Fire Destroys Peel Adventist School

On Friday, July 4, 2008, fire destroyed Peel Adventist School. Around 3:30 p.m. neighbours saw smoke and fire rising from the roof of the school building and called the fire department. By the time the first fire engine arrived at the school at 57 McMurchy Avenue South in Brampton, fire had already engulfed the entire roof which then collapsed into the building.

There was shock and disbelief as news of the fire reached the leaders of the Ontario Conference, just fifteen minutes away, as they were overseeing the final preparations for the annual camp meeting at the International Centre, Mississauga.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think that one of our schools would burn,” said Dr. Frances Schander, education superintendent.

Principal Manuela Terencio was equally shocked.

“I couldn’t believe it,” she said. “I was standing in front of the building wondering how it could have happened.”

As church leaders arrived at the school, they were met with a scene of complete devastation.

“I felt totally overwhelmed by the magnitude of the loss,” commented Schander. “Here is a building worth in excess of a million dollars and all that’s left of it are burnt out walls.”

She added that she was grateful that there was no one in the building at the time and had the fire taken place even a week earlier, it would have been very difficult because teachers were still going to the building daily.

Among those who watched in disbelief as the building burned were some of the pupils who lived nearby.

One asked the principal what would happen to the fish in the fish tank in a classroom. Another said that he did not want the walls to fall.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but it appears that it began in a plastic waste bin that was located outside the north wall of the building. The flames quickly reached the roof and set it on fire.

The damage is so extensive that it is unlikely that it can be ready for school in September.

Continued on bottom of page 8
End-Time Preparation Through Present-Day Living

I know that I should not be surprised, but I am. With headlines such as “Jesus Came in 2003!” or “Abducted by Aliens,” you’d think that some popular newspapers, usually found at supermarket checkouts, would not survive for long in Western society. Wrong. These papers seem to thrive on the sensational regardless of how far-fetched the stories are.

It seems as if humans are inexorably drawn to the sensational. The greater the sensation, the more it attracts. The preachers who seem to attract great following are those who claim to heal. Even when their life-styles are exposed to be incongruent with the Gospel, people still follow them and send money to them.

I sometimes wonder if Adventists are not prone to sensationalism. We were, after all, birthed in the great 1844 sensation. There was no greater sensation in the United States in 1843-44 than the Millerite movement, preaching that Jesus would return on October 22, 1844. It is estimated that the movement attracted close to two million followers in New England. Even though the Bible clearly taught that “no man knows the day” when Jesus would return, they were caught up with the persuasive arguments of the proponents and the sensation that it was true.

Since then, the Adventist Church, among others, has had its fair share of those who look to the sensation of end times. Some are genuine, faithful church members, who openly respond to the news that Jesus is coming soon and desire to be in His kingdom. Others are individuals who believe that the leadership of the church is not leading the church as how they believe it should be led. A few are self-deluded and self-appointed ‘prophets’ like David Koresh and his Branch Davidians of the 1993 Waco tragedy.

While the Adventist Church correctly highlights last days events in order to inform its membership and to alert them to the nearness of Christ’s return, some members become so preoccupied with their study that it sometimes results in an unbalanced approach to Christian living. Their preoccupation with end times sometimes borders on a persecution complex. This led one group, some years ago, to take out adverts on huge bill boards along the highways in the US denouncing the Catholic Church. There are websites promoting the incitement of persecution in order to hasten the coming of Jesus—all done in the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Some of the leaders among these groups are often critical of church leadership and claim that church leaders are not preparing people for the final crisis when the mark of the beast will be given. Consequently, they feel that it is their right to act as sentinels and seemingly give little thought to undermining the confidence of some members in the leadership of the church. Meanwhile they attract followers by creating an atmosphere of fear.

The use of fear about last days events is no basis for a lasting relationship with God. Governments use fear as a tool to control the populace. The use of fear is all about control. People will rush into deep religion through fear but will not have a deep, lasting relationship with God. Remove the fear, and the relationship is gone. That’s why Paul could write in Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.”

A lasting relationship with God is based on love. It is a love that comes from the greatest sensation any human being can ever experience—being forgiven of our sins by a loving God and being covered by His grace. The sensation of living assured of God’s abiding presence is to experience God daily. Nothing on earth can compare with this! His promise is that He will be with us always, even until the end. The abiding relationship we have with Jesus now is what will see us through the dark times ahead. The martyrs of the past did not receive courage when crisis arrived but while they met God in their daily walk with Him.

The preparation we need is for New Earth citizenship—character, love and faith development. The New Earth lifestyle will take care of any crisis that we have to face. Looking for crisis creates a religion of fear rather than a life of faith and sharing of the Gospel.

Halsey Peat
Editor
Dr. Don King brought hope to many at Ontario Conference’s camp meeting on July 5, 2008. Preaching three messages of hope in the adult section of camp meeting at the International Centre, Mississauga, he spoke of Jesus being the only hope for mankind.

“He comes to you at your point of pain,” he declared on Sabbath morning. “In the deepest moment of your pain, He comes to you.”

The message of ‘Hope for Broken Hearts’ appeared to resonate with so many of the 5,000 worshippers that they returned to hear him preach in both the Commissioning Service during the afternoon and the evening service.

“It was such a spirit-filled morning with Pastor Don King, and the music was so inspiring,” said Sister Campbell of Perth Avenue Adventist Church, “I just had to return.”

Yvette Reid, also from Perth Ave added, “The sermon was perfect for me. I couldn’t ask for anything better. It just filled my soul.”

Pastor Furman F. Fordham II was the speaker for the young adults and youth. Their meetings started on the previous evening at Toronto West Adventist Church and continued on Sabbath morning at the International Centre. Nearly 2,000 youth and young adults enthusiastically praised God and listened as Pastor Fordham spoke of the gift of freedom from sin. Pastor Fordham exclaimed that while Adventist youth need to see the ‘pillars of the faith’ as important, they must make sure that they are placed firmly on the foundation of salvation.

“I really liked the preacher for the youth,” said Natalia from College Park Church. “He was good!”

Mahalia Jackson from Toronto also admired the preacher but added that her highlight was “the praise and worship.”

Debra Carby, Children’s Ministry director, and her faithful team of pastors and leaders, hosted a well-planned and exciting programme for nearly 900 children in three separate divisions.

For the first time in nearly a decade, no ordination service was held for pastors. Instead, the equally important ministry of teaching was highlighted when six teachers: Claude and Linda Bastien (Windsor Adventist Elementary School), Dana Chant and Michelle DeSilva (College Park Elementary School), Brenda Gabriel-Knight (Crawford Adventist Academy), Gisela Hoelzel and Verlaine Linrud (Grandview Adventist Academy) were commissioned.

Camp meeting is also a time of evangelism. Church Growth and Evangelism Coordinator Dr. Errol Lawrence led out in a period of conference-wide evangelism. In addition to pastors reporting on what was taking place in their communities, a group of Pathfinders from Mount Zion Filipino Adventist Church shared their experience about their efforts to “Tell Ontario” that Jesus is coming soon.

As the meetings concluded, there were those who were already looking forward to July 4, 2009 when they hope to return to next year’s camp meeting.
What You Said about Camp Meeting 2008

“I think it was really great to see everybody together again. It was a great experience. I’m looking forward to next year’s camp meeting.” Erykah, Toronto West

“It’s been good. I come every year and it’s good to reunite with old friends and get to socialize with them.” Natalia, College Park

“My experience was amazing. Seeing friends I haven’t seen for a long time and fellowshipping with my brethren in Christ and having a dynamic preacher is just wonderful!” Kenisha, Toronto North

“It’s not just a chance to know God a little bit more but to hear the testimonies of other people.” Freddie, Brampton

“It was very fulfilling spiritually, especially in the morning with Dr. King and even this evening with Pastor Fordham. I loved the music – everything flowed. It really reminded me that God has already done it for us and that we just need to take off the shackles and be freed from our sin.” Bharath, Shiloh

Eastern Ontario Regional Camp Meeting, May 16-18

There were high expectations as people from all across eastern Ontario converged on Landsdowne Park Exhibition Hall in Ottawa. A year earlier they had experienced a thrilling camp meeting and expected that 2008 would be just as good. They were not disappointed.

Pastor Tim Nixon, administrative chaplain at Andrews University, preached four practical, powerful, Christ-centred messages throughout the weekend. From the first service on Friday evening at Ottawa Adventist Church until the closing service on Sunday morning, he preached about the need to accept the salvation that Jesus freely offers.

Pastor Fred Nichols, minister of Agape Temple, Pickering, was the speaker for the youth and young adults section. In his inimitable style of mixing humour, conversation and powerful, dynamic preaching, he challenged the youth and young adults to face the reality of the power of the devil and the overwhelming and saving power of Jesus, the righteous judge. They were especially impressed by his 4ft sword that he held overhead his shoulder as he paced the aisles.

Regional Camp Meetings

Thunder Bay, May 2-4

Thunder Bay’s camp meeting is a partnership between one church and the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit that led the organisers to approach this year’s camp meeting with outreach as its focus. They decided that they wanted to share their camp meeting experience with the wider Christian community in the city.

Camp meeting began on Friday evening at the Oliver Road Community Centre instead of the local Adventist Church, as had been the practice. All music for the weekend, including the praise segments, was provided by Christian musicians from churches across the city. They had been invited, with their friends and families, to participate in the meetings. Some had previously been invited to share in various functions held by the church, but now they were specifically asked to contribute in a significant way at camp meeting.

Guest speaker, Stephen R. Bohr, pastor of Fresno Central Adventist Church and director of Secrets Unsealed, preached on the value of the Sabbath for Christians. He was keenly aware of his mixed congregation and used his remarkable teaching skills to present Jesus of the Sabbath in a way that was attractive for everyone present.

The outreach model for camp meeting has resulted in one of the community singing groups regularly attending Thunder Bay Adventist Church.
The children's meetings were full of excitement, especially when they were able to handle some snakes and other reptiles that were brought in from Little Ray's Reptile Zoo.

Western Ontario Regional Camp Meeting, May 30-31

It was the first time in a number of years for Western Ontario to have their very own camp meeting! Nearly 500 adults, youth and children came together at Kinsmen Auditorium, Chatham, to celebrate and worship.

There were other firsts including first live internet broadcast of a regional camp meeting and the first time Pastor Marian Kossovan and Pastor Abner Lopez sang a duet at a camp meeting – much to the delight of the congregation.

Adult speaker, Pastor Bill Santos of It Is Written Canada, preached on the urgency of giving people the message of salvation. He said that giving the message requires sacrifice on the part of God's people – that of 'taking up the cross daily'.

"We must recognise that some of our doctrines are hard for people to accept because they have to give up a lot," he said. "However, we cannot dilute the Gospel because it is the power of God to overcome resistance."

In the youth section, 80 youth gathered to listen to CUC's Rise Again lead in praise before Pastor Daniel Saugh, minister of Meadowvale Adventist Church, preached about the relevance of the Gospel to youth.

In the evening, Pastor Mathew Feeley, Kingsview Village assistant minister, told them that through Christ they are over-comers in all things – failure, disappointment, habits and sin.

Maranatha workshops were held by Pastors Edgar Nunes, Daniel Sanchez, Daniel Saugh and Dr. Errol Lawrence.

Adults, youth and children were happy to be together on a warm, sunny spring day. The relaxed, comfortable feeling that many exhibited reflected their pleasure of having their regional camp meeting.

"This is actually fun," said Anne from Windsor. "I'm enjoying being with church members from other churches."

Also from Windsor, Arlene, who helped in formulating the praise team said, "It's been a rich blessing. Just seeing it come together has been very rewarding. It's been so beautiful. I can't imagine what it will be like in heaven."

"It was great," said Ishae. "I liked the sermon this morning. It was very touching and very relevant for youth."

Southern Ontario Camp Meeting, June 13-15

Southern Ontario's camp meeting returned to Norfolk County Fairgrounds during the same weekend when over 100,000 bikers from across North America descended on Port Dover near Simcoe.

In the days leading up to the camp meeting, there was some fear that the presence of the bikers would negatively affect camp meeting. However, it was the storm and torrential rain on Friday evening that seemed to have resulted in the sparsely attended Friday evening meeting. Even as guest speaker, Elder Gordon Pifher rose to preach, ushers were strategically placing buckets to catch water that was leaking through the roof.

The next day campers rose to a glorious, sun-lit Sabbath morning. Close to 500 members and friends arrived to share in a spirit-filled camp meeting. Those who had not been present on Friday evening had
missed one of the most illuminating and inspiring sermons on the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, on Sabbath morning, they were thrilled to hear Elder Pifher, president of the British Columbia Conference, preach what some considered to be the best sermon they had ever heard on the Second Coming of Jesus.

Stewart Lewis from Chatham was one of these. “I really like the message,” he said, “in fact, it’s maybe the best (sermon) I’ve heard on the Second Coming.”

His view was echoed by Debbie Boskovic and Sylvia Reeve, from a home fellowship in Ingersoll who both described the sermon as “the best” they had heard on the Second Coming.

In the youth and young adults section, Elder David Hall, youth director for the Nevada-Utah Conference, held the congregation in rapt attention as he preached about Jesus and Lazarus.

“Pastor Hall’s preaching was so captivating,” said Sheena, “He sort of just spoke directly to you that you just had to stay and listen.”

“His preaching touched my heart,” added Shaneka. “The whole day has been a blessing.”

It wasn’t just about the preaching; many enjoyed the high quality of music. The organising committee selected music that richly contributed to the success of the meetings. Who can forget the amazing rendition of The Prayer sung by Pastor Jiwan Moon and Dimitar Kolev? Many left wondering how Dimitar, a young man, could reach such high notes with his beautiful soprano voice.

The children’s programme was described as being “amazing”. The children had fun and didn’t even want to leave for lunch.

Seven-year old Bryan from Hamilton East Adventist Church summed up the mood of the children and everyone who attended Southern Ontario Camp Meeting 2008: “I love it. It was fun learning about God!”

Upcoming Regional and Ethnic Camp Meetings 2008
August 29 -31, Northern Ontario, Camp Noronto near Monteville.
October 10 -12, Hispanic.
God Continues to Amaze!

Financial Upturn in Faltering Economy

Great things are expected of God because He is God. Yet, whenever He moves to bless His people they are amazed. In the midst of hardship God is able to bring joy. In times of economic hardship He blesses His people and rewards their faithfulness.

2007

At the beginning of the 2007 financial year it seemed as if the Ontario Conference would continue its steady growth. The addition of new members from evangelism during 2006 suggested that this would be the case. However, 2007 quickly revealed that the economy was fraught with challenges that still remain. The meltdown of the US sub-prime mortgage market, the substantial rise in value of the Canadian dollar, the high interest rates relative to the economic slowdown in Central Canada, including Ontario, and the unrelenting increase in gasoline prices, all resulted in the closure of many businesses and thousands of job losses.

Despite these many challenges, the Lord provided the financial resources necessary to carry out His work in Ontario and throughout the world. Last church year, church members in Ontario entrusted the conference with almost $26,000,000 in tithe, $500,000 in Ontario Advance offerings and almost $712,000 in world mission offerings. This resulted in a modest to significant improvement from the previous year. Based on the beginning-of-the-year membership of 27,176, per capita giving went down from $973.51 to $956.63 for tithe, went up from $17.35 to $18.41 for Ontario Advance and went down from $27.42 to $26.19 for mission offerings.

In comparison with other conferences, Ontario accounted for 44% of the total tithe income for all of Canada. It also maintained its No. 14 ranking out of the 58 conferences in North America. Based on audited statements as of December 21, 2007, total assets stood at $66,468,263 while total liabilities stood at $37,045,772. Net assets totalled $29,422,491.

For the year ending December 31, 2007, total revenue amounted to $72,456, of which 86% came from net tithe. Total expense amounted to $22,268, the bulk of which was spent for church ministries (56%) and Christian education (20%). Net income for the year was a modest $188,000.

Operating Budget Summary

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<thead>
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<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deficiency</td>
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Kingdom income for the year was a modest $188,000. This came from the previous year.

Statement of Financial Condition - Summary

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>29,422,491</td>
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2008 Operating Results (As of June 30)

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<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>9,284,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deficiency</td>
<td>(727,000)</td>
<td>(1,726,000)</td>
</tr>
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For the first six months ending June 30, 2008, the actual deficit was $727,000. This amount is well under the budgeted deficit of $1,726,000 for the period.

While there are still 6 months to consider, God has already moved to amaze His church by blessing it during a time when there are so many economic woes in society. He is truly to be praised! Members have been faithful, generous and altruistic in their financial stewardship; pastors have been steadfast and strong in promoting stewardship; and church treasurers have been dedicated in their service and have ensured timely, accurate reports and remittances.

The conference is thankful for the faithfulness. In comparison with other reports and remittances, have ensured timely, accurate reports and remittances. The conference is thankful for the faithfulness.
Ontario Conference is growing! During the first six months of 2008, there has been a 51% increase in baptisms over the same period last year. More people are also joining the church by profession of faith.

The figures released during the July Board of Directors meeting at the Ontario Conference showed that 561 persons were baptised compared with 372 during the same period last year. Elder Antonio Bueno, executive secretary, also reported that 65 persons became member through the profession of faith, compared with 32 in the first half of 2007, an increase of 103%.

The total number of accessions to membership, including transfers by letter and others, was 913 persons which is 296 more than the 617 added during the first half of 2007, an increase of 48%.

Elder Bueno went on to disclose the attrition figures. He reported that the total number of attrition from membership, including transfers by letter and others, was 633 persons, which is 94 less than the 727 dropped during the first half of 2007, equivalent to a 13% decrease in total attrition from membership over the same period last year.

The net membership increase for the first semester of 2008 was 280 persons, which compares well to the net membership decrease for the first half of 2007 of 110 persons.

At the end of the first half of 2008, the Ontario Conference membership stands at 27,475, which is 409 more than the 27,066 at the end of the first half of 2007, indicating a net growth for the period of 1.51%.

Elder Bueno is very pleased with the progress being made and said, “We thank God for His blessings and for the missionary work of both members and pastors.”

On Sabbath morning, Dr. Davidson led the women on a fascinating journey through the four gospel accounts of the Sabbath miracles. The women discovered that Jesus performed more miracles on the Sabbath than on any other day and that the Sabbath remains the day above all others when God delights in pouring out His special affection and working miracles for His children.

Those attending the retreat were blessed by the breadth of Dr. Davidson’s Bible knowledge and insights and the spirit of love and joy in which she delivered her four presentations, including a workshop on Women of the Bible.

“Who would have ever thought that coming to presentations on the Sabbath would change my life – and me, a fourth generation Adventist!” exclaimed Daisy Morgan, veteran women’s ministries leader at Toronto Perth Avenue Church.

Other blessings of the retreat included a first-ever French workshop entitled, Une Passion pour Dieu by Marie-Edith St. Vil from Ottawa; the chance for 50 women to create an amazingly unique and creative piece of art under the coaching of art teacher, Trudy Strombom, during her workshop, A Glimpse Into Our God; a workshop by Georgiana Palmer for

God’s Spirit moved on the approximately 275 women who gathered for the annual Ontario Conference Women’s Retreat on July 18-20 at White Oaks Resort & Spa at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Many women reported being deeply moved by the messages of Dr. JoAnn Davidson, associate professor from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Michigan. On Friday night, she explained the profound meaning of the Sabbath and God’s deep delight in creating His world.

On Sabbath morning, Dr. Davidson led the women on a fascinating journey through the four gospel accounts of the Sabbath miracles. The women discovered that Jesus performed more miracles on the Sabbath than on any other day and that the Sabbath remains the day above all others when God delights in pouring out His special affection and working miracles for His children.

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Fire Destroys Peel Adventist School

The Toronto Adventist District School Board (TADSB) is already looking at alternative locations to house the school until the property is rebuilt. The school board is confident that school will be open in September as planned.

“There will definitely be school in September,” said Schander, “just not at the old site.”

The school building was a former Biway store that had been purchased and refurbished by the TADSB in 2003 to house the pupils of Peel Adventist School.

Halsey Peat
The Ontario Conference and Independent Ministries

The term ‘independent ministry’ is often heard within the church, but not too many people understand the meaning, especially as it relates to the Ontario Conference or other Seventh-day Adventist entities.

An independent ministry is a ministry that has been established by a person or number of persons within the Adventist Church but is independent of the organisational structure and governance of the church.

People form independent ministries for various reasons. Some choose to support the church in its mission while others work contrary to the church and may even attempt to compete with it.

When an independent ministry seeks to support the mission of the church and requests to be recognised by the church as a supporting ministry, it is required to meet a set criteria. Once it does so, it is fully recognised as a supporting ministry and exists to support the church’s ministry. It adheres to official church guidelines and does not solicit nor knowingly accept tithe from church members.

The criteria set by the church is to ensure that the membership is protected from unscrupulous people who will, if given an opportunity, take advantage of church members to build their own kingdoms. There are some who seek to divide the church with their brand of extremism, legalism or libertinism.

Supporting ministries cooperate with the church and are open for guidance and correction.

Examples of supporting ministries are It Is Written, 3ABN and The Voice of Prophecy.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognises and appreciates the contribution made by these organisations in areas where the main church is unable to contribute. In some cases, the church assists in promoting the work of supporting ministries.

There are some organisations that claim to be supporting ministries, but the church does not recognise them as such because they either did not request or have failed to meet the criteria set out by the church.

These would come under the general category of independent ministries. These are separate organisations from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Some of these operate in sympathy with the mission of the church but choose to operate independently. Others, on the other hand, operate on the premise that they have a mission to reform the church or wish to promote a specific message. They are often critical of church leadership. Some do not accept the authority of the church, hold their own camp meetings and set up their own publishing houses while still wanting to use the name Seventh-day Adventist. Leadership is often centred around an individual.

Some of these independent ministries attempt to reach the members of the church directly and will by-pass the organised church at both the local and conference level. This underhand method is reminiscent of Jesus’ warning about wolves in sheep’s clothing. Meetings are not usually held in Adventist churches but at rented halls or other premises. Information about the meetings are usually by flyer, internet or word-of-mouth.

Truth does not need to be hidden. The Adventist Church welcomes and allows open and free discussion.

The Ontario Conference, in harmony with the working policies of the North American Division regarding supporting ministries, welcomes the work of such ministries and provides opportunities for them to minister in Ontario. However, it cannot support independent ministries that disregard the authority of the church and seek to by-pass the leadership of the church in order to spread their message to the membership.

The conference recognizes the freedom of each member to choose to whom he or she wants to listen and support, but it is committed to warning the entire membership to be alert and to inform them when it does not support an independent ministry. Failure to alert the membership is to abdicate its responsibility and lay itself open to accusations of dereliction of duty.

Readers are encouraged to note the distinction made between a supporting ministry and an independent ministry.

Halsey Peat

For those who are interested in establishing a supporting ministry or would like to request recognition as a supporting ministry, information may be obtained from the office of the Secretariat of the Ontario Conference.
Estate Planning – Top Five Adventist Myths

1. I don’t need a Will because I’m too young; it’s something for old people.

Last Wills and Testaments are recommended for all individuals over the age of 18 and it’s never too early to draft a Will. Although it’s quite taboo to consider death at an early age, the reality is that life is unpredictable; therefore, both young and old should be prepared.

2. I don’t need a Will because I don’t own a house or have much money.

This is a common myth that prevents many from writing a Will. Your possessions and assets are never too small to consider writing a Will. We all have several priceless (yet not very valuable) items that are very dear to us. A Will ensures that certain loved ones receive the items that you hold dear, and you can be sure that they will also hold them dear.

3. I don’t need a Will because I don’t plan to die.

No one should plan to die, but it’s important to realize that death is a result of sin (Romans 6:23). It is a reality that we are all faced with, and we should plan accordingly.

4. I am scared to make a Will because if I do, I will die.

We may have certain superstitions, but making a Will is not going to hasten anyone’s death. This belief has been expressed world wide and is based on fear rather than reality. “Wills should be made...death will not come one day sooner, brethren, because you have made your Will.” Ellen White, Counsels on Stewardship, p 328.

5. I know that the Conference can assist me with my Will, but I have heard that I am required to leave a portion of my estate to them.

Absolutely Not! Your decision to further the Lord’s work in Ontario is a matter between you and Him. While the conference has a responsibility to share the principles of stewardship in public seminars, it does not require anything from our membership with respect to their estate planning. The Conference is here to assist you in whatever decision you make regarding your final disposition of your property. Our experience has been that our Lord has blessed our work in the past because of the freewill giving of our membership; this is His work, not ours. To coerce another in these matters would be a denial of our faith in the free grace of Jesus Christ.

To plan for your estate, contact the Planned Giving and Trust Services Department of the Ontario Conference. Email: aram@adventistontario.org Tel.: 905-571-1022 ext. 206
Most Christians recognize the need to develop and use our spiritual gifts and talents for the Lord, but what if your gift is in the area of fine arts? What do you do? Is there a place in the church for your gifts?

On July 13, 19 youth and young adults, with the help of Creative Arts Ministries (CAM), set up an art exhibit in downtown Toronto. This exhibit was well received by the Adventists who came out on a sunny afternoon to see the creative works. Reactions to the show ranged from, “great!” and “excellent!” to that of MaryLou Zarate-Medeiros who went a bit further, “CAM was absolutely amazing! I can’t wait till the next one!”

There were 37 pieces of art displayed. The mediums used included pencil drawings, oil, textured work and watercolours. The works ranged from the Anime style to collage and textured pieces. There were abstracts, monochromatic paintings, photographs and graphic designs. Most centred on the theme, “The Master Designer.”

The artists came from across the GTA and from Orangeville. While the show was not limited to Adventists, 10 Adventist churches were represented.

While not the intent of the exhibit, some artists received offers for purchase of their works. One artist who took the show by storm was Harold Balamino, especially his work, “For God So Loved the World.” The oil on canvas painting by the Willowdale artist was the most mentioned. Watch out for more fine work from the burgeoning artist in the future.

Another artist of note was Meliane Bell from Toronto West Church. Meliane’s Afrocentric studies of women in oil and cloth were stunning. It is hoped that we will see more of this artist’s textured approach to looking at the world God made.

Some may ask, how can this art be of service to God? The oft-themed pencil drawing of “Good over Evil” by Kesean Kenton, a member of Meadowvale Church, depicts the battle of Christ and Satan. This can be used as a sermon illustration. A close study of this smaller work shows the strength of our Lord in the battle for the hearts and minds of His people. The intensity of the piece is a good example of art as ministry.

Almost lost in the exhibit were the poems submitted. Close reading opened a world of the powerful words printed on patterned paper and well presented in ways that would make E. E. Cummings proud.

Angie Edwards, the chair of CAM, sums up the entire show by ending one of her poems by saying, “I am wonderfully tailor-made!”

The future of CAM appears bright, as the ministry team seeks to be outwardly focused in their service for God. The group wants to use art as a part of a week of prayer in 2009. They also want to share art with Adventist institutions overseas, and there is talk of art workshops to assist children in exploring their talents.

Cyril Millett II

Visit the CAM website at www.CAMcollective.com

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Camp Frenda Baptism

On July 27, 2008 over 150 young people witnessed the baptism of Vanessa Torquato, Thiago do Amaral and Shane Larrow, as they were immersed in the lake at Camp Frenda. Pastor Cyril Millett, the conference Youth Ministries director, conducted the service.

Vanessa and Thiago will hold membership at College Park Church and Shane will be a member of Apple Creek Church. The boys in this trio were both finishing up their first week this season as campers. It’s Shane’s seventh year as a camper. Thiago was baptised in his Pathfinder uniform as a testimony to the positive influence his club has been on his spiritual growth. Vanessa decided to be baptised at Camp Frenda because she loves the beauty of our camp by the lake. All three were excited to be united with their Saviour in baptism in this idyllic setting.

This baptism is a good example of Camp Frenda’s ministry for young people.

We wish these three young people God’s richest blessings as they continue their walk homeward with the Lord.
AMiCUS Mini Conference, June 6-7

Adventist students are making an impact on a host of campuses all across Ontario. Under the umbrella of Adventist Ministries to College and University Students (AMiCUS), students are a witness of the Lord’s leading in their lives.

To learn how to strengthen the effectiveness of their witness and to gain help with campus outreach, students on the campuses with an AMiCUS presence were invited to attend a free mini-conference on June 6-7.

Twelve student leaders came from as far away as the University of Windsor and Ottawa University to meet with other students from Western Ontario and McMaster. Their main purpose was to talk about the mission of reaching the campuses of this province for Christ.

Cyril Millett, Ontario Conference Youth director and coordinator for Adventist Campus Ministries, invited Ron Pickell, co-ordinator for Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) in the North American Division, to address the students. On Friday evening, they met for introductions and a devotional. Presentations and discussions continued all day on Sabbath. Elder Pickell was able to show the new DVD “Walk the Walk”, introducing the ministry of ACF/NAD to students. He also covered the Ten Campus Ministry Leadership Essentials with them.

Students were very appreciative of the division’s leadership in campus ministry and look forward to the resources that are forthcoming with the soon-to-be-released campus ministry curriculum.

Canada has a great number of Adventists attending public campus universities. Pickell observed that on two recent trips he has made to Canada, he noted “a large demographic of both Adventist and non-Adventist African international student population.” He believes that we have a responsibility to engage Adventist youth from this country and those of international origin in service for the Lord on our public campuses.

Our campus leaders shared some of the ministry approaches they are using to reach out to their respective campuses. These included lecture series, Friday evening meetings, concerts, fund-raising for community service organizations, exercise and devotional groups.

The student leaders who attended this training weekend really appreciated the efforts made to bring them together. They were thankful for the access to resources and this annual campus ministry training event. It was a blessing to be with Elder Pickell and to tap into his over twenty years of experience as a campus chaplain in university settings.

To find out more about AMiCUS, contact Elder Cyril Millett at cmillett@adventistontario.org

Congratulations!

Many congratulations are extended to Sister Ida Smith, Bible worker at Downsview Adventist Church, upon receiving her masters degree in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University. She received her degree during the May graduation ceremony.
PiACE: Educating “For the Good of the Whole”

Partnership in Adventist Christian Education, or PiACE, as it is referred to, has been “in the works” in the Ontario Conference for a number of years. It is based on the “good of the whole” concept found within the New Testament church. Because Christian education is a core value of the Adventist church, we believe that educating the churches’ children is a responsibility of eternal significance that belongs to all of us. In his encouragement of love and unity among the Philippians, the apostle Paul said, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:4)

A brief history of the background of this concept in the Ontario Conference is in order.

At the 2001 Conference constituency meeting, a request was made for a formal and comprehensive study of Adventist education in Ontario. Ron Francis, a long-time champion of Adventist education in Ontario, was designated chair of this in-depth study, called the Taskforce on Adventist Education, which was presented to the Constituency at a specially-called fall meeting in 2005. At that time, the following was voted:

1. To recommend to the constituent churches and organized companies the adoption of the concept of Partnership in Christian Education.
2. To commission the Ontario Conference Board of Directors to generate a strategy for implementation of the said concept, to be presented at a specially called Constituency Meeting before the end of 2006.

The original motivating intent was that the Constituency wanted a mechanism by which any Adventist child would be able to obtain an Adventist tuition rate at any of our schools. Therefore, there needed to be a single tuition rate throughout the Conference.

A second and equally important desire was to see a significant increase in both the proportion and the number of our Adventist students in Adventist schools. Currently, approximately one in five Adventist children between the ages of 5 and 18 is enrolled in Adventist schools in Ontario.

In order to accommodate more children in Adventist schools, additional operating funds would be necessary. However, the Conference requires schools to operate a debt-free system. Four committees were established in early 2006 to deal with school plants, finances, promotion of PiACE, and marketing of Adventist education.

During the ensuing months all committees met, with the Finance Committee, under Ron Francis, chair, investing significant time working on the critical financial piece that is the underpinnings of the success of the proposal. The Finance Committee recommended the following to the Board of Directors on January 28, 2007. In March 2008 the Board accepted the Finance Committee’s proposal in its entirety.

The proposal recommended that an amount equivalent to 10% of tithe was needed to operate a viable Adventist education system (this refers to operating, not capital, funds) and that:

1. Constituent churches increase their giving to 10% of tithe within three years.
2. Non-constituent churches increase their giving to 5% of tithe within three years, and 10% within five years.
3. Small schools with single church constituencies will benefit from a phased-in reduction toward a 10% of tithe.

PiACE promotion will begin in Ontario churches this fall and continue until the next Conference-wide constituency meeting in July 2009, when a vote will be held.

Let us pray and work for an increased awakening among our members of the need for and value of Adventist education. The children we see in our churches each Sabbath belong to ALL of us.

Frances Schander
Superintendent
Eighty-two enthusiastic grade six students experienced four exciting days of outdoor education at Camp Frenda, June 8-11. In the beautiful setting of nature, the students bonded with each other as they learnt about outdoor living, canoeing, trees and high ropes. It was a historic occasion because it was the first set of grade six students to enjoy this program. Each day began and closed with inspiring worship assemblies in which the students were very much involved.

For many, Thursday morning, the day of departure, came too quickly. Hastily pictures were snapped, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and promises to keep in touch were exchanged. It was a rewarding experience all around.

Fine Arts Festival

- Display of Kindergarten to Grade 8 artwork

Massed choir of Ontario students under the direction of Jewel Scott, CAA music teacher

Math Olympiad

- Grade 7 and 8 Math Olympiad participants

Office of Education Events

Grade 6 Outdoor Education

- Making new friends

- Students learn about living organisms

Students learning how to use a canoe

Office of Education Events

Fine Arts Festival

Grade 6 Outdoor Education

- Making new friends

- Students learn about living organisms

Students learning how to use a canoe
While reading the Canadian Adventist Teachers’ Network newsletter in December, we came across an article by Dr. Dennis Marshall, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada education director, relating his recent experiences during a visit to Dwarsloop, Maluti, South Africa, last September. The North American Division (NAD) directors of education were touched by what they witnessed there and initiated a fundraising project. We, here at College Park Elementary School (CPES), were also moved by the plight of the young children—orphans, yet living on their own and caring for younger siblings since their parents had died of HIV/AIDS—and decided to take up the challenge to get involved.

Marshall’s article suggested that schools who wished to be a part of the NAD’s efforts could start a “Pennies for Africa” collection. We liked this idea because of its simplicity, but we wanted to encourage the students to share whatever change they were able to bring—not only pennies, but also nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies, and even toonies. We wanted them to see and to know that they could make a difference in the world for God, a difference not only in the lives of children far away in Maluti, South Africa, but also in their own lives right here at CPES.

Sharing his personal experiences and pictures from South Africa, Marshall helped to launch our project at a special assembly in mid-January. He also showed two short videos that were created as a result of the trip. Many of the teachers and students were moved to tears by the stories of the people there.

We named our school project “Change for Africa” because it is our mission to cause a change with our change. Our goal as a school was to fill one five-gallon water bottle. Each Friday, the coins have been collected in the classrooms. At our monthly assembly it was added to the “Change for Africa” bottle. By the end of our fourth month, we had reached our goal and were working to fill the five-gallon container again! We have been so pleased with the response of our students and their families.

During one week in May, CPES also did a “Change Blitz.” We requested that students and staff bring in a different coin, or its equivalent in change, each day: on Monday, a nickel; Tuesday, a dime; Wednesday, a quarter; Thursday, a loonie; and Friday, a toonie. The amount per student/staff member for the week was $3.40, which may sound small, but combined, our total added up very quickly! This was a great way to boost enthusiasm, and it helped to advance our program with a fresh focus and a new, short-term goal.

While speaking with the students about this year’s spring program, they agreed that it would be good idea to have an African-themed benefit concert with all of the proceeds going toward “Change for Africa.” Research was done, songs were collected, and then the JK-8 students put all of their education from the past several weeks, along with their talents, to good use as they presented their pieces on May 27th. Once again, we were delighted with the support of our churches, school families, and members of the community as they contributed over $2,000.00 for our cause that evening. In total, after only four-and-a-half months of fundraising, we were able to raise $3,775.05 for the Nhlengelo Home-based Care and Khomelela Community Services Centre.

Through something as simple as bringing in their spare change or using their talents, the students are promoting change, and they themselves are becoming changed as they learn to see the needs of others and to take action both in big ways and in small ways. Colossians 3:12 says: “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Compassion is how we respond to the needs of others. More than an emotion, it is an action. In a world that focuses so much on “I,” it is wonderful to give the students an opportunity to think of others and to instill in them the characteristic of compassion. We are excited to be part of the work of the Lord because we know first-hand that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Crystal Sayler, music teacher at College Park Elementary School
(with contributions from Lisa Paul)
The atmosphere was welcoming and no one seemed to have a problem paying to see the production. At my previous schools, there were no chairs neatly arranged, and the mere mention of paying seemed blasphemous. Here, there were over five hundred chairs neatly arranged awaiting their visitors. At my previous school, the lunch desks that students used during lunch, in the room that doubled as a cafeteria and the auditorium, remained. That audience was treated to cramped seats that could have been easily folded away and stored in one of the hallways to make room for proper chairs.

As I watched, I was shocked to see that the production incorporated the entire school! This was simply not done at my previous schools. It was while watching Crawford’s production and comparing it to one at my school that I came to the realization that there were significant differences between the Toronto public school system and the Adventist system. As I see it, parental involvement, high academic expectations, and a Christ-centred curriculum are the three fundamental differences between the public school system and the Adventist school system.

At Crawford, parents are involved in many other aspects of the school community. Unlike my previous schools, a greater number of parents at Crawford attend parent-teacher meetings. This year, I have had the pleasure of meeting either the mother or the father of all but one of my students. On parent-teacher night at my last school before Crawford, I saw less than 40% of the parents. Parental involvement on the PTA is also vastly different. At Crawford, parents on the PTA attend on a more regular basis. As a former representative on the PTA at my former school, I had first-hand experience at the lack of participation on the PTA. Like parental involvement, the academic expectations leave nothing to be desired.

That they want their children to perform at their peak potential, is a chorus sung by all parents, teachers and administrators at Crawford. This is evident from the numerous visits they make to the schools not only when they hear that their child is not performing at their best. Incidentally, there are few students with challenging academic problems because of this fact. In my class, for example, the majority of students are performing at an A average and none is failing. In my classroom, and many other teachers will attest to this, I need not make more than one phone call or send more than one email to get the attention of most of my parents on the off chance that a child is not living up to his
or her potential. A high academic expectation is a belief system engrained in the fabric of the school. Like Yogi Berra said, “You got to be careful if you don’t know where you’re going, because you might not get there.” At Crawford, the teachers and administrators know where they want their students to go academically and they know how to get them there. We know because we have God as our guide.

Obviously, having a Christ-centred curriculum is a fundamental difference between the Adventist system and the public system. I am of the opinion that this difference is the most important. At Crawford, it is understood that a fundamental part of a child’s upbringing is a strong foundation grounded in Christ. It is this Christ-centred approach that teaches them how to respond to the ever-so-chaotic world around them. The public school system has become so secular that it has forgotten that a child’s religious belief system, a system that needs to be discussed outside places of worship to lend it normalcy, is paramount to their emotional growth.

Needless to say, the two productions were vastly different. While both shows demonstrated the light that can shine in every child when the sparks are carefully tendered, Crawford’s was well attended and well supported and the one at my old school was not. That night, I came to truly understand the magnitude of parental involvement. It can change the fabric of the school community for good or not so good. I do not know if all teachers at Crawford realize it, but they are truly a part of something amazing. For me, teaching in such an environment has been a blessing! We are a part of something that seeks to let children know that it is okay to expect more from themselves; it is okay to expect the best from themselves because they are children of Christ. So, let the light shine!

Morris Beckford
Grade 8 teacher, Crawford Adventist Academy

Crawford Students Tour Parliament Hill

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” Crawford students have had a number of opportunities to test Confucius’ maxim this year.

During the weeks prior to the October 10 Ontario election, Crawford High School students participated in “Student Vote.” With grade 11 students acting as returning and polling officers, students were given an opportunity to “mock vote” for the representative and party of their choice as well as participate in the historic referendum on “electoral systems.” After the official vote on October 10, students compared the way they voted with other Crawford students, other schools, and with the adult public at large.

A few months later, Crawford students studying Canadian history, Civics, or Canadian law visited Ottawa on December 10-11. Their whirlwind tour included a raucous session of Question Period, tour of Parliament Hill, a visit with MP Ken Dryden, sitting & role-play at the Supreme Court, as well as visits to the War Museum, Royal Canadian Mint, Governor General’s Mansion, and the Museum of Civilization.

Natalie Philbert, president of Class of 2009 said, “I had a great time. I learned a lot. It was one of the highlights of my year.” Reflecting on the trip recently, Olivia King, our incoming Student Association president said, “It was fun and educational all at the same time. We got to see and talk to inspirational and important people. Question Period was really interesting.”

Finally, the Canadian legal system has come alive during visits to the Immigration, Youth and Family, and the Superior Courthouse in Toronto. Not only were students riveted to the action and drama of real cases, they were also able to ask questions of the judges, prosecutors, and defence lawyers practising in court on those days. “It was really cool to sit in the judge’s chair. I could now really visualize myself making the sacrifices to reach this level,” says Colleen Ampofo.

Stefan Brüggemann
Teacher, Crawford Adventist Academy

Walk’n Roll 4 Education

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Stefan Brüggemann
Teacher, Crawford Adventist Academy

Walk’n Roll 4 Education

The Kucherivski Family supporting their daughter Emily (Grade 1) in the Walk’n Roll 4 Education on May 25, joining hundreds of TADSB supporters in raising $100,000 for special projects.
Lori Ann (Crawford Adventist Academy, Grade 1 and 2 teacher) and Chris Purchas welcomed Kayla Kristina Purchas, born April 11, 2008. Congratulations to Lori Ann and Chris on the safe arrival of their new baby girl.

Mark Perrin, a grade 12 student at Crawford Adventist Academy, won the Athlete of the Week Award on February 20, 2008. Perrin recently graduated form CAA.

The winners of this year’s Class Challenge at Crawford Adventist Academy have won for the second consecutive year. Although the Grade 12 class won the stepping competition, the Grade 11 class walked away with the trophy.

The competition was fierce for every activity. Just about everyone who witnessed Class Challenge this year agreed that this was the best one so far. The overall theme was “Heroes and Villains.” Each class chose a sub-theme that tied in with the overall theme. Grade 9’s sub-theme was “Batman and Robin”; Grade 10’s was “Angels and Devils”; Grade 11’s was “David and Goliath” and Grade 12’s was “Matrix.” The costumes were colourful and attractive.

Congratulations to the seniors, and “hats off” to the juniors, for a job well done. Class Challenge 2008 is now history and we look forward with anticipation to the next one. Thanks to the House League sponsor, Berkel Williams, supported by Stefan Brüggemann, father of the House League, and Donald Coleman, physical education teacher.

Crawford Adventist Academy’s band and choir performed in the atrium of the General Conference (GC) World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Springs, Maryland this spring. Several GC and North American Division (NAD) employees stood on the balconies and ground floor to enjoy the performance.

Orville Parchment, former president of the Ontario Conference, also enjoyed seeing and listening to “The Canadians.” He stated how pleased he was that the CAA Music Department had included the GC and NAD headquarters on their mid-winter tour. The students performed in Ottawa, New Jersey, New York, Washington, D.C., Indiana, and Ohio.

The CAA Band and Choir performed in the atrium of the GC World Headquarters.

CAA CLASS CHALLENGE
Grade 11’s Clinch the Trophy

CAA Student Honoured

Birth

CAA band and choir in the atrium of the GC World Headquarters

Grade 11 girls in tug of war

CAA Band & Choir Perform at GC

CAA CLASS CHALLENGE

Mark Perrin, a grade 12 student at Crawford Adventist Academy, won the Athlete of the Week Award on February 20, 2008. Perrin recently graduated from CAA.

Lori Ann (Crawford Adventist Academy, Grade 1 and 2 teacher) and Chris Purchas welcomed Kayla Kristina Purchas, born April 11, 2008. Congratulations to Lori Ann and Chris on the safe arrival of their new baby girl.
Ottawa Adventist School

Track and Field Day

OAS students had a lineup of activities to end the school year on a positive note. On May 28th they visited the International Children's Festival and the students had the opportunity to visit the Luminaria Sculpture, an amazing air and light structure from the UK. On June 4th they joined with their neighbouring Christian school for Track and Field Day.

The students had fun; they all won. It was amazing to witness OAS students, who struggled this year with displaying Christian virtues, showing support for others, cheering them on and physically supporting those who wanted to give up. OAS students earned 20 bronze, 7 silver, and 10 gold ribbons.

Grandview Adventist Academy

Grade 8 Graduates

St. Thomas Seventh-day Adventist School

Grade 8 Graduates

Grade 8 and Kindergarten Graduates

From left to right: Jahphia Coke-Talbot, Kaydeandra Edmonds, Liesl Kennedy, Jahzira Coke-Talbot, Cédric Charles, Joshua Rhone, Vincent Amankwah, Mark-Handy Norélus


Chanraksmey Nann and Chenda Oum
Windsor Adventist Elementary School

**Safety Award**

Windsor Adventist Elementary School (WAES) won five new computers, compliments of MDG Computers Canada Inc. They entered the “Safety Matters” campaign and sold safety calendars. Because of the new computers, they have approximately $5,000.

**Graduation 2008**

From left to right: Amanda Oliver, Manuel Guzman (Salutatorian), Talia Orpana (Valedictorian), Raquel Davila, Mary Martin and Allan Mwizerwa.

**Science Fair Award**

Chantal Kyumba, Grade 6 student, receives 2nd prize for her poster in the Science Fair.

**Sports Day Award**

Eval Bernard, Grades 5-8 teacher, presenting Sports Day award to Arielle Martin, Grade 4 student.
The Christian Youth Sports Academy’s 10th anniversary track and field meeting at York University on Sunday, July 6, could not have had a better day to showcase its decade of achievement. For the past two years, torrential rain made umbrellas necessary. This year, however, it was as if the blue sky and bright sunshine had been ordered specifically to showcase the myriad athletic talent of Adventist youth in Ontario.

It wasn’t just that the day was bright, dry and hot, but upon entering the stadium, athletes and supporters soon realised that CYSA’s planners had set out to make their 10th anniversary memorable. The Olympic-style opening ceremony with its procession of the teams along the 100 metre stretch of track indicated the magnitude of the meeting.

With close to 1200 athletes, CYSA’s track and field is the largest athletics meeting in Ontario, if not all of Canada. The electronic scoreboard that immediately showed the results of an event clearly impressed on everyone that the occasion was planned by skilful organisers. Then there was the presence of Canada’s 4x400m heroes—Ian Seale, Don Domansky, Leighton Hope and Brian Saunders—who at the 1976 Montreal Olympic games, came 4th in the final, just missing out on a medal but still managed to set a new Canadian record that was to remain unbroken for 32 years. Former Olympic 100m champion, Ben Johnson, was also present.

The annual track and field meeting can now truly be called an international one. In addition to teams from Ohio and New York, representatives from both Barbados and Jamaica also participated. It is also growing in significance. Between 4:00-6:00 p.m, listeners to CKLN 88.1 FM could follow a live commentary of the meeting.

The event is so important to some individuals that former athletes who now live as far as Germany, USA and the Caribbean returned just for the occasion. The question that some are asking is: When will they see teams from the Ottawa Adventist churches?

However, with only 98 points separating them, it is clear that Apple Creek cannot afford to rest on its laurels. In category B, after a few years absence, Bethel returned to celebrate the anniversary games by winning with 147 points. Malton were runners-up with 133 points. It was Toronto Yugoslavian, however, that gave the 10th anniversary celebration its brightest sparkle. On its first outing with just 22 athletes, Toronto Yugoslavian demonstrated the spirit that CYSA hopes to engender in all the athletes—the joy of being able to participate, the willingness to give of one’s best and to rejoice in the victory of whoever wins.

“We were tired before we got here,” said Mladen from Toronto Yugoslavian, after...
It’s just friendly competition,” exclaimed Elder Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, “and it’s good to see our young people happy and in the church.”

Elder Nichols was speaking of his time spent with nearly 700 youth and young adults on Saturday night, July 12, during the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Christian Youth Sports Academy (CYSA) Awards Ceremony and Pathfinder Drill Competition.

The awards ceremony, “Celebrating Our Youth, Sharing Our Accomplishments,” was held after a day of worship, praise, inspiration, motivation and fellowship at Canada Christian College in Toronto. While many looked forward to receiving their awards, they warmly welcomed the motivational words of Dr. Yvette Gladstone, the varied musical renditions and special presentations.

In the relays, there were two outstanding individual performances from Apple Creek that won the applause of everyone. Last year the 17-20 ladies 4x100m was run in honour of Danielle Brown, who was struggling with cancer. This year she ran in the same race and helped her team to win. In the 11-15 boys 4 x 100m, Caleb Ducelin, running anchor, pulled a

not have any doubt that he would win and said that he felt good about winning. Six year-old Ashley Ann Malcom from Apple Creek was third in her race but said that she will return next year and come in first.

There was rapt attention for the pastor's race. The over 40's 50 metre sprint was won by Pastor Nerval Myrie. Pastor Hymers Wilson came in second

Pastors’ race winner, Kenton Perrin (C) with Donville Cooper (R) and Lloyd Wilson

To how CYSA’s showcase event would turn out but was pleased with the outcome.

“It went very well, and we had great support,” he said, “We still have a few technical things to work out but, overall, we’re pleased with how it went. I think that we’ll do even better next year.”

Halsey Peat

CYSA Rally and Drill Competition

Jyssica Delpeche receives her CYSA award from Elder Nichols

The final positions for Category A and Category B are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Apple Creek</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Toronto East</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Perth Avenue</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Toronto West</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Kingsview</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Mount Olives</td>
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no muscle, and with no hope of winning, was determined to reach the finish line because he did not want to let his team down.

There were others for whom everything simply went well. Men’s 14-16 100m winner, David Rudder, from Perth Avenue Church, did

just ahead of Pastor Fitzroy Maitland. The under 40's 100 metre sprint was sweet revenge for Pastor Kenton Perrin, beating Pastor Donville Cooper and reversing last year's position. Third place was won by Pastor Lloyd Wilson.

CYSA president, Kester Lewis, had been anxious as

to how CYSA’s showcase event would turn out but was pleased with the outcome.

“It went very well, and we had great support,” he said, “We still have a few technical things to work out but, overall, we’re pleased with how it went. I think that we’ll do even better next year.”

Halsey Peat

The final positions for Category A and Category B are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Apple Creek</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Toronto East</td>
<td>263</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Perth Avenue</td>
<td>159</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Toronto West</td>
<td>87</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Mississauga</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Kingsview</td>
<td>31</td>
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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Malton</td>
<td>133</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Kendalwood</td>
<td>107</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Smyrna</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Mount Olives</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Berea</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Tor. Yugoslav</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Agape Temple</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the numerous awards were six scholarships ranging from $500 - $1,000. These academic awards, funded by admission fees to the annual track and field meeting, are given each year to worthy recipients. Elder Nichols and his wife, Mrs. Ada Nichols; Elder Cyril Millett, youth director, and others, assisted in presenting a number of the scholarships and awards.

The awards that everyone had been waiting for were the track and field winners. As expected, Apple Creek won category A (churches with 500 or more members) much to the satisfaction of its members. However, jubilation and excitement broke out when Bethel was announced as the winner of category B (churches with memberships less than 500).

In celebrating ten years of CYSA track and field meetings, recognition was given to CYSA’s involvement. CYSA pioneers, Kester Griffiths, Brian Saunders, Colin Vernon, Chris Mitchell, Jean Lazarus, Anthony Broderick, Martin Douglas and Dawn Griffiths were also recognised for their hard work and dedication during the decade. Special recognition was given to Lindsay Mitchell for tireless years of assisting CYSA in the track and field programme and computerizing the results.

The evening concluded with a Pathfinder drill competition when Mount Zion Church repeated its triumph of last year. The team firmly established itself, arguably, as the best drill team in the Ontario Conference and demonstrated that hard work pays off.

Agape Temple’s 2nd annual Canada Day Family Fun Day was filled with the sounds of laughter, the smell of good food, the spirit of thankfulness for the fact that we live, play, and worship in a country that provides us with religious liberty.

There were booths set up with carnival games for the children to play and win prizes, as well as a jumping castle and a giant inflatable slide. It was an opportunity to showcase the Adventist health message, our Children’s Ministries, and the Agape Temple Prayer Ministries Department. Throughout the day, the department’s members offered prayer for whoever needed it and continually prayed for everyone’s safety. Crawford Adventist Academy East had an information booth about Christian education as well as registration and uniform information.

For some, Canada Day is a backyard barbecue, a day to watch the fireworks, a day off from work, or a day to wear red and white. For the members of Agape Temple in Pickering, it was a day to celebrate Canada’s 141st birthday as a church family with its neighbourhood community.

The highlight of the day was the willingness of Pastors Fred Nichols and Andre Anderson to enter the dunk tank and give anyone who wished a chance to dunk them in the pool of cold water.

The event was attended by church members and their families from all over the GTA as well as Conference administrators, local politicians, and most especially, families from the neighbouring community surrounding Agape Temple. The event was a huge success and a true testament to social evangelism.

Angie Saunders, leader of the Agape Temple Children’s Ministries Department, and her committee wish to thank those that donated items, money, and their time to make the event happen. All are invited to join us again next year as we celebrate Canada Day with our community. If you or your business would like to make a donation or participate in the next event, please call Agape Temple at 905-837-1892.

Christina Nichols

www.TheDivineWords.com or www.Seek4Truth.net

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Filipino-Canadian Church Supports Better Living

On June 1, 2008, the Orion Pathfinders and members from the Filipino-Canadian Adventist Church joined over 12,000 cyclists and inline-skaters to support Ride For Heart, a campaign promoting healthier living.

It was the third consecutive year that Filipino-Canadian (Fil-Can) Adventist Church participated in the one-day event along a traffic-free Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway to raise funds that will help the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. The money will fund world-class research resulting in medical advances and education to prevent and reduce death and disability from heart disease and strokes.

More than forty volunteers, wearing hats sporting the church logo, gathered at the church's parking lot as early as 5:00 a.m. for a devotional and prayer and to prepare for the day. Later, the energetic Orion Pathfinders, along with some parents, distributed snacks in designated areas where cyclists stopped to have a break.

This year, Pastors Daniel Catangay and Charles Ojano with 27 cyclists from Fil-Can ranging in age from 8 to 71 years old were among the cyclists who took the courage to cycle 25-50 km. The event was a success as church family members enjoyed themselves while contributing to a worthy cause that uplifts a positive health message in action. A child asked her father: “Can we do this every Sunday?”

Many participants have come to recognize the evangelistic opportunities presented by this event, and some invited their friends who accepted and participated as cyclists or as volunteers.

The combined efforts of Fairhavens’ Family and Youth Ministries made the afternoon of May 31 resound with happy memories for 15 couples at Fairhavens Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church, as they renewed their commitment and vows of fidelity to each other.

The event was memorable for all the couples as they were overjoyed to renew their vows. Many became teary-eyed as they renewed their vows. Even among the congregation, handkerchiefs could be seen dabbing moist eyes.

The ambiance of the service was greatly enhanced by the beautiful music provided by accomplished musicians who made the sanctuary reverberate with joyful sounds. The highlight of the banquet was the message of God’s love!

Fifteen Couples Renew Marriage Commitment at Fairhavens

Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sault Ste. Marie recently completed the spring session of its twice-yearly vegetarian cooking class outreach. With the maximum number of 30 registrants, it was the second full class since moving to their new, larger church building.

The classes, designed for the community, followed the established mix of lectures on nutrition, NEWSTART, devotionals relating science and the Bible, and six recipe demonstrations with samples on each of the four nights.

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“...Many became teary-eyed as they renewed their vows. Even among the congregation, handkerchiefs could be seen dabbing moist eyes.”

Following the ceremony, a reception, prepared by the Fairhavens’ youth, was held at the fellowship hall of the Valleyview Residence. There were rounds of applause as the love stories of each couple were read. The highlight of the banquet was the message of God’s love! Sammy Adriatico

Bible Study from Cornerstone Cooking Class

Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sault Ste. Marie recently completed the spring session of its twice-yearly vegetarian cooking class outreach. With the maximum number of 30 registrants, it was the second full class since moving to their new, larger church building.

The classes, designed for the community, followed the established mix of lectures on nutrition, NEWSTART, devotionals relating science and the Bible, and six recipe demonstrations with samples on each of the four nights.

The classes allowed the church to connect with former participants who returned for the new series and to meet new people who all have a keen interest in health and vegetarian cooking. A post-session survey provided very positive and encouraging feedback and produced useful information that can be used to improve the next session in the autumn of 2008.

Following the series, one person expressed an interest in studying the Bible and has been contacted to follow up, showing again how health ministry can be an effective tool for reaching people with the message of God’s love!
Hope in the Community

On Sunday, July 27, Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church went beyond its church gates and into the surrounding neighbourhood to hold its second annual community health fair.

Hope Church, under the leadership of its pastor, Wayne Williams, is committed to be involved in the local community. Last year, the first community health fair was held on the grounds of the church. However, this year it was felt that the church should go to where the people are. An area by three apartment buildings on Falstaff Avenue, just east of Jane Street, was selected.

The day began at 11:00 a.m. with a Pathfinder parade from Western Collegiate and arriving at 12:40 p.m. at Falstaff Avenue. Pathfinders from Toronto Central and Perth Avenue Adventist Churches were also part of the parade.

At 1:00 p.m it was very clear that a community event was taking place in Falstaff Avenue. The lawns in front of the apartment buildings were dotted with display tents, and people were already stopping to see what was taking place. Children could be seen talking to firemen and climbing on the red fire engine or sitting in the back of an ambulance and discovering the life-saving equipment housed there. Other children were soaked to the skin as they played, fully clothed, in a fountain.

Deputy Chief of Police, Keith Forde, was among the dignitaries introduced by Donna Jackson, Family Ministries director of the Ontario Conference. He spoke of his joy of being part of the fair and congratulated Hope Church for its community involvement.

“Too many churches remain in their buildings and wait for people to go to them,” he said. “I commend Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church for going into the community. You have set the bar high for others to follow.”

He was also appreciative of the health education emphasis of the fair and told them, “You are making an impact in this community.”

Other greetings were brought by Dennis Alleyne, Toronto Public Health; Kemi Jacobs, Toronto Housing; Halsey Peat, Ontario Conference; and later, Alan Tonks, MP for York South-Weston. However, it was the beautiful singing of twelve-year-old Nicholas Fraser that really brought the residents out to their balconies.

Visitors to the fair were able to have their blood pressure checked, have a massage, experience essential oils, learn about diabetes from Black Creek Community Health Centre, enjoy a hand paraffin wax treatment or just wander around exhibits, including Touch of Love and others. Some people soon found the food tent and enjoyed the sumptuous food for reasonable prices. For those wanting spiritual guidance, there was a prayer tent, “The Garden of Prayer”. Information and helpful literature were provided in numerous languages.

Hope Church will add the success of this event to the success of its other community events and will, no doubt, be looking forward to the next time when it can make an impact on its community.

Whitby Ministers Meet Mayor At Kendalwood

On Wednesday, May 21, Whitby mayor, Pat Perkins, visited the Kendalwood Seventh-day Adventist Church for a lunch meeting with the ministers of the Whitby Ministerial Association. Nine ministers from the Whitby Christian churches attended, including Kendalwood’s pastor, Hymers Wilson, and head elder, Linda O’Connor.

In his opening remarks and welcome, Pastor Wilson said that the Kendalwood Adventist Church stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the Christian churches of Whitby in believing three things:

(1) That the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice;
(2) That Jesus performed a finished work on the cross of saving mankind and makes eternal life available to us if we desire it; and
(3) That Jesus requires us to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s, meaning we are to respect civic authorities.

Pastor Wilson mentioned that Kendalwood’s newly formed Pathfinder Club has a community service part to its program and, among other activities, has adopted the park just south of the church and will be working to keep it clean one day in each spring, summer and fall season. Pastor Wilson assured the mayor that she and her council can be confident of the support and prayers of the Whitby Christian churches.

In her response, Mayor Pat Perkins spoke about the importance of church, school and community working together for the benefit of the youth of Whitby. She acknowledged the positive contribution the Whitby Christian churches are making to provide youth programming, thereby keeping them off the streets and out of trouble, currently a major concern of the local authorities.

A vegetarian lunch was provided by the Kendalwood Church’s social committee, led by Paulette Smith and assisted by Angella Ormsby.

Pastor Hymers Wilson

Timmins Adventist Church Is Looking for the Following Members:


If you have any information, contact Pastor Fourny at 613-937-3124 or dfourny@adventistontario.org or Elder Will Marcoux at 705-272-2116.
Meadowvale Celebrates Church Opening

The new church building of the Meadowvale Adventist congregation was officially opened on June 28 by Elder Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference.

He was assisted by Elder Antonio Bueno and Bro. Ulysses Guarin, executive secretary and treasurer of the Ontario Conference, respectively.

Also present for the opening were former pastors, Kenneth Campbell, Nephtaly Dorzilime, Pricely Francie, and Fitzroy Maitland. They were joined by Mr. Wajid Khan, PM (Mississauga - Streetsville), Bob Delaney, MPP (Mississauga - Streetsville), and Hazel McCallion, mayor of Mississauga.

The building at 5920 Montevideo Road, in the heart of Meadowvale, is significant to the congregation since it is the location where the congregation started 23 years ago.

“This weekend, and our move to this new location, was nothing short of a miracle and the direct result of God’s leading,” said Pastor Daniel Saugh, church pastor. “Our first offer to purchase the building was refused, but God opened the way for us to obtain it.”

The story of how the building was acquired was taken up by a representative of the former owners, the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec.

“There were better offers,” she explained, “but we felt that God was guiding us in this direction.”

Pastor Richard Barron, former youth director of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and recently retired from active ministry, was the keynote speaker. His message, “Things That Never Change,” reminded and challenged the congregations to remember that God is in the business of saving souls for His Kingdom and not for attending church for pomp and circumstance.

The official opening marked the first anniversary of the congregation’s move to its new location.

Scarborough’s Mortgage Burning Celebrates ‘First Step’

On June 28, the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the burning of its mortgage for the land purchased at Lawrence Avenue East in 2003.

Senior pastor, Winston Hurlock, and assistant pastor, Jayson Levy, presided over the ceremony held at the Poplar Road church during the morning worship service. They were joined by Mr. Birthe Chan, director of Property Management for the Ontario Conference. Earlier, the conference officers, President Derrick Nichols, Executive Secretary Antonio Bueno and Treasurer Ulysses Guarin, congratulated the church on its achievement and presented a cheque on behalf of the Ontario Conference.

Also present were Pastor Smollding of the Master’s House Church and Pastor Nick Stavropoulos of Rosewood Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Stavropoulos is a friend to Scarborough Adventist Church and has helped it with numerous fundraising ideas.

When Scarborough Church purchased the property at Lawrence Avenue, it was the first step in the process to build a new church complex in Scarborough. Completion of the first step was truly a time of thanksgiving and praise as the church celebrated. The service recognized and thanked God for the vision of Isaac Willock, Donald Craig, Ronald Francis and Andrew Alexander.

The congregation plans to begin groundbreaking within a year and to continue its mission in reaching out to the community and spreading God’s Word.

“We desire to build and fulfill our commission in the community,” said Pastor Hurlock. “There is so much crime in the area, and we wish to provide an oasis of salvation through our new church complex.”

Shiloh Awards Banquet Honours Three Diamond Anniversaries

On Sunday, June 30, Edward and Louise Ennis and Clement and Daisy Reid were happily surprised by their Shiloh Church family.

At the first awards banquet to be held in the fellowship hall of Shiloh’s new church premises, they were honoured for their diamond anniversary (60 years) achievement. A third couple, Conrad and Daphne Boyce, was unable to be present.

Certificates of achievements were presented by Lloyd and Joan Beresford, of the organizing committee, and Elder Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference, and his wife, Ada.

Shawn Boyle, assistant in the office of John McKay, MP (Scarborough - Guildwood), read citations from Governor General Michéelle Jean; Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Mr. Derek Lee, MP (Scarborough - Rouge River); Premier Dalton McGuinty; Mr. Bas Balkissoon, MPP (Scarborough - Rouge River) and Mayor David Miller, of Toronto.

Edward and Louise, married on August 18, 1948, in Berbice, Guyana, attributes their marriage longevity to “looking to God when faced with trials” and “desiring to be with each other.”

A smiling Edward exclaimed, “We are really pleased about this evening. It was a real surprise, and I want you to know that we are still enjoying married life.”

Louise and Edward on their wedding day
Nine Baptized at Smyrna’s “The Refreshing” Revival

Nine individuals gave their lives to Jesus through baptism after “The Refreshing—a New Start with Jesus” revival meetings held at Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church June 14-28.

The revival meetings, led by church pastor, Lloyd Wilson, were the culmination of a series of community events, prayer and Bible study outreach. Each night, Pastor Wilson opened God’s Word and taught of the love of Christ and applied Biblical teaching to present day events.

The evening concluded with an original drama, “De Last Daze,” by Shiloh’s drama group that had the audience rolling with laughter. Pastor “Mo Squito” will long be remembered.

The revival demonstrated proof of the power of the Holy Spirit as nine individuals surrendered their lives to Jesus during the series and were baptised. One young man, Ryan McGaw, decided to attend the revival on the day of the baptism instead of spending the weekend with his friends at the cottage. While at the baptism, he was convicted by the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour and requested to join the candidates that were being baptised.

These results would not have been possible without the efforts of Bible workers, Leonard North and Bro. Eyitwoyo Natufe, who worked endlessly throughout the duration of the revival.

Jeffrey Adamson

Sixty-Five Baptized at New Life Evangelistic Series at Toronto Perth Avenue

On June 7, 2008, 12 new converts were baptised on the final night of the 5-week New Life evangelistic series held at Toronto Perth Avenue Adventist Church—making a total of 65 baptisms.

The capacity congregation that filled the church added to the soaring temperature inside the building, but no one complained. They gladly worshipped and waited to hear, for the last time, the evangelist, Mil Robinson, preach in her dynamic and passionate style. She had been preaching four nights weekly for five weeks, and still people wanted more. There were some who had simply wandered off the streets and remained, transfixed by the messages they heard.

Three Toronto congregations, Heritage, Heralds and Perth Avenue, joined together to reach out to their communities with the Gospel from May 3 - June 7. They invited Evangelist Mil Robinson, anchor woman for WGod radio station in St. Thomas, UVI, to preach. And preach she did! She especially highlighted last days events and inspired all with her personal testimonies of how God was her only help when there was no one to whom she could turn.

“There were times when I had no food to feed my four children, no job and no money to pay my rent but God provided for me! What my God did for me, He can do for you also, just trust in Him and see that my God is able!” She testified.

Attendance slowly built over the first week, then mushroomed as more people heard of her and began attending. Many youth could be seen returning nightly to listen to her messages, demonstrating how she appealed to a wide cross-section of people. Some visitors could hardly wait to greet her at the conclusion of each meeting. Others rejoiced and shared with her how they had experienced God’s intervention in their lives during the series of meetings.

One new convert testified that she was afraid of losing her job if she became an Adventist, but God intervened and she was able to get the Sabbath off and keep her job. There were baptisms after the first week, then weekly until the final night.

Local pastors, Nephtaly Dorzilme, Oyeman Mitchell and Perth Avenue’s Theodore Sargeant, were happy about the results of the combined efforts of their three churches. “It was wonderful,” exclaimed Pastor Mitchell, “I was very impressed, and I loved how the Bible workers and other team members worked so well together.”

“It was very refreshing to see how so many young people wholeheartedly responded to traditional preaching,” said Pastor Sargeant. “I believe they appreciated her willingness to make herself vulnerable by sharing her own experiences and being real with them.”

The three congregations are now nurturing their new believers.

Traysee Gelliseau
Thanks to the blessings of God bestowed on the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church, 24 youths from the troubled Rexdale neighbourhood completed a remarkable journey on June 8 with a fabulous celebratory concert before 500 people at Earl Haig Secondary School, Toronto.

Called the Rexdale Outreach Choir (ROC), the youths, all from the local community, were recruited by the church in malls, door-to-door and at area schools and formed into a gospel choir.

Employing the theme, More Than Just the Music, the youths receive Life Skills Training, participate in community services, receive mentoring and participate in the church’s summer camp. The church has taken them to major gospel concerts and the Harry Jerome Awards.

Out of the tragic events, God has carved a tunnel of good news and at least three positive media exposures for the church. First, the premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, announced to the Toronto West congregation in 2006 that he was giving $3 million in grants to churches that engaged in outreach to troubled youths. Secondly, Rev. Eugene Rivers from Boston challenged a gathering of nearly 1,000 people of different faiths to reach out from the pews to the streets. Finally, in June 2008, CBC Radio and Citytv provided media coverage of the ROC concert.

Two years after the Summer of the Gun, God has brought TWest out of the ashes of that experience and placed the church in the vanguard of an effort from the faith community to reach disaffected youth before they fall prey to gang culture.

Today, the congregation is being congratulated by government officials for the successful completion of the Youth Engagement Strategy to end youth violence. In June, the government announced a second grant to continue the choir.

From June 7-14, the Family Life Department of the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a Family Emphasis week, featuring guest presenter, Dr. Orlando Moncrieffe, from New Jersey.

The highlight of the series was a marriage re-commitment service held on the evening of June 14. More than 80 couples participated in the ceremony that included a complete bridal entourage. To the delight of the congregation, many of the brides wore their original gowns. Following the ceremony, a reception in the fellowship hall concluded the celebration. Members and visitors alike were blessed by the insightful discussions and special features on various areas of family life.

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Six Nations Church to Celebrate 110th Anniversary

Six Nations Church will be celebrating 110 years of God’s leading in Ontario by hosting a “Spiritual Gathering” at the Six Nations Community Centre, Oshweken, during the weekend of August 22-23, 2008.

Pastor Monte Church, director of Northwest/Canada Native Ministries of the North American Division will be the keynote speaker.

Members of native heritage and friends interested in native ministry are invited to join the “Spiritual Gathering”.

Those interested in attending are requested to call Len and Kitt Maracle at 519-445-9265 or email Pastor Herb Sormin at hsormin@adventistontario.org

Northern Ontario Regional Camp Meeting

Theme: More about Jesus
August 29-31, 2008
Speaker: Elder Derrick Nichols.

Elder Derrick Nichols is president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

During his 35 years of ministry, he has served as pastor, departmental director and evangelist. His mission is to see the people of Ontario find a home in the kingdom of God.

Location: Camp Noronto, near Monteville.

Music from the Depths of Tragedy

Thanks to the blessings of God bestowed on the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church, 24 youths from the troubled Rexdale neighbourhood completed a remarkable journey on June 8 with a fabulous celebratory concert before 500 people at Earl Haig Secondary School, Toronto.

Called the Rexdale Outreach Choir (ROC), the youths, all from the local community, were recruited by the church in malls, door-to-door and at area schools and formed into a gospel choir.

The outreach was sparked by the tragic events of Nov. 2005, when the church hosted a funeral for a non-Adventist family and a fatal shooting occurred on the steps of the church. Thrust into the public spotlight, Toronto West (TWest) Adventist Church has responded with a renewed and expanded outreach ministry to the Rexdale area, where the church is located.

Employing the theme, More Than Just the Music, the youths receive Life Skills Training, participate in community services, receive mentoring and participate in the church’s summer camp. The church has taken them to major gospel concerts and the Harry Jerome Awards.

Out of the tragic events, God has carved a tunnel of good news and at least three positive media exposures for the church.

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Today, the congregation is being congratulated by Truck News
Vitamin D is known for its crucial role of working with calcium to keep bones strong. Recent research shows a strong connection to other common health issues.

Headlines suggest that Vitamin D is the new wonder vitamin. With all of the hype, Canadians receive mixed messages. Should we be concerned with our personal levels of this nutrient?

Dr. George Guthrie, a family and lifestyle medicine physician at Florida Hospital, sheds light on the crucial role of Vitamin D. During his guest lecture for CHIP training in Oshawa, Dr. Guthrie stated that Canada’s northern latitude reduces the availability of vitamin D-forming rays of sunlight.

Originally, vitamin D was associated with rickets, a disease of softening of the bones in children that lead to fractures and deformity. In adults, this deficiency causes osteomalacia and osteoporosis. Scientific research shows a diverse list of diseases linked to this vitamin as presented by Dr. Guthrie. The list includes hyperparathyroidism, Type 1 and 2 diabetes, cancers, and coronary heart failure.

**Did You Know?**

Sun screen with an SPF of 8 causes a 98% decrease in vitamin D formation. Canadians are at a higher risk in winter. By 70 years of age, there is a 75% decrease in the skin's ability to make pre-vitamin D.

**How Much Is Enough?**

Canada made food guide history when the new Canada Food Guide was released in February 2007 with the recommendation of a 400 IU* (International Unit) vitamin D supplement for those over the age of 55. Osteoporosis Canada goes even further with their recommendation of twice the amount for a total of 800 IU.

Proponents of vitamin D suggest even higher levels to raise the proposed blood levels to the desirable range (above 30 ng/ml or 80 nmol/L). The UC Berkeley Wellness Letter suggests you talk to your doctor about testing if you are over 60 or are at risk; for example, if you have low bone density. This edition also says to consider taking 800-1000 IU of supplemental D a day.

**Sun Protection or Promotion**

Even though we have the same capacity for vitamin D, the effects of UVB are based on exposure time and skin colour. Lenore Hodges, PhD, RD, LD, a member of the General Conference Nutrition Council, illuminated these findings in her presentation at the NAD Health Summit in February. The recommendations for light skin are 10-20 minutes with exposure 3 times per week. On the other end of the spectrum, very dark skin recommendations are 120 minutes with exposure 3 times per week. Of course, these finding do not negate the current caution to limit sun exposure during peak times to reduce one’s risk of cancer.

*An international unit (IU) is an internationally accepted amount of a substance. This type of measure is used for the fat-soluble vitamins (such as vitamins A, D and E) and certain hormones, enzymes, and biologicals (such as vaccines).
Ministerial Changes

Transfers

The following transfers also became effective on July 1. **Dr. Gerry Pasikatan** is the new pastor for Hamilton Filipino Company. He continues as the pastor of Bramalea Adventist Church.

**Pastor Julius Kalmar** has left Richmond Hill and now pastors Orillia Adventist Church and Midland Company.

Retirement

**Pastor Jack Friesen** leaves Orillia Adventist Church and Midland Company for a well-deserved retirement. Pastor Jack and his wife, Mary, have faithfully served the church for 30 years.

Before being called to ministry, Pastor Friesen was a well-known disc jockey, hosting his own radio programmes in a number of cities across southern Ontario. While working as a disc jockey in Barrie, he began reading material by Garner Ted Armstrong of the World Wide Church of God. He learned about the Sabbath and the State of the Dead and began searching for a Sabbath-keeping church but could not find one in Barrie. Later, he accompanied a friend to a series of Adventist evangelistic meetings held by Pastor Fred Pearse, and was converted.

“The Holy Spirit just touched me and told me this is the church I should join,” said Pastor Friesen. He became a member of Barrie Adventist Church.

Sensing a strong call to ministry, Jack Friesen attended Canadian University College in Alberta, paying his way by working as a disc jockey for CKGY, Red Deer, before joining the Ontario Conference on July 1, 1978. He has remained with Ontario, except for a short period in the early 80’s, when he worked as a pastor in the Newfoundland Conference. There he was very involved in the church’s radio station, Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR).

During his time in Ontario, Pastor Friesen has served at least eight different congregations. With his wife, Mary, and their three children, Scott, Julia and Tammy, they have experienced life in various towns and cities in Ontario. Each congregation has helped him grow closer in his relationship with Jesus.

The Ontario Conference is joined by the members of his pastorates in Toronto West, Malton, Sarnia, Hamilton Mountain, Bronte, Guelph, Midland and Orillia in wishing Jack and Mary a very happy retirement.

Saying Farewell...

At the conference office, we say a sad farewell to **Paola Oudri** who has served as administrative secretary to the president and treasurer since August 2006. Paola leaves the office to take up a new position as part-time French teacher at College Park Elementary School, Oshawa. While Paola will certainly be missed at the office, she is returning to her first love–teaching. She is a certified teacher and holds a masters degree in teaching. Her experience includes two years as principal of an elementary school.

Paola is the wife of Pastor Gerardo Oudri, an associate pastor at College Park Adventist Church. They have two beautiful daughters, Sofia, 5, and Fiorella, 3.

We welcome **Pastor David Baker**, his wife, Marie, and their five-year old daughter, Shannah, to Ontario. Pastor Baker is returning home to Ontario. He was born in Brantford and attended Grandvalley Adventist Academy, Paris, Ontario, and later Kingsway College, Oshawa.

A graduate of Canadian University College and the Adventist Theological Seminary, Michigan, Pastor Baker joins us from the British Columbia Conference.

He is the new pastor of Richmond Hill Adventist Church.

**Pastor Glen DeSilva** returns to the Ontario Conference after serving as chaplain at Kingsway College for a number of years. He joined the staff at Willowdale Adventist Church as an associate pastor on July 1, replacing Pastor Elizabeth Pule, who is on leave of absence.
Book Review


This is an absolutely inspiring book! I write this book review, having just finished reading it, and I feel the need to stop myself and ask, “Why am I saying it is inspiring when its very subheading introduces the book as a complete planning guide?” This perhaps does not suggest anything inspirational but rather informational. The answer is that this book is more than a planning guide because it explores what worship is in response to the awesomeness of Almighty God and its important ingredients.

In Experiencing Worship, Cynthia Brown, a pastor’s wife, speaks about worship from the perspective of the pew, not only in terms of the worship hour, but beginning in the parking lot and involving the very décor of the church. It is inspirational because it deals with subject matter, which I would venture to argue, has not been taught to many pastors of my generation, and it provides a refreshing and balanced guide to implementing a planned and meaningful worship experience in the local church.

It is a must-read for anybody currently involved in leading out in worship, including pastors, musicians, praise team leaders and audio-visual technicians. It provides insights into the structure and style of worship and on the most effective way to deliver everything associated with worship, including prayers, songs, special music, children’s stories, testimonies, communion and even sermons.

The book begins with a historical look at worship, starting with worship in Old Testament Israel through to the early Advent movement, the Adventist Church from 1900-1975, and ending with the Adventist Church to the present. It charts interesting shifts in emphasis from one era to the next, and it may surprise many Adventist readers to discover that ancient Hebrew worship traditions were a rich mosaic of “singing of psalms, jubilant celebrations, and processions. . . . accompanied by many . . . instruments. There were banners, dancing and lifting of hands.” (P. 15).

Experiencing Worship contains information on how to introduce new worship ideas. It discusses the concept of worship leaders and worship coordinators and their teams. It also has sample worship programs and many ideas for enhancing the ingredients of worship, not for their entertainment value, but for the sole purpose of reinforcing our knowledge of God, offering praise and worship to God, resulting in an experience which will strengthen and empower the worshipper for the journey ahead.

Pastor Hymers Wilson, Kendalwood Church

Experiencing Worship is available at the ABC for approximately $20.

Ruby Anniversary Celebration

Ontario Conference Sabbath School and Community Services director, Elder Wayne Martin and his wife, Jean, celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary (40 years) on Sunday, August 3. The happy couple were joined by over 200 family members and friends at Mississauga Adventist Church for an inspiring and elegant thanksgiving service. It was followed by an evening of beautiful music, delicious food, and the joyful re-telling of four decades of a happy, God-blessed marriage at the banquet hall of Four Points Sheraton on Airport Road, Mississauga.

Ninth Annual CHIP Summit

The Adventist CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) Association cordially invites anyone with a passion for health ministry to attend the 9th Annual CHIP Summit in sunny Orlando, Florida, from November 12 to 16, 2008.

For registration information, visit the CHIP website at http://www.sdachip.org/summit/2008/summit.html

Halsey Peat
Immanuel Church Is Looking for the Following Members:

Jasmin Adebisi-Romero; Taiyewo Adebisi; Kehinder Adebisi; Yemi Adebisi; Michelle Allen; Janette Allen-Moses; Christina Alexander; Nola Baptiste; Laura Baker; Mala Bowman; Reginald Bowman; Christine Brunelle; Fay Campbell; Jodi-Ann Carpenter; Carlos Carrion; My-Linh Foo; Hollis Fraser; Myles Fudge; Andrew Gallimore; Elizabeth Gallimore; Laura Gallimore; Miguel Gallimore; Kenneth Godfrey; Lorna Grey; Tesfaye Hailu; Dawn Henry; Noel Herdman; Juliet Herdman; Janice James; Paul James; Bessimi Kalaba; Jaime Koivula; Helena Koivula; Ari Koivula; Christine Laan; Michael Ladanyak; Nada Ladi; Leo Legault; Cora Legault; Roy Lewis; Nicole Lewis; Irene Lucoff; Serghei Lugovet; Frank Magermans; Shirley Magermans; Timo Marttinen; Adelin Mocanu; Kenny Morgan; Linda Ostojic; Carlos Pastrana; Nelly Pastrana; Eric Puranen; Mika Puranen; Henry Puranen; Phen Quach; Marcus Ragot; Leroy Rodney; Kenroy Rubin; Iris Smith; Veronika Stefanova; Gordon Sutter; Ivan Sutton; Arian Sutton; Janel Thompson; Sharon Turner; Ildiko Varga; Chris Williams, Corey Williams; Debbie Williams; Pearlita Witter; Christopher Woods.

If you have any information, please contact Pastor Orlando Pule at opule@adventistontario.org or Marlo Pandit at 416-223-1992.

DVD and CD Sale!

Camp meeting 2007 and Maranatha 2008 DVDs & CDs are now on sale at reduced price.

DVD: $7.00   CD: $3.00

plus shipping & handling

Camp meeting 2008 DVDs & CDs are still available at the regular price.

To order, contact Sarah Gouda at sgouda@adventistontario.org 905-571-1022 Ext. 201

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