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NEWS

Festival of the Laity Set to Commence

After months of planning, the Ontario Conference’s Festival of the Laity 2012 is set to commence tonight, September 13, 2012.

Over three hundred persons are expected to attend the three-day festival of worship, evangelistic training, fellowship and motivation at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Richmond Hill.

“We have brought together over 21 of the best trainers and inspirational speakers from across North America,” said festival organiser, Pastor Eustace Williams, Personal Ministries director for the Ontario Conference. “They are practitioners of our theme, “Using the Master’s Methods”, so everyone can expect to learn from the best.”

Williams also said that the festival has been planned as a time for “equipping the saints.”

“Our time on earth is almost finished,” he said, “and we must be very intentional about winning souls for God’s kingdom. We are expecting that every participant will return to their congregations with both knowledge and motivation to reach out to others in his or her community.”

Williams had been hoping that over 500 person would have registered, but recognised that in the present economic climate it is difficult for many people to take time off during the week. However, the festival needed multiple days in order to provide the quality of training necessary. Therefore, only those who are registered will be able to attend. It will not be possible for anyone to simply turn up on Sabbath and expect to attend.

Iranian Pastor Sentenced to Death for Apostasy Reportedly Released

September 10, 2012, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

After three years in prison and just months after an execution order had been made, Christian pastor, Youcef Nadarkhan, has been acquitted of the charge of apostasy and has been reunited with his family.

During a nearly six-hour court appearance, Iranian officials ultimately lowered the pastor's charges from apostasy to evangelizing Muslims, which carries a three-year term. He was therefore released with time served.

Nadarkhani, 34 and a native Iranian, was found guilty in 2010 of apostasy and sentenced to death for refusing to recant Christianity.

In a report by Meredith Bennett-Smith in the Huffington Post, on September 8, 2012, it was stated that news of the story was first posted on the website of The American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative Christian group founded by Pat Robertson.

The story said that Fox News had reported there had been speculation leading up to this most recent hearing in front of the Iranian Supreme Court that Nadarkhani might be brought up on new security-based charges, which could have been used as an excuse to keep the pastor in jail.
However, speaking to Fox News, Jordan Sekulow, executive director of ACLJ, said the pastor had indeed been released.

"Today our sources in Iran reported that Pastor Youcef was acquitted of apostasy and released from prison. After languishing in prison for almost three years, he has been reunited with his family," Sekulow said.

Sekulow subsequently tweeted a picture of Nadarkhani apparently surrounded by family members.

Commenting on the story, Melissa Reid, executive director for the North American Religious Liberty Association attributed the release to God and said, “Only He could have orchestrated this happy outcome.”

**Six Months Away, Youth Ministries Planning Now for World Service Day**

_Saturday, March 16, 2013. Cangy, in consultation with Youth Ministry directors of the denomination’s 13 world divisions, is promoting the event now by urging local youth leaders to reserve the date, the first day of next year’s Week of Prayer._

Cangy said he hopes youth that day will forgo hearing a sermon and instead “be the sermon” by serving in the community.

“What if our young people exited the church that day and went out to be the hands and feet of Jesus?” Cangy said. “There’s nothing better than mission to bring us together as a world church.”

He said the idea comes from the Good Samaritan parable of Jesus. “Two religious people, maybe on their way to church, didn’t stop to help someone who was beaten up and in need. The heart of religion and Christianity is to reach out and meet the needs of the beaten-up people of this world,” Cangy said.

Leaders estimate there are potentially eight million church members under the age of 30. Cangy said he plans to make the event a springboard for future initiatives to help further connect youth to the world church.

The Youth Ministries website will soon offer suggestions for service projects for the March 16 event. Cangy said he expects local church leaders and young people to contextualize the ideas and improve them.

Youth leaders worldwide hope many youth will choose to donate blood on the March 16 Global Youth Day. Above, a student donates blood in Colombia in 2007.
One project he hopes catches on is blood donation. Cangy donated blood last year and learned of the significant need in many communities. “Jesus gave his blood for us. We want to give blood and save lives,” he said.

On the day of the event, the website will offer an interactive map highlighting projects live as the day progresses through all 24 time zones.

Armando Miranda, a world church vice president, called the initiative “historic” for going even beyond mass service projects of thousands of participants attending a youth congress.

“This will be the gospel in action, the first time we’ll do this kind of thing worldwide simultaneously,” Miranda said.

Local youth leaders said they welcomed the idea, both for its local impact and to help unite Adventist youth worldwide.

“I think it’s about time we had something as engaging as this,” said James Black, Youth Ministries director for the North American Division, based in the United States.

“The uniqueness of this is that it unites us as a world church in service,” Black said. “The spiritual impact on the lives of such a diverse community will leave an indelible impression on many who don’t know Christ.”

In the East-Central Africa Division, based in Kenya, Youth Ministries Director Magulilo Mwakalonge said he anticipates youth participating in service projects similar to previous outreach, including taking food to hospitals, visiting the elderly, and visiting orphanages to have fun and pray with kids. He said some senior youth would likely visit prisons to preach.

“Our young people are excited about that and they’re looking forward to that day of joining the world church and impacting their community,” Mwakalonge said.

The division is advertising through announcements in seminars and messages on Facebook. Later, posters advertising the March 16 service day will be sent to local churches throughout the division.

“I think it’s a fantastic idea to think globally and act locally,” said Paul Tompkins, Youth Ministries director for the Trans-European Division, based in England. “I think this will catch on all around the world, and we will promote this strongly in this division.”

Source: Adventist News Network
Sabbath school classes for adults and children begin at 9:30 a.m.  
*Bowmanville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2850 Hwy #2 at Lambs Rd. Bowmanville.*

**September 15**  
**New Location for Milton Church**

The new location for Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 15, 2012 will be:

**Milton Christian School, 45 Bruce Street, Milton L9T 1L2**

We invite you to come and worship with us at our new location with our new Pastor, Pastor Mckenzie on September 15, 2012, a time of praise, thanksgiving & worship.

Please contact 647-825-7448 for any information.

**September 16**  
**Community Health & Fun Fair at Kendalwood Church**

Fun, Fresh and it’s all **FREE**. Jumping castle, balloon craft and face painting for children. Vegan food demos, nutrition, exercise & rest, financial services and seniors & aging are just some of the things being offered. There is plenty of great food for everyone and best of all it’s **FREE**. Community Health & Fun Fair on Sept. 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Kendalwood Church is located at 300 Kendalwood Rd. in Whitby."

**September 16**  
**2012 Kingsway Golf Tournament**

All Kingsway friends & alumni are invited to join us for our Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Worthy Student Fund (Students in need of financial aid). September 16, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start, $80 Green Fee, Stonehenge Golf Club, Bowmanville.

For more information, email alumni@kingswaycollege.on.ca

**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**  
**Barrie Church’s Community Appreciation Event**

The Barrie Church is having a community appreciation event on Saturday, October 13 at 10:30 a.m. to acknowledge all city services. During this time, Pastor Jacob Bibulovic and the congregation would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation.

We are anticipating the attendance of our Mayor Jeff Lehman as well as other dignitaries. There will be a plaque presentation in recognition of the city’s on-going commitment. Please feel free to join us this special day.
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](http://www.ImmanuelSDA.org)

November 2-3
Breath of Life (BOL) Reunion Weekend

Join current BOL Speaker/Director Dr. Carlton Byrd, along with former speakers/directors of the BOL Telecast, Elders Walter Arties, C.D. Brooks, and Walter Pearson Jr., for the BOL Reunion Weekend on November 2-3, in Huntsville, Ala. at the Oakwood University (OU) Church. Be blessed with powerful preaching from these speakers, along with inspirational music from the OU Aeolians, BOL Quartet, and the Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Choir. [MORE](or 256-837-1255).

November 2-4
Kanisa’s Retreat at Camp Frenda

The Kanisa Fellowship’s Youth Department a.k.a. “KANISA KREW” would cordially like to invite its members, their friends, and the extended Adventist family (between the ages 13-35) to its 4th Youth & Young Adult Survivor Retreat at Camp Frenda from November 2-4, 2012.

Please note registration is on a first paid, first registered basis.
Also registrants who are parents are welcome to bring their child if 4 years or younger (please note there is limited space for children).
[Registration Fee: $110](Registration Fee: $110)
[Bus/Transportation Fee: $25](Bus/Transportation Fee: $25)

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

TADSB Enrollment 2012/13

Applications for the 2012/13 school year are still being accepted at our TADSB (Toronto Adventist District School Board) family of schools. Financial aid is available. For information, please call: Judy Burgin-Hall, JK-8 (416) 633-0090 ext. 227; Andrew Thomas, 9-12 ext. 223; Leonard Hild, PAS (905) 459-0500; Wendy Hutchinson, CAA East (905) 839-0849.

Kingsway College is still accepting applications for the 2012-2013 School Year

If you are aware of any students who need to be attending an Adventist school, please encourage them contact the enrolment office at 905-433-1144 ext. 211 or 212 or e-mail us at admissions@kingswaycollege.on.ca. You can also go to our website at www.kingswaycollege.on.ca.

Kingsway College is a private Seventh-day Adventist boarding and day high school in Oshawa, Ontario. Please support Christian education.
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)

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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

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