

## Quebec

# Sing a Joyful Song: Quebec Holds Conference-wide Children's Concert



Children's choir from the Romanian Seventh-day Adventist Church

For several months, a bold idea had been brewing in the heart of Elsie Collie-Daley, director of the Children's Ministries Department of the Quebec Conference. She dreamed of organizing a concert of children from all the churches in Quebec on Nov. 4, 2022. She received some encouragement from Sergena Obas and the team of local leaders. After many announcements and arrangements, the long-awaited day arrived.

About 100 children brought their parents to the Montreal Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church. The concert started at 4 p.m. with the children of the Romanian Seventh-day Adventist Church in their beautiful uniforms. They sang joyful songs and performed instrumental pieces to the delight of the congregation. The mistress of ceremonies, Isabelle Bagassien, kept the assembly on its toes and spoke of her childhood when she had to perform an impromptu solo in front of a large crowd despite her shyness. She congratulated

the twins Hermens and Herlens Alexandre, who performed beautiful trumpet pieces.

The children were not all beginners. Some of them have music in their blood. Morina Edmond has the habit of warming up the microphones. Johann Fleurimond played a piece on the battle of Jericho like a great pianist. The song of the Salem quartet reminded us that God has never lost a battle and does not intend to lose one. For his part, Daniel Alexis extolled the "goodness of God whom he knows as Father and Friend" while his sister Stacy accompanied him on the piano.

The Spanish Children's Choir, the South Shore Children's Choir, the Filipino Church of Montreal, and many others were in attendance. Jaya Johnson and many others performed with grace and poise.

Meanwhile, the happy parents were busy photographing their young artists and recording their songs. The congregation was elated.

Florenda Blain talked about her plans to record French CDs or videos for children. She has noticed a lack of French materials and believes that, "if used properly, music is a precious gift from God, destined to raise minds and souls to noble thoughts."

Dominique Merc us, Conference Pathfinder director, came to cheer the little ones. Pastor Marcel Marcelin, who had heard about the concert, came out of curiosity because he would like to do one in Saint-Hyacinthe. To add a missions component to the program, Elsie Collie-Daley collected an offering for the children of Greaves Adventist Academy.

Some parents who live far away would have liked their children to sing a little earlier, but they stayed until 7 p.m. to encourage them. Given the enthusiastic response from the churches, it might be better to do two concerts a year. While the leaders are thinking about it, they announced that the 2023 concert is set for October 21.

Months later, at a birthday party, an old man came to Elsie and said, “Sister, whatever you do, please keep the children’s concert going.” He probably speaks for many.

Hats off to the Children’s Ministries leaders who are dedicating their last bit of energy to create the image of God in the hearts of boys and girls! Congratulations to all the parents who strive to put their

children on the path of Truth and Life! ■

— *Sergena Obas,*  
administrative secretary,  
Quebec Conference

## Maritime

# Ron Marshall Voted as New Executive Secretary for the Maritime Conference

On June 12, 2023, the Executive Board of the Maritime Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted Ron Marshall as its new executive secretary. Pastor Marshall brings a wealth of experience, exceptional leadership skills, and spiritual gifts to his new role, having served in various pastoral capacities throughout his career.

With a focus on fostering spiritual growth and community impact, Marshall’s unique spiritual gifts include apostleship, help, and administration. These gifts have played an integral role in his success as a thought leader in the faith communities of Canora, Quill Lake, and Yorkton, Sask., positively impacting the churches and communities he has served.

Marshall has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his ministry, specifically in leading and managing a three-church district. Under his guidance, the churches experienced growth, increased community outreach programs, and enhanced collaboration among congregations.

“The Maritime Conference is excited to welcome Ron Marshall as our new executive secretary,” said David Miller, chairperson of the board of directors, and president of the Maritime Conference. “His spiritual gifts, leadership experience, and compassionate nature make him an ideal choice to help guide the church in the Maritimes to greater heights.”

“The impact of Pastor Ron’s leadership has been exceptional, and he stands out among pastors in the



Ron Marshall

Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference,” Charles Ed II Aguilar, president of the Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference, stated.

Marshall shared his enthusiasm for the new position: “I am grateful and humbled by this new ministry calling to serve as executive secretary of the Maritime Conference. I look forward to working with the president, the board,

pastoral staff, and our community partners to further our mission and create a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.”

His appointment went into effect July 15, 2023. ■

— *Charles Ed II Aguilar,*  
president, Manitoba–  
Saskatchewan Conference

