

September 1999

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## 57th General Conference Session 2000

**PLACE:** SkyDome and Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada

**DATES:** **June 25 - June 29 (Sunday - Thursday)**  
World Ministers Council  
**June 29 - July 08 (Thursday - Sabbath)**  
General Conference Session

**THEME:** *Almost Home*

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## Youth to Impact Toronto in 2000

Among the most exciting activities connected with the General Conference Session in 1995 was a program run by Adventist young people for their peers in Utrecht. They were everywhere—in parks and city squares. They sang on street corners and in one of the prominent Utrecht churches. And every evening they had plenty of stories to tell.

The Toronto 2000 Session will be no different. Young people will also be everywhere, contributing, witnessing, laughing, and praying. The Youth Department of the General Conference and of the North American Division are planning an extensive and exciting program to coincide with the world Session. What follows are some of the details and an invitation for Adventist young people to get involved.

So, what is Impact Toronto 2000? It is a youth evangelism training event running concurrently with the General Conference Session, June 29 - July 8, 2000. Three hundred and fifty young adults from around the world will be trained and actively involved in street evangelism.

The gospel message doesn't have to be preached within the walls of a building. It can and will be proclaimed in the streets of Toronto by the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### Ministry Possibilities:

- *Christian Café*—Need a place to hang out with other young people who want to share Christ in a café?
- *Christian Magicians and Balloons*—God created rabbits, but can you pull one out of a hat? Use your slight of hand skills to share the gospel in this unique ministry.

- *Clown and Balloon Ministry*—Learn all the clown techniques for sharing the gospel with a smile, a red nose and big shoes.
- *Compassion Ministry*—Feeding the homeless, visiting the children's hospital and parking meter mayhem is all part of compassionate ministry.
- *Creative Movement Ministry*—Those who are coordinated and inclined to tap their toes to music will enjoy this ministry.
- *Door-to-Door Ministry*—If you enjoy talking with people, praying with them, passing out Bible Study lessons, and Magabooks, this ministry is for you.
- *Drama Ministry*—Drama is powerful on the streets. Those who have dramatic skills and enjoy performing need to check out this ministry.
- *FLAG Camp*—Fun Learning About God. Check out this unique day camp opportunity and run one in the big city.
- *Gymnastic Ministry*—Love gymnastics and Jesus? Can you turn cartwheels and do flips? Check this one out!
- *Mime Ministry*—Preaching the gospel with painted faces, white gloves and lots of gestures is an excellent way to minister.
- *Nighttime Revival Meetings*—Each evening we will have revival meetings. Bring the new friends you've met through your ministry on the street. Some of the features will be music, drama and youth speakers.
- *Parade Awareness*—Each day young adults will “parade” in downtown Toronto to bring awareness to different issues: drugs, tobacco, alcohol, child abuse, etc.
- *Pathfinder Ministry*—Love marching, saluting and finding your way around with a compass? Learn how to point young people to Christ with this ministry.
- *Prayer Conference Leadership*—Learn how to plan, organize and lead a youth prayer conference.
- *Public Campus Ministry*—Do you attend a public high school or university with Christians, but one that has no Christian presence? Check this option out to learn how to reach people on your campus.
- *Puppet Ministry*—Singing songs and telling people about Jesus using puppets is what this ministry is all about.
- *Recreation Ministry*—Love sports, American football, European football, Aussie rules football? How about baseball? Sports may be your ministry.
- *Speaker's Soap Box*—Take up your soap box and preach it to all Toronto.

- *Street Artists*—Ever wanted to paint a really big mural? How about the side of a building? Hey, check this one out!
- *Street Ministry Technical Team*—If you have audio-visual skills, e.g. lights, stage, sound, etc., we need you to be a part of each ministry.
- *Vacation/Holiday Bible School*—VBS is an excellent way to teach children about Jesus. Those participating in this ministry will organize a five-day VBS for children.
- *Vegetarian Food Fair*—Do you love good food? Join this ministry and share your cuisine talents. Food is a great way to get to know people.
- *Video Ministry*—Ever wanted to make a film on the street? Then point the camera to this ministry.
- *Youth Congress Planning*—Those who choose this option will organize the Impact the World Youth Congress, July 7-8, for 4,000 youth.
- *Your Idea*—Hey, maybe you have a ministry idea that we haven't thought of. Tell us about it and we'll add it to the list.

**Who can attend?** Impact Toronto 2000 is for young adults age 18-35 years old. We are looking for 350 delegates who have a **passion** for street evangelism. What's important is that you are ready to stand in the **center of God's will** and **join Him** in this **bold adventure!**

**Lodging, meals and transportation.** Lodging and meals will be provided for the 10-day event. Please bring your own bedding, **as it will not be provided.** Each delegate is responsible for his/her own transportation to and from his/her home and the Toronto training site. Transportation to and from ministry sites will be provided from June 30 through July 8. Any personal transportation during these dates will be the responsibility of the delegate.

**Delegates.** There are 209 delegates from North America already coming, which leaves an additional 141 delegate positions available. These are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. **The application deadline is February 14, 2000.**

**For More Information.** For more information, contact your Conference Youth director. Or contact the Center for Youth Evangelism at: 1-800-Youth-2-U; phone: 616-471-9881; fax: 616-471-9883; or e-mail: [cye@andrews.edu](mailto:cye@andrews.edu). Write to us at: Impact Toronto 2000, Center for Youth Evangelism, 8903 US Hwy 31, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103. Check out our website at: [www.andrews.edu/CYE](http://www.andrews.edu/CYE). [Baraka Muganda]

## Invitation to the World Ministers Council

Several General Conference Sessions have been enriched by a pre-session event for the ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Toronto Session 2000 will be no different. What follows is an introduction to the World Ministers Council, which will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada, on June 25-29, 2000.

It is addressed to Adventist ministers. The General Conference Ministerial Association is in the process of distributing an Invitation Brochure. There you will find these questions answered:

### The objective

The purpose of the Council is to provide you with instructive pastoral techniques toward becoming dynamic, spiritual leaders. With nearly two dozen plenary presentations and over 150 different seminars, you can expect to receive a comprehensive, active learning, high-content, high-involvement, and high-energy program that will enhance your ministry.

In the words of James Cress, Ministerial Secretary and organizer of the meeting, the Council will be "an opportunity for spiritual renewal, professional growth, collegial fellowship, and family enrichment."

"As ministers at the dawn of the millennium, it is vital to remember our priorities to announce the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ and to proclaim the blessed hope of His soon return," says Cress.

### The theme

The theme of the Council is "The Way of the Cross Leads Home," featuring Walter L. Pearson, Jr., speaker-director of Breath of Life, as keynote speaker. Each morning will also include a unique, family-oriented plenary session with Dr. Archibald Hart, dean emeritus of Fuller Theological Seminary's School of Psychology.

### Who should attend?

Adventist pastors, local church elders, Bible teachers, chaplains, evangelists, church administrators, and clergy of all denominations.

This Council is an event for the entire family. Each morning's "family worship" will feature an international environment of worship suited for all ages to share together. Special afternoon seminars and events for children, including childcare for infants and toddlers, will make it easy for parents to participate as well as enjoyable for youngsters.

If you belong to a pastoral family, you will enjoy the family-oriented atmosphere. If you are interested in

developing or improving your ministerial skills, you will discover growth opportunities abounding.

Pastor Cress assures that the Toronto 2000 Council will be “packed with more good things than you will be able to absorb.” You are encouraged to attend the plenary sessions and to choose those seminars that will best enhance your own effectiveness. Plus, special seminars and activities have been designed for Preachers’ Kids.

Relaxed or casual dress is appropriate for our atmosphere of creative learning and family fellowship, so come prepared to enjoy continuing education from fellow clergy and spouses, challenging interaction with pastors of many denominations and local church elders, and a spiritually-motivating experience.

For more information, including a detailed program, topics of presentations, and profiles of the presenters, write to: “World Ministers Council,” General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring MD 20904, phone: 301-680-6515; fax: 301-680-6592; or e-mail [worldministerscouncil@gc.adventist.org](mailto:worldministerscouncil@gc.adventist.org). [James A. Cress]

## **Role of GC Transportation**

For many participants and visitors to a General Conference Session, the meeting usually runs smoothly and many are oblivious to the “behind-the-scenes” machinery that make this international mega-event happen. Transportation is one of those unnoticed, but crucial areas of the meeting’s success.

The GC Transportation office is, and has been, responsible for freight logistics for every General Conference Session since the 1940s. At times, it is quite challenging to get all the departmental material to the right location on time and also to arrange the incoming world Division exhibits in order that they clear Customs in time for the Session, but not arrive too early in the host city.

The demands of each department of the General Conference are different. For Information Systems Services, we have the issue of computer hardware and software. When the Session is held outside the United States, this service is very involved and requires complicated procedures. Another important area is that of the Media Center’s needs. So, we evaluate how best to procure the equipment they’ll need early enough to ensure its arrival at the Session site, but not too early which could cause unnecessary disruption to production schedules.

Then there is the issue of staffing the “Transportation Desk” at the Session. As one may well imagine, not every-

one follows instructions! We often have to deal with situations that challenge our shipping instructions. There are also the Endangered Species, HazMat and Customs laws, rules and regulations, and these—it seems—provide a challenge to some exhibitors.

As the preparations for the world Session are in their final months of planning, we would like to recommend our services to those who are anticipating sizable shipments to Toronto. Working together and efficiently we will all contribute to the success of the General Conference Session. If you would like information, call: 410-796-8484; fax: 410-796-4653; or e-mail [gctrans@flash.net](mailto:gctrans@flash.net). [Marvin Robinson]

### **Session 2000 On the Web!**

**Have you visited the official website for GC Session 2000? The website contains information you can’t afford to miss. Visit us today at: [www2.adventist.org/gc2000/](http://www2.adventist.org/gc2000/)**

### **How Are You Receiving Session 2000 News?**

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