July 5, 2012

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“The Best Camp Meeting in Years”

July 4, 2012, Oshawa, Ontario…OCN

“This was the best camp meeting in years!” seemed to have been the opinion of many among the nearly 10,000 attendees as they streamed out of the International Centre, late on Saturday night, June 30, 2012.

“It was superb,” said one man. “I thought last year was good, but this one somehow managed to top it.”

“It was my first year attending a camp meeting event;” tweeted Teka Clarke, “it was a pretty interesting experience.”

The parade of nations, first held two years ago, was again a big draw for many. “I just love seeing my brothers and sisters from all over the world come together,” said Elaine from Toronto. “The parade of nations gives me such a good feeling. When I learned that we were having one this year, I just had to come”.

Even the youth and young adults’ speaker, Pastor Seth Yelorda, was impressed and tweeted, “Had a GREAT TIME at Toronto camp meeting. Great people, Great fellowship!! Until next time!”

Camp meeting has moved beyond being just a convocation,” explained Halsey Peat, Ontario Conference communications director. “It has become a model worship experience. Our president, Pastor Edwards, along with fellow-administrator, Pastor Daniel Linrud, worship director, Pastor Schwinghammer, youth director, Pastor Cyril Millett, and others have worked very hard to ensure that everyone attending camp meeting would encounter God.”

For the second consecutive year, the teens had a worship of their own. And what a time they had! In the hall where the worship planners and leaders are always expected to work harder than anywhere else, the teens eagerly responded to Ricky Schwarz’s narrative-style preaching. Twenty-five signed decision cards to accept Jesus as their Saviour for the first time. Six teens requested baptism.

Next door in hall 4, the seats in the young adults’ service quickly filled up and, with standing room only, nearly two thousand youth and young adults were soon engaged in a worship service that was described as “highly spiritual, engaging, and deeply inspirational”.

In both morning and evening services, led respectively by Vernon Smith, Michael Harris and their praise teams, the entire service–music, prayer, offering, sermon–simply coalesced into a symphony of praise to God.

One young adult summarised the expressions of many when he said, “if worship were like this at my local church, I’d never want to go anywhere else”.

The two sermons preached by Pastor Seth Yelorda significantly contributed to this sentiment. Yelorda simply preached wonderful sermons, to which many positively responded when he appealed for them to commit their lives to Jesus.
It was evident that Ontario Conference youth director, Pastor Millett, was very happy with how things turned out. “To say that the congregation was blessed is an understatement,” he said. We most certainly witnessed the presence of the Spirit of God at camp meeting.”

Back in hall 5, with chairs for 6,000 and hundreds more standing at the rear of the hall, worshippers were led to catch a vision of God’s glory as each segment of worship progressively led them into God’s presence. They had witnessed representatives of 54 nations proudly carry national flags in the parade of nations, but many will long remember during the morning service the visually stimulating unfurling of two huge red banners to form the shape of the cross during the singing of a medley of songs that concluded with “Thank You for the Price You Paid”.
It clearly set the tone for worshippers to joyfully respond to God.

For both morning and evening services, the worship experience was what many would take with them from camp meeting. However, they could not leave without the powerful preaching and personal testimony of Pastor Ron Smith.

“It was just what I needed to hear,” said Albert from Etobicoke. “The messages, especially the one in the evening, was just for me.”

Camp meeting would not be the same without an ordination and commissioning service. In the afternoon, Jewel Scott and Dureine Jean were commissioned to the teaching ministry. Travis Afflick, Joe Duchesne, Patrick Jacques, Marvin Clarke, Todor Levelev, and Fitzroy Radlein were ordained to the gospel ministry. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Earlier, camp meeting featured the graduation of the inaugural class of the Ontario School of Evangelism, when over 120 blue-robed students graduated in a moving ceremony. Their families and friends were joined by over 4,000 persons to witness the graduation.

After supper, during his presidential address, Pastor Mansfield Edwards highlighted two areas of great significance—the REACH initiative and a proposal to build a multi-purpose centre in Oshawa that would be the future home of multi-day camp meetings.

Camp meeting 2012 concluded in each of the three worship halls with a call for renewed commitment to Jesus.

**Ontario Conference Takes REACH to Pastors**

*July 5, 2012, Oshawa, Ontario…OCN*

On Thursday, June 28, 2012, the officers and directors of the Ontario Conference took the REACH strategy to the pastors at their annual Workers Meeting at Toronto West Adventist Church.

“I know that most of you have at one time or another, attended one of the REACH regional meetings that were held earlier this year,” said Pastor Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, “but today we want to take you further along so that you will have a better understanding of how to lead your congregations in the process.”
He went on to inform them that the administration and directors had been working as team for nearly eight months in formulating a strategy and were ready to share their experience with them.

He introduced Joan Rogers, Family and Women’s Ministries director, and Halsey Peat, Communications and PARL director, who were both part of a team that had worked on a planning guide to assist churches in the process.

Guides were handed to each pastor and Bible instructor, and Rogers and Peat outlined the contents of the guide and walked them through it, highlighting particular sections. Three directors illustrated the planning process in the form of a drama that asked the type of questions that would be expected to be asked during planning at the local church level.

Armed with the guide, having watched drama, pastors were then separated into their ministerial districts where they spent over an hour playing the role of a REACH planning committee in a local church. Directors assigned to each ministerial group acted as coaches.

“It was important that pastors experience the planning process;” explained Pastor Daniel Linrud, Ontario Conference executive secretary, “it’s not something they can just get from a book. When they experience it, they are able to be far more effective in leading a congregation through the process.”

After the role play, each group reported to the body of workers, and Pastor Linrud led the group in brief discussion regarding what they had experienced and achieved.

Pastor Edwards indicated that the leaders of each region will be invited to the conference office to join in the planning process and so gain more valuable experience in the process. The leaders will in turn become coaches for their regions and help offer support to churches.

**On Ordination Questions, Adventist Leadership Appeals for Orderly Process**

*June 29, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States/ Mark Kellner/Adventist World*

The world leadership of the Seventh-day Adventists has issued a highly unusual “appeal for unity” to regional administrative units of the church that have either taken or are considering independent action regarding the ordination of women to gospel ministry. The request comes in a statement issued today in response to actions by several union conferences, including two in North America.

The union conferences, the key constituent elements of the church’s worldwide General Conference, have indicated either a willingness to ordain women, or to take independent actions that would permit such ordinations in their territories. At present, the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not ordain women to ministry, following votes at General Conference sessions in 1990 and 1995 on the question where the issue was a major focus of the international delegation.

The appeal -- available by clicking [HERE](#) -- was prepared and unanimously accepted by consensus by the General Conference officers, a group of 40 senior leaders of the church, including the 13 division presidents who also serve as vice-presidents of the General Conference.
The appeal begins by noting the recent local actions and/or proposals, as well as reminding both the union conferences and the church’s wider membership that the entire subject of ordination is under study by the worldwide Adventist family, with results due in 2014. Once those results are received, the document states, the G.C.’s Executive Committee, the highest interim authority between quinquennial international sessions of the church, will decide whether to make further recommendations on the ordination issue to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, in July 2015.

Until then, a move “to change or modify ordination practices is a global one and necessitates a decision from the world body,” the document stated.

“For any union to introduce a different ministerial ordination practice is seen, by the rest of the Church, as readiness to set aside a world Church decision and proceed in another direction,” Adventist leaders wrote. “Such actions, taken at the very time when the world Church is engaged in a study and discussion of the matter, pre-empt the process and any decision that might come from it.”

The leaders pointed to the collaborative approach to key decisions that has characterized Seventh-day Adventist polity since the church’s organization nearly 150 years ago in 1863: “The essence of unity in Seventh-day Adventist organizational functioning is the mutual commitment of all organizations to collective decision-making in matters affecting the whole family—and the acceptance of those decisions as the authority of the Church. The action of any union in pursuing a different course of action represents a rejection of this key value in denominational life.”

At the same time, the appeal noted, “General Conference officers welcome and invite unions to participate in the global study of ordination. This study will be the most widespread and thorough study the Church has undertaken on this topic. Earlier studies have been conducted by commissions. This is the first time that a study of ministerial ordination engages the whole Church through the 13 divisions.”

The leaders acknowledge that the question of women’s ordination has been a topic of deep concern to many within the movement: “… We realize that sharply differing convictions with respect to ministerial ordination for women exist in our global family. We also realize that the passage of time without finding satisfaction for the tensions on this question can give rise to frustration and the erosion of confidence that a timely and mutually satisfactory resolution can be found.”

However, the Adventist world leaders said they “earnestly appeal” to the unions involved to:

1. Operate in harmony with the decisions of the worldwide church;
2. Avoid any independent action contrary to the decisions taken by the global body of the church in 1990 and 1995;
3. Communicate to their constituents the implications of independent action for the health of the wider denomination;
4. Actively engage in the established global discussion about the practice of ordination slated to report in 2014 and 2015.

As of December 31, 2010, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had 60 unions with conference status and 59 unions with mission status. Organized as a General Conference in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has 17 million baptized members and is active in 209 countries.
and territories around the world. An estimated 30 million people attend Seventh-day Adventist worship services weekly.

Source: Adventist News Network

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 7
Communication Sabbath with General Conference Communication Director

Everyone is invited to the Filipino-Canadian Church on Sabbath, July 7. Guest speaker for the morning services and afternoon seminar will be Richard Kajiura, Communication director and Office of Adventist Mission from the General Conference. He will be presenting updates from the Global Missions, and topics, such as social media trends, church communication trends, etc. For more information, contact Pearlie Cada at filcansda@gmail.com or call 647-799-0824.

July 7-21
“Hope for Your Future Revealed” at Mount Olive Church

Come and hear the dynamic preaching by Pastor Delroy Hamilton as he explain the biblical truth on the theme “Hope For Your Future Revealed” for the two week period, July 7-21, at the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. The meeting will be held nightly from 7:00-8:30 p.m. except for Mondays and Thursdays. Our church is located at 1030 Albion Road, Islington. For further information, please call 416-741-1682.

July 14
Community Guest Day at Toronto French Group

You are all invited to our Community Guest Day on July 14 at Toronto French Seventh-day Adventist Group. It will be day you will not want to miss! We will have special gifts for our non-Adventist friends, whether they speak French or English. Translation will be provided for our non-French-speaking friends. On that day, we will also have as our guest speaker Dr. Mansfield Edwards, president of our Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Come over, bring your friends and families, and enjoy a wonderful worship day. A great meal will be offered after divine hour, followed by a special program in the afternoon. Come and be blessed, at 37 Marchington Circle, Scarborough. For more information, you may contact us by e-mail at eaft@live.ca, by phone at 289-632-2811. You may also visit our website at www.eaft.ca.

July 14
Prayer Day and Voices of Praise Male Choir to Sing at Madoc Church

Madoc is inviting you to their annual Prayer Day services 9:30 to 5:00 p.m., 14 July 2012. Pastor McFarlane of Mt. Olive church will be the speaker and a Male Choir from Toronto will give special music. Fellowship dinner so bring a dish. Special prayer services in the afternoon. Call Phyllis 613-473-5332 or Dorothy 613-395-3582.

July 15
CYSA's annual Track & Field
CYSA's annual Track & Field will be held on July 15th at the York University Track & Field Stadium. Parking is free, and there will be food for sale. Join us for a day of fun and friendly competition. Please visit www.cysa.ca for details on how your church can participate in this event.

July 25-29
APMOA’s 22nd Annual Prison Ministry Convention

Alliance of Prison Ministry organizations & Affiliates (APMOA) is having their 22nd Annual Prison Ministry Convention in Newark, New Jersey, on July 25-29, 2012. The Canadian Contingent is responsible for the opening night which is Wednesday, July 25, 2012. Pastor Eustace Williams, Personal Ministry director will be the speaker and the divine speaker for Sabbath, July 28, 2012 will be Elder C.D. Brooks. For the first time there will be a Canadian workshop. All who are interested in going, please contact Bethel France at 416-462-3279, Pat Longmore at 416-616-8344 or Millie Fearman at 416-292-5264. All Prison Ministry volunteers should attend this convention. A bus will be leaving for New Jersey on Monday, July 23, 2012.

August 5
Annual GTA Picnic

Curtis Ambrose is planning the annual GTA-wide picnic, and he is hoping that your church will be able to join us this year.

The picnic will be on Sunday, August 5th, 2012 at Queenston Heights Park in beautiful Niagara Falls. The picnic area booked can easily hold 1000 - 1500 people. If you would like your church to join us for the picnic, please contact Curtis Ambrose at 416-624-9692 or email him at curtdiggie1@hotmail.com.

August 11
Brampton Church Homecoming Event

Having realized that former members and visitors to our local congregation may have spread across the larger Ontario region, we invite all such persons to our homecoming event on August 11, 2012.

Brampton Seventh-day Adventist church welcomes you and looks forward to this joyous Sabbath reunion!

Homecoming event will be held at our local church: 37 Millstone Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

August 24-25
Richmond Hill’s 50th Anniversary

Richmond Hill Church will be celebrating its 50th anniversary - August 24 & 25 2012. All former members, pastors, family & friends are invited to join us for vespers Friday evening, Sabbath services, fellowship lunch, followed by a special afternoon musical program and a walk down memory lane power point presentation. For more information, visit our website at www.rhsda.ca.

August 31 – September 2
North Eastern Ontario Camp Meeting 2012
NORTH EASTERN ONTARIO CAMPMEETING will be held at CAMP NORONTO August 31st - September 2, 2012. Guest speaker will be renown evangelist and author, Pastor Rex Edwards. Please join us for a Spirit-filled weekend at Camp Noronto. For more info, please contact Pastor Jake (705-626-0530) -jivanovic@adventistontario.org or Inez Richards (705-969-8101) -inezrichards@hotmail.com . Please register by August 15, 2012. Registration forms are available at the Sudbury Church website — www.sudburyadventist.org

September 8
Day for Community Outreach

This will be a special day to reflect on the tragic event that happened on September 11, 2001, and to honour the men and women who are on active duty preserving the lives of others. We encourage all churches to design a special service and invite the emergency responders (policemen, firefighters, EMS personnel) of your local communities, who are constantly on the frontline.

September 28-30
Seniors’ Wellness Retreat 2012

September 28-30, 2012 - Seniors’ Wellness Retreat to be held at the Delta Toronto East Hotel (2035 Kennedy Road, Toronto – Hwy. 401 & Kennedy). Registration forms soon to be available from your pastors, head elders, church clerks and senior ministry coordinators.

October 13
Immanuel Church Homecoming

Special invitation is extended to all former Immanuel members to worship and fellowship with us on Sabbath, October 13th, for our homecoming celebration. Sabbath services will start at 9:15 a.m. and close with a musical concert in the afternoon. www.Immanuelsda.org

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

Spanish Betel is looking for the following members:
Any information, please contact the church clerk by email betelspclerk@adventistontario.org or by phone at 416-953-6690:


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