



Ontario Conference News

Electronic Newsletter of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®

April 3, 2009

In this Issue...

1. News

- [Conference President Calls for Prayer Prior to Organising Committee](#)
- [Evangelism in St. Thomas](#)
- [European Attempts to Legislate Sunday](#)
- [Adventist Jargon Alienating, Church Executives Say](#)

2. Resources

3. Coming Events

4. Other Advertisements

NEWS

[Conference President Calls for Prayer Prior to Organising Committee](#)

April 3, 2009, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

Elder Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, today, spoke of the need for prayer as delegates to the Organising Committee prepare to meet in Oshawa on April 5, 2009.

“The process of selecting new officers, departmental directors and the Board of Directors is a sacred responsibility,” said Nichols. “This is God’s church, and we cannot do this according to our own wisdom or even desire. We must look to God to have His will in the entire process, so I’m encouraging everyone—individually, as families and as churches-- to sincerely pray to God.”

His statement, made to the communication director of the conference during an interview, echoed what he had written earlier this year to all churches in the conference.

Nichols is confident of God’s leadership in this aspect of the work of the church as he is in all other areas.

“Time and time again, I have seen God’s hand in a very clear and mighty way,” He said, “I’ve come to expect that whenever we submit to God and stop trying to work independent of Him, He will always be with us and give us the leadership we need.”

One hundred and fifty delegates from across Ontario will meet on Sunday morning at 8:00 in the chapel at Kingsway College campus in Oshawa to begin the process of selecting leaders for the next four years.

Evangelism in St. Thomas

April 3, 2009, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

The members of St. Thomas Seventh-day Adventist Church are experiencing a revival through the "Invitation to Life of Hope" evangelistic seminar that is being held in their city.

Local pastor, Todor Levterov, in his first live evangelistic foray, enthusiastically explained that the 10-session seminar, held on Friday and Saturday nights since March 20, has not only brought revival to the congregation but has inspired the members to engage in more evangelistic activities.

Held at St. Thomas Seniors Centre, the seminar attracted seven visitors on its opening night. While some returned on other occasions, Levterov explained that one has been consistent, remaining throughout the entire series.

The seminar is based on the book, *Steps to Christ*, by Ellen White and allows for discussion.

"We are very informal in our presentation," said Levterov, "and everyone gets an opportunity to participate."

The series concludes on April 4. The pastor and members are already looking forward to their next evangelistic event.

European Attempts to Legislate Sunday

Karel Nowak, Communication and Religious Liberty Director, Euro-Africa Division/BUC News

Attempts to legislate Sunday as an official rest day within the European Union have caused concern among Seventh-day Adventists and other faith groups. Is the attempt likely to succeed, and if so, what impact might it have on those, like Adventists, who choose to worship and rest on a different day. Karel Nowak, Communication and Religious Liberty director for the Euro-Africa Division, based in Bern, Switzerland, has been following the story:

Legal initiatives in Europe seeking to gradually enforce Sunday rest have been attempted for the past several years. The proposals are usually voiced by different associations, but these associations are openly backed by the Roman Catholic Church as well as various Protestant churches. Their immediate goals usually include closing shops and restricting other business activities on Sundays.

During 2008, this topic again received public attention in connection with the debate on amendments proposed to change European Directive 2003/88/EC, which deals with working time regulations. The initiative was mainly carried by the Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC). These two organizations, the first one Roman Catholic and the second one ecumenical comprising a majority of the traditional Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches, were created primarily to serve as an interface with the European institutions.

The actual article 5 of the Directive 2003/88/EC titled "Weekly Rest Period" reads as follows:

Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure that, per each seven-day period, every worker is entitled to a minimum uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours plus the 11 hours' daily rest referred to in Article 3.

If objective, technical or work organization conditions so justify, a minimum rest period of 24 hours may be applied.

The initiative proposed to add a third clause to this article:

The minimum rest period referred to in the first paragraph shall in principle include Sunday.

Interestingly, this wording is not new. It used to be a part of the previous similar directive (93/104/EC) from 1993. But in 1996, the European Court of Justice annulled this phrase stating that "the Council has failed to explain why Sunday, as a weekly rest day, is more closely connected with the health and safety of workers than any other day of the week" (ECJ, Case C-84/94). That is why the 2008 initiative proposed an additional paragraph in the rationale at the beginning of the directive. The proposed paragraph (6a) would read:

The likelihood of sickness in companies that require staff to work on Sundays is greater than in companies that do not require staff to work on Sundays. The health of workers depends, among other factors, on their opportunities to reconcile work and family life, to establish and maintain social ties and to pursue their spiritual needs. Sunday, as the traditional weekly rest day, contributes to these objectives more than any other day of the week.

The common documents of COMECE and CEC explain the proposed amendments and seek to supply argumentation to contra balance the finding of the European Court of Justice.

The directive was discussed by the European Parliament in mid-December 2008. The amendments proposed by COMECE and CEC and supported by several members of the Parliament were dismissed for formal reasons and therefore not even discussed. This fact underlines the reality that the idea of a legally imposed Sunday rest actually has little support in the EU Parliament and especially in the Commission. This is the reason the COMECE reflected disappointment in its 17 December 2008 news release.

Although Adventists recognize and support many of the arguments forwarded by the proponents of the legally instituted Sunday rest (such as family, health, ecology, economic advantages and values), we regret that these initiatives do not take into consideration the consequences such legislation would have upon minority groups that observe a day other than Sunday as their day of religious rest.

Several European countries have traditionally strong laws prohibiting shops from opening on Sundays and restricting activities that disturb the peace. The growing number of exceptions, pressure from large supermarkets that want to remain open on Sundays and the rather permissive and indifferent attitude of a large portion of Europeans explains the position of the European Parliament.

To date, all initiatives to legislate a Sunday law throughout the European Union have failed. This does not mean that proponents of this legislation have given up on the idea. On the contrary, we witness an increasing number of Sunday rest articles appearing in different publications with the purpose of altering public opinion. For example, the 25 January 2009 issue of the Belgian Catholic weekly *Dimanche* published an article addressing shops opening on Sundays. The author of this article quotes, among others, Pope Benedict XVI who wrote in his book *Jesus of Nazareth* that the struggle in favour of Sunday constitutes to be a part of the church's concerns. In the same way, the COMECE's 17 December news release called for further

mobilization and the uniting of voices to promote Sunday rest.

On 11 February 2009, the secretariat of COMECE issued a news release welcoming a new attempt of several Members of the European Parliament, to ask the House to approve a written declaration asking for "protection of a work-free Sunday as an essential pillar of the European Social Model and as part of the European cultural heritage".

Adventist Jargon Alienating, Church Executives Say

31 Mar 2009, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Global Mission Issues committee heard suggestions last week for pruning Adventist jargon, archaic and potentially offensive language from official church communication.

By using well-meant but often misinterpreted words and phrases, Adventists may end up alienating members of other faith groups rather than ministering to them, Bruce L. Bauer, chair of the department of World Mission, told the delegates, each of whom received a draft of the proposed 'Style-Guide for Seventh-day Adventist Mission.'

Prepared by the church's Global Mission Religious Study Centers, the style-guide lists potentially offensive words and phrases to be avoided when working with members of four of the world's main faith groups: Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Postmoderns.

"Too many [Adventists] go to unchurched or unreached people with a set of sermons or Bible studies that were initially prepared for another cultural setting and never consider the local needs or situations," Bauer said.

When talking with Jews and Muslims, the style-guide suggests, pastors and church communicators should avoid "politically charged" language. Calling the Middle East 'Palestine' or referring to the state of Israel can be "interpreted as taking sides," Bauer said.

The style-guide also cautions Adventists to avoid referring to the church as "spiritual Israel" when talking with Jews. "The church does not need to usurp the identity of Israel in order to exist," Bauer said.

Universally offensive words such as "infidel" or "heretic" should never be used to refer an unchurched person, the style-guide said. Also, referring to outreach events as "crusades" is more likely to conjure up images of war and destruction than evangelism, particularly among Muslims.

Referring to Muhammad as a "false prophet" will not build bridges with Muslims, the style-guide also noted.

While both Jews and Muslims may take offence to many Christian-oriented phrases, Buddhists are more likely to be confused by Adventist imagery and illustrations, Bauer said. Western Christian terminology -- including "sin," "salvation" and the "blood of Christ" -- often doesn't resonate with Buddhists, who may also struggle to reconcile the concrete Biblical concepts of heaven and hell with their more transient concept of death.

One delegate expressed concern that Adventists, hoping not to offend, may end up clumsily hiding their beliefs -- an effort that would be both "obvious" and potentially

manipulative, he said.

Tailoring the presentation of the church's core beliefs to better connect with those from various faith backgrounds doesn't unravel the message, Bauer said. The principles and cautions in the style-guide are simply meant to help Adventists establish a spiritual foundation with those of other faiths in a way that invites further discussion of beliefs.

As Pat Gustin put it, "You can't ignore that the Bible says Christ's blood is essential to salvation, but your opening hymn doesn't have to be 'There is a Fountain Filled with Blood.'"

While not technically a faith group, Postmoderns are also included in the style-guide. Because Postmoderns perceive the word "truth" as restrictive, the style-guide urged Adventists to avoid that and other cut-and-dried terminology.

Other suggestions for better connecting with Postmoderns include avoiding the phrase "inspired pen" to refer to prolific church writer Ellen G. White, the word "worldly" when describing secular or negative influences and citing "God's will" when explaining tragedies for which there is no logical basis.

Delegates questioned the inclusion of some phrases. The style-guide suggested that Adventists avoid the phrase "I'll pray for you" when talking with Postmoderns because some who hold that worldview may interpret it as an excuse for inaction. However, Artur Stele, president of the Adventist Church in Euro-Asia, said he'd observed that Postmoderns in his region were "surprisingly open to the concept of prayer."

When revising the draft, a world church vice president Michael L. Ryan suggested that instead of a list of what not to say, the style-guide also include words and phrases that some traditional Adventists think are taboo, but are in fact appropriate, such as using "Allah" as a reference to God.

"In all of our communication, we should strive to be clear and sensitive about our message," said Rajmund Dabrowski, world church communication director. "In this, every word counts," he said, citing the existing ANN style guide as a potential model for the proposed style-guide.

Following revisions, the style-guide will ultimately be sent to the administrative committee at the world church's headquarters for consideration. For now, the style-guide is destined for revisions back at the study centres.

Source: Adventist News Network

RESOURCES

The NAD Adult Sabbath School Summit will be held April 24-25 in Silver Spring, MD. Read your invitation at <http://tinyurl.com/c5yany>.

For those who cannot attend, it also will be *streamed live* at www.nadadultministries.org, Apr 24 at 7 pm and Apr 25 at 8:45 am EDST. Online attendees will be able to respond to the Summit in real time by e-mail at sabbathschoolsummit@nad.adventist.org.

The goal, under the theme, "Sabbath School: One Mission Many Methods" is to Brainstorm the Four Goals of Sabbath School for the purpose of creative implementation in the local church.

Contact: www.nadadultministries.org for summit details.

50% Tuition Reduction for the ED.S. in School Psychology — The Andrews University Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology is offering a 50% tuition reduction for applicants accepted into the Ed.S. in School Psychology program for the 2009-2010 academic year. Named a "Best Careers 2009" in *U.S. News & World Report*, school psychologists have a solid job outlook, high status and job security. Due to a limited number of spaces, apply as soon as possible.

Contact: Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology at 269-471-3473 or e-mail ecp@andrews.edu for requirements and more information.

Now Online: Ministerial Workshops from the Adventist Ministries Convention — The Church Resource Center has launched a website to give congregational leaders a continuing flow of innovative resources that make ministry more effective. One of its major features, the Online Training Videos, allows viewing through an innovative interactive format that allows you to browse through a presentation at will.

The rest of the Ministries Convention workshops will be uploaded progressively through Apr 31.

Contact: www.vervent.org.

Ideas for Retaining Youth and Young Adults in the Adventist Church were shared last October when more than 30 youth ministry professionals, academics and practitioners met at Andrews University. The results have been brought together into *Ministering with Millennials*.

Contact: www.adventsource.org/as20/product.aspx?ID=35919 to order.

COMING EVENTS

March 28 - May 2 **Forty Days of Prayer and Fasting**

Hamilton East is preparing for "Revelation Speaks Hope." Evangelist, Pastor Donville Cooper, will be presenting life-changing messages from the book of Revelation. We invite you to join us beginning March 28th - May 2nd, 7:15 - 8:30. The meetings will be held Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. We will also be blessed with up-lifting gospel music provided by singing evangelist Janet Blake.

April 5- April 30

CHIP at Sarnia

The Sarnia SDA Church is having a CHIP program from April 5 to April 30, 2003. it will run from Monday to Thursday from 6:30 pm. to 9:30 pm. for four weeks. The first health screen will be on April 5 and the second health screen on May 3. For more information please contact Don or Faye Horricks at 519-845-0009.

April 10- April 12 **Shiloh Homecoming Celebration**

The Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church cordially invites every one to a special week-end Homecoming Celebration at their newly acquired church home. The

weekend activities begin on Friday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. and ends on Sunday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m.

A special luncheon feast will be prepared just for you Without you, this day won't be the same!

April 11

"The Day He Wore My Crown" at Kendalwood

Kendalwood Voices of Praise invites you to the Musical Drama "The Day He Wore My Crown". On April 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., With the Westmount Seventh-day Adventist Drama Group from Montreal and solo artist, Norwill Simmonds. Come and enjoy this spirit-filled evening of music.

April 11 to May 2

Evangelistic Series at Kingsview Village Church

Bring your family and friends to be taught and inspired by the "Words of Hope for the Family Bible Series" at Kingsview Village Seventh-day Adventist Church from April 11 to May 2, 2009. Come out and hear special guest speaker Pastor Anthony M. Reid speak about how to strengthen family relationships with topics such as: How to Keep Your Lover? Loving Your Spouse with Your Senses, Know the Family You Marry, Talk to Me Please! and more. The series will also feature pre-marital/marital counselling, a children's program, health presentations, Bible quizzes, as well as prizes and surprises.

What: Words of Hope for the Family Bible Series

Where: Kingsview Village Seventh-day Adventist Church

(70 Kingsview Blvd, Etobicoke, ON M9R 1T9 - one light north of Kipling Ave. & Dixon Rd.)

[Click here for map.](#)

When: April 11 to May 2, 2009

Every night except Mondays and Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.

For more info: 416-245-6863 or info@kingsviewsdachurch.org

April 17-19

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

REGISTRATION EXTENDED! Couples, we're still taking your registration for the upcoming Marriage Enrichment Retreat, April 17-19, 2009. Willie and Elaine Oliver, popular speakers on marriage and family life, will guide you on your "Journey Toward Intimacy" at beautiful Deerhurst Resort, nestled in 800 nature-rich acres on Peninsula Lake. **To register**, call 905-571-1022 (from Toronto, call 905-686-5757) ext. 204 or 203.

April 24, 25

Free Adult Sabbath School Summit at the GC Headquarters

Adult Sabbath School Summit, April 24, 25, 2009, at the General Conference Headquarters for Sabbath School leaders: Free registration is at www.plusline.org (we need to know how many persons to prepare free food and free materials for). Please register before April 10, 2009 (as close as possible to right now is preferable). For further information, please contact Pastor Wayne Martin, Sabbath School director at the Ontario Conference, wmartin@adventistontario.org; 905-571-1022; ext. 105.

April 25

(NEW VENUE) Singles Conference at Wellspring Worship Centre

Singles Conference! Bring a friend April 25, 2009 to a this year's Singles Conference at a **NEW VENUE!** Wellspring Worship Centre, 89 Centre Avenue, North York. Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Marc Woodson, nutrition consultant Beverly Edwards-Miller, Pastors John Scott and Oleg Zhigankov, and Genifer Husbands. **Early Bird Registration Available!** Visit www.plusline.org/events.php or call 1-800-732-7587. Final Registration due April 15. Sponsored by Ontario Conference Family Ministries.

May 1-3

Young Women's Retreat

Confidence, friendship and a relationship with God. A Girl's Gotta Have It! Girls, join us for the **2009 Young Women's Retreat** at Camp Frenda on May 1-3, 2009. Have fun with your girlfriends and learn to know yourself and God better. Speakers, Beverly Regoso, Dr. Paulette Higgins and Maria McClean, are excited to share with you some tips on healthy, spiritual living and creating lasting, meaningful relationships. For more information, keep reading here or call 905-571-1022 ext. 204.

May 10

Youth Leadership Training

To be held at Willowdale Church from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following dates:

May 10 topics ~ (1) Youth Ministry Evangelism Plans and (2) Ministry to Students in Preparing for University.

May 21-24

55th ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Toronto Junior Academy & Crawford Adventist Academy

Thursday May 21st to Sunday May 24th 2009, celebrating Honoured Classes:

From T.J.A. Grade 10 Classes: 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959

From C.A.A Graduating Classes: 1999, 1989, 1984,

Thursday May 21st: Premier of the Screen Play "Hush"

Friday May 22nd: Vernon Langdon Classic Golf Tournament

Friday Night Reunion Concert

Saturday May 23rd: Sabbath Service and Lunch

Keynote Speaker: Dr. James Doggette

Saturday Night: Original Movie "Hush"

Sunday May 24th: Walk-a-thon

Alumni Basketball Game

RSVP: Derrick Hall (VP of Advancement)

Toll Free: 1-866-960-2125

Local: 416-633-0090 ext. 234

Email: dhall@caasda.com, development@caasda.com

May 23

Belleville's 40th Anniversary

All former members are cordially invited to attend the Belleville Seventh-day Church Anniversary Celebration o May 23, 2009 at Belleville Adventist Church, 253 Dundas St. W. Belleville, Ontario, from 9:15 to 5:00 p.m. Lunch included.

June 6

Women's Conference

Ladies! Set aside this date to attend a dynamic Women's Conference at Kingsway College, Oshawa. Due to the Sept. NAD Women's Conference in Dallas, the Ontario Conference Women's Ministries Dept. will be holding a one-day conference in Ontario rather than a weekend retreat.

Other Advertisements

Chief Operating Officer, College Woodwork

College Woodwork, a furniture manufacturer located on the campus of Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ontario, is seeking a COO to head its operations. Established in 1921 to provide financial assistance to Kingsway College and employment opportunities for its students, College Woodwork currently has a staff of 85 full-time employees and employs 43 students on a part-time basis. It has an operating budget of \$10 million with sales from \$9 million to \$11 million over the past few years. Reporting to the President of Kingsway College, the Chief Operating Officer is accountable for setting the strategic direction for, and directing the day-to-day operations of, College Woodwork as a viable furniture manufacturing industry committed to the success and care of its dealers, its employees, and Kingsway College as its partner in business.

The successful candidate will bring with him/her effective entrepreneurial type business skills developed through education and experience, preferably in, but not limited to, manufacturing/marketing, and a firm commitment to supporting Christian education.

Compensation includes salary, profit sharing and an extensive package of benefits.

To explore this opportunity further, please direct resumes to Greg Bussey, President, Kingsway College at busseyg@kingswaycollege.on.ca

***Please send articles in plain text (no graphics or photos) to
OCN@AdventistOntario.org
(No later than Tuesday evening)***

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Website: www.AdventistOntario.org

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