Tuesday and Wednesday morning, September 4 and 5, 2007, were historic days at the Agape Temple and North London Seventh-day Adventist churches, respectively, as two new Adventist elementary schools opened their doors to eager children and nervous parents.

The opening of two new schools is part of the Ontario Conference’s long-term goal to provide every Adventist pupil with the opportunity of receiving an Adventist Christian education within reach of his or her home.

At the east campus of Crawford Adventist Elementary School in Pickering, parents cited the value of having a school close to home. “It’s great having a school so close,” said Lance Flash, “I used to make a round trip of about 94 km, and it took me close to an hour to take the boys to North York. Now, it’s just a few minutes.”

At London Advent Christian Academy in North London, parents were thrilled to have an Adventist school there since the last one closed its doors exactly ten years ago.

“It was so exciting to see 13 pupils coming in on the first day,” exclaimed local pastor, Alex Golovenko. “A lot of hard work had gone into making this possible, and we give God thanks for all He has done.”

By 8:45 a.m., parents had deposited their young ones into the care of their new teachers, but there was no hurry to leave. The children were led into worship, the first act of the day, but the parents lingered, reluctant to depart, wanting to see how their children would fare. Those with cameras did their best to capture a picture of their children without causing too much of a distraction. They failed miserably. At the Agape Temple location, Principal Wendy Hutchinson kindly thanked them for their support and gently encouraged them to leave.

Barbara Gay-Chin reluctantly left after seeing her daughter, Abigail, age 4, happily waved good-bye to her. “Oh, it was such a nerve-racking experience,” she said, but quickly added, “the good thing about it is that Abigail is in a Christian environment, so it makes me feel more comfortable.”

Continued on page 5
Distressed and Disappointed, Yet Determined

It's almost twenty years since the controversy over the publication of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* erupted. It was claimed, by many Muslims, that Rushdie's fourth novel contained blasphemous references. The book was banned in some countries and burned in others. In 1989, following a violent riot against the book in Pakistan, a fatwa was issued calling on all good Muslims to kill Rushdie and his publishers, or to have others do it if they couldn't do it themselves. Rushdie went into hiding for the following ten years.

As a young pastor at the time, I gave serious thought to the controversy to see if I could learn any lessons from it and to respond to questions from the two congregations I served. Two thoughts emerged immediately. Firstly, as Adventists we cannot win people to the truth of God's Word by insulting them or ridiculing their beliefs, regardless of how wrong we think they are. Secondly, God does not need us to defend Him. It's really a preposterous thought to think that poor, pathetic, sinful man can defend the Almighty! Yet, some people are willing to even take the life of an individual who they believe to be insulting God.

When I was much younger, I used to think that as Adventists, it would be inconceivable to think that we would ever resort to physically hurt a fellow child of God because of different viewpoints. However, when I saw two church sisters exchange blows at a business meeting, I had to re-think my earlier position. Happily, I've never seen a repetition, but there have been numerous occasions when I've heard scathing remarks and caustic words that were intended to prove a point but inflicted humiliation and pain instead.

I've seen anger and resentment from one member to another, simply because the other person disagreed with an opinion or interpretation. Sadly, the saying, "If only looks could kill," clearly describes the attitude of some of our brothers and sisters towards each other.

When the new convert spoke with me, he had just experienced a verbal warfare during a business meeting at his church. He was totally unprepared for what he saw. He was appalled to see people whom he respected, behave in a manner that totally misrepresented Jesus. He heard comments that were disrespectful and even vicious. While some were clearly said in anger, others were more subtle, coated in a veneer of righteous indignation, yet determinedly designed to undermine the authority of the leadership of the local congregation. He was distressed and disappointed. The attitude and behaviour of some in his church family led him to question whether he had made a serious error of judgement in being baptised and becoming a member of that church.

I sometimes wonder why some behave in this way. Could it be that some of us are so fixed on "being right" that we invest our entire being into becoming defenders of that right? Does this then cause us to be intolerant of those who differ, to the extent of setting ourselves up against them? Like William Miller, back in 1844, we are not always right.

We must always strive for what is true and right. Yet, it's not "being right" that identifies us as belonging to God. Jesus Himself said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35 (NIV). John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13 describe this type of love. It's one that leads to harmony and a sense of wanting to belong to the body of Christ. It's one that supports and encourages, allowing each person to grow into the fullness of God in his or her own way and time, according to God's leading.

The good news is that my young friend is determined to remain in God's church. He senses God's power in his life and is convinced that Jesus led him into it. It's our responsibility to create an atmosphere of love within the church family for him to grow into the fullness of the image of God. This is what is expected of us. This is what will draw people to Jesus.

Halsey Peat
Editor
Building Relationships through Visitation

It's not uncommon to hear some members say that they have not received a pastoral visit from the pastor or an elder for many years. Such a statement is sometimes said with sadness, resignation, disappointment or even anger. Some members do not even realise that pastoral visitation used to be the norm.

You have heard it said, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” But I say to you, where there is no visitation, both the people and the pastor will perish.

While this article is by no means exhaustive, it will touch on a few key areas of pastoral visitation that should be well known but might have been overlooked.

The primary object of pastoral visitation is a demonstration of pastoral care for the flock. While pastoral caregivers might communicate the good news of the gospel during their visitation, it must not be overlooked that pastoral visitation is mostly a demonstration of pastoral care. People do not care how much pastors know until they see how much they care.

Every person the pastor visits (whether that person is in the best of health, sick, dying or bereaved), needs to experience the caring ways of his or her pastor-shepherd. Therefore, pastors and church leaders need to be intentional in developing the visitation program for their church members.

When pastors visit their members, they get to feel the pulse of the church. There are several factors that have brought pastoral visitation into a period of neglect. First, the changing demographics with members commuting great distances to church rather than living in the community where the church is located. Second, the pattern of the nuclear family where members are busy caring for the needs of their family and have little time to receive visits from pastors or elders. Third, some pastors have moved away from the shepherd model to the general manager model—where they are tied up with administrative niceties and complexities and have little time for the flock. The pastor’s study has become the pastor’s office.

For the older generation of members, a visit from the pastor was the norm. They expected it, received it and welcomed it. They valued a visit from the pastor. They used it to build a bond with their pastor and helped the pastor grow in his or her understanding of the congregation. However, for Generation X and the Millennial Generation, visitation is a lost art. It is the exception. When a pastor says that he or she would like to visit, a common response is, “Why, what have I done wrong?” Others will say, “I’m fine; I don’t need a visit.”

The misconception is that pastoral visitation is only for those who are having problems. The pastor, therefore, attempts to do the nurturing through sermons rather than through member-visitations.

Between January 2006 and December 2006, there were approximately 2000 new members added to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario. However, during that same period, over 500 members left the church. Could it be that the majority of those were never visited after their baptism?

It is generally known that most members who leave the church do so, not because of doctrinal issues or disbelief of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Adventist Church, but more so because of social factors. For example, the pastor not visiting and developing a relationship with them or were sick at home or in hospital for surgery or had a problem with their child.

It would appear that the church’s loss of members is correlated with their feeling that the church abandoned them after the lustre had gone off their baptism. The feeling of abandonment is also felt in matters of church discipline; in the mid and later stages of grief; in the aftermath of separation and /or divorce; and even in retirement.

In seeking to resolve the ambiguity between building church membership and meeting people’s deeper needs by over focusing on the former, members cease to attend church.

Visitation Nurtures Relationships

One of the primary ways that relationships are nurtured, and the needs of persons are acknowledged is through the pastoral visit.

The pastor who visits has the ability to nurture relationships and acknowledges the deeper needs of the people through his or her own sense of an effective perception of and ministry to the deepest hurts of people.

Sometimes members do not know the value of the pastoral visit until he or she receives one. The visit allows for a relationship to develop between the pastor and the member. Such relationships become the foundation for quick resolution of conflicts.

This should enhance retention of present members, as well as the recruitment of new ones. Visitations can do what massive outreach programmes are unable to accomplish.

Visitation and Listening

One of the key elements of pastoral visitation is the opportunity of members and
pastors to hear each other. It provides a time for members to really share and for the pastor to hear and listen.

**What Is Your Pastor’s Rationale for Visiting?**

Some pastors make home visits to keep the peace. As pastors are aware, there are varying factors that contribute to congregational strife and conflict. If pastors do not visit at their own initiative, it is a guarantee that they will run into problems in their congregations. I have observed over the years that congregations are sometimes willing to tolerate boring “whisper a prayer” sermons (as one member described her pastor’s preaching), disastrous administration and lack of organization, but members will not tolerate lack of visitation. They count it as neglect. Even parishioners who say that they do not need the pastor’s visit are often the most excited when the pastor does visit and are generous in their praises of their caring pastor who takes time out of his busy schedule to visit them. I remember a member who even called her son to join her for tea when I visited her—even though she had told me that the previous pastor had spent four years at her church but had never visited. There are many pastors whose ministry has been spared from the wrath of a full-blown congregational conflict by a significant member coming to his or her defence by sharing how during the time of crisis, the pastor visited and helped at a time of great need. However, maintaining the peace or protecting himself or herself from the wrath of the congregation is not a good rationale for visits.

**Who Should Initiate the Visit?**

Pastors should not need to be invited to visit but should take the initiative. Taking the initiative to visit presumes that it is important and appropriate for the pastor, as a caring person, to reach out, even without an invitation.

Sometimes we may wonder about the culture in which we live and the yearning for privacy. But one of the roles of the pastor is to be a caring shepherd. Therefore, he or she will have a visitation program. If your pastor or elder has been visiting on a regular basis, he or she will know what you are going through.

Regular visitation by your pastor will help you develop trust in him or her as your pastor. It prepares you to share more intimate details in times of crisis. One member remarked: “Because the pastor has been in my home and seen my stained couch and my fraying curtains, I feel I can trust him with the other stains that mar my life in times of crisis.” That is how caregiving, trusted pastors get involved in planning funerals or discussing surgery options for members.

If you would like a visit from your pastor, let him or her know. You can also take the initiative.

**Who Should Pastors Visit?**

Should pastors visit only in emergencies? Should they just visit once a year? Every member needs to be visited—and not just when there is an emergency. The visit for an emergency is more meaningful than when visits take place when all was well. Some members will require more visits than others, but all should be visited. New members often require more visits than longstanding ones. However, all members should expect and receive a visit from their pastor or elder. Members should also look for ways to make it easy for their pastor to visit them.

**What Makes a Visit Pastoral?**

When a pastor visits a parishioner her/his duty is to encourage believers in their Christian faith. The pastor is not a physician, psychiatrist or social worker, so do not view him as such. Pastors are generalists with one specific goal—to share the Gospel with everyone and to encourage the members in their Christian journey. Pastors should always listen to the concerns of their parishioners and to be specific when they pray.

When your pastor asks if he or she can visit you, recognise that God is allowing you an opportunity for growth. Receive your pastor’s visit gladly, as if you were receiving God Himself into your home.

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**Young Pastors Lead in Autumn Evangelism Thrust**

Matthew Feeley, assistant pastor at Kingsview Village, is following up his successful summer evangelistic series at his home church with “The Abundant Life and Health Seminar” series at the new group in Brampton. Meetings are being held at Cheyne Middle School, 236 Queen Mary Drive, from September 21 to October 13.

Patrick Jacques launched his first ever evangelistic series as the assistant pastor at Toronto West Adventist Church on September 15. However, he’s not new to evangelism. As a student in 2004 and again in 2006, he held meetings in Malawi, Africa.

Omar Palmer, assistant pastor at Apple Creek, could shortly be seen as an experienced evangelist. He has already conducted a six-series—the most recent at the Ruth Church in Brampton where 34 souls were baptised at the end of the series on September 22.
The meetings conducted by Feeley, Jacques and Palmer are just three of 57 being held in Adventist churches across the province. Some are hosting satellite events, while others will feature well-known and experienced evangelists.

One of the most eagerly anticipated meetings will be a five-week area-wide series in the Durham region with Evangelist Dan Bentzinger from It Is Written, USA. A rally for the four area churches was held at College Park Church on Sabbath, September 15, with Ron Halverson. Meetings will be held from October 26 to December 1 at College Park Adventist Church.

The members of Sault Ste. Marie Adventist Church are eagerly looking forward to a major evangelistic series that will take place in their town from October 12 to November 10. The meetings are the first, in recent history, to be held in a public auditorium and will feature Bill Santos from It Is Written, Canada.

“We are happy to see so many churches involved in evangelism,” says evangelism coordinator, Dr. Errol Lawrence, “because it is the life-blood of the church. This is what Jesus says we are to do.”

He encourages each member and every church to become active in some form of evangelism. “It’s such a wonderful feeling of seeing someone, whom we have witnessed to, being baptised.” says Lawrence. “And you’ll never know it until you start to share your joy in Jesus and witness to someone.”

Continued from page 1

The First Day of School:
Ontario Conference Opens Two New Schools

Earlier, as the children waited for worship to commence, not knowing each other, they sat in silence—possibly the only time that they will ever do so without being told. Some of the older children were asked how they felt about attending a new school. They quickly looked around at the other children to see who was watching and decided that it was safer to remain silent. Two grade two boys, Christian Forrester and Kyle Flash, didn’t have such qualms.

“I feel great!” shouted Christian. Kyle quickly jumped in with, “I’m excited!”

The sense of joy was repeated at London Advent Christian Academy.

“I love my Christian school!” declared an excited 2nd grader from the community near the North London Adventist Church. “I love learning about the Bible.” added another enthusiastic pupil. Both are from non-Adventist homes.

Expectations are high. Parents are looking to the success of the new schools.

“The opening of a new Adventist school is a good endeavour,” commented Marcia Palmer-Grant. “I’m looking forward to see my daughter, Rachel, succeed.”

The Ontario Conference has hired excellent Christian teachers who will not only help pupils reach their highest academic and social potential but will develop characters like that of Jesus.

Present at the opening of the 30-pupil east campus for Crawford Adventist Elementary School was Mr. Vernon Langdon, associate education superintendent for the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Mr. Norman Brown, supervising principal for the Toronto Adventist District School Board (TADSB). The next day, Dr. Frances Schander, superintendent of education, accompanied by Mr. Vernon Langdon and local pastor, Alex Golovenko, was present for the first day of school at London Advent Christian Academy.

The Crawford Adventist Elementary School–East is led by teaching principal, Wendy Hutchinson, with 21 years teaching experience. Also teaching are Katherine Gurango and Andrea Nagy. Katherine Gurango has been teaching primary grades at Red River Junior Academy, Winnipeg, Manitoba, for the past two years. Andrea Nagy is a recent University of Ottawa graduate in education.

Marilyn Thelwell-Strachan is the new teaching principal for 13 pupils at London Advent Christian Academy. She brings a strong educational background in elementary education to the teaching ministry in Ontario.

The opening of two new schools is an answer to prayer and the result of the hard work of many people. However, it is just the beginning. The continued success of these schools will need the support of the entire membership. Let us support Adventist Christian education through our prayers, financial sacrifice, personal effort and encouragement.
Adventist pastors and members were among the thousands of people who traditionally journey north for the long weekend at the end of August. However, they had the same destination—North Eastern Ontario Camp Meeting at Camp Noroton, near Monetville.

Camp Noroton, situated right beside the waters of Lake Nipissing, surrounded by nature and dotted with tents and RVs, provided just the atmosphere for camp. Yet, it was the mood of the campers that made this camp meeting memorable for many.

For the first time in many years, all the churches in Northern Ontario were involved in the planning of the camp, and a spirit of unity pervaded the entire weekend.

“It was like a family setting,” said one visitor. “It was so spiritual. I loved it!”

The spirit of unity and togetherness was reflected in the involvement of all the campers. Even though there were separate programmes for the youth, 8-13 year olds were seen conducting song service for the Adult Sabbath School.

The meetings began on Friday evening with Fred Irish, pastor of the North Bay and South River churches, as the devotional speaker. The main speaker, Pastor Orville Parchment, former president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, greeted the campers but did not commence his messages until Sabbath morning.

“I loved how he was able to share his faith with his friend,” said Pastor Millett. “This is what we want to see happen across all our camp meetings in Ontario, where young people will take the initiative to invite their friends.”

While many campers will remember the scramble to find gas after learning that the gas for warming Sabbath lunch had ran out, most will treasure the memory of witnessing a baptism at camp meeting. Following the Sabbath morning service, Ed and Helen Lew from Sudbury Church were baptised in the waters of the lake by Pastor Doug Pollington.

The inclusion of Maranatha training in evangelism and in giving Bible studies rounded off a good camp meeting experience for many. Some are already wondering how to make it even better next year.

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Pastor Parchment, assistant to the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, spoke on three occasions on the theme, ‘Jesus Is Coming—So What?’ Each message was done in a segment that linked to the next, and campers were keen to attend each segment (Sabbath morning, evening and Sunday morning) to receive the entire message. The youth, meanwhile, were just as involved.

“Camp meeting was exciting for the youths.” exclaimed youth director, Pastor Cyril Millett II, “We were able to have Sabbath School outside on a rock in the middle of a wooded area. It was just great to be there in nature and to talk about God’s will for our lives.”

The youths services were very flexible because there were only seven young people. Two older ones, who had worked at Camp Frenda during the summer, helped with the teens and made the time even more enjoyable. One young camper brought his school friend with him to camp. This act of witnessing brought satisfaction to Pastor Millett.
During six adventure-filled days, six youth, ages 15-18, and five adults worked all day, lived in tents, cooked on camp stoves and braved the unusually cool and damp August in Cochrane to give of themselves without asking for anything in return. They were STORM Co. 2007 (August 24-30).

STORM Co. is a group or company of young people who are trained to serve Christ and the community and believe that Service To Others Really Matters (STORM Co.). A year ago, three young people were among those who volunteered to serve the community on Manitoulin Island--STORM Co.'s first ever project. This year, six jumped at the chance to travel to Cochrane.

"We learned a lot from last year," said Pastor Cyril Millett II, youth director of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, "and we really wanted to make the Cochrane experience an exciting one."

He explained that Cochrane was selected because of the recent Adventist presence, including four youth, and STORM Co. wanted to give them support. Another reason was the opportunity to make inroads into the nearby First Nations community, following the good contact made through Alison Down, Bible instructor with the Cochrane Branch Sabbath School.

"As the event drew near," said Pastor Millett, "the youth were fired up and rearing to go. We had an exciting group of young people who were vocal in saying how they felt about going. Even the 9-hour journey north on Friday, August 24, did not dampen their mood. They were up early on Sabbath ready for church with the small group. In fact, they demonstrated their enthusiasm by supporting the Cochrane branch Sabbath School by putting on the programme, teaching the lesson and leading out in the worship service. They did this based on one of the five foundations of STORM Co--to worship enthusiastically."

On Monday, they began their work at the Taykwa Tagamou Nation Reserve, located 22 km east of Cochrane. The group first set out to make friends and to develop relationships with them. "This actually happened," commented Millett, "slowly at first, but as we got to know them and they us, and working beside them, they began to warm up to us."

STORM Co. did "simple but richly rewarding work," said Pastor Millett. They painted radiator covers at the community centre; cleaned out the games equipment room; helped to change light-switch plates; built a deck on one of the homes and even helped to build hockey arena boards around the perimeter of the rink. Birthe Chan, property manager at the conference, and a builder, Roland Giroux, (father of two of the youth at the Cochrane group) led the work. Pastor Daniel Saugh of the Meadowvale Adventist Church played an active role as assistant to Pastor Millett whose leg was still in a cast after breaking it in July.

"Working with the native community was an eye opener for everyone who had never done this before," reflected Pastor Millett, "and especially doing so as a team and sharing around the campfire how God was blessing the community through us while blessings us at the same time." He remembers some of the youth giving thanks to God for the experience:

"I was not sure that I should have come, but I'm really glad that I did!" said one. Another commented, "This has been one of the richest experiences of my life. This has really made my summer!" News of their work reached the local newspaper, and a reporter arrived to cover the story. He was so impressed with what had been accomplished and the motivation of the young people that he informed Pastor Millett of opportunities for STORM Co. to reach other First Nations communities further north. While Pastor Millett contemplates the prospects of riding the Polar Bear Express to northern regions, the Taykwa Tagamou Nation Reserve made it very clear that it wanted them to return next year. A representative told them, "We are hoping that you choose to come back next year!"

"We will definitely do this again," said a smiling Pastor Millett.

The Youth Department has set out to fundamentally do two things:

1. Encourage young people in their personal salvation and to help them encourage others in theirs.
2. Encourage young people to engage in service in their church and in their wider community.

Continued on page 8
**The Five Foundations of STORM Co.**

1. No Agenda = Listen to the needs of those we serve.
2. No Expectations = Service in every way we can.
3. No Walls = Encourage each other and other disciples of Christ.
4. No Limits = Return again and again, if possible, to build relations that allow free and open sharing of our faith.
5. No Fear = Worship without reservation with our lives as living testimonies of God’s power and amazing grace.

**More Help for Youth Leaders**

It’s Friday evening. In less than 24 hours, you’ve got to put on another Adventist Youth programme. You’re still recovering from the debacle of last week’s impromptu programme, and you still don’t have any idea of what you’re going to do tomorrow. Sound familiar? If you’re an AY leader, it’s the stress you face weekly. That’s about to change. Well, it could change...if you are willing to help each other.

Very few AY leaders have the time or resource to develop and put on weekly high calibre programmes. However, nearly all AY leaders are able to create that special, high calibre programme at least once a quarter. Now, just imagine, if all these programmes from all across Ontario were written up and placed in a booklet and made available to every AY leader! Each AY leader would have over 130 of the best programmes to choose from.

Send us your best programmes, and we will create a kit of 13 complete programmes for you every quarter.

This is in addition to the other resources for programme planning that are already provided by the Youth Department. For further information, contact cmillett@AdventistOntario.org.

**Free Pianos and Electronic Organs**

Woodstock Church has two pianos and two electric organs to give away for free, though freewill donations are welcome. Mover provides own transportation.

Contact: Karl Nickol 519-586 9884.

**Calling Eastern Ontario Singles to Worship and Fellowship**

When: November 10, 2007  
Where: Ottawa East Church, 194 Prince Albert St., Ottawa  
What: Eastern Ontario Regional Singles Day

Featuring: Pastor Daniel Saugh – Morning sermon and 2:30 p.m. workshop
Sabbath School program led by singles  
Fellowship light lunch  
Cost... FREE!

_Sponsored by Ontario Conference Family Ministries Department_

**Lauren’s Column**

What Girls Wished Boys Would Do!

He was wearing a bright red shirt, which I used as my excuse for looking his way. Of course, the fact that he was rather good-looking and also glancing over in my direction every now and then didn’t hurt.

Then...he grinned at me. I smiled back, and he managed a shaky “Are you a visitor?” I wasn’t, and I told him as much, but his name was suddenly called by a friend. It didn’t take very long, and he smiled at me again. I returned the gesture...and he walked away.

That, fellows, was the perfect opportunity ... and he wasted it.

It would have taken him no great effort to come over and say hello, and chances are that we’d have been able to strike up at least a friendship.

Believe it or not, that went well - normally I’d only get the smile! For some reason, many Adventist young men lack the courage to approach a girl and say hello. There is nothing wrong with doing this. Introduce yourselves. Take an interest. If she has to take the bus home after church, and you have a car, offer her a ride. It’s that simple.

A man who has the confidence to make the first move is well admired by us. Get talking; you’ll never get the chance to be friends if you only glance from a distance.

_Love ... Lauren_

Look out for what Lauren has to say about being a young, single, Adventist female in the next edition of Highlights.
OCOE Teachers Exercise Brain Matter

Summer is not all vacation for many Ontario Conference teachers. Forty-five (or nearly 65 percent) of the Ontario Conference’s teaching staff became students themselves during at least part of the summer. This percentage does not include those who studied for challenge exams, took Griggs University classes, or enrolled in Additional Qualification (AQ) courses from the Ontario College of Teachers.

Most teachers were involved in classes that lasted a week or less. For example, College Park Elementary School (CPES) hosted a Tribes training for 23 teachers. Under trainer Judy Joel, from the Durham Region School Board, teachers from Oshawa, Toronto, and Hamilton spent four days immersed in a cooperative learning setting. Teachers are now challenged to create this same atmosphere of acceptance and encouragement in their own classrooms.

Four teachers, Jacqueline Bedward (CAA), Manuela Terencio (Peel), Kathleen Mitchell (Hamilton) and Verlaine Linrud (Hamilton) spent several days immersed in Wilson Reading training in Toronto.

The Wilson method is widely acknowledged to be a leader in Orton-Gillingham based reading instruction. Its systematic, sequential, multi-sensory method has a proven success rate with at-risk readers.

Canadian University College (CaUC) offers two summer class tracks each year: a master’s programme in either curriculum and instruction or administration. Both tracks are intended to assist teachers in maintaining their teaching certification and are entirely funded and free to OCOE teachers, with few provisos. Attending summer school this year were Berkel Williams, Arlene Belle, Edwin Mansook, Brenda Gabriel-Knight, Lauren Chichester all from CAA, Brent van Rensburg (Peel) and Mary Abbadasari (Algoma).

Four French teachers attended an Accelerative Integrated Method (AIM) French workshop, held in Orillia in early July. This popular approach to second language instruction teaches through stories rather than themes, using gestures and large motor movement. “It’s great to hear students speaking French on the playground,” says Janice Maitland, principal of the high school division at CAA. Attendees included Crystal Sayler and Joan LaPointe (CPES), Lisa Orpana and Jo-Anne Easterbrook (CAA) and Manuela Terencio (Peel).

In addition, seven teachers attended a variety of seminars held at the Durham Regional School Board offices including Preston Handy, Brenda Gabriel-Knight, Paula Gayle, and Audrey James (CAA), Michelle DeSilva and Dana Chant (CPES), and Daniel Val Bonzil (Ottawa).

Frances Schander
Superintendent of Education
Two New Schools Launched in Ontario

On September 4, 2007, two new Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools were opened in Pickering and London, Ontario respectively. In the hallways, parents lingered making sure that their precious little ones were well settled in their classes. There were expressions of relief and joy that the children were now enrolled in a school where Christ will be the centre of the curriculum. It was certainly a moment to celebrate the efforts of all those who not only had the vision of establishing a Adventist Christian school, but toiled diligently to make it a reality. God certainly blessed their efforts.

At the location in North London Church there are 15 students enrolled under the dynamic and experienced leadership of Principal-teacher Marilyn Thelwell-Strachan. Pastor Alex Golovenko of the London district churches and the school board must be commended for demonstrating their strong support of Adventist Christian education. Already plans are being made to acquire a larger facility to accommodate the expected growth in enrolment over the next five years.

"Agape Temple Church members prayed for an entire year before the school opened," says Wendy Hutchinson, principal of the new Adventist school in Pickering. "They haven’t stopped," she adds, "because every weekday morning from 5 to 7 a.m. a group meets to pray specifically for the school."

A prolific writer on literacy issues, Johns is the author of the Basic Reading Inventory (BRI) assessment tool that accompanies the Pathways reading programme. He will speak on improving comprehension and fluency.

Seven-one Ontario teachers will spend October 21–23, 2007 at Camp Frenda at a teachers’ retreat. Held annually to promote professional development and collegiality, the group will hear from a variety of speakers.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Arlene Taylor, a noted speaker regarding brain-function research. Originally a nurse-epidemiologist by profession, Taylor is now an internationally known writer and speaker. Taylor, a Canadian by birth who currently lives in Napa, CA, was a presenter at the 2006 North-America-wide Adventist teachers’ convention in Nashville, TN. Her Ph.D. is in clinical counselling.

French Curriculum Created and Piloted

For many years Adventist educators in Canada have felt a need for an inexpensive but effective multi-grade French curriculum that could be used by non-fluent French teachers in small schools.

Three years ago the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Education Department, under then director Mike Lekic, funded the development and creation of a handbook, Phase I of the project, that could be used to support French instruction across Canada. Under the direction of Jean Septembre, registrar and IT instructor at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, Aldergrove, B.C., and Frances Schander, superintendent of education, a small team of French teachers from across Canada worked together to develop this handbook.

The handbook was created in DeKalb, IL. A prolific writer on literacy issues, Johns is the author of the Basic Reading Inventory (BRI) assessment tool that accompanies the Pathways reading programme. He will speak on improving comprehension and fluency.

Other presenters include Ermine Leader, Ph.D., counselling psychologist at York University and Rick Norman, manager of assessment resources and services for Nelson Education. Morning devotion speaker is Pastor Andre Anderson, CAA’s new chaplain.
New Teachers Join OCOE for 2007-2008


Eval Bernard, grade 5-8 teacher at Windsor Adventist Elementary School, has lived in Canada for about 10 years. Prior to completing a B.Ed. in elementary education at CaUC in April 2007, Eval taught in Jamaica.

Brent Bol is the grade 6/7 home room teacher at Peel Seventh-day Adventist School in Brampton. A graduate of CaUC with a B.Ed. in math, Bol taught math, science, and physical education at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, Calgary, AB, where he was also vice-principal for five years.

Beverly Mae Mariano, a 2006 CaUC elementary education graduate, is returning to the Toronto area. A Crawford graduate, Mae is teaching grades 2 and 3 at Peel Seventh-day Adventist School. Last year she taught 4th grade at Deer Lake School in Burnaby, B.C.

Jewel Scott is a graduate of Oakwood College (B. Mus. 1999) and Andrews University (M.A.T. 2003). A Crawford graduate, Jewel returns to her alma mater. She has been teaching music education and choir at Northeastern Academy, New York, NY, since 2004.

Morris Beckford is a graduate of York University (B.A. hons. and B.Ed.). Prior to becoming a grade 8 teacher at CAA, Beckford, taught for the Toronto District School Board and also was program manager for Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services.

Katherine Gurango is a 2005 B.Ed. graduate from CaUC. For the past two years she taught a multi-grade primary classroom at Red River Valley Junior Academy, Winnipeg, MB. Originally from Ontario, Katherine returns to teach K-1 at the newly opened Adventist school in Pickering.

Marlon Sargeant is CAA’s new biology teacher. Prior to his arrival at CAA, he was the coordinator for the Gifted Education and Talent Development program at Cedarbridge Academy (Bermuda) and was science chair at the Bermuda Institute SDA, Bermuda. Sargeant has an M.A. in education from Andrews University and a B.Sc. from the University of Guyana.

Lisa Paul, a recent B.Ed. graduate of York University, is College Park Elementary School’s new special education teacher. Her two sons have both attended CPES, and Lisa, a member of the Kendalwood Church, has taught short-term assignments on several occasions. She also was a member of the Home and School Association for five years.

Marilyn Thelwell-Strachan is the teaching principal of the newly-opened London Advent Christian School. A teacher with 13 years experience at St. Andrew Prep School (Kingston, Jamaica), Marilyn brings enthusiasm and expertise to this multi-grade setting, located in the North London Adventist Church. She is a 1998 graduate (B.A. Hons) of the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.

Daniel Val Bonzil, bilingual upper grades teacher at the Ottawa Adventist School, is returning to the place where he grew up. Val Bonzil has worked in education for over ten years, particularly in areas of special education and French as a Second Language (FSL). He has attended Vanier College and McGill University (Montreal) and is currently enrolled in French Studies at York (Toronto).

The OCOE held a day long orientation in the boardroom of the Conference Office on August 28, 2007. All new teachers attended to learn about health benefits, denominational certification requirements, financial issues, continuing education, other expectations and much more.
Keeping Quality Education: Evaluation

The Ontario Conference Office of Education (OCOE) seeks to maintain quality education in at least two ways: through school evaluation (examining building safety, school funding, overall curriculum, and much more) and teacher evaluation.

The OCOE is currently involved in school evaluations for the 2007-08 school year. In order to maintain a quality education programme, Adventist schools are inspected regularly, according to the requirements of the North American Division Department of Education. This school year the OCOE will be conducting two full evaluations: Algoma Adventist Christian School (November 12, 2007) and Windsor Adventist Elementary School (February 25, 2008). Crawford Adventist Academy will be evaluated in April 2008 by representatives from the North American Division. Revisits are also scheduled for Peel Adventist Elementary School (February 4, 2008) and Ottawa Adventist Elementary School (April 22, 2008).

In order to complete the evaluations in a timely manner, school boards must first be in-serviced regarding the expectations of the process. Several committees are formed to look at areas like curriculum and instruction, school facilities, and student services. Opinions of grades 5-8 students and all parents are surveyed. Based on findings of a self-study, the school board must then put together workable Action Plans to remediate weak areas.

Finally, anywhere from three to six months later, an evaluation team which includes the superintendents and at least one teacher or principal (depending on school size) makes an on-site inspection visit to verify the local board’s self-evaluation. This team writes recommendations and recommendations of its own which are presented to the school board, usually at the end of the evaluation day. The evaluation team also decides on the length of accreditation that will be granted (maximum time granted is six years).

Teacher evaluations, on the other hand, are conducted regularly by OCOE superintendents or designated principals. New teachers and those with provisional certificates (working toward Basic designation), along with those with Basic certificates, are all evaluated twice per year. Teachers with more than three years of experience and a Standard certificate are evaluated yearly, while those with Professional certificates are evaluated every three years.
“You’ll never know how far this will go to help someone,” said the food bank representative to the assembled pathfinders. With tears in his eyes, he expressed his heartfelt thanks to the 120 pathfinders and staff who had marched through the city of Guelph on their “March of Witness,” collecting food from residents along the way.

“This was just one of the many things that made this year’s camporee so special,” said Pastor Charles Leader, Ontario Conference Pathfinder specialist.

Ontario’s pathfinders returned to Guelph Lake Conservation Area for the third successive year for their 2007 camporee, determined to make a contribution to the local community. Each pathfinder was required to take at least one non-perishable food item for the local food bank. Earlier, a press release had been issued to the local media with information about camporee and the “March of Witness” and how residents could line the route with food to contribute to the food bank.

“The march was really a success,” commented Pastor Leader. “There is no doubt that the pathfinders made a positive impression on the local population. I’m really proud of them.”

For the first time in three years of camporee at Guelph Lake, campers did not have to cope with rain. The near-perfect weather created ideal conditions for the total enjoyment of the activities. The drill and drum core competitions were among the exciting highlights. The Ontario Conference Pathfinder Council worked hard during the year to raise the standard of both drilling and drum cores. The outstanding results were clearly evident at camporee. Drill masters, Neal Robinson and Delwin Clarke, played a pivotal role in this.

Mississauga Club resisted stiff competition to become the new drill champions. The drum core champions are, once again, Alpha-Centauri from the Ruth Church. However, the individual crown for the ‘Drill Down’ was won by Bramalea Signets’ Alyssa Rodriguez, for her outstanding work and precision drilling.

On Sunday, when the tents came down and campers hugged each other and said their farewells to newfound friends from Ottawa, Windsor and Toronto, they were already talking about the next time they would meet at camporee.
Xtreme Makeover

Nearly 1500 youth and young adults from across Ontario couldn’t resist the ‘Xtreme Makeover at Canada Christian College, Toronto, on Sabbath, July 22, 2007.

The youth rally had one main purpose—to help the youth of Ontario realize that God can make a change in their lives and that the mistakes of the past do not have to hinder their future with Christ!

By the end of a full and exciting day, each person left with a personal memorable moment. Some will remember the powerful preaching of Pastor Donald Burden, youth and ministerial director of the Allegheny West Conference. Others will fondly think of raising their hands in worship as they responded to the Holy Spirit’s urge to praise God. Then, there are those who will joyfully remember this as the first time they went on a prayer walk and talked to people about God and wonder why they had never done it before.

The rally was also a time to rejoice in achievements. Chris Mitchell, former president of Christian Youth Sports Academy (CYS & A), proudly presented youth director, Pastor Cyril Millett, with the BAYDA’s trophy that was awarded to Ontario’s Adventist track and field after a July meeting in Dayton, Ohio. CYS & A’s newly elected president, Kester Griffiths, presented Pastor Millett with a plaque from the mayor of Dayton for the fostering of goodwill between the youth of Dayton and Ontario.

1. Prayer walk participants
2. Using mime to convey a message
3. Music was rich and varied
4. Chris Mitchell presents BAYDA trophy to Pastor Cyril Millett
5. Sabbath School panel
6. Sharing personal experiences of God’s power

Photography:
Lilly Shibata-Salley
It's common knowledge that fibre is an important part of a good diet. But did you know that it is so important that it could potentially change your future? Let me tell you about a common disease process that is rarely talked about - diverticular disease—and how it relates to fibre and your health.

Diverticular disease is characterised by the out-pouching (small sac-like) of the large bowel wall at weak points. Its symptoms could include abdominal pain, bloating, flatulence and suffers run the risk of more severe complications. It is increasingly frequent in middle age and is found in up to 66% of those over 80. Compared to a few decades ago, this represents a substantial rise, and more people than ever are being diagnosed. Thankfully, 80% with the disease remain symptom free.

How does fibre relate?

Historically, Western societies consumed more fibre than what they do today. Meanwhile, with each successive generation, diverticular disease has increased. Furthermore, this disease is virtually unheard of in non-Western cultures with high fibre. While other factors exist, they do not diminish the association with low dietary fibre.

Fibre comes in two forms—soluble and non-soluble, soluble fibre dissolves in water and can be partially digested. Bacteria in our bowels convert it into healthy fatty acids that have the following benefits:

1. Reduce cholesterol production and lower harmful fats which increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.
2. Reduce the risk of diabetes.
3. Increase bowel acidity, which protects against the formation of polyps. (Some polyps become cancerous).
4. Increase the number of 'good' bacteria and improve immunity (infection fighting ability) for the body.

Changing our dietary norms may require us to confront longstanding habits. If you want to improve the health of your bowels, you've no choice but to consider the foods you eat. This together with general health measures, such as regular exercise, will help protect you from bowel and other systemic diseases.

It's said to take 30 days to develop a habit. I challenge you to eat the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables for the next two weeks, and you will notice a change in your bowel habits and general feeling of well-being. Let this positive change spur you on for a further two weeks – before you know it, you would have developed a new habit and better way of life!

Dr. Nicholas J. Peat  
BSc (Hons), MBBS (London)
Belleville Baptisms

Ron Baldwin was baptised at Belleville Church on September 1, 2007 as a sign of his commitment to the Lord. Ron has been attending church and Bible study for several years and has experienced a change in his life. Several years ago, he suffered a serious medical problem that left him partly disabled. The fellowship and caring of his Christian brothers and sisters have given him a new outlook on life.

Maryann Quinn has been attending Bible study at Belleville Church for about one year. In the spring, she expressed an interest in baptism and began her preparation with Pastor Ly and Phyllis Vallieres. Maryann was baptised while attending Blind Camp at Camp Frenda in July 2007. She is grateful that Jesus is her Saviour and daily thanks God for her church family.

Belleville Church Honours Barb for Her Work with Abused Women

On August 25, Barb Trupp (in red) was recognised by her church family for her work with abused women. The Belleville Church was celebrating Abuse Prevention Day.

Members heard about the beginnings of 3 Oaks, the shelter for abused women serving Belleville and surrounding areas and its relationship with Belleville Adventist Church.

In the 1970s, Barb Trupp was occasionally asked to provide shelter in her home on the farm for women experiencing violence in their homes. By 1980, the shelter had become a full-time endeavour, and for two years, volunteer women staffed the shelter. Eventually, a house for the shelter had to be found. With the use of a house in residential Belleville, controversy ensued to the point that Barb was threatened with jail. The shelter was finally moved out of town to Honeywell Corners, in 1984.

Barb and her board, many of them church members, persevered with the task of managing the shelter for many years. Working with abused women in Belleville was an unpopular cause at the time. However, God provided strength and wisdom, and the Board persevered and helped raise the issue of family violence to greater public attention and acceptance.

Also present on August 25, was Rahon Godfrey, education outreach worker at 3 Oaks. She spoke about the present facility and the services offered to women and their children facing violence at home, all resulting from the work of Barb and her board members of twenty years ago.

Members who were unaware of the connection of Belleville Church with the beginnings of 3 Oaks were able to celebrate one woman’s story of outreach and how the Lord blesses and guides when we trust and obey Him.

Baptism at Kendalwood

On August 11, 2007, at the Kendalwood Seventh-day Adventist Church, an additional three people were voted to be baptised in Owen Sound by Pastor Peter Caran.

Each one was baptised in a beautiful ceremony that took place on August 11, 2007, at the Kendalwood Seventh-day Adventist Church. An additional three people were voted into fellowship on profession of faith.

New programme at Kingsview Village Trains Girls to Become Women of God

On August 25, was Rahon Godfrey, education outreach worker at 3 Oaks. She spoke about the present facility and the services offered to women and their children facing violence at home, all resulting from the work of Barb and her board members of twenty years ago.

Members who were unaware of the connection of Belleville Church with the beginnings of 3 Oaks were able to celebrate one woman’s story of outreach and how the Lord blesses and guides when we trust and obey Him.

Pastor Ly introduces Ron Baldwin, left

L-R: Everton Martin, Kereen Bennett-Martin, Mike Struthoff, Pastor Hymers Wilson, Nadine Stewart, Sade Reid, Sandra Reid and Denise McCalla (Not in picture is Gwen Oburota).

“Pastor, I would like to prepare for baptism.” There are no sweeter words to the pastor’s ear than those. Sweet, because they are fresh evidence of the silent irresistible work of God, the Holy Spirit. Sweet, because they are evidence of the failure of the devil to keep people in chains of ignorance about God’s plans for a glorious future. Sweet, because they were mentioned not by one solitary person, but by a mother who also told me her daughter wanted to prepare for baptism, a husband who introduced Kendalwood’s Pastor Hymers Wilson and head elder, Linda O’Connor, to his wife who also wanted to be baptised and a brother who wanted to follow the example of his sister who was to be baptised in Owen Sound by Pastor Peter Caran.

Often, numerous complaints are heard about the lowered standards in the church – whether in appearance, behaviour or the irreverence of some members. However, those in the Women’s Ministry Department at Kingsview Village Seventh-day Adventist Church are using a different approach – instead of criticizing – they are training young girls to becoming young women of God through The Rosebuds Programme.

Every other Sabbath afternoon, girls aged 4 to 12 attend Kingsview Village Church for the The Rosebuds Programme, which teaches them how to become well-mannered and respectful Christian young women. Through a fun mix of discussions, skits, games, storytelling, songs and other activities, the children learn how to have a closer relationship with God.

“The girls are excited and eager to learn,” says Norma Husbands-Franks, a Women’s Ministry member. “Sometimes they want the meetings to be longer.”
Currently, these young Christians are studying reverence and manners in God’s house. “We are thankful to God that there is already a marked improvement in the behaviour of ‘The Rosebuds,’ especially in God’s house,” says Husbands-Franks.

The Rosebuds motto is “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us” (Philippians 4:13) and through this unique programme, these little girls will learn how to become strong women for Christ.

For more information on The Rosebuds, e-mail Kingsview Village Church at: kingsview_communications@yahoo.ca.

Norma Husbands-Franks

Recognition of Youth at Latter Rain

On Sabbath evening, September 1, 2007, a recognition programme was held at the Latter Rain Adventist Church for Ragique Babulal, Ryan Chippy, Terrance Clayton and Teron Smith. They were recognized for their contribution to the church and on their educational achievement in gaining acceptance into either College or University.

Dr. Dennis Marshall, education director, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), and former pastor of the church, was also present and encouraged the congregation to support its youth, as they strive for education.

The evening concluded with a prayer in which the elders of the church surrounded the four young men and prayed for guidance and protection for the school year.

Monique Francois, Communications

Eunice and Stephen McKenzie Celebrate 60 Years

Eunice and Stephen McKenzie have been married for 60 years! They celebrated their diamond jubilee wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 5, 2007, at the Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The service was officiated by Pastor Orville Browne, minister of the Latter Rain Adventist Church. He was assisted by his predecessors, Dr. Clarence Baptiste, Dr. Dennis Marshall and Pastor Manley Coleman. A reception followed at the Apple Creek Hall. It was indeed a day to remember as family, friends and members of the Latter Rain, Apple Creek, Scarborough and Toronto East Seventh-day Adventist churches convened to celebrate with Brother and Sister McKenzie.

The following week, Sabbath, August 11, during the church worship service at Latter Rain, the McKenzies were officially inducted into the ‘Marriage Hall of Fame’ and were invested with all the rights and privileges to “teach and counsel others how to live happily for many long years.” When asked what advice they have for couples who are now embarking on their marriage journey, Sis. McKenzie cheerfully replied, “To love God with all your heart and strength, for it is the first commandment.” She then added, “Along the way things will happen, but God will intervene.”

The McKenzies were married on September 6, 1946, at the Port Antonio Anglican church in Jamaica. They have nine children, eighteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They enjoy witnessing, Bible studies and intercessory prayer.

The members of the Latter Rain Church congratulates Bro. and Sis. McKenzie and wish them many more blessed and happy years together, as they continue their journey of long and lasting love.

Three Baptised in Kitchener-Waterloo Church

On June 16, 2007, Angel Leonard, Doreen Greig and Kadian Brown were baptised into the Kitchener-Waterloo Seventh-day Adventist church.

Angel Leonard has been attending the church since August 2006 and was receiving baptism classes by Russell Preddie when she decided to get baptised. Angel will be moving to Mississippi with her young daughter, Chante, but said it will be very difficult to replace the church family she has at the Kitchener-Waterloo church.

Doreen Greig was baptised at the young age of 14 but decided to rededicate her life to Christ as she was baptised on June 16. She is a relative of Cathy Mitchell of the Paris church.

Kadian Brown is a Pathfinder and an active member of the Kitchener-Waterloo church. She is never without a smile. Her sister, Kerone, and mother, Jennifer, are especially happy to see her give her heart to the Lord.

Please keep these new members in your prayers.

Andrea Kaddour, Communication secretary
Mount Zion Filipino Church Hosts Newcomers Orientation Program

The task of integrating and settling into a new life in Canada is now a little less daunting for 93 new Filipino immigrants and contract workers in the Greater Toronto Area. At an opportunity to network and share with other Filipino new residents, community settlement counselors and local professionals conducted workshops on job search and integration skills, workers’ rights, change and transition management, family life and the ill effects of domestic violence. Field experts were also present to provide legal and consular advice and tips on how to gain access to programs and services relating to education, healthcare, employment, finance and banking, childcare and community resource facilities.

Hosted by the Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church, the one-day Newcomers Orientation Programme was held on Sunday, September 9, 2007. This programme, which is specifically designed to fast-track new residents into settling and adjusting into their new communities, is a joint effort of the Catholic Community Services of York Region, Office of the Philippine Consulate General – Toronto, Office of the Philippine Labour Representative, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Mount Zion Filipino Adventist Church.

Spearheaded by Lani Aguinaldo, member and the current New Immigrant Services coordinator, Community Services Department at Mount Zion, the Newcomers Orientation Programme was launched in 2003. Due to its wide success, it is held annually and is free to all registrants. Members of Mount Zion Church volunteer their time to prepare lunch and snacks, supervise the Kids Programme and share their own immigration experiences with program attendees.

By Judy Gamez & Emicil dela Cruz

Orleans French

The Sabbath celebrations on September 8, 2007 brought the members and friends at the Orleans French Church to the climax of a three-week revival and evangelistic programme. The joy was exceedingly great, as they concluded the meetings with the baptism of seven candidates, young and not-so-young. A number of others also expressed their desire to be part of the next baptism.

Initially, they were faced with the difficulty of finding a suitable location for the meetings. However, the good relations they have with the Orleans United Church, their regular place of worship, allowed them to have the meetings there.

Smiths Falls Baptisms

On the beautiful Sabbath afternoon of July 21, 2007, members of the Smiths Falls Church had the joy and privilege to watch Julie Hay and Mark Pikor being baptised by Pastor Friedrich Stele. Also, witnessing the event were members from the sister churches of Brockville and Perth.

The baptism was held at the residence of Troy and Heather Smith that is located on the shore of Bass Lake. Afterwards, the church family remained to fellowship through rejoicing in song and visiting with the newly baptised members. The afternoon concluded with family picnic lunches and prayers of thanksgiving.

From the Desk of Don C. Schneider.

Six tribal villages in an isolated location in Asia were visited by a “stranger” who was described as having an aura of bright light around him. The stranger gave each chief a radio, showed him how to use it and directed him to the time and frequency of the Adventist World Radio programs. Then the stranger disappeared. The villagers began to listen to the broadcasts, accepted Jesus, and are now keeping the Sabbath. The six villages have had no contact with each other, but the village chiefs told the same story to the person who met them. They believe that the stranger was an angel.

Woodstock Is Trying to Contact the Following Members:

Agnes Nolan, Jessica Jones, Lesley Spence. If you have any information pertaining to the aforementioned members, please forward it to Pastor Levertov at pastor@woodstocksda.com

Communication Secretary
Pastoral and Staff Changes

We welcome Pastor Travis Afflick and his wife, Anne-Marie, to ministry in the Ontario Conference. He commenced work as the new assistant at the Mississauga Church on August 1, 2007, replacing Pastor Mirthell Mitchell who has moved to the Hamilton East Church as its senior pastor. Pastor Afflick is a graduate of Atlantic Union College. He and his wife have a 22-month-old son, Yeshua.

Leaving the Ontario Conference is Gregory Arutyunyan, pastor of the Immanuel Church, after two years. He will be working in the Michigan Conference. Also leaving is Ulrich Unruh, pastor of the Windsor congregation. He came to Ontario from British Columbia in 2003 and will be returning there.

Pastor Ralph Juriansz has recently retired again! He was asked to come out of retirement in 2003 to assist in the Trust Services Department as a field representative and has faithfully served with distinction. He has continued to actively support his local congregation, Good News Fellowship, in Brantford. We wish him a good and happy retirement.

New to the Conference Office

We are happy to welcome two new staff to the conference office.

Bringing the sunshine into the conference office as secretary in the Trust Services, Kingsway Pioneer Home and Stewardship Departments is Denise Putt from sunny Florida. She is married to Pastor Robert Putt, associate pastor at College Park Church. She is excited to have a brand new daughter-in-law to join her male dominated family of five sons! For the past two years, Denise has worked at the Adventist Book Centre in Oshawa. She replaces Cecelia Ritchey.

Julianna Kurek was born and raised in St. Catharines, Ontario. She is a graduate of the University of Exeter (England) and Canadian University College, and comes to us via ADRA Canada. She will be filling the newly developed position of Human Resource Officer. We look forward to working closely with her as we promote innovative Christian policies, which will ensure the continued growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario.

Book Review

I Used to Be Perfect: A Study of Sin and Salvation
George Knight

Reviewed by Pastor Hymers Wilson

At a recent Durham4Jesus meeting, preparing the way for an evangelistic series beginning in Oshawa in late Fall 2007, Ron Halvorsen said “Sin is not something you do, it’s something you are!” That basically sums up one of the main points of George Knight’s book. Knight puts it this way “SIN ... reflects a state of heart and mind.” Knight believes that too often people address the symptoms, which he describes as lower case s-i-n, rather than upper case S-I-N which is the “bondage, slavery, servitude, and a process of degeneracy that cannot be reversed without God’s intervention.”

The title of the book is provocative, and throughout, Knight introduces provocative phrases and concepts to shake his reader out of their misconceptions on a range of issues. For example, he opens the book with the thought that SIN is love. He explains to the startled reader, that SIN is love focused on the wrong object, in other words “loving the object more than the Creator of the object.”

Continuing this pattern of thought, Knight states, “One may keep God’s many laws and still not be keeping God’s LAW. That is, a person can have outward obedience but not have God’s love in his or her heart. Or to put it yet another way, “one can keep the right day but be as mean as the devil.”

TEMPITATION for Knight means ‘the temptation to step outside of a faith relationship with the Father and the impulse to enter into a sin relationship of rebellion’, rather than the temptation to eat too much sugar or steal a car. In connection with this concept, Knight states that “imitation of Christ is infinitely more than the development of a set of moral habits ... much more than what I eat, wear or watch.”

Knight rejects misguided definitions of perfection that are steeped in Greek philosophy. Instead, he challenges the reader to submit to the Biblical definition that knows nothing of the concept of sinlessness. He argues that Biblical PERFECTION is summarized in Matthew 5:48 “You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Seen in context of Matthew 5, it means loving “not only one’s friends but one’s enemies.” Knight states that the Biblical definition makes it possible for Noah, Abraham, and Job to be called “perfect” (Gen. 6:9, KJV; 17:1, KJV; Job 1:1, 8, KJV), “even though they had obvious faults.”

In his final chapter, Knight recounts his own struggle with understanding perfection which led him in desperation to turn in his ministerial credentials. He tells how he remained in “the far country” until in 1975, he “met Jesus.”

Knight’s book is provocative and challenging. He meets head-on the Adventist tendency to define perfection in terms of what you should not do. His book is engaging and down to earth. He connects with the reader through reflection on his personal journey. The Adventist tendency he points out is one he owns. He personally confesses to becoming a hapless victim of that tendency in his past. He confesses he used to be perfect, according to a misguided definition, and ultimately it made him miserable. He writes in the prophetic tradition exhorting the reader to live in accordance with the highest of all standards—the love with which we ought to relate to God and to everyone we encounter.
Iff racing hydrobikes, rolling spring rolls in Mr. T's cooking demonstration, and listening to Dr. Sanz translate medical jargon into everyday language bring back memories. . . the year was 2006 and you were an original participant in the very first CampFiT adventure.

Canadians are beginning to realize that health is not just about appearance; it's a combination of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being—Thus the birth of CampFiT—Evangelism blended with fitness, nutrition, wellness, and education for health.

The CampFiT Experience: CampFiT is a wellness experience designed for adults. The retreat environment, along with a high quality of programming develops an individual's knowledge and abilities in the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle.

Experienced staff guides each camper to success through fitness activities, food demonstrations, nutritional education, workshops and interactive seminars, led by qualified health professionals. A multi-disciplinary health team assists campers further by providing guidance, assessment and monitoring.

Location. Location. Location: The home of CampFiT is the beautiful Camp Freneda grounds on the shores of Lake Rousseau. This peaceful local lives up to Muskoka's reputation of a favourite summer getaway.

New Birth: Adventist health centres, across North America, have been the inspiration behind the CampFiT program. This program was initiated by Debra Carby, director of the Health Ministries Department, of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. As a registered dietitian specializing in community health, Debra previously directed the Fitness 4 You wellness camp in Pennsylvania. She finds it a privilege to share her experience by developing the Canadian version in Ontario and conducting training for wellness camps in North America.

For the People: CampFiT is designed for everyone. Anyone interested in maintaining good health and reducing his or her susceptibility to premature degenerative diseases is a candidate. However, this program is of special interest to those who experience diabetes, high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol levels.

Get Involved: CampFiT has proven to be an effective method of reaching people who desire harmony of mind, body and spirit. Meeting physical needs opens the gateway to spiritual health. Look for someone who may never seek God by looking for a church, yet may encounter Him through their interest in health. It is our challenge to take this message to them for their decision. Ask God who He wants you to talk to about CampFiT.

Find Support: Find potential financial supporters and sponsors of CampFiT. Ask yourself the question, “who has a real appreciation for good health and the financial ability to donate funds to sponsor another less fortunate person?”

Date: August 17-29, 2008.

Someone YOU know could be the next person to paddle a canoe in the bay, breathe easier, or walk farther. See the lives of people you know changed as they move from ignorance to knowledge; from sickness to health; from under the burden of illness to the freedom of better health.

For more information, visit www.adventistontario.org, or call the Health Ministries Department at (905)571-1022. Ask for Debra Carby (Director) or Rose Marie Dunn-Kalynko (Secretary).