



Ontario Conference News

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

March 6, 2009

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NEWS

Church Prepares for Maranatha 2009 amid Recession Concerns

March 5, 2009, Ohsawa, Ontario...OCN

With just a week before Maranatha 2009, the premier church officer training event in the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, begins on March 13. There are signs that the worldwide recession could be affecting the church.

Earlier today, Pastor Eustace Williams, Maranatha coordinator, reported that anticipated numbers were significantly down on last year. He said that up until yesterday, only 250 persons had registered, compared to nearly 500 last year. Clearly concerned that there would not be a significant number of people registering before tonight's deadline he had decided to extend registration until Monday.

Williams stated that he was fairly convinced that the recession was a major factor for the low number of registrants.

"We have one of the best line-up of speakers and presenters in recent years," said Williams, "and the venue is just superb. The glowing response we had about the venue last year was overwhelming, so we know that the BMO building is the perfect location for us."

He acknowledged that a number of members across the province have indicated their desire to attend but were concerned about their financial ability.

"It appears that the recession is affecting our members far more than we realized," he said.

In previous years, a number of church boards assisted their officers but even this seem to have been restricted this year.

Given the importance of Maranatha for the training it provides to local church leaders, conference leaders, pastors and elders will promote it this coming Sabbath. Churches are being asked to give serious consideration to providing financial assistance to their officers who desire to attend.

Williams is optimistic that a significant number of members will take advantage of the extended deadline and register by Monday, March 9, and experience one of the best Maranatha in recent years.

Halsey Peat

[Newreleasetuesday.com, in Partnership with Integrity Music, Launches First Christian Music App for Iphone and Ipod Touch](#)

March 2009 - NewReleaseTuesday.com (NRT), a Christian music, social and entertainment mega-site and part of the FrontGate Media group, continues to innovate by announcing the first Christian music application for Apple's popular iPhone and iPod Touch.

Dubbed "NRT Mobile," the application is available as a free download through Apple's iTunes Store. It brings the largest and most up-to-date Christian music and entertainment database directly to the iPhone and iPod Touch, giving fans instant access to the latest information on their favorite Christian artists and music without being tethered to a computer.

"This is a huge jump forward for Christian music," states NRT founder, Kevin McNeese. "We've created a free mobile resource that takes advantage of the advanced and interactive capabilities of the user interface for the iPhone and iPod Touch. NRT Mobile provides access to a database that is actively managed by over 14,000 Christian music fans, containing thousands of artists, albums and tens of thousands of song lyrics." NRT Mobile also indexes over 10,000 album reviews written by NRT staff and members. Users will also have mobile access to the site's robust new release schedule promoting new releases each week, upcoming releases and archived releases dating back to the early 1970's.

A partnership with Integrity Music calls for exclusive ads throughout NRT Mobile highlighting current projects and messages and various national awareness campaigns. "NRT Mobile aligns perfectly with Integrity Music's vision to help people worldwide experience the manifest presence of God. One of NRT's main objectives is to introduce people to music that changes lives and NRT Mobile will be a true extension of that vision for both companies," explains McNeese.

Future development of the application will include integration with NRT's Christian music video database and the inclusion of exclusive content from NRT including PodCasts, artists interviews weekly devotionals, and NRTeam member profiles, providing a competitive Christian alternative to popular applications from Facebook and MySpace. "The potential is limitless," says McNeese, "and our focus will be to deliver one of the most extensive applications for the iPhone. We will continue to build from the launch's solid foundation and will focus solely on delivering Godly content for the Christian music audience. It's certainly exciting to be involved in this project."

Source: Religion Press Release Service (RPRS)

In Guatemala, Adventists Mourn Murdered Pastor

March 4, 2009, Guatemala City, Guatemala Libna Stevens/ANN

Erick Cerritos, 33, a native of Guatemala, was travelling in his car with his family when he was intercepted by another car and shot several times.

Cerritos, who had spent more than a decade serving as a minister in the neighbouring country of Honduras, is the latest victim in a string of escalating violence the church in Guatemala has experienced.

"This is a terrible tragedy brought out by the unstoppable violence here in Guatemala hitting our Adventist family these last few months," said Juan Lopez, Communication director for the Adventist Church in Central Guatemala.

Investigators believe the incident might have been a case of mistaken identity, Lopez said.

He reports that more than 120 Adventists have been affected by violence since the beginning of 2008.

"There have been 12 church members murdered, 100 extortions and 10 kidnappings by gang members and drug traffickers throughout the country," he said.

Lopez explained that the Mexican government has recently intensified its fight against drug trafficking. Many cartels have crossed the southern border into Guatemala and brought their operations and violence with them.

Church leaders and members gathered for a memorial service in Guatemala City the day after the murder. Cerritos's body was later transported to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where hundreds gathered on Saturday, February 28 for a special service.

"We are still in shock in Honduras," said Walter Ciguena, Communication director for the church's Mid-Central American region, headquartered in Honduras.

"This has hit our church very hard," said Ciguena, who explained that in the more than 10 years he has served in Honduras nothing like this has ever hit the church so hard.

More than 800 people crowded the Comayagua Adventist Church in Tegucigalpa during a Sabbath morning memorial service for the late pastor. More people followed the radio broadcast of the program. Cerritos was remembered for his dedicated pastoral leadership in the districts of Rio Grande, La Hacienda and La Era in Honduras.

Winston Simpson, Ministerial Association secretary for the church in Mid-Central America, spoke of the great loss to his pastoral team and offered words of hope to those mourning.

"We are saddened for losing Pastor Cerritos," said Simpson. "We must continue in faith in finishing the work God has called us to do."

Cerritos pursued his theology degree from the Adventist University in Costa Rica and obtained a master's degree in pastoral ministry from the Inter-American Theological Seminary in 2007. He is survived by his wife and three-year-old daughter.

Meanwhile, leaders in Guatemala continue to be concerned with the safety of their members. Just a day after the memorial, a pastor who had finished preaching was violently

assaulted and treated for a cut to his head, requiring ten stitches.

Lopez said that churches in Guatemala are planning to organize a nationwide march against violence in the coming weeks.

-Juan Lopez contributed to this story

RESOURCES

■ **Hope TV Will Be Partnering with DIRECTV** — Soon a special 800-number will be made available for HopeTV viewers to sign up for DirecTV.

■ **Seeds 09 Features a House Church Summit** — The House Church Summit is designed for anyone – member, pastor or conference administrator — who is part of a house church, wants to learn how to plant one, is interested in developing house churches within the Adventist Church structure, or has concerns about the house church concept.

Presenters include Bob Logan, internationally recognized authority on church planting; Milton Adams, Simple Church; Bill Levin, Green House; Michael Cauley, Florida Conference; and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference. SEEDS 09 is June 10-13 at Andrews University.

Contact: www.nadei.org to register. Questions? Call 800-255-7568.

■ **The King's Heralds' CDs** and individual songs are available online for downloading, and more are being added all the time.

Contact: www.theheralds.org to see what is currently available.

■ **The E. E. Cleveland Exhibit Is an Ongoing Exhibit** of the James White Library at Andrews University. E. E. Cleveland, one of our leading evangelists, has brought thousands of souls to Christ. He has had a stellar career as a preacher, teacher and administrator around the world. He has preached on six continents, served 23 years as the associate editor of Ministry magazine, written 15 books, and was the first African-American man elected to a departmental position at the General Conference.

In 2007 Elder Cleveland donated his personal papers and memorabilia to the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research. Be sure to check it out on your next visit to Andrews University.

■ **Spiritual Content Items for Adventist Websites** — ScripShot is a paired photograph and Bible text that is refreshed by RSS technology 2-3 times per week that can be used as a devotional resource.

Contact: <http://www.creativeministry.org/article.php?id=578>.

PodCasts of the Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School lesson is the weekly content feed that links a story in the news with the theme and Bible texts of the adult Sabbath school quarterly. PodCast is downloadable to a computer, cell phone, iPod or MP3 player.

Contact: www.creativeministry.org/podcastlist.php

COMING EVENTS

March 6

Register for Maranatha Today

Deadline extended to Monday 9. You may register by calling Juvey Puranen at 905-571-1022 ext. 111.

Maranatha will take place at the BMO building in Toronto, March 13 & 14.

March 6

Back to the Basics

Presented by the FAY Metro East. This is an opportunity to praise, prayer, study and worship our Creator. Friday, March 6, 2009, program starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Smyrna Church, meeting at the Parkwoods United Church, 85 Parkwoods Village Dr Don Mills, Ontario.

March 7

African Heritage Day

Everyone is cordially invited to the Toronto Central Church at 156-162 Bentworth Avenue this Sabbath, March 07, 2009, to hear the dynamic Pastor/Evangelist Sednak Yankson from Ghana, West Africa, preach on topics like "the Gospel in African Symbols", "Red and Yellow, Black and White, All Are Precious in His Sight", "Did God Curse Black People", "Unshackled", "the Limba Enigma".

Pastor Yankson is currently pastoring in the North Eastern Conference in Brooklyn and is a well sought after presenter and preacher on issues relating to black heritage. Pastor Yankson's new book, "Africa's Roots in God," will be on sale.

March 7

Bethel Gospel Concert for Education Investment

The Education Department of Bethel Adventist Church will be hosting a concert, "Education on Track" on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from this concert will start an Education Investment for young people in the community to help them stay on track with their academics. Young people will be chosen for their initiative and commitment. Come and enjoy excellent gospel singing performed by some favourite artistes such as: Wings of Love, The Chitans, Kathy Ann Charles, Divine Praise, The Simpsons and others. Come and donate \$15 or more to this education investment. There will also be a silent art auction. This is an event you do not want to miss.

Address: 511 Horner Avenue, (Browns Line and Horner)

March 15

Adventurer Leaders

Calling all Adventurer leaders, both old and new, to a youth ministry training session on March 15, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Crawford Adventist Academy. Please wear your "A" type uniform. Those leaders who are not yet Master Guides are especially invited to attend. We would be looking at certain aspects of crafts. Pathfinder leaders who wish to introduce craft in their clubs are free to attend. Admission is free. Bring along your sack lunch.

March 15 - 21

Children's Evangelistic Series

The children of the Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church invite you to attend their annual Children's Evangelistic Series to be held Sunday, March 15, to Sabbath, March 21. Our theme will be "Jesus Is the Way". Meetings will be held Sunday, Wednesday, Friday at 7:15 p.m. and all day

on Sabbath (Children's Day). Tuesday, March 17, will be "Play day Tuesday" from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. for children of all ages. This is a can't-miss event! See you there!
Toronto Central is located at 156-162 Bentworth Avenue (Dufferin/Bentworth). For more information, please call 416-784-0261.

March 15 & May 10
Youth Leadership Training

To be held at Willowdale Church from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following dates:
March 15: Topics ~ (1) Ministry to Children and Youth with Disabilities and (2) Youth Empowerment.
May 10 topics ~ (1) Youth Ministry Evangelism Plans and (2) Ministry to Students in Preparing for University.

March 16-20
Operation Uplift

The Youth Department of the Ontario Conference is conducting March Break Day Camp at Crawford Adventist Academy from March 16-20, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be a time of fun and learning. Activities would include morning devotions, basketball, drilling and marching, snow tubing, basic sewing and dress making, steel pan playing, voice lessons, digital photography, sign language, Christian drama.

Application forms are obtainable from your local church pathfinder director and from the conference website, www.adventistontario.org, under Pathfinders. There is an application fee of \$50 (fifty dollars). Campers are asked to bring along their lunch. Snacks will be served.

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 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. 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 keynote speaker, Matthew Gamble, from Massachusetts, 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. This is a free event, an offering will be taken - bring a sack lunch and enjoy the day. For more info, call 905-571-1022 ext. 215 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 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 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

May 23

Belleville's 40th Anniversary

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

Other Advertisements

TADSB

The **TADSB** Nominating Committee is looking for interested applicants for Chairperson and Vice-Chair for the TADSB Board. Applicants should send their resume to Crawford Adventist Academy, attention Norman Brown, or nbrown@adventistontario.org by March 16, 2009.

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

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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.

**E-mail: OCN@adventistontario.org
Website: www.AdventistOntario.org**

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