



Ontario Conference News

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

November 27, 2009

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[Young Delegate Program in Inter-America Grooms Adventists under 30 for Church Work](#)

24 Nov 2009, Miami, Florida, United States, Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Lelis Viera has a message for Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders: "Put Us to Work."

The twenty-year-old Puerto Rican student at Antillean Adventist University was among three young delegates who attended the church's Inter-American regional year-end meetings in Miami this month and hope opportunities to shape the church's future don't end there.

Since 2006, three of the church's administrative regions in Inter-America have each selected a local young Adventist to help represent his or her fellow church members at annual regional business meetings. As temporary full members of the region's Executive Committee, they're invited to participate in discussions and vote on agenda items.

Viera and her fellow young delegates -- Mynor Batz of Guatemala and Amoy Johnson of Jamaica -- say that the program is helping dispel long held concerns that the under-thirty crowd may not be equipped or committed enough to handle leadership positions within the church.

The three, who spent November 1 to 4 observing church decision-making, were at first unsure of their role, but found the process interesting and hope the program ushers in a more ongoing means of including young adults in church leadership.

"I feel that lately the church is making more room for us," Batz, whose Spanish was translated by Viera, said during the meetings. "I saw more young pastors and church leaders here this week than I expected to. It's good to see the church is starting to integrate us."

While Batz, 29, was quick to recognize recent progress, he said more work lies on the horizon. "It's still difficult. Often when we're young, church leaders don't always trust us. We might be allowed to 'work' for the church, but we rarely get to make decisions. Usually, we're just doing what older people have decided we should do," he said.

The young delegate program in Inter-America is an exception; Batz said he hopes that it catches on in other church regions worldwide.

Bernardo Rodriguez, Youth Ministries director for Inter-America, said the program works well in the region largely due to its young church membership makeup -- some 60 percent of Adventists there are between the ages of 16 and 35.

"I would like to see more young people in Inter-America in more positions of leadership," Rodriguez said. "Bringing some here each year as part of the Executive Committee sends a message to church administration -- that the young people of Inter-America should have a vote and a voice, one that needs to be heard at the local level, and at this level."

In at least three Inter-American countries -- Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela -- young people are now welcomed to serve as youth elders. "That didn't really happen before we launched this young delegate program," Rodriguez said.

While young delegates are often "shy and unsure" at first, once they're encouraged to participate, they do so enthusiastically, he added.

"I think some of the delegates have been surprised that we've talked. I think they thought we would just sit there," said Viera, who admits she initially felt overwhelmed. "We sort of stand out," she added, laughing and gesturing toward a room largely full of dark suited, middle-aged church officials.

Batz said he wasn't sure how much participation was expected of young delegates, but decided to come prepared with a written statement addressing what he sees as concerns for young Adventists in Guatemala.

"Coming here, I felt like I had the responsibility to say something on their behalf. I was just waiting for the right moment," he said.

Each of the young delegates commented during an agenda item about Youth Ministries events in Inter-America, including the world church's Follow the Bible initiative and an upcoming Bible Bowl competition, in which teams of young Adventists compete to answer questions based on Bible stories. When Batz, who spoke last, began reading his statement, an officiating delegate reminded him not to stray off topic. Executive Committee delegates are required to speak only on agenda items currently being discussed to ensure all topics are covered during the meetings.

During an afternoon break, Batz finished sharing his thoughts with Viera and Johnson.

He applauded the Youth Ministries programs listed in the agenda, but worried they

were only isolated events. He also wondered why some older church members speak of young people as the church's future leaders, yet are reluctant to let them "practice" for the job.

"How can we be good leaders if we don't have experience?" he says.

Viera agreed, adding that she thinks young professionals in the church still remain a largely untapped resource. "We have so many young, trained professionals who are ready to help," she says. "We have a lot of ideas, and when we get excited about something, we're going to give it our best."

One problem, Johnson, 21, said, might be that "Youth Ministries" usually involves activities separate from main church events. What began as an admirable effort to carve out space for young people in the church might now be limiting their sphere of influence, she says.

"Right," Viera said, "Because in the end, we're all part of the same church. It's not just kids, or young people, or women. We have to find a way to work together."

Offering a mentorship program similar to the region's young delegate program, but ongoing, might be one solution, Johnson suggested. "In Jamaica, you have the Minister of Education, and you have a junior minister who shadows the minister and learns the job."

This would solve a problem many young adults seeking positions in church work face, Viera said -- lack of experience. "Even coming here, I've felt lost a lot of the time. We don't know the background on most of what's being discussed, and while I've been grateful to participate, I can't say I've been really impactful -- is that a word?"

"In Jamaica it is," Johnson said. The young delegates, who spent most of the week together, bonded not only over their shared interest in future full-time church work, but also impromptu lessons in Spanish and English.

Later in the week, the group toured the nearby Inter-American regional headquarters, where they met local church administrators.

Viera said she finds the region's first woman associate secretary, Faye A. Reid, inspiring. "People like her, and Ella Simmons [the church's first woman general vice president], are making room for young women in particular to work for the church. It's exciting."

Source: Adventist News Network

Adventist Student Missionary Murdered in Yap, Micronesia

19 Nov 2009, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, Ansel Oliver/ANN

A Seventh-day Adventist student missionary who was teaching at the Adventist school on the Pacific island of Yap was found dead on Wednesday, the victim of an apparent homicide off the school's campus, church leaders said.

Kirsten Elisabeth Wolcott, originally from Laneview, Virginia, in the United States, had reportedly gone jogging alone before morning classes and did not return, church

leaders said. Her body was later found in a wooded area with stab wounds.

Police have made an arrest in connection with Wolcott's death, said Louis Torres, president of the church's Guam-Micronesia Mission. He and other church leaders from the church's regional administrative headquarters took the one-hour commercial flight from Guam to Yap Wednesday evening to assess the tragedy affecting the school and provide grief support for other teachers.

"This is a difficult situation for the school, the mission and the Island of Yap," Torres said. "The police officer said nothing like this has ever taken place in the past to a visitor."

Classes are suspended for now and a memorial service was held Friday for Wolcott, who taught second grade.

"This is devastating news, not only for the family but for the school and the Adventist Church," said Homer Trecartin, associate secretary for the Adventist world church and director of Adventist Volunteer Service.

"Throughout the history of the church, many have made the sacrifice to go serve and some have paid with their lives," Trecartin said. "Our prayer is that God will raise other people to finish the work that Kirsten and others started."

Torres reported that women from the community are now taking turns staying overnight at the apartment of the female teachers to help them feel safe. "The island feels a great loss," Torres said. "The parents of the children are enraged and heartbroken."

Wolcott, 20, had taken a year off of school at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, where she was a junior education major. She graduated from Richmond Academy in 2007 with high academic honours and was on Southern University's distinguished dean's list.

She was also known for her love of music and running, a university media release said. Wolcott played the harp and piano and sang in Bel Canto, the university's women's chorus. She won several 5k runs, placed third among women in the Toys for Tots 10k Race in Newport News, Virginia, and competed in the Kinetic Sprint Triathlon in Spotsylvania.

Wolcott had previously volunteered on week-long mission trips to Alaska and the Galapagos Islands, said Jose Rojas, the church's North American Volunteer Ministries director, citing her student missionary application.

Wolcott wrote in her application that she wanted to be a student missionary to challenge her walk with God by pushing herself to do something more than she had ever done before.

"My goal is to be the teacher that inspires them academically, pushes them spiritually, and comforts them emotionally," she wrote.

According to Ingrid Skantz, director of marketing and university relations at Southern, an on-campus memorial service for Kirsten will be held the week after Thanksgiving break. Details about the service will be announced, she said. The school is also offering counselling to its students.

"At a painful time such as this, we remember in prayer Kirsten's parents, friends,

fellow student missionaries, and all on our campus who knew and loved her well," Skantz said in a statement.

Yap SDA School opened in 1987 as an elementary school and subsequently expanded to a kindergarten through 12th-grade school. The school is highly rated on the island and is operated mostly by Adventist college students volunteering as teachers. About ten student missionaries are serving this year in Yap, Trecartin said. Teachers live in apartments on campus.

Yap, about 16 miles long and four miles wide, is one of four island states of the nation of Micronesia, a U.S. protectorate.

The Adventist Church currently has more than 780 student missionaries serving around the world, Trecartin said.

Source: Adventist News Network

Adventist Community Services Federation (Southern Ontario Region) Chooses New President

Hamilton, Ontario... OCN

On November 21, Manuel Guzman, from Guelph, has been elected by the delegates of the Adventist Community Services (Southern Ontario Region) to serve as its new president.

The election took place at the Annual General Meeting of the federation which was held at Hamilton East Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Guest speaker, Pastor Theodore Sargeant, Ontario Conference Community Services director, charged the delegates to become a repository of skills and support where local churches can obtain resources for their community services.

Executive officers for 2009 – 2011:

President: Bro. Manuel Guzman (Guelph)

Vice President: Bro. Dave Cherkewski (Living Word)

Treasurer / Secretary: Sis. Janice Rose (Hamilton East)

Asst. Treasurer /Secretary: Sis. Janice Harris (Hamilton East)

Public Relations Officer: Sis. Patricia Williams (Hamilton East)

Asst. Public Relations Officer: Sis. Shawdie Harris (Hamilton East).

Guzman, replaces Patrick Rose, who has served with great distinction as president of the federation for many years. Pastor Sargeant also commended the previous executive officers for their diligent and selfless services.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 21-28

1Way2Life

Join us for 1Way2Life sponsored by the Youth Ministries Department of Mount Zion Filipino Church, November 21-28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. nightly at the Mount Zion Filipino Church Fellowship Hall, 140 St. Regis Crescent, Downsview, ON M3J 1Y8. Reconnect with the One who longs to be your best Friend in a comfortable, cafe-style setting. We

look forward to seeing you.

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Fri., Nov. 27 - Malcolm Douglas - Death

Sat., Nov. 28, 11:00 a.m. - Pastor Glenn De Silva - Justice

Sat., Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. - Beverly Regoso-Corpus - Hope

November 28

International Day at Hamilton East

Hamilton East Seventh-day Adventist Church will be having 'International Day' on Sabbath, November 28, 2009, starting at 9:15 a.m. Come out in your national costumes and enjoy our UMOJA. There will be a social after A.Y. - games, folk songs, drama and more.

November 28

"Good Cop, Bad Cop: The Value of High Fat Foods."

Health Vespers at Willowdale Church, November 28!! Yes, you do need fat in your daily diet! Yes, nuts and seeds are good for you! Please join us at Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church this Sabbath evening, November 28, at 5:00 pm for a very informative healthy lifestyle DVD presentation by Dr. Joel Furhman. The church is located at 535 Finch Avenue West, just west of the Finch & Bathurst intersection, beside Branson Hospital. Come, and bring friends!

December 2

"The Tale of Drowsy Shepherd" at CAAE

Crawford Adventist Academy East presents *The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd*.

Where: Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church

When: Wednesday, December 2, 2009; 7:00 pm

For more details, please call 905-839-0849

December 5

Latter Rain Music Day

Latter Rain Church will be having its Music Day on Sabbath, December 5. The day's program will be rich with drama and musical items. Come for the soul-stirring renditions of artistes and musicians from all over the GTA. Leave with a blessing.

December 6

Christmas brunch at Crawford Adventist Academy

Join us for Christmas brunch at Crawford Adventist Academy in aid of the music department mission trip to Barbados. Location, 531 Finch avenue west. Date, December 6, at 12 pm to 3 pm. This is a catered function with exceptional live entertainment. Cost is \$15 per person and \$10 per person for families of more than four. To reserve your tickets, please call Derrick Hall at 1-866-960-2125 ext 234 or dahall@rogers.com. Thanks you very much.

Available Venue for Events for Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs

Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs, Northview Heights Secondary School, 550 Finch Avenue West, is available for events on the following dates. These are all Sundays. The available time is strictly from 1 pm to 5 pm. The cost per Sunday is \$150.00. Payment must be in at Ontario Conference before confirmation of booking. To cancel,

7 days notice is required. To book, contact Pastor Edwin Martin at the conference office: 905-571-1022 ext. 223 or email emartin@adventistontario.org.

2010: January 17, January 31, February 21, March 14, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, August 1, August 8, August 15, August 22, August 29, September 5, September 12, September 26, October 24, October 31, November 28.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CYSA Seeking a Treasurer and Board Members

The Christian Youth Sports Academy (CYSA) is looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering some of their time to become a board member. We are presently seeking a treasurer. If you just have an interest in working with a board of members who are making an impact on the lives of young people, we look forward to hearing from you.

Please forward a copy of your resume` to sfkap@hotmail.com or mail it to the address listed in the link below. Please indicate in the subject line: CYSA New Position.

Interviews will be held on December 6, 2009.

Visit us at www.thecysa.ca

Piano for Sale

Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church has a new Baby Grand Piano for sale. If you would like to purchase it, please contact Pastor Samuel McKenzie at 416-294-3689, or leave a message on the church phone at 416-784-0261.

Looking for Members

Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking the following missing members: Shana Alexander, Barbara Archer, Claudine Beckford, Marie Bryan, Keisha Bussue, Deslyn Calliste, Marcia Charles, Ivan Charles, Mavis Crooks, Shaiann D'auvergne, Shane Davis, Corene Duncan, Jayne Dunn, Juliet Francis, Davantai Francis, Loide Fredrick, Roslyn Agard and Albert Henry.

If you have any information on these members, please write to

tcentralclerk@adventistontario.org

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

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