Bad Words

I turned my head and looked at the little child in astonishment. I had to make sure that my ears were not deceiving me. Yes, I had heard correctly. Just inside the doorway at a shopping mall a little child in a stroller was having a very bad day. What astonished me was the torrent of expletives that he was hurling at his mother. Clearly, he had learned them from somewhere.

My mother taught me about bad words. She never told me what they were. She never had to. She would always warn me about them as if they were a fatal, contagious disease. I soon came to recognise them as I went to school, entered the army cadets and later worked on a construction site. Not a problem—I took my mother’s advice and avoided them like the plague. I wasn’t even curious enough to try out one or two just to see how they sounded. So far, so good. Then, I became a pastor.

One day, while preaching, I used a bad word. I was a young pastor and didn’t even realise that it was bad, but the reaction of the congregation immediately convinced me that it was possibly the worst of all bad words. The word? Change.

We have a strange relationship with change. On one hand we embrace it, we demand it and we’re satisfied when it happens. We only have to look at a congregation that’s unhappy with its worship styles and practice, and personal congregational preferences are all unchanged—is to become irrelevant to a rapidly changing society.

So, how should we change? I don’t really know. I have my preferences, but they are just that—mine. Yours are equally valid. That’s why real change is something we must collectively do and struggle to accomplish. When we are intentional about change, we are able to manage it. If we simply leave it to nature, we could be changed into something we will not even recognise, much less like.

Perhaps we should consider the unchangeable—the staples of our faith and the principles on which our belief system is built: The reality of the divine God, His incarnation and sacrifice as the Son and His abiding presence as the Holy Spirit, His supreme love for us, His transforming power in our lives and His words to us contained in Holy Scripture. These fundamental, timeless biblical principles and clear teachings are not subject to change.

So, what is up for change? The prime candidate is clearly attitude. We can change our attitude of thinking that we are somehow better than others or more favoured by God because we hold His commandments in high esteem. We only have to remember Israel of the Old Testament. We can change our attitude regarding evangelism—we need to seek the lost, rather than expect them to miraculously attend an evangelistic meeting because they saw an advert in the paper. We can definitely change our attitude regarding others who attend our churches—they don’t have to first go through a transformation to look and act like us before we show them that we love them and accept them. No, we can welcome them and embrace them as fellow sinners whom God’s Spirit is transforming into His likeness.

Our traditions, cultural expressions, worship styles and practice, and personal congregational preferences are all subject to change, especially if we want to be relevant to our rapidly changing communities. As much as we love them, they are not sacred and should not be confused with doctrinal beliefs.

While change may be viewed as a ‘bad’ word and can elicit fear, it can also be viewed as a ‘good’ word because it presents us with golden opportunities to be intentional and strategic about reaching the unchurched with the gospel. Let us favour change as a rare opportunity that should not be missed.

Halsey Peat
Ministering to People Living with HIV

To hear that someone has been diagnosed with cancer immediately elicits our heartfelt sympathies. So frightful is the disease. Yet, whenever someone is diagnosed as having the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), even as Christians, we are far less responsive and tend to distance ourselves from that person and leave him or her to die, away from the care and support of the church. HIV could one day affect you or your family.

For over seventeen years, I have been involved in various forms of ministries with people living with HIV. I have been inspired by Jesus’ willingness to serve people infected by leprosy and other outcasts, such as tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners. I believe that if he were on this earth today, he would be at the forefront of ministering to people living with HIV. I am convicted that Jesus would be involved in bringing healing and comfort to suffering families. He would also challenge the widespread judgments against people infected and affected by the virus.

HIV and from those who support them. Hopefully, these insights will address the myths about this virus and will inspire more people of faith to get involved in this ministry.

Before entering into a ministry with people living with HIV, there are some key issues to be aware of. Perhaps the most important is to have the correct attitude toward people living with HIV in order to be able to approach them in a Christian way. Consider the key issues as Awareness, Attitude and Approach.

**Awareness**

People living with HIV want you to have basic information about the ways you can be infected by the virus. You cannot become infected by being in casual contact with them. HIV is transmitted through inner body fluids such as blood, seminal or vaginal fluids, or breast milk. As one mother living with HIV puts it: You can’t get it through the air (Browne, 51, 52). A physician adds that it cannot be transmitted through saliva either. You would need several buckets of it to stand a remote chance of transmitting HIV. No one working with them and them with me.

Women are more vulnerable to become HIV infected than men. This is because of the way their immune system works and because of their subordinate roles in various cultures. During the question and answer period of a presentation I had in a Pentecostal church in the Greater Toronto Area, one woman asked, “How should a woman approach her husband about using HIV prevention measures in their relationship if she believes he is being unfaithful to her?” Several women shared their fears of being abused physically or abandoned by their husband. Concerns were shared about women who were financially dependent on their husbands and would suffer untold hardship if they approached them regarding the risk of contracting HIV from them. There are also numerous stories of women who have been infected by their spouse and then blamed for bringing HIV into the home and abandoned to a life of poverty (Kamaara, 42-46).

People living with HIV want you to know that anyone can become positive. There might be groups within society that are at greater risk, but no one is exempt from becoming infected with or affected by HIV. Transfusion with untested blood in some countries has caused infection. Irresponsible sexual relationships place people at risk. So is using infected needles for injections. However, no one deserves to be infected with HIV. All of the people living with HIV that I have met would not wish this diagnosis on anyone. What is important to know, however, is that some faithful Christians, including Seventh-day Adventists, are living with HIV, and some Christians became positive because they were faithful spouses. It is unchristian to prejudge them as bad simply based on their diagnosis. In John 9, Jesus refused to pass judgment on the man born blind.

**Attitude**

Once I became aware of these issues, my attitude began to change toward people living with HIV. They were no longer seen as suffering from a plague, but as children of God. Unfortunately, people of faith have been at the forefront of condemning people living with HIV and fostering a judgmental attitude toward them. Consequently, people living with HIV distrust even those from their own faith. They have also been isolated from their family and friends who look down on them or through my involvement in these ministries, I have learned a few insights about living with HIV from people infected and affected by
avoid them after finding out that they are HIV positive. Families living with HIV talked to me about family members who refuse to touch their dead cousins’ clothing and other possessions because the autopsy revealed that they died from illness related to their advanced HIV (Browne, 52).

This judgmental attitude is in total contrast with Jesus’ acceptance of people who were condemned and shunned by others. Jesus was willing to touch a leper who reluctantly came to Him. Jesus did the unthinkable---He reached out and touched this man. With one touch, Jesus removed the leprosy and the stigma associated with being leprous at the time. Before Jesus healed the man who was born blind, He spoke out against the prevailing attitude that there is a direct connection between a person’s illness and their sin. Jesus saw illness not as a condemnation from God, but as an opportunity for the work of God to be revealed in his life. So Jesus advocated on behalf of the sick who suffered physical pain, emotional trauma, social isolation, and spiritual condemnation because of the way they became infected: This man was born blind.

Families living with HIV listen very carefully to everything family and church members and friends say about their diagnosis. They hear a lot of negative talk about HIV and sense a lack of acceptance from Christians who preach acceptance. Our ministries to people suffering the stigma of illness and lifestyles different from ours must be a reflection of Jesus’ attitude and God’s purpose for sending Him into the world as expressed in John 3:16. “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” I have also found that God is already at work with people living with HIV. After Peter approached Cornelius, a Gentile labeled as unclean by the Jewish people of the day, he saw that God was already working among the Gentiles.
What We Want from Our Leaders
A letter to those in positions of church leadership

A group of church members were asked what they wanted from their church leaders. Their responses have been summarized in the following letter to all church leaders.

Dear Leaders,

We are writing to you because we love you and want you to succeed in your leadership of God’s people. We recognize that you are often the target of much criticism, and we know that it’s really hard to make everyone happy. That’s why we encourage everyone to pray for you.

As our leaders, we place our trust and confidence in you. We also place authority in your hands by selecting you to sit on church boards and even conference committees to make decisions that affect the governance of our churches and conference. The well-being of our churches and conference affect the governance of our congregations is greatly dependent on you. For this reason, we want to let you know what we expect of you.

We want leaders who are genuinely spiritual. These are men and women, whether church officers, elders, pastors or conference personnel, who are led by the Spirit of God. We do not want simply religious people, no matter how sincere. We want spiritual leaders who reflect the character of Christ in how He dealt with people. They must, therefore, be humble and not given to self-promotion and possessiveness of their office. We want them to recognize that they do not own any office in the church. They are stewards and accountable to God and His church and the congregations they serve.

We want leaders who love people and show genuine interest in the least among us. We want them to seek us out, especially when we move to a new congregation and, in the case of some large churches, no one else pays attention to us. Keep your eyes open for new people and make us feel welcome. Introduce us to people who will draw us into the congregation. We love it when our leaders show this kind of interest in our personal well-being and try to be understanding of our situation.

We want leaders who love and value children and young people and who use their influence and time to create a loving, accepting environment in the church for them.

We want leaders who are competent and knowledgeable. We want to feel proud to bring our friends to church and hear them comment on how they are impressed by our church leaders’ skills, presentation and knowledge. We do not want to feel embarrassed as we sometimes do.

We are happy when we see our leaders strive...
to improve their skills, broaden their minds, and sharpen their intellect. We are encouraged when our leaders demonstrate their open-mindedness and recognize the diversity of understanding, knowledge, cultural heritage, education and experience in a typical congregation.

We want leaders who provide inspirational leadership. Men and women who have clear goals, know what they are about and can motivate us to follow them. We want leaders who are innovative and are willing to move beyond the status quo and inspire us to do great things. We are looking for leaders who will mentor and train us so that we can become effective in ministry and evangelism.

We want leaders who will teach us. In the absence of teaching from our leaders, we are prone to listen to other teachers. Unfortunately, some of these are independent of the church and are quick to criticize the church. Sometimes their teaching leads some of us to reflect their views because we do not know better. We have not been exposed to biblical teaching that would oppose their teaching. We expect our leaders to be guardians of the sheep. Yes, we must study for ourselves, but you are our leaders; you have a role to play. You were elected because we valued your knowledge of God's word and your experience with Christ. So, we want leaders who will teach us what the Bible has to say about prophecy and end times, about our identity in Christ, our relationship with other Christians, how we are to relate to homosexuality and questions regarding creation and evolution. Our knowledge is embarrassingly scant.

We want leaders who will search the Scriptures and teach us the deep truths they discover. We need substance, not fluff. We need the meat of the Scriptures, not the bland explanations we sometimes hear, explanations that often make no sense, but we are expected to simply accept. We do not mind if our leaders do not know the answer to a question today, but if he or she still does not know it in three months’ time, our confidence will be greatly weakened as his or her credibility is shattered.

Lastly, tell us ‘how’ and not just ‘what.’ We want leaders who from their spiritual journey, their walk with Christ, will tell us ‘how.’ How should I study the Scriptures? How can my walk with Christ be more meaningful? How do I witness to people? How do I give Bible studies to someone? How can I make family worship more relevant for my children?

We know that we are asking a lot of you, but we are confident that when God places people in positions of leadership, He also equips them for the task. So, we do not feel that we are being unreasonable in our expectations. We are convinced that your total reliance on God for all your needs as a leader will result in you becoming the leader we need.

Yours sincerely,
Your fellow-believers
Oh No, It’s Time for the Children’s Story!

There's no doubt, children must be considered as eternal optimists. Almost weekly, in the face of contrary evidence that they will get a good story at church, they excitedly run to the front of the church when they hear, “It's time for the children's story!” By the end of the story, they slowly walk back to their parents, trying to remember why they had eagerly made the journey to the front in the first place.

Children's story time in church has become a time when parents and other thoughtful adults hold their breath, anxiously waiting to see who is the designated storyteller. In some cases, they breathe a sigh of relief when it's one of the diminishing number of those who can tell a children's story. When it's one of the usual number whose only recommendation is willingness, they silently pray that the person has somehow managed to find a story that actually makes sense and has a lesson that can be understood by the children. Too often they just cringe, become tense and wonder what the outcome will be.

It is not unusual to hear stories where there is poor or even a wrong representation of God, suggesting that He only likes well-behaved or obedient children. Then there are those where it seems that the storyteller delights in wounds, blood, gore and violence. However, far too many are just plain boring and make use of words that are way beyond children's ability to understand without careful explanation. Three and four-year olds are not familiar with words such as 'justification' or 'encapsulate' (yes, these are actual words used). Neither do they understand what is meant by ‘the moral of the story.’ If the storyteller has to ask what the moral of the story is, then it was either the wrong story for the age group, or he or she needs to tell it differently.

To be fair to storytellers, each Sabbath there are some lovely stories that are very well-told. They make a good effort to carefully select stories that are suitable for the age group in their congregations and seek out creative ways to share their message with the children. Others do their best with little or no help whatsoever. They do not know where to turn to for help. Yes, there is a Pathfinder honour in story telling, but those outside the Pathfinder Club are not aware of it.

Eight Basic Principles for Telling Children’s Stories

In one church, the person responsible for scheduling people to tell the story recognised that it was not good enough to simply use those who were willing. She first identified three or four good storytellers and scheduled them. Meanwhile, she organised training for the willing ones until they reached a level of competency she was satisfied with. For both groups she highlighted eight basic principles:

1. Know your audience.
   - What is the age range?
   - Use vocabulary that will be understood by three-year olds. That way, everyone will understand.
2. Tell stories that are Christ-centred
   - Consider the story as the sermon for the children. Therefore, it should be God-centred. Children should see the goodness of God in the story without the storyteller having to tack on a lesson at the end.
3. The story should teach one central truth
   - When Jesus told parables, they contained one central truth. They were easy to remember and the central truth remained with His hearers. The children’s story should also teach one central truth that can be summarized in less than two sentences.
4. Tell the story; do not read it.
   - If the story comes from a book, learn it and tell it. Avoid reading it. If a book has very good illustrations (clear, large and colourful) learn the story anyway so that you can tell it while showing the illustrations to the children. Telling the story also allows for good eye-contact with the children.
5. Keep it short.
   - Young children cannot sit still for long. Get their attention immediately with something interesting, visual or dramatic. The story should never be long. Five minutes might be far too long for most.
6. Use visuals
   - People remember what they see and touch far longer than what they hear. Children learn and understand far easier when they see and do. Always look for ways to illustrate a story with visuals.
7. Be descriptive
   - In the absence of visuals or in addition to, be very descriptive. Paint pictures using words. Do not assume that children know the meaning of a word or expression. Use words so that they can visualize from their own experiences what is being told to them.
8. Be animated
   - Dramatize the story. If the story describes a child running, start running. Don’t simply say the “child began crying”, cry—at least for a brief moment! Use your voice to portray mood. Create suspense and mystery by whispering. Demonstrate fear by stuttering accompanied by a shortness of breath. To this, facial expressions with wide-open eyes will create the right mood. For reassurance, use a calm tone of voice, with deliberate slowness. The idea is to get the feel of the story and make it very real.

While there are other good and relevant principles that may be used, the eight listed above will give the keen storyteller a good starting point from which to develop into an effective teller of children's stories. It’s time that everyone should be able to eagerly anticipate the children’s story.

Halsey Peat
“We’re Changing Your Shift to Saturday!”

Joe’s problem was eventually resolved because of the practical help and knowledge he received from his local religious liberty leader. Similarly, nearly all cases can also be resolved to the satisfaction of members faced with Sabbath work problems or union membership issues.

Church members need to know that the Human Rights Code (Ontario Human Rights Commission, www.ohrc.on.ca/) and the Charter of Rights and Freedom prohibit discrimination based on religion unless accommodation would cause the employer undue hardship. So, employers cannot simply demand that an employee must work on Sabbath.

When faced with Sabbath work problems, do not make any statements regarding resignation or make any threats of legal action, instead:

1. Politely, verbally request Sabbath accommodation. Stating what you understood by the verbal responses, ask for confirmation and insist on receiving written communication.

2. If your written request is refused, inform your local religious liberty leader and request a letter of support. If the request is still refused, your religious liberty leader will advise you to contact the conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director.

The PARL director will advise legal action only as a last resort if your employment is terminated or other discriminatory practices are employed against you.

Employers will sometimes coerce employees to resign or will make conditions unbearable to force resignation. Do not quit. Follow the procedures outlined above.

If your employer is receptive to your request for accommodation, cooperate in helping him or her find an accommodation, even if it means changing shifts or transferring to a department with slightly less pay.

When you are being interviewed for a new position, consider the following:

1. Do not state that you are unavailable for Sabbath work. It could create a bias against you being offered the position. If the position involves a Sabbath shift, be certain that the position is offered before you discuss Sabbath scheduling.

2. Do not raise Sabbath concerns until after the position has been offered.

3. Only accept the position after Sabbath scheduling has been resolved. Do not accept it and hope to make a change later.

4. If the prospective employer fails to hire you, be sure to ask the reason you were denied employment, especially if the subject of Sabbath work has been raised.

5. If you are refused employment because of the Sabbath, obtain a copy of the labour contract (if applicable) to determine if it caused the accommodation not to be made.

While Joe’s work problem has been resolved, his experience has alerted him to give keen attention to current religious liberty issues.

“I’m now aware of my rights and what it takes to preserve them,” he said. “I’m grateful to the religious liberty leader in my church who makes sure that everyone understands the issues and what to do when faced with them.”

For form letters and additional information about religious liberty, do visit the conference website www.adventistontario.org/parl
Pastor Carlton Mitchell, The “Unsung Hero” Laid to Rest

Many of the mourners were Mitchell’s colleagues, fellow-pastors and Bible instructors who had shared ministry with him. Their tributes glowingly spoke of his many attributes and his significant contribution to the work of the church in Ontario. However, they saved their greatest praise for his humility, friendship and love for God’s people.

In his homily, Dr. Clyde Cassimy, his mentor as an intern at Agincourt (now Apple Creek) Church, echoed his brother, Dr. Steve Cassimy’s, earlier words describing Mitchell as an ‘unsung hero.’

Pastor Daniel Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, also likened Mitchell as a hero and described mourners as “people coming together to celebrate a hero.”

Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, spoke of Mitchell as someone who was totally committed to God’s work, even to the very end of his life.

Dr. Errol Lawrence, reflecting on a conversation he held with Mitchell shortly before his death, spoke about Mitchell’s love for pastoral work and the joy he received from serving God’s people. “If I could return to serve any of my former congregations, I gladly do it. I loved them all,” Mitchell told Lawrence.

However, the words of Mitchell’s son, Pastor Mirthell Mitchell, painted an amazing portrait of his father who always looked for the good in people even when they demonstrated the opposite.

Mitchell entered the ministerial work force in Ontario as an intern in January 1, 1980 at Toronto East and Agincourt Adventist churches. He quickly discovered how much he enjoyed ministry and set out to learn as much as he could. By the autumn of the new year, he had worked as a Bible instructor with Evangelist Fitzroy Maitland in an evangelistic series that resulted in the baptism of over 100 souls and the formation of a new congregation.

In 1984, he gained a Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and was subsequently moved to Toronto West Adventist Church as assistant to the senior pastor. By the following year, he was given full responsibility to pastor Mississauga and Meadowvale Adventist churches. He was ordained in 1986.

After ordination he pastored Scarborough, Agape Temple, and Berea Adventist churches. His last pastorate was Brampton and North West Brampton Adventist congregations. It was under his leadership that North West Brampton Adventist Church was born.

Pastor Mitchell was married to Dorreth Finnegam on February 28, 1971. They had three children: Pedro (deceased), Rosia and Mirthell. His son, Mirthell, is pastor for Hamilton East Adventist Church.

Already, Pastor Carlton Mitchell is greatly missed.

Journey to the Heart of Worship

A Praise & Worship Seminar for praise teams, youth singers and instrumentalists

With Pastor David Schwinhammer

June 18, 2010
7:30-9:00 p.m.
Downsview Seventh-day Adventist Church
37 Bakersfield St.
Downsview
Dr. George Brown, former president of the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, and Dr. Hyveth Williams will be the main speakers for Camp Meeting 2010, “Empowered Living” on May 29.

Dr. George W. Brown, speaker for the adult meetings, is a third generation Seventh-day Adventist who was born in the Dominican Republic. He is a well known preacher, educator and administrator who served the church for more than forty years. Dr. Brown’s years of distinguished service includes serving as a pastor-evangelist, college president, union and division youth director, division field secretary and thirteen years as president of the Inter-American Division.

He is the author of the books, Portraits of Jesus and Fruit of the Spirit as well as numerous articles for the Adventist Review and other denominational journals.

Dr. Brown and his wife, Carla, are retired and are presently residing in Avon Park, Florida.

Those who have previously heard Dr. Brown will be thrilled to know that he will be speaking at camp meeting in Ontario.

Dr. Hyveth Williams will be the speaker for the youth and young adults meetings. Presently, professor of Homiletics at The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, Michigan, Dr. Williams served for thirteen-and-a-half years as senior pastor of Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda, California.

She is the first black female pastor and the first female senior pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the distinction of being the first non-Episcopalian to receive the prestigious Fellowship from the Episcopal College of Preachers, Andrews University Alumni of the Year (2000), the Association of Adventist Women & NAD Women’s Ministries Department’s Adventist Woman of the Year (1995) and the 2008 California Assembly Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Williams is the author of Will I Ever Learn?, Anticipation and Secrets of a Happy Heart. She co-authored The Celt & The Christ: A Fresh Look at the Book of Galatians and has written articles for Adventist Review and other Adventist journals.

Dr. Williams’ influence is profoundly felt around the world by countless participants who have been healed through her ministry, and she appreciates every opportunity to share the gospel with others.

May 29

The May 29 date for camp meeting this year has been chosen because of the General Conference session being held in late June and early July in Atlanta, Georgia. Camp meeting will be held once again at the International Centre at 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, Ontario. The International Centre is now very familiar to those who have attended camp meeting over the past three years. It is spacious and provides ample room for adults, youth/young adults and children’s programmes.

Children

Space for children is in high demand, and it is unlikely that late arrivals will find room for their children. Parents or guardians who arrive late and discover that their child is refused entry will have to keep their children with them. See the programme section in page 11 for venue and times.

Due to the increasing number of reported food allergies, Children's Ministries will no longer be providing snacks during camp meeting. Parents and guardians are asked to provide food items for the children in their care.

Parking

The International Centre provides parking for over 5,000 vehicles on 40 acres of land. However, at last year’s events, a number of cars were ticketed by the City of Mississauga because they parked in areas that were designated as ‘No Parking.’ These are fire routes and are clearly shown by yellow lines. Campers are responsible for parking in the designated parking areas only.

Meals

Members attending camp meeting have found it useful to carry their own meals for lunch and supper. No meals will be provided at the International Centre. Please note that no food is allowed in any of the halls at the International Centre. Those who plan to picnic may do so in the parking lot or at one of the local parks: Wildwood Park, 3430 Derry Road East at the corner of Derry Road and Goreway Drive; Humberwoods Park at Rexdale and Humberwood Boulevards).
**Convocations Planned for Some of Ontario Regions**

**Regional convocations could be held in place of regional camp meetings for 2010. Cost-cutting by the Ontario conference, as a response to the financial difficulties facing the provincial church, has affected funding for regional camp meetings. Subsidies for 2010 are no longer available so regional planners have had to scale down from previous years.**

**Eastern Ontario has cancelled plans to use its usual venue, Lansdowne Park in Ottawa, on May 14-16, and is considering holding a convocation at one of the larger churches in the city at a date to be determined.**

**Western Ontario’s regional camp meeting, scheduled for the same weekend, has been cancelled. Organizers hope to resume meetings in 2011.**

Meanwhile, **Southern Ontario will have a camp meeting for the fourth successive year at Norfolk County Fair grounds near by Simcoe Adventist Church on June 12. Pastors Mansfield Edwards and Glenn DeSilva will be the adult and youth speakers, respectively.**

**Thunder Bay and North Eastern Ontario will hold their meetings as planned on May 1-2 and September 3-5, respectively.**

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**Camp Meeting Parade of Nations**

It is a major feature of every General Conference session reflecting the world-wide composition of the Seventh-day Adventist in Ontario! You will not want to miss the spectacular pageantry of delegates from each national group in Ontario. Wearing national costume, carrying flags and banners, they will represent many countries and cultures, but boldly declare that in God we are all one, and we look for a heavenly home of perfect harmony. People are already preparing to represent their mother country. Will you be part of the parade of nations?

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**Camp Meeting Programmes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults - Hall 5</th>
<th>Youth/Young Adults - Hall 4A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Song Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Sabbath School</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 – 11:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Call to Worship &amp; Parade of Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship Service with Pastor George Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Education – Ontario, Kingsway, CUC</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Evangelism: E. Lawrence, E. Williams, C. Millett</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Ordination Service with Pastor G. Dopp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Supper &amp; Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 – 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>President’s Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Worship with Pastor George Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Praise &amp; Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Sabbath School Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship Service with Pastor Hyveth Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Afternoon Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Worship with Pastor Hyveth Williams</td>
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**Live Broadcast**

Main services and youth meetings may be viewed live via the Internet at www.adventistontario.org.

**CDs and DVDs**

CD and DVD recordings of the sermons will be available after sunset at the reception desk at the front entrance, Hall 5. CDs and DVDs from previous camp meetings will also be available.

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**C-Juniors, A-Primary, B-Beginners/Kindergarten Aviation Ballrooms**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Evening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>9:30 am- 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick-up time</td>
<td>12:30 pm-12:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 pm - 9:15 pm</td>
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</table>

- Children MUST be registered on site by a parent or guardian. Space is limited.
- Parent/Guardian MUST accompany a beginner child (ages 0-3 yrs. included) at all times.
- Children MUST be picked up by the same parent or guardian wearing the matching wrist band, immediately following the close of each service.
- Please retain your yellow and pink copies of your registration form for the evening service, so you do not have to fill a registration form the second time.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for the direct supervision of their children between programs.

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**For hotel accommodations and directions to the International Centre, visit:**

New Workers and Pastoral Changes

Pastoral Changes

The process of pastoral placements, started in autumn 2009, has continued and a number of pastors are now leading new congregations.

Among the predominantly Filipino churches, Jesse Anunciacion is now the minister at Mt. Zion Filipino. He has been replaced at Mississauga Filipino by Ben-Ezra Adap. He, in turn, has been replaced at Fairhavens by Joseph Batiancila. Charles Ojano has moved from Faith Filipino to Blessed Hope.

Among the other churches, Nerval Myrie has moved from Mississauga to Perth Avenue, replacing Theodore Sargeant; Joel Nembhard to Mississauga from Kingsview Village; Reynold Hazelwood from Ruth to Kingsview Village; Joseph Bulgin to Ruth from Shiloh; Vincent Lue to Shiloh from Bethel; Nephtaly Dorzilme from Toronto Heralds Group and Woodbridge to Bethel and Parkdale Company. Tony DaCosta has moved into the Greater Toronto Area from Guelph to Toronto Heralds Group and Woodbridge. Clarence Baptiste has replaced DaCosta at Guelph and Milton. He in turn has been replaced at Berea by Charles Leader, former Pathfinder specialist in the conference Youth Department.

To the west of the GTA, Darryl Blahovich moved from the Chatham and Leamington churches to the Paris/Brantford/Good News Fellowship district; while further north, Carter Stanley is the new pastor for Bracebridge and Parry Sound churches. He moved from Cornerstone Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

Retired

We sadly say adieu to Pastor Milton Perkins and his wife, Diane, after nearly 37 years of ministry in Ontario.

Pastor Perkins arrived from the United States and began working in Ontario in September 1973 as a teacher at Toronto Junior Academy (now Crawford Adventist Academy) where he remained for 11 years. His ability to effectively work with youth led him into pastoral ministry in 1984 and into the youth department of the conference seven years later. He quickly became the face of Camp Frenda and many parents of teens in church today fondly remember him from their camp days. He also served as Community Services director for the Ontario Conference.


New to the Ontario Conference are Pastors Odair Luca and James Rooney, also Fernando Norte and Ruth Weidner.

We warmly welcome them and look forward to their contribution in enlarging God’s kingdom in Ontario.

Odair Luca, his wife Karine and their sons, Luidi and Bruno, join us from Brazil. A keen soccer player, Pastor Luca is the new pastor for the Brampton Portuguese and Luso Brazilian congregations.

James Rooney is the new pastor at Hamilton, replacing Wesley Torres. Pastor Rooney, his wife, Nelita and their baby boy, William, come to us from Edmonton, Alberta, where he was pastor of Leduc and Edmonton Millwoods churches.

Fernando Norte is the property custodian. His full-time responsibilities began on January 2010. He and his wife Clarmie attend Faith Filipino Fellowship where he is an elder.

Ruth Weidner returns to the Ontario Conference after many years when she worked with Pathfinders, Adventurers, Camp Frenda and Youth Department.

She began her new responsibilities in January 2010 as secretary of the Health and Children’s Ministries Departments.

She is married to Irwin with whom she has two adult daughters, Jen and Heidi.
Adventist Education is alive and doing quite well in many areas of the school program. Here are some of the comments made by parents: “I am happy my children attend a school that fosters and promotes positive attitudes, safe environment and a very good school curriculum where the children are excited about learning.” From another parent, “My child’s attitude towards school has been very positive since attending the school. I believe that says a lot about the school’s educational programs and vision.” Yet another parent commented, “My child is doing well in his class; he loves his teacher. I think it’s great that they have so many memory verses to learn.” For one last comment, “I am encouraged that my son has the opportunity to beat the odds against him with such a conscientious, caring and effective teacher. Thank you very much.”

With the emphasis today on being your own person and doing what you feel comfortable doing, the students who attend our schools are reminded that their only hope is in Jesus. In a world shrouded in spiritual darkness, students are pointed to Jesus, the Light of the World. Our schools must be seen as evangelistic centres. In spite of the encouraging comments by parents and students alike, it is no secret that Ontario, like all of North America, yea, the world, continues to struggle with enrolment and funding issues. We must continue to view our school system as the system of first choice for our children.

Goals of Adventist Education
Since this is the first communication for this quadrennial to you, members of the Adventist Church in Ontario, I feel it is instructive to remind you of the goals of Adventist education. It appears there has been a decrease in members’ commitment to Adventist education, evidenced in part by the drop in enrolment in our schools. This raises some serious concerns in light of the following goals, and in the face of the command by Jesus to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” Matt. 28:19, 20 NIV. In Adventist schools, teachers assist students in becoming disciples of Jesus. After having accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, the students are encouraged to share their experience with others, so that they, too, could become Jesus’ disciples. With this backdrop, here are the goals of Adventist education:

1. **Acceptance of God**
   Surrender one's whole life to God; develop a relationship with Jesus Christ; and allow the Holy Spirit to work in one's life.

2. **Commitment to the Church**
   Desire to know, live and share the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

3. **Interpersonal Relationships**
   Develop a sense of self-worth, skills in interpersonal relationships, an understanding of the responsibilities of family membership and the ability to respond with sensitivity to the needs of others.

4. **Responsible Citizenship**
   Develop an understanding of cultural and historical heritages, affirm a belief in the dignity and worth of others and accept responsibility for local, national and global environments.

In addition, our schools are friendly and nurturing, as expressed through testimonials of former as well as current students. One student stated, “I didn’t want to come to this school, but I am happy that my Mom insisted that I did, because it is one of the best things that has happened to me.” Famous author, Ellen White, said that in the Schools of the Prophets, “A spirit of devotion was cherished. Not only were the students taught the duty of prayer, but they were taught how to pray, how to approach their Creator, how to exercise faith in Him, and how to understand and obey the teachings of the Spirit... The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul” pp 556-557. Our schools continue to be a “haven”, though not “heaven,” for many students.
5. **Healthy Balanced Living**
   Accept personal responsibility for achieving and maintaining optimum physical, mental and spiritual health.

6. **Intellectual Development**
   Adopt a systematic, logical and bibically-based approach to decision-making and problem-solving when applied to a developing body of knowledge.

7. **Communication Skills**
   Recognize the importance of effective communication and develop the requisite skills.

8. **Personal Management**
   Function responsibly in the everyday world using Christian principles of stewardship, economy and personal management.

9. **Aesthetic Appreciation**
   Develop an appreciation of the beautiful, both in God’s creation and in human expression, while nurturing individual ability in the fine arts.

10. **Career and Service**
    Develop a Christian work ethic with an appreciation for the dignity of service.

There is no doubt that our 10 schools in Ontario are consciously and intentionally working at fulfilling the objective of restoring the image of God in our students as they keep the goals of Adventist education in mind. All schools have adopted a spiritual theme for the school year. For the Crawford Adventist Academy, its theme is “Ready or not, Jesus is Coming.” This theme was quite evident during their Week of Spiritual Emphasis as one of the topics presented was “God is in Everything,” not in a pantheistic sense, but that God is involved in every aspect of our lives. Students were involved in presenting the musical items, scripture reading and prayer. Some students responded to the call to re-commit their lives to Jesus, while others indicated a desire to engage in Bible studies in order to learn more of God’s will for them and to be obedient to that will by sealing their commitment through baptism.

College Park Elementary School’s theme is “Fruits of the Spirit.” Every month a different theme is explored and bulletin boards are displayed to remind every teacher and student (as well as those who walk into the school) of that theme that must be demonstrated throughout the month.

Cornerstone Christian Elementary School constructed a tree in their classroom. They wanted to cheer up the classroom and encourage the students to grow like trees. They have been able to decorate according to the season. The Bible text that supports the theme is: “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper” Psalms 1:3.

Grandview Adventist Academy’s theme this year is “We are His hands!” Displayed on the bulletin board under the theme are foam hands representing each child, and identified by name. The students are putting their hands to work this year through service to others. They have raised money for ADRA and are currently visiting a local non-Adventist retirement home three times a month. Each class visits the nursing home to assist the seniors with different activities. The students have played Nintendo Wii and the seniors beat them. In addition, they have decorated cookies (which were delicious), read with them, exercised with them, and made many crafts with them. The seniors look forward to their visits and thoroughly enjoy having the students. The community service activities include a monthly visit to the local Adventist Nursing home (Heritage Green) on Sabbath for sunshine bands. The students this year have the opportunity to truly be His (God’s) hands in the community.

At Peel Adventist School, the theme is “Character Counts”, with an emphasis on helping each child develop a Christ-like character. As a child grows and matures, they become less self-centred and more centred on service to others. This is the essence of a Christ-like character. Each month two students are recognized at a school assembly for having demonstrated Christian character development. The criteria for this selection consist of some or all of the following: prayerfulness, respect for others, responsible, inclusive, honest, cooperative, caring and helpful to others.

Ottawa Adventist School’s theme is “Becoming a School of Prayer.” To this end, teachers meet every Monday evening to pray; and students have prayer partners to whom they write daily words of encouragement and request prayers.
All schools have already in their first term, conducted a Week of Spiritual Emphasis that gave opportunity for students to re-examine Biblical themes, get involved in a form of corporate worship and commit or re-commit their lives to Jesus. During this second half of the school year, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their talents and abilities to reinforce Biblical concepts and stories learned as the second Week of Spiritual Emphasis is conducted.

All schools have embarked on a reading program that encourages students to read a certain number of minutes per day. This approach has come as a result of the concern that students are not reading as much as is expected of them. The reading period is used as a springboard for creative writing and critical thinking. The St. Thomas school selects a reading theme each year and tracks the students’ reading level. Each student must read a total of 300 pages for each reading level. Students are rewarded for their participation, although the program is mandatory, rather than optional.

Peel Adventist School is buzzing with activities as their students’ knowledge of various curriculum concepts are being reinforced by involvement and practical application. In a visit to the multigrade 3/4 class, Scripture songs and spiritual themes were a naturally included part of the curriculum. Students seemed to be effortlessly responding in French as the lesson proceeded.

The Windsor Adventist Elementary School children, grade 7/8, applied scientific concepts with biblical application as they explored the world of substances and chemicals. They seemed to have had a good, healthy grasp of the relationship between the substances/chemicals and the God who created the world and everything that is in it today and forever.

It was encouraging to see students in multigrade 5-8 in Ottawa, as they engaged in creative writing using Biblical stories and themes. They were, on another occasion, practicing a skit on one of the stories which they were going to dramatize for an assembly.

From Crawford Adventist Academy (East campus), students combined their art skills, creative writing and their love and value of their school by preparing brochures for marketing the school. Their testimonials speak for them about what it means to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school, and their appreciation for their parents’ investment in Adventist education.

In Sault Ste. Marie at the Cornerstone Adventist Elementary School, a student who is of another faith, expressed a wish that reinforced the fact that our schools are reaching others besides students from Seventh-day Adventist homes. I shared with the student the news that had been reported about several Seventh-day Adventists who had been killed in the recent Chilean earthquake. Upon hearing my comment that there are so many natural disasters, death and pain in this world, the student promptly replied, “I can’t wait for Jesus to come.” Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised.

London Advent Christian Academy took the city by storm as the students dressed up in costumes and marched through the streets depicting Medieval Times. The spiritual application was clear, a demonstration of integration of faith and learning which the students perhaps will not quickly forget. It has been proven that when students are practically involved in their learning, it reinforces content that teachers want them to internalize.

During the Christmas holiday season, all schools depicted various interpretations of the story of Jesus’ birth as well as the reminder of Christ’s anticipated second coming. The children were an integral part of the preparation and execution of the colourful drama scenes. Thanks to our dedicated teachers for their commitment to Adventist education.

Adventist Education Leader

Who is the Adventist Education Leader and what is this person’s role? The Adventist Education Leader (AEL), formerly Education Secretary, is an elected officer of the church who represents the constituent church at school board meetings. According to the Church Manual, p. 119, the AEL is also a member of the Home and School Association (HSA) also known as the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

The Manual continues by outlining the duties of the AEL as follows:

1. Be responsible for the regular promotion of Christian education and to plan, in cooperation with the pastor and HSA leader, periodic programs or services that emphasize the values of Christian education.

2. To contact all Seventh-day Adventist homes where they are school-age children or young people, to encourage attendance at the local church school or at a Seventh-day Adventist secondary school, college, or university, and to suggest possible solutions to problems.

3. To make every reasonable effort, where church schools are not available, to encourage the church to provide Seventh-day Adventist education in the area.

4. The main contact with students from the church who are in attendance at Seventh-day Adventist or other schools away from the home church.

5. To contact members who have no school-age children, encouraging them to provide financial aid for needy Seventh-day Adventist students.

6. To maintain an up-to-date census of all the children and youth of the church (pp.138-129).
In addition to the above duties, the scope of the AEL has been broadened to include the following:

a. Initiate programs that benefit as many children of the church as possible e.g., tutoring and reaching-ahead classes.

b. Coordinate educational programs that involve children from the community as a marketing tool for the school.

There is no limit to the possible involvement of the AEL who will be wise to partner with the youth and children’s ministries in the delivery of services and programs. A rap and training session is held in the last quarter of each year. A new requirement for AEL’s is to forward a quarterly report to the Office of Education. These reports are due, last week of March and the last week of June. In September, the new year’s proposed plan is due. The reports may be forwarded electronically to the Office of Education.

**Some Thoughts on Home Schools**

**Dr. Jerry Furst (Professor Emeritus of Andrews University)**

“For many years home schools have been a real challenge to Adventist educators especially in the small schools. When a small church school is trying to maintain an enrollment to remain economically viable, having several church members school their children at home makes it very difficult to continue the operation of the school. I have seen, on occasion, real hostility develop between home school parents and those who support the church school. I have also seen some very poorly operated home schools which deprive the children of a good basic education. However, I am aware of a number of home schools which provided a superior education to their children and they should not be discounted by supporters of Adventist schools.

“I would suggest that Adventist teachers, principals, and conference personnel find ways to open up dialogue with Adventist home school parents and search for areas of mutual cooperation. We should try to be as inclusive as possible in our schools as we offer Christian education for our young people. Many home school parents would appreciate being able to avail themselves of some of the services of the Adventist school. There is no reason why our schools should not be as accommodating as possible in such cases.

“So, here is a call for collaboration between Adventist parents who home school their children and Adventist schools. We are both in the business of preparing our children for the soon coming of Jesus and we would both benefit by working together on this important mission.”

The Ontario Conference Office of Education has taken the stance that we are willing to facilitate the formation of a “Seventh-day Adventist Home Schooling Association.” The idea came from a parent who is currently home schooling her children, and wanted to belong to an Adventist organization that upholds the values and principles as outlined in the Bible and upheld by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A proposal is being drafted and will be reviewed by a small committee including home schooling parents who will refine it for further consideration by other interested parents.

**Initiatives of the Ontario Conference Office of Education**

The following initiatives are being considered—some are ongoing, others need timelines:

- French Immersion, JK – Grade 3.
- Guidance, Grade 1 – 8.
- Enriched/Gifted Programming, all grades.
- Distance learning.
- Kids in Discipleship (K.I.D.).
- Sustainable Funding Formula (another look at PIACE).
- All Schools continuing to work towards the North American Division (NAD) Journey to Excellence which includes:
  - A vision, shared values, and common goals
  - A clear understanding of the philosophy, history, and goals of Adventist education
  - Utilization of the growing body of research on effective education
  - Educational leaders and governing boards who create school cultures that encourage innovation without fear of failure
  - A renewing cycle of improvement in Adventist schools
  - School Improvement Project

- All Schools to work towards the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) Standards for Success

**SDACC Standards for School Success**

1. **Spirituality**
   - Every school will intentionally provide opportunities for students to build a relationship with Jesus and to proclaim His soon coming.

2. **Plant/Facilities**
   - Every school will maintain a clean, safe, and attractive school plant and grounds.

3. **Programming**
   - Every school will provide meaningful learning experiences by integrating faith and learning and by incorporating best teaching practice.

4. **Safety**
   - Every school will provide a physically and emotionally safe school environment.

5. **Faculty**
   - Conferences will hire and retain quality Seventh-day Adventist staff for every school.

6. **Community**
   - Every school will foster positive relationships with the local community (both church and non-church).

7. **Customer Service/Communication**
   - Every school will maintain positive relationships with its clientele (parents, students, church members, etc.) by ensuring quality service and regular communication.

8. **Marketing/Support**
   - Every school will have an annual marketing plan that includes strategies for reaching its target groups and generating school support.

The Ontario Conference Office of Education (OCOE) is committed to working with homes, schools and churches as one team, cooperating “with divine agencies in preparing learners for responsible citizenship in this world and in the world to come”. Journey to Excellence, p. 3.

Dr. Janice Maitland
Superintendent of Education
Former Conference Presidents Honoured

Former Ontario Conference presidents, Pastors Rick Baachus (1989-1997), and Derrick Nichols (1997-2009), were honoured by the Ontario Conference administration at a dinner prior to the workers’ meetings on Sunday, January 17, 2010.

Shortly after a speech by keynote speaker, Armand La Barge, York Region Chief of Police, Pastor Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, spoke of his appreciation for the work done by his two immediate predecessors. Quoting President Reagan of the United States, he said “One does not really become president. The presidency is an office over which one is given temporary custody.” He went on to describe how well both Baachus and Nichols had held temporary custody over the office of presidency.

“I’m standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before me,” he said. “These men have sacrificed and given of their best to make this conference one of the outstanding conferences in the North American Division. Today, we want to recognize their significant contribution and let them know that we appreciate and respect them.”

There was a standing ovation as Pastors Baachus and Nichols, accompanied by their wives, Gerzel and Ada, respectively, moved to the front and graciously acknowledged the accolades. The administrators and their wives warmly embraced them and presented them with plaques and flowers.

Rick Baachus became president of the conference when Canada was in deep recession, and the precarious financial position of the church threatened its ability to even maintain its workers. His steady leadership helped the conference to regain financial stability and re-focus on its mission of preaching the gospel. By the end of his term in office, it was clear that the church was enjoying steady growth.

Derrick Nichols’ presidency coincided with the country’s economic recovery and strong growth. He was able to give attention to evangelism and the building of churches. Two of his notable achievements included the Church Building Investment Fund (CBIF) to help churches pay off their mortgages and the debt-free building of a new conference office. Evangelistic fervour resulted in over 11,000 baptisms during his 12 years as president.

Both men continue to serve as pastors in the Ontario Conference. Baachus has been serving at Willowdale Adventist Church since 1997. Nichols assumed responsibility for the Kendalwood congregation in October 2009.

“Thank you, mummy and daddy. I’m secure in Jesus because you’ve prepared a Christian will where you’ve provided me with dedicated Christian guardians and a trust fund for my education. I’ve also learned the value of giving to God’s work because you’ve also remembered our heavenly Father in your will.”

To find out how you can do the same for your children, loved ones, and to further God’s work in Ontario, contact Planned Giving and Trust Services at: 905-571-1022; ext. 205/206
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eaders, I have an announcement to make: I would like to be a bride. I would be perfect as a bride! Can't you see it? The more I think about it, the more I wonder why I haven't already become one. I am, as any of my friends will tell you, quite the princess. The idea of a big, fancy, fairytale wedding has for years made me giddy with excitement. You mean that I get to wear a big, fancy dress? I get to be repeatedly told how beautiful I am? I get a delicious, huge cake? Loads and loads of presents? A TIARA?! Quick, where do I sign up?

Common sense would say that I need, you know, a groom if I want to be married, but common sense is missing the point. Who's talking about getting married? I'm certainly not! I'm talking about a wedding, which is just a giant, fun - and yes, expensive party. And I can't be convinced that the two have anything to do with each other! No, there are two people in a marriage, committed to building a life together, whereas a wedding, as any reputable source (a.k.a BRIDES) will spend 225 pages telling you, is all about how good I will look on the most important day of my entire life. Let's face it, when I have my wedding, I will be the absolute centre of attention. God forbid my skinny cousin decides to wear a suspiciously 'cream' dress! I don't even consider the idea that my indentured servants - sorry, bridesmaids - do anything other than cater to my every wish and whim. And let's make sure this is crystal clear: I expect nothing less than a gift for my engagement party, my bridal shower, and my wedding; cash only, please, as I've already made my requirements very clear on the gold-embossed, hand-etched invitation I honoured you with.

But what if I lose my nerve and begin to be taken in by insidious talk of marriage? Not to worry, dear readers! Lest my resolve to make it all about me weaken, lest I start to feel twinges of guilt at what the overly pious might call conspicuously self-centred consumerism, I will have a host of family, friends, and the entire wedding industry complex to come to my aid. “What do you mean, you don't want to be given away? You must be given to your husband! What - you're not going to wear a white dress? But how will everyone know that you're a virgin?! You're not wearing a veil? Carrying a bouquet? You must! It's an important part of your wedding! No, it doesn't matter that it originally started as a practice to keep June brides who had just had their annual May bath smelling sweet! It's traditional, and so you cannot have a wedding without it.”

No, I will have veritable armies at my back to make sure that I do not go off and 'gasp' place the primary emphasis on the married life my husband-to-be and I will share.

So I will grandly proceed down the centre, flower-bedecked aisle on the best day of my life, with nary a thought to that other, alternate reality version of myself. This is the one that never stopped loving the big, fancy party, but grew into the deep belief that the number of guests I could persuade to admire me did not matter in the face of making sure that my husband and I have a mutual respect and admiration society of our own. That the supposedly 'trivial' concern I should be stressing about is whether or not I can happily wake up the next to the same face, day after day, year after year, instead of whether or not I can stand the sight of his horrible old great-aunt for a day. That our budget for the catering of a twelve-course banquet is not important if we have yet to consider how we will feed ourselves once the last of the wedding feast has been eaten.

That crazy, bizarre me will be far more concerned about communicating with my husband in our married life than I will be about making small chat with each of the five hundred guests I've invited. How we divide the wedding planning in this enlightened era of equality (I will, of course, allow him to choose his groomsmen) will be an insignificant detail in the face of the partnership we are about to embark on for the rest of our life. And will those delightfully touching, intimately romantic vows I spent hours agonizing over mean? Nothing, if I have forgotten that I am, and he is, vowing not only to each other, but to God that we will each treasure the amazing gift He is giving us!

But that's just the crazy, weird version of me, where I pretend for some annoyingly boring reason, that my very special day is not just all about me. In the real world, I know better. I'm going to be a bride, and you can't spoil that for me. It's my day. And don't you dare try to tell me otherwise.

Adelle Antonia
The Ontario Conference has completed the purchase of 38 acres of land from Kingsway College in Oshawa. Conference administrators, Mansfield Edwards, president; Daniel Linrud, executive secretary and Ulysses Guarin, treasurer, met with Kingsway College’s president, Greg Bussey, and Jeremy O’Dell, vice president for finance, on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, to sign the appropriate papers.

“The deal is a win-win for both the conference and the school,” said Pastor Mansfield Edwards. “The conference now has land on which it can develop, alongside the existing infrastructure of the school, into a permanent camp meeting site that is within easy travelling distance of many of our church membership. The school will also benefit because it now has the funds to help fulfil its mandate.”

Members looking forward to a quick return to Oshawa for camp meeting on the newly-acquired property will be disappointed to learn that they will have to exercise patience. “It would be wonderful if we could use it immediately,” explained Pastor Daniel Linrud, “but there’s a lot of preparatory work to be done before we can even think of using it for camp meeting and other events. The current economic climate is another obstacle. So, we’re asking our members to exercise patience and pray that God will provide us with the means to make all the necessary preparations.”

The decision to purchase the land was taken by the conference board of directors on Sunday, November 29, 2009. The land is located north of Shankel Road, west of Townline, the land surrounding College Park Elementary School up to College Woodwork Centre, and the parcel of land behind the girls dormitory, north of the King Fitness Centre.
Conference Installs Pastor and Gives Him $25,571 Cheque for His Church

Pastor Odair Luca can be forgiven for thinking that new pastors to the Ontario Conference are welcomed with a cheque for $25,571.75. Recently arrived from Brazil, Pastor Luca was installed at Brampton Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian churches by Pastor Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president. At each church, shortly after the installation, Pastor Edwards and conference treasurer, Ulysses Guarin, presented him with a cheque of $25,571.75. Pastor Luca gladly received the cheque on behalf of his congregants and learned that it had all been made possible because of his churches contribution to the Church Building Investment Fund (CBIF).

A few weeks earlier on, January 9 and February 13, 2010, Pastor Edwards, Mr. Guarin and Mr. Vernon Langdon, CBIF representative, presented cheques of identical amounts to very appreciative congregations at Shiloh and Toronto Ukranian churches, respectively.

The CBIF was established in 2001 for the sole purpose of assisting churches to reduce their mortgage debts and eliminate them completely, starting with those with the oldest mortgages.

All funds are distributed annually according to a set formula. From the amount collected from October 1 of the previous year to September 30, 70% is allocated on a rotating basis among four of the churches with the oldest debts. The remaining 30% is divided equally among the remaining churches, regardless of membership or tithe income, as appropriation for their capital needs.

The programme is primarily funded through the equivalent of a weekly donation of $2 from church members. The Ontario Conference also donates a significant percentage each year. Others sometimes leave a legacy for the fund in their wills.

The total amount collected since the start of CBIF is $1,133,025 from the following sources: Ontario church members - $707,225; Ontario Conference - $400,000; others - $25,800. Thirty-three churches with the oldest debts have been helped to fully pay off their loans or to accelerate their loan payments by 12 to 15 months.

Shortly after the presentation to the Luso-Brazilian congregation, Vernon Langdon spoke of the congregation’s joy when it received the cheque. “It’s the same reaction we get from each congregation,” he said. “Everyone’s always happy to receive $25,000, and I often hear people say how good the CBIF programme is.”

Paulette Massey, Shiloh Church clerk’s response supports Langdon’s observation, “Because of this kind of forward thinking, the creation of the CBIF has made church ownership a little less stressful and more attainable for local congregations. At Shiloh, we are honoured and thankful to have been presented with this blessing that the Lord has given us.”

Langdon also added, “with a combined debt of Adventist churches in Ontario of over $12,000,000, the CBIF is one of the most crucial programmes that the conference operates. However, we’re still way below our potential. We could easily be presenting cheques of over $100,000 to each church if more members begin to support the weekly $2.00 donation.”

Halsey Peat

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Vernon Langdon may be reached at the conference office and will be happy to meet with church boards or congregations to explain the mechanics and the benefits of the CBIF. Tel 905-571-1022 ext. 217 or 905-668-5757 ext 217.

Hungarian Church Baptizes Two

There is no greater joy for the church than when people come to Jesus and decide to follow in His footsteps. Living on the threshold of Jesus’ second coming, there are still souls that thirst for the last few drops of grace and decide to commit their lives to Christ. Toronto Hungarian Church shared such joyful moments on February 27, 2010, when Mr. Ken Polyak and Mr. Zsigmond Kolcze Jr. were baptized. May our heavenly Father’s words of approval—“This is my beloved son/daughter in whom I am well pleased”—be heard often in our churches!
You Can now Return Your Tithes Online

The Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists announced today that church members may now return their tithes and offerings electronically.

In a letter to pastors, local elders and treasurers, Mr. Ulysses Guarin, conference treasurer, announced that the conference board of directors had approved the use of AdventistGiving for its members.

AdventistGiving is an online donation system created by the North American Division (NAD) that has been in operation in the United States for the past three years. It is currently being used by 671 congregations in 50 conferences.

“As soon as the Canadian version became available, we wanted to let our members know immediately,” said Guarin, “because many have been asking about it, and now it’s here.”

He made it very clear that AdventistGiving is not replacing the traditional method of returning tithes and offerings via the offering plate in church. “It is,” he said, “simply another option for the convenience of those who prefer to do their banking and financial transactions online. Members are free to use either option or both.”

In its current form, the Canadian version of AdventistGiving is by credit card only. The electronic debit from bank accounts, as with regular bill payments, is not yet available, although it could possibly happen in the future.

AdventistGiving is not free. As is the usual banking practice, there will be transaction and other banking fees. However, the Ontario Conference (70%), the SDACC (10%), NAD (10%) and the General Conference (10%) will pay those fees, making it free to the donor who will receive a charitable receipt for 100% of the value of all qualified donations.

Currently, AdventistGiving is only available in English. The SDACC will discuss with the NAD the possibility of having a French and Spanish version.

Event Registration in Canadian Funds?
The question many members are asking is: Will they be able to register for conference events in Canadian currency through AdventistGiving?

“Unfortunately not,” says Guarin, “but we are working on a new system specifically designed for registration in Canadian funds. We hope to have this in place very soon.”

Members are able to make use of AdventistGiving after their churches have registered by sending an e-mail, indicating the name, location of the church and email address of the local treasurer to: help@adventistgiving.ca

Registration may also be done online at: www.adventistgiving.ca

Conference Staff Take CPR and AED Training

After someone stops breathing, or the heart stops beating, he or she can survive for only 4 to 6 minutes before lack of oxygen results in brain damage or death. Until professional help arrives, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) can buy extra time for the victim by artificially circulating oxygen to the brain.

On March 9 & 11, 2010, the Health Ministries Department of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists provided CPR and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training to staff at the head office of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Tim Mash, CPR and AED instructor, led two half-day courses for 16 people.

Denise Putt, secretary in the Planned Giving and Trust Services Department, was quick to point out the value of CPR, “It’s very important,” she said, “for all of us as stewards and members of the body to know what to do in an emergency.”

Juvey Puranen, secretary in the Ministerial Department, agreed and described the training as very helpful. “I really liked it,” she said.

Mash, a paramedic of 34 years, is an Adventist and has led CPR training for staff at Kingsway College and Camp Frenda.
Haiti Benefit Concert Features Award-Winning Artistes

On Sunday, February 7, 2010, Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in partnership with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada and Maranatha News, hosted a benefit concert for Haiti at Apple Creek Church.

The free benefit concert featured award-winning gospel artistes, Naomi Striemer, Gary Beals of Canadian Idol fame and others, including the a capella male sextet LYNC, Proverbs 31,Yung Saintz, Rhonelle Patrick, Rahiem Hurlock, Rashaan Allwood, Dave McLaughlin, JAIA, Cresenda, Cora Reid and Alliance, the youth choir from Ottawa.

“I don’t usually like going to concerts,” said a clearly happy woman, “but I’m so glad I came. The quality’s fantastic! I just loved the passion with which Gary Beals sings. It’s such a shame that more people didn’t come out.”

Her response summarized the general feeling of the audience of about 400 people. They loved the concert but wished that all 1200 seats had been occupied. The empty seats seemed, somehow, to take away from the importance of the occasion and diluted the amount of money raised for ADRA’s work in Haiti. In fact, two appeals had to be made.

Earlier, ADRA’s Daniel Broome gave a presentation showing photographs of the destruction caused by the January 12 earthquake and interviewed quake survivor, Ralph Rancy, who described his experiences.

“The ground felt as if it were making circles around us” he said. “Then we saw houses begin to shake and we realized that it was an earthquake. Later in the day, as survivors, we were so grateful to be alive that we began singing and even laughing together.”

Shortly after, Max Pierre, pastor of Ottawa French Adventist Church, told of his congregation’s journey of shock, disbelief and grief as they learned of the devastating effect of the earthquake and how it had personally affected so many of them. His story laid the foundation for the appeal.

“We had to compete with Super Bowl XLIV,” said Halsey Peat, conference communication director, “but we were working to meet the federal government’s deadline of matching funds for every dollar donated. While we did not get the audience we anticipated, what we witnessed this evening was powerful. Yes, we have been richly entertained by outstanding artistes who gave of themselves, but we have also been deeply moved by the plight of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. I’m so grateful for everyone who made this possible, and it could have never happened without the tireless work and all-compassing influence of Pauline Christian. We thank God for her.”

The benefit concert was one of a number of events used by Adventist churches in Ontario to raise funds for Haiti.
March 6, 2010 marked the 25th anniversary of Immanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church located at 418 Drewry Avenue in North York. This milestone in the church’s history was a cause for celebration, and celebrate they did! The celebrations which began on Sabbath evening, March 5th, brought together several of Immanuel’s former pastors and members with the present congregation. They came from as far away as British Columbia in Canada and from South Carolina in the United States.

Honouring the Past... Embracing the Future was the anniversary theme which was reflected throughout the weekend celebrations. Welcoming remarks by host pastors, Vasily Osadchuck and Garth Dottin, and other Immanuel officiating members set the stage for a memorable occasion. Immanuel members were thrilled to see several of their former pastors, Antonio Bueno, Marian Kossovan, Manuel Silva, Terry Sparks, Clayton Stanwick, Dennis Uffindell, and their wives.

Other special guests included the president of the Ontario Conference, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, and executive secretary, Dr. Daniel Linrud. Both offered congratulatory messages and words of encouragement to be steadfast and strong. The congregation was also delighted to welcome their member of parliament, the Honourable Ken Dryden, whose congratulatory message included words of commendation for their diverse multicultural makeup, reflecting the Canadian mosaic.

Pastor Dennis Uffindell was the speaker for the Sabbath worship service. His topic was “Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today and Forever.”

Among the variety of talented singers and musicians adding to the joyfulness of the occasion, were Larisa Pavlioglu, Sharon Foreman, Luidmila Mazur, Len Cameron, the special anniversary and children’s choirs conducted by Daniella Kuchurivski, and a host of other musical tributes.

With thanksgiving for the past, joy for the present, and hope for the future, Immanuel concluded their 25th anniversary celebrations by thanking God for His goodness and the great things He has done for them.

Twenty-three new converts were baptized when Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted its annual evangelistic series from October 3rd to October 31st, 2009. Entitled the Hope for the Final Generation Bible Expo, the series featured Evangelist Henry Peters from the Virgin Islands. Nightly, he preached captivating sermons, and members and visitors alike filled the pews to hear the good news of Christ. Highlights of the series included a rededication of marriage vows and two baptismal services.

Forty-Second Annual Hungarian Bible Conference ‘For Me, to Live Is Christ’

July 16-18, 2010 at Kingsway College, Oshawa. All services bilingual (English-speakers welcomed). To reserve accommodation and/or meal tickets, contact Katalin Kis: katalinsandro@hotmail.com Tel.: 905-239-3290
A New Beginning at Mt. Olive

On February 20, 2010, Mt. Olive Seventh-day Adventist congregation celebrated the new birth of nine precious souls who began their walk with Christ through baptism. As each person went into the waters at Albion swimming pool, they came out rejoicing, recognizing that they had died to the world but were now alive in Jesus.

The onlookers celebrated the joyous occasion for the new believers with songs of praises to the Lord, knowing that it was through the working of the Holy Spirit that these new converts accepted Christ.

Dr. Kenneth Campbell, senior pastor, led the baptismal service, “Let Go and Let God.” Prior to their immersion, he admonished the candidates to “let go of sin, the world and hate.” He further reminded them that they should “leave the world behind, and God will provide the strength for them to be overcomers.”

Veronica Lyttle
Communication secretary

Scarborough Children’s Ministries Collects Money for Haiti

On Sabbath, January 23, 2010, the Children’s Ministries Department at Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church collected a special offering to help with the relief efforts in Haiti.

Explaining the importance of helping and sharing with those less fortunate than themselves, Children’s Ministries coordinator, Carleen Edwards, encouraged each child to donate an offering towards ADRA’s fundraising campaign. Aware of the role that ADRA would play in helping the people of Haiti, each child placed a personalized envelope into the offering plate, and a special prayer was prayed over the funds collected.

The sum of offering collected by the ministry totalled $200.00. Each child has since been given a certificate, recognizing them for their contribution.

Marsha Whyte

Agape Children’s Day “Ark of Safety”

God was glorified and the children were blessed on December 5, 2009 at Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pickering. It was Children’s Day, and the children’s department organized and directed the program for the entire day.

After a splendid Sabbath school period led by the Primary and Junior classes, the church was led into the ‘Ark of Safety’ during the worship service. It was the ark that would take everyone into the Promised Land.

Each component of the service highlighted the journey the ark would make, and the congregation was thrilled as the children led in worship. Agape’s Angel Children’s Choir sang like angels to remind the crew/occupants that Jesus was the captain of the ark, and young Anona St. Juste and Kvon Jules preached, directing all on board of the danger outside the ark and encouraged its occupants to stay on board no matter how strong the storm raged.

At 5:30 p.m., the crew decided to praise God with their voices, instruments, piano, signing, choirs, poem and a lot more.

The day would not be complete without feeding all on board so the feast was laid out for all to enjoy.

Angie Harris-Saunders
Ottawa Adventist Church Raises Awareness of Adventist Church at Multi-faith Fair

With the goal of raising public awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Ottawa community, Andrea Spencer and Cheri Notice from Ottawa Adventist Church took part in a multi-faith information fair held at Ottawa City Hall on World Religion Day, Sunday, January 17, 2010.

Spencer, communication secretary for Ottawa Adventist Church, and Notice were among a number of different faith groups with booths displaying information about their faith or denomination. In addition to information about the church and its beliefs, the Adventist booth also featured colourful displays on health and education.

During the opening ceremonies Spencer was invited by the organizer to share with the audience about the Adventist faith. After reading from the Bible, she spoke of the hope that Adventists have in Jesus and how it motivates them to share with others.

Intrigued by the pictures of pupils at Crawford Adventist Academy, a number of children and their parents visited the Adventist booth. Spencer and Notice answered questions and gave explanations about Christian education and its benefits and shared information about the local Adventist school. They also distributed literature about the Adventist Church and its beliefs and eagerly presented issues of the health magazine, Vibrant Life, on heart health and staying young to health conscious visitors. Some visitors asked questions about Adventist beliefs and Spencer and Notice were only too happy to engage in discussion with them.

Although this was the first year that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was represented at the fair, the organizers were impressed with the church’s display and are looking forward to its future involvement.

By the end of the fair, Spencer and Notice concluded that their goal of attending the fair was achieved. Spencer remarked, “Participating in the fair was a valuable experience. It enabled us to raise the profile of the Adventist Church in the community. Going forward, we hope to partner with other Adventist churches in the region and participate in other community events to tell Eastern Ontario of Jesus.”

The representatives were pleased with the experience and were happy that the fair had been covered by Rogers TV. They see themselves as having sown seeds.

Every year, on the third Sunday of January, communities around the world celebrate World Religion Day by hosting interfaith dialogues, conferences, and other events that promote mutual respect, understanding, and communication among the faiths.

Apple Creek’s Danielle Brown: Olympic Torchbearer Number 91

After a briefing by the Olympic officials at McDonald’s (Markham Main Street and 16th Avenue), on December 17, 2009, the Olympic torchbearers, dressed smartly in their white and turquoise track suits, boarded the Olympic bus. The bus then carried the runners to their various relay positions. The event was so well organized, that each torchbearer was allotted a specific time when they would light their own torches from the Olympic flame. At approximately 10:00 a.m. number 90 handed off to number 91 – Danielle Brown of Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was Danielle’s moment in time. Her face shone brightly with awe and humility. It was an emotionally charged 300 metres for those watching as well as Danielle, the runner. She held that flame high with pride. Many people turned out to support the runners. There was a spirit of oneness. It was exhilarating! Later Danielle said, “I’m very excited and deeply honoured to have been chosen to carry the Olympic torch. I will always cherish this moment.”

This was a once-in-a lifetime opportunity, and the memories will be forever etched in the minds of those who witnessed it. Danielle is grateful to her church family and the many friends who stood by and supported her!
The Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is tightening its financial belt even after February’s financial statements revealed a 9% tithe increase compared to the same period last year. “We need to maintain our vigilance,” said Ulysses Guarin, conference treasurer, to departmental directors in March 29, “because the past few months have clearly shown a downward trend.”

At a previous meeting with departmental directors in February, Guarin had soberly announced, “Our tithe income for January was down by 10% over the same period last year.” He added, “It is clear that the economic downturn is affecting our members more than we thought.” On March 29, he happily reported February’s 9% increase, but quickly cautioned the need to maintain careful stewardship.

In February, conference administrators reiterated the belt-tightening measures already in place since last year and announced new ones. These include a freeze on salaries. Directors have been asked to reduce travel. Some scheduled events, such as the training of new church clerks on the e-adventist net online system, have been cancelled. Alternative and less expensive means to accomplish the necessary training are being considered.

“We’ve had to make some very difficult decisions,” said Pastor Mansfield Edwards, conference president. “For example, we had to withdraw the subsidies that we give to each regional and linguistic camp meetings. We know how much these mean to our members in those regions, but we just do not have the funds. We are encouraging the regions to have one-day convocations instead, possibly in one of the larger churches or in an inexpensive rented facility.”

During the economic downturn in the early 1990’s, a number of conferences in the Canadian Union were forced to take severe measures to maintain their financial integrity. Two of these, Ontario and British Columbia, implemented the most severe measures—laying off pastors. In Ontario, church members were alarmed by the action and demanded that alternate solutions should be implemented.

A pay cut of all church employees was agreed on, and the pastors were re-hired. Conference treasurer, Ulysses Guarin, is hoping that neither of those measures will be necessary but cautioned that “if the downward trend continues and we do not see a change, we will be forced to start considering how we can further reduce costs. Much depends on the increase of tithe at the local church.”

Stewardship director, Pastor Dave Schwinghammer, reported that “nearly 41% of churches experienced a decline in tithe income” in 2009. However, he was quick to point out that the other 59% saw increases, some of which were significant. The overall result, however, was still negative.

Edwards also highlighted the number of churches where tithe income has increased and expressed his gratitude to God for the faithfulness of the members. “There are so many members who, even in times of great economic constraint and personal financial loss, still believe that when we are faithful to God, He will provide for us. As a conference-wide church, we fully subscribe to this belief and practice and encourage everyone to embrace the divine challenge to our faith, ‘Prove me now says the Lord.’”

It is likely that over the next few months, many pastors will be leading their congregations into financial stewardship renewal. “As pastors lead their congregations into a relationship of faithfulness to God,” said Edwards, “we encourage all members to allow the Holy Spirit to lead them into a rich experience with Him so that they and the entire church will be blessed. Every effort we make for Christ will be rewarded by Him.”
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Details on pages 10 & 11

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