Ontario Conference News

Electronic Newsletter of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventist

January 26, 2012

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NEWS

Ontario Conference Officers Take REACH to Churches

January 23, 2012, Hamilton, Ontario...OCN

Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, and executive secretary, Dr. Dan Linrud, yesterday led out at Hamilton Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church in the first public presentation of the Conference’s REACH strategy.

Over 70 pastors, elders and church officers from churches across the Southern Ontario region were present at the 9:30 Sunday morning meeting.

After an inspiring devotion by Ministerial director, Dr. Errol Lawrence, the president presented the REACH strategy to the attendees in general and in broad terms. He explained the meaning of the acronym and stated that it was much more than simply a slogan.

“REACH is the revival, nurture and evangelistic strategic of the church,” he said. “At the conference office, our directors and staff are really excited about what this can do for our church over the next few years, and you have
been invited here so that you may also share in this excitement. We want you to get an understanding of what this is all about and for you to go back to your churches and spread the word.”

Edwards explained that over the next few weeks and months, church leaders will be provided with the necessary details for them to help their congregations embrace REACH and begin its implementation.

Dr. Dan Linrud followed Edwards with a presentation on Natural Church Development (NCD) and how it may be used with REACH to help congregations grow.

Over the next few weeks, the conference officers, along with a number of directors, such as Family Ministries director, Joan Rogers, who was also present, will travel to each region to meet with local pastors, elders and church officers to introduce the REACH strategy to them.

Upcoming meetings will be held at London Church (February 12), Ottawa (March 17), and Sudbury (April 15). The date for the Greater Toronto Area will shortly be announced.

Ontario Conference to Launch School of Evangelism in Southern and Eastern Ontario

January 14, 2012, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

The Ontario Conference is set to expand its school of evangelism by launching two new schools in March, 2012.

The schools will be launched in Southern Ontario at Kitchener-Waterloo Seventh-day Adventist Church on March 24 and in Eastern Ontario at Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist Church on March 31. At the launch, students will meet conference officials, their professors and the organisers of the school of evangelism. Classes will begin by the end of the month in both places.

Pastor Theodore Sargeant, one of the four organisers (or principals, as they are sometimes termed) explained that while these areas are presently being served by broadcasting the school of evangelism in Toronto via the Internet, it was felt that students would benefit more by attending a class together.

“We want them to share in the experience of leaning and growing together, rather than simply being at alone at home behind a computer,” said Sargeant.

Students from both regions are already registering via the conference website (www.adventistontario.org). Meanwhile, a new group of students in the GTA are preparing to begin their course, also at the end of March.

Students who began in March 2011 are eagerly working hard to be able to join in the graduation on June 30, 2012.

In Nigeria, Escalating Religious Conflict Impacts Adventist Church

Jan. 23, 2012, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Gilbert Weeh/ANN staff

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nigeria is seeing a drop in church attendance and some church closures amid worsening religious conflict in the country.

An upsurge of attacks against Christian churches by the extremist group Boko Haram beginning late last year has led to on-going sectarian violence between Muslim and Christian groups in northeast Nigeria.

Adding to the tumult, the country’s government recently eliminated energy subsidies, doubling the price of gasoline and inciting nationwide strikes and demonstrations. News reports indicate that Nigerians are living in fear of continuing unrest.

Meanwhile, Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie called on religious leaders in her country to speak out against the violence, the Guardian reported last week.
“Christian leaders must continue to preach peace and togetherness so that Christians do not retaliate,” Adichie told the Guardian. “Muslim leaders must strongly and repeatedly condemn the violence against Christians and make it clear that Boko Haram does not represent Nigerian Islam,” she said.

The Adventist Church in the country has devoted recent days to fasting and prayer for the on-going situation. Church administration in the country is encouraging membership to work in small groups and avoid large public religious gatherings. Open air evangelism efforts have been put on hold due to a curfew and the fragile security situation, church officials said.

According to a report by Northeast Nigeria Conference President Bindas Stephen Haruna, the Adventist Church there has not suffered property damage or loss of life. However, some individual members have had their property looted or burned.

“The situation in Northern Nigeria shows how a lack of religious freedom can affect the life of churches, and why we must promote and strongly defend this essential freedom before it is too late,” said John Graz, director for the Adventist world church’s Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

Church attendance in northeast Nigeria has dropped drastically, leading to church closures in some regions where most members are traveling business people who have returned to their homes. In other churches, pastors have left their congregations for fear of being killed.

The situation has produced a wave of small group evangelism, church leaders said. As Nigerian Adventists funnel their efforts to spread the Adventist hope on a smaller scale, church officials in the country are soliciting the prayers and support of the world church family.

*Source: Adventist News Network*

**EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**January 28**

**Kingsway College Alumni**

Calling all Kingsway College Alumni to come out and play in the annual Student vs. Alumni ice hockey game on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. The evening will begin with an open skate for families at 8:00 p.m. which will then be followed by the hockey game. Space is limited so for free registration and more information, please call Adam Mohns at 905-433-1144 ext. 276. The game will be held at Harman Park Arena in Oshawa, Ontario 829 Douglas St. (& Wolfe) Oshawa, Ontario.

**January 29**

**Free Adventist Education / Home and School Leader Training Webinar**

There will be a free Adventist Education / Home and School Leader Training Webinar on Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All Adventist education leaders, home and school leaders and education supporters are encouraged to attend. Register at [https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/202278758](https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/202278758). After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

**January 29**

**Ontario Prison Ministry Association Regular Business Session**

The Ontario Prison Ministry Association of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is having its regular business session to discuss and review the affairs of OPMASDA

Date: January 29, 2012
Venue: 150 Bentworth Avenue
Time: 10:30 a.m.
All Prison Ministry Volunteers are asked to be in attendance.

**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 cmillett@adventistontario.org, for details.

**February 11**

**Milton’s Organization Ceremony**

It is Milton Company's honor and pleasure to cordially invite you to the Milton Church Organizational Ceremony on February 11th, 2012 at the Milton Senior Centre, 500 Child's Drive, Milton ON L9T 5G2 at 4:00 p.m. Morning service of praise and adoration will be at the same address at 10:00 a.m. Our morning speaker will be Pastor F. Maitland.

Lunch will be served and a special ‘High Tea’ will be served following the ceremony to all our visitors. Come and support Milton as we 'grow & bear fruits' in Milton Community. For more information, please contact: 647-825-7448

**OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**Chatham Church** in Ontario is looking for information regarding the following individuals. If you have any information regarding these persons, please contact Pastor Dirk Zinner c/o 20 Croydon St., Chatham, On   N7L 1L3 or email: dzinner@adventistontario.org.


**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

**Pennies for Missions**

Ever wonder what to do with all those pennies laying around? Well, the Cochrane Seventh-day Adventist Group in Cochrane, Ontario, has decided to do 'Pennies for Missions".

To help commemorate the 100th birthday of the mission quarterly, the Cochrane Group has decided that in 2012, at the end of every quarter, along with their regular offering, they will collect all their pennies on hand and give to missions. The congregation has also put out a challenge to all churches, not only in Ontario but all divisions to try and do the same.

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

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