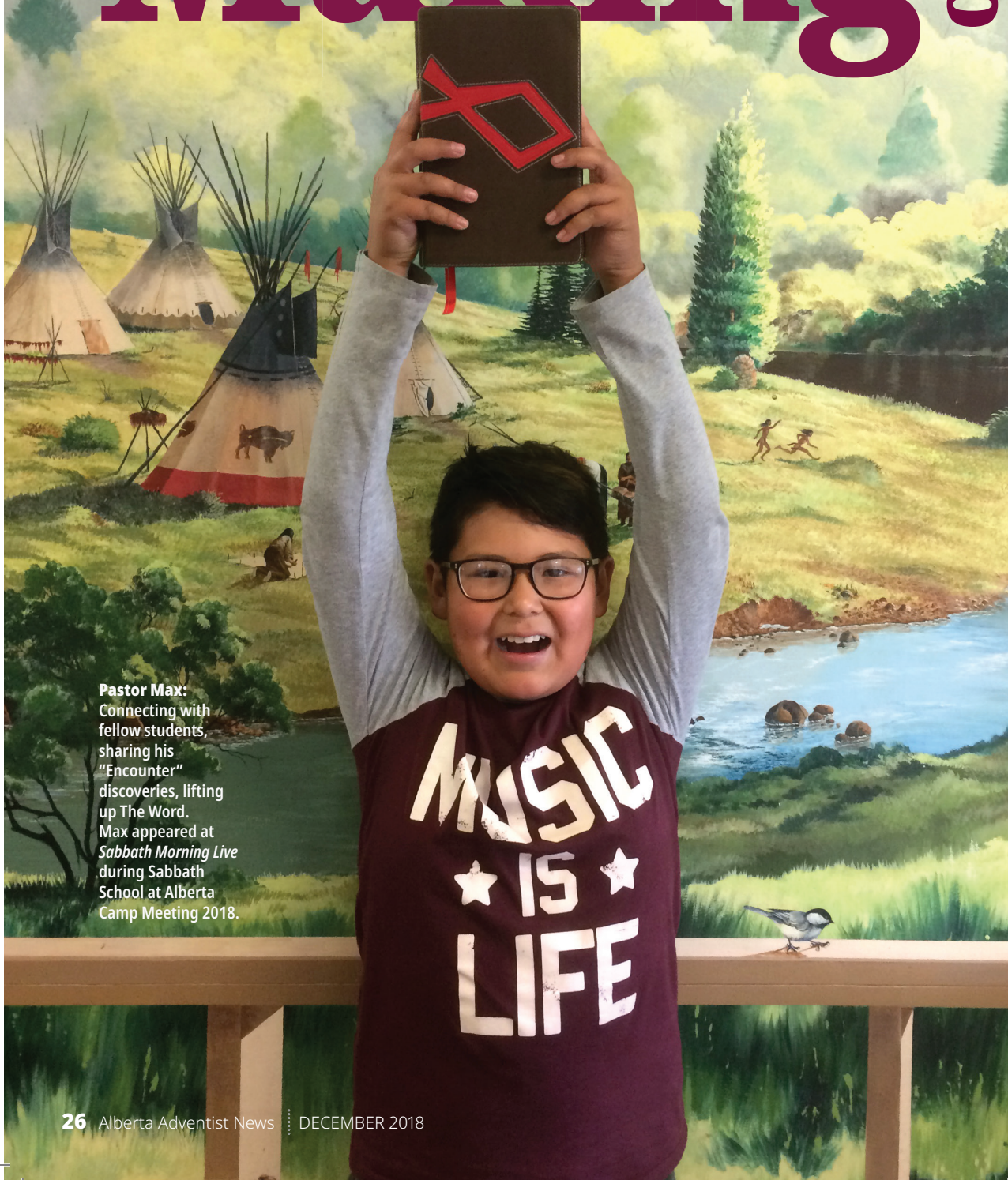
We believe in and ask the Creator to bless the youth who choose to study and learn here. As we work for a better world, may we never forget the importance of mutual respect and the meaning of Mamawi Atosketan: *Working Together.*

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# The Making of a



**Pastor Max:**  
Connecting with fellow students, sharing his "Encounter" discoveries, lifting up The Word. Max appeared at *Sabbath Morning Live* during Sabbath School at Alberta Camp Meeting 2018.

# Pastor:

## Max and the “Encounter” Bible Program

By Lynn McDowell

**W**hen Nyabuony Guet, the Grade 5 teacher at MANS, sits down to prepare the daily “Encounter” Bible class, she knows she’s doing something life-changing—because by spring break this year, she had a classroom full of students who want to be pastors!

“Teaching the ‘Encounter’ Bible program at Mamawi has been challenging, but the rewards have been great,” says Nyabuony of the new Bible curriculum introduced by the North American Division this past year. “It takes twice as long to teach a unit because

our students were not raised in the church and do not know the popular Bible stories or concepts. But I have seen and heard the difference in how students are when they pray in groups. They genuinely have a conversation with the Lord, and their belief and trust in Him grows.”

The kids are soaking up the new lessons. One Encounter unit focused on how God can use anyone—even young people—to show oth-

“

The Holy Spirit has really been moving the hearts of my students. Almost all the students want to be the pastor!”

*Nyabuony Guet, Grade 5 teacher at MANS*

ers His love. As students read about characters like David and Josiah, their confidence grew, and one student came up with a proposal: “This is a Christian school, right?” said Max, one of Nyabuony’s more active students. Nyabuony affirmed that was true. “Then,” concluded Max, “I think we should have a class pastor.”

Max was elected in short order, and he took his new role very seriously. He took his Bible home each day to prepare the next day’s worship talk. He volunteered to do worship for other

classes. He created a Praise Team that helps him round out the worship experience. Soon he was known as “Pastor Max” throughout the school.

Pastor Max set the bar for what a class pastor should be, modeling his delivery style on what he observed when Pastor Dan Guiboche, the school chaplain, gives worship talks. Soon, other class members wanted the chance to be pastors too!



“

Many are becoming more confident in themselves the more they learn about the character of God, and students are growing more interested in baptism because of the unit.”

*Nyabuony Guet, Grade 5 teacher at MANS*

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The Class Pastor’s responsibilities became formalized: organize worships for the Grade 5 class; pray out loud for lunch and at the end of the day for the class; and give worships to other classes besides their own. “This has been a character building role in my classroom,” Nyabuony observes. “The Holy Spirit has really been moving the hearts of my students. Almost all the students want to be the pastor!”

Pastor Max graciously shares the role with his classmates, but as most experienced, he gladly shares his observations about what’s needed. In April, the class worked on a unit called “Set Apart,” which focused on the meaning of baptism. Using John the Baptist and how he was set apart to baptize Jesus, students caught a new vision of how they could be instruments of God, and the importance of baptism. “My students have loved this unit,” says Nyabuony. “Many are becoming more confident in themselves the more they learn about the character of God, and students are growing more interested in baptism because of the unit.”

So interested, in fact, that Pastor Max was overheard advising one of his classmates, who was acting pastor, on topics to cover in worship. “You know,” Pastor Max confided, “you really should talk about baptism.”

But, like a good pastor, Max left the decision up to her. 



# First the Seed:

## Alberta Missions and Youth Ministry in the Northwest Territories

The writer of Mark speaks of the growth of “the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear”; even the smallest seeds planted in the youngest hearts can grow into a rich harvest. When Vicky Ford was a little girl growing up on a secluded Reservation in B.C., several families from a nearby Adventist church would pack as many of the 17 siblings as possible into a tiny Volkswagen and take them to Sabbath School and church. It wasn’t until she was an adult, however, that Vicky again encountered Adventists holding a Sunshine Band at a hospital. The seed planted in Vicky’s childhood developed into full grain as she and her husband, Pastor Peter Ford, now minister at the Maskwacis church. Some of the most abundant harvest they have been involved in has been through the Summer Youth Team, which this year made its way to Canada’s northernmost communities, including Inuvik.

The Summer Youth Team, consisting of a handful of Burman University students and two young women from Maskwacis, travels around Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan, and the North West Territories presenting Va-

cation Bible Schools (VBS). The team, which is sponsored jointly by Burman University and the Alberta Conference, started eight years ago when students who were helping at the church each Sabbath decided they didn’t want to spend a whole summer away from the children with whom they’d developed strong friendships. Peter, “a big fan of people getting paid for what they do,” talked to the Alberta conferences and Canadian Union, and developed a budget to support the young people in their ministry.

Eight years later, the original team members are still avid supporters, while current members learn about flexibility and facing unexpected challenges while on the road together. This year, the team traveled to Fort Resolution, NWT. As in several remote communities, there is only one Seventh-day Adventist resident. Just before the team arrived, three members of the community passed away and the venue that had been arranged for VBS was needed for the funerals. The team not only had to make last-minute arrangements—they also felt responsible to present something to the children that really mattered after their lives had been touched by tragedy. It brought home how important their work really is: a traveling VBS provides a rare opportunity most of the kids would not otherwise have to hear and encounter Jesus in this way.

Being open to the people to

whom the team ministered was vital. Trust and understanding were developed even before the start of VBS when the team-members worked as TAs in various Maskwacis classrooms during May and June. Arabela Ongyiu, this year’s team leader, says that working as a TA taught her to minister based on what the children need rather than her own agenda. “I love going to school with them because it’s a safe environment where they can open up about their experiences outside of school.”

One grandmother in Inuvik came to Arabela, concerned about what the team would be teaching her grandchild. Arabela was careful not to sound as if she thought the group had all the answers, explaining: “We want to share what’s important to us, as they [Indigenous individuals] have shared with us.” It’s a ministry that requires vulnerability and showing Jesus more than telling.

The memories, friendships, and skills built over a summer of ministry last a lifetime; so does the impact on the children. Pastor Ford hopes that soon a second team can be added that can include and mentor teens from Mamawi Atosketan Native School. As Arabela says, “Everyone needs community” and the work of the Summer Youth Team sows seeds for a community that will be fully realized in heaven.

—Sarah Wallace is 2018 graduate of the Burman University Scholars program





# Happy Holidays



**For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6 New International Version (NIV)



Seventh-day  
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ALBERTA CONFERENCE

# FEASIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE PRESENTS TO BURMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 1, 2018

**LACOMBE, AB – On September 30, 2018, the committee reviewing the feasibility of a merger between College Heights Christian School Adventist Academy (PAA) with a report given to the Burman Board of Trustees by the fall 2018 board meeting**

(CHCS) and Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) gave their report to the Burman Board of Trustees at the 2018 fall meeting.

After listening to the input of concerned stakeholders, the Feasibility Review committee engaged an external ad hoc committee to review the data and to provide their recommendation. The external ad hoc committee included Jim Ingersoll (Retired Associate Superintendent from the Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America), Betty Bayer (Director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada), Dave Colburn (Under treasurer of the Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America), Dennis Plubell (Associate Director of Education for the North Pacific Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America), and Lee Patterson (former Educational Superintendent of conferences in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and former President of the Burman/PAA Alumni Association).

Taking into consideration the report from the external ad hoc committee along with their own findings, the Feasibility Review Committee has concluded that it is feasible for the governance of Parkview Adventist Academy to be transferred to the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It was noted that a K-12 model which combines the operations of PAA and CHCS is the most financially feasible option. The committee recommends that Burman University draft a written proposal addressed to the Alberta Conference which outlines how a possible merger may look like in terms of governance, governance structure, administration, finances, campus/buildings, boarding options, employees, support, and implementation. Based on the committee's recommendation, the Burman University Board of Trustees took the following action:

24-18/19 – VOTED Burman University administration will develop a proposal based on the Feasibility Review Committee's recommendations and submit the proposal to the Alberta Conference for its consideration and response.

**Related Information**  
**Burman University**  
**Parkview Adventist Academy**  
**Alberta Conference of**  
**Seventh-day Adventists**

**Inquiries Kryzia Wisdom**  
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**786-2534 (403) 782-3381 x4007**



**BURMAN**  
 UNIVERSITY





New SAGE Outdoor Educational Facility.

# SAGE Outdoor Education Facility Grand Opening

*Alberta News – Report of SAGE Outdoor Education Building Opening – July 15, 2018*

A much-anticipated event took place on July 15 at Camp Meeting 2018 when the SAGE Outdoor Education facility was officially opened. About 75 persons gathered to celebrate this project which was a joint effort of SAGE and the Alberta Conference. It will provide accommodation for various groups such as Outdoor School and Pathfinder/ Adventurer clubs, as well as allow adults to study God's nature in an inspirational setting.—*Phyllis Corkum*



Cutting the Ribbon at SAGE Outdoor Educational Facility Grand Opening.

# Service and Fellowship with SAGE Alberta

During August and September Alberta SAGERS had opportunities to participate in both service and fellowship.

On August 25, twenty-five SAGE members helped prepare the Mamawi Atosketan Native School facility for school opening on September 4 by cleaning, carpentry and maintenance tasks.

Two RV Camping events also took place: July 20-22 at Sandy McNab Campground, and September 14-17 at Miquelon Lake. Both camping events provided wonderful fellowship and spiritual rejuvenation in natural settings. Campfires provided the warmth at Sandy McNab, while a cozy wood stove gave the heat needed for the comfortable lodge at Miquelon Lake. Even a surprise bear sighting added excitement to a hike at Sandy McNab.

If you missed these service and fellowship opportunities, consider joining future events. The Fall SAGE Retreat was held at Foothills Camp November 1-4 with Dr. Jo Ann Davidson from Andrews University. The SAGE Winter Retreat will be in February or March 2019—watch for announcements for the date.

—Phyllis Corkum, SAGE Communications



SAGE Miquelon Lake RV Camping Event.



SAGE Sandy McNab RV Camping Event.



SAGE service team at Mamawi Atosketan Native School.





## Peace River Fundraising Benefits Orphans in Bolivia; Missionary Training Centre in Guyana; Raises Public Awareness in Local Community

**W**e wrap up this year with grateful hearts, as we reflect on the blessings that come from church members working together in unity. Over the past two years, the Children's Division of the Peace River Seventh-day Adventist Church have set their goals high in the quest to raise funds for mission projects.

Last year, it was a unanimous vote among the children to choose a project that would benefit other children. El Sauce is a home helping orphans, abandoned children and single teenage mothers to find peace and safety. Located in Semipata, Bolivia, El Sauce was in desperate need of a safe area for kids to play. Through the various efforts of our little ones (and grown ones alike!) we raised a total of \$5500.00 to build a playground. What was

once an area overgrown with grass and dangerous creepy crawlers, has now become a place of safety and freedom, by allowing the children to be kids, as they romp around through the recently built playground.

This year, a father and son missionary team from our congregation, brought to our attention the need to restore a medical missionary training centre in Bethany, Guyana that has been unfinished for the last six years. Spear headed by Inese Zaule, home schooling mama of three, she quickly set to work organizing fundraisers to raise a goal of \$6000.00. She and those of us in the Children's Division, understand that education isn't just about success in academics, but that "unselfishness underlies all true development" Ed 16.2. To

train our young people to diligently labour for the good of others is invaluable.

Tirelessly, families participated in two bottle drives, bringing in over \$2700.00. Yet, the biggest impact came from two garage sale events, which brought in almost \$5000.00! Not only did our church pull together in donating items, but in participating together to provide some awesome public relations to all who stopped by. A mother and daughter team donated hundreds of homemade doughnuts, which caught the attention of the local ambulance crew who came out to support the project after hearing raving reports of the baked goods. Freshly baked bread, farm fresh eggs and some old fashioned lemonade were among the items sold by the children at their very own stand, which alone pulled in nearly \$600.00.

We also used this opportunity to advertise and invite women to our annual Christian Women's Gala!

As it stands now, an unexpected \$11,000 was raised in less than 6 months, and it is evident that "when the will and the way are brought into subjection to the Spirit of God, there is no limit to the good that can be accomplished." Ev. 467.2

We are excited to see to the completion of this project and eager to see their inaugural mission go forth which speaks to one purpose, to do the will of God through medical missionary work.

Through these fundraising efforts, our church members, both young and old, have been blessed. While the saying is true, "it is more blessed to give than receive", we have experienced it also true that it is more blessed to labour for the good of others, than to labour for selfish gain.

“

When the will and the way are brought into subjection to the Spirit of God, there is no limit to the good that can be accomplished.”

Ev 467.2



—Submitted by Danielle Weich | October 11, 2018 | Peace River Seventh-day Adventist Church | Alberta Adventist Communications



# Edmonton Ghanaian SDA Church Organization

**T**he Edmonton Ghanaian SDA Church has come a long way from its unique inception to the culmination of church status on the 14th day of April 2018. Our story started with a call in 2008 to support a Ghanaian sister in need. As a result of many of our people being brought together, a vision was formed and action was taken to bring all Ghanaian SDA members together into a church.

Ghanaian Adventists within the city of Edmonton and surrounding area organized themselves into a fellowship group about 10 years ago. The rest of the journey had been characterized by intense determination and perseverance to work with God to raise a church for the Ghanaian community. About 45 members

started meeting in homes for prayer and bible studies in homes before moving to Coralwood Adventist Academy school gym for regular Sabbath meetings. When Coralwood could no longer host us each Sabbath, God led us to Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Westmount. We are grateful to the pastor and congregation of this church who have shown us Christ-like benevolence over the years.

Through numerous challenges, we learnt to trust more in the Lord. We believed that when we work together for the Lord and not ourselves, there will be no mountain too high to climb or valley too deep to cross. Blessed with vibrant and energetic youth and young adults, enthusiastic children and dedicated adults, there was only one destination—a church. In 2016 the group applied for and was granted company status with the Alberta SDA conference and a company was formed in 2017. That year, the company hosted a major evangelistic campaign conducted by the Quebec SDA conference president, Pr. Kwe-si Ansah Adu. Nine (9) souls were added to the group. In April 2018, the group finally achieved church status and was organized accordingly.

Many individuals have supported us along the way. We especially want to thank Elder Don Corkum who never doubted the strategic position of this group and continued to lend his support. We are grateful to Pastors Ron Yabut and Kingsley Moyo, who were committed to our vision.

We will not be able to eliminate all the challenges and differences among us, but we can work harder together to promote the work of our Master in reaching out to all with a message of hope and comfort as we journey together to our home with Jesus.

—By Frank Assuming  
Frank is the first Elder of the new Edmonton Ghanaian SDA church, a father of 4 and one wife.  
Frank is a teacher by profession and a fellow dedicated worker in the Lord's vineyard



Pastor Ron Yabut



Pastor Kingsley Moyo

# News from Millwoods All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church (MANSDAC)



The Chosen Adventurer Club conducted its third Induction Service on September 29, 2018, in which 10 new Adventurers were inducted. Six new pathfinders were inducted into the Millwoods Conquerors Pathfinders Club at its fifth Induction service on October 27th, 2018. Bev and Mark Prangle officiated at both events.

The Health and Temperance personnel at MANSDAC are conducting a Healthy Eating Club every 2nd Wednesday of each month. Also being hosted is a Dr. Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program which concludes on December 3, 2018.

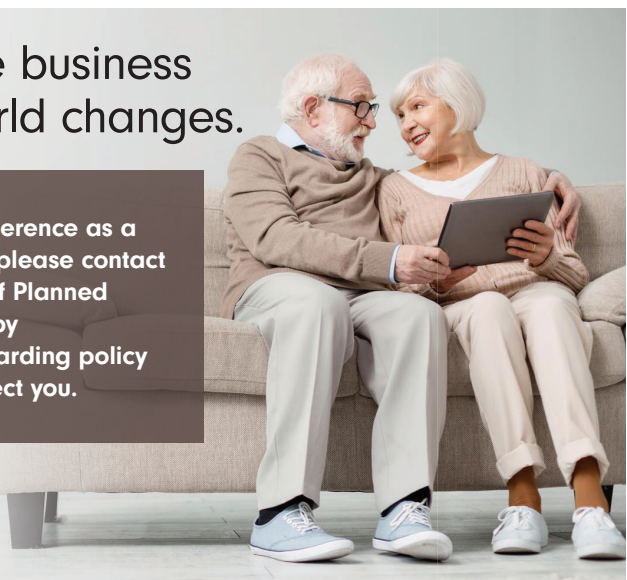
—By Tony Gregory,  
Millwoods All Nations  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church Communications



## WILLS The business world changes.

If you listed the Alberta Conference as a potential executor in your will, please contact Lynn McDowell, Director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy at (403) 342-5044 ext. 233 regarding policy changes that could affect you.

Alberta Conference  
Planned Giving | Philanthropy  
Putting God First and Last







# FROM SUNDAY,

*College Heights SDA Church conducts another productive Eight Days of Prayer with Pastors Don Maclafferty, Jeff Potts, and Ted Deer*

**D**iscussion and planning by the College Heights Prayer Ministry and Pastoral Staff for the third Prayer Journey began during the summer months. The main goal was to pray for our three SDA schools on the hill-top before the beginning of the academic year. Our first journey, ‘10 Days of Prayer’ was held in September 2017, with meetings in the evening, from 7-8 pm in the Earliteen room of the church. The second event, ‘Revival 101’ was held in January 2018. These meetings were a little more challenging, being held from 6-7 am in The Hideout, downstairs of the Burman University cafeteria. It was Alberta winter time... so the reward was a delicious, nutritional, homemade hot breakfast. The difference for our third prayer journey? Two daily sessions to accommodate

everyone! From Sunday, August 26 to Sunday, September 2, Early Birds could come from 6 to 7 am and be rewarded with a healthy breakfast. Night Owls could come from 7 to 8 pm, and be rewarded with delicious fruits and sweet/salty snacks.

One of the highlights of this third Prayer Journey was definitely the steady attendance and participation of church members, young families and students with an average of 58 people each day! The presence of the Holy Spirit filled the room and our hearts. The program each day involved segments for thanksgiving, praises, confession and meditation focused on Revelation chapter 3, verses 14 to 22. We prayed not only for our students, families, faculty, and administrative staff of our College Heights Christian School,

Parkview Adventist Academy and Burman University, but also for the other schools and home schoolers in our Lacombe community.

“From Sunday to Sunday” was enthusiastically led in the morning by Pastor Don Maclafferty, founder and president of In Discipleship Ministry; and in the evening by Pastor Ted Deer, Parkview Adventist Academy and Burman University chaplain, and Pastor Jeff Potts, senior pastor of College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Don Maclafferty



Jeff Potts



Ted Deer



# TO SUNDAY

Three cheers for the wonderful team, led by Mrs. Judy Gorbenko along with Ellen Bell, Carrol Smith, and Carolyn Halyrevich, who organized and faithfully presented the delicious and nutritious treats. Sharing around the tables while eating was like an extension of the worship. Food was a great way to reach out, start conversations, connect or reconnect with people, and sometimes pray for one another on the spot.

A fourth Prayer Journey in the future? Stay tuned for more details on that and for the College Heights SDA Church Prayer Conference with Pastor Kevin Wilfley to be held February 8-9, 2019.



—Report by Sara Chavez, edited and submitted by Tabitha Phiri, College Heights Prayer Ministries Leader



# When God Leads the Way

By Ina Martin

**T**here are so many words that I could choose to describe Erna and Ewald Wutzke, but let me choose a few—warm-hearted, trustworthy, conscientious, sincere. They have a love for God that is vibrant and strong and they work tirelessly to achieve goals.

Edmonton Central Church's last surviving couple from Germany, Erna and Ewald Wutzke, came to Canada in 1953. They were members of the Lutheran Church before immigrating to Canada but began attending the Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist in 1953, due to an evangelistic series conducted by Pastor E. E. Duncan. Baptized in 1961, they immediately got involved in the construction

of the new building for the Edmonton Central Church.

For over 50 years they have served in various departments such as Deacon, Deaconess, Elder, and members of the first group at Edmonton Central to lead out in the Dorcas Department, now called Community Services. Every Wednesday for many years, a faithful group of ladies and one male, Ewald, would make their way to the church to work on various projects to raise money for investment.

Erna and Ewald gave their last and final contribution to

their church bake sale this fall. As I watched, they transported boxes and plastic containers of homemade baked goods to tables. I could not stop myself from asking this couple, 'Why is it that you continue to do this?' The response was quick, "When God leads the way, we follow." Throughout their life, the Wutzkes' have followed Paul's challenge to the Ephesians to work not as men-pleasers, but as bond servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Eph. 6: 6 - 7.



# Adventurer Club

The Wetaskiwin Church is excited to share the news of their new Adventurer ministry called “Peace Hills Adventurer Club.”

On September 9, elected Club Leaders and appointed Instructors met together for Staff Basic Training under the instruction of Janeth Diaz, AB Conference Adventurer Club Director.

Following leadership organization, and with the blessing of the Alberta Conference Adventurer Leadership, the Wetaskiwin Church began this ministry for children on September 30, 2018, and currently has 32 children registered as club members. We are grateful for our group of a dozen leaders and parent volunteers supporting this ministry locally.

The Peace Hills Adventurer Club has a club meeting bi-weekly and on rotating Sabbath afternoons and Sunday mornings, and is running all six Adventurer Class levels for children ranging from 4-10 years old. The Wetaskiwin Church looks forward to the Induction of their new club, the club members and staff at their November 24 Induction Service.

— Submitted by Pastor Jason Williams



# Warburg FALL Convocation

The Warburg Church welcomed regular members, visiting members and community friends from the Central/North Alberta region to their Fall Convocation, held at the Pioneer Community Hall in Warburg, AB on September 28-29.



Warburg Convocation Speaker, Pastor Karl Tsatalbasidis.

In total, approximately 150 individuals came together to hear five presentations shared by Pastor Karl Tsatalbasidis, PhD candidate in Systematic Theology at Andrews University (dissertation defense Fall 2018).

Pastor Karl’s theme during this weekend convocation was regarding Christian Worship and the Presence of God as revealed in the model of the Sanctuary. Hearts and minds were challenged by the presentations and blessed by the Christ-centered and Biblical messages.

Pastor Karl Tsatalbasidis shares resources, including those from the recent Convocation, via [www.biblicalsanctuaryproductions.com](http://www.biblicalsanctuaryproductions.com), which are available for the asking.



# BAPTISMS

## Ryley Baptisms



Included in group picture  
L-R: Pastor Seth and Cara Bussey,  
Mike and Monica Adams, and Grace  
and Glen McAfee (Head Elder).

January 13, 2018 Mike Adams was baptized into the Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church. Baptism was conducted by Pastor Seth Bussey.

Photos courtesy of Kent Grinde.

On Sabbath, October 13, 2018, we had the privilege of welcoming another member to the Ryley Church. Michael Mikolajczyk has just moved from Poland and he and his family reside in Edmonton. Conducting the baptism was Pastor Olaf Clausen.



The group picture includes L-R:  
Head Elder, Glen McAfee, Michael's  
daughter, Michael Mikolajczyk,  
and Pastor Olaf Clausen.

—Submitted by Kent Grinde | Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church|  
Alberta Adventist Communications

# Warburg Baptisms

On a beautiful and sunny Sabbath afternoon, September 1, 2018, members and friends of the Warburg Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered at Twin Lakes for a celebration of the rebaptism of Adam Molyneaux. Adam had grown up in the SDA Church, but had made some decisions after high school that took him away from the Lord and his church family for a number of years. Over the last year, Adam had sensed the Spirit of God working in his life and calling him back to an unreserved and full commitment to Jesus. That desire was

expressed to Pastor Jason Williams, new pastor for the Warburg/Wetaskiwin District, who spent some time this summer studying and preparing with Adam for this special moment of the rededication of his life to the Lord. What a joy it has been to witness this young man's journey back to Jesus, and to share in the community of faith with him.

*—Submitted by Pastor Jason Williams | Warburg Seventh-day Adventist Church | Alberta Adventist Communications*



Rebaptism of Adam Molyneaux by Pastor Jason Williams in the waters of Twin Lakes.



## IN MEMORY

### Lena Babiuk January 1, 1923 - March 6, 2018

Lena was born near Good Spirit Lake, Saskatchewan on January 1, 1923. She married Peter Babiuk on November 7, 1938 and shortly after that they were baptised into the SDA Church by travelling preacher Babienko. They farmed near Swan Plain, SK. then later Benito, Manitoba where they were instrumental in building the Benito SDA church. They moved to Saskatoon in 1969, then in 1983 to the Veteran, AB. area and were members of the Loyalist SDA Church.

Lena served in many capacities in the churches where they lived over the years; Dorcas Leader, SS Secretary, Children's SS teacher, Deaconess and was very involved in Ingathering. Always hospitable, Lena was known as the Perogy Lady!a

Lena passed to her rest at the age of 95 on March 6, 2018 in the Long Term Care Facility in Consort, AB. She was predeceased by her husband, Peter, in 2005 and son Eugene in 2011. She is survived by her daughters, Evelyn Steinke of Kelowna, B.C., Elaine (Murray) Sankey, Veteran, AB. as well as 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Join the Foothills Summer Camp Staff Team for 2019

If you are wanting to make a difference in a child's life this summer, consider Summer Camp Ministry at Foothills Camp. We are looking for people 15 years of age or older that have a close walk with Jesus and live this relationship out all year long, exhibit an outgoing personality and show a high level of responsibility. A criminal record check is completed on all summer staff at the expense of the applicant.

For more information and to apply online, please visit [www.foothillscamp.ca/apply](http://www.foothillscamp.ca/apply). Interviews will be held at Burman University, January 27 & 28, 2019. If you are not available for the interviews at Burman or if you live out of town, please email [director@foothillscamp.ca](mailto:director@foothillscamp.ca) to set up a time for a Skype interview. **The deadline for staff applications is February 20, 2019.**

### Register for Summer Camp 2019!

Foothills Summer Camp 2019 is quickly filling up with excited new camper registrations. This year's theme entitled, My Lighthouse, focuses on Jesus as our protector and guide. The key Bible verse is Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Go to [www.foothillscamp.ca/summer-camp](http://www.foothillscamp.ca/summer-camp) and register today to reserve your spot and to pick your activities before they fill up. We have something for everyone including horses, water-sports, archery, high ropes, swimming, crafts, rocketry, BMX, and so much more. Register before May 31 to receive a camp gift. For more information about summer camp or for help registering online, please email [dfalesau@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:dfalesau@albertaadventist.ca) or phone (403) 342-5044, ext. 210.

# A Message from Dr. Richard Bird

*The Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation and Bird Construction, for which the Cree Cultural Centre and construction shop are named, are new friends of Mamawi Atosketan Native School who were introduced to MANS through the Bridge Campaign.*

*The comments of Dr. Richard Bird, prepared for the September opening event, provide insight into the hearts of thoughtful people who have observed and believe in the power of the education provided at Mamawi Atosketan—the meaning of the means they have invested.*

**G**ood afternoon from Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation and Bird Construction Company, both affiliated with the Bird family of Calgary. I wish I could be present to share in today's opening event for the new Mamawi Atosketan Native School facilities and associated programs.

First, congratulations to the students, parents, staff, Board and all supporters for the remarkable achievement of funding and constructing the new high school and supporting facilities. I think they will make a strong contribution to MANS' continued progress in providing a high-quality education to its students. Of course, this wouldn't have been possible without a tremendous effort from all, but I want to especially note

the contribution of the current students and their families to the development of these facilities, not just for their own immediate benefit, but also for the benefit of their fellow students for many years to come. I would certainly not have been nearly so encouraged to support the project were it not for the positive testimonials from the students about their experience at MANS and their plans for their lives, and the positive environment I observed on my visit to the school. I believe that all students can rightly feel that they "own" these new facilities as much as anyone does, and that they will care for both the facilities and MANS' underlying values in the years to come, as owners do.







Cree culture and traditional knowledge has value to the broader society, including both natural science and art.”

### Why Education?

I have been asked to comment on why I feel that a rejuvenation of the Cree Culture needs to be an important part of the educational experience at MANS.

It starts with my belief in the importance of education itself. There is so much to learn and know about the universe that we all live within and about the development of humanity in all its variations within that small corner of the universe that we occupy, for now. There is the opportunity for personal joy just from the learning of a new thing and for resulting enrichment of one's life that everyone should have the benefit of, even if there were no other practical benefits. But of course, there are immense practical benefits from education and increased knowledge. Education opens up life choice options that otherwise wouldn't exist or would be very difficult to access. Regardless of what choices each one of us makes, it is better to have more



choices available than fewer, or none at all. Education provides a broader perspective from which to make those choices and a better chance to make the choice that is best for each one of us. And education increases the likelihood of enjoying a successful, creative and fulfilling life within what ever choices we do make.

As to the Cree culture, on the one hand, I think there is a much better understanding now of the importance of language and culture to individual personal identity,

to who we are. That was the terrible failure of the residential school system above and beyond the forced removal of children from their families, and an abysmal governance system that permitted widespread abuses. The forced stripping of language and culture from those generations of children was also stripping away a large part of their personal identities, their very selves. For most the gain in educational benefits was not worth the resulting loss of self.

That's on the one hand—the First Nations people were themselves deprived of the benefits of being grounded in their own culture and were obviously the primary victims. But all of humanity itself has lost something as well. Cree culture and traditional knowledge is part of the diverse development of the overall human experience and has value to the broader society, including though not limited to, both natural science and art. This too we

all stand to lose if language and culture education is not paired with other forms of education. However, there is no reason why it must be one or the other. It can and should be both, and that is the purpose behind the Ptarmigan Cree Cultural Centre, which we are pleased to have been given the opportunity to support.

I have also been asked to comment on how the Bird Construction Building Technologies Shop fits with getting a good education. Of course, this bit of the educational panorama is focussed on the very practical career opportunity side of



The Ptarmigan Cree Cultural Centre.

things, and a very specific type of career opportunity. It certainly won't be for everyone, but how will you know that it is or isn't for you unless you have the opportunity try it out in high school, at least a little? And I don't mean just the young men among the MANS student body, there is no reason why young women cannot enjoy well paid employment in construction as well. On that note, Construction is an industry where there is a strong demand for trained employees, with good wages and lots of opportunity, and there always should be, so it's a good option to have in your pocket.

I'll close by saying once again, congratulations to you all for what's been accomplished. Make the best of it! And thank you for the opportunity to be involved.

—Richard Bird, PhD, MBA



Dr. Richard Bird  
Canada's CFO of  
the Year 2010.

*“Dr. Bird’s message is uplifting and humbling at the same time. I have nothing else to add.”*

Lynn McDowell

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# *The Doctor is In*

**2019 Women's Ministries Retreat**

*March 29-31, 2019*

*“... I have come so YOU  
may have life...”*

*John 10:10*

[www.marriott.com/events/  
start.mi?id=1543878530688&key=GRP](http://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1543878530688&key=GRP)