

# MOUNT OLIVE BEACON

*Drawing From Darkness into Light*

December 2018

## YOUTH IN FOCUS

### 2018 A HISTORY MAKING YEAR

By Evelyn Daniel, Communications Director

The year 2018 has indeed been a year of milestones for the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. Starting with the bittersweet change as our beloved Pastor David Rogers was replaced by not just one but two complementary pastors, Frankie Lazarus and Charles Mahadeosingh. Yes, we went from ***“I love you and you can’t do a thing about it”*** to ***“This is the day that the Lord hath made: Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad”***. Joining forces with Pastor in Training Akeem Ambrose this energetic, Christ-centered, mission focused team has strengthened the in-reach, outreach and youth empowerment programs at the church, giving rise to many of the milestones outlined below, for which photos and articles of these major milestone can be found within the pages of this edition:

- ◆ Youth Mission Trip to Montreal
- ◆ Youth Empowerment I & II
- ◆ Youth Concerts, Tournaments & Gym Nights
- ◆ Pathfinder Bible Bowl Championship
- ◆ New Pathfinder Drum Corps
- ◆ Safety Programs
- ◆ Return of the Flag Football Championship to Mount Olive
- ◆ Mammoth Community Guest Days
- ◆ 100th Birthday Celebration
- ◆ Family Camp
- ◆ Tropical Island Brunch, Expanded Meet & Greet and Culture Day
- ◆ New Masterguide Club

Their work was only possible because of the support of our members. Thank you all for making 2018 a year to remember.

### MASTER GUIDE HISTORY AT MOUNT OLIVE

By Paula McIntosh-Williams

Under the leadership of Master Guide Monica McIntosh and the direction of the Ontario conference, a Master Guide club was formed at the Mount Olive Church. This is an historical achievement for the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. The induction and consecration service for the club was held on December 15, 2018. There were 20 members inducted, 7 Master Guides and 13 Master Guides in training. Officiating were Conference representatives, Michelene Salmon and Alex Fedee.

The purpose of the Master Guide club is “to develop Christ-like leaders to disciple children and youth.” Also, the mission of the Master Guide club is “to empower leaders through effective training, equipping and deploying them for service.” The Vision is “to see young people saved.” The club has open enrollment all those who would like to join in improving the lives of our children and youth.



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- Celebration of Centenarian, Ida Gunn



**Frankie Lazarus,  
Senior Pastor**

**EVANGELISTIC SERIES**



# MY LIFE IS IN HIS HANDS – PSALM 31:14-15

The last six months or so of this year have been stressful. And it’s not just that Donald Trump sucks up all the oxygen. Even in our own city – Toronto, things seem to have gotten out of control with the marked increase in gun violence. The volatility of the stock market is causing people to really query what is going on? “Burn out” is real! Believe it or not, the Christmas season is one of the high stress points of people’s lives. And yet with all that is happening around us, the Bible – that ancient “quaint” book has much to say to us living in the age of stress.

David went through levels of stress like few of us have ever experienced. He wrote about it in Psalm 31. The Psalm was the result of the “pressure cooker” life that David was experiencing. David provides for us the key to handling stress in our lives – a situation that I believe will get worse as we draw toward the close of earth’s history. “But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand.” Psalm 31:14-15

It’s obvious from Psalm 31 that David knew God in a very personal, practical and thorough way before he got into the crisis that prompted the Psalm. David didn’t learn all that he declares about God out of the blue in the middle of this calamity, no, the Psalm

comes from a lifetime of experience with God so that when the stress hit, David could lean upon God has his ultimate resource.

Here is something we can take to the bank – God will never allow us to go through more stress than we can bear if we trust in Him! Even though David’s trial was terrifying, so that he despaired even of life itself, God gave him strength to endure. God isn’t into easy solutions. He doesn’t usually remove the trial the instant we seek Him. But none who have waited on Him have found Him to fail. “He gives more grace when the burdens grow greater!”

This year, some of you are going to feel like you’re in over your head. The stress will seem overwhelming and you’ll feel like your life is out of control. Guess what? We’re never in control, even when we proudly think that we are! God wants us to see that we’re always in over our heads! We’re dependent on Him for the next breath we take and for our daily food. Our response to stress, whether it comes from the big crisis or from the daily routine, should be consciously, deliberately to put our trust in the sovereign, personal God who is never in over His head. We need to put our Life in His hands.

## A TIME OF REFLECTION ON EVANGELISM: SOUND DOCTRINE



**Charles Mahadeosingh  
Associate Pastor**

There is a quotation from the book “Lift Him Up”, which popped into my head like those pop-ups on your computer screen as I reflected on our “Get Right with God” two-week evangelistic series (October 20th– November 5th, 2018). It brings together experience of the series in capsule form. It also delineates some pertinent aspects our youth at Mount Olive and elsewhere should keep at the forefront of all our evangelistic endeavors. As we consider the posterity of evangelism as it pertains not only to the saving of souls but also a way of preserving Seventh-day Adventist core doctrinal beliefs among the membership and community.

*“Tell those for whom you are laboring how God blessed you when you stepped out by faith. Your life was tested, you experienced trials, but God was with you. Your life was richly blessed by Him.” Lift Him Up p. 179*

This is sound doctrine. I am sure you will agree with me that accepting and believing sound doctrine is a major part of our walk with God. Sound Bible based doctrine was what Evangelist Dr. Fitzroy Maitland presented to the congregation, night after night for two weeks. He stepped out in faith each night even though the numbers were small. But as we know little is much when God is in it. The Holy Spirit moved within the walls of Mount Olive and thirteen (13) precious souls followed the Lord in baptism. Saints of God, trust the Lord in all things, step out in faith no matter the obstacles and He will richly reward you.



## YOUTH IN FOCUS



**Akeem Ambrose**  
Youth Pastor (IT)

Youth Ministry is my favourite ministry because, it is full of exciting new ways to worship and helps the church to stay relevant. Youth ministry helps the church focus on the way of Jesus, which goes BEYOND tradition, to break barriers and find creative ways to reach those who don't know Him.

The sole purpose of working with young people is to help them to grow mentally, personally but most importantly spiritually. One of the primary roles of a church is to help groom young people to minister to the world. Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In today's world, youth ministry is needed more than ever. It should be our goal to focus on youth ministry and to find ways to spiritually engage our young people. Deserved or not, youth ministry is immensely criticized. This criticism

causes the ministry as a whole to become very challenging and discouraging especially to the youth pastors. Because of this strain, the church as a whole should act as the backbone to youth ministry, empowering and providing assistance wherever possible.

When you take a step back and look at our world, youth ministry should be the most vibrant and important ministry in a church. If you don't have a thriving youth ministry, then you don't have a future. Although, many people see youth ministry as a baby-sitting program for teenagers to keep them "out of trouble" or "off of the streets;" the purpose of youth ministry is to motivate and equip young people to be our leaders of tomorrow.

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*"Youth ministry reflects the culture of a church more than people realize."*

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Often times we as adults tend to ignore the voice of the youth, but we forget that when we ignore the voice of the youth we fail to prepare for our future. Both young people and youth ministry ought to be taken seriously! Youth Ministry is real ministry and youth leaders do a lot behind the scenes work that the church at large doesn't see. There are several challenges when it comes to youth ministry, but the blessings and growth seen in the young people is worth it. When it comes to youth ministry support from the church at large is crucial. Show the youth that they matter by just being there and learning a few birthdates or names. When they have programs, or outings, go to support and encourage; if you can't, make it sponsor a child or the department financially. One thing I learned over the years is youth ministry is the only church ministry where numbers matter. If they don't feel your support or see you supporting them physically, when the church has a program going on it will be harder to get them to attend/participate.

Youth ministry reflects the culture of a church more than people realize. The same way that trends in fashion come and go while reflecting and foreshadowing what the new upcoming thing is, youth ministry reflects the same thing in a church. It is our job to empower our youth and work together in finding ways to reach others who don't know Jesus.

If our goal is not to help our youth develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by providing them the resources to grow in worship, ground them in the word, and give them opportunities to witness and serve others; what are we really doing? Do not expect to see greater things in youth ministry than what is happening in the church or even in the homes. My hope is that we are raising young people who are committed to Christ, committed to the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church, and have the Christian Leadership experience to make a difference in recruiting souls for the kingdom of heaven.

For the upcoming New Year, let's challenge ourselves to really get to know our young people. What are their likes and dislikes. What are their strengths and weaknesses. You wouldn't believe the difference it would make in not only church involvement but their lives.

## NEW YEAR MESSAGE



**Karl Brown**  
First Elder

What a year! Truly God has been good and gracious to us at Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. 2018 was filled with ups and downs, but God has been faithful to our congregation. Early on this year, we thanked the outgoing leadership of Pastor David Rogers, and welcomed our new Pastoral team of Pastor Frankie Lazarus and Pastor Charles Mahedeosingh. They have been tremendous in leading us and the vision they have for Mount Olive in 2019 is indeed audacious

By God's will we hope to do great things, and achieve higher heights in 2019. My prayer is for you to draw closer to Him, and allow Him to take your dreams and aspirations into His mighty hands. God's blessings as we are one year closer to meeting our Lord and Saviour .





## FAREWELL SIS VIGOD



By Kim Douglas

With a heavy heart we bid farewell to our sister, confidant and friend. Sis. Juliet Vigod has served this church for the past 4 years as Church Clerk. During this time she has proven herself to be very hardworking, dedicated and trustworthy. She has excellent time management skills and was always ready and willing to assist.

Our pastors will attest that she takes good care of them ensuring that what has to be done is done, gives the appropriate reminders to the leadership as needed and supports each member in getting letters for their job, filling applications etc...

Our lovely sister in Christ has come a long way. As she has often recounted, her 11 years in this church have brought her tremendous growth and enjoyment. God planted her into this congregation where her faith has been solidified through interaction with members who have shown love and appreciation to both herself and her children.

My sister Juliette, we hate to see you go. But we believe God has a greater plan for your life. We love you and will truly miss you. May God continue to bless and keep you. Come back soon, you hear!

## RELIVING FAMILY CAMP

By Andrea Gayle

It has been over eight years since Mount Olive has had a family camp at the Camp Frenda Resort in Muskoka. We returned the weekend of September 14–16 2018. It was a fantastic weekend for the almost 100 persons who attended and we bonded together as family. We arrived safely and everyone was given keys, checked into their rooms and got ready for sunset worship with our pastors. Our theme for the weekend was “*Family Together Stronger.*” A goal we were able to achieve through family activities of shared prayers and testimonies. We spoke about what certain songs meant to us. Pastor Lazarus’ sermon was interactive and the participation of everyone as family unit.

It was a great weekend for the children. They had their own children’s corner and

had a great time looking for selected items on our nature walk. We even saw footprints of the bears that reputedly live up in the mountains. It was a spirit-filled weekend and everyone enjoyed the surroundings, the food and the social activities. The staff were truly accommodating and pleasant to work with. We hope to be there again in 2020.



## ISLAND BRUNCH

By Una Johnson

The Deacons and Deaconesses Department wanted to do an event which was different and brought together as many persons as possible. The idea of a themed cultural day was born. With collective hard work and planning we agreed to set it up in the form of a boat cruise with stops at different Island whereby our clients were able to shop and enjoy some of the island foods, clothes, drinks and entertainment.



We had a wonderful time with the music, and performances by different artists. It was a beauty to see the different islanders dressed in their costumes making the day such a success. We are happy that this event sparked an interest in future events of similar nature—to capture the culture of our community. Thanks to all who assisted in making it possible especially those who cruised with us on February 11, 2018.

## COMMUNITY MEET & GREET



On Sunday, July 22, 2018 the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted its Annual Community Meet and Greet. The event brought the community in touch with the church, the services and programs that it offers as well as those available in the wider community.

This year the event took on a new flavor as it was combined with our Culture Day to highlight the various cultures in the community their food, dress etc., of representative countries. This included a mini concert showcasing songs, information and other features of many of the cultures. It was a fun-filled day and we were graced with the presence of the then Councillor, Vincent Crisanti who applauded the church’s continued community outreach efforts.





*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

## WELCOMING OUR COMMUNITY

The Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist church is a community centered church. Our programs have a large outreach component. These programs include food bank; soup kitchen; feeding programs for the Youth Without Shelter and seniors at Kendleton; fairs; community meet and greet; counselling by a certified targeted health and other training programs. In addition, at various time of the year we have special community events; namely Community Guest Day, Love & Care Day, Year-end Community Dinner and Children's Treat.

This year we had two Community Guest days, March 31st and October 6th. The latter was combined with Love and Care day. On these days, the community was invited to be guests at our church services and to a fellowship luncheon. It was standing room only on both days.

Ps. Allan Chichester, Sabbath School Director for the Ontario Conference was our special guest in March while Ps. Sargeant, Compassion Ministries Director of the Ontario Conference joined us in October. Also in attendance in October were MP Kirsty Duncan and Carol Royer, Ward I councillor candidate. Care packages were also distributed to guests. that day.

On both occasions, Pastor Frankie Lazarus rendered moving, soul searching sermons from the Word of God that caused many in the congregation to (re)commit their lives to God.

There was no Community dinner but rather the community was afforded food hampers (included turkeys). Over 250 hampers were distributed. We were also able to provide many persons winter gear, household items thanks to

Our Children's Treat was on December 23rd was also extremely successful. More than 170 children attended to be entertained, fed and receive gifts. This program is held annually is cohosted by Jules Foundation. Our sincere thanks go out to its founder Naomi Jules and the many companies and organization who contributed to ensure that every child received a gift.

Our thanks to the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, Daily Bread, Second Harvest, Food Share, Harvest Food, Crumps, Jules Foundation, Councillor Vincent Crisanti, Joe Mitchell, Roger Nembhard, Horace Wright, Jolean Llyod, The King family and all our partners who have supported our programs throughout 2018. May God continue to bless you all!



**In Appreciation of the Support of Past Councillor, Vincent Crisanti**

## THE CHIEF QUEST OF LIFE

*By Allan Ricketts*

But seek Ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

We are living in the most materialistic age of all time, when the chief quest of life for some people is a good standard of living with all the comforts and conveniences that make life pleasant and enjoyable. If Jesus were living in this busy, greedy, grasping, restless generation of stress and nervous tension, He would have given the same counsel He gave two thousand years ago.

“Seek Ye First” is the equivalent of giving first place to the things of first importance, to place the emphasis where it belongs, to have a true sense of value. Jesus warned His listeners against making the material things of this life their chief quest. He said: Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The Divine promise is that if we put first things first in our seeking, “all these things”, the material necessities of life shall be yours as well.

As we come to the end of this year and we begin the new year let us remember to put God first.

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



**Jenell Rooney-Austin**

*Interview by Juliette Kennedy*

**Why did you choose your current career and what do you think are the best skills you bring to your job?**

When applying for university, Social Work seemed like the option that was meant for me. I considered other careers, but none of those other options worked out.

**How do your days play out as a young, Christian professional? Do you experience any pressure? If so, how do you handle it?**

I find time for God in the mornings and evenings with a prayer before I get up, and one before I fall asleep. Family worship is also a practice in my home, and so we always end the day with prayer as a family.

I don't feel like I experience any pressure at this point. With the field I'm in I try to be open and accepting of all people. My co-workers and I are all respectful of each other's beliefs and boundaries

**What experience in your life, if not too personal, solidified your relationship with God?**

I think a broad example would be my experiences in my profession. I had a lot of anxiety about what career path I should pick for the rest of my life, but all the other paths that weren't right for me just never worked out. I was still nervous when I started university, until a (non-Christian) professor drew a parallel between the goals of Social Work and the life of Jesus, and encouraged us to use His approach to people as a guide in our practice. That kick-started a real desire in me to be more like Jesus.

**What would you like to see more of in 2019 at Mt. Olive? How would you like to be involved in accomplishing that goal?**

It would be great to see Mount Olive continue to grow and serve the community. I am impressed by the work done by Cossetta and the Community Services department and would love to see it continue. My hope is that Mount Olive becomes/remains a safe place for all people, no matter who they are. As for how I would like to be involved – I always work behind the scenes.

## YOUTH MINISTRY– YOUTH CAMP

*By Juliette Kennedy*

This has been a year of building relationships with our young people. In an effort to better understand our youth we sought simply to hang out with and engage them more often. In addition to monthly basketball tournaments, a Montreal mission trip, the youth choir and youth Bible study, we took our youth on a camping trip to enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature and the shift of not being so reliant on technology for a few days.

The trip was not without it challenges, but in the end

proved to be worth the time spent together, learning from the word of God and from experiences shared with one another. In the upcoming year it is our goal to continue to grow with them and assist them in becoming more involved in creating an atmosphere where they are the most productive.



*“The youth need our love, assistance, support, counselling and prayers; to know that we care”*

## MONTREAL MISSION TRIP



Over the period May 19–20th, 2019, the youth of Mount Olive joined other youth from across Canada on a mission trip to Montreal. Twelve young men and women as well as ten adults from our church made the trip. Their experience was recounted to us on Youth Day, in “A Testimony of Thankfulness.” Many said

they were a blessing and blessed in return and inspired to recommit themselves to the Lord.

The trip included youth discussion on Friday evening, a program at La salle New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church, followed by a nature walk on Sabbath. Our Youth took over the AY services in the afternoon. On Sunday, there was a sightseeing tour.

According to one parent who accompanied the group, “the young people interacted well with each other.” However, he was also bale “to see that our young people are going through a lot. The youth need our love, assistance, support counselling, and prayers; to know that we care.” It was nonetheless a very rewarding experience for him.

D’Adrian says she had a lot of fun but at the same time grew closer to God. Activities by Suzanna and Brianna helped her to see that you can always find a way to look at circumstances from a Christian point of view.

Truly a blessing. We await the reports for mission trip 2019. Please continue to support our youth.





## IMPACT OF OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS ON MY LIFE

*By Tevin Wellington*

Mouth Olive is a wonderful church but has a dwindling youth population. Thankfully with the initiative and dedication of Pastor Akeem Ambrose, the youth of Mount Olive have many outlets to share God's word in a way that appeals to them. We also now have activities that allow the youth at Mount Olive to burn off some of their energy in a constructive way. I am talking about our gym nights, camping, football and basketball tournaments, winter wonderland, open mic, movie night, concerts, Bible studies, group luncheons and more.

These programs have had a positive effect that will stay with us, the youth for a very long time. They have taught us about event planning, event management, and fundraising. Moreover I have gained numerous important life skills like organization, responsibility, and time management. Truly, the youth programs and activities that have recently been made possible through the efforts of Pastor Akeem Ambrose and the youth department are immensely important and a significant contribution to us, the youth of Mount Olive.

## MOUNT OLIVE HUMMINGBIRD PATHFINDER CLUB

*By Tracey King-McFarlane*

The Mount Olive Hummingbird Pathfinder Club completed another year successfully. We climaxed with five pathfinders giving their hearts to Christ in baptism. This year we added a drum corps to our club thanks to the generosity of our church family. God has truly blessed this club. Congratulations to our pathfinders for being awarded first place in Bible Bowl at district level.

We are looking forward to another fantastic year—the year of Osh Kosh, in Wisconsin. As we continue to use our talents and gifts for Christ, we solicit your continued support for our fundraising efforts, clothing fundrive, tooney jar, bake sales, chocolate sales and upcoming banquet slated for March 24th, 2019.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Sis Shelley Carby-Nunes and Elder Richard Austin studied with five pathfinders who were baptised in November 2018.

Lastly, we would like to thank the church and community for partnering with us throughout the year, 2018. May God richly bless you into 2019 and beyond.

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



**Sean Gayle**

By Andrea Gayle

Who is Sean Gayle? We customarily see him as the drill sergeant for the Pathfinders, or raising his voice in song. But let's find out a little more.

Sean is very compassionate, kind and loving. Children love Sean, and he them. He always tries his best to assist if anyone is feeling hurt or sad. He is committed to any task he is given no matter what.

Sean has a passion for sports especially basketball. He is very knowledgeable about the players and statistics as it relates to the game. I believe he could be an exceptional sports commentator.

Sean is family oriented. He is a believer in quality family time. He is very nostalgic about many things including music (he likes to sing). Some even tease him and say he's an old man in a young body.

Sean is not easily agitated. He values people and gravitates to those of like mind who are always ready and willing to work. With his positive outlook, he can excel to great heights. He is currently pursuing legal studies at Seneca College.

Sean has a good heart and as long as he stays close to Jesus we encourage and keep him in prayer he will continue to be a blessing and friend to those he encounters.

## A LITTLE HUMOR

1. What time of day was Adam created?  
Just a little before Eve.
2. Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam. He was first in the human race.
3. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?  
Ruthless
4. Which servant of God was the most flagrant law-breaker in the Bible?  
Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.
5. Who was the first tennis player in the bible?  
Joseph because he served in Pharaoh's court.

Z	G	N	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	L	V	Q
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Q	J	E	C	L	U	B	O	O	K	S	E	F
W	U	B	E	E	J	N	S	T	G	H	R	R
R	U	O	R	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	A	K
I	R	O	X	J	I	X	T	H	Q	P	S	R
T	P	K	O	W	J	P	B	M	B	E	E	E
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N	A	L	P	N	I	G	Z	T	M	R	X	U
G	T	K	C	E	R	M	L	B	N	L	G	R
R	H	I	L	G	R	G	N	I	D	A	E	R
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|----------|------------|---------|
| BOOKS    | NOTEBOOK   | RULER   |
| DESK     | PAPER      | STUDENT |
| ERASER   | PENCIL     | TEACHER |
| GLUE     | PLAYGROUND | WRITING |
| LUNCHBOX | READING    |         |
| MATH     | RECESS     |         |

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

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## CHILDREN'S CORNER



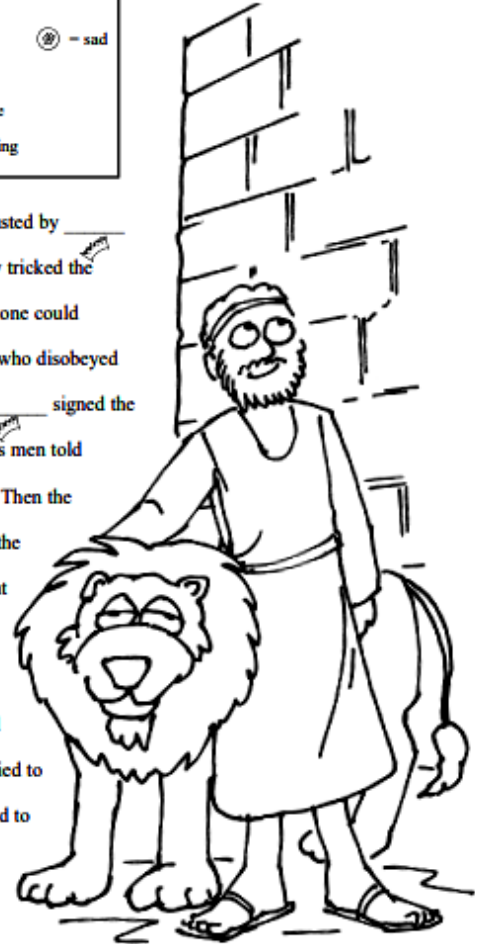
### DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

DANIEL 6:1-28

**D**aniel always worshiped God. Then something happened.

- plan	- serve	- law	- lions	- sad
- pray	- Daniel	- angel	- night	
- worship	- king	- alive	- rescue	
- see	- den	- Darius	- morning	

\_\_\_\_\_ was a good man in the kingdom of Babylon, trusted by \_\_\_\_\_. Some other administrators grew jealous! They tricked the \_\_\_\_\_ and presented him a \_\_\_\_\_ that for 30 days, no one could \_\_\_\_\_ any god or man, only the \_\_\_\_\_. Those who disobeyed would be thrown into the \_\_\_\_\_. So the \_\_\_\_\_ signed the \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ continued to \_\_\_\_\_. The jealous men told \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ had broken the \_\_\_\_\_. Then the \_\_\_\_\_ knew he'd been tricked. But he couldn't change the \_\_\_\_\_, and he was very \_\_\_\_\_. As \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ said, "May your God, whom you \_\_\_\_\_ continually, \_\_\_\_\_ you!" \_\_\_\_\_ stayed up all \_\_\_\_\_ worrying. When \_\_\_\_\_ came, he hurried to the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ what had happened to \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ found \_\_\_\_\_ and well. The \_\_\_\_\_ had not hurt him. The Lord had sent an \_\_\_\_\_ to protect \_\_\_\_\_.



## MOUNT OLIVE CHILDREN

By Michele Bennett & Kim Douglas

The children's department of Mount Olive is committed to the development of our children at all levels. The children stories each sabbath are geared to teaching life lessons to build them emotionally and spiritually as well as bolster self esteem. 15 babies were dedicated to the Lord during 2018 and we saw 8 boys and girls give their life to Christ. Praise be to God.

The Adventurer club is an integral part of the children's program at Mount Olive. On November the Adventurer induction and investiture ceremony was held. 6 boys and 4 girls were invested while three new children joined the club. 2018 was a great year even through the difficulties of having our Director out of province for extended periods. But God has been with us and we trust Him to continue to bless the Mount Olive Doves and our children's department.





*Caption describing picture or graphic*

## ETOBICOKE ROAD SAFETY CHALLENGE 2018

*By Cossetta Evans*

This year, the Mount Olive Community Services Department acquired a grant from MTO. In conjunction with Toronto Public Health, Toronto Police Traffic Division, Arrive Alive, Toronto West Caer Community Awareness & Emergency Response and MADDd, the proceeds were used to sensitize the public especially children on Road Safety.

On May 10th at Humber College students were engaged in conversations about driving under the influence of cannabis. Printed materials were provided on the effects of driving impaired or under the influence of cannabis. Students shared their experiences about losing friends and loved ones due to driving under the influence of cannabis.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Mount. Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church held a Safety Day which incorporated Disaster Response and Road Safety. As part of a power point presentation there was a video on road safety followed by a Q&A session. The audience included young children, adults and seniors.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> the Etobicoke Road Safety team took to the streets of Kipling Avenue north of Finch Ave W across from St. Andrew Catholic School. The group consisted of several volunteers from the church wearing the Etobicoke Road Safety t-shirts, Police Officer Jen from 23 Division, Councillor Crisanti and his assistant, two public health nurses, the principal of St. Andrew's Catholic school and 12 of their students.

On June 15th we set up on the front lawn of Hilltop Middle School. The Toronto Public Health nurse assigned to the school also participated by setting up a booth along side ours. Two students from Hilltop student body also assisted in the setting up the booths.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> the church held a community meet and greet. We had a booth set up where-by we promoted the themes of both driving under the influence of cannabis and pedestrian safety.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> we went to Carefree Preschool. We met with two groups of students. The first set of fifty two (52) children was from ages two and a half to four while the second set of eighteen (18) children were from ages 5 -11. We engaged each group with questions and answers around road safety.

This awareness included information sharing, the distribution of printed materials, reflective armbands and zipper tags etc.. Overall the program was very successful. MTO was very pleased and has suggested that the church be nominated for a Road Safety Achievement Award. A hearty thank you to all who supported the venture.

## YOUTH IN MUSIC

*By Ryanna Johnson*

Music is life for the Youth. On October 6, 2018 we were carried back to the good old days of youth and children's music at Mount Olive directed by Jocenne.Bailey.

Our youth have built on this start with various solo performances, group and choir routines as well as some very rousing praise and worship sessions.

We saw how involved we were then and it has inspired us to really connect more with our children and revamp the children's choir. But this can only happen if parents are committed to bring the children out for the practices. We enlist your support in 2019. Listen out for dates and times.

## OUR NEW DRUM CORP

*By Zamyra Hamilton*

For some time, the Mount Olive Hummingbird Pathfinder Club had been agitating to have its own drum corp; chief agitator, Rodney Sainville. In 2017 the Board and Church acknowledged the plea and through joint financial contributions they now have their own instruments. A team of 5 pathfinders with alternates have received training to handle the new instruments from the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist church corp. Our thanks are extended to them.

Speaking on behalf of the Drum Corp team, Zamyra who plays the snare drum says "Since the drum corp has been at Mount Olive, we have been enjoying the drums. Although our drum corp is small we are grateful for what we have, and we have fun playing with each other. We want to thank the church for allowing us to have a drum corp at our pathfinder club. We are still learning, and Toronto West pathfinder club is teaching us. With the help of God, we will use the drums to send the advent message to the world in this generation"

The drum corp consisting of cymbals, snare drum, bass drum, quad/tom drum and triangle had its first performance supplemented by Toronto West team at the Pathfinder Investiture service on November 17th, 2018 and then a stand alone performance at the Masterguide Consecration ceremony on December 15th. Our hearts were truly blessed.

## THE DANIEL FAST

Many wonder what they can or cannot consume on the Daniel Fast. The primary goal is to feed the spiritual rather than the physical.

Nevertheless, what you eat can aid in opening the mind to hear from the Lord. Here a few guidelines to aid in the journey.

### **Included:**

All fruits—you name it—fresh (preferred), canned frozen or dried!

All vegetables —you name it—fresh (preferred), canned frozen or dried!

All whole grains including quinoa, whole wheat, brown rice, oats, barley, grits, etc.!

All nuts and seeds—this includes nut butters like peanut butter!

All legumes—canned or dried!

All quality oils—olive, safflower, grape seed, sunflower etc.!

Water—distilled, spring or other pure water!

### **Excluded**

No chemicals!

No sugar- raw sugar, date sugar, syrup, honey, molasses, cane juice, stevia, agave or artificial sweeteners!

No beverages besides water!

No meat or animal products- beef, lamb/goat, poultry, fish etc.!

No dairy- milk, cheese, butter and eggs!

No leavened bread including Ezekiel Bread (contains yeast and honey) and baked goods!

Nothing refined or processed foods!

Nothing deep fried- chips and fries!

No solid fats– shortening, margarine or foods high in fat!

Remember read the labels on prepared foods to make sure ingredients comply with the fast.

## HEALTH CORNER—FASTING

*By Joyce Nembhard*

Fasting or abstinence from all or some food and drinks for a period of time. We fast for physical and spiritual cleansing and to gain control of appetite, gain victory over indulgences that limit our time with Christ. When we deny self to receive from God as He alone can give e.g. healing, peace cover for our children prayers are answered when accompanied by fasting.

Studies have shown that fasting has many health benefits such as weight loss, better brain function, controlling blood sugar, cholesterol, blood pressure, heart health, fighting inflammation, preventing neurodegenerative disorders, boosting metabolism, increasing growth hormones, muscle strength, delay aging and improved longevity.

Spiritually, fasting leads to spiritual revival, greater intimacy with God. Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Mark 9:17-29 tells us satanic

stronghold is broken and we

become better equipped to deal with the trials of life thereby aligning us with God and the holy Spirit. When we deny the flesh, our spiritual craving will be satisfied. Psalms 34:8 “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

Fasting can build us physically and spiritually. Why not join the church in January and deny yourself some of the things that you love e.g. TV, shopping, the phone, social media and use the time for fasting and praying and watch God work miracles for you. Remember now, listen to your body, know your body, use good



*“Prove thy servants, I beseech thee... and let them give us pulse to eat and water to drink” Daniel 1:12*

The Church will embark on the 21-Day Daniel Fast commencing January 9th. All members are encouraged to be a part of the event. The Daniel Fast is based on the fasting experiences of the Old Testament Prophet. It's a partial fast where some foods are eaten while others are restricted. Here are a few tips to assist you.

- Open your heart to God and partner with Him for the fast.
- Select your purpose for fasting and why it's so important for your successful Daniel Fast.
- Gather the resources and make plans for your study during your Daniel Fast.
- Plan simple and nutritious meals. This step is essential if you want a spiritual experience rather than focusing on the food and satisfying the flesh (instead of feeding your soul and receiving from God). Your diet should include foods grown from seed and the only beverage is water.
- Set aside a time each day for communion with your Maker.

Entering into a period of extended prayer and fasting is like pushing the “pause button” on life so you can draw nearer to God. The Holy Spirit joins you in this experience as you open your heart to receive from the Lord. Sanctify yourself for 21 days and grow in your faith using this powerful spiritual discipline.



# IN CELEBRATION OF CENTENARIAN, IDA GUNN

By Evelyn Daniel

On Sunday, June 3, 2018, the friends and members of the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist church gathered in the church's regally decorated McKenzie Hall to celebrate its centenarian member, Sis. Ida Gunn. Sis. Gunn who officially celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 28, 2018 is a Jamaican by birth who has resided in Canada for almost 20 years.

According to her daughter, Lorraine Gooden, who spoke proudly of the heritage and Christian upbringing gained from her mother, her mother's every action is borne out of love for God and her neighbors (and not just immediate ones either). She befriends any and every one she encounters. Sis Sandra Wedderburn gave a brief biography detailing her business exploits in Jamaica where for many years she very successfully operated both bakery and retail enterprises. Quoting another daughter, Ivy Francis, "she also loves gardening and is successful at anything she puts her hand to."

Tributes were also given by Pastor Halsey Peat representing the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Stanley McFarlane, Seniors Ministry Elder, Kenneth Gayle, and Sis Daphne Dixon. Each spoke eloquently of the beautiful spirit of Sis Gunn, her steadfast Christian faith and Christ-like personality. Sis Ruth-Ann Simpson and her great-granddaughter Melissa Robinson celebrated her in song. Just for this occasion was a poem composed and orated by Kallai-Ann Simpson.

Awards were presented on behalf of North Etobicoke MPP, Shafiq Qaardri, and Councillor, Vincent Crisanti, as well as a plaque from the President of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, Dr. Mansfield Edwards. In addition, the Seniors department of the Church, under the leadership of Sis. Veronica Lyttle presented her with a gift basket.

Rising from her seeming golden throne, where she was flanked by grandchildren Erica Burrell and Fritzroy Leach, Sis Gunn expressed thanks and appreciation to everyone who made the day possible and came to celebrate with her. Sis Gunn, we wish you 100 more! years.

## BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Elder Kenneth Gayle

The Ontario Conference has set aside the first Wednesday of each month in 2019 for Stewardship Mid-Week Prayer Time. Here are a few pointers as you reflect on your stewardship to God.

### **Biblical Stewardship: The Truth About Money**

Biblical stewardship requires that a Christian view money differently from the way the secular world views it. The secular world equates affluence with success and happiness. Therefore, society constantly struggles to acquire as much wealth as possible. The Bible, however, exposes the worthlessness of such a struggle by revealing the truth about money.

### **Biblical Stewardship: It's About Heart**

Biblical stewardship calls a Christian to give back to God through tithing. The word "tithe" merely means "a tenth." A Christian, therefore, ought to set aside a tenth of his or her income for God. For God, tithing is not only about a percentage. Tithing has more to do with one's heart during the act of giving than the actual amount given to God.

### **Biblical Stewardship: That Which is of True Value**

Biblical stewardship does not require that a Christian despise money or to discontinue earning it. Money is a necessity for basic living. The Bible does warn, however, that the love of money creates evil (1 Timothy 6:10). It is important not to allow money to become the center of one's life. When money is not the object of one's love and devotion, one is free to focus on higher things.

### **Biblical Stewardship: Giving to Others and Making a Stand**

Biblical stewardship provides help for the less fortunate. The Bible states, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27). Giving does not end with tithing. God asks that the giving heart be extended to those who need it most—widows, orphans, and the poor. As a Christian, one must reach out to those in need, sharing the blessings one has received from God.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Between God and money, which will you choose to love?



100th Birthday Party



Education Day



## TO THE YOUTH OF MOUNT OLIVE

From Pastors, Board and Members

We applaud your efforts in the athletics, academics and mission. We are pleased with and admire your emotional and spiritual growth. You, have made a great difference in the church while demonstrating your commitment to the "Cause of Christ". We unflinchingly pledge allegiance to you in your growth as well as the fulfilment of your dreams and aspirations be it physical, emotional or spiritual. Most of all know you are always in our prayers. **God bless you all!**

*With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come, -the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where "the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever"; where "the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick," and "the voice of weeping shall be no more heard."--"Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students," p. 555*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

Prayer & Fasting second Sabbath ; Stewardship Mid-Week Prayer Time first Wednesday each month

### January

05 Discipleship Emphasis  
09-19 10 days of Prayer  
09-29 21-Day Daniel Fast  
12 Prayer Service (All Day Prayer & Fasting)  
12 Youth Leader's Summit  
19 Spiritual Gifts  
26 Financial Breakthrough Sabbath  
27 Ontario Conference Workers Meeting

### February

2 Pathfinder Bible Experience  
15-18 Annual ACF Retreat  
16 Family Life 100 Year Launch  
16-17 Indoor Football Tournament  
23 Discipleship Emphasis Sabbath

### March

1-2 Couples Enrichment  
9 School of Evangelism & Discipleship Launch  
9-16 Youth Week of Prayer  
16 Youth Day  
22-23 Church Ministries Convention  
24 Pathfinder Banquet  
31 Spring Clean Up

### April

6 Discipleship Emphasis  
12-14 Deacons Retreat  
13 Creation Sabbath/Prayer Service (All Day Prayer & Fasting)  
20 Community Guest Day  
21 Earth Day Summit  
26-28 Pastors/Spouse Retreat

### May

04 Adventurer Emphasis Day  
10-12 Elders Retreat  
10-18 Health Emphasis Outreach  
17-21 Youth Mission Trip  
25 Discipleship Emphasis Sabbath

### June

02-5 Outdoor Education  
08 Camp Meeting  
22 Symposium on Cannabis

## WE HAVE ALREADY WON

By Pastor Ray Patrick

This past week I watched my team, Chelsea beat Watford. Before bed I watched the highlights of the match again. I already know how the game ends. I know my team wins. While I'm watching the highlights however, I don't get discouraged, sad and down if my team falls behind, because I know the end result. I don't get uptight if it's halftime and we still haven't scored. Why? Because that won't change the outcome. I'm totally at peace. Why? I already know the outcome - we win. The truth is that the further behind we fall, the more excited I am, because that means the big comeback is on its way. I can't wait to see it all over again.

Today, and throughout the coming year, God has promised us victory. I have read the back of the book and we win. We know the final score and the enemy is defeated. Hallelujah! You may go through disappointments. At times it seems like you're far behind spiritually, but you've got to remind yourself, "God holds my future in the palm of His hands. He already knows the outcome. God never ends in defeat!" There will be a comeback. I'm going to come out of this better and stronger than ever before! Remember, He knows how it ends, and it ends in peace, joy and victory in every area of your life! Get excited in the new year. Trade your sorrows, we have already won. All we have to do is stay on the winning side and don't give in to the enemy's lies.