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NEWS

Nikolay Velinov Leaves Ontario Conference

December 15, 2011, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

Nikolay Velinov is leaving the employment of the Ontario Conference after 4 years. Nick, as he is commonly known, joined the conference staff in April of 2007 and quickly became a valuable member of the Information Technology Department.

Among Nick’s technological skills is his ability to design highly sophisticated websites that were very functional and easy to use. He put this to good use with the conference website and with numerous churches and their websites.

Shortly after arriving at the conference office, Nick was among the pioneers of the move to broadcast major conference events over the Internet. He could often be seen behind a video camera or other broadcast equipment.

For the past two summers, Nick was a fixture at the Pathfinder camporees where he recorded the events and created souvenir DVDs for the campers.
“Nick’s time with us is too short,” says Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards. “He has been a great asset to this conference, and we will surely miss him. We are better because of his time with us. However, we wish Him God’s richest blessings as he moves on.”

Nick will be returning to private industry after his departure at the end of 2011.

**Church Leaders Meet with Hungarian Ambassador on Looming Deregistration of Churches**

*December 13, 2011, Silver Springs, Maryland, United States...ANN*

Religious liberty leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church this week met the Hungarian ambassador to the United States in an effort to help officials from that country better understand the potential effects of a looming deregistration of churches.

The Law of Churches, set for implementation on January 1, would deregister all but 14 religious denominations in Hungary, including the Adventist Church. It could also potentially affect the church's theological seminary.

Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, Gyorgy Szapary, met with officials from the Adventist Church's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department on December 12 at the Hungarian embassy in Washington, D.C.

While the law is still set for implementation, Adventist representatives later described the meeting as "cordial" and "productive."

"We expressed our deep concerns to Ambassador Szapary about Hungary's recently passed 'Law on Churches' and its impact, not just on the Adventist Church, but on many other minority religions as well," said Dwayne Leslie, the Adventist Church's director of legislative affairs. Leslie represented the Adventist Church at the meeting along with Ganoune Diop, the church's representative to the United Nations.

Diop and Leslie provided the ambassodor with an overview of the international denomination and the history and scope of the Adventist presence in Hungary. They also explained the potential impact on the Adventist Theological Seminary in Pécel, near Budapest, which serves 66 students.

Adventist Education officials have previously said the seminary is key for providing theological and counseling education in the Hungarian language and cultural context. "Although it's small, the seminary meets the needs of the church in Hungary for pastors and theologians, as well as for life style and family life counselors," said Mike Lekic, an associate Education director for the Adventist Church.

Following Monday's meeting, Diop said the ambassador was gracious and receptive to the issues presented by the Adventist Church. "The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for dialogue -- we stated our concerns clearly, and heard the perspective of the Hungarian government," he said.

When the new law, voted in July, goes into effect next month, it will strip all but 14 "historic" religions of their legal status. Minority religions must then apply to the Hungarian parliament for re-registration.

Since the legislation was passed, Hungary has maintained that the move was not "anti-religion," but rather a legislative means to root out fraudulent organizations operating behind the protection of religion.

Religious liberty advocates worldwide, however, have decried the law, calling it unnecessary state interference with religion and a setback for human rights in Hungary. More than 300 groups are set to lose their registration, including Hungary's Methodists, Unitarians, a number of Islamic communities, and many smaller Protestant and evangelical churches.

In November, Diop and John Graz, PARL director for the Adventist world church, met in New York with Hungary's ambassador to the United Nations to express the church's concerns about the potential plight not just of Adventists, but of other religious groups in Hungary that will be affected by the new law.

Leslie and Diop said the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department will continue to monitor the situation in Hungary and will provide any assistance requested by local church leaders.

*Source: Adventist News Network*

**EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
December 16 & 17

**Bronte Christmas Program: “Start at the Manger then Go to the Cross”**

The real meaning of Christmas is to take that journey together from birth to death, manger to cross. This musical performance will be presented by Bronte Choir on Friday, December 16th – 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath, December 17th – 11:00 a.m. with the last performance on Saturday December 17th – 7:30 p.m. Admission is a non-perishable food items for Bronte Church’s food drive which will be collected at the door.

Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 2031 Bronte Road, Oakville. Phone number: 905-825-0230. www.brontesda.org

December 16 & 17

**“Victory! We’ve Crossed Over!!” at Philadelphia Church**

This is the theme for Philadelphia Church as we celebrate our move to our newly acquired church home at 65 Grand Marshall Dr., Scarborough (Sheppard & Morningside), doubled with our Thanksgiving/Homecoming Day. Celebration services begin on Friday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m., and Sabbath, Dec. 17, 9:15 a.m. Join us in giving thanks with a tangible offering of gratitude to God for His providential guidance to our earthly “Promised Land”.

February 10-12

**Date Change for Campus Ministries Retreat**

Because of the 2012 Reading Week timeslot, the campus ministries retreat has been rescheduled for **February 10 – 12, 2012**. Contact Pastor Millett, campus ministries director, via email at cmillet@adventistontario.org, for details.

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

**The Ontario Conference Is Seeking a Web Developer/Support Specialist**

The Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking a committed and highly motivated web developer and support specialist to assist in the Information Technology Department. He/she must be knowledgeable, well rounded, flexible, and willing to assist in various I.T. related areas.

The successful candidate will, among other responsibilities, be responsible for proposing technologies that can be utilized on the web to meet the objectives of the organization; create and maintain websites, applications, and services as determined by the departmental director; maintain the messaging system used by the organization, and troubleshoot and provide technical support with hardware and software issues within the office.

To view the full job posting, visit www.adventistontario.org/jobs

Please send your resume to the Human Resources Department c/o ikapusi@adventistontario.org. Only suitably qualified candidates will be contacted.

**Thunder Bay Church is looking for these members:**

Gerald Osmond Burton - Marie-Eve Duval, and Maria Cecilia Manusoc.

If you have any information, please contact Pastor Jim Rieder at: 807-983-2659 or jrieder@tbaytel.net
Leamington Church is requesting any information re. the following individuals. If you know their whereabouts or have information on how they can be contacted, please contact Dirk Zinner, pastor, at 519-322-1644 or email: dzinner@adventistontario.org.
Sheila Adams - Sheryl and Marley Holland - Brian and Scott Johnson - Heather Mason

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

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