

ALBERTA ADVENTIST EDUCATION COMMUNICATION

Connecting Classroom, Constituency, & Christ

Communication # 10

A POWERHOUSE OF SERVICE!

Thursday mornings would be like any other at Higher Ground Christian School (HGCS) except for the presence of Doreen Cazes. Whether reading with students, cutting veggies for student lunches, playing in the gym, or dishing up a bowl of homemade soup, Doreen is sharing, giving, serving. This mother of dozens and grandma of several more is a blessing to the Seventh-day Adventist school and the Medicine Hat community each week.

“Serving God in every area of life and sharing His love with others” is how Doreen conducts life. Just how did this spunky lady of 76 years find her way from Saskatchewan to Kelowna to Medicine Hat to volunteering at HGCS? Read on...

During the years of raising four children (three sons and one daughter), Doreen lived in several western Canadian cities and had a variety of dramatic spiritual experiences that eventually led her to the Seventh-day Adventist truth in 1978. (Perhaps her complete story can one day be told.) Her relationship with her husband was less than ideal for many years, but prayer and God’s amazing grace did finally bring the two together in a meaningful relationship.

“Volunteers aren’t paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”
Anonymous

In her early years of being a growing Christian, Doreen seemed to instantly bubble over with enthusiasm for Jesus. She spoke outwardly and readily about Him with anyone who came in her pathway. “I didn’t know my Bible well at all,” she says. “But I would have sensible answers when questioned. Answers that even shocked me! It was not me speaking, but Jesus through me!”

A number of divine interventions removed habits from Doreen’s life which were not exemplary of a committed



Christian. “God just takes our life and replaces all the things we loved doing with something so much better and more rewarding,” she says.

Prior to a move from Kelowna to Medicine Hat, Doreen was introduced to Bible marking with well-known Seventh-day Adventist evangelist, Pastor George Vandeman, (now deceased). Doreen was momentarily crushed with the thought of moving until she learned that her name could easily be forwarded to a SDA congregation in Medicine Hat. Although a dear Seventh-day Adventist lady contacted her several times after her move, Doreen was involved in other spiritual endeavors and chose not to pursue relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist church in her new community. The lady, however, was not one to give up. Praise God for lovingly persistent people!

Later, out of curiosity, two friends and Doreen attended a Revelation Seminar. “I was so impressed that I had an encyclopedia and Bible on my table, and stayed up until 2 a.m. checking to see if what they were talking about was right. I was ready for the meat of God’s Word. And today, I cannot be kept from sharing God’s truth with whomever He puts in my pathway.”

It should be noted that as Doreen grew spiritually so did her involvement in vibrantly living for Christ. “I praise God that I have a willing heart to be used by Him,” she says. “I am still amazed at the energy He gave me to keep up with all the ministries He was providing for me. God gets all the praise and glory!

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We are only His instruments to be used by Him!"

It was during early years in Medicine Hat that Doreen and her husband, Clair, first entertained the notion of becoming foster parents. Armed with a loving heart and a willingness to be used by God, Doreen created firm fences of protection for the more than 60 children who lived in their home during a period of 18 years. Many of these children were given the opportunity to study in Seventh-day Adventist Christian schools and Doreen and Clair added two girls to their family through adoption. Clair passed away a loving Christian husband in 2005.

Still having energy to channel, Doreen asked God for a ministry in her community. She volunteers in the local prison, works as a chaplain, volunteers in senior's facilities, sings in choirs, exercises with several groups, has participated in overseas mission trips....and volunteers at Higher Ground Christian School.

Doreen's initial introduction to HGCS came shortly after the family had moved to Medicine Hat. Their son, Wade, had come home in June with his public school report card announcing that he would be retained in Grade 7. She and Clair knew nothing of his apparent challenges, and were shocked.

Doreen had become a Seventh-day Adventist and she learned of a SDA Christian school right in her city. She felt this was the right place for their son. Wade, however, wanted nothing to do with the idea of changing schools. Doreen prayed all summer for a heart change for her son. Two weeks before school was to begin, she said to God, "I've prayed and prayed. Tonight I'm going to ask Wade what school he wants to go to. Whatever school he wants to go to, that's where I'll put him." Wade responded, "I guess I'll go to that stupid SDA school."

On Wade's first day of school, he had to write 100 lines for not behaving. Things were not going well. Doreen told her husband that they would take Wade out of HGCS and she would leave his education up to her husband. Clair, who had been non supportive of this education choice, went to see the teacher,

Mrs. Farag. Specifics of the discussion between the two is perhaps only truly known to the angels, but Mrs. Farag called Doreen, stating that she wanted an opportunity to work harder with Wade. He stayed at Higher Ground and he passed his grade.

The following year God placed Mr. Wayne Smith in Higher Ground Christian School. He was Wade's personal "angel". That first year, Doreen offered her son \$5 for every 'A' on his report card. He proudly came home after the first grading period and announced that his mother owed him \$55. Wade's education continued to positively progress year by year. "Mr. Smith directed that young man's path onto a Christian path!" declares Doreen with firmness. Wade, along with other siblings also attended Parkview Adventist Academy and Canadian University College. Today three of Doreen's grandchildren attend HGCS. "Mr. Wayne Smith is the best teacher we have ever seen," states Doreen. "It is because of him that Wade has become a strong supporter of our school, and has participated in mission work around the world."

Doreen further comments, "I know that it was God's leading to help me understand Bible truth, so that I could send my children to a Christian school." She acknowledges the blessings that each teacher brings to HGCS. "I believe that Christian education is the only way to go!"

It has become tradition at HGCS that the entire student body listens to a story from an old reading series—Nicola's Soup (by Olive Wong). Nicola, a young boy, finds his mother too ill to make supper, so he takes on the task and prepares "Soopa Fah-soh-Lah"—Greek Bean Soup for his large family. Doreen prepares Soopa Fah-soh-Lah, Greek salad, garlic bread, and a dessert for the school family, who anxiously look forward to the annual event toward the end of the school term.

One would think that sometime soon Doreen would choose to cut back from some of her activities, but for now it is a challenge to catch her at home! She recently recovered from throat cancer and says, "I discovered that being involved in God's work takes my eyes off of self and doing for others is the only answer. It removes feeling sorry for me."

Principal, Rob Parker, says that Doreen is a highly support parent, grand-parent and foster parent of our school. She is our Thursday reading helper and our annual Nicola's Soup chef. We love her so much that we made up a song about her when she had a Buick rental car."

Winston Churchill aptly stated, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." Truly, Doreen creates a life demonstrating the joy of serving Jesus!



With Mr. Smith and Principal, Mr. Parker

SOOPA FAH-SOH-LAH

2 c. white beans
 1/3 c. olive oil
 1 large onion, diced small
 1 clove garlic, minced finely
 2 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
 8 c. boiling water
 2 dry bay leaves
 Salt to taste
 Juice of 1 lemon
 Fresh parsley, chopped

Put beans in a large kettle and cover with water. Bring to a boil for 2 minutes. Turn off heat and let stand and soak for one hour.

In a second large kettle, heat oil and 8 cups of water. Add onion, garlic, and tomatoes. Cook until soft.

Pour off soaking water from the beans. Add beans, salt, and bay leaves to the second kettle. Cover and cook slowly for one or more hours until the beans are soft, but not too soft. Add lemon juice and parsley just before serving.



*According to food historians, *fassolatha* has been around since ancient Greek times.

GAINING PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS AT HIGHER GROUND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Higher Ground Christian School (formerly known as Medicine Hat Seventh-day Adventist School) first opened its doors for the 1977-1978 school term with Mrs. Dola Farag as the first teacher. The site was offered to the church by former mayor and businessman, Harry Veiner. This property transaction came with an interesting ethnic feature. Mr. Veiner was Jewish and Pastor Wadie Farag, the pastor at that time, was an Egyptian. So there was an Egyptian-Jewish agreement. Mr. Veiner's picture is hung above the gymnasium door.

During the 1980-81 school year, the present gym and kitchen were added to the facility. Pastor Dennis Braun and church members provided much of the construction labor.

Enrollment has fluctuated over the years, with the best numbers being during the 2006-07 school year when a total of 45 students were enrolled. This year Kindergarten is being offered for the first time and our current enrollment is 13.



Higher Ground Christian School was named through a student contest in the 1990s and is located in a quiet residential area of Medicine Hat that overlooks the city, called Veinerville.

Higher Ground is blessed with enthusiastic and energetic volunteers from the church and HGCS community. Hundreds of people visit our Canada Day celebrations booth where we sell fruit that Wade provides from his fruit stand. Yes, the same Wade who wrote lines

on the first day of school some years ago! We also sell chili, haystacks, snow cones and smoothies. "This fund raiser brings in more than \$5000 for our school," says Doreen Cazes, "thanks to many dedicated people in our church."



Other fund-raisers that are volunteer-driven include: delivering phone books and garage sales accompanied by chili on a bun. The garage sales are well attended and popular in the area. "Our volunteers are great!" declares Doreen.

BURGER BARN BLESSINGS

The groceries are purchased. The shelves are stocked. The freezers are full. The propane is hooked up. The burger barn crew for the July 2013 Camp-meeting is ready to don gloves, flip burgers, fry fries, make salads, cook spaghetti, boil perogies, cut up onions, twirl the soft-serve, and scoop the hard ice-cream. The door is lifted and SMILES advertise our eagerness to serve and please our faithful camp-meeting patrons.

Each morning at 7:30 the aroma of pancakes, stripplles, eggs and hash-browns announced, "The burger barn is open for service." That service continued throughout day until 7:00 p.m. when it was time to break for the evening meeting. At 9 p.m. we were at our post again until 10:30/11:00 pm. to serve up ice cream and snacks. By the time we bid each other good night it was close to midnight.



We started and each day with prayer because we knew and recognized that "all good things come from God." He supplied us with the strength, endurance and fortitude we needed to have a great week. Because of our God, we were abundantly blessed, and four Chinook Winds Adventist Academy Grade 12 students will benefit when the class goes to Europe's Mediterranean coast during the spring of 2014.

The Burger Barn crew consisted of four students, three parents, and two teachers. Despite long hours and hard work, the students readily agreed that great memories and friendships were created and cemented. Moses stated, "It was hard and tiring, but making food with friends and talking to people cancelled the hardness. I was glad to be in the burger barn family!"

Participating students unanimously agreed that the Burger Barn was a fun experience and one they could be proud of. Samantha stated, "I would do it again in a heartbeat."

****Thank you to Mrs. Marilyn Kelloway, Senior High teacher at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy for providing the majority of the above account for us.**

Each year an Alberta Seventh-day Adventist school or other group is chosen through an application process (with Alberta Adventist Book Center) to operate and receive the proceeds from a Burger Barn station at the annual 10-day family camp-meeting. The Grade 12 class at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy were the enthusiastic providers of the experience and beneficiaries of the proceeds for 2013.

FROM THE JOY JAR...



Teachers are among the very blessed to experience numerous moments that touch and sometimes tug

at their heart strings. When I receive an unsolicited email sharing one of those moments, I want to jump up and do the happy dance, but since there is no one nearby to witness the event, I simply file it and send an email of appreciation. Thank you, Rob Parker, principal of Higher Ground Christian School, for sharing two of your joy jar gems!

During the first week of school one of my students kept calling my name, over and over. I was helping another student and told him to wait until I was done. In just a few moments, I went to him and said, "Okay, Bedish. How can I help you?" He replied, "Mr. Parker, may I call you 'Uncle'?" Bedish is from Nepal where they address people they wish to respect as if he was a family member. Of course, I said, "Yes." He left for lunch while I stood in stunned silence. After classes were dismissed that day, he came up to me, grabbed my hand, and said, "I love you, Uncle!" He skipped on out to the bus. I paused and prayed a special thank you to God. "Yes, Bedish, Uncle loves you, too!"

On another day the students were working on a 'fruit of the spirit' group project. This day's focus was 'joy'. They were completing a chart comparing temporary joy, such as ice cream, to lasting joy, like God and friends. I had stepped away for a moment, to return and hear a student ask, "Why did you write that?" I addressed the student asking, "What did you write?" With a mild amount of joy, he replied, "Irritating my classmates gives me joy." A perfect teaching moment for me, I asked, "Should irritating our classmates give us joy?" The student hung his head and said, "No." He immediately scribbled out what he had written. These moments still bring a smile to my face and bring joy to my day!

FACILITY UPGRADES

A fresh coat of paint can inspire a fresh outlook. Here are some fresh upgrades that welcomed Alberta's 800+ students to Seventh-day Adventist education on September 3:



Coralwood Adventist Academy

- New trees, flowers, plants in the front and sides of the school
- New 4-classroom Building behind the school for grades 9-11
 - Levelled play field (waiting for sod to be laid)
 - New "kiss-and-go" driveway in front of school to drop off students

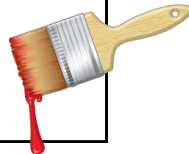


College Heights Christian School

- upgraded the computer system to a Windows based system to support a BVOD environment. The new system is much more stable and user friendly
- new "Drop & Run" flooring for seven classrooms

Higher Ground Christian School

- updates to classroom spaces to create better flow, an imperative reading corner, and areas conducive to hands-on learning
- Fresh paint
- A new playground is being planned to become a reality soon



Peace Hills Adventist School

- new hallway and classroom flooring



Chinook Winds Adventist Academy

- reassignment of classrooms, including the former Grade 5/6 combined class becoming two individual classes
- new flooring in two classrooms
- new paint in all elementary classrooms, portable hallways, science lab, kitchen and gym office
- pictures/murals painted on bathroom walls by two Grade 11 girls—Stephanie Hiltz, Jessica Vanderband... "we were blessed to have the creative talents of these two girls" to create art on our secondary bathroom stalls



GOD'S GREAT OUTDOORS...

Each year students in Grades 5-9 in Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Schools have the opportunity to spend three days encountering God through varied activities in His amazing creation. Where better than in Alberta?! Planned programs are: Outdoor School for Grades 5-6 in May, River Expedition for Grades 7-8 in September, and Outdoor Education for Grade 9 in September. The events take place in three different settings in central Alberta and are directed by one of Alberta's Youth leaders, education department staff, teaching staff, parents, and other skilled volunteers.

Approximately 100 Grade 7-8 students spent time canoeing on the Red Deer River, testing PH, phosphate, and temperatures of the water, September 16-18, under the direction of Kevin Kiers and Scott Sackett. Everyone participated in set up and take down of camp, and making one's own meals. Creating analogies and spiritual connections from the day's events was a meaningful highlight at the end of each day.

While the Grade 7 & 8s paddled canoes, Grade 9 students rotated through four activities: rappelling down a cliff and over a large overhang, canoeing on Goldeye Lake, completing a historical hike, and participating in "The Grade 9 Amazing Race" which was based on orienteering skills. In all events, stu-



dents encouraged each other to succeed and there was a strong sense of camaraderie. Thank you to Janet Griffith, Janet Hall, and each participating Grade 9 teacher for your vision and dedication to making this a meaningful experience.

During the last week of September, the Outdoor Education class from College Heights Christian School went backpacking at Cline River. Even the falling snow did not dampen their excitement as they travelled toward their destination. For the majority of the students, this was their first experience with backpacking, so there was a steep learning curve on how to most efficiently pack their backpacks, hike up and down hills, and be prepared to survive in the wilderness. The first day was a 7 km hike in to a large group campsite by the river. While some students were con-

vinced that their 30 pound packs were actually 100 pounds, they all maintained positive attitudes and kept marching along the trail. In the evening, students learned to set up a bear cache, filter water, and chop firewood. The second day was a 10 kilometer hike through snow and washed out trails that had students and teachers clambering over fallen trees and rocks from the heavy spring flooding. The pristine forest scenery was well worth the difficult trek! The third morning thoughts of home, warm showers, and food made by Mom motivated the students to pack up their wet tents, cook their oatmeal in the chilly mountain air, and load up their packs for the long hike home.



*Special appreciation to Rachel Miranda (CWAA) and Jai Dubyna (CHCS) for providing the information above.



1. Getting all the detail from Mr. Kiers.
2. Heading out for adventure!
3. Do you think we got that right?
4. Is this the matching specimen?
5. Creatures to study.
6. Where did it go?



Adventist Education

A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE 

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Plentiful contributions from several schools for this issue were greatly appreciated. Keep 'em coming!

In Touch With You...

Due to improved meteorological technology, storms are often predicted and can be anticipated in any given region. Despite the latest and the best radar and detection devices, some storms still catch us unaware. Whatever we've been doing suddenly becomes less important as we run for cover and hunker down 'til the storm passes by.

The devastation caused by flooding in the Calgary/High River area this summer is well known throughout Alberta and places distant. For some, this storm still has not passed. Even four months down the road, many are still being tossed about.

A line that I heard this summer sent my mind down a stormy path. None of us exempt from a life storm. Either we've recently survived one, are currently being battered about by a stormy furor, or a tumultuous storm is impending and on the horizon. I've come to believe that storms on this earth are a given. How we weather the storm and come out in the end is what counts.

God has not promised that as His children we will be exempt from being viciously tossed about in storms. Much of life happens right in the middle of a storm. Sometimes the end of the storm can be even more traumatic as we contemplate what to do next. How does one come out a victor? How do we continue to live and build hope, faith, and confidence? I've come to learn...or maybe am in the process of learning that asking 'why?' is mostly fruitless, but recognizing who brought me through the storm is where the strength to carry on lies.

Oh yes,...the line that sent my mind a-whirl... "I stopped telling God how big my storm is, and started telling my storm how big my God is!!!! May this be our experience. The One who whispered "Peace be still!" so long ago still brings peace to our souls!

WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK HEARTILY, AS FOR THE LORD, NOT MEN. Colossians 3:23

SHOES FOR GOD'S CHILDREN IN KENYA: CWAA students are filling their third large bin with new or nearly new shoes to be distributed to children, age newborn to 18 years, in Kenya. The shoes will be shipped to Kenya in November of this year. What a worthy project! We will report the final outcome in December.

TERRY FOX RUN: Several schools participated in the Canada-wide Terry Fox Run that took place in September. CWAA and CAA reported a combined total of over \$3100.

FOOD BANK FRIDAY is active once again at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy. In September 125 kg of food was donated to the Calgary Food Bank. Students earn the privilege of dressing in casual clothes on Fridays by bringing an item for the Food Bank. Happy students help create happy well-fed families!

PARENT PRAYER TIME: Parents (grandparents, guardians, caregivers) at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy (CWAA) join together each Thursday morning for a time of prayer on behalf of the school, the students, and the staff. What a great idea!

