



Ontario Conference News

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

February 11, 2009

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NEWS

End to Renting of Adventist Churches to Private Schools

February 12, 2009 Oshawa, Ontario...OCN

The end is in sight for private schools in Adventist church basements. The decision to prohibit the renting of Adventist church buildings to “non-conference operated schools” was taken by the Ontario Conference Board of Directors at its monthly meeting on July 27, 2008.

Churches were informed of the decision through a letter to all pastors, dated February 2, 2009, six months after the action was taken. The apparent delay to pastors seems to have been an oversight although information had been sent to treasurers shortly after July 27.

The July 27 decision quickly followed the destruction by fire of Peel Adventist School in Brampton on July 4, 2008.

Conference president, Elder Derrick Nichols, explained that the Board’s decision was not necessarily a popular one but was taken because the renting of Adventist facilities to non-Adventist schools flies in the face of the education mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario. “To run a non-Seventh-day Adventist school in our churches is non-productive in terms of our educational system,” he said.

The decision also took into consideration the apparent increase in applications by private schools to rent church premises.

Presently, four Adventist churches rent their basements to private schools.

Halsey Peat

Thoughts on Origins Continue to Evolve 200 Years after Darwin

February 11, 2009 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, Megan Brauner/ANN

For some Christians, this year's bicentennial celebration of the birth of Charles Darwin honours his contributions to science and education. For others, the anniversary might seem a reminder that his theories apparently threaten the Biblical account of creation.

The famous British scientist and author of "The Origin of Species," Darwin, is credited with pioneering the theory of evolution through natural selection.

Born February 12, 1809 in Shrewsbury, England, Darwin initially studied theology before taking his famous voyage on the H.M.S. Beagle. During the 5-year journey, Darwin's observations and data started the train of thought that eventually resulted in "The Origin of Species."

The concepts of the origin of life that grew out of Darwin's writings suggested that science is at odds with religion, said Kwebena Donkor, associate director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Biblical Research Institute.

"Sometimes people think evolutionism is all science and creationism is all faith, but there is no such thing," Donkor said. "Evolutionism is not a physical science where you ... observe data and you come up with a hypothesis to explain what you have observed."

In fact, says Donkor, evolutionism is no more a physical science than theological science.

"What you're really involved with is a historical science," Donkor said. "You are conjecturing and making assumptions, hoping that your explanation of the artefact you are looking at might be the right one."

Earl Aagaard, biology professor at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, United States, also feels the source of contention lies in historical speculation.

"Christians generally, and Adventists in particular, have very little difficulty with the empirical findings of science," Aagaard said. "The disputes between theists and non-theists, as well as among the non-theists, break out in the historical side of things -- in archaeology, palaeontology, geology, etc. -- where the procedure is to collect data and then tell a story to explain it."

Despite igniting turmoil between creationists and evolutionists, Darwin's contributions to the advancement of science are considerable, Aagaard said.

"The concept of micro-evolution grew out of Darwin's writings and has eliminated the formerly widespread -- and almost surely mistaken -- Christian view that species were fixed all the way back to Creation," he said.

And, whatever his intentions, Darwin's discoveries have helped affirm the Christian's faith in God's ability to care for his creation, Aagaard said.

"Natural selection, combined with the later discoveries in the field of genetics, has made it plain how God designed the various populations of plant and animal life to change over time as conditions on this earth changed," Aagaard said. "If populations were unable to 'evolve' in response to the climate becoming dryer, or colder, or any other of the changes that have occurred, then total extinction would be the probable outcome."

The Adventist Church in Britain is airing "Darwin Revisited," a program featuring four

scientists discussing their Christian faith and how it relates to science, reason and the theory of evolution. For show times, visit Hope Channel UK. The British church Web site also features more information about Christian perspectives on origins.

Ultimately in the creation versus evolution debate, a Christian must accept that it's not possible to have all the answers, Donkor said.

"I have come to the conclusion that I do not have to be able to explain everything to be a Christian. I feel I'm in a better camp with inspiration than just following human conjectures."

COMING EVENTS

On Your Mark Ministries' Fourth Season

On Your Mark Ministries has begun the 4th season of its Junior Basketball League! Come out and support our young people as they participate in positive, Christ-centered recreation! The games are always electrifying, the atmosphere is encouraging and the players are extremely talented. Whether you're a basketball fan or not, you can't help but get caught up in the excitement!

There are currently 10 church teams in the league with youth ages 13-17. Games are held every Saturday night from January until the end of April at Crawford Adventist Academy and other GTA locations. For more information about the ministry or the league, visit www.oym.ca or join the facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=129473220440&ref=ts>

February 15

"Jesus Is Mine in 2009" Sunday Night Evangelistic Meetings at Shiloh

Sunday night evangelism at Shiloh! Every Sunday, starting at 6:30 p.m. with a mini concert and ending by 8:30 pm. Come bring a friend and be blessed. Each week a new speaker will be featured.

Venue: Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1090 Bellamy Road N. Scarborough, Ont. (Bellamy & Ellesmere)

February 14

Personal Ministries Day

Ajax Adventist Community Church kicks off the year of evangelism with Personal Ministries Day on February 14, 2009. Guest Speaker - Pastor Eustace Williams. Come join us for a service of inspiration and motivation as we prepare to spread God's word to the community.

February 14

Single Mixer at Agape Temple

The Singles Ministry at the Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church will be holding its Singles Mixer on Saturday February 14, 2009 at 6:00 pm. This event will take place on the church grounds at 1999 Fairport Rd, Pickering, Ontario and is open to singles of all ages across the GTA. The program will include musical performances from groups such as Refined Praise Ministries, special activities, delicious food, and the opportunity to mix, mingle and make new friends. There is no cost, just bring another single along with you. For more information, contact 416-888-7433 or agape@adventistontario.org

Starting February 14

Bible Club Meetings at IIWF

Are you interested in developing faith in God, strengthening families, learning about fitness and managing your finances? Then come join our Bible Club at the It Is Written Seventh-day Adventist Church, commencing February 14, 2009, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and each Saturday thereafter. Come bring a friend and be blessed.

Venue: It Is Written Fellowship Adventist Church, 233 Westview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, 416-288-0352.

February 14

Valentine Banquet at Latter Rain Church

Latter Rain Seventh-day Adventist Church presents our 2009 Valentine Gala and Banquet, featuring talented entertainers, good food, fellowship, gate prizes and other treats. This fund-raising event will be at our church site: 7 Elinor Ave, Scarborough, on Lawrence Avenue East, 3 blocks west of Warden Avenue. Saturday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$40 and children at the door for \$12.

For tickets, contact any church member or Rudolf Lewis at (905) 837-0159. Proceeds are in aid of our church-building fund. See you there!

February 15

Free Outreach Training

Women's Ministries teams and all those interested in ministering to women ~ Come to a **FREE! outreach training** session on February 15, 2009, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Willowdale Adventist Church youth chapel.

Featuring writer, Keturah Leonforde, and art teacher, Dawn-Angela Seeley, with a new program, *Discovering the Unique You*. **Training and demos** for spa, garden and chocolate parties and leading a fun, small group Bible study.

Get tips on how to lead a group discussion; stretch your ministry budget; do ministry in women's shelters and teen pregnancy centers.

Sponsored by Ontario Conference Women's Ministries.

Soup and salad lunch provided. Don't miss it!

February 21

"Eat These!" Healthy Lifestyle Vespers at Willowdale

Did you know that eating more greens will help to heal your allergies, give you clear skin and stronger fingernails, and help to get rid of your dandruff? Join us for **"Eat These!"**, another healthy lifestyle Vesper program at Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sabbath, February 21, at 5:30 p.m. Registered Dietitian, Beverley Edwards-Miller, will amaze you with why you should be eating -- amongst other yummy things -- more greens, more breakfast, and more fibre! Come, and bring friends! Willowdale Church is easily accessed by car or TTC and is located at 535 Finch Avenue West, just west of the Finch / Bathurst intersection, beside Branson Hospital.

February 27 – 28

Fourth Annual Multicultural Weekend

The Fourth Annual Multicultural Weekend at Agape Temple Church is an opportunity for everyone to experience different cultures in two days with songs and praise.

Full of activities and music:

Musical vibes and choreographic sketches, critical insights about different cultures, fashion show (Feb 28 at 7:00 PM).

Reception (Taste of the Caribbean) after the fashion show games
Ps: Don't forget your flags; for more Info: 416-888-7433

March 5-7

Rwanda and Beyond—ADRA Canada's World Focus Weekend

If you've seen "Hotel Rwanda" or "Shake Hands With the Devil", you won't want to miss this very special event! Featuring presentations by Lt. Gen. (Ret) Roméo Dallaire, Commander of UN Forces in Rwanda and Carl Wilkens, former ADRA Rwanda director.

For further information call 1-888-274-2372 or visit www.rhwandaandbeyond.com

March 28

Young Men & Young Women's Conference at Canada Christian College, Toronto

Teens and young adults ~ Mark your calendars! Join us at Canada Christian College on March 28, 2009 for the '**Live Feed' Young Men Young Women's Conference**. Do you use Facebook, iPod, MSN or Xbox? Do you take stock of the various forms of media in your life and how they affect your health, your relationships and your time with God? Enjoy a great selection of speakers including Matthew Gamble, Pastor Andre Anderson, Pastor Patrick Jacque and many more. Those wanting to take Intro to videography & editing by Doug Bruce & Nick Velinov, bring your equipment. Event free – bring sack lunch or register with Plusline.org for the \$13 US meal after next week. For more info, call 905-571-1022 ext. 203 or 204

April 4

Eastern Ontario Women's Conference in Ottawa

Save the date! On April 4, 2009, women are invited to attend a one-day **Eastern Ontario Women's Conference**. Ladies, if you need inspiration to rise above life's challenges, this conference is for you! "Forget those things which are behind and reach forth unto those things which are before" Phil 3:13-16. Contact Women's Ministries for more information or keep reading for further details.

April 17-19

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

REGISTRATION OPEN! Couples, rediscover your love and commitment at 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". Join them at beautiful Deerhurst Resort, nestled in 800 nature-rich acres on Peninsula Lake. Visit www.adventistontario.org/family for a brochure. To register, call PlusLine at 1-800-732-7587 or visit www.plusline.org/events.php. For more information, call Family Ministries at 905-571-1022 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

Singles Conference at Canada Christian College, Toronto

Singles! Come to Canada Christian College on April 25 for the one-day **2009 Singles Conference**. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN with PlusLine. To register, visit www.plusline.org/events.php or call 1-800-732-7587.

May 21-24

55th ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Toronto Junior Academy & Crawford Adventist Academy

The Toronto Junior Academy/Crawford Adventist Academy invites you to the 55th Alumni Homecoming Weekend Celebration. Thursday May 21 to Sunday May 24, 2009

Celebrating the honored classes: 1999, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959
For more detailed information please visit: www.tadsb.com and click on the alumni link

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

Other Advertisements

GTAACSF Leadership Workshop

Mark the date! The GTA Adventist Community Services Federation will be holding a leadership workshop on February 15, 2009. Halsey Peat, director of Communication and Public Affairs & Religious Liberty at the Ontario Conference will be facilitating the workshop. This workshop will give new and existing church leaders the skills they need to be effective in their ministry efforts. You need to attend this workshop!

Date: February 15, 2009 (The time will follow shortly)

Location: Being Finalized.

Email: Vaughn at vsberkeley@yahoo.com or Joan at dayzg@rogers.com to reserve your space.

College Park Church Events

May exciting events are planned at College Park Church. For information on upcoming events and news from College Park Church, visit www.collegeparkchurch.ca or contact communications@collegeparkchurch.ca

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

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OCN is a publication of the Communications Department of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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Advertisements Policy:

Accepted advertisements will be church events only. No personal or commercial advertisements. Plain text only. Events are included as a service and not as an obligation. OCN reserves the right to exclude any advertisements of events.

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