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MAGAZINE



Together but not Together

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Magazine Focus

The Magazine is a forum for sharing important church plans and activities of interest to our local community and beyond. It aims to promote and increase understanding of the mission of the Moncton SDA Church: **“Through love, we reach the Moncton region and beyond, touching people with the biblical message of hope and wholeness; preparing believers for the second coming of Jesus Christ.”** The magazine is published quarterly – in March, June, September, and December. A digital version is being considered and will be available as soon as the link is accessible at the website.

We welcome submissions of articles, letters, commentaries, news, and events from around the Maritime region. Readers in other provinces are encouraged to submit to the magazine as well.

Both the digital and printed forms of the magazine will serve as a broad information hub. This way, the magazine will be accessible to a wide audience through marketing channels. Business owners within our church community will be excited about opportunities to showcase their businesses through the advertising spaces we provide.

The Magazine is not an academic publication. However, we adhere to the highest professional standards (see guidelines for authors below). Authors may contact Egerton Clarke, editor-in-chief, at (905) 931-5218 and may forward submissions electronically to egerton_c@yahoo.com. You may submit for the December issue right away, but no later than the 1st of November. The theme is “Health and Wellness.”

Guidelines to Authors

Manuscripts are submitted for the exclusive rights of the Moncton Seventh-day Adventist Magazine. Submission of an article to this magazine implies that the article has not been published and is not under consideration for publication in its submitted form elsewhere.

Length of Articles

The length of general submissions is 500 words, and each featured article is approximately 650 words, typed and double spaced. Under certain circumstances, longer articles will be allowed. All articles will be edited as necessary for style, clarity, organization, grammar, and spelling.

Permission

All authors are responsible for obtaining written permission to use any copyrighted material. Authors may be required to sign a consent form of agreement to publish their accepted submissions.

Letters to the Editor

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor concerning topics and ideas discussed in the published articles. All letters that are accepted for publication will be edited as needed.

Review Process

As far as possible, submissions will be sent anonymously to reviewers for recommendations and comments. Final decisions about publication will be made by the general editor and the editor-in-chief.

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Note: The editorial Board and the Moncton Seventh-day Adventist Church assume no responsibility for any statements of fact or opinion expressed in this published Magazine.

IN THIS ISSUE: FAMILY TOGETHERNESS



Volunteers come together to solicit food for the community

The Community Service Department, in partnership with the Peter McKee Food Bank, regularly mounts food drives to serve families in need. The next food drive is scheduled for September 14, 2024. Volunteers may register with Sis. Melanie Duguay, department head. This report originally appeared at the link below. Further details can be seen there: #petermckeecentre#feedingfamilieservingcommunity



Memories of Family Togetherness by Mykhailo and Natalia Nazarenko

Being somewhat a large family in the countryside, there were always chores to do, for example, a garden to work on and animals to care for. Times when we all could be together and relax were few, but our camping trips were the most memorable times. As a family tradition, we would always cook on fire a "field porridge" (polevaya kasha). It is basically a meal cooked with millet, potatoes, onions, carrots and mushrooms which we would forage

- 3 | Ukrainian Extended Family
- 3 | Volunteering on Food Drive
- 4 | Together, But Not Together
- 5 | The Family of Jesus
- 6 | Quiz
- 7 | Kids' Color Corner
- 8 | Baby Shower
- 8 | Holy Communion - The Lord's Supper
- 9 | Upward Bound
- 10 | Maritime Conference Meetings
- 11 | Canada Youth Challenge (CYC)
- 12 | Agree to Disagree
- 13 | Blood Thicker Than Water
- 14 | My Family: The Joy of My Living
- 15 | Highlights from VBS
- 17 | Music Draws Our Family Together
- 19 | Word Maze
- 20 | Recipes of Sumptuous Diverse Cuisines

in the forest. Doing things together helped us stay closer to one another.

This third issue of the magazine has as its themes "Family Togetherness.", Your feedback is appreciated. Send corrections to the editor, Egerton_c@yahoo.com

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Together, But Not Together



Cars spend nights together on the parking lot, but they are not together since they do not communicate with each other. It is sad to know that this observation is the reality experienced in certain families in our modern society.

Indeed, technology has made communication, more than ever, the easiest thing to achieve. With such an observation, we would be tempted to

believe that would contribute to achieving the ideal togetherness in families as known before. On the contrary, family disintegration seems to be gaining exponential impetus in recent times.

Family Togetherness has experienced a paradigm shift with the industrial revolution, and it continues to be a serious problem for those who have the vision of an ideal family life.

Despite the multiple benefits that the industrial revolution has brought to the society, despite the countless technological achievements we have seen over the last few decades, family as an institution seems not to be able to adapt to these rapid shifts. We have miserably failed in achieving the sense of togetherness that existed during the pre-industrial revolution era.

Families used to work together on farms, and thus, everyone contributed to the family economy. Parents and their children spent most of their time together, as work, play, and relaxation intermingled (see Kumar, 2024)

Family sociologists coined the term “extended family” to describe the sense of closeness that exists in the family. Extended family system consists of parents, children, grand parents, uncles and aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews living under the same roof or in the same agglomeration.

The training and education of children were provided by parents, mainly mothers, who worked at home. Aided by members of the extended family, there was every opportunity to exert a strong influence on the children and establish traditional values that kept the members of the family together. This is the fundamental secret that post-modern families fail to master.

Post-modern society has broken the circle of the extended family to establish the nuclear family. The industries have shifted the focus of parental responsibility, especially of those mothers who now work in industrial lines far from home. This has reduced the strength of parental influence, the strength of family heritage and the encompassing family traditions. In short, the notion of family togetherness has lost its meaning and value, and the family has suddenly taken on new concerns.

This observation does not intend to promote a reverting movement in family life style. On the contrary, it addresses the shortfall that the family must achieve to keep pace with the modern and technological development. Furthermore, the fragmentation of the family seems to reinforce

the aims of the enemy who has always considered the family as a target to be destroyed. Family has always been subject to fierce attacks from Satan since Eden.

Satan's highest priority is to control and compromise the minds of children and youth in the family. Families need to try to navigate through a turbulent family-unfriendly environment, to keep the ideal togetherness. Below are some practical tips I have compiled to help families keep meaningful togetherness, (Dorzilme, 2015).

Practical Tips for Meaningful Family Togetherness

- 1--Establish a loving atmosphere in the home
- 2—Develop a feeling of belonging and closeness.
- 3—Set aside specific time just for the family

Allow time for:

- meaningful communication, including active listening
- planning, teaching, problem-solving and having fun.
- planning together A Mission Statement.
- strengthening the family circle: Remember that society is not necessarily an ally.
- having family forum - an opportunity to involve family members in the problems of the family and to work together toward a common solution.
- having fun and replenishing the emotional bank account of the family
- praying together.

Ellen G White said:“ I know nothing that cause me so great sadness as a prayerless home. I do not feel safe in such house” CG.518. “If there is a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism are prevailing. Iniquity abounds, and in consequence, the love of many waxes cold” (ST Aug.7, 1884).

Togetherness: this happy feeling of affection and closeness to each other in the family is still achievable even in our post-modern society (see Covey, 1997).

Nephtaly Dorzilme, D.Min. Pastor
Orleans French Church, Ontario Conference

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FAMILY OF JESUS



Courtesy of Lorimar Semic

Quiz

Read these Bible verses and answer the questions that follow. Mark 6:3; 3:20-21; 15:40.

1. Name four brothers of Jesus.

For questions 2 and 3 below, circle the letter (a or b) which represents the correct answer.

2. At first, all family members of Jesus lacked faith and understanding of His divine mission.

- a. True
- b. False

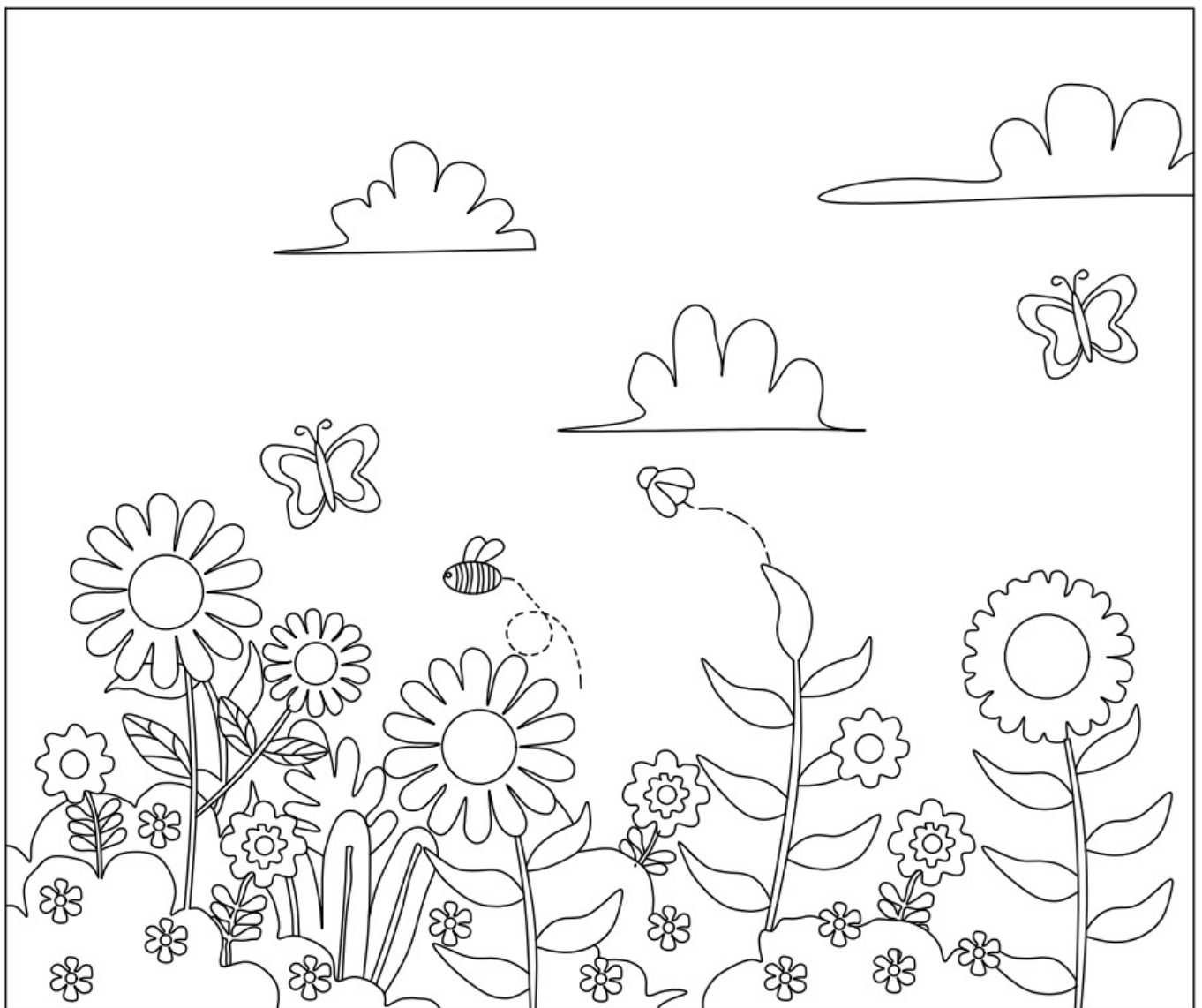
3. At one point, the brothers of Jesus thought He was crazy (i.e., out of His mind) (Mark 3:21-22).

- a. True
- b. False

4. How do you feel when you have been misunderstood by your own family members?

5. How can you become a member of the family of Jesus? (Mark 3:31-35)

KID'S PAGE



Baby Shower

On Sunday, August 11, our church celebrated the deliveries and expected births of eleven babies. A grand shower party was held to welcome the new additions to our church family and to support the parents with gifts and love. The parents expressed thanks to the church for the kind gesture.



The Lord's Supper



Ordinance of Humility



It's Prayer Time



Communion is a Joyful Time



The Emblem: the blood (Christ's broken body) and the cup (the poured-out blood of Christ)



Ready to Serve



The Spoken Word



The Congregation



Upward Bound

Rakotoniaina Hobitiana Jaël is from Madagascar. She is currently a 4th year nursing student at the Université de Moncton, New Brunswick. Here, she proudly shares how her faith in Christ and connection with her church family help her to succeed in her studies.

Jaël: I was born into an Adventist family, with a father who is a pastor. Without faith in God, I don't think I would be here today to share my experiences with Him. My parents always taught me to rely on God, as He always provides for our needs.

I have numerous testimonies of times when God saved me from seemingly impossible situations. One such testimony is the support of my family in Christ – the church, whose support is extraordinary that it's hard to describe. Having Christ as a Father is the greatest Gift because He knows how to use His servants to help His children in need. I am pursuing nursing as a career, and I hope that my training will prepare me to show care to individuals and their families.

Note: The church acknowledges the challenges our students face on public campuses, and will endeavor to support them as they study and witness.

Maritime Conference Camp Meetings, Pugwash, Nova Scotia, 2024



Cassandra Murray

The maritime camp meetings took place at Pugwash, a beautiful village, nestled along the shores of the Northumberland Strait, Nova Scotia. We always look forward to this time of the year to enjoy the picturesque views of the surroundings and

to worship the Lord together with church families from around the conference. This year, it was an amazing experience to listen to the musical piece and to see the procession being led down the hill to the beach for baptism. It's always a joyful experience to see new believers commit their lives to the Lord. On Sabbath, August 3, 2024, four additions were made to the Moncton SDA Family of God at camp meeting: Samuel Muhigirwa, David Ignacio, Patricia Thibodeau and Paul Thibodeau.



CANADA YOUTH CHALLENGE

Six CYC students were hosted by the Moncton SDA Church during the summer of 2024. The church provided lodgment and a central point from where they launched out into the community each workday, knocking on



doors, distributing books, and witnessing to people. The Church Magazine (CM) in Conversation with CYC Students:

CM: What measure of success have you had during your time in the Moncton area?

CYC: Our success must be measured both materially and spiritually. From a financial context, we have been able to reap rewards from distributing books. Some people said that they could access the material online, but after learning that we are students, they gladly offered to purchase from us. We found this support to be very touching. According to E. G. White, the work of the colporteur evangelist is not to get gain. More importantly, then, our canvassing allowed us to reach out to people who need to learn of God's Word. We are thankful for the opportunity to share the Word and to pray with people. We are confident that our witnessing is made possible by God's divine plan.

CM: How supportive was the church community?

CYC: The Moncton Church has richly impacted our lives. We have been blessed by the overwhelming support of the church in general. Some members here are past students of the CYC program, and they have been instrumental in guiding us along the way. Pastor David James visited and prayed with us. Other members showed unwavering support with shopping, meal preparation and hospitality. The church allowed us to participate in worship service, sometime to play leading roles. Our interactions with you have been a blessing.

CM: How might your experience help you in your academic journey?

CYC: The main purpose of canvassing is character building. The program has allowed us to develop skills in time management, and in broad life-skills such as cooking, cleaning, to care and express love, to deal with people of different personalities. We have gotten a sense of how to keep going on, how to approach anyone, to knock on doors and enhance pastoral ministry. Ellen G. White said that success in colporteur ministry can prepare one for every ministry. God has helped us now, so we can trust in Him for continued support. As Ellen G. White said, we have nothing to fear except if we forget how the Lord has helped us in the past.

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Each CYC student provided answers to the question:

In 35 words or less, what is the single most important lesson you have learned from your canvassing experience here?



Richard Bolton

Canvassing experience has taught me to be humble, to open myself to be used by the Holy Spirit. I've come to understand that it's not my will, but God's



Gamir Malcolm

God could've reached His objective without me, but in spite of who I am, He called me to partner with Him to reach the hearts of others. This teaches me humility and the importance of service.



Dewry Mote

This being my first year of canvassing in an English-speaking community, I have learned that success is not necessarily based on one's eloquence but by God's grace. God will always come through for His children.



Diana Sotero

The challenges I faced while canvassing taught me perseverance. I thank God for giving me the strength to endure as I co-labored with Him



Unica Tulp

My experiences have taught me that if I totally depend upon God, approach Him boldly, and take things one day at a time, I can overcome all challenges that come my way



Roxanne Watson

On several occasions the devil presented doubts and fear in my way, but I've learned that he can be defeated if I put my faith in action through obedience to God.

Agree to Disagree



It's a popular saying, let's "agree to disagree". This seems like a reasonable formula to end fruitless fighting, Christless combativeness, discouraging disagreements, blistering battles and aimless antagonisms. When one considers that many families have been shattered and churches splintered because of disagreements, it is tempting to

try and stem the tide by any means possible, even if it means agreeing to disagree.

It is wonderful to be in agreement. It is impossible never to have disagreements. The goal of every meaningful relationship is to have agreement. The Bible supports this axiom in Amos 3:3: "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

The goal of every relationship in our home and the church should be to strive for agreement—to walk together in harmony, unity and tranquility. If the goal is to strive for agreement, then we cannot be content to be governed by the adage, let's "agree to disagree." Agreeing to disagree is useful device for ending fruitless arguments on political strategies, sports personalities or dietary practices. However, it is a convenient cop out when it comes to dealing with important issues in marriage, family and the church. Striving for agreement should be the absolute goal in the marital relationship, therefore, the default in settling a dispute should never be, let's just "agree to disagree."

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, agreement is "the condition of having the same opinion, or a decision or arrangement between two or more people or groups to do something or to obey the same rules."

Agreement presupposes the following:

- One's method might be different, but the message should be the same.
- One's preferences might be different, but the principle that is at the foundation of the relationship should be the same.
- One's views might be different, but the commitment to preserve the relationship should be the same.
- Each personality might be different, but the commitment to affirm, value, and respect the infinite worth of each person in the relationship should be the same.

If these presuppositions are at the heart of the relationship, agreement is possible.

Rather than dealing with possibilities, how does one

achieve agreement? There are two important aspects of love that should be deployed in order to experience agreement:

- **The Ingenuity of Love—Compromise**

Through the medium of compromise, love can engineer common ground. By compromising you are agreeing to modify your expectations so the "two can walk together." The Bible gives us the formula to aid in compromising, "3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). The path to agreement in marriage and the family is through mutual submission: "submitting to one another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21).

Compromise requires a willingness to:

- Give more than we take
- Deposit more than we withdraw
- Invest more than we extract
- Sacrifice more than we withhold

- **The Sacrificial Spirit of Love**

In some situations, compromise is not sufficient to achieve agreement. Therefore, a higher demonstration of love is required, namely, Sacrificial Love. Love will compel us to sacrifice our preferences for the happiness of another person. "Love suffers long and is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4). A relationship with God will connect us to His sacrificial love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). What an awesome demonstration of sacrificial love. "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." (Eph. 5:2). When we walk in love, we will walk in agreement (Amos 3:3). No longer will we need to settle for the short cut solution—agree to disagree, because LOVE would have found a way to experience agreement through compromise and sacrifice.

Dr. Nerval S. Myrie is Lead Pastor, Ruth Seventh-day Adventist Church, Brampton, Ontario

Reference

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/agreement#google_vignette



Chosen and Inherited Family Relations Is **Blood Thicker** Than Water?

How many times have we uttered or heard someone else use the idiom, “blood is thicker than water”?

This phrase is commonly used to imply that familial bonds will always be stronger than other relationships. The original and complete phrase is “blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb.” Another well-known term, “covenant,” refers to an agreement, which was typically made with a blood sacrifice (see explanation below). The “water of the womb” refers to the amniotic sac fluid. Together, the original phrase means that the bonds we’ve chosen are more significant than those formed by familial or blood relations (Ferguson, 2022). This view is attributed to the 17th Century Scottish poet and novelist, Sir Walter Scott, or, with less compelling evidence, it may be traced as far back to the 12th Century in Germany (Ferguson, 2022).

Over time, the words “covenant” and “womb” have been dropped from the phrase to form a shorter, popular version with a changed meaning to suggests that family relations (i.e., blood) are more important than relationships outside of the family (i.e., water). Simply put, the phrase means that the bond we share with family is stronger than any other bond, and thus, one should be more committed to one’s family members than to friends, lovers, co-workers, etc. (Ferguson, 2022). The discussion that follows explores this idiom from a spiritual perspective and draws an opposite interpretation of its popular meaning.

Seen from Ancient Roman religious and military contexts, the full phrase, blood of the covenant is considered thicker than the water of the womb. In religious context, blood covenants were made by cutting the skin and by mixing blood to symbolize a deep and lasting commitment between individuals. In military context, soldiers shed blood together on the battlefield, creating social solidarity and strong bonds of camaraderie and loyalty (Lewis, 2006). Although the military context may be considered speculative (Ferguson, 2022), in both of these interpretations, people forge closer and more important bonds with others they fight beside, sacrifice for, and share a common struggle with, than they do with people that they just so happen to be born in relation to (Ferguson, 2022). In other words, both of these interpretations highlight the idea that the bonds formed through shared experience, commitments, and friendships can be stronger and more significant than biological family ties.

A search of the Scriptures yields no direct Bible verse that says that the blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb. However, the Bible is replete with il-

lustrations that seem to support this view. Mark 3:31-35 and Luke 14:26, for example, suggest an occasion when Jesus redefined the family as those who do the will of God, rather than those who are related to Him simply by birth (i.e., His mother and brothers). Proverbs offers another view of close family relationships, suggesting that there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Prov. 18:24). The parable of the Good Samaritan highlights yet another illustration to show the religious context of familial relationships. In this parable, Jesus draws a striking connection of our attitude toward God (spiritual) with our attitude toward others (social) in pointing out that our neighbor is the person whose need we see and are able to meet (Luke 10:26-37). It shows that we can be physically and biologically close to someone, like a blood relative, and yet spiritually far from that person.

What comes to mind when we hear of a family feud? The term conjures up notions of conflicts, disagreement or quarrel between close family members (i.e., people related by blood, marriage or adoption). The feeling that “we are family” usually means that relatives share deep emotional or spiritual connection within a familial unit. Usually, such feelings carry expectation for closeness, agreement, and loyalty to the family unit. Similarly, when something goes wrong in the family, it is normal to expect that family members will be the ones to help fix it, not one’s friends or neighbors, thus, the cliché, blood is thicker than water.

The following Jamaican saying illustrates a narrow view of family and restricts solidarity to close relatives: Cockroach has no place or business in a fowl (chicken) fight. This proverb is translated as: Do not interfere or involve yourselves in others’ quarrels that do not concern you. However, good family relationship goes beyond the blood of the womb; it spreads deep and wide to include our neighbors and enemies outside of that narrow family unit. The blood of the covenant compels us to do more than sit back, mind our own business, watch or pass others wounded and not intervene. Instead of passing by on the other side (Luke 10:31-32), Jesus expects us to be neighborly to one another, that is, being friendly, compassionate and helpful (Luke 10:33-35) in times of need. We cannot expect positive change if we remain silent when the powerless are being mistreated. For example, God has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:30; Matt. 22:39; Lev. 19:18); to love your enemies, do good to those who hate us, who curse us, and pray for those who spitefully use us (Luke 6:27-28).

It would seem, then, that the thickness (viscosity) of the blood is not what matters most. The symbolic meaning of the idiom takes effect when Christians reach out across the birth line to connect with people and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19-20). God’s desire is to save sinners from every nation, tribe, people and language (Rev. 7:9).

As members of the Moncton Church and of the World Seventh-day Adventist Church, we all constitute one

extended family of God. God has adopted us as sons and daughters and makes us members of His family (Eph. 1:4-5). God is our heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ is our elder Brother. Membership in this family confers upon us the highest status – royalty (1 Peter 2:9).

The blood of Jesus was shed for us, that even when we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead (Eph. 2:5). Christ's shed blood brings salvation to all – with no preference for Jews or Greek, slave or free, male or female. That is to say, no member of God's family is less than the other, "for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). Through faith, we are saved by grace. Christ's blood makes salvation possible, and all who accept Him by faith become equal members of His family.

Situations may arise that limit our gathering to two or three, but remember that if we come together in honor of God's name He is right there with us (Matt. 18:19-20). Let us keep praying together as a family so we may stay together.



My Family

THE JOY OF MY LIVING

As I reminisce on the good old days, I can picture the sun rays bursting through the atmosphere and warming my skin. I see myself basking in an atmosphere of warmth and love, unbothered by societal upheavals. In this atmosphere,

hugs are welcomed, and social gatherings are important. As I invite you into my world, think for a moment, of long trees overshadowing a serene path. They are tucked beneath the majesty of a cloud-filled sunny sky, where the blissful countryside offers joyful time with my siblings running through nature, laughing at each other's silly jokes. What a world of difference this is! Even when teenage indifference strikes at the core, igniting it with fierce words, then comes the thought of a pointed finger from mom or dad to get me back in line. Transcending into young adulthood, I'm beginning to entertain thoughts of migrating.

In March, 2019, when COVID-19 started, little did I know that the devastating pandemic would soon be on the freeway of my life. It had taken a toll on me to the point that I needed help to navigate my way through the predicament. I got lost in a series of racing thoughts, sleepless nights, and just being fuelled with anxiousness. This was too much to deal with. However, more about this mental unrest after I introduce you to my buoyant family.

To say that my family is a bundle of joy would be an understatement. All things considered; my family members are a collection of rare unending joy, secured in one household. You may have heard of the saying that there's never a dull moment. Well, that's us. My family takes pride in embracing each member's differences and uniqueness, and we love each other without judgment. The occasional sibling rivalry tells that we are far from being a perfect family, but we prioritize celebrating each other's life to the utmost. My family has

Egerton Clarke, PhD, is editor-in-chief of the Moncton SDA Magazine

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always been at the epicentre of my world. Thus, my decision to immigrate to Canada on the brink of the pandemic, meant that I felt out of orbit and stunted by the diversity of the new Canadian culture.

Henceforth, my new reality meant no warm hugs, no heart-to-heart conversations, and no quality time with others. One can understand the myriads of emotions flowing through me during these months of living in a foreign country. That was quite a culture shock. I was constantly challenged by feelings of loneliness until I realized I needed help. I decided to step into resilience, using courage to navigate my life's journey. Thus, I spoke with a professional who helped me to see things differently.

With restored happiness, I am now open to fearlessly explore new possibilities. Nowadays, I spend much time on the phone with my family. But while our telephone conversations will not take the place of a warm embrace, the trail has no longer gone; the frequent phone calls have surely filled the void of longing for my family.

Notably, mental illness is a common problem today. To help prevent the onset of depression and other disorders associated with mental health, we have a responsibility to take care of our bodies. Personal care includes regular exercise, proper diet, and close relationships with family and friends. Frequent chats by phone, dropping messages like, "I care about you," or "am praying for you," can promote and maintain mental health. Most importantly, it is essential to believe the promises of God and spend time with Him in prayer. Lastly, seek professional help when needed.

Monique Clarke is a pre-school teacher with the Precious Jewels Early Learning Center.

Vacation Bible School

children share reflections and highlights of the VBS sessions held in July, 2024.



Eliana James

I enjoyed song service, craft, learning about creation and playing with the other children.



Kahlil Robinson

I enjoyed learning about the different tools and playing with the water balloons. The role play of different Bible stories was very interesting, but my all-time favourite was Daniel in the Lion's den. I look forward to next year's VBS and the Bible stories.



Jaina James

I liked the songs and going outside to play games. I also enjoyed going upstairs for activities



Jessi Saint-Louis

The puzzle activity was fun. I learned a new game, and I enjoyed the storytelling from the Bible. I am also glad that two of my classmates came and added to the fun.



Michael James

I liked the body shop.



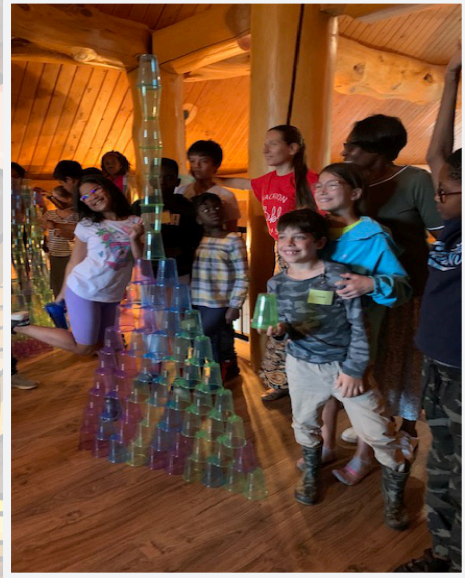
Matthew Thoms

I had fun playing the game with balloons filled with water. I like the crafts, and I learned about TAG - "Time Alone with God."



Elizabeth Nazarenko

Among the numerous exciting activities, the Bible story time attracted me the most, as it was brought alive through dramatization and interaction. I especially loved when Matthew, acting as Daniel, was dragged and thrown into a massive cardboard box, which served as a lion's den. Suddenly, a ragging lion's roar was heard, which frightened us all. It was fun!



Music **Draws Our Church Family Together**

Have you considered the science behind the music played across shopping centers and online sites? Well, according to “in-store music psychology,” the strategic use of music can influence customer behavior and create a desired atmosphere within the retail environment. For example, slow music makes people take their time and spend more money.

Every Sabbath, our musicians bring special music to praise God and to inspire the church family. Below, musicians share excerpts of how their music touches the hearts of the listening audience.



Clifford Belot (soloist)

Song is a sacred ministry, a bridge to the divine. It lifts the souls of believers, touches hearts, and brings them back to God. Since ancient times, music has held a special place in the life of the church, with dedicated men and women singing the praises of the Lord in the temple. Those sacred hymns of the Psalms still resonate today as a way to commune with God. Our enemy, Satan, knows the power of music, so he seeks to turn hearts away. Yet, song remains a channel of blessing, a means to celebrate God's glory and strengthen our faith. Singing for the Lord is a grace and a privilege. My heart rejoices with the knowledge that in New Jerusalem, the only thing we will continue to do is sing the glory of the Lord. It is exciting to know that we will all be endowed with this wonderful talent and that we will sing with the angelic choir. I particularly love the song "The Holy City" because it describes the glorious scene of Jesus's triumphant return. Every note and every word of this song serve as a constant reminder of the divine promise and the eternal hope we all share. It was a privilege for me to share it with our church, and I am happy that souls have been blessed.



Christopher Brevitt (soloist)

I was born and raised in the Adventist church, where music has always been an integral part of my life. My love for music was nurtured both by my family and the church community, who instilled in me a deep appreciation for the power of singing. As a child, I began my musical journey in the children's choir, and as I grew older, I joined the youth choir, eventually stepping into the role of choir director. Music has become much more than just a hobby or a tradition for me; it's how I express the goodness and grace that God has shown me. Leading others in worship through song brings me immense joy, especially when I see others praising God alongside me. It's a shared experience of faith and celebration, and through music, I find a profound connection to Christ and to those around me.



Lincoln Brown (pianist)

Growing up in the church, there has always been a strong musical influence around me. I started playing at the age of 8, when my parents sent me to music classes. I attended classes throughout high school, and I achieved grade six level with the Royal School of Music. It was in first form where one of the musicians at my church taught me to play by ear, and shortly after that I started playing for church. My strongest influence came when I attended Northern Caribbean University (formerly West Indies College). I followed the various styles of playing by the influential musicians there at the time. The growth of music never stops. I started working in the hotel industry, where I was exposed to Jazz and Blues, and I loved the sound. Gradually, I incorporated that style of music in my playing but still holding true to my classical foundation and the original musical score provided in our church hymnals. I truly enjoy playing hymns more than anything else because they bring out more soul and expression when I play. I have many favorite hymns, but the one that stands out the most is "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us." I recognize that God has given me this talent, so I use my music to honor Him, and I am satisfied that folks who hear me play enjoy it. I believe the hearts of the congregation are touched by my music, and I will continue to allow God to use me to praise Him through my music.

Music **Draws Our Church Family Together**



Arthur Edey (pianist)

I taught myself how to play piano by ear at around the age of seven, and I believe that God has blessed me with the gift for music. Years later, I accompanied my sisters-in-law on the piano, celebrating my mother-in-law's birthdays along with the other residents, in the seniors' apartment. This gave me much satisfaction that we had touched the lives of the elderly and gave them joy. Although I have only been learning to read music for approximately three years, I feel honored and blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of our church's music ministry, playing along with Mrs. Francis, the organist. She has been a positive influence on me in worshiping and honoring God with music. My hope is that as we play the piano each Sabbath, the music will draw our church family together and will always bring praise and glory to God.



Danika LeBlanc (violinist)

Music is one of my main passions. God has blessed me with this talent, and because of that, every time I play, I ask God that He may use my playing to show His glory to others. I truly believe that when I pray and play, God bestows happiness and a message to the audience.



Luis Pineda (flutist/flautist):

I discovered music at a very young age, thanks to my maternal uncle who played several instruments. As my parents couldn't afford to buy me an instrument, I made my very first flute myself. I was so proud to play it, and I made so much progress that my uncle bought a flute for me when I grew a little older. I started playing at church, and I taught myself music theory and lessons by going to the library. As an adult, I was able to study at a music school. Playing music is my way of approaching God and thanking Him for His blessings towards me. Music is a source of inspiration for me and for others who hear me play, especially those people of faith. Music gives me peace and comfort in difficult times, and it brings me closer to the throne of grace. I hope for the day when I can sing hymns of praise and glory to the Lord in heaven.

WORD MAZE PUZZLES

Identify the words and phrases below – horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backward. Search and you'll find.

ADVENTIST FAMILY
 ARTICLE
 BABY
 BESTOWS HAPPINESS
 BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER
 BOARD
 BOOKS
 BOND
 GUILD
 CAMARADERIE
 CANADA
 CHILDREN OF GOD
 COMMITMENT
 COMMUNITY SERVICES
 DAUGHTER
 DOORS
 FAITH
 FAMILY OF PROCREATION

FLUTE
 FOOD
 GOOD SAMARITAN
 GREATEST GIFT
 HAPPINESS
 HOME
 HUMILITY
 INSPIRE
 INTERPRETATION
 JOY OF LIVING
 LORD
 MONCTON
 MOTHER
 MUSIC INSPIRES PEOPLE
 NATION
 WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR
 NUCLEAR FAMILY
 OLD

RECIPE
 PEOPLE
 PLAY BY EAR
 PROMOTE
 ROYAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC
 SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD
 SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE
 SINGING LIFTS THE SOUL
 SON OF GOD
 SOON
 THE GIFT OF MUSIC
 TIME
 TOUGH
 TRIBE
 UKRAINE
 VACATION
 VIOLIN
 WATER OF THE WOMB

F	X	L	U	O	S	E	H	T	S	T	F	I	L	G	N	I	G	N	I	S
A	E	L	P	O	E	P	S	E	R	I	P	S	N	I	C	I	S	U	M	Z
I	B	E	S	T	O	W	S	H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	R	O	O	D
T	S	E	E	M	I	M	G	L	Y	I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	L	E	S
H	R	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S	V	A
D	O	O	R	G	Y	L	I	M	A	F	T	S	I	T	N	E	V	D	A	V
N	Y	B	J	O	Y	O	F	L	I	V	I	N	G	V	I	O	L	I	N	I
O	A	M	M	O	N	C	T	O	N	H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	Y	O
B	L	O	O	D	T	H	I	C	K	E	R	T	H	A	N	W	A	T	E	R
O	S	W	C	S	I	C	T	H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	H	O	M	E	L
O	C	E	A	A	N	A	T	I	O	N	W	U	R	D	T	O	C	N	Y	I
K	H	H	M	M	S	N	P	L	A	Y	B	Y	E	A	R	I	I	O	L	K
S	O	T	A	A	P	A	E	D	R	A	O	B	C	U	I	S	S	I	I	E
X	L	F	R	R	I	D	O	R	O	E	Q	A	I	G	B	M	U	T	M	A
V	L	O	A	I	R	A	P	E	U	T	Y	B	P	H	E	Y	M	A	A	S
A	O	R	D	T	E	N	L	N	S	O	O	N	E	T	B	N	F	T	F	H
C	F	E	E	A	T	D	E	O	R	M	O	T	H	E	R	E	O	E	R	E
A	M	T	R	N	U	R	N	F	O	O	D	I	O	R	P	I	T	R	A	P
T	U	A	I	D	L	O	V	G	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	G	F	P	E	H
I	S	W	E	S	F	L	D	O	Z	P	B	T	O	U	G	H	J	R	L	E
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S	A	F	A	M	I	L	Y	O	F	P	R	O	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N

Recipes of Culturally Diverse, Mouth-Watering Cuisines

OAT BURGER RECIPE (credit Jennie Cleonis)

Ingredients:

300 gr of oat (as used to make porridge)
1 large red pepper
1 large onion
200 gr of cashew nuts or 2 eggs
Tomato paste (2 table spoon)
200 gr of fresh mushrooms
Bouillon powder and salt (according to taste)
1 large spoon of oil
fresh parsley, paprika and Masala spice blend



Directions

- Dice the large onion and place it in a large pan with the oil fresh parsley, the paprika and the Masala spice. Bring ingredients to a boil and then add the tomato paste, the Bouillon powder and the large paper finely diced/cut. Stir.
- Add a little bit of water if necessary and stir from time to time for 2-3 minutes.
- Blend the cashew nuts in some warm/hot water until very creamy.
- Pour the mixture into the pan and add the finely chopped/grated mushrooms.
- Stir the whole mixture. If too compact, add a little bit of water and let it boil for 5 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes. Use an ice cream scoop and scoop onto a sprayed cookie sheet.
- Flatten with a fork each scoop or round it to give a burger shape. Bake for 25 minutes in a preheated oven, then turn and bake an additional 10-15 minutes.
- (Can serve 8)

Cheesy Stuffed Pasta in Coconut Sauce (credit Opal Gardner)

Ingredients:

Bell peppers (yellow, orange, red)
Green and white onions
Garlic, Ginger, Thyme, Salt, Carrots, Organic
Coconut milk
Cheese, Coconut oil, 1 package of Jumbo pasta shells
Vegetarian mince



Directions:

- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the jumbo pasta shells and cook until they are tender yet firm to the bite. Once done, drain, rinse under cold water, and set aside.
- Finely chop the bell peppers, carrots, green and white onions, thyme, and a small piece of grated ginger for flavor. Sauté the mixture over medium heat. Add corn and coconut milk and allow it to simmer. Then, add the grated cheese. Divide the sauce into two parts. Add the vegetarian mince to one part of the mixture and cook until it reaches your desired consistency.
- Stuff the cooked mince into the pasta shells.
- Place the stuffed pasta shells in a baking pan and drizzle the remaining sauce and cheese on top of the shells.
- Bake in a preheated oven until bubbly, which should take about 15 to 20 minutes.
- Let dish stand for 10 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

Eggplant with Coconut Milk (credit Dr. Sophonie Menard)

Ingredients:

- 2 eggplants
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder, onion,
- 3-4 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 medium onion
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 4-5 tomatoes
- 1 Green pepper or color of your choice
- salt, pepper, oregano,
- 1 can of coconut milk



Directions

- Start by cutting the eggplant into thin slices. Put in cold water with a pinch of salt and let them rest for 15 minutes. This is important to remove the bitterness from the eggplant. Place in a bowl the cornstarch, garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper, and eggplant. Rub together to make the season penetrate the eggplant.
- Cook the eggplant in the oven (20 min. at 180° or in the air fryer (10 min. at 200°) and set aside.
- In a saucepan with olive oil, add the garlic and onion (cut into small pieces). When they are golden, add the tomatoes and coconut milk. Let it reduce for 5-7 minutes over medium heat.
- Stir until it thickens and set aside.
- Finally, to assemble the dish, place a layer of eggplant in an oven-safe container, add all the sauce on top, put in oven at 350° for 10-15 minutes, and enjoy.

Vanilla Almond Milk (credit Cassandra Olivia Murray)

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2- 2 cups of raw almonds
- 6 cups of cold filtered water + (hot water for soaking)
- 5 dates to sweeten (optional); pinch of salt
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg (optional)
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract



Directions:

- Bring the water to a boil, then add almonds. Boil almonds for 2 minutes, leave in water to soak for 4-5 hours or soak overnight at refrigerated temperature.
- Rinse almonds.
- Add almonds, vanilla, nutmeg, dates, salt, and 6 cups of water to the blender.
- Blend until smooth.
- Strain milk through a nut bag, cheesecloth or fine mesh strainer.
- (To yield more, blend leftover pulp with 1 cup water)- optional
- Refrigerate for up to 5 days.
- Note: Shake well before drinking

Fried Dumplings (credit Novelette Cornwall)

Ingredients:

- 3 cups All Purpose Flour
- 1-2 tbsp granulated sugar (optional)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 cup cold water



Directions

- Sift dry ingredients to aerate
 - Add butter and rub into dry mix
 - Add cold water and knead into a ball
 - Cover with a damp dish cloth/cling wrap then leave for 20-30 mins
 - Lightly flour cutting board then pinch and roll dough into the desired size smaller balls
 - Heat oil to 130-150 degrees Celsius, indent centre of dough and fry until golden brown
- (Deep frying recommended so dumplings can move around and absorb less oil)

Sandwich Filling (credit Ala latenco)

Ingredients:

1 cup dried Butler's Soy crumb (crumbled firm tofu can be substituted)
3 cups veggie broth seasonings to your taste (I used a paste made from 3 Tbsp nutritional yeast,
2 Tbsp Tamari, 2 Tbsp oil, 1/2 tsp garlic powder and 1/2 tsp smoked paprika)
3 Tbsp each parsley, dill, green onions or chives (finely chopped)
1/3 cup radishes, sliced (may be substituted with celery, red sweet bell peppers or even finely julienned carrots)
3-4 Tbsp vegan mayo

Directions

- Soak dried soy crumbs in 3 cups of hot veggie broth for 10 min (Omit this step if using crumbled tofu).
- Drain soy crumbs and squeeze out the liquid. Mix in the seasonings of your choice. Bake at 350F for 20 min, mixing once after 10 min. Let cool.
- Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours for the flavors to blend. Use as a sandwich filling, in pitas, rolls or even as a side dish.



Vegan Carmel Cheese Cake (credit Kelly Stott)

Crust (Ingredients):

In a food processor add:

1 and 1/2 cups of nuts of your choosing
1/2 cups desiccated coconut
1 tsp vanilla
6 to 10 pitted dates softened in boiling water and strained
1/4 cup oatmeal

Directions:

- Blend nuts until they are a fine meal consistency. Add the rest of the ingredients and squeeze a little in your hand to see that it holds together. Press down in an eight-inch springform pan until firm.

Caramel sauce Ingredients):

16 pitted dates soaked and drained (save date water)
Place in blender or use an immersion blender.
Add 1/2 cup coconut cream
Tbsp maple syrup (or more to taste)
Pinch of salt; vanilla

Directions

- Add date water for proper consistency; blend until smooth.
- In a high-speed blender add:
 - 1 block soft, medium or firm tofu
 - 1 can chick peas (rinse, drained and shelled)
 - 1 can full fat coconut milk (minus the water)
 - 16 or 18 pitted dates (soaked in boiling water and drained)
 - 1/4 cup maple syrup (or more to taste)
 - 1/2 cup coconut oil (melted)
 - 1 tsp vanilla
 - 1 tbsp miso paste
 - 1/2 lemon (squeezed)
 - Firm or soft tofu
- Remove the skins from the chickpeas by putting them in a bowl of water, gently massage them and then scoop the skins out with a mini strainer.
- Place the wettest ingredients first into the blender. Then add all the rest. Taste to see if it needs tweaking.
- This direction gives an authentic cheesecake texture and taste. Be sure to put it in a water bath and bake until firm at 350° (about forty-five minutes to an hour).
- For no-bake cheese cake, bake the crust for around 20 min at 350° and cool before adding the cheese cake portion. Refrigerate for at least four hours.
- Decorate with caramel sauce on top and anything else your heart desires.

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Moncton SDA Church Mission Statement

Through love, we reach the Moncton region and beyond, touching people with the biblical message of hope and wholeness; preparing believers for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The Vision

Serving as Jesus bids us ...



"The Department of Women's Ministries exists to uphold, encourage, and challenge Adventist women in their pilgrimage as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His world church," Adventist Women's Ministries. <https://women.adventist.org/>
Above, 12 women met on Sabbath, August 10, 2024, to offer support to each other.