



## Ontario Conference News

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

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### NEWS

#### Ontario Conference Welcomes ECYC Under Its Umbrella

*January 24, 2013, Oshawa, Ontario...OCN*

Ontario Conference formally welcomed Eastern Canada Youth Conference (ECYC) under its umbrella today.

In a brief ceremony held at the headquarters of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Oshawa, conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, and ECYC president, George Cho, signed a document of recognition.

For the past three years, ECYC, an organisation of Seventh-day Adventist young adults, has worked independently of the organised church's youth department and the Federation of Adventist Youth (FAY). With the signing of the document, ECYC is now recognized by the Ontario Conference as a ministry operating within the mission and under the policies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario.

"We greatly value every effort made by church members to win people for God's kingdom," said Pastor Edwards shortly after the ceremony. "But we are especially encouraged when we see young adults filled with passion for evangelism. It speaks well for the future of God's church and serves as motivation for others to become involved in witnessing for Christ. However, we are most effective when we work together and are led by God's Spirit."

According to its website, ECYC has worked "to inspire and equip young people to become more active in the work of evangelism". ECYC leaders have held a yearly conference and worked with a number of churches to help train and mobilize young people. Most recently, in the autumn of 2012, they were involved in a mission trip led by Pastor Daniel Saugh to Manitoulin Island.

Also present at the signing ceremony was Dr. Daniel Linrud, conference executive

secretary, and ECYC vice president, Alexandra Yeboah.

### **In Brazil, Adventists Coordinate Blood Drive Following Nightclub Tragedy**

*Jan. 28, 2013 Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil...ASN/ANN staff*

Seventh-day Adventist young people in Brazil rallied this week to donate blood in the wake of one of the world's deadliest nightclub fires in more than a decade.

At least 230 partygoers died and more than 100 were injured on January 27 when a band's pyrotechnics display ignited ceiling insulation at a club in downtown Santa Maria, releasing flames and toxic smoke into the panicked crowd.

As victims flooded, local hospitals, medical staff urgently appealed to the Adventist-run Vida por Vidas ("Life for Lives") blood-donation organization in South America. The denomination is known for handling large-scale blood donation drives, especially in Brazil, where health officials estimate the project annually contributes 3.5 million bags of blood.

Blood donors gathered early Sunday at the Central Adventist Church in Santa Maria and immediately headed to the city's Blood Donation Center, said Vida por Vidas coordinator Adriano Luz.

Meanwhile, Adventist medical staff volunteered at local hospitals, among them Dr. Jocemara Fernandes, who received an emergency call to aid victims early Sunday morning.

"The scene of horror and despair I witnessed was unprecedented in my experience," Fernandes said. She has worked in a local emergency room for more than a decade.

Fernandes treated at least 15 victims between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. on Sunday. "Most people had problems related to smoke inhalation," she said.

Another young victim suffered second degree burns and difficulty breathing, Fernandes said. Most victims were under the age of 30.

"What we can do now is pray for the injured and the bereaved families that God will help them," she said.

Santa Maria Mayor Cezar Schirmer declared a 30-day mourning period, and local authorities continue to investigate the cause of the blaze.

Vida por Vidas was launched in 2006 and is overseen by young Adventists in South America.

*Source: Adventist News Network*

## **EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**February 9**

**Worship Leader Training**

A Worship Leader Training will be held at the Immanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church, 418 Drewry Avenue, Willowdale, on Sabbath, **February 9, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Pastor David Schwinghammer will be presenting. All church musicians, worship leaders, choir leaders, pastors, and elders are welcomed to attend this important training event.

### **February 9**

#### **Willowdale Youth and Young Adult Council Presents: “Guys N Girlz Nite Out”!**

Come out and engage in exciting discussions on topics relating to: peer pressure, relationships, sexuality and more. With special guest speaker, Fiana Andrews, panelist, food and social to follow! For Ages 15-30.... FREE!

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 9, at 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, 531 Finch Ave W. (Finch and Bathurst beside Branson Hospital) inside the Youth Chapel. (416) 636-2471. **BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND SPREAD THE WORD!**

### **February 10**

#### **OPMA Business Session**

**Ontario Prison Ministry Association of SDA** is having their business session on Sunday, February 10, 2013 - Time: 10:00 a.m.

Venue: Philadelphia Church, 65 Grand Marshall Dr., Scarborough, Ontario.

### **March 9 & 10**

#### **Health Promotions Weekend Gala Event with Dr. Thomas Jackson**

Seventeen year ago, Dr. Jackson, Tennessee, USA, initiated a “health wave” that sparked the work of health education and evangelism in many churches across the Toronto area. An internationally acclaimed speaker, Dr. Jackson speaks both scientifically and experientially after discovering the secrets of health which saved him from a 10-year battle with a crippling case of rheumatoid arthritis, a condition his doctors told him there was no medical cure for and that he would just have to live with it for the rest of his life. Inspired by divine wisdom, he began to apply God’s natural remedies and counsels on health to his own life and was freed from the devastating effects of arthritis. Although his condition kept him from pursuing his career as a professional basketball player, God had something better for him to do! He is the Co-director of MEET Ministry, Tennessee, along with his wife, LaVerne (PhD in Nutritional Science).

#### **Locations:**

March 9, 2013 – Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church (morning)

March 9, 2013 – Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church (4:30 – 6:30 PM)

March 10, 2013 – Health Promotions Banquet (3:00 – 6:00 PM)

Capitol Convention Centre, 6435 Dixie Rd, Mississauga

Sponsored by: Durham School of Health & Nutrition

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### **April 5 – 7**

#### **The First-ever Canada-wide Women’s Ministries Convention**

**Ladies!** Come to the first-ever Canada-wide Women's Ministries Convention at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls April 5-7, 2013. Carla Baker and members of the North American Division Advisory Committee will be there to train and mentor us as ministers for Christ. Enjoy the majestic falls and praise God for his handiwork, in His creation and in YOU! Register now! Registration closes February 7. Visit [www.AdventistOntario.org](http://www.AdventistOntario.org) and click on the event listing or call 905-571-1022 Ext. 204.

**April 5 - 7**

**Disaster Preparedness Training Phase I**

Guest presenters for this event will be Pastor Joseph Watts, Director of ACS DR National and Sherry Watts. Our local speakers are Pastor M. Edwards, Conference president and James Astleford from ADRA Canada. This will be held at Quality Hotel, Oshawa, ON. See Ontario Conference website, [www.adventistontario.org](http://www.adventistontario.org), for additional information or contact the ACS department.

**May 23-26**

**Crawford Adventist Academy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We are looking for all former TADSB Board members, TJA/CAA administrators, faculty, staff & chaplains! Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Alumni Weekend is on May 23-26, 2013 and we would love for you to be a part of it. Please contact Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, TADSB (416) 633-0090/toll free 866-960-2125 ext. 234 or [dhall@tadsb.com](mailto:dhall@tadsb.com) / Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248 or [jgamez@tadsb.com](mailto:jgamez@tadsb.com) to provide your current contact information.

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