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NEWS

Ontario’s Camp Meeting Resonates with Members

July 14, 2011 Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

Ontario’s camp meeting, held on July 9 at the International Centre, Mississauga, struck a resonating note with over 9,000 members and friends.

“I wish that our camp meeting in the States could be like this!” said one visitor from the United States.

“Why can’t we have worships like this in our churches every Sabbath?” asked a church member from the Greater Toronto Area.

“Why haven’t we had him before?” quizzed a member referring to Pastor Rex Edwards, as he preached during the morning worship service, “he’s such an amazing preacher”.

July 14, 2011
There were many more similar comments from a multitude of clearly satisfied worshippers after last weekend’s camp meeting. They arrived on Sabbath morning, not knowing what to expect after last year’s popular ‘Parade of Nations’ feature, but their expectations were high since camp meeting had been advertised as the culmination of two months of revival and transformation across Ontario. Soon they were praising God that they had chosen to attend and their presence made this year’s attendance one of the largest ever.

In hall 5, the adults could clearly state that the worship experience was one they had never before experienced at any previous camp meeting.

“We carefully planned the worship so that members would have an experience with God in worship”, said Pastor Mansfield Edwards, conference president. “Something that they could even use to bring about change in their local churches.”

Perhaps the greatest surprise of all came in the form of the preacher, Pastor Rex Edwards, retired from active ministry for many years, but still serves his church at the Biblical Research Institute.

Worshippers were amazed to see someone who is clearly very senior in age, preach with such vigour and vitality. His powerful vocabulary, precise diction and enunciation captivated his hearers and served as the perfect vessel to carry his profound, Biblical message.

In hall 4, the youth and young adults had their own service away from the teens in hall 4a. This new feature saw nearly 2,000 worshippers delight in their high-octane praise and worship session and extended-length sermon with Pastor Ryan Simpson from Bermuda.

For the first time, the teens had a service totally dedicated to them. They filled nearly half of the 1500 chairs that were set out and cautiously warmed to the praise team and guest preacher, Pastor Ann Roda. Pastor Roda, despite arriving with laryngitis, did not allow it to hinder her dynamic deliver of her sermon. She captivated them with both her energy and substantive message.

Across the hall from hall 5, close to 1000 children demanded the best that many volunteers and 25 pastors could muster. They sang, laughed, clapped, prayed, learned, jumped and engaged in a host of activities that yearly triggers a keen desire to attend camp meeting.

Commissioning and ordination are two of the features that many church members eagerly anticipate. The afternoon programme saw the commissioning of Brent Bol, Brent van Rensburg and Berkel Williams to the teaching ministry and the commissioning of Elizabeth Pule and ordination of Joseph Amankwah, Darryl Blahovich, Kwame Brobbey, Garth Dottin, Roger Esteves and Eduardo Monteiro to the gospel ministry.

(A full report of the ordination service will be given in the autumn edition of Ontario Highlights magazine).

By the close of the day, nearly half an hour after sunset, campers were already wondering how next year’s camp meeting on June 30, 2012 can be more satisfying and fulfilling as this has been.

Former Pentecostal Pastor Baptised at Ontario Camp Meeting

July 14, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

Brian Sutherland, a former pastor of an independent Pentecostal congregation in Moosonee, was baptised during camp meeting Sabbath, July 9. He was baptised by Pastor Frankie Lazarus after Sabbath School at the nearby Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church and presented to the campers by Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, in the evening.

Sutherland made the long journey down from northern Ontario to camp meeting in order to be baptised.

His spiritual journey to God’s church began after he became convinced that the Bible is very clear that the Sabbath was the correct day on which to worship. He began his search for Sabbath keepers in Moosonee and was led to the Galupo family. The Galupo family introduced him to Bible Instructor Alison Downs, and he began
studying the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He resigned his position and membership in his church and requested baptism.

Six days after his baptism, he is busy sharing his new-found truth with relatives and friends. He is already giving Bible lessons to one of his uncles, and at least two members of his former congregation have started having Bible studies with an Adventist member in Moosonee. A few others have shown interest.

**Seventh-day Adventist Choir to Perform at Major Concert Hall in Toronto**

*July 14, 2011, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN*

On Sunday, July 17, at 4:00 p.m. ‘The SDA Choral Ensemble of Greater Toronto’, under the direction of Gennie Kimble, will be performing at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. It will be presenting one performance of ‘Deep River’ a dramatic musical tracing the musical journey from the call of the drum in Africa to the folk-inspired songs of the Caribbean, through Negro Spirituals, Gospel, and contemporary black classics.

The 80-voice choral ensemble is comprised of many of the leading singers in the Greater Toronto Area who have been brought together for this solo performance. However, the 6,000 plus worshippers in hall 5 at Ontario Conference’s camp meeting on July 9 were treated to a sample of the wonderful and beautiful music that will be heard on July 17 at Deep River. The ensemble responded to the blowing of the Shofar’s call to worship by singing the majestic piece “Praise His Holy Name” and clearly uplifted God’s name before the congregation.

It is not often that church members have such an opportunity to listen to choirs of this calibre in Toronto. On Sunday evening, July 17, the audience at Toronto Centre for the Arts will be given a rare treat and will leave wondering when they will ever again have such an experience.

Deep River is written and produced by Royson James, Karl Hutchinson and Yvonne Rodney.

**Adventist University Philippines Choir Wins “Choir of the Word”**

*Girlie Mae Andrada/Ray Puen/BUC News*

A choir from the Adventist University of the Philippines won three top awards at the 2011 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Festival in Wales, 4-10 July, 2011. After gaining first place in both the Mixed Choir and Chamber Choir categories, they went on to win the coveted "Choir of the World – Pavarotti Trophy" on Saturday night. The Llangollen Eisteddfod, with Terry Waite CBE, as its President, is among the world's most prestigious choral competitions.

The trophy was made even more special for them as the event organisers moved the starting time of the Saturday evening competition to accommodate the Sabbath-keeping choir. After winning the first two categories, and therefore gaining entry to the final, the group had already decided that they would not compete during the Sabbath hours. However after much prayer and supplication, the group was delighted when the competition was moved to 9:30 pm, after sunset!

That does not mean they wasted the Sabbath hours! During the competition they enjoyed the exceptional hospitality and friendliness of the Welsh people who accommodated the group in their own homes in the village. In return for their kindness and hospitality, the group organised a Sabbath concert for the villagers. Whilst the rest of the competitors were busy rehearsing and preparing for the competition, the 'Ambassadors' the official name of the choir, were giving glory to God through singing and sharing their faith with the community. They were able to answer many questions about Adventists as many of the locals had never heard of Adventists. Tenor Zhean Manalo reported that "it was the first time that they had met people like us, that we were 'different' and how deeply we touched people's lives." A local resident, Peter, had been assigned to host the choir. He told them he was honoured to have been given that assignment, and felt very blessed.

The choir, led by Ramon Lijauco Jr arrived in the UK on Thursday, 7 July, the night before the first competition. Despite jet lag and fatigue from the 12-hour flight, the group gave their all as they battled with top choirs from all over the world and won the first prize in the Chamber Choir and Mixed Choir categories. The 30-voice Ambassadors had a juggling trick to do. The minimum requirement for Mixed Choir is 30 voices, the maximum
for Chamber Choir is 29 voices. An alto volunteered to drop out in order for the group to qualify to compete in the Chamber Choir category.

For the Mixed Choir category, the group sang "Agnus Dei" by Krzysztof Penderecki and "Itako" an original composition by the conductor, Ramon Lijauco Jr. For the Chamber Choir competition, where they beat Mansfield University Concert Choir from the United States and CF1 from Wales, they sang "Amor de mi Alma" by Z Randall Stroope and "Bagbagto" by Nilo Alcala. On Saturday evening they went head to head with five other choirs for the most prestigious award, the Choir of the World 2011 and the most coveted Pavarotti Trophy. Printed adjudication notes were given to the choir read: "We were in no doubt this is a quality corporate instrument of very high calibre, based on a strong individual vocal culture moulded towards a clearly understood choral sound."

The AUP Ambassadors is the official chorus of the Adventist University of the Philippines. It was founded in 1957 by an American missionary, Elder Elton Wallace, as an all-male chorus. In 1971, under the leadership of Mrs Minerva Arit-Penaranda, the group began accepting female members and has since become a mixed choir. They have been actively involved in promoting Adventist education by visiting churches all over the Philippines and other countries in Asia and the United States. In 2006, the Ambassadors joined the World Choir Games in China and came home Champion in the Gospel and Spiritual categories. This has inspired them to join more choral competitions, not only to win medals and trophies but most importantly, to raise the profile of the Adventist Church in the music community, the latest being the LLangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Festival.

Raising the £50,000 needed for the 32 members of the choir to travel was a challenge but did not daunt their spirits or their faith. Since the Eisteddfod they have continued to share their faith – and complete their fundraising with invitations to sing in St Chad's church, Wrexham, followed by a concert in Stockport Adventist church and then a flight to Aberdeen where a series of concerts were arranged by local pastor, Lorance Johnson.

Aware of the image they project for church and school, the Ambassadors strive to perform to the glory of God at every performance. At Llangollen and elsewhere, they deflect all compliments to the glory of God, acknowledging at every opportunity that they are blessed to be singing ambassadors for Christ.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 15-16

Family Life Weekend

Join the Family Life Ministries Department of the Ottawa Adventist Church on July 15 and 16 for a weekend of celebration under the theme: "Celebration of Love."

On Friday, July 15, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., there will be a special presentation on Family Worship. On Saturday July 16, come and be blessed during the morning’s services. In the afternoon, there will be a special AY on the topic of "Dating Relationship."

Come along; bring friends and family with you to learn more on these subjects.

For more information, call 613.728.3558 or visit http://www.ottawasda.org.

July 15 - 23

Evangelistic Seminar Revival Series – “Salvation in the Sanctuary”

The Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting a revival series – “Salvation in the Sanctuary” - with the dynamic Dr. D. E. Haynes (New Orleans, Louisiana) from July 15 – 23. Meetings will take place nightly except for Thursday, July 21 starting at 7:00pm. Toronto Central is located at 156-162 Bentworth Avenue (Lawrence/Caledonia). We look forward to welcoming you!

For more information, please call 416-784-0261 or write tcentral@adventistontario.org.

July 16

Health and Temperance Day at Latter Rain Church
July 16, 2011 is Health and Temperance Day. 
Theme: Living Abundantly 
Our speaker for divine service is Beverly Miller (dietician). 
After divine service, a snack lunch is provided for everyone. 
Blood pressure check will be 6-7 p.m. 
At 7:00 p.m. AY will include a special presentation and question & answer session by Beverly Miller. 
All are invited, so come and receive a blessing.  
Latter Rain Church is located at 7 Elinor Avenue (Pharmacy Ave/Lawrence East intersection) 

Community Services Day at Latter Rain Church is July 30

July 17 
Deep River

To all lovers of choral music, the Adventist Choral Ensemble of Greater Toronto returns with a new dramatic musical, “DEEP RIVER”— Journeys to the edge of Eternity. Sunday, July 17, at 4:00 p.m., Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. at North York Centre subway stop. $60. $50. $40. Ticketmaster 416-872 1111 OR www.ticketmaster.ca. Or pick up at the box office 416-733-9388 to avoid service charges.

July 30 
Visitor’s Day at GTA French Church

Worshipping in French in Toronto is possible! And on Sabbath July 30, we invite everyone to our special Visitor’s Day. Translation will be provided to our English-speaking brothers, sisters and friends. Our special speaker for this day will be Ceejay Howell, an evangelist and singer. A multi-cultural lunch will be prepared specially for you and right after, we will have a spiritual concert with many artists. If possible, bring with you someone – Adventist and non-Adventist alike - who would be delighted to spend a day with our French-speaking members! Address: 37 Marchington Circle, Scarborough, Ontario, M1R 3M6. For more info, call us, at 647-350-0981, and visit our website, at www.eaft.ca

September 2-4 
Ontario Women’s Retreat

“Through It All” God endures all things through all generations (Psalm 100:5). Bring a friend and reconnect at the annual Women’s Retreat this September at the Nottawasaga Resort in Alliston, Ontario. Hear keynote speakers, Cynthia Prime of Saving Orphans through Healthcare and Outreach (SOHO) and Pr. Janice DeWhyte for Young Women’s Ministries. Registration forms are available now at www.adventistontario.org (click on Events and go to September 2). For more information, email kbailey@adventistontario.org.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

Monte Carmelo Spanish Adventist Company is looking for the following members: 

If you have any information, please contact Janie Cruz, church clerk: montecarmelospclerk@adventistontario.org; phone: 905-383-7565.

Please send articles in plain text (no graphics or photos) to OCN@AdventistOntario.org (No later than Tuesday evening)