



Seventh-day
Adventist® Church

ONTARIO CONFERENCE

Ontario Highlights

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PENTECOST AND BEYOND

The Fire Still Falls

Imagine we are in the upper room with Jesus.

The evening is still. Lamps flicker against the walls as the scent of bread and oil fills the air. We sit together, unsure of what's about to happen. Then Jesus rises. Without a word, He removes His outer robe, kneels before us, and begins to wash our feet. The water is cool; our hearts burn with awe. The Master—our Lord—takes the place of a servant. In this moment, we learn that leadership begins not with authority, but with love.

He breaks the bread, lifts the cup, and says, "This is My body... This is My blood." The weight of His words lingers in the air. We sense that everything is changing—that this meal is more than supper. It is a covenant sealed in sacrifice.

Later that night, we follow Him to Gethsemane. The moonlight glimmers through olive branches as He prays in agony. Sleep overtakes us while He wrestles alone. Then, suddenly, shouts—torches—betrayal. The peace of the garden is shattered. Jesus is arrested, condemned, and crucified. The One who served us so tenderly now hangs forsaken, yet faithful to the end.

The Sabbath comes, and we rest—grieving, confused, silent. Even in death, our Master keeps the Sabbath holy.

When the new week dawns, we return to the upper room—confused, fearful, grieving. The doors are locked. Then suddenly, He is here. Jesus stands among us, alive. "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." He breathes on us. "Receive the Holy Spirit." In that breath, courage returns. Hope rekindles. The mission begins.

Days later, after His ascension, we gather again. Men and women, young and old—Mary, His mother, among us. We pray together, united in purpose. Here, we realise that God's mission is for all. The Spirit's calling knows no boundaries.



Then Pentecost dawns. The room shakes with the sound of rushing wind. Fire descends—tongues of flame resting on each of us. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts, and fear is gone. Peter, once afraid, now preaches boldly. Thousands respond. The church is born—not through programs or plans, but through power from above.

Now, centuries later, we are once again in our own upper rooms—gathered in churches, homes, and digital spaces. The Spirit still moves. Pentecost is not a date on the calendar; it is a daily invitation to live with holy purpose.

Forgiveness and unity remain the true signs of the Spirit's presence. The fire still falls on hearts willing to let go of resentment and choose reconciliation. When we yield, renewal begins. When we forgive, the flames spread.

As we move into 2026, the call is clear: the world still needs to see the light of Jesus through us. Whether we serve in our neighbourhoods, online, or across nations, every act of love done in the Spirit's power matters.

The upper room was never meant to be a hiding place—it was a launching pad. The fire still falls. The mission continues. And it begins again with us.

■ **Pastor Edwin Martin**
Editor



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PENTECOST 2025 AND BEYOND

A Movement of Mission and Miracles in Ontario

SCAN FOR AUDIO



A wave of spiritual revival is rising across Ontario—and at its centre stands the Pentecost 2025 and Beyond campaign, a bold initiative of the North American Division (NAD) and the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This is more than a program. It is a movement—inspired by the Great Commission and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Its purpose is clear: to mobilize believers as agents of transformation, ignite a province-wide spiritual awakening, and leave a lasting impact through evangelism, discipleship, and community engagement.

A Vision Beyond a Year

When NAD launched Pentecost 2025 to engage churches and schools in intentional evangelism, the Ontario Conference not only embraced the initiative but expanded its scope—adding the phrase “& Beyond.”

This simple addition carries profound meaning: a culture shift. Pentecost 2025 & Beyond is more than a one-year campaign; it is a long-term mission to cultivate an evangelistic lifestyle that continues well into the future. It calls every believer to live out Christ’s great commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” —Matthew 28:19–20.

Through Pentecost 2025 & Beyond, the Ontario Conference envisions a church where sharing Christ becomes a continuous movement—a lifestyle of love, service, and witness that extends far beyond a date on the calendar.

A Conference on Mission

The Ontario Conference is home to 183 congregations—136 churches, 24 companies, and 23 groups. Each one is more than a building; it is a mission outpost, strategically positioned to reach communities with the gospel.

Supporting this vibrant network are nine Adventist schools, nurturing young minds and training future leaders for service. Yet, the heartbeat of Pentecost 2025 is not found in brick and mortar—it is found in people: the messengers, missionaries, ministers, and mentors who are carrying the vision forward

A Spirit of Unity and Urgency

Momentum is growing rapidly. Out of the 183 congregations, 171 have been approved to participate, and 160 have received funding to launch their evangelistic efforts. This level of involvement shows an extraordinary spirit of unity and a strong sense of urgency. Churches are stepping out in faith, embracing innovative strategies to reach their neighbourhoods, and proclaiming the everlasting gospel with courage and conviction.

Leadership support and member commitment have created fertile soil for revival and growth—proof that when God’s people unite under the Spirit’s power, amazing things happen.



Planning with Purpose

The movement began with intentional structure and strategy. At every level: departmental, administrative, and local, plans were prayerfully developed to ensure that evangelism was both effective and sustainable.

***“This is more than
a program—it is a
movement inspired by the
Great Commission.”***

The journey started in November 2024, when pastors across Ontario participated in specialized training sessions organized by the Ontario Conference to prepare for the Pentecost 2025 initiative. Building on that momentum, lay leaders gathered in March 2025 for hybrid training led by Pastor David Klindedinst at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church, with local congregations acting as downlink sites. Together, these experiences inspired and empowered participants to share Christ with renewed confidence, clarity, and compassion.

Backing this spiritual commitment was a tangible one: the Ontario Conference allocated \$1 million CAD toward Pentecost 2025 initiatives, enhancing the ability of churches to turn plans into action.

Faith in Action

As projects rolled out, pastors submitted strategic plans, and regional check-ins helped assess progress, share testimonies, and provide encouragement. Across the province, 171 churches, groups, and schools embraced the opportunity to participate in evangelistic outreach.

Financial support also came from NAD and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), amplifying the overall impact.

The results speak for themselves. To date, 752 baptisms and 139 professions of faith have been recorded, with additional baptism reports expected before the end of the year. Each baptism is a powerful story of transformation, renewed hope, and purpose. The impact of Prison Ministries led to 94 individuals being baptized in a single day, with over 30 more baptisms scheduled soon after. Currently, more than 100 people in Ontario jails and prisons have committed their lives to Christ.

These are not just statistics. They are glimpses of God's kingdom advancing—evidence that the Holy Spirit is moving through Ontario in extraordinary ways.

Ontario Conference Mission Statement:

To reach Ontario and the world with the distinctive, Christ-centred, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

“Each baptism represents a powerful story of transformation, renewed hope, and purpose.”

Additionally, one of the highlights of the 2025 Ontario Conference Camp Meeting was witnessing individuals baptized as a result of intentional Pentecost 2025 efforts. These joyful moments served as powerful reminders that when God's people unite with purpose and passion, heaven rejoices.

Pentecost 2025 & Beyond continues to reach communities often overlooked. The Ontario Conference has expanded its efforts among Indigenous peoples in Northwest Ontario, partnering with Adventist World Aviation (AWA) to provide clean water systems, non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other essentials. The Administrative Committee (ADCOM) approved special funds to support these humanitarian initiatives; reminding us that true evangelism goes beyond words, transforming lives through service.

Looking Ahead: The Vision for 2028

This revival is only the beginning. Pentecost 2025 is not a one-time event; it is a call to sustained mission. The vision for 2028 is bold and faith-filled:

- 28 new churches planted
- 10,000 new members welcomed
- 1,000 small groups established
- 150 pastors and Bible workers trained
- 11 regional leaders equipped for ministry

Fulfilling this vision will require every believer to see themselves as a vital part of God's great plan. Whether you are a seasoned leader or a new follower of Christ, your prayers, gifts, time, and testimony matter. Together, as one body united in mission, we can help shape the spiritual future of Ontario—and beyond.

The Call to Go Beyond

Pentecost 2025 and Beyond is more than just a campaign. It is a divine call—an invitation to be part of something eternal: a movement of mission and miracles. The time is now. The Spirit is moving across Ontario, calling each of us to rise, reach out, and respond.

So, will you answer the call?

Be a messenger of hope, a missionary of love, a minister of grace, and a mentor of truth.

Together, we can fulfill the mission and witness a harvest like never before.

Let us go forward—united, empowered, and unstoppable.



■ **Pastor Sereivudh Ly, DMin**
Director,
Church Planting, Revitalization,
and Evangelism Department



"The time is now. The Spirit is moving across Ontario."



TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER

Pastor Bibulović and Mount Zion Lead a Spirit-Filled Pentecost 2025 Series

In a world marked by uncertainty, Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church in Downsview, ON, stepped forward with a message of hope, unity, and renewal through its Pentecost 2025 initiative. From October 17 to 25, the church hosted Pentecost 2025: Truth for Today, Hope for Tomorrow, a nine-part evangelistic series that became a transformative journey for both members and guests.

At the heart of the series was Pastor Jakov Bibulović, president of the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His compassionate leadership and Christ-centred preaching shaped the tone of the entire series. With clarity and relevance, he unpacked how timeless biblical truths speak to today's challenges, inviting participants to rediscover the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Each session addressed a foundational question of life and faith—Who is God? How can I begin again? What happens after death?—guiding attendees through Scripture to find practical, gospel-rooted answers. Uplifting music, sincere prayer, and warm

fellowship enriched the worship experience. The series concluded with the Sabbath finale, “Ambassadors for Christ: Living a New Life in Christ,” where the church joyfully celebrated a baptismal ceremony.

Reflecting on the event's impact, Pastor Ardison Bernardo, lead pastor of Mount Zion Filipino Church, shared, “Our Hope for Today, Truth for Tomorrow series was truly Spirit-led and prayer-filled, grounding us deeper in God's Truth. Eight precious souls committed their lives to Jesus through baptism, and several more are now engaged in Bible studies. I'm deeply grateful for our





Pentecost Committee and church family—their dedication made this series a success, all for God's glory."

Among those baptised was Michaela, a young believer raised in a Christian home. "I want to adhere to what is good and reflect the likeness of His love," she said. "I chose to be baptised because I want to be saved and one day be with God in heaven." Her commitment reflects a young faith maturing into a personal walk with Christ.

Rosabelle's story reflects a searching heart guided back to faith. Having attended various denominations, she often felt spiritually confused. One day, she prayed earnestly for direction. Soon after, the familiar hymn "The Old Rugged Cross"—learned in childhood from her Adventist grandparents—kept returning to her mind. Not long after, she noticed a Seventh-day Adventist Church sign that stirred memories and drew her to visit Mount Zion Church. With joy, she testified, "I was lost, but now I'm found."

The evangelistic series was strengthened by months of intentional community-building efforts. As part of the Pentecost 2025 strategy, Mount Zion hosted bridge events including game nights, badminton evenings, and a popular community basketball event at the Six Park Athletics Centre—each fostering meaningful connections.

A memorable highlight was the inaugural Fishing Derby and Picnic at Glen Haffy Conservation Area on Canada Day. Led by church

leader and avid angler Jay Gamez, the event welcomed sixteen community guests for a day of fishing, fellowship, and a lively trophy presentation.

Just a week before the October series, the church also hosted "Autumn Melodies: A Celebration of Music and Community," organised by Emicil dela Cruz, Pentecost 2025 Chairman. Choirs and musical groups filled the sanctuary with harmonies of praise, preparing hearts for the spiritual journey ahead.

Together, these bridge events and the evangelistic series reflected the true essence of Pentecost 2025: a church united in mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to transforming lives through love, truth, and community.

Praise God for the hope that anchors us, the truth that transforms us today, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.



■ **Judy Gamez**
Head Elder, Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day
Adventist Church

"I was lost, but now I'm found."
— Rosabelle

CHURCH PLANTING REPORT

Expanding God’s Kingdom Through Church Planting

The mission of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is clear: to make disciples and expand God’s kingdom.

In 2025, this vision is coming to life through a wave of church planting initiatives that reflect both faith and action. These efforts are not just organizational milestones—they are spiritual victories that bring hope to communities and strengthen the body of Christ. Pentecost 2025 is more than a campaign; it is a movement of mission and miracles.

A Movement of Mission

This movement is not without challenges, yet the vision remains bold and achievable. Every new church and company represents lives transformed, families strengthened, and communities impacted by the gospel. These initiatives require prayer, resources, and active participation from every member.

Whether through financial support, volunteering, or simply sharing the message of hope, each member of God’s family has a vital role in advancing God’s work across Ontario.

Call to Action

The call to plant churches is a call to reach people—hearts longing for hope, truth, and community. Every new church represents a light in the darkness, a place where lives are transformed and disciples are made for God’s glory.

Now is the time for every believer to take part. Together, we can plant churches that thrive, nurture disciples who grow, and witness a harvest unlike any before.

New Church Planting Groups, Companies, and Churches in 2025 & 2026	
Jan. 25	Windsor Kinyarwanda Group - Windsor Church
Mar. 15	Kanata Adventist Company to Church
May 14	Hamilton Ghanaian Company - Toronto Ghanaian Church
May 14	Vaughan Adventist Group - Ontario Conference Church
	London Filipino Adventist Group - London Adventist Church
June 21	Lindsay Company to Church
June 25	Kapuskasing Adventist Group – Timmins Church
Sept. 27	Dios Con Nosotros Company / Barrie Spanish Adventist Church
Nov. 8	The Lily of the Valley – Ottawa Central Adventist Church
Dec. 16	Ottawa Kinyarwanda Adventist Group
	Ottawa Fil-Can Adventist Group
	Marmora Fil-Can Adventist Group
Dec. 20	Eben Ezer Company – Ottawa Eben Ezer Adventist Church
Jan. 17, '26	Bolton Adventist Company – Bolton Adventist Church
Mar. 21, '26	Kinyarwanda Adventist Group to Ubuntu Grace Adventist Company



Pastor Sereivudh Ly, DMin
*Director,
Church Planting, Revitalization,
and Evangelism Department*



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RENEWED BY THE SPIRIT

Reflections on Pentecost 2025 and Adventist Education in Ontario

Pentecost 2025 has come, but its spiritual impact continues to echo through our Adventist schools and communities, extending beyond our school environment. What began as a global call to prayer and revival became, for many educators and students, a life-changing reminder that Adventist education is not merely about the mind but also about the heart.

***“When the Spirit moves,
education becomes truly transformational.”***

Across Ontario, schools and classrooms became prayer rooms, chapels overflowed with songs of surrender, and young people rediscovered the joy of learning under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost 2025 reminded us that when the Spirit moves, education becomes truly transformational.

Education as Redemption

From their very beginning, Seventh-day Adventist schools have stood for more than academic excellence. They are ministries of redemption—places where students learn to think deeply, live faithfully, and serve selflessly.

Ellen G. White beautifully described the purpose of true education as “the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers” (Education, p. 13). Pentecost 2025 rekindled this vision, challenging teachers and administrators alike to see their classrooms not merely as centres of instruction but as sacred spaces of spiritual formation.

The Holy Spirit in the Classroom

Throughout the Pentecost season, teachers shared powerful testimonies of spiritual renewal. In one school, morning worships became sacred times of confession and recommitment. In another, students organized a community outreach project that touched lives and strengthened faith. These experiences reminded us that the Holy Spirit is the true Teacher in every Adventist classroom. His presence brings wisdom, compassion, and conviction. When He is invited into the learning process, knowledge becomes light, and lessons take root in the heart.

Unity in the Spirit

Pentecost 2025 also revealed the beautiful unity within Adventist education. Across our schools, teachers, parents, students and the community members joined together in prayer, song, and mission. This collective experience mirrored the first Pentecost, when believers from every nation heard the gospel in their own language.

“The Holy Spirit is the true Teacher in every classroom.”

Through digital connections, united worship, and shared projects, students experienced the power of diversity brought together by one Spirit. As a result of the Holy Spirit’s movement in hearts and homes, 35 individuals publicly committed their lives to Christ through baptism—a powerful testimony to God’s continuing work in our schools.

Carrying the Fire Forward

As we reflect on the blessings of Pentecost 2025, we are encouraged to carry forward what has been started. The revival should not end when the season ends. The Spirit’s outpouring calls for lasting change—in our teaching methods, student engagement, and our collective mission to “educate for eternity.”

May every Adventist school in Ontario remain a place where prayer leads, faith shapes, and Christ is lifted up in every subject. Pentecost 2025 was not a single event—it was a renewed invitation for the Spirit to dwell among us daily.

Let us continue to nurture this flame so that our schools remain beacons of hope, preparing hearts and minds for the soon return of Jesus.



■ **Pastor Reynold Hazelwood, DMin**
Superintendent of Schools, Ontario Conference



“Adventist education is not merely about the mind but also about the heart.”

IGNITING HEARTS

Celebrating Pentecost 2025 and Beyond at CAA Peel Campus

The Pentecost 2025 and Beyond initiative was an incredible blessing for Crawford Adventist Academy (CAA) Peel Campus. From its inception, the program was grounded in prayer—seeking a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit—and strengthened by thoughtful planning to ensure its success. Students were actively involved at every stage, even designing their very own Pentecost 2025 and Beyond logo, which was featured on T-shirts and promotional materials.

With enthusiasm and a strong sense of mission, students in Grades 5 through 8, along with their teachers, reached out to the surrounding community. They distributed sharing books and invitations to a Week of Spiritual Emphasis, themed “On Fire for Jesus,” as well as the school’s Spring Concert.

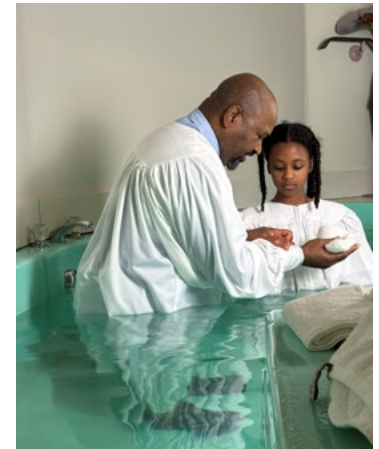
Throughout the Week of Spiritual Emphasis, each day was filled with engaging, Christ-centred activities. Through interactive lessons, object talks, and science experiments, students deepened their personal relationship with Jesus, learned how to share their faith, and were encouraged to shine brightly for Him at school, at home, and within their communities. It was a week full of joyful praise, heartfelt testimonies, and a renewed sense of spiritual empowerment.



In keeping with the Pentecost 2025 and Beyond vision, the week was followed by baptismal preparation classes. Teachers worked together to guide 24 students through meaningful, hands-on Bible studies. The results were truly inspiring: seven students made the decision to follow Jesus in baptism—two were baptized in their home churches, five during the Spring Concert celebration.

The Spring Concert featured a dynamic, dramatic presentation of “Daniel and the One True God,” beautifully interwoven with inspiring musical performances. It was a joyful celebration of creativity, faithfulness, and commitment to Christ. The





dedication, passion, and teamwork displayed by students and staff powerfully demonstrated how God continues to inspire and lead within Seventh-day Adventist schools.

A particularly powerful moment occurred when three of the five students baptized at the concert came from non-Adventist families. Even more remarkable was when one parent, standing beside the baptismal tank in support of her child, was deeply moved by the Holy Spirit that she, too, chose to be baptized and dedicate her life to Jesus.

Truly, to God be the glory! May the flame kindled through Pentecost 2025 and Beyond continue to burn brightly in the hearts of students, staff, and families—igniting faith, hope, and a lifelong commitment to service on this journey with Jesus.



■ **Manuela Terencio**
Principal, CAA Peel Campus

***“God continues to inspire and lead
within Seventh-day Adventist schools.”***



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DISASTER RESPONSE

A call to support the Ontario Conference Disaster Response Initiative. Give generously and help others rebuild their lives and communities.

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PENTECOST 2025

A Spirit-Filled Journey of Faith at ACES

Pentecost 2025 was a truly meaningful spiritual highlight at Adventist Christian Elementary School (ACES). During the last week of October, the school community embarked on a heartfelt journey of faith, reflection, and celebration. Through a special Pentecost series, ACES students examined four foundational aspects of the Christian life, with each day building on the previous to deepen their understanding of God's purpose for them.

Every morning, students participated in a devotional session led by Principal Vieira. She guided them through themes like gospel, Spirit, love, and mission using interactive lessons, prayer, and joyful reflections. She began by emphasizing the preaching of the Gospel and Jesus' promise to return. Students were reminded that the Good News is not just heard, but is a call to live and share it. The message of salvation is for everyone, and children were encouraged to be brave in their faith, even at a young age.

Next, the study focused on the gift of the Holy Spirit, described to students as a divine "superpower" that helps them live faithfully and courageously. They learned that the Spirit is not only a comforter but also a guide—empowering everyone to make wise choices, love others, and stand firm in truth.

Midweek, the emphasis shifted to Love—the heart of the Christian message. Through stories, discussions, and prayer, students reflected on how God's love transforms us and how we are called to reflect His character through kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. They were reminded that love is not just a feeling, but an action — a daily decision to live like Jesus.

In closing the series, Pastor Dario Ferreira from the London Adventist Church delivered a compelling message about sharing

Christ with others. Using the image of a relay race, he illustrated how faith is passed on—from generation to generation—through prayer, unity, and purpose. Just as the pioneers of our church carried the message forward with courage and conviction, we too are called to run our race with endurance and joy.

Matthew 24:14 states, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and





then the end will come.” Students left the week inspired to become active participants in this mission.

Along with the daily spiritual programming, we celebrated Pentecost 2025 with a joyful Family and Friends Night. It was a wonderful evening of worship, fellowship, and community. What made it even more meaningful was that students led the entire program — from hosting and music to prayer, message presentation, and even audio-visual production. Despite the short rehearsal time, their dedication, teamwork, and love for God shone through in every detail.

Pentecost 2025 was more than a series of events—it was a Spirit-filled experience that reminded us all of who we are and what we are called to do. It will remain a cherished memory in the hearts of our students, staff, and families.



■ **Milene Vieira**
Teaching Principal,
Adventist Christian Elementary School



College Park Students Shine for Pentecost 2025

For Pentecost 2025, College Park Elementary School (CPES) set out with a clear mission — to help students engage meaningfully with their community while nurturing their spiritual growth. To accomplish this, the school embraced a focused, two-pronged approach: outreach and in-reach.

Outreach: Sharing Joy Beyond Our Walls

As part of their outreach initiatives, students collaborated with local organizations to spread cheer and encouragement to neighbours through a series of thoughtful community visits. In March, Grade 7 and 8 students distributed smiley-face cookies, mental health glow tracks, and handwritten words of encouragement to 100 homes, lighting up hearts across the neighbourhood. During the Easter season, another 100 homes received potted daffodils and tulips, along with a heartfelt message of hope in the resurrection.

Honouring Community Difference Makers

In May, CPES hosted a Community Appreciation Assembly to honour local volunteers and difference makers. Guests enjoyed a lively program of songs, poems, and skits performed by students — each filled with gratitude and admiration. After the assembly, around 30 guests stayed for a light luncheon and fellowship.

In-Reach: Strengthening Faith Within

The spiritual highlight of the year occurred during our Fall Week of Prayer in October, when CPES welcomed Pastor Walter Rogers, who presented his compelling “Evidence for God” series. Each day, students listened attentively as Pastor Rogers delivered clear, engaging messages that connected faith with reason, inspiring confidence in God’s existence, goodness, and love.

By the end of the week, the impact was significant:

- 44 students requested Bible studies
- 31 students asked to speak with someone about their growing faith
- 27 students expressed interest in volunteering opportunities
- And many more testified that their faith had been strengthened

At College Park Elementary School, we remain committed to partnering with God in the discipleship journey of every child, helping them grow not only in knowledge but also in compassion, purpose, and Christ-like love.



■ **Michelle DeSilva**
Principal,
College Park Adventist Elementary School



MINISTRY TECH

Using Genuine, Licensed Software in Ministry

In today's ministry environment, technology plays a central role in communication, worship, administration, and outreach. Whether it is managing church computers, preparing sermon slides, video editing a service recording, or editing the Sabbath bulletin, churches rely on software every day. Because of this, it is crucial for ministries to use genuine, licensed software—both for safety and stewardship.

Using cracked, pirated, or outdated software may seem like a quick solution when budgets are tight and resources are low, but it introduces serious risks. Cracked software often contains hidden malware, backdoors, or spyware that can compromise sensitive church data, including member information, financial records, and login credentials. Outdated or unofficial versions also lack security patches, leaving systems vulnerable to ransomware attacks, viruses, and data breaches. A single infection can shut down church computers, disrupt livestreams, or even expose confidential member information. Protecting the digital church environment is a key part of responsible ministry leadership.

Beyond security concerns, using unauthorised software places churches at serious legal and ethical risk. Unlicensed programs not only expose ministries to potential legal action from software developers but also complicate insurance claims and liability issues in the event of a data breach. As ministries that represent Christ, integrity should extend to every part of our operations—including the technology we rely on. Using genuine, properly licensed software demonstrates responsible stewardship and respect for the creators whose tools support our mission.

Thankfully, churches (and other non-profit ministries) do not need to compromise security to stay within their budgets. TechSoup

Canada (techsoup.ca) provides heavily discounted software and services to registered charities and non-profits. Through TechSoup, churches can access legitimate licenses for Microsoft Windows, Adobe Creative Cloud, antivirus software, and more at a fraction of the retail cost. This enables even small congregations to operate securely without financial strain.

By investing in genuine software, churches & ministries protect their members, safeguard their data, uphold integrity, and equip their leaders with reliable tools that support God's mission. Technology can be a wonderful tool—using it responsibly ensures it continues to strengthen the work of the church.



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FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN"**

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STEWARDSHIP

Our Highest Calling and Priority

Stewardship is our highest calling. When we see it as nurturing our relationship and commitment to God, its true importance becomes clear. The Gospel reminds us: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33 ESV).

In today's world, this principle calls us to prioritize our spiritual commitments, allowing them to influence every aspect of our lives—from how we budget and schedule our time to how we manage our online presence. When we put God first, we lay the foundation for a life that is both fulfilled and well-balanced, where blessings naturally follow our dedication.

Over the past few years, the Stewardship Department of the Ontario Conference has worked diligently to promote and reinforce this message. Through leadership training, prayer

initiatives, and special emphasis Sabbaths and weekends, the department has aimed to inspire members to adopt stewardship as a way of life. Since stewardship connects and supports every ministry, it warrants our full attention and ongoing commitment.

Recognizing that stewardship is a lifelong responsibility entrusted by God, the department will continue to focus on the key themes of worship, well-being, witness, wealth, and the world. We invite all members to participate in this God-given purpose, as outlined in Genesis 1:26.



**SCAN TO DOWNLOAD
2026 SUNSET &
OFFERING CALENDAR**





While there are numerous reasons to prioritize stewardship, we will highlight three key points:

1. Stewardship acknowledges God as the ultimate Owner.

From the opening chapters of Genesis, we learn that God created the earth, its creatures, and its inhabitants—and declared that all He made was “very good” (Genesis 1:31). The Psalmist affirms this truth: “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1–2). Recognizing God’s ownership reminds us that everything we have—our time, talents, and resources—is entrusted to us for His glory.

2. Stewardship sustains our connection with our Creator.

Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). As Pastor José Sanchez shared in a recent office devotional, God desires that we dwell with Him—not merely visit. A consistent, abiding relationship with God honours His lordship and allows us to live fruitful, Christ-centred lives.

3. Stewardship is the means through which God blesses us and advances His work.

Matthew 6:33 assures us that when we seek God first, He provides for all our needs. God’s abundance, as described in Philippians 4:19, enables us to partner with Him in His mission. Through stewardship, we use our resources, gifts, and abilities to share His love, grace, and salvation. As Paul reminds us, we are called to discover, develop, and deploy the talents given by the Holy Spirit for service (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12).

As we approach the end of 2025, we extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have faithfully lived out the principles of stewardship. Let us move forward into 2026 with renewed commitment to prioritize God in every area of our lives. May His abundant blessings rest upon us as we partner with Him in service and look forward to hearing the words, “Well done, good and faithful stewards.”



■ **Pastor Anthony Reid, DMin**
Director, Stewardship Department

STEADFAST STEWARDSHIP

How God Is Blessing the Ontario Conference

The Ontario Conference Treasury Office has the privilege of witnessing, firsthand, the remarkable faithfulness of our members. In an era marked by economic uncertainty—rising inflation, job losses, and global financial pressures—it would be easy to assume that giving might decline. Yet, the trends unfolding across our Conference territory tell a very different story. They reflect a people whose resolve and commitment to God’s call for faithful stewardship remain unwavering. Through tithes and offerings, our members continue to demonstrate that faith transcends financial challenges, recognising the importance of mobilising resources for mission in response to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20.

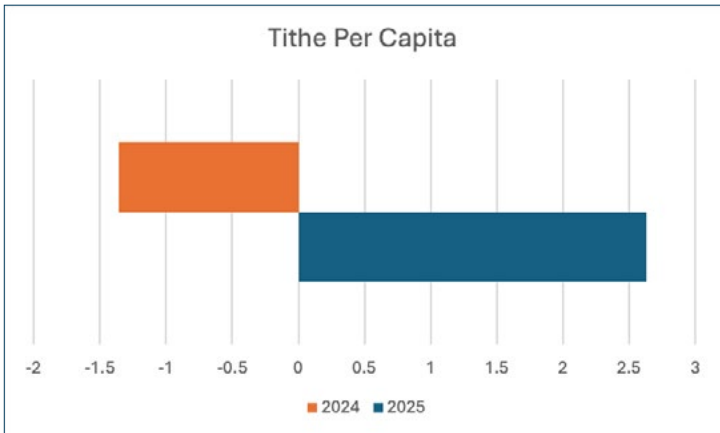
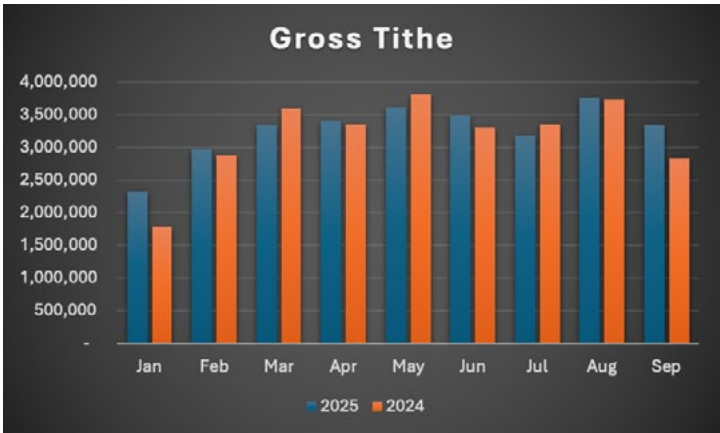
The statistics below illustrate how God has used the faithfulness of our members to bless the Ontario Conference. These are the results of faith in action, echoing the promise of Malachi 3:10 that God will “open the windows of heaven” when we bring all the tithe into His storehouse.

Report as of September 30, 2025

Our gross tithe income monthly comparison for 2024 and 2025 reflects this blessing as shown above. Six of the nine months to date show higher income in 2025 than in the previous year, resulting in a cumulative increase of 2.7% as of September 30, 2025—a 2.6% increase compared to the budgeted amount for the same period.

Further evidence of strengthened faithfulness can be seen in our Tithe per Capita analysis.

This year, tithe per capita has risen by 2.6%, a notable improvement from the 1.4% decline in 2024. This growth suggests that more



members are returning tithe, or that individual giving has increased—or both. Regardless of the contributing factors, the trend highlights the dedication of our membership to trust God in all circumstances.



Seventh-day
Adventist Church
ONTARIO CONFERENCE



STEWARDSHIP
DEPARTMENT

What is the CBIF?

Church Building Investment Fund

The Fund was established in 2001 and was created for 3 reasons.

1. To help churches pay off existing mortgages.
2. To Finance renovation/expansion of existing churches.
3. Finance the construction of new buildings.

All to alleviate God's house from the burden of debt.
(Counsel on Stewardship. p.382)

Quarterly Promo/Collection Sabbaths

**January 31, May 30,
August 29 & October 31
2026**



Members are invited to
make their contributions
of **\$5.00** per person,
weekly or

\$260
annually.



“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”— Ellen G. White

Apart from the tithe, the Ontario Conference receives offerings designated for Sabbath School, Mission, and other ministries. While offerings for Sabbath School and Mission have declined by 4.2%, donor-restricted gifts, including bequests and project-based donations, have provided significant support. We also thank our higher organisations—the North American Division (NAD) and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC)—for their allocations towards Conference operations. We particularly recognise the \$466,000 allocation for Pentecost 2025, which contributes to the Conference's \$1,000,000 evangelism budget. These funds are allocated to local churches to support this year's evangelistic initiative, “Pentecost 2025 and Beyond.”

A review of our expenditures shows that we have successfully kept costs under control, enabling us to support vital Church Ministries. These include pastoral salaries, education, leadership training, and evangelism initiatives across our congregations, as well as camp meeting expenses. Our schools and teachers continue to receive strong support. Additional expenditures include renovations at Camp Frenda, office maintenance, and other essential services. Even amid persistent inflation, we remain committed to prudence and sound financial stewardship. We are grateful that our liquidity and working capital remain above the policy requirements of 3 and 6 months, respectively, affirming strong operational health and God's sustaining goodness.

We are also continually inspired by the generosity of our members in response to disaster relief appeals. As crises arise around the world, the Ontario Conference—often in partnership with other church institutions—sets aside special collections to meet urgent needs.

Our members' willingness to give during such moments is a powerful testament to their compassion and commitment to service.

As we reflect on the journey thus far, we acknowledge that while we may not yet be where we aspire to be financially, we give heartfelt thanks to God for His blessings upon the Ontario Conference. Considering the global economic uncertainties our members face, every gift, every sacrifice, and every act of faithfulness is deeply appreciated.

We extend sincere gratitude to our local church treasurers and pastors, who continue to serve with integrity and dedication—receiving donor funds on behalf of the Conference and remitting them faithfully. To our faithful members, thank you for your steadfast commitment. Let us continue to trust in God and support the mission to which He has called us.

Let us keep in mind the importance of giving towards our mission, understanding that “We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth by holiness of character, and to send the messages of warning, comfort, hope, and love to those in the darkness of error and sin.” —Life Sketches, pp. 195–196.

And even amid uncertainty, we hold fast to this assurance from Ellen G. White: “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”



■ **Dalubuhle Sifani**
Associate Treasurer

HEALING HANDS, HOPEFUL HEARTS

A Medical Mission Transforms Lives in Downtown Toronto. A Day of Compassion and Healing

A spirit of Christ's compassion and healing filled the air at the Pantages Hotel in downtown Toronto on Sunday, September 14, 2025. Volunteers, health professionals, and community members came together for a life-changing medical mission that brought hope and healing to the heart of the city.

Hosted by the Health Ministries Department of the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the event highlighted the inspiring theme "Your Health, Our Passion." Throughout the day, guests experienced care that touched the body, mind, and spirit — leaving many feeling restored, encouraged, and inspired.

Caring for Body and Spirit

From the moment participants arrived, kindness and compassion were evident in every interaction.

- Free haircuts and clothing helped restore confidence and dignity.
- Body and fitness assessments encouraged guests to take practical steps toward better health.
- A skilled team—including a naturopathic doctor, pharmacist, and nutritionist—offered personalized consultations.
- A massage therapist provided relaxing sessions that melted away tension and stress.

The caring atmosphere created a sense of belonging, reminding everyone that health encompasses physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

The atmosphere radiated warmth and a sense of connection. Guests were not only served but also seen, heard, and valued.

The Power of Prayer

For many, the highlight of the day was the prayer booth, a quiet corner set aside for reflection, encouragement, and faith.

One volunteer described the experience as deeply moving:

"It was a blessing to pray for people. Some had specific requests, while others simply wanted someone to pray for them. Many cried and left feeling comforted. A couple of people needed more than just prayers—they were hurting and needed extra help. I spoke with them and have their permission to stay in touch. Some left their contact info."

This simple ministry of presence brought tears, healing, and renewed faith to countless hearts.

Learning for Life

At the RESTORED booth, attendees explored the Eight Laws of Health — Rest, Eat wholesome food, Sunshine, Trust in divine power, Oxygen, Restraint/self-control, Exercise, and Drink water.

One of the most striking exhibits featured a real animal lung



specimen showing the effects of 20 years of smoking, complete with cancerous nodules — a powerful visual lesson about the importance of healthy living.

“What you are doing is necessary for the community. Thank you for what you are doing!”

“Our mission is to bring wholeness and hope to every individual through Christ-centred health initiatives,” says Edith Habaradas, Ontario Conference Health Ministries Director.



*“As soon as I got to this floor,
I sensed the presence of God.”*

Gratitude and Growth

As the day drew to a close, smiles and stories of transformation filled the room. Volunteers expressed joy in serving, and guests departed with uplifted hearts. The organizers and volunteers called the event a resounding success, demonstrating that when faith meets action, communities are truly transformed.

Representatives from the Ontario Conference extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the event possible — the health professionals, volunteers, donors, and prayer warriors who worked together in the spirit of Christ’s compassion.

The next Downtown Toronto Medical Mission is already set for Sunday, September 6, 2026. Organizers invite anyone who believes in the mission to get involved through prayer, participation, or financial support.

Together, we can continue to make a difference — one act of kindness at a time.



■ **Edith Missah-Habaradas**
Director, Health and Prayer Ministries



ONTARIO PATHFINDERS

Living the Vision of Pentecost 2025 and Beyond



For 2025, the Ontario Conference Pathfinder Council (OCPC) has adopted a guiding principle that resonates across the province: a renewed dedication to service and empowered servitude. Reflecting this vision, the OCPC expanded from eight to ten Pathfinder districts, further strengthening its mission to develop young disciples for Christ throughout Ontario.

The year began with a series of heartfelt consecration services led by district and area coordinators. Pathfinder leaders and members recommitted themselves to uphold the Pathfinder Pledge, Law, Aim, and Motto—all to the glory of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

One of the early spiritual highlights of the year was the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). Pathfinders across Ontario immersed themselves in the books of Romans and 1 Corinthians. Thirty-seven teams participated at the district level, showcasing their enthusiasm for Scripture. In March, Conference and Union-level testing events

followed, leading three Ontario teams to the North American Division (NAD) finals held in April in Battle Creek, Michigan.

There, the Bronte Lynx, Maharlika, and Nepean Crusaders PBE teams not only represented Ontario with distinction—earning first-place awards—but also deepened their connection with Adventist heritage through a visit to the Ellen G. White Estate. The experience provided both a spiritual and historical perspective, reinforcing that studying God's Word is not just about knowledge, but about living faith in action.



This mission to live the theme, “Pentecost 2025 and Beyond,” inspired Pathfinders and leaders to share the Advent message within their communities and beyond. Led by District Coordinator Akeem Favorite, the Metro South Central District hosted the “Pathway to Victory” evangelistic series. Youth-led sermons and testimonies ignited revival and hope, demonstrating the enthusiasm of Pathfinders to be instruments of the Holy Spirit in sharing the good news of salvation.

Across Ontario, district coordinators organized a flurry of activities—from Pathfinder Basic Staff Training and drill workshops to compassion outreach, mission trips, and camp meetings. A particularly exciting development was the revival of the Ontario Drill and Drum Corps, led by Master Guide Jayda Parkes. Their first performance at Kanisa Fellowship on October 4, 2025, marked a triumphant return.

Growth continued with the addition of three new Pathfinder clubs: Toronto Filipino, Living Faith, and Ebenezer. Several previously



inactive clubs also reignited their ministries, signalling renewed vigour across the Conference.

World Pathfinder Day in September united Pathfinders across Ontario in worship and outreach. In the Western District, youth teams spent the afternoon visiting hospitals, nursing homes, and mission centers—living out the Pathfinder ideal of service.

The summer’s Pathfinder Honours Camp at Camp New Lowell was a standout success. Over 350 Pathfinders participated in more than twenty honours, including Orienteering, Camp Cookery, Animal Tracking, Model Rocketry, and Horsemanship. Pathfinders also enjoyed scenic 10-kilometre and 12-kilometre hikes through the countryside—a memorable highlight of faith, fellowship, and fun.

As 2025 unfolds, the OCPC celebrates both growth and transition. We extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Edwin Martin, whose visionary leadership strengthened the ministry. As he begins his new role as Ontario Conference Communications and Media Ministry Director, we wish him, his wife Crisel, and son Joshua God’s continued blessings.

We warmly welcome Pastor Selburn Fray and his wife, Sansia, to the Pathfinder family. With their leadership, the OCPC looks forward to new heights in ministry—continuing to serve, lead, and empower young people for the glory of God.



■ **MG Chester Lewis**
Executive Coordinator, OCPC

“Best Friends Forever” (BFF) Like Jesus

Be the kind of friend Jesus is!



Story Time: The Lunch That Grew

Eli sat at his desk at lunchtime. His tummy was rumbling. He didn't have any food. His mum was sick, and there wasn't much food at home. He didn't want to worry her, so he left without eating.

Eli felt embarrassed. Everyone else had lunch. He asked to go to the bathroom.

In the bathroom, he looked in the mirror and tried not to cry.

He whispered, “Jesus, please help me be brave.”

When he went back to class, he picked up his empty lunch bag—but... it wasn't empty anymore!

He opened it and gasped. Inside were a sandwich, a cheese stick, a juice box, an apple, and a cookie!

While Eli was gone, his friends had seen he had no lunch.

- Mia shared half her sandwich.
- Lucas added his extra cheese stick.
- Ava gave her juice box.
- Noah put in a shiny apple.
- Lily added her favourite cookie.

When the teacher asked who helped, no one said anything. They just smiled. Eli smiled too.

“You're being friends like Jesus!” he said.

Eli felt happy inside. Jesus loves to help people, and He loves it when we help too.

**When we share, include others, or show kindness,
we are being a BFF like Jesus.**



Think & Talk

How did Eli's classmates show love like Jesus?

Why do you think no one told the teacher what they did?

How do you feel when someone surprises you with kindness?

What's one thing you could do this week to be a BFF like Jesus?



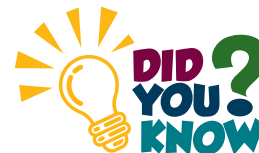
Bible Boost:

“Love each other as I have loved you.”
— John 15:12

Jesus loves everyone. He listens, helps, forgives, and cares.

We can love like Jesus, too!

Animals show friendship too!



Elephants hug each other with their trunks when one is sad.

Penguins take turns keeping their eggs warm.

Dolphins protect friends in danger.

If animals can be good friends, we can be even better when we love like Jesus!





“Best Friends Forever” (BFF) Like Jesus

Be the kind of friend Jesus is!



Friendship Check-in:

Give yourself a checkmark for the ways you were a BFF like Jesus this week:

- ☐ I included someone who was left out.
- ☐ I forgave someone who hurt my feelings.
- ☐ I shared something I liked.
- ☐ I said something encouraging.
- ☐ I prayed for a friend.

Brain Buzz:

Did you know helping others actually makes your brain happy?

When you're kind, your brain releases “joy chemicals” that make you feel peaceful inside.



That's one more reason God made friendship—He designed us to love like Jesus!



“Dear Jesus,
Thank You for showing me how to be a true friend.
Help me share, forgive, listen, and love—
just like You do. Amen.”

Prayer Corner



Are you a BFF Like Jesus?

Answer YES or NO:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I listen when someone talks to me. | ☐ yes | ☐ no |
| I forgive quickly. | ☐ yes | ☐ no |
| I share without complaining. | ☐ yes | ☐ no |
| I pray for my friends. | ☐ yes | ☐ no |
| I cheer when others do well. | ☐ yes | ☐ no |

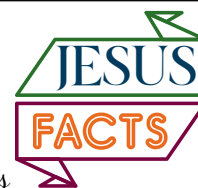
If you said “YES” to three or more—you're on your way to being a BFF like Jesus!

Name: *Jesus Christ*

Best Friend Qualities:

Loyal, Forgiving, Kind, Truthful

Goal: *To teach us how to love like He loves*



“Be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another.”
— Ephesians 4:32



■ **Patricia Ferreira Lopez**
Children & Women's Ministries Director,
Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church



ROOTED IN HOPE, GROWING IN WHOLENESS

Ontario Conference Hosts First-ever NAD Family Ministries Leaders Certification Retreat

The Ontario Conference Family Ministries Department made history in 2025 by hosting the first-ever North American Division (NAD) Family Ministries Leaders Certification Retreat using the newly developed curriculum. Held at the scenic Deerhurst Resort, the event, themed “Rooted in Hope, Growing in Wholeness,” brought together Family Ministries leaders from across Ontario for a weekend of learning, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Allan Chichester, Director of Family Ministries for the Ontario Conference, and his dedicated planning team, the retreat took place from September 5–7, 2025. It was a key milestone in advancing the department’s mission “to reach, equip, and empower Family Ministries leaders and families with hope and wholeness.”

Equipping Leaders for Hope and Wholeness

In an age where families face increasing pressures, the ministry of Family Life continues to proclaim a timeless truth: there is hope for every family because every person—by creation and redemption—belongs to the family of God. Family Ministries nurtures practices that strengthen emotional, relational, and spiritual well-being in homes and communities.

This historic retreat marked the first NAD Family Ministries certification training in Ontario using the new curriculum. Leaders from across the province—from Windsor to Sudbury and throughout the Greater Toronto Area—gathered to be equipped for more effective ministry.

Among the special guests were Pastor Emile Maxi, Ontario Conference Vice President for Administration and Executive Secretary, and his wife, June, who brought greetings from Conference leadership and fellowshiped with attendees throughout the weekend.

Training for Transformative Ministry

The retreat featured a dynamic blend of presentations, discussions, and small group sessions designed to equip leaders with practical tools for nurturing families and building stronger church communities.

The main presenter, Dr. Kirk Thomas, President of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, brought a wealth of experience as a doctor of family life and certified chaplain. His engaging presentations covered six foundational modules: A Firm Foundation, Relationships & Marriage, Parenting, Sexuality, Aging Gracefully, and Family Ministries at the Local Church.

One of the most moving moments came during Dr. Thomas’s session on parenting, when he shared a poignant story titled

Departmental Mission:
To reach, equip, and empower Family Ministries
leaders and families with hope and wholeness.

“Oh God, Make Me into a Television.” In it, a young boy wished to receive the same attention his parents gave their TV—a stirring reminder of the importance of presence, connection, and love within families. The story deeply touched attendees, inspiring them to be intentional in nurturing meaningful relationships at home.

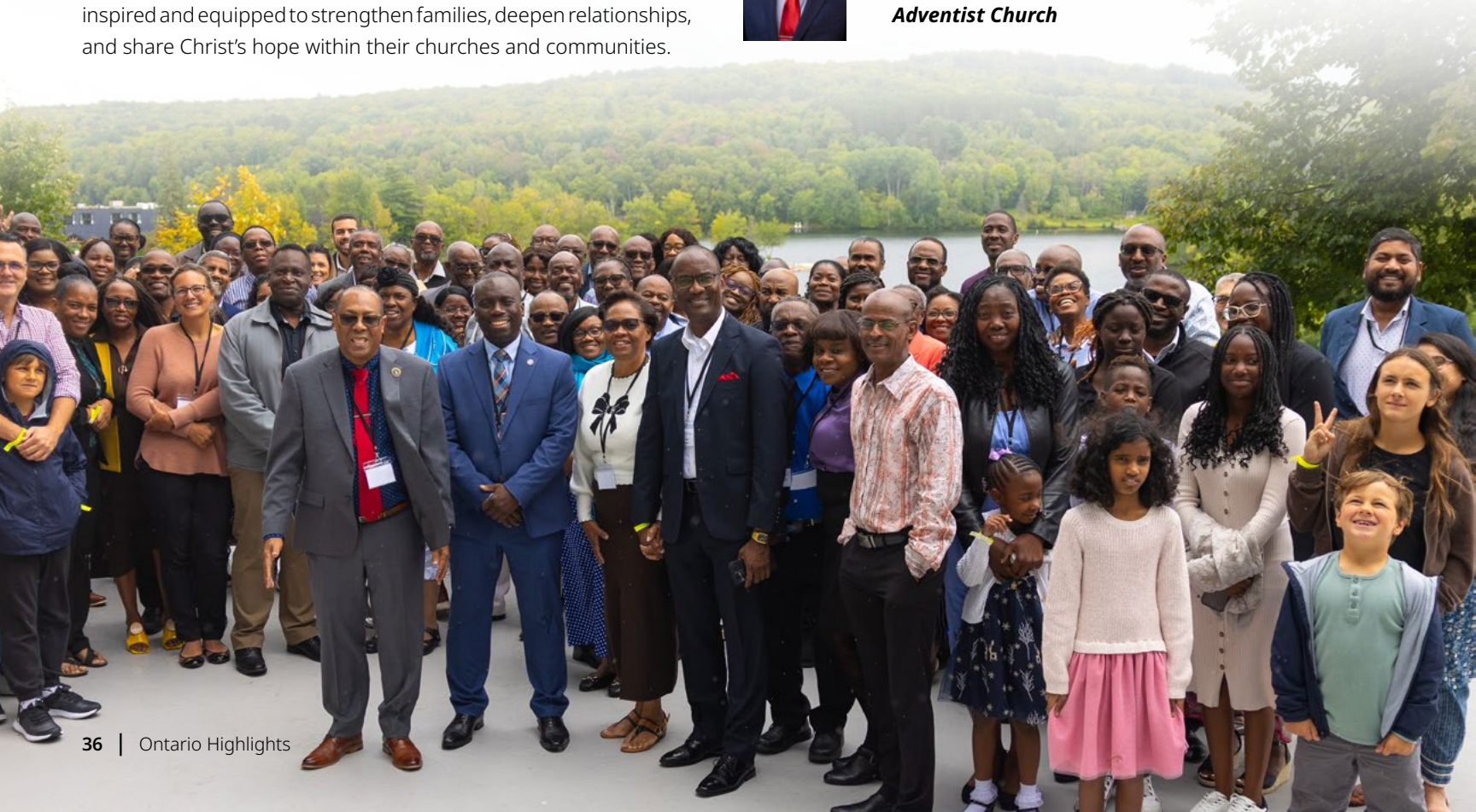
Empowered to Serve

As the weekend concluded, participants left Deerhurst Resort inspired and equipped to strengthen families, deepen relationships, and share Christ’s hope within their churches and communities.

Through this ground-breaking retreat, the Ontario Conference Family Ministries Department continues to champion strong, faith-centred families—rooted in hope, growing in wholeness, and united in Christ for time and eternity.



■ **Pastor Allan Chichester, DMin**
Director, Family and Men’s Ministries
*Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church*



SERVING CHRIST THROUGH VOCATION

2025 Young Professionals Network Convention



The 2025 Young Professionals Network (YPN) Convention brought together over 100 emerging professionals, tradespeople, and entrepreneurs from across Ontario under the inspiring theme “Serving Christ through Vocation.” Hosted by the Young Professionals Network Ministry of the Ontario Conference’s Youth and Young Adults Department, the weekend at the Marriott Spring Hill Suites in Vaughan fostered an atmosphere of spiritual renewal, professional growth, and authentic connection among young adults committed to integrating faith and purpose into their careers.

Friday Evening: Leadership with Integrity

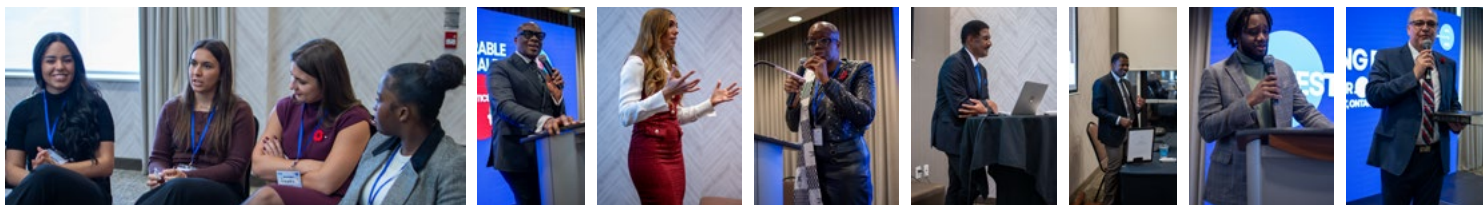
The convention opened on Friday evening, November 7, with an empowering keynote by Ms. Janice Anderson, Senior Policy Advisor with the Government of Canada. In her address on leadership integrity, Ms. Anderson emphasized the importance of “diplomacy, not avoidance,” reminding attendees that trust is lost when leaders fail to deliver what is needed. Her challenge to “be brave, be clear, be true” resonated deeply with young professionals navigating complex workplaces and leadership roles.

A lively Q&A session followed, moderated by Serena Aira, during

which participants asked thoughtful questions and engaged in open, practical dialogue about ethical leadership and faith in the public sphere.

Sabbath Morning: Faith, Fellowship, and Service

On Sabbath morning, November 8, small group discussions encouraged attendees to better connect with one another while exploring spiritually meaningful topics. After the discussions, Jelani Watson from Jazz.FM 91 shared an initiative he leads that provides musical instruments to under-served communities in the Greater Toronto Area.



During the Sabbath worship service, Pastor Saixi (Chris) Lu, Associate Pastor of the Toronto Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church, shared a moving testimony about responding to God's call. Formerly a chemist working at high levels in his home country, Pastor Lu spoke of the life-changing decision to follow God's leading into full-time ministry — choosing integrity and faith over prestige. His story reminded attendees that true vocation begins with obedience to Christ's voice.

Pastor Jakov Bibulović, President of the Ontario Conference, also addressed the assembly, encouraging young professionals to actively serve in their local churches. He reminded them that "God calls for youthful ardour" and urged church leaders to create space for emerging voices and talents.

Sabbath Evening: Trusting God in Every Season

The Sabbath evening concluded with a compelling address by The Honourable Justice Donald McLeod of the Ontario Court of Justice. Reflecting on his humble beginnings, Justice McLeod attributed his achievements to his unwavering faith and trust in God, rather than to intellect or ambition. He encouraged attendees to "fully trust God," never to compromise sacred Sabbath observance, and to let faith guide every professional and personal decision.

A memorable highlight of the YPN Convention was the collective worship experience, where everyone joined in singing, "If You Can Use Anything, Lord, Use Me." The song reflected the weekend's mission — a commitment to serve God through one's career and influence.

Workshop Highlights: Equipping for Excellence

Throughout the weekend, attendees participated in dynamic, skill-building workshops led by professionals from diverse fields:

- Diana Achim, Crisis Counsellor — Leadership in Crisis Management
- Charles Chang, Unified Technologies Group Ltd. — The Collaborative Multiplier: Expanding Vision, Capability, and Reach Together
- Cristian Alvarez, Alvarez Real Estate Team — Smart Steps to Your First Home
- Jason Muloongo, Hey Taylor Marketing — Top Marketers Know These Three Things
- Angela Bedward, Ministry of Health — Mental Health Awareness
- Uton Robinson, Toronto District School Board — Understanding and Working with Special Needs
- Edwin Castro, Joyko Tax and Accounting — Financial Planning for Your Future

Each session offered practical insights, equipping participants with the tools to thrive professionally while staying grounded in





faith. Between sessions, attendees explored a vibrant exhibit hall featuring local businesses and entrepreneurial ventures — a celebration of creativity and community impact.

Faith and Work: One Divine Calling

The 2025 YPN Convention stood as a powerful testament that vocation and faith are not separate callings — they are one divine journey of service, excellence, and purpose. YPN extends its heartfelt gratitude to its Convention partners: Advent Health Care Corporation, Adventist Care Canada, and ADRA Canada.



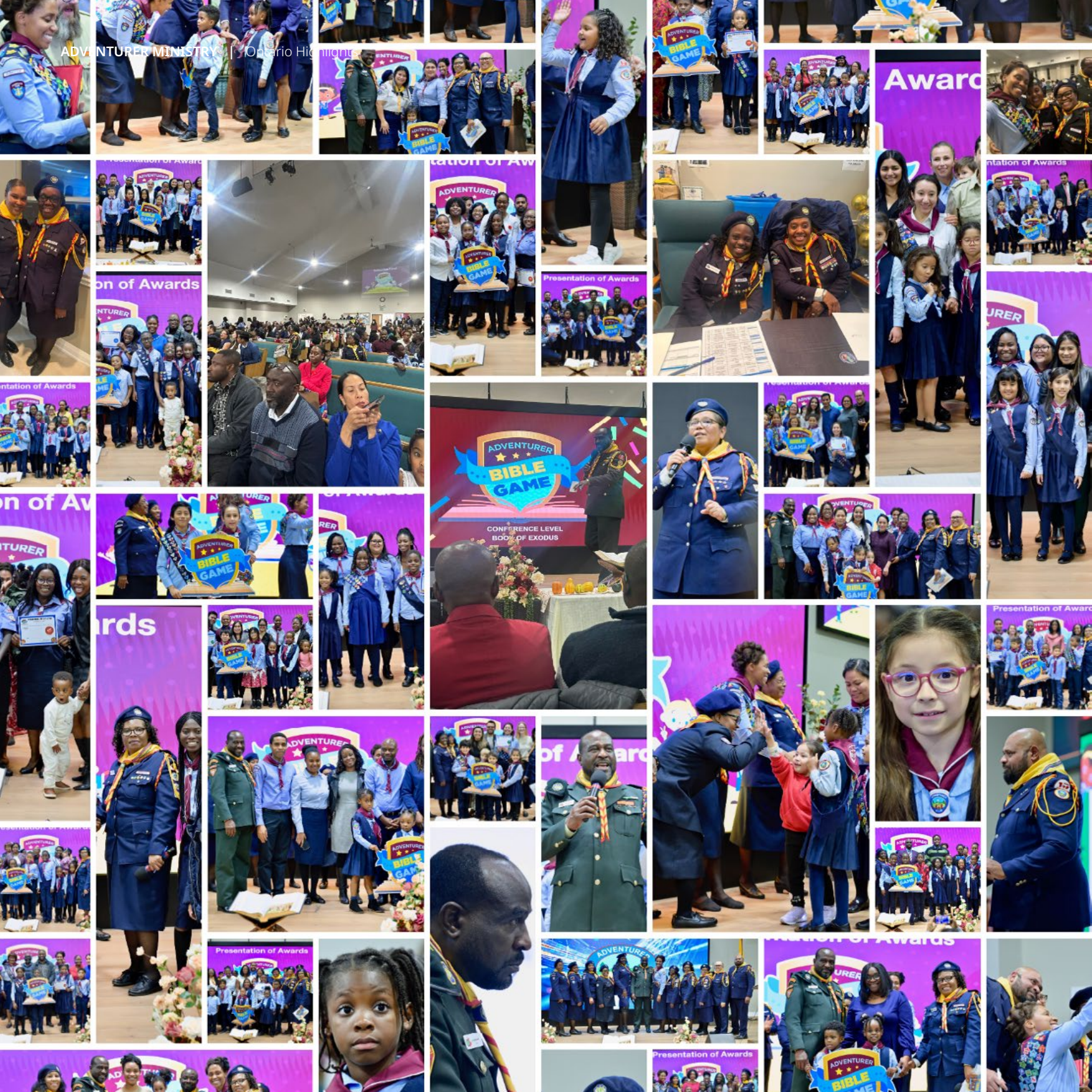
■ **Isabela Bibulović**

Co-Chair, Young Professionals Network

Follow us on Instagram: @ypn_sda

Email: ypnetwork@adventistyouthontario.org





A YEAR OF GROWTH, SERVICE AND FAITH

Celebrating Adventurer Ministry in 2025



The Ontario Conference Adventurer Ministry had a meaningful year in 2025 as families, children, directors, and volunteers journeyed together through events designed to foster growth, strengthen leadership, and deepen each child's walk with Jesus. This year beautifully reflected the essence of Adventurer Ministry by building faith, supporting families, and assisting Adventurer clubs across Ontario.

The year started with the online Adventurer Devotional program based on the Adventurer Law and Pledge. Since January 1, Adventurer families have taken turns sharing Scripture each night on the Ontario Adventurers YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram pages. Behind each video is a moment of family teamwork—parents practising verses with their children, helping with recordings, and praying over each message. This nightly devotional series has brought families together while blessing hundreds of viewers across the province.

Growth was a defining theme of 2025, marked by the addition of 10 new Adventurer clubs. Their enthusiasm and creativity have brought fresh energy to the ministry, reminding us that the Adventurer ministry continues to expand and impact more families each year.

Leadership development remained central to ministry activities. In February, both new and returning leaders participated in the Adventurer Basic Staff Training (ABST), where they gained vital knowledge in child development, safety guidelines, discipline, and spiritual leadership. A second ABST session in September ensured that newly appointed staff received comparable training. In April, the Walking and Working With Jesus (WWWJ) Digital Ministry Training empowered children and youth to

become digital evangelists by teaching them how to use creativity and media to share the gospel.

World Adventurer Day, with the theme "Travel with Faith," was celebrated worldwide on May 17. Churches organised parades, special services, community outreach, and recognition programs highlighting children's achievements and their dedication to following Jesus. The day served as a meaningful reminder that children are not just the future of the church—they are active, committed disciples today.

The summer's big event, the Adventurer Family BRAVE Camporee, drew more than 1,000 campers to Camp New Lowell from July 23 to 27. Inspired by the story of Esther, children and parents worshipped outdoors, enjoyed nature-based activities, visited the prayer tent, and were moved by nightly drama presentations. The Camporee strengthened bonds, sparked courage, and taught Adventurers that bravery begins with trusting God.

Another highlight of the year was the Adventurer Bible Game (ABG). Adventurers studied the book of Exodus. Months of studying prepared children for the district-level event on October 4 and the Conference-level event on November 8 at Downsview



Seventh-day Adventist Church. With over 40 ABG teams, the Adventurers and parents demonstrated impressive knowledge of Scripture, teamwork, and family togetherness, eager to learn God’s Word.

On another development, joy filled the Ottawa region on October 26 with the Ottawa Adventurer Family Fair held at the Carleton Place Arena. Under the theme, “I Am a Promise with a Purpose,” families enjoyed booths, crafts, games, and hands-on activities that celebrated God’s unique plan for every child.

A significant milestone this year was the opening of the AMP Resource Centre, now serving all Adventurer, Pathfinder, and Master Guide clubs in Ontario. Clubs can order uniforms, journals, and investiture supplies by visiting www.clubministries.ca. An AMP Heritage Centre museum is also in development to preserve and share the spiritual legacy of AMP ministries.

The year concludes with the Ontario Conference Adventurer Leadership Convention on November 15 at Crawford Adventist Academy East Campus in Pickering. Adventurer directors and staff gathered for workshops, training, spiritual renewal, and recognition. The convention empowered leaders, affirmed their ministry calling, and equipped them with a fresh vision for 2026.

From devotionals to Bible study, from leadership training to unforgettable family experiences, 2025 has been a remarkable year of growth, service, and faith. The Adventurer Ministry continues its mission to nurture faith, build families and lead Adventurer children and their families to a closer relationship with God.



■ **Martine Charles**
Coordinator,
Ontario Conference Adventurer Council



CALLED TO SERVE

A Season of Growth and Fellowship for Ontario Master Guides



The summer of 2025 was a season overflowing with purpose, joy, and spiritual renewal for Ontario's Master Guides. Across campsites, classrooms, and communities, they lived out their mission—to serve with compassion, lead with courage, and inspire the next generation to walk faithfully with Christ. From historic gatherings to hands-on ministry, every experience reflected their commitment to service, leadership, and discipleship.

The First NAD Master Guide Camporee

From August 6-9, 2025, approximately 80 Master Guides and trainees from Ontario joined over 2,000 campers from across North America and beyond at the first-ever NAD Master Guide Camporee, held at the breathtaking Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, West Virginia.

Led by Pastor Edwin Martin, then director of AMP Club Ministries, and Executive Coordinator Cherrie Anne James of the Ontario Conference Master Guide Council (OCMGC), the Ontario delegation represented their conference with enthusiasm and dedication.



With the theme “Called to Serve,” this historic event brought Master Guides together from the United States, Canada, and around the world for a weekend of worship, learning, and fellowship. Days were filled with outdoor challenges, leadership workshops, and cultural celebrations that strengthened both skill and spirit.

Rondail Bernal and Vyncee Dammog from the First Fil-Can Oracle MG club were among those invested as Master Guides during the camporee’s investiture ceremony. The event also marked a special milestone with the debut performance of the Ontario Master Guide choir, whose upbeat and inspiring music uplifted everyone present.

Pathfinder Honours Camp

Closer to home, Master Guides continued their mission of mentorship through the Pathfinder Honours Camp at Camp New Lowell. Over three four-day sessions in July and August, tents and cabins became vibrant classrooms of discovery.

Guided by seasoned Master Guides, young Pathfinders explored a wide range of honours—from camping and backpacking to crafts, astronomy, and Bible marking. Each activity blended practical skills with spiritual reflection, helping youth encounter God in nature and everyday learning.

For the Master Guides themselves, it was a time of growth and connection. Experienced Master Guides (MGs) and Master Guides Trainees (MGTs) shared teaching methods, honed leadership abilities, and built lasting bonds of mentorship—ensuring that the legacy of service continues for generations to come.

The Survival Camp Experience

As summer drew to a close, fourteen Master Guides and trainees accepted one final challenge: Survival Camp. Led by District Coordinator Charles Deans, the group set out to improve their wilderness skills and spiritual resilience, mastering shelter-building, navigation, and first aid while strengthening teamwork and faith.

A visit from Pastor Selburn Fray, newly appointed AMP Ministries Director, added spiritual depth to the experience. His message reminded participants that true strength in ministry comes not from physical endurance alone, but from steadfast faith and a heart committed to service.





Mission Work Across Ontario

Beyond the campsites, Master Guides carried their mission into the wider community. Teams served in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Leamington, and Sudbury, assisting with church renovations, leading Vacation Bible Schools, and conducting outreach programs that uplifted both congregations and neighbourhoods.

Through every act of service—painting a wall, teaching a child, or offering a prayer—the Master Guides lived out the spirit of Christ's love. Their work ignited renewed enthusiasm within the ministry and touched the hearts of countless people across Ontario.

Lasting Impact

The summer of 2025 will be remembered as a season of service, learning, and transformation. As Ontario Master Guides continue their journey of discipleship, they carry with them the enduring lessons of that summer: to serve with humility, lead with integrity, and shine the light of Christ wherever they go.



■ **Irene Darrell-Austin**
Asst. Secretary, OCMGC



A photo with Pastor Jason McCracken, Ontario Conference Youth Director (1988–1989), taken at the North American Division's first-ever Master Guide Camporee in West Virginia. Pictured (L–R): Tamika Brown, Chester Lewis, Pastor Edwin Martin, Pastor Jason McCracken, Cherrie Anne James, and Beverley Lewis.

THE FORGIVENESS FEAST: A JOURNEY OF RESTORATION AND HEALING

Ontario Women Celebrate a Year of Grace, Growth, and Renewal



On December 6, 2025, women from across Ontario gathered for The Forgiveness Feast Celebration, marking the culmination of a year-long journey that began with a simple invitation to read “Forgiving What You Can’t Forget” together. What followed was a province-wide movement of healing that touched 82 churches and countless lives.

Throughout the year, women of every age and background came to what many began calling the “Forgiveness Table”—a safe, Spirit-filled space where walls fell, tears flowed, and healing took root, with the love of God mending what once seemed irreparable.

As one leader reflected, “We’re learning that forgiveness can be painful and prolonged, yet essential. Without it, we risk drifting away from God’s purpose. These gatherings have become sanctuaries—places to grow, learn, and share breakthroughs as we navigate the complexities of unforgiveness.”

This testimony captures the essence of the Forgiveness Feast: a spiritual refuge where women encounter the redemptive power of God’s grace. Through prayer, reflection, and honest conversations, participants discovered that forgiveness is not forgetting, but rather allowing God to restore what was broken and bring peace where pain once existed.

The December celebration was filled with testimonies, worship, interactive activities, and heartfelt praise. Women shared stories of reconciliation, celebrated new friendships, and rejoiced in what God has done. The white theme—reflected in décor and attire—symbolised restoration and peace, and the promise that

through Christ, all things are made new.

A special highlight was guest speaker Melissa Da Paiva Gibson, whose remarkable forgiveness story—featured in the documentary *Return to Palau*—continues to inspire audiences worldwide. Her testimony reaffirmed that divine forgiveness can transform even the deepest tragedy into a powerful witness of grace.

The Forgiveness Feast is now gaining attention beyond Ontario. Patricia Ferreira Lopez has been invited to present the initiative at the North American Division’s Adventist Ministries Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, as conferences across the continent prepare to launch their own forgiveness journeys in 2026.

For those who missed this year’s series, all monthly handouts and chapter prompts are available on the Women’s Ministries page at AdventistOntario.org.



■ **Patricia Ferreira Lopez**
*Children & Women’s Ministries Director,
Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church*

Holiday Message from the Ontario Conference Administrative Committee

Humility Leads To Glory

As we enter this holiday season, Christians around the world celebrate the greatest gift humanity has ever received—Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Emmanuel—God with us. The early Apostolic Church honoured Jesus by singing the Hymn of Christ (Philippians 2:6-11), a profound declaration of radical humility, love, and selflessness.

This hymn reminds us that Christ voluntarily relinquished divine privilege to serve humanity—a model of ultimate humility and self-giving love. Theologians emphasise that His exaltation came only after obedience and suffering, revealing a divine pattern: humility leads to glory.

Through humility, Jesus defeated sin and reconciled us to the Heavenly Father, granting us a new beginning and the promise of eternal life. This season, may we celebrate Emmanuel—God with us—and follow His example in the New Year as His true disciples. Jesus prepared the way to victory through humility and became the first disciple-maker, leading His followers on a journey of servanthood and affirming the path of discipleship.

As we conclude this year and look forward to the New Year, our prayer is that we embody the spirit of the Hymn of Christ in our discipleship journey and embrace this divine pattern: humility leads to glory.



Jakov Bibulović
President



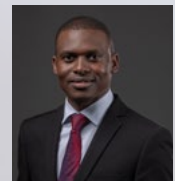
Emile Maxi
*VP for Admin /
Executive Secretary*



Virene Meikle
*VP for Finances /
Treasurer*



Mansfield Edwards
VP for Evangelism



Dalubuhle Sifani
Associate Treasurer

SENIORS MINISTRY

Ageless Faith, Endless Impact

A few years ago, the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church launched the Seniors Ministry Department—a vital addition to the life and mission of our church community. This ministry was established in recognition of the essential role seniors play in the spiritual, social, and emotional health of the church. Each seniors club within the Conference seeks to affirm the wisdom of our elder members, engage seniors beyond our congregations, and create spaces where they can thrive in both faith and fellowship.

Spiritually, these clubs provide meaningful opportunities for seniors to deepen their faith through Bible study, prayer groups and personal witnessing. Members are encouraged to pass on their legacy of faith, values and testimonies to younger generations—a powerful reminder that God's call does not retire. Our seniors continue to embody ageless faith with endless impact. Their purpose and influence, strengthened by fellowship and worship, sustain them through life's transitions and prepare them for their ultimate rest in Christ.

Beyond spiritual growth, seniors clubs offer social and emotional benefits that are equally impactful. They provide a safe and affirming environment where seniors feel seen, valued, and connected. The clubs have proven effective in reducing the risk of loneliness and isolation by fostering social connections. Within these circles of meaningful friendship, seniors uplift one another through prayer, shared experiences, and even exercise sessions that improve their emotional well-being.

At both the local and Conference levels, social activities promote physical wellness, mental engagement, and broader social involvement. Many clubs also include wellness education, exercise programs, and health screenings, helping our seniors to add life to their years and years to their lives.



Representation from over 100 seniors clubs across the Ontario Conference.

One senior shared this heartfelt feedback:

“A well-organized outing showing the love and care put into the planning, accommodating every senior regardless of their ability....”

This year, the Conference-wide annual Seniors’ Retreat was held in the beautiful city of Quebec, highlighting the spirit of fellowship, joy, and care that define this ministry.

Today, we celebrate more than 100 seniors clubs across Ontario. Our churches continue to witness the immense value seniors bring through their time, talents, skills, and experience, enriching every aspect of church ministry and outreach.

A thriving Seniors Ministry ensures that older adults remain connected, valued, and spiritually active—blessing our congregations with their wisdom, love, and service.

Indeed, our seniors remind us that growing older in faith is not about slowing down; it is about continuing to serve, to love, and to inspire. Their ageless faith fuels an endless impact, blessing our churches, families, and communities with wisdom, grace, and unwavering devotion to God’s work.



■ **Pastor Mansfield Edwards, DMin**
Seniors Ministry, Indigenous Ministry Director,
and Vice President for Evangelism and
Outreach, Ontario Conference



Seniors engaged in meaningful discussion surrounding being God’s Ambassadors at the recent annual Seniors Retreat held in Quebec City, QC, September 14-16, 2025



The Seniors Club of the Philadelphia Adventist Church showcases their creative crochet artwork at the Metro East District Health Expo.

REACHING OUT WITH RESPECT

The Growth of the Indigenous Ministry

One of the newest and most meaningful initiatives in the Ontario Conference is the Indigenous Ministry - an intentional effort to build relationships, share the gospel, and serve Indigenous communities in ways that honor their culture, dignity, and heritage. Our current focus is in Northwest Ontario, a region where Indigenous people face significant neglect and experience some of the highest suicide rates in Canada.

Because Jesus always included the excluded, we are clear that the church must extend compassion and ministry to these neglected people through our ministry. God's kingdom embraces all peoples, and Scripture reminds us that "...God gave us the ministry of reconciliation..." (2 Corinthians 5:18).

The word of God further instructs us to "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed." Isaiah 1:17, NIV. This divine calling guides every step of our work. This unique ministry requires deep listening and sensitivity to stories of historical injustices, including the painful legacy of residential schools, where many Indigenous children never returned home. For many Indigenous people, the word "church" still evokes mistrust. Therefore, our mission begins with humility, respect, and a commitment to restoration through Jesus Christ.

Recognizing both the challenges and opportunities ahead, we have sought practical, life-giving ways to serve. After discovering that many residents were forced to drink unsafe lake water contaminated with bacteria and viruses, we launched a Clean Water Project. With the consent of the Chief and Band Council—obtained through careful and respectful dialogue—we installed clean water systems in community centres, schools, and elders' homes, with plans to expand to local clinics.

We also regularly sent non-perishable food, warm clothing, and toys to various reserves. Our partnership with Adventist World Aviation (AWA) has played a key role in this effort. Using a Cessna plane, we can reach remote reserves that are inaccessible by road, approximately forty of which are spread across Ontario.

Because of the alarming rate of suicide in Northwest Ontario, we have acquired property to establish a Center of Influence dedicated to providing suicide prevention, intervention, and



Ontario Conference administrators and directors unite in prayer, blessing the supplies soon to be delivered to Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario.

***“We are called to reach out to others -
embracing all people with the inclusive love of Christ.”***

possibly postvention counseling. We pray that through this ministry, lives will be saved, hope will be restored, and communities will experience healing in Christ.

A recent milestone in our journey was hosting our first Indigenous Retreat, which welcomed participants from across Ontario—both Adventist and non-Adventist. It was a fascinating yet deeply moving experience as we listened to powerful stories of pain, survival, and resilience. One elderly gentleman, attending an Adventist event for the first time, shared how he had twice been taken to a residential school—escaping once, only to be recaptured and severely beaten. His story reminds us of the deep wounds that still cry out for healing and reconciliation.

In our ongoing effort to build bridges, we recently provided all pastors serving near a reserve with a copy of *The Moccasin Trail to Heaven*, written by Indigenous Adventist author Liz Obomsawin.



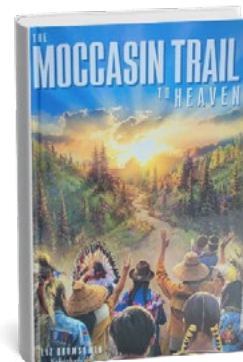
Sharon Lapointe-Johns and Jamie Johns engaged in discussion at the Indigenous Retreat held at Camp Frenda, ON

The book parallels *Steps to Christ*, offering a step-by-step spiritual journey toward faith in Christ as Saviour.

Our ministry with Indigenous communities continues to grow as we prayerfully prepare to enter new reserves. We move forward with prayer, compassion, and confidence in God’s guidance. After all, Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman, crossing cultural and social boundaries with love and grace. In the same way, we are called to reach out to others—embracing all people with the inclusive love of Christ.



■ **Pastor Mansfield Edwards, DMin**
***Seniors Ministry, Indigenous Ministry Director,
and Vice President for Evangelism and
Outreach, Ontario Conference***



The Moccasin Trail to Heaven,
written by Liz Obomsawin

ADVENTIST BRANDING & IDENTITY

United in Christ: Strengthening Our Adventist Identity Across Ontario

The Lord desires His church to be united. In fact, Jesus prayed that His followers “may all be one... so that the world may believe” (John 17:21). Our Adventist brand is a visible reflection of that unity, reflecting our shared mission and message. A consistent visual identity communicates to the world, including the digital realm, that we are one with Christ.

To safeguard this shared identity, all churches and entities in Ontario are encouraged to consistently use the official logo and name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church's trademarked logo and name should not be altered, and local churches should refrain from creating their own logos. Leaders and members are also asked to refer to the church as the Seventh-day Adventist Church or simply Adventist, rather than using the abbreviation SDA.

NEED HELP?
These guidelines apply to all church signage, website domain names, social media handles, T-shirts, promotional items, and other printed materials to ensure a recognisable, unified Adventist presence across the province.

Unified Church Domain Names.

The Conference is introducing a standardised domain name system for all churches, using the format (ChurchName)Adventist.ca (e.g., www.AjaxAdventist.ca). This initiative strengthens the Conference's online presence and makes it easier for people to find and recognise our churches in the digital space. For social media handles, use @ajaxadventist instead of @ajaxsda.

To strengthen our collective online identity, the Ontario Conference is introducing a standardised domain format for all churches:

(ChurchName)Adventist.ca

Example: www.AjaxAdventist.ca

Social media handles should follow the same pattern—for example, @ajaxadventist instead of @ajaxsda. This system enhances discoverability and helps the public easily recognise Adventist churches online.

AdventistConnect Frame Website Platform

Through our partnership with AdventistConnect.org, all churches and schools will receive support in developing user-friendly websites and vibrant online communities, strengthening digital ministry and outreach.

Church Signage

The Ontario Conference has adopted the official North American Division (NAD) design standard (including the NAD denim colour) for all publications, with particular emphasis on church signage. All signs—whether changeable-letter, monument, or digital—must follow the NAD branding guidelines and receive approval from the Ontario Conference to ensure consistency across the province.

Local church or organisational names should appear beneath the words “Seventh-day Adventist Church.” Additional logos, special effects, or design alterations are not permitted. Historically, many of our churches have highlighted local geographic identifiers (such as names of cities or streets) more than our global Adventist name. It is now time to make the church's official logo and name more prominent.

Preparation for a Major Digital Ministry Initiative

All members are encouraged to prepare for the 2026 Pentecost and Beyond evangelistic effort and the OneVoice27: Mission for All initiative, during which every member will engage in intentional digital ministry throughout 2027.

To support these mission efforts, all churches and entities within the Ontario Conference are asked to comply fully with the branding guidelines according to the following timeline:

- By January 2026: Update all websites, social media handles, bulletins, and print media
- By September 2027: Install all standardised, Conference-approved indoor and outdoor church signs (including podium signs)

Let us represent God with clarity and excellence through our Adventist brand and identity. As the Bible reminds us, “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40). May our public witness be orderly, consistent, and intentional—demonstrating that we are united in Christ with one name, one mission, and one message.

For assistance, please contact the Ontario Conference Communications and Media Department at communications@adventistontario.org.



■ **Pastor Edwin Martin**
Communications and Media Director,
Ontario Conference

The AI-generated images below are for visual reference only. Detailed outdoor signage designs will be provided to all churches.





ONTARIO CONFERENCE

Network of Adventist Communicators



Purpose:

To equip communication and media professionals and volunteers with the tools and structure needed to effectively implement media plans across Ontario.

JOIN NOW

Scan to
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a media skills
inventory



FAITH, MEDIA, AND MISSION

An Interview with Pastor Edwin Martin

The Church faces both challenges and extraordinary opportunities to share the gospel. Pastor Edwin Martin, the Ontario Conference's new Communications and Media Director and Editor of Ontario Highlights, believes that communication is about transformation. In this interview, he speaks with Kristen Maclean about his faith journey, the rising role of youth in media ministry, and how each member can become a digital missionary.

Kristen:

How has your personal faith journey influenced your approach to communication and media ministry?

Pastor Martin:

God has used many forms of media—and many people—to help me grow in my faith. My family, pastors, teachers, and mentors shared the gospel with me through their words and actions. Growing up, I studied the Bible through Voice of Prophecy lessons and grew spiritually through Adventist Christian education and the Pathfinder ministry. Over time, I realised that communication is more than merely the transmission of information—it is an invitation to transformation.

COVID, for example, initially seemed like a barrier to the mission, but it became a catalyst for digital evangelism and social media ministry. Those years reminded me of the power of media when it is placed in God's hands. Today, every communication project I lead begins with prayer, asking the Lord for wisdom to share the gospel with creativity, clarity, and love.

Kristen:

I appreciate that you choose to lead every project with prayer. It is an invaluable practice, especially for our young

people. What role do you see children and youth playing in the communication ministry of the church moving forward?

Pastor Martin:

Children and youth are vital to ministry. They are called digital natives—a term coined by Marc Prensky—because they were born into the digital world with an instinctive grasp of media and technology. This makes them valuable assets and resources for the church in all its communication efforts.

To nurture these gifts, the Ontario Conference launched the Walking and Working With Jesus (WWWJ) initiative, equipping children and youth to serve as digital missionaries, evangelists, and disciple-makers. My vision is for children and youth to be active collaborators and co-creators—writing scripts, filming videos, designing graphics, launching ministries—rather than passive consumers.

Kristen:

Wow. And we have seen some of these young people already in action! What advice would you offer to adult Adventists who want to share their faith more effectively online?

Pastor Martin:

Begin by sharing Christ and the wonderful things He has done in

your life. This is what witnessing is truly about. Knowing that today's generation has a short attention span, post brief yet impactful testimonies that can inspire others.

Share Scriptures that have encouraged you on social media. Offer prayers for your community. Post reflections from your devotional time. Record a short video about God's faithfulness. These small acts create opportunities for deeper faith conversations.

And here's something practical: engagement truly matters. If our 38,000+ Ontario members would watch, like, comment on, and share content produced by the Conference, local churches, Hope Channel, and other Adventist institutions, algorithms would naturally promote those messages further. Our digital mission would effectively amplify itself. Your simple click can help the gospel reach further than you realise.

Kristen:

Each of us can help the church grow, and it is easier than we thought. Or is it? What do you believe is the greatest communication challenge the Church faces today—and how can we address it with hope?

Pastor Martin:

We live in an oversaturated digital culture. In such an environment, the Church's message of hope can easily be drowned out.

But we respond by communicating the Everlasting Gospel with clarity, compassion, and consistency. When our words reflect lives transformed by Christ, they rise above the distractions. Our Adventist identity—our “brand,” in communication terms—must be rooted in authentic experiences within our local churches. People should encounter the same warmth online as they do in person.

We must also embrace new media, including storytelling, short-form video, podcasts, and visual arts, while remaining grounded in our mission.

And above all, we face this challenge with hope. Algorithms cannot contain the Holy Spirit. God has a way of multiplying our small efforts. When we communicate with humility and integrity, He opens doors we never expected.

Kristen:

What message would you like to share with Ontario Adventists—especially those faithfully serving behind the scenes?

Pastor Martin:

I would like to thank everyone, especially those involved in Communications and Media within our local churches. You who work diligently behind the scenes are the unsung heroes of our time. You are the FILO leaders—First In, Last Out—whose commitment sustains our churches, ministries, and communities.

The flyers and bulletins you produce, the scripts you write, the slides you prepare, the contents and videos you create, the audio-visual systems you manage, and every quiet act of kindness offered behind the scenes all play a vital role. Through your faithful work, you are making a profound difference—within your local church, across Ontario, throughout Canada, and around the world. Surely, God is pleased with your humble and dedicated service.

Pastor Martin's insights remind us that media ministry is not reserved for specialists—it belongs to all who are willing to share Christ with courage and creativity. Whether through a simple post, a shared video, or a prayer offered online, each of us can help amplify the gospel. As Ontario Adventists continue serving faithfully, the call is clear: communicate hope, embody authenticity, and trust that God will multiply every effort.



■ **Kristen Maclean**
Departmental Secretary,
Communications and Media Ministry

LOCAL NEWS

From Imagination to Action: Belleville's Christ-Centred Ministry Shift

SCAN FOR AUDIO



For generations, many of our churches have followed a traditional model—Sabbath services, prayer meetings, and evangelistic series led by a speaker behind a pulpit. Add a few seasonal initiatives here and there, and there you have it—our yearly pattern. But what if things were different? What if we adopted the “Christ’s method alone” model, establishing a strong foundation of trust and reassurance?

What if...

- Our churches became places people want to enter because they are not mere numerical statistics, but faces with names.
- We truly mingled with our neighbours, identified their felt needs, ministered to those needs, and won their confidence without judging their looks or perceived history?
- We showed our communities that we share common ground, while still preserving the distinctiveness of our Seventh-day Adventist identity.

The Belleville Seventh-day Adventist Church chose to stop imagining and start acting. Their Pentecost 2025 and Beyond initiative is built entirely on this Christ-centred model. One of the most vibrant examples of this shift was the “Back to School Family

Funday,” held on Sunday, August 23, 2025, on the church grounds. This celebration followed the church’s third annual Church in the Park service and preceded the third annual Concert and Corn—three events designed to take the church to the community while warmly welcoming the community into the church.

The plan was straightforward: distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to families in need, offer food, clothing, free haircuts, and organise activities for all ages. Organisers prepared for around 300 people but welcomed approximately 1,000 individuals passing through. Alongside the festivities were thoughtfully placed, no-obligation resources such as Steps to Jesus, Who Are Seventh-day Adventists?, Bible Answers, and, of course, free Bibles.

“Their kindness was not performative, nor a gesture of obligation. It was genuine friendship, rooted in Christ, transcending cultural lines.”

“Where colonisers imposed supremacy, the Belleville church offered Christ’s example of generosity.”

The day exceeded every expectation—not only ours, but the community’s as well. The following reflection, written by an attendee, captured the heart of what unfolded:

Modern Day Acts 2: A Christ-Filled Model of Community

“This year, a representative from the Quinte Cultural Innovation Committee had the privilege of being welcomed into the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Family Fun Day presentation. What we encountered was not simply an event, but a living expression of Christ’s generosity, fellowship, and joy.

The openness of their hospitality left us humbled. From the food, activities, and laughter, to the way every family and visitor was embraced, it felt like Acts 2 came alive, where the Early Church “shared all things in common” and “broke bread together with gladness and sincerity of heart.” It also echoed the invitation of Isaiah 55: “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!” The abundance was not measured in resources alone, but in the spirit of Christ-like giving, freely, without condition, without transaction, and without exclusion.

An Embodied Heart Posture of Friendship

What stood out most was not the program itself, but the posture behind it. The Seventh-day Adventist community did not welcome new visitors as outsiders or guests; they welcomed everyone as friends and family. Their kindness was not performative, nor a gesture of obligation. It was genuine friendship, rooted in Christ, transcending cultural lines.

In this way, they modelled the leadership our communities desperately

need. Colonisers once arrived on these lands under the false banner of friendship, claiming Christ while indulging in exploitation, theft, and division, everything contrary to His teaching and lived example. The contrast could not be clearer. Where colonisers imposed supremacy, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Belleville offered Christ’s example of generosity.

Closing Reflection

We left Family Fun Day with full hearts, convinced this is what true leadership looks like. It is this Christ-centred leadership that will guide our region toward a future of reconciliation.”

It may take some time before we reach the “Come, follow Me” stage with those we serve, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that day will surely come. Until then, we remain committed to being God’s hands and feet in Belleville and beyond—living the Gospel not only from the pulpit, but in the everyday spaces where community grows and where God’s love can touch lives through us.



■ **Garth Geddes**
Pastor, Belleville Seventh-day Adventist Church



A MENNONITE BECOMES ADVENTIST

How One Young Man's Journey Reflected a Church on Mission

In a quiet corner of Ontario—where farmlands stretch to the horizon and diverse communities live side by side—a remarkable story unfolded. It is a story not only of personal transformation, but also of a church deeply committed to its God-given mission.

From 2018 to 2025, the Leamington Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the passionate, Spirit-filled leadership of Pastor Leobardo Salas, became far more than a local place of worship. It became a movement—alive with grace, anchored in truth, and propelled by mission. The congregation dared to believe that the gospel still changes lives, and indeed, it did.

One of those lives belonged to a 21-year-old Mennonite young man named Peter Schmitt Giesbrecht, whose journey into the Adventist faith stands as a testament to the power of the Holy Spirit—and to the steady, compassionate ministry of a church that takes its mission seriously.

A Vision to Ignite Transformation

When Pastor Salas arrived in Leamington, he carried a clear purpose: not to maintain tradition, but to ignite transformation. To him, the gospel was not a museum piece—it was a living fire meant to illuminate hearts and communities.

Under his leadership, the church invested intentionally in community outreach, Bible studies, health ministries, and deep discipleship. Every Sabbath, the sanctuary came alive with prayer, vibrant worship, and the turning of Bible pages as members grew in faith together.

SCAN FOR AUDIO



But ministry didn't stop at the church doors. Recognising that its mission extended into the community, the congregation reached out to migrant workers, visited families in need, delivered meals, and met people where they were—whether in fields, in living rooms, or in quiet moments of spiritual searching. They spoke the language of their community, not just in Spanish, but also in compassion, consistency, and truth.

A Quiet Search Begins

It was in this missional environment that member Alfonso Jovani Rodriguez invited a young Mennonite man to attend a church service. What Peter found there was unfamiliar... yet undeniable.

Raised within the simplicity and reverence of Mennonite tradition, Peter valued faith, family, modesty, and devotion to God. But as he grew older, deeper questions stirred within him—questions that would eventually open his heart to God's next step for his life.

**He attended the Adventist program
out of curiosity.**

**He returned because something
moved in his heart.**

Inside the Leamington Spanish church, Peter encountered warm smiles, heartfelt worship, and—most profoundly—biblical truth presented with clarity and compassion. He discovered a faith that honoured Scripture in its fullness, embracing both grace and obedience... not legalistically, but lovingly. It resonated deeply.



A New Life in Christ

On August 3, 2025, beside the peaceful river at Camp New Lowell, Peter made his decision public. Surrounded by friends, church members, and the beauty of God's creation, he was baptised by Pastor Leobardo Salas.

The water marked a new beginning.

Today, Peter is more than a member of the Leamington Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is a witness. A testimony. A disciple.

With quiet conviction, he now prepares to share what he has found—helping others discover the joy of truth, the gift of the Sabbath, and the beauty of a life fully surrendered to Christ.



■ **Pastor Laurentiu Prelipcian**
***On behalf of the Communication Department,
Leamington Spanish Seventh-day
Adventist Church***

MINISTERIAL AND EDUCATION

Welcoming Our New Pastors and Teachers

As the Ontario Conference continues to grow rapidly, there is a high demand for new workers. We warmly welcome this year’s new pastors, Bible instructors, and teachers, who bring enthusiasm, new ideas, and a commitment to their roles. May their efforts inspire renewal, learning, and faith across our congregations, schools, and wider community.



Conrod Grant
Pastor
Pembroke Adventist Church
Bancroft Adventist Group
Since January 2025



Wesley Orieux
Pastor
Eglise Adventiste Francophone de Toronto
Smyrna Adventist Church
Since May 2025



Royston Smith
Pastor
Mississauga Adventist Church
Since December 2024



Guillermo Hernandez Maya
Pastor
Windsor Spanish Adventist Company
Leamington Spanish Adventist Group
Since August 2025



Daniel Sánchez
Pastor
Durham Spanish Adventist Company
Scarborough Spanish Group
Since January 2025



Gui Rim Yi
Pastor
Western Toronto Korean Adventist Church
Since June 2025



Oludare Abioye

Pastor

Toronto Nigerian Adventist Church
Burlington Adventist Church
Since January 2025



James Rogers

Bible Instructor

Timmins Adventist Church
Haileybury Adventist Church
Since February 2025



Obed Kwabena Obeng

Associate Pastor

Toronto Ghanaian Adventist Church
Since September 2025



Michael Lowas

Pastor

Heritage Ghanaian Adventist Church
Since October 2025



Paul McKenzie

Bible Instructor

Metro South Central Region



Leonid Rutkovskyi

Pastor

Thunder Bay Adventist Church
Since November 2025



Shar Kay Htoo

Bible Instructor

Kar'en Ministry Coordination



Antony Vera Amaya

Pastor

Carleton Place Church and Ottawa Spanish Church
Since October 2025



Fabricio Leite

Bible Instructor

Northern Ontario (Sioux Lookout)
Since July 2025



Peter George Gordon

Pastor

Chatham Adventist Church, Leamington Adventist Church, and Living Faith Adventist Company
Since September 2025



Gustavo Dias de Almeida
Pastor
Orillia Adventist Church and Midland Adventist
Company
Since October 2025



Rod M. R. Rene
Pastor
Guelph Adventist Church and Milton Adventist Church
Since November 2025



Martha Gaisie
Grades 5-6 Teacher
Ottawa Adventist School



Adrene Johnson
Grades 5-8 Teacher
Adventist Christian Elementary School
(London)



Juliette Kennedy-Nembhard
Grades 5-6 Homeroom/Bible and Grades 5-8
Language Arts/Music Teacher
Crawford Adventist Academy Peel Campus

A LEGACY OF FAITH

Celebrating Our Retirees

Retirement is not an end, but a continuation of a journey. The following pastors and teacher who retired this year have shared their gifts in classrooms, pulpits, and communities, leaving a lasting impact on our schools and churches. We thank and honour their dedicated service and pray their new chapter brings joy, rest, and a sense of purpose.



Rupert Gray
March 31, 2025



Rodrigo Alvarez
December 30, 2024



David Rogers
June 30, 2025



Rose Wilson
November 1, 2025

EARTH SUMMIT

Celebrating Creation, Inspiring Minds

Every year, Earth Day calls us to pause and marvel at the beauty and wonder of the planet we call home. Yet beyond the recycling bins and eco-friendly slogans, Earth Summit invites us to look deeper—to see the fingerprints of a Creator in every mountain peak, ocean wave, and breath of life.

The Earth Summit was born from a vision: to support people who celebrate Earth Day while also encouraging them to reflect on creation. It aims to inspire the hearts and minds of youth and young adults, especially those navigating the intellectual challenges of modern academia, in the truth that faith and science can coexist.

Bringing together highly qualified PhD presenters from across the Seventh-day Adventist spectrum, the Earth Summit offers a space where belief and evidence meet in meaningful dialogue. Scholars share insights from their diverse fields: biology, geology, theology, and beyond; each affirming a common truth: this world is no accident.

In his book, *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?*, scholar John Lennox once stated,

“Either human intelligence ultimately owes its origins to mindless matter, or there is a Creator. It is strange that some people claim that it is their intelligence that leads them to prefer the first to the second.”

Over the years, Earth Summit has flourished, featuring more than 60 interactive stations and presentations by experts in their fields. The summit has attracted over 28,000 participants: parents, students, professors, Muslims, Adventists, and seekers from all backgrounds. It inspires and educates minds with interest and perspectives on the earth, its origins, and its destiny.

University students, whether hired or volunteering, play a crucial role in the event's success, gaining firsthand experience and spiritual insight as they help bring this vision to life. Thanks to bus and subway ads, flyers, radio and TV broadcasts, commercials and interviews in English and Spanish, and social media engagement, the outreach continues to expand.

With the support of the North American Division and the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, the Earth Summit continues to thrive as a significant initiative that connects faith, science, and the stewardship of God's creation.

Mark Your Calendar

Earth Summit 2026 will be held on April 26, 2026.

Join the movement that celebrates creation, deepens faith, and inspires action. Whether you're a student, teacher, parent, or simply a curious mind, this is your invitation to see the Earth not just as our home, but as God's masterpiece.



■ **Pastor Mansfield Edwards, DMin**
Seniors Ministry, Indigenous Ministry Director,
and Vice President for Evangelism and Outreach,
Ontario Conference

CAMP MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

MAY 15 - 16

Western Ontario
TBA

MAY 23

Ontario Hispanic
Camp New Lowell

MAY 29 - 31

Southern Ontario
Simoce

MAY 30

Metro East & Near North
Camp New Lowell

JUNE 5 - 6

Eastern Ontario
Ottawa

JUNE 6

Metro North & South Central
Camp New Lowell

JUNE 12 - 13

Filipino-Canadian
Toronto

JUNE 20

Metro West Central & Metro West
Camp New Lowell

SEPTEMBER 4 - 6

Northern Ontario
Camp Noronto

A NEW DIRECTION FOR 2026

Regional Camp Meetings & Discipleship

The annual camp meeting is a special gathering of God's people for fellowship, revival, and spiritual renewal. Along with uplifting praise, worship, and powerful preaching, it also provides a valuable opportunity for members to invite loved ones, friends, neighbours, and others to hear the gospel and be transformed by it.

Ellen White affirms the unique impact of these gatherings:

"The camp meeting is one of the most important agencies in our work. It is one of the most effective methods of arresting the attention of the people and reaching all classes with the gospel." — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 31.

She also describes camp meetings as training grounds for ministry:

"The camp meeting is a school where workers may receive instruction in practical methods of labour." — Evangelism, p. 68.

With this in mind, the Ontario Conference Administration has designated 2026 for regional and ethnic camp meetings, each with a special emphasis on discipleship. These localised gatherings will enable churches and communities to connect more personally, build deeper relationships, and nurture mission-minded believers within their own contexts.

All members are warmly encouraged to attend and support the camp meeting closest to them. As we come together in these smaller yet spiritually rich settings across the province, may each gathering become a place where hearts are renewed, friendships are strengthened, and disciples are equipped for God's kingdom.

CASTING THE VISION FOR 2026

Pentecost and Beyond

SCAN FOR AUDIO



A Christian author, A. W. Tozer, best describes the urgency of the times we live in: “This is the day of the overwhelm—when men’s hearts are failing them for fear. Only a prepared people will stand.” Truly, these times are serious, and God is calling His church to renewed purpose, deeper faith, and clearer mission.

Following the 2025 General Conference Session, I became even more convinced that the Holy Spirit is calling all of us—leaders and members alike—to reconsider our priorities in life, ministry, and mission. The Great Commission is not optional. It is the church’s singular assignment, clearly revealed in Matthew 24:14: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

This proclamation is echoed in Revelation 14 through the Three Angels’ Messages—God’s final announcement to a world in crisis. Yet too often, in the way we live our Christian lives, we forget a vital truth: we are the angels. Ellen G. White affirms this in *Life Sketches*, p. 429.

Jesus Himself describes our assignment in Matthew 28:19-20, and Ellen White reinforces this in *The Desire of Ages*, p. 822:

“The Saviour’s commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time.”

Pentecost 2025 Mission Emphasis: Lessons for the Future

This past year’s Pentecost emphasis reminded us of a fundamental truth: Our greatest need is the Holy Spirit. Before the Holy Spirit equips us for mission, He works on our hearts. Once again, we are confronted with our inadequacy – and this leads us to humility and dependence on God. If we desire Pentecost power, we must seek Pentecost prayer. I invite every member to pray daily for the baptism of the Holy Spirit as we plan and serve together.

“No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven.”

OUR VISION:

Connecting
Like Jesus

OUR MISSION
EMPHASIS:

Pentecost and
Beyond

OUR GROWTH
DIRECTION:

Disciple Making

SCAN FOR
2026 EVENTS
CALENDAR



We must remember that we are Christ’s ambassadors. As someone once said, “An ambassador is not simply a messenger; he is the message.” When the world looks at us—our character, our values, our choices—they should see a reflection of the culture and glory of the Heavenly Kingdom.

With this conviction, the Ontario Conference enters 2026 committed to living out our vision of Connecting Like Jesus. Our mission emphasis is Pentecost and Beyond, and our growth direction is Disciple making—the core assignment Jesus entrusted to His church. Every member is called to be a disciple-maker.

Russell Burrell states in *Waking the Dead*, p. 23:
“Involvement in mission is not an option for a church that is loyal to Jesus... Thus any church not involved in the mission of Jesus is virtually living in sin.”

Looking Ahead: Cultivating a Disciple-making Culture

We encourage every church to develop an Active Discipleship Plan—one that involves all generations and every category of membership. Discipling children, youth, new believers, and new ministry leaders should become a normal and vital part of church life. Such a culture will open the door to reconciliation, reclamation, and restoration across our congregations.

The 2022 General Conference Session added an important chapter to our Church Manual—Chapter 6 on Disciple Making. It defines disciple-making as:
“A continuous process by which a person becomes a disciple of Jesus Christ, matures as His disciple, and makes more disciples.”

When congregations ask me about my passion for disciple-making evangelism, I share this definition:
“Evangelism must be viewed as a process leading to discipleship, not just an event that leads to membership. While increasing membership is a by-product of evangelism, the Great Commission envisions each believer becoming a mature, disciple-producing minister. The task of evangelism is not finished until new believers are nurtured, trained, deployed, and winning souls themselves.”
(www.GCevangelism.org)

A Call to Prayer and Commitment

As we step into 2026, I invite every pastor, elder, ministry leader, and member—especially our youth—to prayerfully allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, for us, and through us. Our world is crying out for hope. The harvest is ready. And Jesus is coming soon.

It is my prayer that together we will embrace and live out Disciple-making Evangelism—so that Pentecost becomes not merely an event on our calendar, but a way of life in our churches.

May God empower us as we follow His mission until the work is finished and we behold the glorious return of our Lord Jesus.



■ **Pastor Jakov Bibulović, DMin**
President

PENTECOS AND BEYOND



ONE VOICE 27
MISSION FOR ALL

PROJECT

September 2027
All media
The Messiah

PREPARATION

Prayer initiatives
Daniel & Revelation
The Desire of Ages

PURPOSE

Church mobilization
Bible study requests
Harvest events

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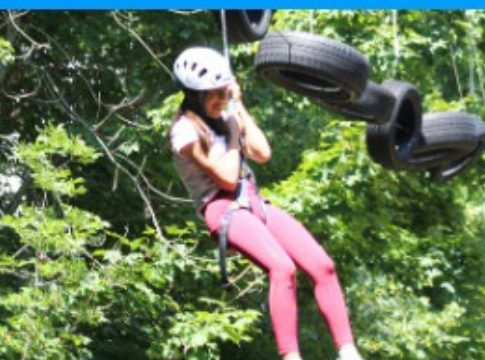
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
ONTARIO CONFERENCE

CAMP
MINISTRIES

**AGES
8-16**

Camp Frenda

SUMMER CAMP

2026 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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- Model Rocketry
- Mountain Biking
- Outdoor Survivor Skills
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