June 6, 2014

In This Issue...

1. News
   - OCSE Graduates Featured Speakers at Southern Ontario Regional Camp Meeting
   - Ordination Study Concludes with Suggestions for “The Way Forward”

2. Other Advertisements and Job Opportunities

NEWS

OCSE Graduates Featured Speakers at Southern Ontario Regional Camp Meeting

June 5, 2014, Oshawa, Ontario…OCN

Ontario Conference School of Evangelism (OCSE) graduates, Cheryl Bailey and Patrick Rose, will be among the lay persons chosen to be speakers for Southern Ontario’s regional camp meeting to be held at Norfolk County Fairgrounds, June 6-7, 2014.

Both Baily and Rose are among the first graduates of the school of evangelism in June 2012 and immediately put their training to work at their local churches and elsewhere.

Baily will present the message for the opening service on Friday evening, June 6. Rose will preach during the adults' worship service on Sabbath, June 7. These time slots have in the past been reserved for internationally-renowned speakers and other church leaders. However, organisers wanted to practically align themselves with their theme, ‘Priesthood of all Believers’ and selected Bailey and Rose, along with Lars Miller and ten-year old Rachel Lumbangaol. The only professional speaker is Pastor Sherry Augustus, chaplain at Crawford Adventist Academy. She is the featured speaker for the youth meetings.

Norfolk County Fairgrounds is located at 172 South Drive, Simcoe,
Ontario N3Y 1G6.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own picnic lunches.

The conference camp meeting will take place on Sabbath, June 28, 2014, at the International Centre, Mississauga with featured speaker, Pastor Daniel Jackson, NAD president.

Ordination Study Concludes with Suggestions for “The Way Forward”

June 05, 2014, | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, Adventist Review Staff . . .

Leaders and members of the Adventist Church’s Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) wondered aloud if the fourth and last multi-day session of the group would yield a consensus on the thorny issue of ordaining women to ministry.

One TOSC member wistfully noted to the group that Wednesday, June 4, was Pentecost in the Jewish calendar. He hoped, he said, that a miracle of unanimity might conclude the two-year study process as members were asked to choose their preferred solution, or “Way Forward,” on the issue the church has wrestled with for more than 25 years.

However, when TOSC chairman Artur Stele announced the results of an informal survey of the group of scholars, church administrators, pastors and laypersons, three positions emerged from the data, with no position claiming a majority of the 95 votes received.

Forty TOSC members identified as their first choice a position that “Each entity responsible for calling pastors be authorized to choose either to have only men as ordained pastors; or to have both men and women as ordained pastors.”

Thirty-two members favored a proposal that affirms the “practice of ordaining/commissioning only qualified men to the office of pastor/minister throughout the world church . . .”

A third option was the first choice of 22 participants. It stated, “Christ is the only head of the church,” noting that there is a “biblical pattern of male leadership, under the headship of Christ, in the office of the ordained minister.” But this option also added that “We recommend that denominational leadership at a proper level be authorized to decide, based on biblical principles, whether such an adaptation [permission to ordain both men and women] may be appropriate for their area or region.”

General Conference president Ted N. C. Wilson spoke to committee members after the poll results were announced by Stele. “As we move forward with this process, I’m asking that we each act with humility—not authoritatively or in an overbearing manner,” Wilson urged. “We should do all things in the spirit of Jesus.”

Wilson also thanked participants for an action they voted unanimously earlier in the day. TOSC members acted “to affirm that in spite of the differences of opinion on the subject of women’s ordination, the members of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee are committed to the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as expressed through the 28 Fundamental Beliefs.”

“We will be very open and fair in the way we approach the handling of this matter,” Wilson assured the committee as he sketched key stages the church will follow in the months ahead.

Several administrative groups at the church’s world headquarters will consider the written report of the TOSC process during meetings June 16-19, Wilson said, and will place the matter on the agenda of the denomination’s Annual Council convening in Silver Spring, Maryland October 9-14. General Conference leaders have promised to make all materials from the recent study process and supplemental documents available in advance to the 300+ member Executive Committee, which decides what to recommend to the church’s quinquennial General Conference session planned for San Antonio, Texas, 13 months from now.

Wilson said that multiple presentations will be made at the scheduled administrative meetings as part of helping church representatives openly review the subject.

“The results of today’s poll shouldn’t dictate any outcomes for the world church, but they should be given their appropriate weight,” said TOSC vice chair Geoffrey Mbwana, also a vice-president of the church. “No one should quickly say, ‘This is all a clear matter.’ All that is really clear at this moment is that we have strong differences about the matter of ordaining women to ministry.” TOSC leaders saw the survey as an evaluation tool to determine if consensus positions had developed in the committee.
The TOSC group’s assignment was to do an in-depth study and analysis of the subject of ordination with input from world divisions of the church: the committee wasn’t organized to be proportionately representative of the world church. A more international assessment will come in the process at the 2014 Annual Council and 2015 General Conference session when delegates selected by church constitutional and policy provisions will consider the issue.

Karen Porter, TOSC Secretary and assistant secretary of the world church, underlined the value of the study.

“What we’ve experienced here could be an important template for the world church as it considers other international issues,” Porter said. “We’ve learned lessons of both kinds—what works, and what doesn’t—and we’re all better for having spent so many days and hours listening to people we may not always agree with.”

Stele also praised the spirit of committee members as the 24-month study process concluded. He suggested that the fourth session had probably been more positive because of the greater amount of time spent in caucuses and working groups instead of plenary presentations.

“Though we’ve had challenging and difficult discussions at times, we’ve developed a camaraderie—a respect for each other—during the last two years,” he said. “A large majority of participants learned to trust each other as they prayed together, ate meals together, and talked in the hallways. This is the first truly global study process on this issue that has ever been attempted. It’s been gratifying to see and feel how much this unique process has built up mutual understanding and better relationships.”

Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, director of the Adventist Church’s education department and a TOSC member, focused on the long-term gain to the church from the study process. “One of the most important developments for us as a global, multi-national church was to revisit our hermeneutics, and think about how we study the Bible across many cultures,” she told Adventist Review. “This experience helped us to clarify what we believe—and why we believe it, as well as focusing us on how we unitedly pursue our mission.”

Wilson urged committee members to remain hopeful about the ultimate outcome of the process as the Wednesday session ended.

“We may not yet see just where the Spirit is taking us on this issue,” he said. “But we firmly believe that God will open the way for His church to fulfil its mission.”

Source: Adventist News Network

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 7
Camp Willomocky

Boys & girls for Jesus presents, a musical play for a cause.
Join us for a fun-filled evening with your family and the Willomocky campers.
Be a part of sponsoring community children to experience Camp Frenda!
Making friends in Jesus and creating life-long memories.
Camp Frenda will match our efforts!

For every child we send to camp, Camp Frenda will sponsor another.
Don't miss out; add this event to your calendar!
Date & Time: June 7, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: College Park church, 1164 King Street East, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 1H9.
Tax receipts will be issued for donations above $5.

June 14
“Out of Africa” Experience

Come worship and fellowship with us ‘African Style’ and have an ‘Out of Africa’ experience with our vibrant music, colourful clothes, delicious food, rich culture and a journey into the depths of Africa! Come prepared to celebrate, praise and have fun in the name of the Lord!
Guest speaker: Dr. Baraka Muganda - VP of Ministries at Washington Adventist University.
When: Saturday, June 14, 2014
Venue: Ghanaian Presbyterian Church of Toronto, 51 High Meadow Place, Toronto.
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Visit/like us on https://www.facebook.com/Africanday2014
Contact Pastor Damson Oppong at 416-558-8510.

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 you 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.

June 28 to July 6
Coming to Cambridge: Messiah’s Mansion, the full-scale model of the Old Testament Sanctuary

Messiah's Mansion is a full scale model of the sanctuary built by Moses. It presents the plan of salvation in symbols. The tour brings to life the baptism, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, and His present ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary.
Who should attend: All Seventh-day Adventists, for a better understanding of our present message and other Christians to take them beyond the four Gospels.
Bring your friends.

Location: Cambridge Christian School; 229 Myers Rd, Cambridge

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! Or if you would like to see what it's all about first, feel free to attend the upcoming games.

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 $50.00 per team until June 15, 2014.**

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the games. If you have participated in Bible Bowl in the past or have some experience, we want you!

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 Mower 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 Opening at ADRA Canada**
ADRA Canada is currently seeking a part-time Donor Relations Clerk to join its office in Newcastle, Ontario. Visit ADRA’s jobs webpage: http://www.adra.ca/work-for-adra/ for more information.

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

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