



Ontario Conference News

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

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NEWS

[Adventist Minister Calls for Abolition of Race-Based Conferences](#)

Religion Press Release Services (RPRS) August 12, 2008

Breaking one of the most solemn taboos of his faith, a prominent Seventh-day Adventist minister has called for an end to his church's policy of segregated administration of race-based conferences in the mid-west and eastern United States.

Fredrick A. Russell, African American senior pastor of the Miracle Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, issued his call for change in the cover article of the July/August issue of the independent journal *Adventist Today*. Within hours of the article's publication, readers began a formal petition drive to seek implementation of his ideas.

Russell writes that the segregation of administrative units (*conferences*) by race in the United States began in 1944, with support of a majority of black leaders at that time, who complained that the strong racial prejudices prevalent then were neutralizing much of the evangelistic strength of African American laymen, pastors, and evangelists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church of that period.

"All of this was taking place against a backdrop of overt racism and unfairness being carried out by some white leaders and members against their black brothers and sisters," Russell writes in his manifesto. "This caliber of treatment from their 'brethren' was becoming too much for Negro members to endure." Between 1945 and 1947, seven black administrative centers were organized, and two more were created a few years later, bringing the current total to nine.

While not denying that vestiges of racism and unfairness toward blacks persist in the United States, Russell calls on his fellow black members to "act against their self-interest, for the good of the whole. More specifically, the entire organizational structure and infrastructure in North America will need to change and give way to a new, more efficient structure."

He asserts in his article, "The Adventist Church's 'Peculiar Institution'", that the Adventist church as "too much [administrative] duplication," and that the whole structure of the church should be revisited and streamlined, eliminating in the process the duplicate "conferences" that jointly administer the same territory. "The net effect of this organizational change is that we would organize around *mission* and not *race*," he wrote (emphasis supplied).

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church is at a crossroads on many fronts," he concludes in his article. "And now, more than ever, all assumptions and organizational practices need to be evaluated . . . The petty stuff that separates us has to be deleted! The time is now!"

Russell is prepared to grant telephone interviews by prior arrangement with the editorial offices of *Adventist Today* at (toll free) (800) 236-3641.

Fredrick Russell Named President of Allegheny West Conference

Bryant Taylor, Allegheny West Communication Department

The Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee elected Fredrick Russell conference president yesterday (August 10, 2008). He replaces James Lewis who recently accepted a call to serve as director of the Office of Regional Conference Ministries, based on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala.

Now in his 27th year of ministry, Russell, a graduate of Oakwood University, is a long-time pastor and sought-after speaker. He also holds a Master of Science in Management with an emphasis in managerial leadership from National-Louis University in Chicago. He started his ministry in Allegheny West as associate pastor of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cincinnati. He then went on to pastor the Cleveland Heights church (now called Temple of Praise), Park Street church in Oberlin, Ohio; Bethel church in Akron; and Ethan Temple in Dayton. Twelve years ago, he accepted a call to serve as senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Miracle Temple in Baltimore.

Russell is a member of the AEC Executive Committee and serves as ministerial leader for its Baltimore metropolitan area pastors. He serves on the advisory committee of the North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Department and as a board member for AdventSource, an NAD entity that provides resources for local church pastors and leaders. Pastor Russell has also traveled around the world teaching leadership development for the past 13 years to denominational workers.

"I am humbled by this next assignment God has placed over my life, and I am looking forward to forging a shared vision with the leadership team, the pastors, and members of Allegheny West Conference," he says.

Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley, who chaired the meeting, is also looking forward to working with Russell. "He'll bring a fresh perspective to this conference," he says. "Building upon the good work of Elder James Lewis, his passion for excellence in leadership could assist this conference in going to a new level."

Russell will take up his new leadership position sometime this fall.

United States: First Adventist Woman Commissioned to Serve as Navy Chaplain

August 8, 2008 Berrien Springs, Michigan, United States , Keri Suarez/ANN Staff

Adrienne Townsend accepted the oath of office and was officially sworn in July 24 as the first Seventh-day Adventist woman to serve as an active duty chaplain in the United States Navy.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Townsend said her four years as associate dean of women at Adventist-owned Andrews University prepared her for chaplaincy and called her new post a "huge mission field" where she could minister to similarly aged young people.

"I feel God has laid the foundation for me here to go out into the military and reach those who need to hear about Christ," Townsend said. "I want Christ to be glorified and God to be seen as real for everyone I come in contact with."

Townsend, who holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews, brings a background in education and psychology to her new position. While studying theology, Townsend met a Navy recruiter and first felt called to chaplaincy.

Townsend's post is an "encouragement" to other Adventist women feel similarly called to ministry within the military and who "find the traditional roles limited," said Chaplain (Colonel) Gary R. Councill, director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries for the world church.

Councill worked with Townsend over the past two years to prepare her to meet the military and denominational requirements of her post.

Lieutenant Christopher Carmichael, a Navy representative from the Navy Officer Recruiting Station in East Lansing, Mich., presented Townsend with her Presidential Appointment signed by President George W. Bush. Seminary Chaplain James North delivered the oath of office.

Once stationed, Townsend's duties will include leading worship services, providing counseling and visitation services and performing ceremonies such as weddings and funerals.

--Andrew Campbell contributed to this story

NAD Events

October 18-19, 2008

Health Summit West-Spanish

Health Summit West-Spanish, 2008 -LaSierra, California- The North American Division, Pacific Union and Loma Linda, School of Public Health announce the first health certification training program October 18-19, 2008. "Tell the World Christ Brings Health and Wholeness" will present featured speaker, Jose Rojas. Six "train-the-trainer" health seminars will be conducted. Go to www.nadhealthsummit.com for more information.

July 2-4, 2009

NAD ASAM Convention

NAD Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Convention 2009 will be held July 2-4, 2009 in Newport Beach, California, at the Newport Beach Marriot Hotel & Spa. Registration before February 19, 2009 is \$149; regular registration \$179. To register, call 1-800-732-7587 or visit www.AdventistSingleAdultMinistries.org

COMING EVENTS

August 16

Community Guest Day at Philadelphia

Philadelphia Adventist Church will be hosting a Community Guest Day on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Our dynamic guest speaker will be Pastor Steve Philips, Council General of St. Vincent. The program begins at 9:15 a.m. with a special Sabbath School presentation. The evening will conclude at 7:15 with a mini-concert. Philadelphia Church is located at 25 Channel Nine Court. For more details, please call 905-428-7425.

August 16 & Aug. 23 – September 6, 08

Health & Temperance Day and “Word of Life” at Latter Rain Church

Latter Rain Adventist Church (7 Elinor Ave., Scarborough (Pharmacy/Lawrence intersection)) will be hosting Health & Temperance Day on August 16, 2008. The Speaker is J. Beverley Edwards-Miller. For more information, please visit www.latterrainsda.net

Also, Latter Rain will be hosting an evangelistic series from Aug. 23 to Sep. 6, 2008 with the dynamic speaker, Pastor David Thompson. The meetings will be held in the evenings of Sat., Sun., Tue., Wed. and Fri. at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 416-284-2106 or visit www.latterrainsda.net

August 22 - August 30

“Preparation for the Final Crisis” at Woodbridge

Pastor Ron Williams from Dallas Texas will be conducting a week of revival at Woodbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church with the theme "Preparation for the Final Crisis". Uplifting messages nightly, (not Monday or Thursday), starting Friday 22nd August and culminating the following weekend with several seminars on the Prison Ministries and their positive impact. This series will climax into Prison Ministry Focus on August 30th. Come and enjoy the blessings of this period with us; meetings each night at 7:30 except Mon. & Thurs.

Venue: Woodbridge Adventist Church (at Woodbridge United Church), 8090 Kipling Avenue, Woodbridge. (Located on Kipling Ave, north of Highway 7). For more details, call Pastor Dorzilme at 905-458-4109.

August 23

Toronto Central Adventist Church Women's Ministry Emphasis Day Concert featuring Jenieve & Robert Bailey from Kingston, Jamaica

Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church invites you to join us on August 23, for a concert featuring international gospel recording artists, Jenieve & Robert Bailey, following our AY program. Special guests includes trumpeter, Dave Brown, Tiffany Campbell-Dailey and REECH. Tickets are \$10 in advance/\$15 the door, children under 7 yrs free. For ticket information, call 905-970-1489/416-571-4709 or write acs2835@rogers.com. Refreshments will be on sale.

Women's Ministry Emphasis Day will be on August 23 - guest speaker will be Dr. Janice Maitland. The theme is "Women of Substance". At 6:00 p.m., Dr. Maitland will be presenting a seminar entitled: "Temperaments".

Toronto Central is located at 156-162 Bentworth Avenue (Dufferin/Bentworth), for more information call 416-784-0261 or visit www.torontocentralsda.org

August 23

Youth Day at Berea

You are cordially invited to come out and fellowship with the Youths at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church on August 23, 2008. We will be celebrating our youths and would like you to come out and spend the day with us. Sabbath School: 9.15 a.m. Divine hour: 11:00 a.m. AY: 6:00 p.m.

Calling all youths to come out and worship, as we explore the theme, Think, Believe and Act.

Berea Church is located at 353 Sherbourne Street, on the South East corner of Carlton and Sherbourne.

August 24

First Annual SPOT-A-THON

First Annual SPOT-A-THON will be held on Sunday, August 24th, 2008 at Bruce Mills Conservation Area in Stouffville, ON. **Walkathon** to raise money for an **ADRA** initiative to help rehabilitate children suffering from birth defects in Kenya. Come out and show your support. To sign up, donate or for more info, please contact Nyla John (647-221-9051) or Candace Allen (416-725-7332) or thespotgta@hotmail.com

August 25

CHIP at the London Church

On September 8th, the London Seventh-day Adventist Church will begin a new CHIP program. We are celebrating our 12th program with over 300 participants. If anyone in the London area is interested in attending, contact Kathy or Gord Rayner at 519-472-6066 or e-mail at gord.rayner@sympatico.ca Free information sessions will be held on Sunday, August 24th, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Monday, August 25th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, September 3rd, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the church, 805 Shelborne Street London.

September 5-7

The Catalyst Retreat

A retreat is for young adults attending college or university. The theme "Catalyst" has been chosen because students can be positive catalysts of change for Christ on their campuses. This retreat will be a catalyst to motivate students to move forward with Christ on their campuses and to set a positive personal course for the school year.

This retreat is sponsored by the Campus and Youth Ministries Department. Elder Nicholas Rhone of Ottawa along with Dr. Gerry Grant, professor at Carlton University will be assisting with this retreat. We are also look to have a special guest speaker from a university in eastern Ontario. Please encourage the young adults of your church and community (this event is not limited to Adventists) to join us for this time of fun, spiritual refueling and fellowship.

The Catalyst Retreat will be held at Camp IAWAH in Godfrey, Ontario, September 5 - 7, 2008. For registration information please contact Pastor Cyril Millett at the 905-571-1022 ext. 214 or by e-mail at cmillett@AdventistOntario.org.

College/University Student Registry: Also we continue to ask for contact information for all college and university students in our conference. Students can now enter the information themselves by going to the conference website, clicking on the icon "Student Survey" and filling out the form in less than two minutes. Some pastors and youth leaders are collecting the information themselves and send me a list by e-mail. By doing this they have the same contact information and can keep in touch with their students.

September 12-27
1Way2Life Seminar

Discover the way to lasting happiness and meaningful life by attending the 1Way2Life Seminar on Sept. 12-27, 2008 (nightly except Mondays and Thursdays) at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Zion Church Fellowship Hall.

Topics to be presented by Pastor Edwin Martin, 1W2L speaker, include the following:

Hope for Troubled People, *Healing for Human Suffering*, Relationships Rule, *Sober Up!* Sex Talk: Virgins R Us, *Get the Stress Out!* Overcoming Family Dysfunction, *Get Smart – Have a Fresh Start*, Google It! *God in My Space*, My Way or the High Way? *The Power of One*.

Also, come and enjoy the nightly musical performances, drama presentations, group interactions, testimonies, and refreshments.

This seminar is sponsored by the Youth Ministry of Mount Zion Adventist Church and is designed for the benefit of the whole family. Don't miss it!

September 18-21
Canadian Adventist Youth Summit (CAYS): September 18-21, 2008, Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

Keynote Speaker: Pastor Eddy Hypolite (South England Conference). Pastor Hypolite was well received in February by the youth in Dallas at the NAD Youth Summit, and he is sure to present inspiring messages at **CAYS!**

CAYS will be a meeting for youth, young adults and their leaders from across Canada taking place in the Maritime Conference. This summit will give teens, college/university students, and their leaders an opportunity to take their spiritual walk to the next level. CAYS will help everyone to "Think It, Believe It, Do It" for Christ! Start planning now to be a part of this event.

Get your registration form at www.AdventistYouth.ca, fill it in and fax it to the Ontario Conference Youth Ministries Department at 905-571-4781. Bus transportation is being organized by the Youth Ministries Department. For cost and details, contact Lila Oliveira at 905-571-1022; ext. 215.

September 21-28, 2008
Dr. Sang Lee at Camp Frenda

Dr. Sang Lee's Healing Love Ministry is coming again to Camp Frenda on Lake Rosseau! on September 21-28, 2008. Check out our new site:

www.DrSangLeeNEWSTARTcanada.blogspot.com. See Photos and clips of friends who attended October 2006. Read the testimonies of those who attended. Do Not Despair, Do NEWSTART!

November 12 - 16, 2008

Inspiring, Equipping and Training Leaders for CHIP Ministry

The Adventist CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) Association cordially invites anyone with a passion for health ministry to attend the **9th Annual CHIP Summit** in sunny Orlando, Florida, from November 12 to 16, 2008. This five-day summit features basic training for would-be CHIP directors and advanced training for current CHIP directors. In addition to training, there are seven scientific speakers to learn from, six inspirational speakers to motivate you, delicious food, great music, fabulous sightseeing opportunities, and wonderful new friends to be made. This is a tremendous opportunity for churches that want to facilitate CHIP programs in their community to send members to be newly or further trained for this awesome health ministry. The clinical results of the 30-day, video-based, life-changing CHIP program have been published as 12 articles in peer-reviewed medical journals. CHIP addresses our healthcare crisis with scientifically sound, cost effective, and proven measures. Isn't it time your church became a centre of health and healing in your community? For registration information, please visit the CHIP website at <http://www.sdachip.org/summit/2008/summit.html>

OTHER ADS

Timmins Adventist Church Is Looking for the Following Members:

Baribeau Marc - Bond Gilles - Boudreau Eve-Lynn - Marshall Renee - Mills Chuck - Nakogee Brian R. - Rochon Gladys.

If you have any helpful information about any of the above members, please contact Pastor Didier Fourny at dfourny@adventistontario.org; 613-937-3124 or Elder Will Marcoux at timminselder@adventistontario.org; 705-272-2116.

***Please send articles in plain text (no graphics or photos) to
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