In This Issue…

1. News
   · Large Group of Ontario Pastors Make a Visit to the Holy Land
   · SDACC Appoints Communication Director
   · Militant Secularisation Threat to Religion

2. Events and Announcements

3. Other Advertisements and Job Opportunities

NEWS

Large Group of Ontario Pastors Make a Visit to the Holy Land

February 16, 2012, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

On Tuesday, February 14, forty-nine conference employees and some spouses arrived at Tel-Aviv’s Ben Gurion airport for the first part of a ten-day educational visit to Israel. The visit to Israel was organised by the Ontario Conference to help church workers see some of the places of which they have heard so much and preached about.

“We believe that this experience will greatly enhance the teaching and preaching of the pastors who were able to accompany us on this trip,” said Pastor Mansfield Edwards, conference president. “As we read the Bible, we will be able to visualize the locations and have a greater sense of its message. We only wish that all our pastors could have been with us for this visit.”
The visit will take in the usual tourist sites but will also include some of the less popular, but important locations. The purpose is to learn as much about the land in Bible times.

An additional feature of the trip will be the meetings held for learning and discussion. Most pastors, however, will be looking forward to the specially planned worship sessions.

The Israel visit was planned nearly 18 months ago in order to allow the pastors time to prepare the necessary funds for themselves and their wives.

Before leaving for Israel trip, the conference administrators authorised Pastor Halsey Peat, Communication director, to co-ordinate conference activities until they return.

**SDACCC Appoints Communication Director**

*February 16, 2012, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN*

On Tuesday, February 7, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACCC) elected Stanley Jensen as its Communication director.

At a specially called meeting of the board of directors, a decision was made to create the new position of Communication director and editor for the union paper, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. For the past four years, the SDACCC has been thinking of creating the new position but has only now done so.

Pastor Mark Johnson, SDACCC president, informed Stan Jensen, as he is more commonly known, shortly after and a surprised Jensen exclaimed, “I feel honoured to be called. I was not looking for anything. All I wanted to do was to work on getting the Hope Channel on cable television from coast to coast.”

The appointment is the second major occurrence for Jensen since January. In January, he was happy to hear that his work to have the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approve the Hope Channel for broadcast on cable television. Now, he wants to use his new position to have the CRTC’s approval for the Hope Channel to broadcast in ten languages. Presently, it is the only English language religious television programme to broadcast nation-wide on cable television.

Jensen will also be responsible for the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. He replaces Crystal Steeves as editor.

Jensen has worked in every conference in Canada and returns to Ontario, where he worked as manager of the Adventist Book Centre from 1988 until 1996. For the past ten years, he has worked as the Communication director as well as the director of Planned Giving and Trust Services for the British Columbia Conference. Previously, he served there as the assistant treasurer.

**Militant Secularisation Threat to Religion**

*February 17, 2012, Watford, United Kingdom...BUC News Edition #768*

Religion is being "sidelined, marginalised and downgraded in the public sphere..." is a message that Baroness Warsi, a Conservative Cabinet Office minister shared on a visit to the Vatican this week and then shared with a wider public.

She argues that "Britain is under threat from a rising tide of militant secularisation," she wrote in an article for the *Daily Telegraph*. In the article she stated, "I profoundly believe that faith has a vital and important role to play in modern society. But mistakenly, faith has been neglected, undermined – and yes, even attacked – by governments in recent years."

Her stand has been equally trumped by Oxford professor, Professor Roger Trigg, a leading figure in the University's philosophy and theology faculties, who states that courts in the West are putting equality issues before the right to religious freedom. The *Christian Institute* quotes him as saying, "In recent years there has been a clear trend for courts in Europe and North America to prioritise equality and non-discrimination above religion, placing the right to religious freedom in danger. No State can be a functioning democracy unless it allows its
citizens to manifest their beliefs about what is most important in life. I am calling for these rights to be balanced."

He made the claim after studying recent cases in the UK, USA, Canada and mainland Europe.

Meanwhile the Prime Minister, David Cameron, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, have both backed prayers in the Commons despite last week's controversial ruling on local council prayers. Last Friday, 10 February, a judge in the High Court ruled that the saying of prayers as a 'formal' part of local council meetings was unlawful. This was following a case brought by the National Secular Society against Bideford Town Council in Devon which has, recently, twice voted in support of continuing with the prayers.

The BBC News religious affairs correspondent, Robert Pigott comments that "By and large, judges have been unsympathetic to the Christian case when people have argued that they don't want to do things like advising homosexual couples." He adds, "The tide has been flowing pretty firmly against Christianity in public life and it's caused huge concerns for the churches. They say it's being driven out of public life."

This was highlighted on BBC Radio 4's 'Today programme' on Wednesday 16 January, when secularist, Richard Dawkins challenged that Christianity is a much smaller influence on national life then people imagine and that even those who 'tick the Christian box' often do so for social more than religious reasons. The Christian corner was robustly defended by Reverend Giles Fraser, former Canon Chancellor of St Paul's, who called Dawkins' findings "extraordinary" and maintained that it was not fair to trump people's "self-identification" as Christians. Listeners were also mildly amused to find Dawkins, a militant atheist, stating "O God" under his breath when asked to give the full title of 'The Origin of Species' as part of his defence.

"There is a God shaped hole in all of us," states Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles, "sometimes we just don't recognise that it is there." At a recent convention of Adventist business professionals he accepted the challenge that Adventists need to play a larger part in public life and that as a Church we have a significant voice and important point of view that should help influence the moral compass for a modern Britain.

Source: BUC News

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18
“Gabby’s Gift--Hope in the Heart of a Child"

Have you ever received the worst news possible? News that would change your life forever? The Ottawa Adventist Church Family Life Ministries department invites you to listen to Sharon Modeste-Ennis in the true-life story of her daughter being born with spina bifida.

Come on this Saturday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m. to hear her testimony as she shares her faith in God as her fundamental source of strength.
Bring a friend with you.

February 18
Multicultural Night

The Community Services Ministry will host a Cultural Fun Night, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Theme: One Love, Many Countries

Plan to take a trip!! Come enjoy the music, styles, and flavours of countries around the world. Come enjoy an evening of fun, food and laughter. Please phone Kathleen at 613.843.1190 as soon as possible if you are participating, or would like to participate in the parade of flags - the food fair - the national dress/costume fashion show, or - to showcase your talents, performing poems, skits, songs from your country.

Gather your countrymen and countrywomen, let’s join forces to bring together the various cultures and traditions from all over the world, and make this a night of cultural fun!
February 25
Seventh-day Co-ed Volleyball League (SDC-CVL) – All Star Game

The SDC-CVL is celebrating our 25th year during the 2011/12 season. Come out and see some of the best players in the league as they display their skills at our annual All Star games on Saturday, February 25 starting at 8:00pm – admission is FREE. The games will be played at James McGuigan CS located at 1440 Finch Avenue West (corner of Keele/Finch). If your church is interested in joining the league for the 2012/13 season, please write sdcvl@yahoo.ca.

February 25
Singin’ in the Spirit – Black History Concert

Join us at the Ottawa Adventist Church at 7:00 p.m. for a musical celebration of the black experience through Spirituals and gospel music, featuring choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists. Special Guests include: Fourth Ave. Baptist Choir, Rev. Ernie Cox, and Crescendo. Donations will be collected to give to a local charity.

February 26
“An Evening in February”

You are heartily invited to "An Evening in February" presented by CAA Music Department. The event will be staged in the CAA Auditorium on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 2:00 – 4:00 pm and will feature food, fun and fellowship. Come out and enjoy entertainment provided by CAA HS band and choir as well as other guest artists. Tickets are on sale for $20 per person; $25 at the door; $15 for children aged 6-12. To purchase tickets and obtain more information, call the Music Department (416) 633-0090, ext. 230 or email caamusicdept@gmail.com.

March 31
Toronto French Company Special Concert

Toronto French Seventh-day Adventist Company is pleased to invite you to a special concert on Sabbath afternoon, March 31st 2012, at 5:00 pm. The theme of the concert will be “The Death and the Resurrection of Jesus-Christ”. The concert program will be presented in both English and French, and people from our church and from others in the GTA will be singing. It will be a great opportunity to present the gospel of Jesus-Christ to non-Adventists. Admission is free; all we ask is if you could voluntarily bring non-perishable foods and clothes of good quality that will be collected and remitted to charitable organizations in Scarborough. Invite your friends, family, and workplace colleagues to this special program. For more information, call Ralph Rancy at (647) 923-9716. You may also e-mail at eaft@live.ca or visit our website at www.eaft.ca.

April 14 & 22
Fine Arts Festival & Annual Math Olympiad

Fine Arts Festival - On Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Crawford Adventist Academy gymnasium, the Ontario Conference Office of Education presents “God Encounters.” Participants include College Park Elementary School, Cornerstone Christian Elementary School, Crawford Adventist Academy, Crawford Adventist Academy East, Grandview Adventist Academy, Adventist Christian Elementary School, Ottawa Adventist School, Peel Adventist School and Windsor Adventist Elementary School. Come join us for an evening of music and art presented by the students of the schools in Ontario. Admission is free.

On Sunday, April 22, 2012, the Ontario Conference Office of Education is sponsoring the annual Math Olympiad at Crawford Adventist Academy (CAA). We are looking for teams of 4-6 students of Junior High age who will participate in this event. The pathfinder club is one source for participants since the age range of 11 – 13 is reflected. To register and for more information, you may contact Judy Burgin-Hall at CAA (416- 633-0090). Deadline for registration is Thursday, March 29, 2012.

May 24-27
59th Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend

1962. ‘Fashion Builds’, an alumni-driven event in support of the new school initiative will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2012; Alumni Sabbath followed by an evening Alumni Reunion Concert on Saturday, May 26, 2012; the 4th Annual Vernon Langdon Golf Classic, Richmond Hill Golf Club, and the 7th Annual Walk ‘n Roll 4Education will be held on Sunday, May 27, 2012. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, Toll-free 866.960.2125 Ext. 234, dhall@tadsb.com; or Judy Cardona-Gamez, Ext. 248, jgamez@tadsb.com Visit our official website www.tadsb.com

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

Job opportunity at Kingsway College

Kingsway College is seeking applicants for a full time Chaplain. Please visit the Kingsway College website (www.kingswaycollege.on.ca) under the “Faculty & Staff” page for more information regarding this 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

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

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

OCNews is the property of Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Articles may be copied for use in other publications; however, reference to OCN should be clearly displayed.

Advertisements Policy: Accepted advertisements will be church events only. No personal or commercial advertisements. Plain text only. Events are included as a service and not as an obligation. OCN reserves the right to exclude any advertisements of events.

E-mail: OCN@adventistontario.org
Website: www.AdventistOntario.org

OCN is a publication of the Communications Department of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Phone: 905-571-1022 - Fax: 905-571-5995
Director: Halsey Peat
E-mail: hpeat@adventistontario.org
Layout/Typing: Sarah Gouda
E-mail: sgouda@adventistontario.org

Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote