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**NEWS**

**“Holy Spirit Crucial to Church’s Relevance,” Says Church President**

*February 5, 2015, Oshawa, Ontario…OCN*

Dr. Mansfield Edwards, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario, Canada, says “Only people who are filled with the Holy Spirit can truly be relevant to others”.

He was speaking during the consecration service to over 900 local church and ministry leaders from across Ontario attending Ministries Convention 2015, at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Richmond Hill, January 30-31.

Citing the disastrous experience of the sons of Sceva who operated without the Holy Spirit in Acts 19:14, he said, "When you are filled with Holy Spirit, the devil has no power over you, and you can do God’s work!"

Edwards was one of four keynote speakers and thirty-six expert presenters from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC), North American Division (NAD) and elsewhere, who spoke at Relevant, the first training event of its kind in Ontario, for at least two decades in terms of its magnitude and purpose.

Planned as part of the Ontario Conference’s strategic initiative within the REACH* framework, Relevant featured over forty different workshops and four worship sessions.

The training sessions represented all ministries of the conference. According to Mansfield Edwards, it was the first time all ministries were aligned to deliver such a wide array of training opportunities for local leaders at the same location and at the same time.
Although diverse in their content, each seminar emphasised the same theme of making ministries in the local church relevant to their communities.

Divine service keynote speaker, Alex Bryant, executive secretary of North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD), was clearly impressed.

“There are very few conferences in our Division that run training events like what you have here in Ontario,” he told attendees.

Attendees were very complimentary about their experience.

“The convention surpassed my expectations in every way,” said Kingsview Village’s Audrey Mitchell. “Although I was able to attend only two of the worship services in addition to all of the four Sabbath School’s ‘Hit the Mark’ workshops, I found that each session better equipped me for service modelled after Jesus’ ministry, that is, to meet the needs of others, to be practical, and to be relevant. I can’t wait for the next convention of this type!”

“The Relevant Convention provided a top shelf learning experience for the front line workers in our conference. The mix of subjects was perfect for equipping local leadership with confidence in moving forward. I especially appreciated the facilitators who were true thought leaders in their areas of discussion. I found it to be a very valuable experience, and I plan on attending next time.” Richard Picart, Kanisa Fellowship

Pastor Eustace Williams, Personal Ministries director of the Ontario Conference and chair of the organising committee of directors, was clearly pleased with the number of people who braved the frigid January temperatures to attend.

“We are really pleased by the response of our local leaders,” he said. “This convention was planned by our directors to meet a particular need in our church. The attendance and the positive attitude of everyone tell us that our local leaders want their churches to be relevant to their communities. This bodes well for evangelism in our province.”

When asked about a date for the next convention, Williams smiled and said, “We will provide information in good time. But you can be sure, as God permits, there will be another”.

Perhaps Jackie from Bowmanville Church summed up the feelings of so many others when she said, “I can’t wait until we have the next convention!”

Members can look forward to the next scheduled Ministries Convention in January 2017.

**REACH is the acronym for:**

- Revival and Transformation
- Education for Discipleship
- Alignment Within the Church
- Community Outreach and Evangelism
- Health Leadership and Management

These represent the enduring values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and are used to build a framework for our mission.

Ontario Conference Cancels Camp Meeting 2015
Feb 04, 2015, Oshawa, Ontario…OCN

For the first time in recent memory, Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will not be holding its annual camp meeting in 2015.

Two significant factors contributed to the decision to forego camp meeting. Firstly, the scheduled camp meeting date conflicted with the events surrounding the General Conference Session in Austin, Texas. Secondly, the camp meeting venue could not be obtained at a suitable alternative date.

Ontario’s decision to cancel camp meeting in 2015 is in line with the decisions taken by a number of other conferences.

However, Southern Ontario will still host its two-day camp meeting at Norkfolk County Fairgrounds, Simcoe, June 5-6, 2015.

Northern Ontario’s camp meeting, September 4-6, 2015, will also continue at Camp Noronto, Monetville.

Ontario will resume its annual camp meeting in summer 2016.

**In a First, ADRA Offers New Mattresses to Ebola Victims**

*The decontamination program is the only one in Sierra Leone to fight the virus by replacing bedding.*

February 3, 2015, Adventist News Network

By ADRA and ANN Staff

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is participating in the only decontamination program in Sierra Leone that sprays homes and replaces infected mattresses and bedding in an effort to prevent the spread of Ebola.

ADRA said Ebola survivors are at risk of reinfection because many would rather hide their bedding from government decontamination teams than buy it again.

But teams from ADRA and its nongovernmental partner, Plan Sierra Leone, are replacing mattresses and bedding in high-risk neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Freetown, the West African nation’s capital.

“Now they are eager to let go of their contaminated materials because they know they are going to be replaced,” said Gabriel Dankyi, Ebola response coordinator for ADRA’s local office. “This has made a significant impact on the population. They continue to express their gratitude.”

ADRA has decontaminated nearly 1,000 homes since November. A number of families live boxed up together in small apartments and houses in the neighbourhoods targeted by ADRA.

“This is where many infections come about,” Dankyi said.
People initially resisted relinquishing their mattresses. Several told ADRA decontamination teams they would have had to sleep on the floor if their mattresses were confiscated.

“Initially people were thinking about the costs,” Dankyi said. But, he added, “cost alone is not enough. The impact it has brought is worth emulating.”

The Ebola virus, easily spread through direct contact with body fluids of an infected person, can also be transmitted through contact with infected bedding, clothing, or surfaces. More than 8,600 people, including 3,145 in Sierra Leone, have died since the current outbreak began last year, according to the World Health Organization.

ADRA has 12 five-member teams, each comprised of two disinfectors, two sprayers, and one driver. The disinfectors enter houses, spray walls and surfaces, and remove infected materials. Sprayers wear personal protective equipment and a backpack of chlorine solution to spray themselves with once the job is finished. Infected materials such as mattresses, bedding, blankets, and mosquito nets are carted away to a designated dumpsite run by ADRA staff and British and Sierra Leone military personnel.

The decontamination teams are staffed with university students, recent graduates, and a few high school students.

“So far there hasn’t been any case of infection of any of those involved with the program. They are taking precautions,” Dankyi said.

The Sierra Leone National Ebola Response Centre operates a hotline for the ill and relays information to a decontamination centre, which mobilizes teams to the homes. If needed, the centre can first send an ambulance to pick up the dead or evacuate patients to designated Ebola treatment centres.

ADRA International is the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and works in more than 130 countries.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 8
OPMASDA’s Business Session

The Ontario Prison Ministry Association of SDA Business Session will be Sunday, February 8, 2015 at Perth Avenue Adventist Church, 220 Bethridge Rd Etobicoke. Prison Ministry leaders, please inform your volunteers and encourage them to attend the Business Session.

February 8
Ajax Church’s 10th Anniversary Gala

Ajax Seventh-day Adventist Community Church invites you to our 10th Anniversary Gala
Date: February 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.; Cocktails at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Pickering Sports Complex-Banquet Hall - 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering, Ontario L1V 3Y7
Featured guest: George Banton, former lead singer of the Grace Thrillers, M.C - Allan Jones of Jones & Jones Productions and singer, Michelle Adams. Delicious catering by Orrell Watson, lots of prizes and giveaways. This event is in support of our Church Building Fund. Don't miss it! Cost: $40.00 per person. For tickets, contact our information line: 289- 638-3557 or purchase tickets online via the link on our website at www.ajaxsda.com

February 15
Food Handler Certification

The Ontario Conference’s Health Ministries Department is hosting a Food Handler Certification course on Sunday, February 15, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Place: Toronto West, 1621 Albion Rd, Toronto. Cost: $65. Lunch will be served but please provide your water and other food items. Class size is 25 so register early (by February 9) to avoid disappointment. Registration must be accompanied by payment. Call or email Maria McClean or Ruth Weidner at the Conference office to register.

February 15
OPMASDA’s Annual Fund Raising Gala

Ontario Prison Ministry Association of Seventh-day Adventist presents our Annual Fund Raising Gala at the Woodbine Convention Banquet Hall, 30 Vice Regent Blvd, Rexdale, on Sunday, February 15, 2015 and starting at 3:00 p.m. sharp. Admission is $55.00 for adults – advance or $60.00 at the door; $40.00 for children (12 years and under).

The Gala will be featuring well-known acclaimed comedy actor, Nago Morris, and company, international singer, Tiffany Campbell-Daley, 2014 Miss Black Canadian Queen of Mississauga, Vanessa Wheatle, and others. MC- Marrian Rodrigues, host of Soul Jazz on G98.7 FM.

There will be lots of fun and laughter.

February 28
Toronto North Homecoming

Toronto North Adventist Church invites all members present and former, and friends, to a memorable Homecoming Day on February 28, 2015. Keynote speaker is Dr. Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president. Come share memories and future visions. Location is 2940 Markham Rd. North Scarborough.

March 1
CPR/AED Course

The Ontario Conference’s Health Ministries Department is hosting a CPR/AED course on March 1, 2015 at the Toronto Perth Church, 220 Bethridge Rd, Toronto from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost is $35. Registration must be accompanied by payment. Please provide your lunch/snacks. Call or email Maria McClean or Ruth Weidner at the Conference office to register.

March 8
VBS Training and Program Demonstration
SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING AND PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION!!! Date: March 8, 2015; Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: College Park Elementary School. This event is free but registration by March 5, 2015 would be appreciated so that we can plan accordingly. Please register with Ruth at: rweidner@adventistontario.org or 905-571-1022 ext. 113.

March 8
Training for Education Leaders

Sunday, March 8, 2015, the Ontario Conference Office of Education is offering training for Adventist Education leaders. Venue to be announced. Please put this important date in your calendar. Email or call Donna Brkic at dbrkic@adventistontario.org or 905-571-1022, ext. 208 to register.

April 11
Fine Arts Festival “Acts of Faith”

Sabbath, April 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., the Ontario Conference Office of Education and Children’s Ministries presents their Fine Arts Festival entitled “Acts of Faith” at the Crawford Adventist Academy gymnasium. Come join us for an evening of music and art presented by the students of the schools in Ontario. Admission is free.

April 12
Annual Math Olympiad

Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., the Ontario Conference Office of Education and Children’s Ministries is co-sponsoring the annual Math Olympiad at Crawford Adventist Academy (CAA). We are looking for teams of 6 students of Junior High age who will participate in this event. The pathfinder club is one source for participants since the age range of 11 – 13 is reflected. It is recommended that each team be voted by your church board to obtain the $125.00 registration fee. Once voted, the students would automatically be covered by the insurance of the church. Attached is a flyer promoting the event as well as a registration form. Please register by Monday, March 16. For more information, you may contact Judy Burgin-Hall at CAA (416-633-0090).

Adventist Education Week is April 20 to 24, 2015 and Adventist Education Day is April 25, 2015

May 22-24
62nd TJA/CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend


Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB - Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, (416) 633-0090 or toll free (866) 960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com / Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement assistant, ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com.

Visit our official website www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook ‘The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group’.
July 18 & 19

Ontario Bible Bowl

Do you love to read your bible?
Are you in need of motivation to read your bible?
Do you enjoy friendly competition?
Are you a fan of trivia-based game shows?
If you answered yes to any of the above, consider Bible Bowl!

Bible Bowl is a ministry to connect people with the word of God in an in depth, engaging, and interactive way. There are no losers in Bible Bowl! Ultimately, the goal is to have young and old studying the word of God.

If your church has not yet begun to prepare for this year's bible bowl games, it isn't too late to get started! Or if you would like to see what it's all about first, feel free to attend the upcoming games.

Save the dates! The Ontario Bible Bowl games will be held on Saturday, July 18, and Sunday, July 19, 2015 (location to be determined.)

This year's books and the corresponding age divisions are:

Pre-Juniors (Ages 6-9) - Matthew, Joshua
Junior Youth (Ages 10-15) - Matthew, Joshua, 1 Corinthians, Lamentations
Senior Youth (Ages 16-22) - Matthew, Joshua, 1 Corinthians, Lamentations, James
Young Adult (Ages 23-35) - Matthew, Joshua, 1 Corinthians, Lamentations, James, Zephaniah
Adult (Ages 36+) - Matthew, Joshua, 1 Corinthians, Lamentations, James, Zephaniah, Philemon

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

If you would like to know more about starting this ministry in your area or for any additional information, please contact ontariobiblebowl@hotmail.com.

July 22-26, 2015

Adventurer Family Camporee 2015

Save the date and start planning for the first ever Adventurer Family “On Your Mark” Camporee to be held on July 22-26, 2015 (Wed-Sun) at the Brant Park Conservation Area in Brantford, ON. For details, go to www.ontarioadventurers.ca . Be there when it happens!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to unsubscribe from OCN list, please reply with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.
Please send articles in plain text (NO graphics or photos) to OCN@AdventistOntario.org (No later than Wednesday afternoon)

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