May 8, 2014

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NEWS

“No Problems in the Bible” at Ontario Bible Conference

Following on the success of last year’s Bible Conference with Dr. Ranko Stefanovic, the Ontario Conference held its second annual Bible Conference at Perth Avenue Adventist Church, May 2-4, 2014, with Dr Alden Thompson.

Thompson, professor of Biblical Studies at Walla Walla University and author of the book, *Inspiration: Hard Questions, Honest Answers*, and other books, is well-known for seeking answers to complex issues in God’s Word.

Organisers, Conference departmental directors, Jakov Bibulovic, Halsey Peat, Theodore Sargeant and Eustace Williams, sought him out to provide answers to apparent problems in the Old Testament and answers as to why God is seen as bellicose.

“There are no problems in the Bible,” Thompson told attendees during the first session on Sabbath morning. He explained that if readers could see a ‘problem’ from God’s perspective and from the perspective of the people God is seeking to reach, it would make perfectly good sense. “Our problem,” he said, “is that we want everything to make sense from our perspective rather than from theirs."
Thompson showed little sign of being in his seventy-first year. Seemingly energised by his love for the Scriptures and being with people, he led attendees through two main areas of focus: firstly, by providing context and explanations for passages that, upon plain reading, shows God to be an angry despot who declared ethnic cleansing.

"In the Old Testament, we find God adapting Himself to where prepare are," he said. Secondly, he explained some of the factors contributing to polarisation over church teachings and practices within the church and demonstrated their equal value to the health of the church.

It was clear that Thompson, a conservative Christian with a very inquisitive mind, has a keen appreciation for diversity of opinions within the church, just as how he recognises the value of diversity within the Scriptures. Attendees came from as far as from North Shore, a journey of nearly five hours drive by car, and stayed for the entire weekend. The response of attendees to Thompson’s presentations clearly showed that the Bible Conference was a valuable experience.

Jeff from Toronto Japanese Church could hardly contain his enthusiasm for the weekend. “It was fantastic. I wish it lasted longer;” he said, “there were so many things I could have gone on asking questions about…it was so valuable. I loved it!” Gloria from Holland Landing added, “The Bible Conference was very good. It opened my eyes to a lot of things that I used to find difficult. Now I can go to my Bible with much ease and better deal with some of the difficult things in the Bible.”

Organisers, Pastors Bibulovic, Peat, Sargeant and Williams, were very pleased with the outcome of the Bible Conference.

“It met our objective,” said Williams. “The positive feedback we have been receiving from members tells us that for a second year, we chose the right person and that a Bible conference meets a real need.

Organisers are hoping that pastors and local churches will make regular Bible study, distinct from baptismal preparation, a part of local church culture.

No doubt attendees at the 2014 Bible Conference also share in this hope. For those unable to attend the Bible Conference but would like to obtain the knowledge gained there, the three books (Who is Afraid of The Old Testament God? Beyond Common Ground and Escape from the Flames) that were part of the registration package are available from the Personal Ministries Department of the Ontario Conference. For your personal copy of any or all three books, please contact Rose Marie Dunn-Kalynko at: rdunn@adventistontario.org or by phone, 905-571-1022, ext. 111.

In Vietnam, President's Evangelism Participation Signals Turning Point
May 07, 2014 | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam | Ansel Oliver/ANN

Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson last month became the first non-indigenous person permitted to speak at an Adventist evangelism event in Vietnam since 1975, a major step for the church since the government granted permission for the denomination to resume operating here in 2008.

Local Adventist leaders hope the milestone is one that can help give a boost to growing evangelism efforts and lead to increased membership and ministry outreach in this Southeast Asian country. The Adventist Church here is still considered—at least in some ways—in its early stages of growth.

Wilson participated in a “Mission to the Cities” reaping evangelistic series from April 24 to 26 at the Phu Nhuan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ho Chi Minh City, a municipality of more than 8 million people.

“We are grateful to the government for helping to facilitate this opportunity,” said Khoi Tran, secretary of the Ministerial Association for the Adventist Church’s Vietnam Mission.

Wilson said he emphasized the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s focus on Revival and Reformation, the 777 Prayer initiative and the “Word of God” as the foundation of faith. He baptized 35 people, most of whom were young people, who joined the Adventist Church at the end of the series. They studied
and prepared for baptism during the weeks prior to the evangelistic series.

Ten local evangelistic volunteers worked for one year prior to the event to bring awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist message to many people. A team of young literature evangelists also helped to prepare for the evangelistic series. The reaping evangelistic series welcomed over 160 visitors in addition to local church members who attended. On the final night, attendance spilled outside.

Wilson’s participation here also marked the first time that a president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church participated in evangelistic outreach in Vietnam, Khoi said. During his visit, Wilson also travelled to the capital city of Hanoi to meet with the government’s vice director of the Committee for Religious Affairs. Wilson visited the headquarters of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Vietnam and also visited a small fourth-floor church that was established by a blind member.

In the capital city of Hanoi, with approximately 6.5 million people, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has only two churches with a combined membership of less than 100 members. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vietnam has approximately 11,300 members worshipping in 15 churches.

Expanding outreach has been challenging in the country of more than 90 million people, Khoi said, but a few milestones in recent years signal the potential of an encouraging future.

Since 2008, Adventists have been able to conduct outreach and service projects in Hanoi beyond what the denomination had established prior to 1975. In 2009, the church here celebrated the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Seventh-day Adventist message. At that ceremony, the church held the first ordination of pastors in the country since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. And in 2012, an Adventist World Radio (AWR) studio was built and is producing programming. Wilson described AWR as “a great blessing to the outreach of God’s work in Vietnam and around the world.”

Ministry through literature evangelism also is expanding, especially among Adventist young adults, and several health expos are reaching communities with comprehensive health ministry.

Still, the Adventist Church has established operations in only a handful of the nation’s 58 provinces and municipalities. It can now minister to only six of the 54 cultural groups, many of whom have their own language, Khoi said. Also, most members live in rural areas while more citizens are moving to cities. “It is a challenge to shift our focus to mission to the urban areas,” Khoi said.

“Both of those challenges require workers to be sent, but we don’t have a proper Bible training school yet,” Khoi said. “Please pray for the Lord to open the way that we will soon have a seminary to equip more people to be sent out for Christ.”

Nearly 80 percent of Vietnam’s citizens identify themselves as not affiliated with any religion, according census data. Nearly 10 percent are Buddhist, and almost 7 percent are Roman Catholic. Less than 1 percent are Protestant.

Visitors to Vietnam are fascinated by crowded traffic patterns. In Ho Chi Minh City, a city of some 3.5 million motorbikes, Wilson was told that if you can successfully cross the street here in heavy traffic, “you can go anywhere.” Wilson used the analogy during his preaching, telling local leaders that God wanted them to “cross the street” and realize the vision that He has for evangelizing Vietnam.

“We surely believe this event is a deciding step, opening the way for more public efforts to the cities,” Khoi said. “Please pray for Vietnam as we put our hands and efforts together to prepare a people for Jesus’ soon coming.”

Source: Adventist News Network

**EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**May 10**

**THE Classics at Scarborough**

The 2nd anniversary of “The Classics at Scarborough” will be held at the Scarborough Adventist Church on May 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM. This is a formal event and will showcase the premier of Toronto
May 10
“Religious Freedom in Canada: Don’t Take It for Granted” at Madoc

Madoc Church family is inviting you to join in this important event, May 10, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Geared for Adventists)
Three presentations 11:00 a.m., 12:30*, 2:00 p.m. & at 3:30 p.m.
Theme: Religious Freedom in Canada: “Don’t Take It for Granted”.
Speakers: Lincoln E. Steed, Editor, “Liberty” magazine (www.libertymagazine.org)
Barry W. Bussey, VP Legal Affairs, Canadian Council of Christian Charities

Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 137 Elgin Road, Madoc (at Wesleyan & Free Methodist). *Complimentary lunch will be served. If you are planning on joining us for lunch, please RSVP to Lynda 613-473-3873 or to Phyllis 613-473-5332 or email RSVP to lyndahosamronco@gmail.com.
For details, contact Pr. Rob Putt at 905-922-2265. robertcputt@yahoo.com

May 11
Oshawa Geared for Adventists

Sunday, May 11, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Religious Liberty and Bible Prophecy: “Freedom Come, Freedom Go” Speakers: Lincoln E. Steed, Editor, Liberty magazine, a journal of religious freedom for thought leaders, continuously published for the last 108 years. (www.libertymagazine.org)
Grace M. Mackintosh, Director of Public Affairs, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.
Location: College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1164 King Street East, Oshawa. For details contact Pr. Rob Putt at 905-922-2265. robertcputt@yahoo.com

May 22-25
Crawford Adventist Academy 61st Anniversary Alumni Homecoming Weekend

All are invited to join us on May 22-25, 2014: May 22 - #WWLD Event, 7:00 pm; May 23 – TBA; May 24 – Alumni Sabbath, 10:00 am; May 25 – 6th Annual Vernon Langdon Golf Classic, 7:30 am / 9th Annual Walk ‘n Roll 4Education community event, 8:00 am. Our Alumni Sabbath speaker will be Pastor Dan Belonio, TJA Class of ’74, Associate Pastor, The Grove Worship Center, Loma Linda Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church, Southeastern CA Conference. For more information, visit www.tadsb.com or contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB (416) 633-0090 ext. 234 or 248.

May 23-25
Kingsway College Alumni Homecoming Is May 23-25

Honored classes: Class of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, 2004, and a special reunion for the class of 1959. Room accommodations are available in the area as well as on campus. Please contact alumni@kingswaycollege.on.ca or call 905-433-1144 ext. 210 or 211 for details.

Ontario Conference School of Evangelism’s New Classes Begin

Register today for 2014-2015’s new classes.
Fil-Can Church (GTA): Sunday, May 25, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Register online www.adventistontario.org; or rdunn@adventistontario.org

May 24
The Sure Word Prophecy Seminar at Berea Church

The Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church solicits your prayers and presence at the “SURE WORD PROPHECY SEMINAR” to begin Sabbath, May 24, 201 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Isaac Lewin. Sessions continue Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 7:00
May 25
Golf Tournament
Come and join us for our Golf Tournament on May 25 at the Annandale Golf and Curling Club (221 Church Street South, Ajax, ON). For more information, please contact Christina Lister at listerc@kingswaycollege.on.ca or 905-433-1144 ext. 210. We look forward to seeing you there!

May 30 – June 1, 2014
“The Price Tag on Your Children” Parenting Symposium
Residence and Conference Centre, 1760 Finch Avenue East, Toronto

Kicking off with a youth concert on Friday night, join us for hot topic discussion and networking between parents, single parents, youth and family educators. Dr. Steve Thomas, father and youth director for the South England Conference along with Pastor Halsey Peat, Drs. Fitzroy and Janice Maitland, Pastor Andre Anderson, and Pastor and Sister Diaz will address needs of today’s Christian moms and dads. NEW! Daniel Rogers to emcee youth concert 7:30 p.m. Friday. NEW! Spanish track is available. Spanish translation will also be provided for the keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas. NEW! Book sale and signing featuring Andrew Guy, author of “Work Your Words” and Tristin Burns, author of “No More Junk in Your Trunk!”

Registration due May 19! Includes Sabbath lunch and Sunday breakfast! Overnight stay is available at additional cost. Visit www.AdventistOntario.org for updates and to register, or call 905-571-1022, ext. 204.

May 31
Sabbath School Convention

May 31, 2014 – Sabbath School Convention 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration deadline May 23, 2014.

Venue: Centennial College, 940 Progress Ave, Scarborough.
Guest speaker: Dr. John Duroe, Gospel Outreach Regional director for Bangladesh and NE India.
Cost: $10 per person (includes a light lunch & free parking).
This event is open to all in Sabbath School Ministry.

Please note that two workshops will be offered by Children’s Ministries
- Teaching young children
- How to keep juniors and earliteens interested in Sabbath School

For online registration and additional information, please go to www.adventistontario.org. Contact Verna at 905-571-1022, ext. 109 for inquiries.

June 20 & 21
Six Nations Native Spiritual Gathering

The “Native Spiritual Gathering” in Six Nations of the Grand River Territory will take place on the weekend of June 20 & 21, 2014.

On Friday evening, the gathering will be held at the Six Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church starting at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday at the Six Nations Polytechnic convening at 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. The Church is located at the corner of Second Line and Cayuga Road; the Polytechnic is on Fourth Line, less than 1 km south of the centre of Ohsweken.

Guest speaker is Zanna Ove, editor of the RADIANT Native Health magazine, from Kitwanga, British Columbia. Zanna Ove will be presenting a health seminar in Ohsweken the week prior to the spiritual gathering.

Directions: from Hamilton take Highway 6 West towards Hagersville. Turn right on to Fourth Line to get to the Polytechnic; turn right on to Second Line to the church. If travelling on Highway 403, head towards Brantford; exit on to Garden Avenue and on to Cockshutt Road going west till you get to
Second Line. Turn left on to Second Line and drive south to Cayuga Road. Church will be on your left. If you are going to the Polytechnic, turn left on Second Line and head to Fourth Line. Turn right on Fourth Line and then drive 3/4 of a kilometre—Polytechnic will be on your right.

June 22-24
Seniors’ Trip to Parliament Hill

June is Seniors Month. Ebenezer Church Seniors Ministry is planning a trip to Parliament Hill, opened to all ages, and friends. June 22-24.
See... changing of the guards, Chateau Laurier historic building, the Rideau Canal, and tour of Parliament building.
Hotel Train Package.

Please contact: Elaine Hines at 905-361-2006 - Elaine Mitchell / Lela Clarke.

July 13 & 19
Ontario Conference Bible Bowl

Do you love to read your Bible? Are you in need of motivation to read your Bible?
Do you enjoy friendly competition? Are you a fan of trivia-based game shows?
If you answered yes to any of the above, consider Bible Bowl!
Bible Bowl is a ministry to connect people with the Word of God in an in-depth, engaging, and interactive way.

If your church has not yet begun to prepare for this year’s Bible Bowl games, it isn’t too late to get started!

The Ontario Bible Bowl Championship will be held on Sunday, July 13, and Saturday, July 19, 2014 (location to be determined.)

This year’s books and the corresponding age divisions are:
Pre-Juniors (Ages 6-9): Mark, 2 Samuel
Junior Youth (Ages 10-15): Mark, 2 Samuel, Jonah, Hebrews
Senior Youth (Ages 16-22): Mark, 2 Samuel, Jonah, Hebrews, Nahum
Young Adult (Ages 23-35): Mark, 2 Samuel, Jonah, Hebrews, Nahum, Jeremiah
Adult (Ages 36+): Mark, 2 Samuel, Jonah, Hebrews, Nahum, Jeremiah, Proverbs 16-30

Registration fee is $40.00 per team until May 15, 2014. After that, it is $50.00 per team until June 15, 2014.

For registration forms and any additional information, please contact ontariobiblebowl@hotmail.com.

September 7
SAVE THE DATE: Reading Celebration - Reading Is Fun!

Reading is an art that might slip into extinction unless it is encouraged in this generation and preserved for future ones. Reading opens countless doors to knowledge and adventure. The Children’s Ministries department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ontario Conference, is committed to encouraging our children along the path of maintaining and/or discovering the joy of reading. This commitment continues September 7, 2014 in the first annual reading celebration at Crawford Adventist Academy from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. At this event, children will participate in reading sessions led by individuals from our church and community. In addition, the Adventist Book Centre will be available to display and sell books, games, and devotional materials. Watch for more details.

September 25-28
North American Division Women’s Ministries Convention – Orlando, Florida

Registration has begun for the “Free Indeed 2014” North American Division Women’s Ministries Convention. The convention will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. Speakers include Dan Jackson, Dr. Ella Simmons, Katia Reinert, Adrienne Townsend. Enjoy musical performances by Kelly Mowrer and Gale Jones Murphy. Registrants can visit www.nadwm.org or call
the Ontario Conference Women’s Ministries department at 905-571-1022, ext. 204. Please let us know at the Ontario Conference office if you need to register or have registered. We want to be sure you are included on our Canadian list.

**September 27-28**
**CHIP Training Session at Brantford Church**


**OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Job Opportunity**

Kingsway College, a Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school in Oshawa, Ontario, is seeking applicants for the following positions: Dean of Men, Task Force Assistant Boys’ Dean, Task Force Assistant Chaplain, Communications Assistant. Please visit the Kingsway College website (www.kingswaycollege.on.ca) under the “Faculty & Staff” page for more information regarding this job opportunities.

**Looking for Our Members**

Philadelphia Church is looking for the following members; if you know where they are or how they could be reached, please contact the church clerk’s office at 416-286-3209 or sdaphiladelphia@yahoo.ca

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**Camp Ranger Job Advertisement**

Camp Frenda is looking for a dynamic, industrious, and mature individual to join the Camp Ranger team on a full-time basis. As part of the ranger team, the individual will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all buildings and equipment, as well as, the water, septic and other systems that affect the functioning of the physical plant. The successful candidate should have a strong knowledge and proven background in auto mechanics/body repair, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and heavy construction. In addition to a strong maintenance background, he/she should have excellent communication and interpersonal skills. The ranger team is expected to keep an amicable relationship with the municipality and promote Camp Frenda as a warm and friendly organization.
If you are interested in applying for this position, you may send your résumé to Julianna M. Kapusi at jkapusi@adventistontario.org by Sunday, April 20, 2014. Please note that only successful candidates will be contacted for interview.

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

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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
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