

BY DENNIS MARSHALL

# STUDENTS TELL CANADA OF JESUS LOVE

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA LAUNCHED THE FIVE-YEAR “TELL CANADA” INITIATIVE IN 2006. AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR THE SDACC, I ENCOURAGED OUR SCHOOLS TO CREATIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSIONARY ENDEAVOUR BY REACHING OUT TO CANADIANS WITH THE GOSPEL IN WHICHEVER WAY THEY CAN. FOLLOWING ARE SOME REPORTS OF SCHOOLS THAT TOOK ON THE TELL CANADA CHALLENGE. HOPE YOU GET INSPIRED!



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1) KC STUDENTS AND STAFF WORKED TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP SECTIONS OF THEIR CITY.  
2) AT RVJA, ALL ASPECTS OF THE EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS—FROM MUSICAL SELECTIONS TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY—WERE HANDLED BY STUDENTS AT THE ACADEMY.

## Robson Valley Junior Academy (RVJA) McBride, British Columbia

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Tim. 4:12)*

RVJA’s “Tell Canada” project was a series of evangelistic meetings held April 20-May 12, 2007. While two high school students from the McBride Seventh-day Adventist Church held prophecy seminars in the upstairs sanctuary of the church, the RVJA students conducted a concurrent series of meetings for the children downstairs. The junior high students, using the Truth for Youth program, presented the same topics as

were presented to the adults, but at a level geared for the children.

The lessons, crafts, singing, piano accompaniment, and computer technology were all managed by the students themselves, and all grades were involved from grade 1 up. Attendance at the meetings grew as the series continued, ranging from 15-30 a night, including many visitors. As a result of these efforts, there were seven requests for baptism and more for Bible studies. This series was inspiring not only to members and visitors, but also to the students themselves as they realized that they, too, could experience the joy of sharing the good news of God’s love.

**Greaves Adventist Academy (GAA)  
Montreal, Quebec**

*“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16)*

GAA's praise team and students from the grades 7, 8, and 9 music classes visited the Geriatric Institute of Montreal on May 10, 2007 and performed for the seniors. The students made beautiful cards for the seniors and performed a variety of songs on their recorders, much to the delight of the residents. The seniors were so moved by the performance and the love shown by the students that they requested another visit from

As a gift to their community of Oshawa, Ontario, and to cap off a year filled with intentional community service activities, all students and staff of KC spent Wednesday, May 2, 2007 donating their time to help beautify the city. This was their “Tell Canada” project.

Wearing bright orange shirts and armed with lots of garbage bags and bottled water, the staff and students fanned out and began their work to clean up areas in the city that were in dire need of attention. Local newspaper reporters recorded the progress, and passing motorists cheered them on with blasts from their horns, waves, and “thumbs-up” gestures.



them. “We will definitely continue this activity of community work and spreading the gospel through song and music,” says Principal Julia Falla.

A second “Tell Canada” project was a stop-smoking initiative aimed at the student body. With the assistance of the Tobacco Council of Quebec and church member Audree Dupuis, 14 GAA students were trained to present a stop-smoking program. Commenting on the program, one person said: “The project was a great learning experience for everyone involved. The level of enthusiasm was great and all the participants displayed great interest and efficiency in the project.” The students who participated in this project were eager and excited about it. They felt that they had contributed something worthwhile, and in so doing, may have possibly saved the lives of many students.

**Kingsway College (KC)  
Oshawa, Ontario**

*“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Gen. 2:15)*

Everyone demonstrated KC's motto of Service, not Fame by being good citizens and practicing community service. But more importantly, helped to take care of the earth God created. They acted as good stewards of their little corner of the world.

**Deer Lake School (DLS)  
Burnaby, British Columbia**

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:27)*


DLS's “Tell Canada” project was a youth rally to introduce the youth in their community to Jesus Christ and the various youth ministries of the Adventist church. This rally took place on March 9-10, 2007 under the theme “extremely made,” capitalizing on the country's fascination with makeovers. The staff and students of DLS wanted to convey the message that they were extremely well-made by God and therefore special.

Todd Ross Spencer, a youth pastor from the Southeastern-California conference and lead singer of AFTER, was the

guest speaker. His message was simple but powerful: “God has shaped us for the purpose of loving and serving Him and others.” Through his words and music, Todd created an atmosphere of acceptance, emphasizing the point that God takes you as you are and works on the makeover of your heart. On Saturday morning, Steve and Yolanda Hall presented the Allpower4teens seminar focusing on teens taking responsibility for their lives and creating an unlimited future.

Out of 94 people who filled out cards, 67 had a prayer request, 16 wanted more information about Allpower4teens, 14 needed a Bible, 5 wanted to get involved in a youth group, 2 wanted to talk with a pastor and 13 were interested in Bible studies.



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- 3) ONE OF GREAVES ACADEMY'S "TELL CANADA" PROJECTS WAS TO PRESENT MUSICAL SELECTIONS AT A LOCAL SENIORS' HOME.
  - 4) DEER LAKE SCHOOL HELD A YOUTH RALLY TO FAMILIARIZE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY WITH JESUS AND THE CHURCH.
  - 5) CORALWOOD ACADEMY STUDENTS TRAVELED FROM EDMONTON TO QUEBEC AND DISTRIBUTED SCRIPTURE-EMBLAZONED T-SHIRTS TO PEOPLE THERE.

The program was a remarkable witness and demonstration of the power of youth to reach people for Jesus.

### **Coralwood Adventist Academy (CAA) Edmonton, Alberta**

*"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Ps. 119:11)*

Fifteen students of CAA, accompanied by their principal Muriel Huguenin, teacher Marian Rochford, and parent Kathy Fortunat, made a field trip to the beautiful city of Quebec in May 2007. During that field trip, the students engaged in an unusual outreach program: giving out t-shirts printed with various Bible texts from Proverbs written on them. A typical text might be "Do not withhold good . . . when it is in the power of your hand to do so" (Prov. 3:27). Thirteen t-shirts were given out, and it is hoped that those who read the Bible verses would become aware of the power and grace of God and be drawn to Christ.

### **Okanagan Adventist Academy (OKAA) Kelowna, British Columbia**

*"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again" (Eccles. 11:1)*

OKAA decided that, for their outreach project, they would give a helping hand to their sister school: Shuswap Seventh-day Adventist School in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Students of OKAA arrived at Shuswap on the evening of May 8, 2007 and spent the following day constructing picnic tables, shelves to improve the sports equipment storage facility, and playground equipment.

The OKAA students felt appreciated and were happy to know that, through their unselfish service, they were able to make a worthwhile contribution to the students and staff of Shuswap Seventh-day Adventist School.

### **College Heights Christian School (CHCS) Lacombe, Alberta**

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1John 3:18)*

Several junior high Home Economics sewing classes at College Heights Christian School turned their talent into ministry for their "Tell Canada" project. Teacher

Angie Bishop shared her passion for quilting by involving her students in making beautiful quilts for a sewing project. Boys and girls participated by busily and carefully creating the decorative quilt-tops, while friend and retired teacher Carolyn Halyrevich kindly finished off each quilt.

Of the 17 quilts that were made, four are going to an orphanage in Africa, and the rest will be given to local women's shelters and needy single-parent families. Each will be accompanied by a Bible story book for children. The students and staff of College Heights must be complimented for showing their love for those in need in such a tangible way.

### **Cariboo Adventist Academy (CAA) Williams Lake, British Columbia**

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt 5:16)*

CAA decided to do a mini home-makeover of an elderly woman's home for their "Tell Canada" project. The school's Extreme Team, consisting of grades 7-12 students, welcomed



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6) OKAA joined with the Shuwap school to make needed improvements—including some attention to the playground equipment.

7) CHCS students, under the direction of their Home Ec. teacher, created quilts to be shared locally and in Africa.

this challenge with great enthusiasm. A fundraiser at their annual Fall Fair brought in the funds required for the project and inspired even greater community support. Donations poured in! A local businessman even donated carpeting, linoleum and labour for the project. The outpouring of love and the support for the project was overwhelming.

The starting date for the project, February 1, 2007, saw students, parents, and teachers working side-by-side with joy. Old carpets and linoleum were replaced; walls, kitchen cabinets, and the fireplace were repaired and painted; a door was installed; and numerous small repairs and details were taken care of. The house was cleaned from top to bottom. Finally, the lady's belongings were put back in place along with fresh new curtains. The interior of the house looked bright and new, bringing a look of happiness to the owner as well.

Sharing the love of Jesus through this project not only fulfilled a need, it brought untold joy to the Extreme Team and all participants. A special thank you goes to Carl McMillan, the grandpa of one of the students, who worked tirelessly as he demonstrated his skills as a handyman and jack-of-all-trades. The business owner who donated the flooring for the project made it clear he wants to do the same next year. The students are anxious that this project continue. The Extreme Team lived up to its motto to "Love Them Like Jesus." ■

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8) CAA STUDENTS, STAFF, AND EVEN COMMUNITY SPONSORS JOINED TOGETHER TO RENOVATE AND REDECORATE THE HOME OF AN APPRECIATIVE WOMAN IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



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**HAVE AN IDEA FOR A "TELL CANADA" PROJECT?**

The SDACC Office of Education will subsidize the cost of any "Tell Canada" project by 50% up to \$750. Do you have a creative idea for your school to spread the Gospel? Let us know by filling out a "Tell Canada" application form—available from Brandy Perkins at [bperkins@sdacc.org](mailto:bperkins@sdacc.org) or from our website at [www.catnet.sdacc.org](http://www.catnet.sdacc.org) (go to 'forms' and look for "Tell Canada").

We have designated the month of April as "Tell Canada" month, but you can do a project anytime in the year.