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NEWS

What Will You Do When Crisis Strikes?

March 14, 2012 Oshawa, Ontario, Canada…OCN

“What will you do when crisis strikes?” is the question behind the April 5-7, 2013 training offered by the Community Services Department of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“It’s not a question as to whether we will ever have to face a disaster,” says Pastor Theodore Sargeant, Community Services director, “but when. We are all aware that disasters are becoming more prevalent, even in areas not usually associated with them. Just last year, in
Recognising the probability that a disaster could impact Ontario, the Ontario Conference is taking measures to help its churches to be adequately prepared to deal with a disaster.

“We want to be able to help people if there is a disaster and not simply be victims waiting for someone to help us,” says Sargeant.

The two-phase training will take place at Quality Hotel and Conference Centre, 1011 Bloor Street East, Oshawa. It will teach members how to prepare themselves, their families, and their church for disasters. While it is designed for Community Services leaders and pastors, anyone who wants be trained may register and attend.

In a letter to all churches, Sargeant recommended that the local church sponsor (in full or in part) at least two members from the Community Services department. He is expecting at least 100 members and 50 pastors to attend.

Pastors have the opportunity of taking an additional two phases. This will help them to be certified as Disaster Response Chaplains.

Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, will join key presenters, Joseph and Sherry Watts, Steve Willsey, Alain Norman and James Astleford for the training.

“This is such an important event for our conference,” says Edwards, “that I am encouraging all our Community Services leaders and pastors to join us. We need to be prepared for the disaster that could very well happen. Register today.”

Visit [www.adventistontario.org](http://www.adventistontario.org) or call Verna Storaune at 905-571-1022, ext. 109.

**In Pakistan, Mob Burns Homes in Anti-Christian Violence**

*March 12, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN*

Residents of a Christian community in eastern Pakistan, among them Seventh-day Adventists, are reeling after a mob torched their homes and businesses in response to alleged insults against Muhammad.

The unrest began last week after a report circulated that a young Christian man had committed blasphemy against Islam’s prophet. By March 9, the situation had escalated and thousands of protestors began setting fire to property owned by Christians in a Lahore neighbourhood.

“While some residents sustained injuries, there was no loss of life. Most Christians had earlier fled under threats of violence and police warnings to leave,” a representative of the Adventist Church in Pakistan said.

Church property and the homes of Adventist members, however, sustained “tremendous damage,” church leaders said. The rented home of local Adventist Pastor Afzal Bhatti and his family was destroyed along with the homes and belongings of at least 40 Adventist families.
“Songbooks, Bibles and sound equipment at the local Adventist church were burned, but the building itself only withstood minor water damage as firefighters worked to control nearby blazes,” an Adventist survey team reported.

At least 170 homes and businesses were torched, according to Associated Press reports.

Bhatti and his family were among residents who left as the mob headed for their community.

“In his haste, Pastor Bhatti left behind his cell phone and ID card,” a church representative said, adding that a protestor yanked the glasses off his face as he fled. Bhatti and his wife, Parveen, returned the morning after the riots to comfort and pray with affected community members. Later, the family began the process of rebuilding their lives by purchasing necessities for work, study and ministry.

Earlier this week, the Punjab State government pledged to compensate each affected family with the equivalent of US$2,000. Since then, the federal government of Pakistan has promised an additional US$5,000 per family.

The Adventist Church and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Pakistan are assessing the situation and assisting members of the affected Christian community. Less than five percent of Pakistanis are Christian, and blasphemy against the Quran or the prophet Muhammad can carry the death penalty. Religious liberty experts have observed that blasphemy laws are often used to repress religious minorities or settle personal disputes.

In 2011, Salmaan Taseer, a Pakistani businessman and politician, and Shahbaz Bhatti, the only Christian in Pakistan’s cabinet, were assassinated for their opposition to legislation against blasphemy. Religious freedom advocates have long urged Pakistan to ease its harsh controls on defamation of religion.

“We have always strongly opposed Pakistan’s blasphemy laws, which are the source of so much injustice in the country, especially for religious minorities and Muslim dissidents,” said John Graz, secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association.

“All religious liberty advocates should express solidarity with the affected families and encourage the government to reform this legislation,” he said.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 15-30
RENEW: Youth & Young Adult Series - Pursue, Prepare, Produce

March 15 to 30, 2013
7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. on Fridays
11:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. on Sabbaths

Opening Weekend - "Freedom School" tearing down the image of what we once were and placing ourselves in the mold that God designed for us to walk in. Recording Artists Jillian Lawrence, Tanya Loveday and J. Anthony Bulgin share their personal testimonies through song.
Speakers: Jason Bulgin and Pastors Daniel Kelly, Richard Martin and Paul Smith

**Series Finale - Youth Day** March 30, 2013.

**Location:** Mississauga Adventist Church, 2250 Credit Valley Road, Mississauga, ON L5M 4L9
**Contact:** Tel. 905-608-0013; [www.mississaugasda.com](http://www.mississaugasda.com)  
email: ay@mississaugasda.com

**March 17 & 18**
**Philly-Scarboro CHIP – Complete Health Improvement Program**
**Proven Results, Priceless Benefits**

Do you have diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, overweight, cancer?  
If so, then **CHIP** is for you.

- A lifestyle medicine intervention education program designed to prevent, arrest  and reverse chronic disease.
- In operation over 25 years; has helped more than 55,000 participants regain their health.
- Featured in over 20 scientific and health journals, including the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Dietetic Assn.*
- Program starts April 8, 2013.
- **Cost:** Single $425

**Location:** Philadelphia Adventist Church, 65 Grand Marshall Drive, Scarborough.  
(on Sheppard Ave., 1st traffic light, east of Morningside; immediately across from the water tower).
**Contact:** Tel. 905-655-5675; 416-299-7224; 905-725-2233; [chipphilly@gmail.com](mailto:chipphilly@gmail.com)

**One-hour information and registration session:**  
Sunday, March 17, 4:00 pm. **OR** Monday, March 18, 7:00 pm.

**March 22 & 23**
**Youth Event at Kanata Adventist Community Congregation**

Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23. Pastor Jason O' Rourke, M.Div, chaplain at Florida Hospital is our motivational speaker. Join in for the mini concert by Melissa Prescott-O' Rourke Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.  
Be inspired by Jason's talks and great music with Michelle Lafleur and Anticipation on Saturday, Mar 23.

See you all at 85 Leacock Drive, Kanata, for a great spiritual conversation.  
For more info, email regius@sympatico.ca

**March 23**
**Worship Leader Training**

A Worship Leader Training will be held at the Bethel Adventist Church, 511 Horner Avenue, Etobicoke, on Sabbath, **March 23, 2013, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Pastor David Schwinghammer will be presenting.
All church musicians, worship leaders, choir leaders, pastors, and elders are welcome to attend this important training event.

March 23  
The Classics at Scarborough

This concert will be held at the Scarborough Church on March 23, 2013 at 6:00 PM. This is a formal event and will showcase the premier of Toronto – based Adventists and friends on their musical crafts in an evening of classical music. A freewill offering will be taken with proceeds going towards our newly built church. We invite you to come out with your family and friends and to share with us in an evening promising fine music.

March 30  
Community Guest Day at Latter Rain Church

Latter Rain Adventist Church will have Community Guest Day on March 30, 2013. Church is located at 7 Elinor Avenue (Lawrence Avenue East, 3 blocks west of Warden Avenue, Scarborough). Theme: “The Rejected Stone”. Speaker: Pastor Eustace Williams, director for Personal Ministries for the Ontario Conference. Join us for fellowship lunch immediately after divine service. Come and be blessed.

April 5 – 7  
The First-ever Canada-wide Women’s Ministries Convention

Ladies! Come to the first-ever Canada-wide Women’s Ministries Convention at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls April 5-7, 2013. Carla Baker and members of the North American Division Advisory Committee will be there to train and mentor us as ministers for Christ. Enjoy the majestic falls and praise God for his handiwork, in His creation and in YOU! Register now! Registration closes February 7. Visit www.AdventistOntario.org and click on the event listing or call 905-571-1022 Ext. 204.

April 5 - 7  
Disaster Preparedness Training Phase I

Guest presenters for this event will Pastor Joseph Watts, Director of ACS DR National and Sherry Watts. Our local speakers are Pastor M. Edwards, Conference president and James Astleford from ADRA Canada. This will be held at Quality Hotel, Oshawa, ON. See Ontario Conference website, www.adventistontario.org, for additional information or contact the ACS department.

April 13 & 14  
Soul-Winning Made Easy Seminar

If you are interested in learning how to effectively prepare and conduct an effective soul winning program, you are invited to attend this seminar, held at The Seventh-day Adventist Community Church, 16 School Street, Holland Landing, Ontario. Sabbath, April 13, 11:00 a.m., 2-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 14, 9 a.m. – 12. Lunch will be provided on Sabbath April 13 (Please call in advance to let us know if you’re coming).  
Speaker is Pastor Roy West, executive director, NAD evangelist, Quiet Hour Ministries.
April 20
The Ontario Prison Ministry of Seventh-day Adventists Presents:
Beyond the Open Door Family Reunion Concert Part 2

With over 80 musicians on stage lifting up the name of Jesus, this will feature Michael Harris from California, Tiffany Campbell–Dailey, Apple Creek Mass Choir, Kathy Ann-Charles Tobin, Stacia Samuels Nesbeth, Michael Williams and other artists.

Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 7:00 PM.
Venue: Apple Creek Adventist Church, 700 Applecreek Blvd., Markham
Contact: Eric 647-390-8354; Pat 416-616-8344; Nesalee 905-826-9287.

April 21
Treasurers’ Seminar

A treasurers’ seminar will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 9 o’clock a.m. at the Agape Temple Church in Pickering, Ontario. Please register with Sharon Alexander by March 15, 2013, by calling 905-571-1022 ext. 308 or email salexander@adventistontario.org. Pastors and assistant treasurers are welcome to attend but registration is also required.

April 27 & 28
Adventist Recovery Ministries – “The Road to Reconciliation: Harmony with Self, God and Others”

April 27 & 28, 2013, Registration $20.00 (Lunch on Sabbath, brunch on Sunday) at College Park Elementary School, 220 Townline Road, North, Oshawa, ON L1K 2J6
Registration Deadline: April 17, 2013

Contact: Ruth at rweidner@adventistontario.org

May 4
Sabbath School Convention

Sabbath School Convention – May 4, 2013 – theme: “It’s All about Sabbath School”
Location: Trinity Pentecostal Church, 900 Kings Street East, Oshawa.
Speakers: Pastor J. Alfred Johnson II (NAD) - Maria McClean (Children’s Ministry director) - Pastor Theodore Sargeant (Sabbath School director)
Time: 9:15 am to 5 pm
Cost: Free, lunch provided. FREE PARKING

To register, contact Verna by emailing the number of people wishing to attention from your church at vstoraune@adventistontario.org

May 5
Shiloh Panthers Pathfinder Club Annual Fundraising Banquet

"The Garden of Eden", Sunday May 5, 2013 - 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1090 Bellamy Road North, Scarborough, ON, M1H 1H2; 416-431-5048.
Tickets: Adults: $25.00; Seniors: $20.00; Students: $15.00; Children: $10.00.

May 23

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 administrators, board members, 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, Dr. Wesley Knight, born in Toronto, ON, and currently serving in the Greater Atlanta Area. 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’

May 23-26

Crawford Adventist Academy 60th Anniversary

We are looking for all former TADSB Board members, TJA/CAA administrators, faculty, staff & chaplains! Our 60th Anniversary Homecoming Alumni Weekend is on May 23-26, 2013 and we would love for you to be a part of it. Please contact Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, TADSB (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 to provide your current contact information.

May 24-26

Singles Ministries Retreat

This just in! Singles can now register for the annual Singles Retreat in May. Visit www.adventistontario.org and click on events for more details!

Details will be updated regularly online at www.AdventistOntario.org. Promotional material and registration information will be available for all conference events in the event calendar.

October 24 – November 1

Family Ministries Cruise

Families, couples, singles, seniors – join Family Ministries’ director, Joan Rogers, and her husband, Pastor David Rogers, on the boat in New York for a spiritual eight-day cruise! Registration has been extended. Go to the event calendar at www.adventistontario.org for more details!

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Are you someone with great creative, web and news writing skills? Do you love doing web
management and digital media? Imagine using your successful communication skills and your passion for social justice to create opportunities for those in poverty--transforming their world! For a full job description or to apply, visit https://adra.ca/ResourceCentre/Careers

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

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