In This Issue...

1. News
   • Joan Rogers Appointed as Family and Women’s Director for Ontario Conference
   • Adventist Health Ministries at Canadian National Exhibition
   • Adventist Church in Hungary Loses Legal Status, Must Reapply Under New Legislation

2. Events and Announcements

3. Other Ads

NEWS

Joan Rogers Appointed as Family and Women’s Director for Ontario Conference

August 3, 2011, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

The Ontario Conference Board of Directors has appointed Joan Rogers as director for Family and Women’s Ministries. The appointment was made on Sunday, July 30, 2011 and fills the position made vacant when the former director, Donna Jackson, left to join her husband, Pastor Dan Jackson, at the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists in July 2010.

Joan Rogers is not new to denominational work, having served in two Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions in the West Jamaica and Bermuda Conferences. A holder of two graduate degrees and numerous professional memberships, Joan brings a wealth of diverse experiences and skills to the Ontario Conference. Her most recent contribution to family ministries was through her work as a member of the Bermuda Conference Family Life Committee.

The announcement of the appointment was made in an email on July 28 to the directors and staff at the Ontario Conference by Pastor Mansfield Edwards, president of the conference.
“We’re very happy to welcome Joan to our team”, said Edwards. We’re confident that God will use her to do a marvellous work for the families in our conference. We solicit your prayers on her behalf.”

He also expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by the Women’s and Family Ministries committees in the absence of a director for over a year. They worked very closely with Kristen Bailey, the department’s secretary, to ensure that the scheduled training events and retreats continued uninterrupted.

The appointment was made after a lengthy process of advertising the position in the conference magazine, Ontario Highlights, and on the conference website in 2011, receiving applications and interviewing the candidates.

Joan and her husband David have three adult sons. They attend Mt. Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church in Etobicoke. She assumes her new responsibilities on September 1, 2011.

Halsey Peat

Adventist Health Ministries at Canadian National Exhibition

August 4, 2011, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

Seventh-day Adventist health will be on display for the first time at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) from August 19 until September 5, 2011.

Health Ministries director, Maria McClean, will lead a team of volunteers that will daily operate a booth from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. "I believe in marketplace evangelism", said McClean, "and being at the CNE in an official capacity is a great opportunity to reach the public with the message of the gospel through health." McClean who is constantly seeking ways through which she can impact various communities with Adventist health decided that there was no reason why there should not be an Adventist presence at the popular CNE, and applied on behalf of her department. To her delight, the application was approved.

"It is expected that over 1.3 million people will attend the CNE this year", she said, "So this will give us the greatest exposure that we have ever had. We are just grateful to God for this opportunity, and we look forward to the support of as many people as possible through their prayers and presence."

The CNE is the fifth largest of its type in North America.

Adventist Church in Hungary Loses Legal Status, Must Reapply Under New Legislation

August 4, 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, Bettina Krause/IRLA/ANN

Under controversial legislation passed last month, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hungary is one of 344 Christian churches and other faith groups that have lost their legal status and must apply to the Hungarian Parliament for registration.

Only 14 religious organizations have retained their previous status under the new law, which human rights advocates around the world have decried as "draconian" and "oppressive."

Ócsai Tamás, president of the Adventist Church in Hungary, has expressed his dismay that, in spite of previous assurances by government leaders, the church must now undertake the considerable task of applying to parliament for renewal of its registration.

"We're currently reviewing this matter with our church members, legal experts, the Trans-European Division, and the General Conference, and we intend to make a decision in September regarding the best way to move forward," Tamás said.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hungary meets all the criteria for re-registration under the new law," he said. "We ask for the prayers of our brothers and sisters around the world as we face this challenge."
According to Raafat Kamal, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist Church's Trans-European Division, the legislation that was passed by the Hungarian Parliament during the early morning hours of July 11 was very different from the version shown to faith groups during consultations in May and June this year.

"The process of applying for registration has now become politicized," Kamal said. "The outcome will be dependent on the political climate at any given time, and could expose religious minorities to unchecked discrimination."

John Graz, PARL director for the Adventist world church, says the new law has seriously compromised Hungary's standing as a country that respects and protects basic human rights.

"This law is inconsistent with both European values and with international covenants protecting religious freedom," Graz said. "We respectfully urge Hungary's lawmakers to consider the message this law sends to the international community, and to take steps to protect its religious minorities."

The legislation, called the "Law on the Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion, and on Churches, Religions and Religious Communities," requires religious groups that are not one of the 14 "approved" religious groups to undergo a process of applying for legal status. The new law also narrows the legal definition of "religious activities" and imposes a number of stringent conditions that must be met before an organization is granted the right to refer to itself as a "church." The law comes into force on January 1, 2012.

The Adventist Church in this central European country has more than 100 congregations and some 5,000 members. Since Communist rule in Hungary ended in 1989, interest in religion has grown with some 55 percent of the population now identifying themselves as Roman Catholic.

Source: Adventist News Network

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 10-14
Latter Rain Youth Evangelistic Series

Latter Rain Church will be having our Youth Evangelistic Series August 10 to 14 at 7:00 p.m. nightly. The theme is "Time to Wake Up", and the speaker is Elder Humphrey Gayle from New York. Invite your friends.

Youth Day at Latter Rain Church will be August 13. The speaker is Sis. Jessica Francis. Stay with us as we enjoy fellowship lunch together, which is provided for everyone. After lunch, Elder Humphrey Gayle will host a special Youth Rap Session at 4:00 p.m.

August 12-14
Family Life Weekend at Toronto Central - "Empowering the Family"

The Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting a Family Life weekend. Theme: “Empowering the Family” - with Augustine and Bev Panchoo (California, USA) from August 12 - 14. The weekend series will start on Friday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a presentation at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sabbath, August 13, including a “Couples Only” Seminar at 5:30 p.m. The weekend will end with a sumptuous brunch on Sunday, August 14, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Toronto Central Church 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 to tcentral@adventistontario.org.

August 13
Anti-Violence/Anti-Drugs March

On Sabbath, August 13, 2011, Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church will be holding their annual Anti-Violence and Anti-Drug March. The march begins at the church (1621 Albion Rd. at the Corner of Albion & Martingrove) at 4:00 p.m. Feel free to get creative and make your own poster and be sure to wear your
comfortable walking shoes. There will be an outdoor concert immediately following the march, so bring a lawn chair and enjoy a great praise and worship experience! Hope to see you there. For more information, contact the church office at 416-401-0030.

**August 19-21, August 26-28, and September 2-3**

**Weekends of Youth Evangelism at GTA French Group**

Join the Youth Ministry at the Seventh-day Adventist French Group in the GTA in our very first youth evangelistic series. The theme will be: *Connectés: Jeunesse en vue de l’Éternité (Connected: Youth for Eternity)*. Four dynamic young speakers will present this special series: Wanito Bernadin, Jonathan Zita, Adam Rop, and Pastor Patrick Jacques. The presentations will be held the weekends of August 19-21, August 26-28, and September 2-3. Meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Sundays, and 9:30 a.m. on Sabbath. On the last Sabbath, September 3, we will have a closing presentation that will start at 5:00 p.m. Come, and invite your friends! Translation will be provided. 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.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**Seventh-day Co-ed Volleyball League (SDC-CVL) – Fun, Fitness and Fellowship!**

The SDC-CVL will be celebrating their 25th year during the 2011/12 season. If your church is interested in joining the league, please write sdccvl@yahoo.ca as we are currently preparing for the new season. The league runs from September – April and is open to all ages and skill levels. Games are played on Saturday nights. Churches involved with the league include: Downsview, Kanisa Fellowship, Toronto West, Toronto East, Toronto Central et al. So, join us for fun, fitness and fellowship!

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