

Determination and Resolve

“And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15, KJV).

As a German immigrant to Canada over a century ago, my paternal grandfather was determined to make a life for himself as a wheat farmer on the Interior Plains of Saskatchewan. It was not easy starting from scratch to establish a homestead and rear a family in a place where supplies were hard to come by and temperatures fluctuated, sometimes dramatically. Between the scorching, hot summers and bitterly cold, snowy winters, life was difficult, and it cost the life of his 14-year-old son. But over time, my grandfather’s faith in God and sheer determination to succeed were rewarded, as his crops flourished and his livestock thrived and multiplied.

A devout Lutheran like his father, and *his father’s father*, my grandfather was a student of the Bible, a man of simple faith. If the Bible said it, that was good enough for him. The test of his longstanding resolve to follow the teachings of Scripture came one day when a Seventh-day Adventist colporteur stopped at the farm while on his way to canvas the tiny town of Leader some 15 miles to the north. After an exchange of introductions and pleasantries, a discussion ensued that would last for the next two days. The topics varied, but all were from the Bible: the state of the dead, the seventh-day Sabbath, the second coming of Jesus, the three angels’ messages, the gift of prophecy, and the doctrine of healthful living and diet. All were thoroughly covered by the colporteur, verse by verse.

After hours of discussion and many questions answered from the Bible, my grandfather and grandmother accepted the newfound truth and decided to join the Seventh-day Adventist movement. Overjoyed and convinced of what they had learned, my grandfather dug a deep hole near the barn and ceremoniously deposited ham from their smokehouse, along with his pipe and tobacco.

From that day forward, my grandfather’s household would serve the Lord as Adventists and never look back. Nine of his surviving children and many of their children (including me) would become Adventists, all because of one man’s determination and resolve. The influence we have on others cannot be overestimated and often comes with profound, eternal consequences for many generations.



Jerry Lutz
President

Youth Department Launches ‘The Peake’

In an effort to better engage with teenagers throughout the year, the Chesapeake Conference Youth Department has rebranded itself. Recently debuting a new name and logo, the department has taken on the moniker of “The Peake” and has also launched a new Instagram account.

As Kenia Reyes, the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for Chesapeake Conference, explains, this rebrand is part of the department’s broader mission to connect with young people more regularly, beyond the conference-level events. “If you want to get to them, it has to be through social media,” she notes.

The department chose the name “The Peake” to appeal specifically to the ministry’s younger demographic while still maintaining a connection to Chesapeake Conference. As Reyes described, the department wanted a name that was recognizably



“Chesapeake,” but something that young people could identify as uniquely “theirs.” To populate the new Instagram account with fresh and relevant content, the department hopes to utilize the talents of the youth themselves.