It's probably the most eagerly anticipated event in the church calendar. It brings together all that people long for in their local church—rich and inspirational worship, spirit-filled preaching, uplifting music, warm fellowship with many friends, and the sense of belonging to something big. Camp Meeting 2007 filled the longing of many.

“It was a wonderful experience,” said Celeste Atkinson.

“It’s good for the youth,” said 12-year old Tenika; “It helps to bring them closer to God.”

“I was blessed by the messages from Dwight Nelson. It was a joy to come to this camp meeting,” added Trevor Campbell from Mississauga.

“It was spirit-filled, opined Fayshalee Wellington, “one of the best camp meetings I’ve been to.”

The joy of camp meeting was spread across the entire province with three regional meetings (Thunder Bay, May 4-6; Ottawa, May 18-10 and Simcoe, June 8-9), being held a month before the conference camp meeting at the International Centre, Mississauga, on June 23. With one more regional meeting to be held in Sudbury (Aug. 31-Sep. 2, 2007), the joy will continue well into the end of summer.

With the exception of the main camp meeting at the International Centre on June 23, the regional camp meetings were combined with a Maranatha where members were able to attend workshops and training sessions in various church ministries, evangelism, preaching and worship.

**Eastern Ontario, May 4-6**

In Ottawa, the combined Maranatha/camp meeting was held at the Ottawa West Church on Benjamin Avenue (Friday evening and Sunday morning) and at the Lansdown Park’s Exhibition Hall on Sabbath. It was a time when all the churches in Eastern Ontario came together to worship, be edified and fellowship. They were not disappointed. The congregation certainly worshipped. They brought their best to God. They were edified as Dr. Ganoune Diop, professor of Theology at Oakwood College, revealed refreshing truths about the Sabbath, the Kingdom of God, the Sanctuary and Jesus.

“Jesus is the communication of God,” proclaimed Diop. “As humans we have an expiration date, but when Christ was resurrected, God cancelled the expiration date!”

Camp meeting in Ottawa wasn’t just about church members meeting...
Concerned and Confused about Standards

I don’t know what’s happening to our church,” she exclaimed. “We just keep lowering the standards!”

The frustration of the sister in question strikes a chord with many church members. It’s a cry that’s often heard in the Adventist community. Some feel so passionate about it that they attempt to halt it by writing and preaching about it. Others become activists, calling for reformation, seeing it as their mission to preserve the standards and identity of the church. For these Adventists, the church is identified by its standards. In their thinking, to deviate brings into question one’s claim to be an Adventist.

When asked what the standards of the Adventist church are, the responses are often hesitant, uncertain and varied: “Adventists don’t go to the theatre;” “We don’t drink coffee;” “We don’t have ‘celebration’ type of worship with drums and guitars;” “Adventist women don’t wear pants to church.” These reflect a tiny portion of common responses. What is noticeable is that the response often reflects the place of a person’s origin. In other words, a person’s culture will often determine his religious practice.

Raising the question of us being products of our culture is usually met with a resounding “no!” We quickly claim that our faith is above our culture and is not determined by it. That is the ideal. We must strive for that. However, it must not be forgotten that when the Seventh-day Adventist Church came into being, in 1863, that it was wrapped up in the culture of Victorian North America. It was a product of its time. For example, the practice of not attending the theatre was common to all decent, self-respecting people at the time, not just Adventists. Mid-19th Century America theatre was a place of blatant immoral practices and was avoided by anyone who wanted to maintain a good reputation.

Much of the passion that is aroused over standards stems from a common misunderstanding between standard and practice. Standards are unchanging and are based on universal principles, whereas practice reflects personal tastes, knowledge, culture and tradition. A practice that was appropriate in one country or at a period of time may be irrelevant in another place or at a different time. This poses difficulty for some people because they were taught that a particular practice was right, the way of Adventists. Having practised it for many years, it provides something akin to an anchor, a way of determining a genuine walk with God. To have that practice challenged is a threat to one’s security. It creates a sense of unease or discord.

There is a great sense of ease and security in a changing world and church when the difference between principles, standards and practice is noted. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 is a good example. “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...glorify God.”

This is one of the Biblical principles for healthful living. In regard to diet, my standard is to eat the best that I am able. Therefore, my practice, for years, was to use margarine instead of butter, which was said to be bad for the heart. However, after learning about the unhealthy trans fats in margarine, I have since changed my practice to include butter again. While my practice has changed, my standard and principle remains the same.

There is no doubt that for those who have been members of the church for more than 20 years that it has changed and will continue to do so. It has to, in order to be relevant to the needs of a changing world. The church can still maintain its identity even when some of its practices change. However, those practices must be based on standards that have roots in Biblical principles and not simply on tradition or culture.

Halsey Peat
Editor
together for worship and training. On Sunday morning, a number of youth and members of the Mt. Zion Filipino Church, went into a local community and cleaned up the park. They later assisted the Ottawa East Church in its cleaning project. Three weeks later, the idea of ‘serving the community’ was also presented to the youth at the South Western Ontario camp meeting.

South Western Ontario, June 8-9

It is unlikely that many of the youth of the South Western Ontario churches made the pilgrimage to the Norfolk County Fairgrounds, right next door to the Simcoe Seventh-day Adventist Church, with the intention of going to a park to clean it up or even to retrieve a shopping cart from the pond. Yet, when youth director, Pastor Cyril Millett, invited them to join him, seventeen joined him after lunch and happily went about serving the local community.

Back at the fair grounds, the members and visitors were enjoying the workshops. Most attended the workshop on prayer by Ruthie Jacobson, who had accompanied her husband, Don, former director of Adventist World Radio, the speaker for the adult meetings. The 700 plus congregation in the adult meetings were invited by Pastor Jacobson to ‘peer into the heart of God’ and discover how valuable each person is to Him.

In the youth meetings, speaker Alden Ho, from Michigan, shared his testimony about his call to ministry and changing his view of Christian living after surviving a plane crash and escaping from the wreck 73 feet under water. He displayed a keen understanding of current youth thought and challenged the youth and young adults to take their Christianity seriously. “If, you’re gonna live for God”, he said, “live for God!”

Ontario, June 23, 2007

“There is no sinner too bad, too evil, too fallen for mercy to come runnin’ to save!” Declared Pastor Dwight Nelson to the delight of the nearly 6,000 worshippers in Hall 5 of the Toronto International Convention Centre. He was preaching during the 11:00 a.m. worship service to the adult section of Ontario Conference’s camp meeting on June 23, 2007.

Initially, 5,000 seats had been set up in Hall 5, but these were soon occupied. As additional chairs were brought out, they were quickly snapped up by those standing. It seemed as if everyone wanted to hear about the mercy of God. Pastor Nelson did not disappoint them. Using stories of genealogies in the Bible, he revealed the good news of God’s abundant mercy to the undeserving.

In Hall 4A, it was also evident that nothing had been left to chance in the youth and young adults section. Worship took on a more upbeat mood. With a band of excellent musicians and an enthusiastic praise team, worshippers were led into a vibrant and meaningful worship experience. Pastor Wesley Knight was quick to challenge the congregation to adjust its view of God. “We have been given a wrong picture of God,” he said. “He is not there with big stick waiting to punish you. He actually cares for you and about what is happening in your life.”

Continued on page 4
On June 23, 2007, four pastors joined the ranks of ordained ministers of the Gospel when they were ordained at the annual camp meeting of the Ontario Conference.

Pastors Peter Caran, Luca Marulli, Mirthell Mitchell and R. Orlando Pule knelt in prayer, as hands were laid on them, while Pastor Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference, offered the ordination prayer, setting them aside for the Gospel ministry.

Earlier, with their wives by their side, they heard the challenge of Pastor Dwight Nelson to become fervent, passionate pastors. He confronted them with the need to be committed to the Lord and to have a passionate commitment to reproduce themselves by reaching someone for Jesus, at least once every year.

Ordination is pivotal in the life of a pastor and the church because it is the recognition of the church that God has called the pastor to a lifetime of full-time ministry. Its responsibilities are grave, and the charge presented to each ordinand is designed to reinforce this gravity in the mind of the ordinand and each church member, alike.

Peter Caran was born in the city of Pancevo in the former Yugoslavia. He believes that his mother had a very strong influence on his life and on his choice of pastoral ministry as his vocation.

Since 1991, he has been happily married to Alexandra Sekulic, with whom he has three children—Stephanie, Timothy, and Nicole. Peter is a 1999 graduate of Canadian University College and a 2005 graduate of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He presently pastors the Owen Sound and Harriston churches.

Luca Marulli, a second-generation Adventist, was born in central Italy. Baptized at the age of 14 in his home church, he felt a strong call to ministry and a life of devotion to God.

In June, 2003, Luca accepted a call from the Ontario Conference to pastor the Toronto Italian Company. Since August, 2004, he was also asked to pastor the Harmony Church. He has been happily married to Irene Bastari since July, 2000.

Their daughter, Maya, was born on April 2, 2007.

Mirthell Mitchell is the son of Pastor Carlton and Mrs. Dorreth Mitchell. His first experience in ministry was in the summer of 1999, when he was assigned to assist in a summer evangelistic outreach programme in Newmarket. He baptized six souls that summer and has never forgotten this honeymoon experience in the ministry.

He has been happily married to Rita Roberts since 1998 with whom he has four children: Shalom, 7 years old; Sinead, 6 years old; Sade, 4 years old; and Shiloh, 6 months old.

He is the new pastor of the Hamilton East Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Robert Orlando Pule was born and raised in New Zealand. His family has its roots in the Polynesian culture. Orlando felt the distinct call to ministry early in high school and at the age of 16 made plans to study theology. Upon completing his studies, he was called by the Samoan Mission to pastor four churches.

Orlando is happily married to Elizabeth Rosete, assistant pastor of the Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their baby son, Gabriel Ben Lavea, was born on December 12, 2006. Since September, 2005, Orlando has been serving as the assistant pastor of Immanuel Church.
Ontario has four newly-commissioned teachers. Robertha Greenaway, Tarja Lee, Veronica Martin-Batson and Gavin Record were commissioned to the teaching ministry on June 23 at Camp Meeting 2007.

The commissioning of teachers is the recognition that teachers play a unique and significant role in leading children and youth to Christ. Many Adventists are able to point to a teacher as being the person most responsible for revealing the love of God to them.

The specialised and sacred role teachers have in leading children and youth to Christ was finally recognised by the North American Division in 1988. It approved a teacher commissioning process and outlined conditions to be met before a conference commissioned its teachers. The criteria included, among others, that teachers: serve a minimum of six years (nine in Ontario), demonstrate spiritual leadership, consistently uphold Christ as the focal point of all curriculum and instruction decisions and be fully certified within the Seventh-day Adventist system of education.

Robertha Greenaway is the teaching principal of the Ottawa Adventist Elementary School since 1997.

Her goal is to teach after the example of Jesus, the Master Teacher, recognizing the uniqueness of each student and to assist them in achieving their full potential.

In recognition of Robertha’s dedication to teaching ministry and as an acknowledgment of her fine teaching skills, she received the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005.

Robertha is married to Conrad. Together, they are the parents of two daughters: Jenica, 20, and Carita, 18, both students at Andrews University.

Tarja Lee: For the past 18 years, Tarja Lee has taught at a number of Ontario schools, including Crawford Adventist Academy and Grandview Academy. Currently a third grade and special education teacher at College Park Elementary School (Oshawa), Tarja is known for her dedicated interest in helping all children to be successful. In recognition of her teaching skills, she received the 2005 Excellence in Teaching Award from the SDACC.

Tarja is married to Bryan Lee and is the mother of two teenaged children: Alina 18, and Jordan 16.

Veronica Martin-Batson: As French and Family Studies teacher at Crawford Adventist Academy, Veronica is committed to demonstrating God’s love in the way she relates to her students.

Always passionate about encouraging students in learning French, Veronica has worked on the recently released, SDACC-sponsored French Handbook and is currently assisting with the new French curriculum development for Canada’s small schools.

Veronica is married to Angus. Together, they look forward to Jesus’ soon return.

Gavin Record is committed to his calling as a teacher. “I try my best to model myself after the ‘Model Teacher,’” Gavin explains. “By doing so, my philosophy as a teacher is implemented 24 hours a day—wherever I go, whatever I do.”

Gavin began working for the Ontario Conference in 1996, first at Peel Adventist School and later at Crawford Adventist Academy (Elementary Division). Currently, he is Crawford’s junior kindergarten teacher.

Gavin and his wife, Karrianne, are the parents of two young children: Nathan, age 4, and Kailey, 16 months.
A unique graduation service— with two graduation addresses— was held in Sault Ste. Marie’s new Adventist church. About 80 friends, students, and church members gathered on Sunday, June 24, to celebrate the graduation of eighth-grader Roshan Abbadasari from Algoma Adventist Christian School (AACS). Frances Schander, Ontario Conference superintendent of education, spoke first, with remarks addressed to Roshan.

Also marching as a graduate was Roshan’s father, Robert Abbadasari, who several weeks before had completed his B.Sc.N. from the collaborative baccalaureate nursing programme with Sault College and Laurentian University. “I always wanted to graduate with my son,” says Robert, “and today was a very special privilege for me.”

Because of his belief that the Sabbath hours are sacred, Robert opted not to march with his university graduating class of 30 nursing students on Sabbath, May 12. Instead, he arranged to “graduate” with his son.

On hand to participate in Robert’s special graduation was Brenda Wornock, nursing programme coordinator at Sault College. In a separate graduation address, Wornock paid tribute to Robert’s hard work, especially when transferring early in his programme from the University of Windsor. Two other nursing professors, along with a number of Robert’s nursing programme classmates, were also on hand.

Because of Robert’s beliefs, along with the respect he had earned while in his university programme, a number of non-Adventists were in attendance. They toured the newly acquired Seventh-day Adventist church and school facility and enjoyed a tasty all-vegetarian meal following graduation. After witnessing the calibre of science projects on display and the various awards presented to AACS students, one of the attendees remarked that AACS “has been a well-kept secret – but not any more.”

Robert’s wife, Mary Abbadasari, is the teaching principal at AACS.

**Adventist Book Centre in Oshawa Seeking a Junior Accountant**

Position to be filled by September 2007. Requirements:

- Batchelor’s degree in Business Administration with accounting emphasis preferred
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- Must demonstrate analytical ability
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Only qualified applicants will be contacted.
Christelle Agboka Receives Queen’s University Community Service Award

By Cyril Millett, Youth Ministries Director, Ontario Conference

Christelle Agboka (daughter of Ebenezer Agboka, one of the former treasurers of the Ontario Conference) recently received a community service award from Queen’s University. Christelle is the founder of the Adventist campus ministries group in Kingston, where she attends Queen’s University. She is pursuing her Master’s Degree in Education.

A committed Christian, who quietly serves her Lord, Christelle is very ambitious and wants to see ministry happen. Despite a heavy study load, she decided to start a campus outreach and worked with other students at Queen’s University and St. Lawrence College to launch a Campus Ministries that is reaching the unchurched with the Gospel.

“A few weeks ago, Pastor Sekulic informed me he’d nominated me for a volunteer award given by the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of Queen’s University,” said Christelle. “Pleasantly surprised, I thanked him and, with the flurry of final assignments, soon put the award out of my mind. Perhaps a week later, I received an email from Bryanna Lee, AMS Deputy Commissioner of Community Outreach and Advancement. I won an award! My first volunteering award to date! That is how I found myself at the intimate ceremony held on a lower floor of the Queen’s student union. Pastor Sekulic, Susan and Wendell Willis, and my thesis supervisor, John Freeman, joined me in support. It was wonderful to be publicly acknowledged for doing God’s work.”

Youth director of the Ontario Conference, Pastor Cyril Millet III, expressed his joy when he heard of the award. He said, “I think Christelle is well deserving of this public acknowledgement of her community work.” He also said that he feels very proud when one of ‘our youth’ receives awards like this.

Congratulations, Dr. Torres!

Pastor Wesley Torres, senior pastor at the Hamilton Mountain congregation, successfully defended his dissertation for the Doctor of Ministry Degree at Andrews University on June 22, 2007.

The dissertation, Our Families for God—A Family Worship Seminar, based on his conviction that each family is a gift from God who wants to bring all His children closer to Him. The spiritual environment at home should be the one that inspires the family members to praise and worship God for being their Creator and their closest friend.

Dr. Torres admits that, “this accomplishment has brought an immediate change in my ministry. It has increased my responsibility before God’s people, amplified my commitment to God’s cause, and enlarged my scope of service and mission to humanity.”
Expectations were high. Close to 1000 athletes made it the largest track and field event ever held by the Christian Youth Sports Academy (CYSA). Those from Apple Creek aimed to be crowned as division A champions for a sixth successive year. The three times division B champions, Philadelphia, were ready to ward off any competition for their crown. Athletes from Ohio and Columbus returned to Toronto with a stronger team than when they were last here two years ago. The arrival of a team from New York added to the sense that the annual sports day, held at York University, has become an international meeting.

The high expectations were literally dampened as athletes and spectators alike were soaked with a sudden downpour of torrential rain, even before the opening ceremony took place. With no covering, many ran to the parking lot, seeking sanctuary in their cars. When the rain stopped, the skies remained ominous and a few spectators decided that returning home was more appealing and left. The majority remained and braved the other periods of rainfall to enjoy an exhilarating day of athletics.

The athletes and supporters from Philadelphia Church were the first to experience the joy of winning. Their new distance star, Christian Edouard, in the 1500m, first event of the day, gave them a victory worth cheering for. They were happy she had chosen their church as hers when she arrived from Montreal six months ago. It also lifted their spirits having learned that the increase in their church membership had catapulted them into division A where they would have to compete against larger churches, such as Apple Creek, Toronto West and new-comer, Willowdale.

It was Willowdale’s first appearance at a CYSA event. “We brought just a small team of 18,” said Pastor Andre Anderson, assistant pastor at Willowdale, “and we had a great time. We will train and be back for next year!” No doubt, they will be joined by the other first-timers—the London Church. Pastor Alexander Golovenko drove the two-hour journey to bring four athletes from London to participate. He got wet, dried out, then wet again, but still enthusiastically cheered for the London athletes. Pastor
Golovenko’s attitude towards his team is exemplary of what athletes look for in their pastors. The presence of a pastor among athletes and supporters from his church seems to be highly valued. Perhaps this is why the pastors’ race is among the star attractions.

Who can forget Pastor John Brooks from New York? He won over 40’s pastors race, leaving Pastor Mansfield Edwards in his wake before going on to win the 100m for 35-39 year-old all-comers race. Earlier, to the delight of his team, he walked his way to victory in the seniors power walk.

Meanwhile, in the 100m for women, it was Pauline Christian, another veteran, who stole the day. Her decisive victory silenced those who have doubted her ability to remain at the top when younger women have given up because they could no longer compete against the 20-year olds. Christian is simply amazing.

Danielle Brown is especially amazing. Last year the 16-year old ran for Apple Creek Church. This year, she was unable to run because she is struggling with cancer. Many of the female athletes from Apple Creek wore light blue bandanas.

“We are wearing them to show our support for Danielle,” said Loviere Poynter from Apple Creek. “She’s doing well, but we’re asking everyone to pray for her.”

CYSA organizers dedicated the 14-16 age group female 4 x 100m relay to her. A team from her school attended the meeting for the sole purpose of taking part in the race.

As usual, the relays provided the eagerly anticipated thrills. The mixed medley, introduced for the first time, had everyone standing, jumping and cheering, as the lead varied between the churches, before being won by Philadelphia. Females ran the first 100m leg, followed by males on a second 100m before females took over on the 200m leg. Finally, it was down to the males on the 400m leg to bring it to an end.

The excitement of the relays banished the memories of the rainfall and the delays between races.

“The delays were caused,” said CYSA president, Chris Mitchell, “by some problems with the computer used in the electronic timing and photographic finish. We tried to do something special this year to make things run faster for everyone, but the equipment simply let us down. We really need to obtain our own equipment. Meanwhile, all of us at CYSA feel really bad about this, and we want everyone to know that we are very sorry for any disappointment they experienced.”

Disappointments are quickly forgotten, especially when there was so much to enjoy. There was joy again for Apple Creek as they regained their crown for a sixth successive year. Philadelphia’s early woes were replaced with jubilation, taking the silver medal position behind Apple Creek in Division A and being crowned relay champions. The new Division B champion is Mount Olive! For everyone else, the joy of being together, the feelings of sheer delight, the alternating sense of hope and disappointment, the pleasure of happy children, and the picnic atmosphere with good friends, all came together to create a day of great memories.

Marriage is about teamwork

Continued on page 11

Family Ministries: “Seeking to Honour God”

It has been second quarter for the volunteers who help to coordinate many of the Family and Women’s Ministry events across Ontario. God has led them to help build loving relationships in homes and churches, as well as helping singles find meaning and purpose in their lives as God’s children.

April 20-22 Marriage Retreat

First, there was the annual marriage retreat that is simply growing in size and quality each year. Held at Horseshoe Resort, Barrie, on April 20-22, 2007 an unprecedented 68 couples registered. It featured fun-filled team outdoor competition led by Edsel and Chris Adap, a candid workshop on physical oneness by Hilton and Maxine Rivers and key note presentations by Pastor Wayne and Dorothy Hayward from Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Continued on page 11
Moving, Coming and Going

Pastor Adam Bujak, assistant communication director of the Ontario Conference, is shortly to take up new duties as pastor of two young congregations.

For the past two years, Pastor Bujak has served as assistant to the communication director while ministering to the Salem congregation in Scarborough, as its pastor. He is often seen at camp meetings and other gatherings providing photographic or video coverage. Many of his photographs are often used in the conference newsletter, Ontario Highlights, and other publications. His appointment as pastor of the Addington Highland Branch Sabbath School and the Cobourg Company means that he will be leaving the Salem Church as well as the conference office. He assumes his new position on August 1, 2007.

Also leaving the conference office is Cecelia Ritchey, who has been working there for nearly nine years. She will be moving to Canadian University College (CUC) in Alberta, with her husband, Jerrold, at the beginning of August.

Cecelia is known for her gentle and kind Christian spirit and will be greatly missed by everyone at the conference office. Jerrold Ritchey has been the manager of the Adventist Book Centre for the past 11 years. At CUC, he will be the vice president for Advancement, Development and Alumni.

We welcome Pastor Roger Esteves and his wife, Ruth, to Ontario. Pastor Esteves is the new assistant to Pastor Guerlyng Martins at the Toronto Portuguese Church and its branch Sabbath School in Cambridge.

A recent graduate of Southern College, Tennessee, Pastor Esteves holds an M.A. in family counselling. He and Ruth are the proud parents of a toddler, Caleb.

Pastor Serevudh Ly has been given responsibility for the Cambodian Branch Sabbath School. He leaves the Cobourg Company and Addington Highland Branch Sabbath School but remains as pastor of the Belleville Church.

Pastor Elizabeth Pule will shortly return from maternity leave to assume her position as assistant pastor at the Willowdale Church.

Pastor Andre Anderson, who has been providing maternity coverage for Pastor Pule, has been given full-time employment and will be the new chaplain at Crawford Adventist Academy, effective August 1, 2007.

Returning from the seminary are Marian Kossovan, Frank Dell’Erba and Joe Duchesne. They will shortly be assigned.

Be a Part of Canadian Christian Radio History in Ontario

Every Adventist in Ontario can now become a part of a historic undertaking! You can join Adventists in every province and territory in bringing the Gospel to the entire country through radio evangelism.

Imagine, the average Canadian spends over 19 hours a week listening to radio – at home, on the road and at work. Christian radio now has an opportunity to reach the radio audience as never before in the history of Canada. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada has received the opportunity to rebroadcast programmes on Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) right across Canada.

VOAR can already be heard in some areas of Newfoundland and British Columbia and throughout Canada on Bell Express Vus satellite, but there are many potential listeners who are overlooked. Not everyone has Internet or a Bell Express Vus subscription. With the opportunity of establishing rebroadcast sites, VOAR can expand right across Ontario and Canada.

You are invited to make history with us by helping raise towers throughout Ontario that broadcast the Good News.

You can be a part of Canadian Christian radio history by either erecting a rebroadcast tower site in one or more of Canada’s remote communities or by financially supporting those who are willing to take up the challenge. Either way, you assist the Gospel Commission in dramatic fashion. Never before has Ontario and Canada had this opportunity. We must act now to ensure that VOAR Christian Family Radio is heard throughout Ontario.

Four sites have already been erected in British Columbia, and listeners have emailed VOAR, excited that they were able to hear Christian radio for the first time in their lives. It has been groundbreaking. British Columbia is working toward some 35 sites in total. We want to do the same in Ontario. Obviously, there is a crying need for Christian radio.

Interested? Visit www.raiseatower.ca, or call Halsey Peat at 905-571-1022.

Voice of Prophecy Evangelism Videos for Sale

EVANGELISM VIDEOS FOR $1.15 EACH? While they last, full sets of ‘The Voice of Prophecy Speaks’ on 26 VHS are $29.96 (U.S.) plus shipping. This is a complete NET series by Lonnie Melashenko. It’s also available on 13 DVDs for $79.96 (U.S.) plus shipping. To order, phone 805-955-7667.

BIBLE STUDY RADIO SPOTS. These spots for Discover can be localized with a church’s phone number, mailing address, website, or e-mail address, so a local Bible School immediately receives the names and addresses of those who respond. Information: 805-955-7659.

INTEREST NAMES. These are available from the Voice of Prophecy Bible School without charge for pastors and others holding evangelistic series. Also available is a localized invitation letter for pastors to mail to persons on the interest list. Details: 805-955-7659.
May 4-6 Young Women

Two weeks later, 75 young women, ages 13-21, laughed and wept, sang and prayed, rowed and raced, and created fun memories on the warm weekend of May 4-6, at Camp Frenda. Speakers Rebecca Lee, Ozi Ijeh, Yolaine Kirlew, Sandra Silva, Aprille Janes and Dawn Thompson led them on an artistic journey of discovery to understand that ‘The Best Is Yet to Come’. The Musical Café Programme on Saturday night showcased the outstanding creative talent of many attendees. First time attendee, Amoy, loved it.

“I must admit, I did not know what to expect from the young women’s retreat,” she said, “Upon arriving and seeing the plan for the weekend, ‘The Best Is Yet to Come,’ I was truly impressed. I know that the weekend changed me significantly, in terms of my focus on God and also helped to strengthen my faith. The retreat is definitely a place where young women need to be to give them hope that God can do mighty things in their lives, if they only trust in Him.”

May 11-13 Women’s Ministries

The following weekend, May 11-13, twenty-six Women’s Ministries leaders from Ottawa to Cambridge arrived at Camp Frenda to take a deeper look at their ministries. On Friday night, Lisa from eastern Ontario, arrived at Camp Frenda for the first time. When she was introduced to one of the speakers, MaryJo Dubbs, founder of God in Shoes Ministry from the Georgia Cumberland Conference, Lisa was certain that she had seen her before but was puzzled upon finding out that MaryJo had never been in Canada. Next morning, while MaryJo was speaking on how she mobilized her Women’s Ministries Department in projects for ministering to marginalized people, Lisa suddenly remembered that a dream she had months earlier revealed the exact details of what was now before her eyes – right down to the fine details of MaryJo’s white with black trim suit and new haircut. The women humbly praised God for this assurance of God’s interest in their ministries.

June 3 Singles Experience Fun & Mission

Sixty-four singles came out on June 3, 2007 to a singles brunch at Park Plaza Hotel in Etobicoke to enjoy meeting new friends, fantastic food and the inspirational message of Bro. Travis Afflick of the Toronto Central Adventist Church. Singles Ministries lay coordinator, Petra McGann, noted that there is evidence of a growing emphasis on outreach activity amongst singles after three single ministry leaders from Immanuel, Downsview, and Mt. Zion churches gave excellent reports on the innovative and dedicated ministries that they are carrying out for their communities.

Many women and singles have been greatly blessed by God through these and other events that have not been listed above. These ministries seek to glorify God, as women and singles experience fulfillment in Him.

Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Women’s Ministries Department

Family Ministries: “Seeking to Honour God”

Continued from page 9

Balancing act at the marriage retreat

May 4-6 Young Women

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“I must admit, I did not know what to expect from the young women’s retreat,” she said, “Upon arriving and seeing the plan for the weekend, ‘The Best Is Yet to Come,’ I was truly impressed. I know that the weekend changed me significantly, in terms of my focus on God and also helped to strengthen my faith. The retreat is definitely a place where young women need to be to give them hope that God can do mighty things in their lives, if they only trust in Him.”

May 11-13 Women’s Ministries

The following weekend, May 11-13, twenty-six Women’s Ministries leaders from Ottawa to Cambridge arrived at Camp Frenda to take a deeper look at their ministries. On Friday night, Lisa from eastern Ontario, arrived at Camp Frenda for the first time. When she was introduced to one of the speakers, MaryJo Dubbs, founder of God in Shoes Ministry from the Georgia Cumberland Conference, Lisa was certain that she had seen her before but was puzzled upon finding out that MaryJo had never been in Canada. Next morning, while MaryJo was speaking on how she mobilized her Women’s Ministries Department in projects for ministering to marginalized people, Lisa suddenly remembered that a dream she had months earlier revealed the exact details of what was now before her eyes – right down to the fine details of MaryJo’s white with black trim suit and new haircut. The women humbly praised God for this assurance of God’s interest in their ministries.

June 3 Singles Experience Fun & Mission

Sixty-four singles came out on June 3, 2007 to a singles brunch at Park Plaza Hotel in Etobicoke to enjoy meeting new friends, fantastic food and the inspirational message of Bro. Travis Afflick of the Toronto Central Adventist Church. Singles Ministries lay coordinator, Petra McGann, noted that there is evidence of a growing emphasis on outreach activity amongst singles after three single ministry leaders from Immanuel, Downsview, and Mt. Zion churches gave excellent reports on the innovative and dedicated ministries that they are carrying out for their communities.

Many women and singles have been greatly blessed by God through these and other events that have not been listed above. These ministries seek to glorify God, as women and singles experience fulfillment in Him.
It’s www.ajaxsda.com!

Under the leadership of Lance Flash, the Ajax Seventh-day Adventist Community Church officially went live with its website, www.ajaxsda.com, on June 5, 2007. On June 30, 2007, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held, and the website was officially launched and dedicated to the Lord. The website was created as a means of sharing information with our local and extended communities and to spread the love of Christ to every person who logs on.

Pastor Charles Leader led with the prayer of dedication and Lance Flash followed with an online presentation, demonstrating the ease involved in navigating through the site.

An important feature of the site is the weekly “Sermons of the Week,” which provides those who log on with a short synopsis of the sermons that were preached for that week.

Thanks to the Adventist Church Connect which is sponsored by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist who provided the web support necessary for us to develop this site. To God be the Glory.

Judy Hutchinson-Boyce, Communications Church News

Kitchener Youth in Community Outreach

Every Sabbath afternoon, a group of church members, including several youth members, go down to Speaker’s Corner in Kitchener to distribute clothing, personal care kits and brown bags with snacks to the homeless and needy. The group finds it such a blessing to be able to help in this way. They have made many contacts with the people of downtown, including women who are living in shelters, people with cancer, people who want to help, and others to bring their unwanted clothing and other items for the church to distribute.

On Sabbath, May 21, 2007, for the Community Services Day, the group invited some of the homeless to church where they partook of the potluck that was hosted by the church.

Andrea Kaddour
Communications Secretary

New Pathfinder Club at Kendalwood

The Kendalwood Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Whitby, Ontario, is proud to announce that they have formed a new Pathfinder Club called the Kendalwood Galaxy Pathfinder Club, where every member is a star. Their goal is to go on God’s errands in their neighbourhood. A special invitation is extended to all pathfinder clubs in the GTA and Durham to join the Kendalwood Galaxy Pathfinder Club in its induction service to be held Sabbath, September 1, 2007. Lunch will be provided.

Andrea Kaddour
Communications Secretary

Kitchener Church Members Minister to Women in Prison

A year ago, a number of dedicated members of the Kitchener-Waterloo Seventh-day Adventist Church began a ministry to women in prison. God immediately began to bless their work at the Grand Valley Institute for Women (GVIW).

GVIW, which opened in 1997, is a fenced, multi-level institution located in Kitchener and is responsible for the reception, assessment and placement of women receiving federal terms within Ontario.

God opened the way for the church to hold Sabbath services and a Thursday Bible study group at GVIW. There are now close to 20 women who regularly attend the Sabbath services, while a good number are also attending Pastor Jiwan Moon’s Thursday Bible study group. Some are preparing for baptism.

Andrea Kaddour
Communications Secretary

Lindsay Company Organized

Sabbath, May 26, 2007 was a very happy occasion for members of the Lindsay group. On that day, they became the “Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist Company” when a service of celebration and declaration was held in the chapel at Victoria Manor, their place of worship. They were joined by the Administration of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists—Pastor Derrick Nichols, president, Pastor Antonio Bueno, executive secretary, and Brother Ulysses Guarin, treasurer.

It all began in April of 1995 when Loury and Nina Forsey and Jerry Colleran shared a dream of creating a Seventh-day Adventist presence in Lindsay, Ontario. Sister Enid Davis, who was canvassing the Lindsay area for ADRA, joined them at the rented the Christian Reformed Church for Sabbath mornings. Cindy Laird-Wesley joined them soon afterward, and they became the nucleus of Seventh-day Adventist believers in Lindsay.

The small group faced many challenges but never lost its vision. The group grew as other Adventists moved into the area. When Rijna Wilms was baptized, it was a time of great rejoicing.
Ten Baptized as Meadowvale Church Moves to New Premises

On Sabbath, June 30, 2007, Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its last Sabbath at 16 Falconer Dr. with a baptism of ten precious souls and one new member added through the profession of faith.

“It was a nostalgic time, as we celebrated the Lord’s Supper followed by a baptism to close out our 13 year history at Falconer Drive,” reported Daniel Saugh, pastor of the congregation since January 2006. “Many members were in a pensive mood, yet there was a sense of indebtedness to how God has led them in their past history.” He noted that the Meadowvale congregation was also one of the pioneering churches in the Ontario Conference to renovate an industrial building and transform it into a house of worship.

Pastor Saugh also reported on the feeling of excitement and ecstatic anticipation among the members to move into their new church building. He described the series of miracles through which God led the church back to the very point of origin where they first started the work—the heart of the Meadowvale community. “Earlier this year,” he said, “the Lord alerted us to an opportunity to return to the beginning of where the ‘work started to finish the work’. When a Baptist church decided to sell their building, and the Baptist Convention invited us for a private audience. We knew then that God had granted us favour.”

On Sabbath, July 7, 2007, (God’s perfect number, 777) Meadowvale Adventist Church celebrated its first worship in the new facility at 5920 Montevideo Road, returning to where the work first started. “We are forever grateful for God’s provision and direction,” says pastor Saugh, “and it is the desire and determination of the Meadowvale Church to fulfill the mission of the church to make disciples of all people.”

Mount Zion Filipino Fancy Drill Champions Again!

Mount Zion Team with Ontario Pathfinder specialist, Pastor Charles Leader pictured here at CYSA rally on July 8, 2007 - Canada Christian College
Ontario Prison Ministry Association Celebrates Convocation Day at Mount Olive

Sabbath, June 16, 2007, was a day of inspiration and fulfillment. The Ontario Prison Ministry Association of Seventh-day Adventists (OPMASDA) celebrated its 7th annual convocation day at the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Welcoming OPMASDA to the Mount Olive Church, Dr. Kenneth Campbell, pastor of congregation, commended it for its valuable contribution and accomplishment in the community. In response, Robert Levy, president of the OPMASDA, encouraged the congregation to become involved in Prison Ministry.

He also recognized Doreen Barclay for her 23 years of committed service to the organization; commended the executive members and volunteers for their dedication and introduced Orin Roberts, the newly appointed area director for the Metro East District.

Pastor Eustace Williams, Personal Ministries director of the Ontario Conference, delivered an inspiring sermon entitled “Can I Make This a Better Place?” He reminded the congregation that God must be the foundation of all things. He stressed the critical value of worshipping God and implored parents to be positive role models.

After lunch, Pastor Carlton Roulston and Robert Levy gave a presentation that described the work of OPMASDA. It included information on the church’s response to the current crime and unrest in the Greater Toronto Area. A good number of those attending expressed their willingness to participate in programmes that could improve their neighbourhoods. The day concluded with a concert.

Union President Leads Water Bottle Ministry in Ottawa

Sabbath, June 16, 2007 is a day that the Ottawa French Church will never forget. It was when Elder Daniel Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and his wife, Donna, director of Women Ministries for the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, stood for Jesus in the streets of Ottawa.

Earlier, at the Ottawa French Church, Elder Jackson preached about Christ taking our condemnation and sharing with us his eternal glory. In the afternoon, he and his wife, Donna, led the church members unto the streets of Ottawa to share 200 bottles of water with diplomats, politicians and tourists. Each bottle had the following message:

“He who drinks of this water shall thirst again: But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

This proved an immediate attraction. Even though it was a hot summer day, people were more interested in the Bible message than in the water.

The sight of the president and his wife passing bottles of water in the street with the children and the church members left a lasting impression on the entire Ottawa French Church. They were also inspired by Sandra Silva, who had accompanied Donna Jackson. She was full of fire and zeal and was active in handing out bottles of water and sharing the Gospel with people.

Later, back at the church, Sandra joined Donna in a dynamic presentation. Pastor Jackson concluded the evening with words of encouragement for the entire congregation. The impact of these church leaders on the capital city for one day left the membership wondering what it would be like if they had remained for an entire month.

Parkdale’s Rebirth

Five years ago, on June 8, 2002, eight members of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church stepped out in faith and became the nucleus of a new group in the Parkdale area of Toronto. On June 16, 2007, the group was organized into a company by the officers of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. There are now nearly 60 regular worshippers each Sabbath in rented space at the Parkdale United Church.

The idea of planting a church in the Parkdale area began with Pastor Vincent Lue, minister of the Bethel Church. He saw the needs in the community and was convinced that an Adventist church was needed. His idea was supported by the church, and after much prayer and fasting, over a 12-month period, eight volunteers were selected to spearhead the project. They were led by Claudius Bollers, the personal ministries leader.

The new Parkdale group quickly made its impact on the area. Since December 23, 2002, they have a thriving Touch of Love ministry. Every third Tuesday in each month they serve between 40 and 70 needy individuals with hot meals. At Christmas the number is as many as 150. The ministry is so successful that they now have the support of the Parkdale United Church.

The organization service was a time of thanksgiving to God and celebration of the work that has been accomplished in His name. Pastor Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, admonished the congregation to continue as they started, by meeting people’s needs through love. Other dignitaries included Pastor Antonio Bueno and Brother Ulysses Guarin, executive secretary and treasurer, respectively of the Ontario Conference, and the Hon. Sheri Di Novo MPP, High Park/Parkdale ridings. Nearly 150 individuals attended the service.

The members of the new company recognise that they were strongly supported by many individuals in their church plant and are very grateful to them. The part played by Pastor Vincent Lue, Bethel Adventist Church, Parkdale United Church, Keith and Peggy James and their son David, Keith and Rookmin Mangar, Lucille Thompson, Pastor E.V. and Esther Richards, and Pastor G. Beresford was highlighted.
Philadelphia Receives Grant for Crime Prevention Project

On July 9, 2007, the Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church received a grant of $39,000 from the African-Canadian Network (ACCN). Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, joined the ACCN at a news conference for the announcement of $506,000 in funding for 14 churches and their partners to work together with youth in Toronto to provide them with positive supports, opportunities, and alternatives to violence.

“The partnership between the provincial government and the ACCN illustrates our shared commitment to provide children and youth with the opportunities and hope they need to help them overcome the challenges they face in their lives,” said Chambers. “The positive feedback I’ve been getting from projects funded in the first two rounds makes it even more exciting to announce this third round of our $3 million grant.”

Since receiving the $3 million grant from the provincial government, the ACCN has funded 47 community projects led by churches and their partners to positively impact Toronto youth and their families. The projects focus on education, crime prevention, employment and family.

Philadelphia’s senior pastor, Fitzroy Maitland, received the $39,000.00 award for the church to conduct its proposed community-based programme called PEACE—Planning Early to Avoid Criminal Elements. PEACE is designed as a delinquency prevention programme focusing on preventing children (under 12 years) from becoming future offenders by helping them reduce aggressive and delinquent behaviour through the application of the well known SNAP™ (Stop Now And Plan) strategy.

“In running this programme,” said Maitland, “we hope to train the youths to be positive role models, so they can in turn impact other youths in their communities. This programme can make a big difference not only for this life, but for eternity.”

Philadelphia Church joins eight other Adventist churches in the Greater Toronto Area that have received grants. Philadelphia Adventist Church worships at Grace Christian Reformed Church, 25 Channel Nine Crt, Scarborough, Ontario.
Derron E. Allen, BS MS. MD
graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Derron has accepted a surgical internship in Atlanta, Georgia.

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**Congratulation**
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