



The book of Matthew has several parables that speak concerning the nature of the Kingdom of God. Some parables speak about the Kingdom being within people's hearts. Some parables speak about the Kingdom as something yet to come. Yet others speak of who will make up the Kingdom of God. In this article I would like to explore with you the parables that speak to the value of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:44 reads as follows, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." This story describes a man who is hired to work on a field to prepare it for seeding. He

accidentally discovers a great treasure hidden in the field. In those days there were no banks into which one could put their valuables. Since wars and raids were rampant during these years, the safest thing to do was to hide your valuables in the ground or in a cave. Occasionally the people who hid these treasures died without telling anyone or were taken away as slaves and never reclaimed the treasures.

When the man finds the treasure, he decides that he needs to buy the field, as the treasure is the property of the owner. However, the field will cost a substantial amount of money, much more than he has available to him. He determines to have the field, whatever it costs him.

He goes home and puts his

house up for sale. He sells the furniture, as well as his horse and cart. He borrows from his neighbours. He does all that he can until he finally has the funds that he needs; then he goes out and buys the field and claims his treasure.

This parable illustrates the value of the kingdom of God. Jesus is really the treasure of great price. Like the man in the parable, we must be willing to give up everything in order to acquire a saving relationship with Jesus.



Gary Hodder President Alberta Conference

¹ The New King James Version. (1982). (Mt 13:44). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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MARCH 2019 EDITION

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1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, **4** if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. **6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. **9** Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; **10** for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; **11** discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, **12** delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, **13** who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, **14** who rejoice in doing evil and

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For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding"

15 men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. **16** So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words. **17** who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; **18** for her house sinks down to death.

and her paths to the departed;

19 none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

20 So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.

21 For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it,

22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Pr 2:1-22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

delight in the perverseness of evil,



DEPARTAMENT NEWS

The Word of God: A Sure **Foundation**

January Pastors' Meeting with the theme of "The Word of God: A Sure Foundation" was a tremendous blessing. We especially enjoyed having the principals from our schools join us for the first time during my tenure.

7 e were privileged to have Dr. Denis Fortin, professor of theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary— Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, as the keynote speaker. From his wealth of experience, he passionately shared theological themes. He reminded us of the significance and value of sharing these theological themes with our congregations in order to inoculate them against false teachings.

Foothills Camp was transformed into a university setting as the pastors and principals interacted and asked for clarity to questions needing attention in their congregations and schools.

Here is a list of the theological topics Dr. Fortin addressed:

- Historical and Biblical **Evidences for the Trinity**
- The Divinity of Jesus
- Sin and Sanctification
- Christian Perfection and the Last Generation





Left: Pastor's Meeting attendees, Foothills Camp, Jan. 2019 Right: Dr. Denis Fortin

Gary Hodder, Conference President, updated the pastors and principals on how the Conference is doing with its mission of reaching people for Jesus, as well as pastoral additions and reassignments. Vice President for Administration, Wayne Williams, reported on the statistics of membership growth and several updated conference policies. Chief Financial Officer, Keith Richter, as always, had the attention of everyone when he shared the Conference financial report. These reports help us better understand how God is leading His Church in Alberta.

We were also privileged to have Dr. Bruce Boyd from Burman University share valuable lessons and skills pertaining to conflict resolution. To crown it all, we were treated to a sumptuous supper courtesy of Burman University.

The 2019 pastors' meeting was a blessing, and many pastors shared how much they appreciated being present. We give all the praise and thanks to God, who deserves it for the wonderful love and grace He showers upon us. "...I will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6); "...I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1) —Submitted by George Ali, George Ali Ministerial/Evangelism Director/ Church Planting Coordinator



"COURAGEOUS BOLDNESS IN A HYPERSENSITIVE AGE"

Everyone of all ages throughout the conference is invited to attend all the scheduled meetings in the church

SCHEDULE

(Meetings in the College Heights Church except for Friday outing & banquet)

Thursday, May 2: Friday, May 3:

7:30 pm 9:30 am

Registered SAGErs - Friday afternoon and evening OUTING TO DINOS CENTRE, Innisfail BANQUET AND GUEST SPEAKER, Lacombe Memorial Centre

Sabbath, May 4:

Church Services

Gospel Concert

9:15 and 11:45 am

Sabbath School Sabbath afternoon

10:30 am 3:30 pm 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 5:

9:30 am

Guest Speaker:

BARRY W. BUSSEY

Director, Legal Affairs at Canadian Council of Christian Charities

More details will follow in your church bulletin and/or by email to those on our SAGE database, including registration forms for 50+ SAGErs!

WE ESPECIALLY INVITE THOSE OF YOU
WHO ARE 50+ AND HAVE NEVER ATTENDED A SAGE CONVENTION BEFORE,
TO JOIN IN THE OUTING AND BANQUET (pre-registration required),
IN ADDITION TO ALL THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS.









Master Guide Convention 2018.

ACBA First Game.

Lesotho Mission Trip 2018.

alling all young adults to our first annual Alberta Conference → Young Adult Retreat!

It's a time for young adults to connect with God, connect with others, and connect with nature. This year it will be held in the beautiful town of Banff.

Our theme this year is "CRAVE." As a young adult there are many cravings out there, but how do you navigate through them all?

Our guest speaker Dr. Floyd Spence will be helping us to look at topics such as identity, mission/outreach, love and relationships, financial empowerment, social justice, and how to strengthen your connection with God.

For questions, email Pastor Lyle Inotice@albertaadventist.ca

PAST EVENTS 2018

- 1. Global Youth Leadership **Convention-Germany** July 31-August 8, 2018
- 2. Lesotho Mission Trip May 9-22, 2018
- 3. Master Guide Convention-Red Deer lune 29-30, 2018
- 4. Global Youth Day Edmonton March 16-17, 2018
- 5. Alberta Conference Basketball Association (ACBA) October 2018
- 6. Adventurer Family Camp June 8-10, 2018
- 7. Teen Youth Rally February 2-4, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

- 1. Crave Young Adult Retreat Banff March 22-24, 2019
- 2. Teen Youth Rally April 5-7, 2019-Disrupt
- 3. Mission Trip Palawan April 29-May 15, 2019

Please register ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.Camp=145&campCode=&idSession=221012

DEPARTMENT NEWS



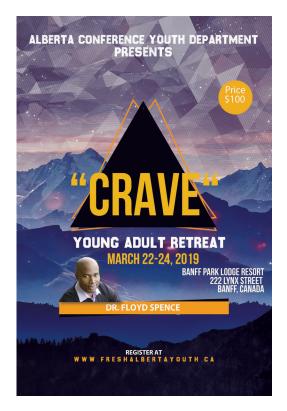
Adventurer Family Camp 2018.

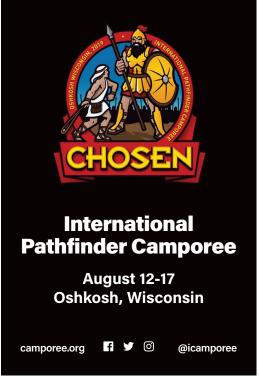




NAD Delegation at Global Youth Leadership Convention.

Global Youth Day 2018.







AGF. with GRACE

haris Village Senior Housing is a great big audacious dream for a communityminded group from several different churches in Lacombe, Alberta. Charis means "grace," and Ephesians 2:8 tells us that grace is a gift from God. Because God has so generously given us His grace, Charis Village will be built as a benefit to our community. For many years, the care of our aging population—a rapidly growing demographic—has been a grave concern. Houses are often built without consideration of accessibility, leaving people unable to remain autonomous in their homes. The lack of available assisted-living and long-term care rooms has led to seniors being sent to distant towns until beds become available. The whole person is not always considered when advanced

care is necessary, and loneliness, boredom, and depression are all too common in senior facilities. In fact, we refer to spaces for the elderly as "beds," not even rooms, let alone homes.

God calls us to honour and elevate the elderly, not to diminish them to a cramped, lonely environment, away from their loved ones. To address these needs, a dedicated group of volunteers has worked together tirelessly to develop a not-for-profit organization committed to the establishment of homes—both independent living and assisted living/longterm care—for seniors sixty and over. Charis Village bases everything they do on Christian values, and considers social, spiritual, and emotional needs as important as the physical environment. The goal is to honour our fathers





and mothers by providing well-designed, highquality housing where seniors can receive care and also care for one another as they age with grace. For more information on Charis Village's vision, mission, and values, see charisvillage.ca.

In April, construction of Chinook Villa will begin and be ready for occupancy in the late winter or early spring of 2020. Charis Village is located on land purchased from Burman University on the north side of Lacombe, so if you get an

opportunity, drive by and see the lovely setting by Henner's Lake. College Heights SDA church, the gymnasium, and a variety of music programs and social events are nearby, and Burman





Above: Two housing options for independent living with luxury finishes to ensure a comfortable living to age with grace.

University is offering free gym passes, university classes, and music program tickets to residents.

Charis Village is an inspiration to our city, showing that by working together, we can transcend denominational borders and give back to God by ensuring that seniors will have

better care, both now and in future generations. Even though the board members will not benefit personally from these years of sacrifice, they are driven by the belief that they plant trees under whose shade they will not sit. Is there a need that

you can address in your town or city? Is there a tree that you can plant? Let's be inspired by Charis Village to make our community a better place to live. —Submitted by Warren Kay





hat a privilege it is to serve our Alberta families with a strong Seventh-day Adventist education system in our province. As you read through this education edition of Alberta Adventist News, we invite you to rejoice with us in the wonderful things that are happening in our schools. The 2018/19 school year brought with it another increase in our overall enrolment. Approximately 1,100 students are being taught and ministered to throughout our 10 schools in Alberta.

In his book, *Educating for* Eternity, George Knight writes, "All truth in the Christian curriculum, whether it deals with nature, humanity, society, or the arts, must be seen in proper relationship to Jesus Christ as Creator and Redeemer" (pg. 89). This is the purpose

All truth in the Christian curriculum, whether it deals with nature, humanity, society, or the arts, must be seen in proper relationship to lesus Christ as Creator and Redeemer"

of Adventist education. Our committed educators, by God's grace, view their work through a sacred lens in their day-today interactions with their students. "Adventist teachers are God's agents in the plan of redemption and reconciliation" (Knight, 2016, pg. 69).

We want to thank the membership of the Alberta Conference for your support of the vital work of Adventist education. Children are our most sacred gift, and it is with humble gratitude that we take on the immense responsibility

of loving, nurturing, and educating them. Thank you for your continued prayers for this important ministry. May God bless each of us as we move. forward in "love, the basis of creation and of redemption... the basis of true education." (E.G. White, Education, pg. 16).



Ronda Ziakris Associate Education Superintendent

By Divina Buhia, Grade 1 Teacher CWAA

Share the kindness

t Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, it is our desire to foster a spirit of compassion and kindness beyond the walls of our school. In the fall of 2018, a few students were selected to start a pilot student-led mission project that encourages community service. In the lower elementary division, Lacey Babbitt and Tinevimbo Ganduri were selected, and they took this project with such enthusiasm that one year later, it has sparked into a family ministry and has ignited a desire to serve others around our school. Here is their testimony:

The Father's Day Bake Sale

ast year Mrs. Buhia asked Tine and me to ■think of a way to show God's love in a special way. We brainstormed all year for a good idea. We thought about maybe doing a garage sale, bake sale, or lemonade stand. In the end, we decided to have a bake sale in my neighborhood park to raise money for the Mustard Seed. Since it was Father's Day, we called it the "Share the Kindness Father's Day Bake Sale". We gave away free lemonade too, and with each lemonade we gave out tags to challenge others to pass along the kindness.

We had lots of fun putting this project together. Tine came over to my house a couple of times to make signs, and we also made small signs to post on the mailboxes around my neighborhood.

On the day of the bake sale, God answered our prayers with beautiful weather. We decided to sell ice cream sandwiches, and popsicles, cupcakes, homemade tarts, and cookies. We decorated the baked goods with Bible verses about God's love. Our moms told us not to be disappointed if not too many people came by, but soon we had so many people stopping when they saw our signs. When it wasn't busy, our brothers and friends helped us wave cars down.

One of the first people to come by was a lady that said she used to work at the Mustard Seed and she was really happy that we were raising money for the work that they do there. One car load of people stopped for lemonade, and even though we were giving it away to show kindness, they showed kindness back by insisting we take a \$20 bill.

We were so happy to have some friends from school drop by, and even our Principal Mrs. Melashenko.—By Lacey Babbitt



Lacey and Tine making posters to prepare for the Father's Day bake sale at the park.



The whole family helps share the kindness. Etinah Murimbi and Melanie Babbitt with their children.









Shopping at Walmart.

Walmart and The Mustard Seed

fter the Father's Day bake sale, Lacey and I counted the money. Our stand was only open for 2 ½ hours and we raised about \$210. Later that week, we arranged a day to go to Walmart to buy items for The Mustard Seed. We decided to donate the money to The Mustard Seed because it helps the homeless people around Calgary and because it is a Christian organization.

One day after school, we met at Walmart. We had the money and we were ready to shop. We bought lotion, toothpicks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shirts, pants, socks, underwear, and other stuff. When we were done paying for everything, we kept the kindness going by leaving the \$1 in the shopping cart for someone else to use.

About a week later, our parents helped us arrange to go to The Mustard Seed. After school, Lacey's mom picked us up and we headed to The Mustard Seed. When we got there, the lady that was going to give us a tour said "Hi," and

we gave her the stuff we bought. She was really happy about the amount of stuff we bought to help the homeless there that need it. She gave us a tour of The Mustard Seed, showing us various rooms, including the lounge room, the kitchens, and the balconies. We also saw the doctors for The Mustard Seed and we found out they also have a little classroom for all ages with crafts and activities. At the end, we got to feel a mustard seed, which is very small. In the Bible it says in Matthew 13:31-32, that faith, like a mustard seed, can do big things.

Lacey Babbitt and Tinevimbo Ganduri are currently 4th-grade students at Chinook Wind's Adventist Academy and have recently shared this experience in a chapel period at school. It continues to be a blessing and joy to see God's children choose to spread love and kindness to the those around them. May we continue to plant little seeds of kindness for His glory. —Bv Tinevimbo Ganduri

Coralwood **Adventist Academy**

his year at Coralwood Adventist Academy, we have been blessed in many ways. We know God's hand is leading, and as long as we continue to trust in Him, He will continue to direct our path.

We were given an opportunity by the Alberta Conference to double our impact in paying off our building loan. The Conference promised to match each dollar donated towards the building loan up to \$95,000.00. We launched this initiative at the end of April 2018 at our Annual General Meeting. There was an expiry date on this generosity, so it was up to us to raise that amount in eight months. When you put God to the test, and it is His will, He will come through. We are happy to announce that by the time all the donations were received from online sources, collected at churches, or brought to the business office here at school, we were able to collect over \$97,000.00! We will be applying almost \$200,000.00 towards our building loan! We are praising God all the way! A special thanks to the Conference for making this happen. We are thankful to our constituency and friends of the school who have helped us reach our goal.

We have started a new initiative this school year: having Friday night vespers on the first Friday of each month. This program is geared towards our junior and senior high students. If your teenager is in the Edmonton area on the first Friday of the month, you are invited to join us on campus for vespers. We begin at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

As we continue to minister in this area of the vineyard, we ask for your continued support in prayers, talent, and treasure. We invite you to partner with us as we endeavour to bind each young heart to Christ's every day. We appreciate your commitment to Adventist Christian education here in Edmonton, and as long as God wants us here, we will be here serving Him in our community. —By Leidamae Muse, Principal



Higher Ground Christian School:

n a bluff overlooking the river valley where downtown Medicine Hat is located sits the small community of Veinerville. Once known as Veinerville Christian Academy, Higher Ground Christian School is now a thriving small community of learners ranging from kindergarten to grade seven.

The two classrooms are busy places, where students who have immigrated from all over the world now come to learn. Yes, we are a very diverse group with unique languages and cultures to share and celebrate.

This year we have also been celebrating how each one of us are a piece of God's plan. Like a puzzle, we all have a part to play as we work together to spread the love of Jesus to others around us. Each morning begins with a worship—some days as a whole school and others in the individual classrooms. Next students experience and study the Bible using the Encounter Bible curriculum where the major theme of salvation is presented while stories from the Old and New Testaments are not just learned, but experienced and internalized.

We also work together to learn and grow academically. Learning can be fun and exciting, yet a challenging experience as we incorporate hands-on and experiential activities where possible. Students learn research skills while putting together projects in social studies as they learn about Canada and the parts that make it a

country. Hands-on experiments in Science have included but are not limited to breaking open geode rocks, attending a Rock and Gem show where rock features can be observed and felt, creating musical instruments out of recycled materials, building different types of electrical circuits, doing a pond study at a local park, and even planning and building a



Higher Ground Christian School building located in Medicine Hat, AB.

school garden. The latter is in the works, but we are excited about the prospects come spring.

What makes Higher Ground Christian School special? Perhaps it is the small-school family atmosphere, the diverse community of learners, the Christ-centered staff, or the volunteers who give selflessly of their time. Or perhaps it is all of these things working together as the pieces of God's puzzle come together to show His great plan for His children.—*By Tami Braman, Principal*











PACES: Flexible Adventist Adventist Education

Currently, Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS) is serving the educational needs of 225 students. By providing a flexible option for Adventist education, we

are able to partner
with families
who desire the
philosophy
and values

that it offers, delivering it to them in an online or homeschool setting.

Our school community is

important to us, and we value the supportive relationships that our students, parents, and teachers have. During the 2018-2019 school year, our assembly programs have focused on building our school community. Each month during our assemblies, we have partnered different grades and teachers together so that we can get to know each other better. In our January assembly, we shared and celebrated the talents that



God has given us. Students played the ukulele, shared their artwork, demonstrated their gymnastic skills, and showed off their baking to us. As a school community, we are strengthened when we pray together, learn together, and share together like this.

If you are looking for an online or homeschool program and would like to be a part of the community of learning that Adventist Education offers, please contact us and we can discuss our programming with you. Website: pacescanada.org Phone: 403-848-3165
Email: principal@pacescanada.org

—By Heidi Morehouse,

Principal





Mamawi Atosketan Native School

amawi Atosketan Native School (Mamawi) has been in the news quite a bit lately, and for some very exciting reasons. Our expansion project (The Bridge Campaign) is now complete, and the new building opened for classes on September 4, 2018. It was a busy week for staff, leading up to the first day of classes, but well worth it with an enrolment of 102 students in grades 7 through 12, reflecting an increase of 20 students in that division from last year. Our total enrolment this year for grades kindergarten through 12 is 224. The Lord has greatly blessed us!

Our high school welding program is well underway. We are looking forward to another welding camp this spring, hosted by the Canadian Welding Association, in our new Leon Ingraham Industrial Arts building. We are so grateful to have the CWA working together with us for this program.

This year, for the first time, we are happy to announce that we have a high school volleyball team—The Mamawi Howlers. Our girls were very excited to play in the Burman Classic at Burman University this Fall. They had a wonderful time and had the opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with friends they had made over the years through various initiatives of the Alberta Conference.

A very heartfelt thank you to the generous donors who made it possible for us to purchase 24 new Chromebook laptops for our elementary students. This has had a very positive impact on our technology program in the lower elementary division. It is our goal, before the end of this current school year, to raise enough funds to purchase a second set of 24 Chromebooks for the upper elementary division. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported and continue to support us through prayers, donations, and volunteer work. *Mamawi Atosketan* means "working together" in the Cree language. Thank you for "working together" with us.





Peace Hills Adventist School: A Heart for Service

eace Hills Adventist School is a K-9 school located just north of Wetaskiwin in a wonderful rural setting. The school has three teachers: Mrs. Otieno—grades 6-9, Mr. Lamberton—3-5, and Mrs. Matiko—K-2, as well as two aides: Ali McKay and Charlotte Stolarchuk.

During the 2018-2019 school year, in response to a challenge Mrs. Ziakris presented to school leader-ship—"How would your community feel if this school was no longer here?"—teachers became more intentional about encouraging and engaging students in service projects and community involvement. Each September, since the school opened in 1989, students and teachers have joined the Terry Fox Run/Walk to kickstart their focus on service. This year was no different. Students surpassed their \$250 fundraising goal

for the event, raising a total of \$340, and thus earning the opportunity to throw baked pies at their teachers.

The focus on service continued in October with "Socktober", an initiative in which 93 pairs of socks were collected for the homeless in Wetaskiwin. In November the students excitedly participated in Operation Christmas Child, which provided them the opportunity to send stuffed shoe boxes to children around the world. In December, the school, in collaboration with the Wetaskiwin Adventist Church, hosted a Christmas program, during which they cooked and served an amazing Christmas dinner to all the guests who attended.

Anyone who is involved with PHAS knows that Christ is the center of the daily interactions and lessons. Esme, a grade 2 student, says she loves it when "we get to go to the

church and hear stories from Pastor Jason". Using the new Encounter program makes Bible lessons come alive, and encourages students to get to know Christ personally.

Students are passionate about PHAS school for many reasons, as seen in the following comments from the K-2 classroom: "We love to study the Bible"; "We love being able to play outside on our new park"; and "We love having computers and playing ABC mouse, mathletics and learning to type."

The whole atmosphere at PHAS is one of encouragement, learning from mistakes, and working together to make this a great school.

—Submitted by Jai Dubyna, Assistant Superintendent, Micro-Schools Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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- March
- lune
- September
- December

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The older and younger students building a snow fort together.



Learning how to skate on our ice rink, thanks to volunteers from the church family like Glen Holly.

Meadows Adventist School

vlvan Meadows Adventist School is set in a beautiful, rural setting and has operated in its current location since 1976. The school grew in 1993 when another classroom was added, completing the building as it is now. It is a wonderful facility that has provided Christ-centered education for many precious students over the last four decades.

A healthy and active lifestyle has always been important at SMAS, and the full-sized gym, along with the playground, outdoor permanent hockey rink, and ball diamond are all used on a regular basis. Mikka (grade 1) says, "I like to go skating and there's a tire swing that I like to go on." The country landscape also contributes to their enjoyment of outdoor activities, as students delight in building survival shelters and snow caves.

At school Christ can be seen in how the children treat each other, as they are generally kind and are willing to help each other. For example, during PE they are learning about Badminton, and the older students teach the younger children skills such as how to serve, receive, rally, and it is common to see them all practicing their skills together during recess.

Outreach activities play an important role in preparing students to serve Christ. This year SMAS organized and hosted a Fall Festival in October to which the whole community was invited. Many people come to enjoy the various activities, food, and fellowship. This

year the students spread kindness by baking cookies for people at church. For many years the students have participated in the province's highway cleanup initiative.



A Sylvan Meadows Bible class student learning how God sifts the whole world to find us and put us back together.

The school also goes on many field trips as a way to promote hands-on learning. This year they have already gone to Kraay Family Farm, Reynold's Museum, the AB Conference Volleyball Tournament, indoor rock climbing, skating, and to the local library. Most recently they went to the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery where they learned about Albertan Indigenous artists and had a lesson in water colours.

As head teacher, Skyla McCreery says, "SMAS is a great school because of the supportive church family. It's welcoming, and we have a family atmosphere." Students also repeat this sentiment: Tony, (grade 4) says, "I like this school because there is more friendship and relationships and no one is left out." —Submitted by Skyla McCreery



South Side Christian School

outh Side Christian School has a legacy of providing Christian education and preparing students to serve for nearly 40 years. The school opened its doors in 1981 with the name Red Deer Adventist Academy until 1996. After closing for a year, the school reopened in 1997 with a new name and a new vision. Enrollment grew until classes were held in the kitchen, in the gym, and in the nearby church. In 2006 a large addition was constructed to accommodate the growing needs. While enrollment has fluctuated throughout the years, SSCS currently has 50 students and three dedicated teachers: Mrs. Boehner, Mr. Densmore, and Mrs. Lamberton.

Both staff and students agree that SSCS school is an amazing place to be because of it's warm and inviting atmosphere. The school feels like a big family, and students are excited to be at school - some even comment that they missed attending school after being on a holiday.

The staff feel blessed to be able to share their love for Iesus in the classroom. As Mrs. Lamberton (K-1 teacher) said. "Every day we teach a Bible class, along with involving Jesus in every subject. Our school is a place that invites Jesus in on a daily basis. On Mondays, our students and staff meet together. We pray for our church, students, families, and our school."

SSCS believes in the importance of teaching students to







Student life at South Side Christian School.

I love South Side Christian School

because we have friends and we are like a family."

serve Jesus by serving others in the community. All students have the opportunity to visit senior residents at Timberstone Mews each month. It is a time shared together uplifting God in music, playing games, and fellowshipping together. The students have also been writing letters to seniors, and are always very excited when they receive a reply from their pen pals.

During the Christmas season, the students had a wonderful opportunity to serve Red Deer by raising money and delivering donated food to the Ronald McDonald House. The students were very enthusiastic about giving to people in need, and being able to make a difference in their community.

Here is what Audrey Grovet, a kindergarten student, said when asked why she loves our school: "I love South Side Christian School because we have friends and we are like a family." It is clear that the students know they are cared for, loved, and accepted by their peers, staff, and most of all, by God. —Submitted by Ronda Ziakris & Jai Dubyna

Woodlands Adventist School

he first thing anyone notices as they arrive at Woodlands Adventist School is what a beautiful, rustic setting in which it is located in. Surrounded by fields and trees, this micro-school is a reminder of our heritage in Adventist education as it functions almost like a family, with students from K-8 playing and working together throughout the day. The school was established in 1981 in the Morningside community hall with one teacher, Elsie Eaton, and in January of 1982, moved onto the current property and added a second teacher. Since then the school has continued to provide quality Christ-centered education to many students.

The first skating rink was

an ice pad in the middle of the parking lot, surrounded by straw bales. Currently there is a large, permanent skating rink, which the students use regularly all winter long thanks primarily to the effort of Darrel McCarty, who donates water, time, shovels, and other maintenance equipment. The older students help with shoveling and cleaning before they play while the younger students enjoy skating around.

Woodlands is blessed with two teachers, Leo Ganson and Hannah Hackett, who are passionate about sharing their love of Jesus with the students. Throughout each day, students learn to grow their relationship with Jesus, whether learning about His creations in science.

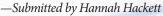
Students enjoying skating and other activities together.

beginning and end of the day. The students in grades 3 and 4 shared their thoughts on why they like Woodlands.

or in praying together at the

"Because all the kids are nice and we talk about God," and "The teachers are nice and care about us."

The newly organized, student-led association has planned several activities this year. This includes activities like crazy hair day, twin day, backwards day, and character day. In September the school had Friendship Week, with many fun team-building activities. All these activities lead to a very close-knit student body who work together and encourage each other on a daily basis. Woodlands is truly a family-oriented school that encourages a close relationship with Christ.









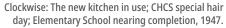


College Heights Christian School

ollege Heights Christian School (CHCS) had its early beginnings when the Alberta Conference established the schools known now as Burman University and Parkview Adventist Academy. The school opened in the fall of 1911 with twenty-five students during its initial year of operation. A two-room school was built in 1928 on the site where the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church now stands. In 1947, a new two-room school was constructed on the current school site. This building still serves as the anchor building for the current facility. Today, the two classrooms provide accommodation for ECS and Grade 1. A gymnasium, music room, and industrial arts facility were added in 1982. Over several years, classrooms were constructed to accommodate an expanding enrollment. The last major expansion including a new entrance with accompanying offices and general work areas. A special renovation this past summer included the relocation of the school kitchen. The renovation was fully funded prior to construction and was completed under budget.

CHCS is a supporting school within the Alberta SDA School District. It currently holds full accredited status with the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist









Church. CHCS is a fully accredited education facility, registered with the Government of Alberta as a "Level 2 Private School" authorized to offer the ECS, elementary and junior high programs of study.

The school mission, "To nurture, educate and equip students to impact their world for Iesus" is the central focus when one enters the school. CHCS intentionally focuses on its mission through more than thirty outreach activities each year. One such outreach is the annual Seniors' Program and Luncheon in early December. This program provides opportunity for the students to show appreciation to their great aunts & uncles, great grandparents and many additional seniors within the constituency church. The special day begins with many of the students providing renditions of seasonal songs and skits followed by a lunch of various soups, sandwiches and sweets which are coordinated by the Home & School.

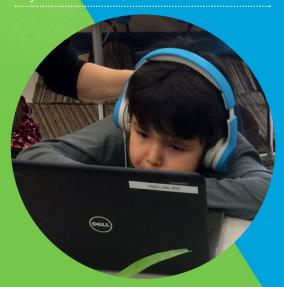
In addition to performance, students are involved with greeting, parking lot assistance and table serving. Attendance has reached 180 seniors.

With the support of the College Heights SDA Church and the Alberta Conference, CHCS enjoys the ministry of Pastor Matthew Piersanti. He provides on campus Bible studies, classroom spiritual guidance sessions, weekly spiritual assemblies and Weeks of Prayer. He also shares his talents by supporting Friendship Week, sporting events and other activities that he is able to schedule into his busy calendar. The students and staff appreciate Pastor Matt and the ministry he provides.

As CHCS continues to serve the Burman University campus and the surrounding district of Lacombe we would encourage all who may be interested in visiting our school to drop by and say "HI!". We covet your prayers and love.—Reo Ganson, Principal



By Mildred Weiss, Assistant Education Director IT



Elementary student with Chromebook at Mamawi Atosketan Native School.

Alberta Adventist Education: Integrating 21st-Century **Technology** in the Classroom

he main purpose of Adventist Education is to prepare our students to become citizens of heaven while being stewards on this earth through holistic education. This preparation includes social, academic, physical, and spiritual components. Our schools are always searching for ways to make learning significant and complete in the twenty-first century. Technology is part of our lives, rapidly evolving, and touching our day-to-day lives in many ways.

Our schools are now integrating the technical component of learning in the classroom, giving the students within the Alberta Conference the opportunity to develop and interact on a day-to-day basis. Teachers and staff alike are making learning relevant and up to date.

Interactive boards in every classroom make learning fun and interactive. Nearing a 1:1 device-to-student ratio within our district, our students are exposed to technology as to build their skills, while not making technology the central focus, but rather a tool.

Supernet connection to all our schools helps by giving the rural areas the same opportunity for connection to the internet as the urban areas have, levelling cost and accessibility.

Other technological tools at our schools include: online resources for fun learning, deeper understanding, access to Google Apps for Education, and Microsoft 365 for Education to expose kids to different platforms and opportunities for learning, to name a few.

Our schools are equipped and excited to provide the technological skills our students need for success.

Mountaineers Pathfinder Club Conducts Worship Service

The Calgary Mountain View congregation was blessed by their Pathfinder Club on January 19 as members of the club took charge of the entire worship service for the day. From leading praise time, doing the children's story, performing a mime act to the music of "I Can Only Imagine", having their own band, preaching the sermon, and closing the service with an appropriate appeal for commitment through a ventriloquist, all components of the service were covered. We are so appreciative to our Pathfinder Club leadership for providing our young people with meaningful service opportunities. —Submitted by Phyllis Corkum, T.E.A.M. Communications (for Mountain View)















Calgary Mountain View T.E.A.M. Health Conducts Health Kitchen

The Health Team at Calgary Mountain View conducted its third Health Kitchen. The evening began with a brief presentation on "My Plate." Instructional YouTube videos giving Facts of Hope (by the NAD) were also used during this presentation.

Four teams competed in three rounds of challenges during the Health Kitchen—creating attractive, healthy dishes from vegan, gluten free, vegetable, fruit, grain, and legume ingredients provided. Teams were given 15 minutes to "shop"

from available ingredients and cook and create each dish. A team of judges ranging from children through seniors determined the winning team for each round, and the audience got a sample of each offering.

An added feature was another competition: "Nailed It." Father/child teams were challenged to replicate a picture of a watermelon carving: swan, shark, or turtle. The evening was a huge success.

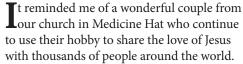
—Submitted by Phyllis Corkum, T.E.A.M. Communications (for Mountain View)





HATS OF HOW GOD WILL USE OUR GIFTS TO REACH HIS CHILDREN

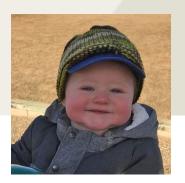
Recently I read a post on an Adventist site on Facebook. The post was by a new Adventist who was wondering if she had to give up her hobbies to become an Adventist.



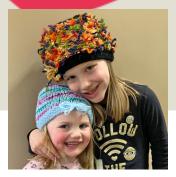
Florence and Edgar Boschee have lived in the southeastern area of Alberta for what Florence says is forever. First they had a farm in Hilda, then in 1990 they moved to Medicine Hat with their children. Florence and Edgar

have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren, with whom they have shared their love for Jesus. Florence taught herself to knit 45 years ago, and it became a hobby at which she enjoyed and really excelled. She has knit everything from big thick sweaters with horse patterns on them to scarves and hats. It would be the hats that became her mission of love to reach children of all ages around the world. She started focussing on her hats about 20 years ago and has knit over 6,000 (that's when she stopped counting) of them, and despite poor eyesight she continues to knit them today at the age of 86. When I visited with her,

Florence and Edgar partnered with A Better World Canada many years ago when they



Fletcher Schafer wearing one of his greatgrandmother's hats.



Hailee & Brooklyn Schafer, looking adorable in their great-grandmother's hats.



Jennifer showing off the fashionable hat that Florence made for her.

found out that her hats could be used in the mission fields. Florence would knit to her hearts content, filling box after box. Edgar would then drive them up to Lacombe to be shipped off in the containers to wherever they were needed. The volunteers would then give them to children in need.

Her hats have been sent to Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Bolivia. The smaller hats have been sent to Adventist medical clinics and given to mothers for their newborn babies. According to Julie Stegmaier, Director of Operations, the mothers are always very grateful for this gift.

Their generosity has not ended there. She has also given hats to the children at our local Adventist school, Higher Ground Christian School, for many years. A lot of our children come from refugee families from Nepal, the Philippines, and other East Asian countries.



Many of them were not prepared for the winters here.

Florence would knit hats for all the students of the school so that no one would feel left out.

I think everyone at the Medicine Hat church has benefitted from her talents, as she made hats for my family as well. Florence and Edgar are so humble about

their mission work. Florence doesn't think she has done anything special; she does it out of her love for God and His children. I'm sure she will be surprised, when Jesus comes again, to meet all those for whom she made hats and find out what it meant to them.

Florence and Edgar are such a great example of how God can use our gifts for the benefit of His Kingdom if we allow Him to use us. I hope this inspires others to use their gifts and hobbies to help others and spread the love of Jesus to those in need.—By Andrea Gamero

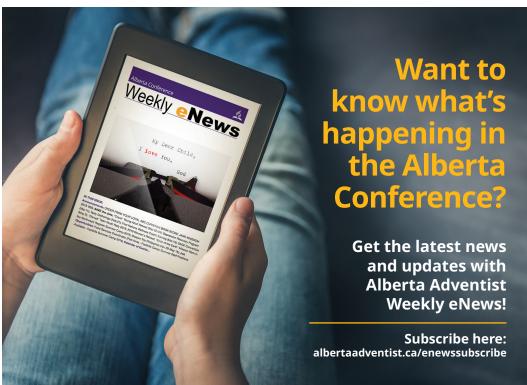
Sylvan Lake Church







Ragner Mannerfeldt presented a handmade prayer box to The Sylvan Lake Church's Prayer Ministries Coordinator, Annabelle Bell. Ragner has been a member of the church for decades and still finds ways to love and support his church family.





Warburg Church Renovations

The Warburg Church rejoices at the completion of some major sanctuary renovations that took place during several months last fall. Insulation, dry walling, plastering, painting, and other decorating work were shared by numerous members of the church between October and December 2018. The renovations project was led by local church deacon and renovations committee leader Hal Eamon, who put in many, many volunteer hours at the church during this project. It is without question that the project was handled and completed because of Hal's consistent presence, labor, and commitment to the project. The Warburg Church is grateful to God for the sanctuary we have in which to worship, and grateful now that it has been improved to God's glory. The church invites and welcomes brothers and sisters from any of our sister churches to come and visit us any Sabbath as we worship the Lord!—Submitted by Pastor Jason Williams





The Wetaskiwin Church's Peace Hills Adventurer Club was officially welcomed into the sisterhood of Clubs in the Alberta Conference during the Induction Service on November 24, 2018.

Wetaskiwin Church Welcomes New Adventurers

The Wetaskiwin Church celebrated the official Induction of 33 Adventurer Club members and 11 volunteer leaders on Sabbath afternoon, November 24, 2018 into the "Peace Hills Adventurer Club". All club members and leaders participated in this special service, which was officiated by several members of the Alberta Conference Adventurer Club Executive in the presence of parents, family, and church membership at the Wetaskiwin Church. The Peace Hills Club meets bi-weekly at the Wetaskiwin Church for a 2-hour program and offers all 6 levels of Adventurer ministry for children ranging from ages 4-10. We rejoice in the opportunity that God has provided for us to minister to our children and community through this club. —Submitted by Pastor Jason Williams







Mass Choir on Carnegie Stage

n Sunday, November 18, 2018, 24 members of the Calgary Central Church choir joined 20 other church choirs from Canada and the United States at Carnegie Hall in New York City to debut a new Christmas cantata, Christmas Presence, by renowned Christian choral composer and conductor, Pepper Choplin.

The concert producer, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY), discovered the Calgary Central choir in the fall of 2017 through the church's YouTube channel, which had recordings of the choir's performances, including Pepper Choplin's music.

Two days prior to the performance, there were two half-day rehearsals and one dress rehearsal with the 275-member mass choir. Pepper Choplin made rehearsal time enjoyable with his humour while providing excellent choral direction. He also took time to elaborate on the spiritual context of the words, as well as explain his composition process. He made reference several times to the importance of the work church choirs do for their church and community, and that the performance at Carnegie Hall was an opportunity to celebrate the choirs' dedication to their ministry. He even prayed with the choirs at the end of the rehearsal.

The performance on such an iconic stage as Carnegie Hall was the highlight of the trip. Singing with fellow believers to the glory of God was a tremendous blessing, a small glimpse of that great



Calgary Central Choir with Pepper Choplin.

day when we can sing with the heavenly choir.

Outside of rehearsals, choir members and their invited family and friends enjoyed exploring New York City and shared a closer bond as a result.

The choir members are honoured and blessed to have this experience and are thankful to the Calgary Central church family for their prayers and support for this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The Calgary Central Church Choir has been singing for many years and has been led by Sandra Dodds since September 2014. Along with regular church duties, the Calgary Church Choir performs a Christmas cantata and Easter cantata every year, together with the church orchestra for the local community, and have performed for various other community events. The main focus and pleasure of the Calgary choir is singing to the glory of God.

Submitted by Candace Bell, Choir Member



Come to **Our House**

 ${f T}$ raditionally a children's Sabbath school class consists of children sitting at a desk or in a circle. The room is made more attractive by adding colorful posters, felt board, or other furnishings to help captivate the attention of the children. Often when these children move on to the junior class, they show less interest in focusing their attention on the lesson study. Using multiple learning styles can make a great difference in our children's classes and result in a rewarding experience for our teachers and students.

The Primary Sabbath School Class at Edmonton Central SDA Church had the opportunity to experience the story of Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla from Acts 18. The teaching team came up with creative ways to teach the content of the Sabbath school lesson to the class and transformed the classroom into a tent representing the home of Aquila and Priscilla. Throughout the lesson, the children learned the importance of hospitality, an important tool for reaching out to others in need, as well as creating a bond and a sense of belonging within the church. Ministry to children can be challenging, but also rewarding and a wonderful way of encouraging them to form a lasting friendship with Jesus. -Submitted by Rutu George and Ina Martin Children's Sabbath School Department



Lloydminster **Church Mission** Report

ast Christmas, the Lloydminster ☐ Church Family partnered with the Lloydminster Home Interval Women's Shelter to provide care packages to women and children. Approximately 64 women and children were served. Our church family is planning to continue this partnership in 2019, provided we can raise the necessary funds. -Submitted by Tsholofelo Sebetlela





Lloydminster Adventist Church family members preparing care packages.



Reaching The Greater Edmonton Area Together For Jesus

2019 Annual Convocation For The Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association

The Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association (GEMA) celebrated the second annual convocation for IMPACT 2020, IMPACT 2020 is a city-wide evangelistic meeting that will take place in Edmonton from October 23rd to November 14th. 2020. In preparation for this evangelistic meeting, GEMA organized a second city-wide convocation that was held January 11-13, 2019.

All churches across the City of Edmonton and the surroundings areas were closed during this weekend so that members could attend and participate in the unity rally. On Friday, January 11, the program was held at the Edmonton Filipino SDA Church. The program for this evening included powerful song ministration and a very inspirational message from the guest speaker, Dr.

Chris Holland. The speaker reminded us about the reasons why we are still here on earth.

On Sabbath, January 12, the meeting was held at the Evangel Pentecostal Church with an attendance of over 1,200 people. Church members enjoyed a very dynamic Sabbath school led by the youth and young adults from various churches. They shared their perspective on the 2020 evangelistic campaign and



gave ideas on how to reach the youth of this generation. Following an extraordinary praise and worship time, God spoke to us through His vessel Pr. Holland, who challenged each one of us to finish our journey on earth well. Later in the afternoon, many people attended the anointing service where a number of pastors presided under the leadership of Pr. Ian Bramble. Most people demonstrated their faith in Jesus by participating during this solemn moment of prayer and consecration.

At the sundown worship, having celebrated our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through song services, we received a final message for Saturday, where each one

of us was challenged to take an active part in finishing the work of God on earth. The main objective of this convocation was to train our members to win souls for Christ while fostering an atmosphere of unity as we celebrate our common faith in Him as His disciples. "With our motto being total member involvement, we will not measure our success by the number of people we baptize but rather by the number of individuals who have committed themselves for discipleship," said the GEMA president, Pr. Enock D. Okwaro.

In order to enlist and train our church members for active discipleship, GEMA organized

a number of seminars that were held at Coralwood Adventist Academy on January 13, 2019 from 10 a.m.—1 p.m. These seminars included: Reclaiming Missing Members by Dr. Chris Holland, Friendship Evangelism by Dr. Jeff Potts, How to Prepare and Give Bible Studies by Pr. Jason Williams, Youth Evangelism by Pr. Moises Ruise, and a final ioint session on effective small groups by Dr. Chris Holland.

The training sessions were well-attended, and most participants felt empowered that they had been equipped with some tools to enable them to be active in discipleship. —Submitted by Enock D. Okwaro, GEMA President

for Your Service in Ministry



Randy Barber

number of long-term employees at the AB Conference have reached the special milestone of retirement during 2018 and the early part of 2019. We want to thank each and every one for their valued contribution to the work of ministry in Alberta. Retirement provides an opportunity to do some new activities along with some familiar activities all in a less pressured atmosphere.

The Bible records the lives of many who have devoted themselves to God's work: We have Moses who served for forty years. There are other notables such as Joseph, Daniel, and Elijah. Jesus summarizes for all his faithful servants when he says, "well done, good and faithful servant." Thank you again for your work and may God richly bless you in your continued journey with Jesus. —Pastor Gary Hodder



John Wesley



Larry Weidell





Ianet Hall



Ron Henderson



Warren Kay



Kim Lebel



Bob Pohle



Carol Von Gunten



* "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green."



"... I have come so YOU may have life..."

John 10:10

marriott.com/events/ start.mi?id=1543878530688&key=GRP

Healthy Babies

The Bonnyville Adventurer and Pathfinder Club has had a very active fall season. From indoor camping to nursing home singalongs, the youth have been the hands and heart of Jesus while having a ton of fun. As the 2018 crowning event, the youth banded together on a recycling project that benefited the Cold Lake and Bonnyville communities in a big way. The proceeds from their bottle collection were used to purchase several cases of diapers, wipes, baby food, soaps, lotions, and clothes for the Cold Lake and Bonnyville Healthy Babies Programs. These programs are public health services offered by the government of Canada to provide perinatal support for young mothers with limited resources. We are excited to consider that the efforts of our youth have made a tangible difference in the lives of families in our region. Stay tuned for more exciting movements from our Lakeland youth! — Pastor Tsholofelo Sebetlela



Product delivered at Cold Lake Community Health Services.

Product delivered at **Bonnyville Community** Health Services.



A peek inside the donated storage room for the Healthy Babies Program.





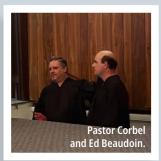
Gracie receiving cash refund from the bottle depot and shopping for baby products.



Edson Baptisms







dson Seventh-day Adventist Church had three baptisms on the Sabbath, January 26. The whole congregation rejoiced as Ed, Lauren, and Michael made a public commitment and decision to be baptized by Pastor Michael Corbel. -Submitted by Pastor Michael Corbel



To view the live-streamed event, scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit the weblink below.



youtu.be/aLUgPP96MzY?t=1h31m59s (To the Apple first, and then to the Android - Romans 1:16)

Medicine Hat Baptisms

uly 28 was truly a happy J Sabbath at the Medicine Hat Church. The church family celebrated together with six individuals committing and recommitting their lives to Christ through baptism. Each of the candidates shared a special Scripture verse, song, and personal testimony, followed

by their baptism by pastor/ evangelist Randy Barber. Family and friends came out to see their loved ones confess their faith in what Christ has done, is doing, and will do in their lives from now and into eternity. Each member of the congregation was asked to recall their own baptism and

remember the joy and refreshing of the Holy Spirit on that day. If you are reading this now, take a minute and reflect on your own journey. Remember that day, that glorious day, when Jesus washed your sins away. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

> —Submitted by Pastor Tyler Rosengren

IN MEMORY

Marion Evans

August 28, 1928 - January 17, 2019

arion Selena (Jones) Evans was born August 28, 1928 in Kinistino, Saskatchewan and passed to her rest January 17, 2019 in Sundre, AB at the age of 90 years old.

Marion's father, Harvey Jones, passed away when she was eight years old, and she, along with her siblings and mother, stayed on her grandparents' farm. Marion completed grade 10 at the Derby School and then finished grade 12 in Nipawin. While in Nipawin, Marion met Mr. Beverly Evans, and the two married July 3, 1946. They were married for 67 years. Three children were born to the couple: Marilyn, Brian, and Kathy.



During their earlier years, the family lived in Nipawin, SK, Torch River, SK, Prince Albert, SK, McBride, BC, Lacombe, AB, and finally in 1973, settled permanently in Sundre, AB.

Although moves were initially frequent, Marion's husband, children, and later grandchildren and greatgrandchildren were always her priority. Every house converted into a comfortable home, and Marion became the structure and moral support for the entire family, never missing milestone events like birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, etc.

Besides her family, Marion became known for her extraordinary kindness in the community. She would visit in the hospital, bringing encouragement and cheer, and her friendship was extended to the entire community as well. She was also a faithful member of the Olds Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Marion was predeceased by her parents, Harvey and Vera Jones, husband Beverly Evans, brother Gordon Jones, and sister Beryl Cherepuschak. She is survived by her three children, daughter Marilyn (Bryan) Bodrug of Calgary, son Brian (Terri) Evans of Sundre, and daughter Kathy (Kevin) Akre of Cochrane, brothers Blair and Vernon Jones, eight grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Duwain Isaac Werner

March 27, 1935 - December 29, 2018

uwain Isaac Werner was born March 27, 1935 at Fox Valley, Saskatchewan. He passed away December 29, 2018 at College Place, Washington. He moved to Lacombe, AB in 1951 with his parents so that he could attend high school at Canadian Union College. He was a born salesperson, selling a variety of items, and as a literature evangelist, Adventist Christian books. He loved animals, especially horses. His passion in life was to encourage people in their spiritual walk. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to someone



Eight years ago, Duwain's health began to fail. It was his desire to live closer to his daughters in Washington State. In June, 2011, that was made possible so he moved to College Place Washing near Walla Walla, Washington.

Duwain was predeceased by an older brother, Gordon, who died in infancy, his mother Lydia Werner, and father Isaac Werner. He is survived by three daughters, Té Werner (Alan) of Kennewick, Wa, Brenda Trapani of Walla Walla, Wa., Connie Werner (Rick) and former son-in-law Stephen Trapani of Walla Walla, Wa. Duwain is also survived by two sisters, Mabel Spenst and Vera (Ken) Wiebe, both of Lacombe, AB. Duwain had four grandsons, Paul (Hillary) Trapani, Dylan Trapani, and Cody and Joshua Kowalski. He had one niece and three nephews, many cousins, and a host of friends. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Lacombe.



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NAD Convention Highlights MANS: Understanding **First Nations Giving**

BY LYNN MCDOWELL

s Canadians, we're used to many cultures co-existing together, but not all parts of the church are working together culturally. To work together, we need to understand the perspective of others and appreciate their strengths. To this end, the North American Division created the 2019 Ministries Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico centred on the theme "Stronger United: Many Voices, One Vision."

The convention's philanthropy panel presentation included a focus on how First Nations cultures practice philanthropy—through the lens of Mamawi Atosketan Native School and the Bridge Campaign, 25% of which was funded by First Nations people.

Misunderstandings

Misunderstandings about First Nations culture and giving has led to a complete reversal of the meaning of "Indian Giver." Originally, the expression connoted the generosity common in First Nations culture (ex.: their support of the Pilgrims) and meant "to give without looking back." As First Nations culture was systematically attacked through the residential school system and other policies in both Canada and the US, the misunderstandings multiplied.

Traditional patterns and values still impact how First Nations give. As First Nations businessman Larry Wilkins, the Bridge Campaign's top donor, so succinctly put it, "The genes remember."

Common Values

While preparing my part (First Nations giving) for the NAD philanthropy panel presentation, I realized that we have been most successful at MANS when we reinforce the positive attitudes and practices inherent in First Nations culture.

- 1. Celebrate abilities and individual acts of compassion. In First Nations communities, acts of compassion and sharing are an everyday occurrence. These traits are valued and encouraged.
- Gifts are a blessing to be shared. Because gifts are not a possession to be horded, a single gift may take on a life of its own, changing hands many times, depending on need or just to bring joy. It's an honour to be able to give and to share, so a kind of "gift in motion" philosophy facilitates personal generosity and minimizes stigma for the recipient, who will likely be in a position to give to someone else in another situation.
- Relationships are paramount. People and the connections between them are more important than money.
- Charity begins at home. Giving directly is the preferred way to engage in charity, and giving to someone in need with an identifiable connection to you is the first obligation.



First Nations businessman Larry Wilkins, the top donor of the Bridge Campaign to build MANS high school, receives a gift from beadwork artist and MANS alumnae Krista Abt (Class of 2017), who is now a student at Red Deer College.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chief Vernon Saddleback. Samson Cree Nation, sent his son to MANS. Watch the chief's 3-plusminute Grand Opening speech at Vimeo.com/ albertaadventist for an example of how deeply First Nations people value relationships and gratitude.

5. Kindness is a virtue and gratitude runs deep. Chief Vernon Saddleback demonstrated this when he risked his political career to attend the MANS High School opening. For the chief, bringing official greetings and a personal thanks for what MANS did for his son ranked higher in priority than an important political appearance in Edmonton. The relationship forged as MANS teachers helped the chief raise his son to be a spiritual person is still strong (see #3). As the chief spoke at the opening, I realized that his high regard for what MANS has done for the children of his community is a gift in itself.

These traditional First Nations values are something that we as Adventist Christians can get behind—and maybe learn to practice better.





Lynn McDowell, ID, CSPG Director of Planned Giving | Philanthropy Alberta Conference (403) 342-5044, ext. 233



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