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NEWS

Conference President Urges Churches to Embrace REACH Strategy in 2013

November 29, 2012 Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

“I’m strongly encouraging every congregation to embrace the REACH strategy in 2013," says Pastor Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, in a letter to pastors in November. “I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is guiding His church in Ontario along a very deliberate path that will see a remarkable transformation in the life and mission of His church.”

In his letter, Edwards reminded pastors that their congregations have been hearing about the REACH strategy since January 2012, and are now expecting to see it implemented in the local churches.

“We have designated Sabbath, January 19, 2013, for a conference-wide launch, and we would love to see every church involved,” he said. “No church must be left behind. No one must miss out on this opportunity.”

The REACH strategy is designed to sharpen the focus of each church on the main five areas of church life and to determine how and when they will accomplish their goals. REACH is not intended to replace nor supersede the vision and strategies the local church has diligently created. Rather, it recognises and readily embraces them and even helps to clarify them, giving them greater prominence and helping the church reach its goals.

The conference administrators and directors have been working on the overall strategy for over a year, and it has now reached the point where local churches can join in the process and apply it to their local situations. Some pastors have already introduced it to their churches and are keen to see it fully implemented.

“We are excited about REACH!” said Pastor David Baker, lead pastor at Immanuel Church. “We have already set aside an entire day for its launch. It will be great because it will determine the direction of our church for the next two years.”

Pastor Jesse Anunciacion is equally committed. “We are embracing REACH in Mount Zion Filipino,” he said. “Our planning for next year is all about it. We see it, not just as a programme, but as a step in the right direction for our church.”

In his letter, Edwards asks congregations to begin a month of spiritual preparation as outlined in the planning guide or of its own devising. They are to pray for God’s Holy Spirit to lead them as they commence the work of embracing REACH.
It is anticipated that the spiritual preparation will be completed in each church by January 31, 2013, and the church can begin the process of implementing REACH.

Halsey Peat

**Church Responds to Media Inquiries over TV Sitcom Star’s Affiliation**

*November 28, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States...ANN staff*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church emphasized its welcoming of converts in a response to media attention surrounding an American TV situation comedy actor’s comments about his religious affiliation and his personal thoughts about the show.

In a news release yesterday, a spokesman from the denomination’s North American Division said the Adventist Church welcomed actor Angus T. Jones “with open arms.” Jones is the 19-year-old actor on the sitcom Two and a Half Men, a popular show aired on the CBS network. He joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism in June.

Jones was the focus of media attention this week when a video of him criticizing the content of the show went viral. The video was recorded by Christopher Hudson, an individual whose ministry is not affiliated with the Adventist Church.

George Johnson, a spokesman for the Adventist Church in North American Division, said questions about Hudson should be directed to him and his organization directly.

*Source Adventist News Network*

**Adventist President Calls for December 1 Day of Prayer, Fasting to Support Falsely Accused Members**

*November 20, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States...ANN Staff*

Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson today called for an International Day of Prayer and Fasting on December 1 to rally support for the release of two Adventists currently imprisoned in the West African country of Togo.

Wilson and top church executives who voted the emphasis day at a November 20 morning business meeting said the event will raise awareness of the plight of Antonio dos Anjos Monteiro, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the church’s Sahel Union Mission, headquartered in Lome; and Bruno Amah, an Adventist lay member and businessman in Lome.

Adventist lawyers and human rights activists have called for both men’s release since they were detained in March for conspiracy to commit murder. A Togolese man implicated Monteiro and Amah as conspirators in an alleged blood trafficking network, but a police search of Monteiro’s home and local church headquarters did not produce evidence. Since then, local authorities have recognized both men’s innocence.

Diplomatic efforts to secure both men’s release are expected to continue. Today church leaders established a working group to oversee efforts led by John Graz, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist world church. Church leaders are enlisting the support of members worldwide to raise further awareness through a social media campaign to promote the December 1 Day of Prayer.

“We are asking the entire world Seventh-day Adventist Church to join in prayer and fasting on December 1,” Wilson said. The world church leader met with both men in prison earlier this month during a tour of West Africa.
“These are falsely accused, innocent church members and we are pleading with the Lord for his intervention so that they can be reunited with their families and continue their work,” he said.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 1
“A Time to Heal”

Lost a job? Lost your health? Lost a loved one? Family Ministries and Grief to Wholeness invite you to “A Time to Heal” praise service and afternoon workshops December 1, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Join us for a day of healing. Our workshops offer coping methods, resources and support. The morning praise service is an opportunity to rejoice and give thanks with those overcoming these challenges. Join church and community at the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1621 Albion Road, Etobicoke.

December 1
Christmas Celebration at Kingsway College

Join us for the Kingsway College Benefit Christmas Concert
Time: Saturday, December 1, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: College Park Church
Free Admission - a free-will offering will be collected for the mission trip.

May 23-26, 2013
Crawford Adventist Academy 60th Anniversary

Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 60th Anniversary on May 23-26, 2013. We welcome all our alumni and families, former faculty & staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988 and 1983. Our Sabbath speaker will be the dynamic speaker, Dr. Wesley Knight, born in Toronto, ON.

Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB - Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, (416) 633-0090 / toll free (866) 960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook ‘The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group’

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

Crawford Adventist Academy (CAA)
French teacher (Grades 8 to 12) on a temporary assignment is needed at Crawford Adventist Academy in Toronto. Should be able to use the Accelerated Integrated Method (AIM).
Applicant must be a committed Seventh-day Adventist and legally able to work in Canada.

Successful candidates for the above position will have the following:
- A passion for teaching, and a love for students.
- Commitment to Adventist education by example.
• Excellent communication skills.
• Experience in teaching students of varying abilities.
• Excellent administrative and classroom management skills.
• A commitment to offering an academic program with high expectations yet be able to address the needs of all students.

A current resume, along with three referees, can be emailed to Janice Maitland, Superintendent of Education, at jmaitland@adventistontario.org.

**Peel Adventist School**

We are looking for a principal who wants to lead students to Jesus, who is committed to helping students experience their best academically and socially, and are able to implement multiple strategies of instruction and assessment. Peel Adventist School, one of three schools in the Toronto Adventist District School Board (TADSB), is a 68-student, 6-teacher school located in Caledon, Ontario.

Successful candidates for any of the above positions will have the following:

• Denominational and/or provincial certification.
• Administrators’ certificate preferred.
• A commitment to offering an academic program with high expectations yet be able to address the needs of all students.
• A firm commitment as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
• The ability to work effectively with staff.
• A thorough knowledge of their discipline(s).
• Documented ability to work legally in Canada.
• Music experience an asset.

An updated resume, along with three letters of reference, can be emailed to Janice Maitland, superintendent of education, at jmaitland@adventistontario.org.
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