

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JUNE 2007

GLEANER

Let's
Talk



Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Connections

Adventist Education

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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In the June issue we feature stories about activities involving young people in the Atlantic Union. They include Let's Talk with General Conference president Jan Paulsen on page 4, the GODencounters collegiate retreat on page 17, and the music clinic for academy students sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference and Atlantic Union College on page 16. Also included are our regular features: Youth Connections, Positions of Our Faith, and Adventist Education. On the cover is a photo from iStockphoto of the Portland Head lighthouse located in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. It was built by local masons and completed in January 1791. It is known to be one of the most spectacularly beautiful lighthouses in New England.

MISSION STATEMENT

To faithfully chronicle the work and progress of the church in the Atlantic Union territory and inform, instruct, and inspire our church members.

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August 2007	June 8
September 2007	July 13
October 2007	August 10

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Knowing the Times

The story is told of three men who were sent on a very important mission. The first man didn't make it because his horse broke a leg. The second man didn't make it because he was ambushed and was wounded in the neck. The third man arrived late, covered in blood. He apologized for the delay, saying only in his defense that it had taken him longer than he'd hoped because he'd been captured and hurt and, as he'd lost his horse, he had no choice but to walk the rest of the way.

It will take a special group of people to complete God's mission on earth. 1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT) describes them: "From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take."

Firstly, do we know what time it is? Like Enoch, it's time for us to walk our way home. It's time to get our children and our communities ready for eternity. Secondly, do we know what course to take?

The Bermuda Conference is on course to "Tell Bermuda." "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear"—Mark 4:28. We've seen some "blade." We've seen some "ear." Now we are gathering our "tribe of Issachar" for back-to-basics training and community outreach. This will take the form of church officers' training, staff development, small group training, Revelation Seminars, CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project), the Journey (Family Life), Adventist Television (ATV), ChurchWorks, Andrews University Field School of Evangelism, and intercultural ministries. Our calendar is full because

we're moving to "the full corn in the ear." We must not only get ready, but stay ready for eternity.

This is no time to be weary. This is no time to compromise our standards. Some of us have been ambushed; we've relaxed on our health message; we've become inactive in church, and we've made Christian stewardship optional. Some of our children have been wounded; we've relaxed on our family worship; we've forgotten that education and evangelism are one, and we've made Christian education optional. Ellen G. White states, "In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send them to the public school.... Here are our children. Shall we allow them to be contaminated by the world—by its iniquity, its disregard of God's commandments? I ask those who are planning to send their children to the public schools, where they are liable to be contaminated, How can you take such a risk?"—CHILD GUIDANCE, pp. 304, 315.

Whether we have to run or walk, be bloodied, bruised, or broken, we have only one redemptive option. "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed"—Romans 13:11 (NKJV). Find that first-love experience again with Christ and His church. "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold"—Romans 12:2 (Phillips). Pray for your children, and get them into Christian education—even if you have to walk the rest of the way.®

Jeffrey O. Brown is the Bermuda Conference president.



"This is no time to be weary. This is no time to compromise our standards.... Find that first-love experience again with Christ and His church."



LET'S TALK

New York City

**Let's Talk is a
place for young
people to air their
opinions, share
their ideas, and
ask questions
of the World
Church president.**

The lights came on, the cameras rolled, and there was definitely a lot of action in the studio in Manhattan, when 32 young adults from the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences and Atlantic Union College met with Jan Paulsen, president of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church, to have their questions answered in the fifteenth live broadcast of *Let's Talk*.

The program finally became a reality as a result of the combined effort of Greater New York Conference youth director Jose Cortes and Donald King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference. "I am happy that the first visit of the General Conference president to New York City in 12 years was to address the young people," said Cortes. "I hope this will go beyond a conversation." Paulsen was greeted and welcomed to New York City on behalf of both conferences by Richard Marker, president of the Greater New York Conference.

Let's Talk is a live, unscripted, and unedited dialogue between the Adventist World Church president and the youth of the Adventist Church. Paulsen travels the world, meeting, listening, and answering the questions of our youth. When asked how he felt about this taping in New York City, Paulsen responded, "I hope we

can establish a conversation with our young professionals and not just a question-and-answer period." Highlighting the importance of viewing the *Let's Talk* series not as mere recordings, but as an opportunity to listen to the concerns of youth and the challenges they face, Paulsen said, "We will deal with issues that are serious issues, not frivolous issues, but serious issues." Donald King added, "All of [Paulsen's] previous *Let's Talk* programs were in preparation for this one, as New York is not a simple place. New York is a complex place with multinational and multicultural people identified with multi-opinions and where our youth are not afraid to ask direct questions."

So when the countdown was given and the floor was opened for questions, Paulsen was confronted with the most important question of the day posed by Derrick Cruz: "Pastor Paulsen, are you a Mets' or Yankee's fan?" Paulsen was quick with his response. "I am a fan of Manchester United!" On a more serious note, the array of questions began and touched on such areas as evangelism, music, mission, reaching secular minds, homosexuality, women's ordination, and more.

All the young people did well! They were articulate and direct with their

questions. Paulsen, who was graceful in his answers to our youth, was apparently moved from his comfort zone and became very passionate when the issue of women's ordination and women's involvement in the leadership of the church was raised, and raised again, each time worded differently. Paulsen who usually sits when being questioned, got up and paced the floor and was passionate in his response. He believes that there is a place for women in the leadership of our church. He acknowledges that even though this issue has been brought up twice at previous General Conference sessions, it will inevitably be raised again in the future. While Paulsen believes there is a place for female ordained pastors, he acknowledges that our church as a global community has voted this issue down twice before and, as president, he will respect and abide by it. Through Paulsen's leadership the world church has seen the first female vice-presi-

dent, Ella Louise Smith Simmons.

Reflecting the multicultural nature of New York, the hot and controversial issue of music with direct reference to the use of drums was directed to Paulsen. Recognizing the sensitivity of the use of drums in music and worship, Paulsen pointed to the manner in which instruments are played in worship to God. In essence, the manner in which drums are played is of more significance than the instrument itself. He admonished respect for churches that may or may not use these instruments, and in response to a direct question, he cautioned against any one person imposing their opinions or beliefs on the entire congregation, regardless of their leadership position.

Another cultural issue raised was that of the division of churches along language lines while living in the United States. One of our youth expressed that he felt pressured to worship and speak in the language of his parents and felt limited by not being able to freely worship in English. Paulsen, again with his gracefulness, pointed to the fact that while we have come to the United States from various countries, we need to realize that we are living in the United



Photos: Rohann Wellington

Young adults from the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences with the leaders.

States and we may need to adapt to the culture of the United States. Paulsen further added, that, in the process, "you may lose some of your culture from back home, but make sure you don't lose heaven's culture."

The one hour-long program, punctuated with a few commercials showcasing Atlantic Union College as well as sights and sounds of New York City, was well received. The young professionals expressed their joy at being able to converse with the world church president. Garnet Morris, associate youth director for the Northeastern Conference, said, "It is clear that Elder Paulsen is intentional in insuring that our young people feel they are indeed a part of the church and that their opinion counts."

The youth of Atlantic Union College, Greater New York and Northeastern conferences say thanks to Paulsen for listening, and we hope by asking these questions that we have effected some change.①



Rohann D. Wellington is a pastor in the Greater New York Conference.



General Conference president, Jan Paulsen, greets Matthew Lambert from the Northeastern Conference.

Child Insurance

Wouldn't it be great if we could walk into an insurance agency and purchase a Child Insurance Policy?

What would you like to have written into that policy? For sure we would want to have our children's health insured. It would be nice to include their teeth, grades in school and, of course, their safety in passing into the stage in which they begin driving a car, dating, and choosing a career.

Would you want to insure that they chose your church? Really! Would you want your child or grandchild to choose to be a Seventh-day Adventist? I would suggest that you can take out an insurance policy that can statistically insure they will make that decision.

Here is what I consider the five most important clauses to the insurance policy of passing your faith on to your child.

- **Send** your child to an Adventist school—joyfully!
- **Assist** your child in earning money for summer camp.
- **Participate** with your child in Pathfinders.
- **Attend** church and Sabbath School with your child.
- **Pray** for and with your child every day.

Adventist schools—Studies show that for every year that children are in Adventist education, they are more likely to choose to be a church member and continue to

attend and participate. This statistic increases to 80-90 percent if they attend Adventist schools for 12-16 years. When youth spend six hours a day with a caring Christian teacher, with two to four weeks of spiritual emphasis each year, this has a powerful influence. Adventist schools are decidedly Christ-centered. Instead of being self-centered the Adventist curriculum is "other-centered." Going to school where there is a Bible class gives a child "the shield of faith." Opportunities to do service reinforce the truths learned in class. Youth evangelism cements the Bible principles while helping others in the local community or participating in a short-term mission experience. The Adventist school gives children protection and enrichment at the most formative time in a person's life. This is not a time in a child's life to try to live without an insurance policy!

Youth Camp—This is one of the church's great secret evangelistic efforts to teenagers. Many youth make their decision to follow Christ during the one week of summer camp. They are even more invested in the camp if they have worked to earn all or part of their own camp fee. Additionally, the majority of the camp counselors come from Adventist schools.

Pathfinders—Pathfinder activities give youth an opportunity to learn to have fun and, enjoy nature at a time in their life when they enjoy learning. When parents participate with their children, both get a double bonus of being able to have fun together. Many of these

activities are connected to Adventist schools. Sabbath School and church—When religious services are part of a child's parents

life, these create powerful positive habits for life. Youth will most often follow what they see important people in their life doing. When the child's friends are in Sabbath School and church, this becomes a double reinforcement.

Prayer—This is the source of the Christian's power. Prayer is the hope of the Christian parents strength. One of the most powerful images in a child's mind is to see their parent kneeling before God to request a blessing for them. I can still remember my mother kneeling by her bed asking God to give her strength to raise me during my teenage years when nothing she said made sense. This powerful example was stronger than any words.

Henry Carrubba, former Florida Conference president, compared this insurance policy to a great evangelistic rake. Every tine is essential for success. If one tooth is missing, then some get left behind. This is why every part of the insurance policy is important.

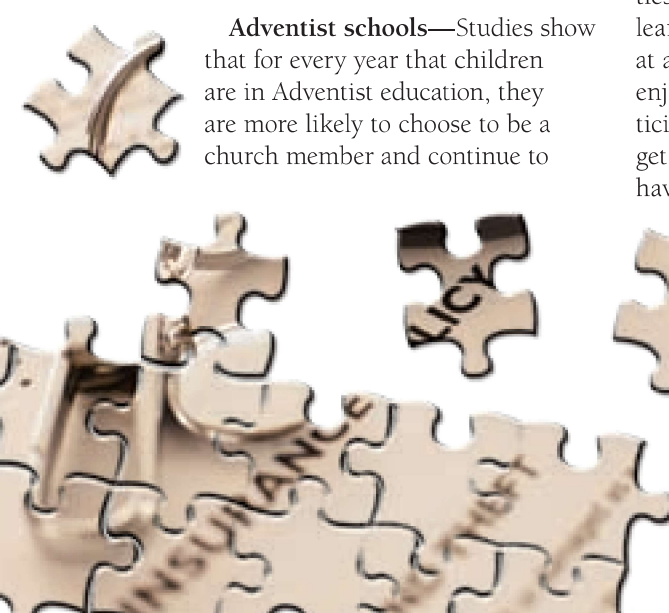
Let me plainly say that every single person must make his or her own decision. Yes, there are people we know who seem to defy the odds. We all know wonderful parents and grandparents who have given and sacrificed yet their children choose not to believe. The Good News is that God loves each person individually.

The assurance God promises is that He will save our sons and daughters when we contend with Him. (Isaiah 49:25)①



Jerrell Gilkeson is the Atlantic Union Conference associate director for education and children's ministries.

Putting the Pieces Together



F. A.T. Youth Leaders

Youth Ministries need F.A.T. people as youth, Pathfinder, and Adventure leaders. No, I am not speaking of individuals who say they need to exercise more. I am referring to those individuals who are faithful, available, and teachable.

Are you faithful to the mission of the church, youth, and Pathfinder ministries? A faithful individual is one who sets an example, is a role model, and is someone the youth can look up to. My favorite youth ministry text is Luke 6:40. This verse teaches us that our example is more important than anything we might say in Sabbath School or AYS meetings. We need to not only “talk the talk, but walk the talk.” The question we should ask ourselves everyday is, “Does my life reflect the life of Jesus Christ?” That is being faithful!

Are you available? Are you there for the youth? One principle of youth ministry is to practice the principle of “presence.” To practice this principle, effective youth leaders need to be where the youth are. That is being available. Being available means attending their school functions, their basketball games or other sports events, and going into their homes, if possible, and visiting with them. To be available is to support them in the tough times. So, to be more effective, practice the principle of presence.

As we are available to the youth, we also need to be encouragers. If ever there was a time when the youth need an encouraging word it is now! They are faced with so many outside influences that could lead to discouragement.

How can we become encouragers? How often do we affirm our young people? It is important that we thank them for jobs well done. It is important to let them know how much we appreciate who they are as individuals. Remember their birthdays and other special events in their lives. When they are baptized, throw a party and have a great celebration and remember those events on a regular basis.

Are you teachable? Are you willing to learn and keep learning? Does your church have a youth ministries library where those who work with young people of all ages can access tools that will help them? Does your church subscribe to meaningful youth ministries journals that always have a plethora of ideas and suggestions? Are you looking for a good AYS program? May I suggest you utilize the INSIGHT YOUTH RESOURCE magazine that comes with the youth Sabbath School material? This important resource always has great suggestions for youth Sabbath Schools, AYS meetings, and more.

As youth leaders we should never stop growing and learning. In order to earn the respect of the youth we need to constantly be in a learning mode. To stay current it is important that we take advantage of every opportunity to learn to be a great youth leader.

Lastly, youth ministry that impacts does not reach from head to head, but from heart to heart. Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (NIV) is one passage that reveals the scriptural context. Moses said, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.”

It is my prayer that every one of our faithful, available, and teachable youth leaders will have the commandments of the Lord written upon their hearts, so the youth will see that Jesus lives in them. When this is evident our youth leaders will have a lasting impact on each youth with whom they work.🙏

If ever there was a time when the youth need an encouraging word it is now! They are faced with so many outside influences that could lead to discouragement.



Bill Wood is the youth, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director for the Atlantic Union Conference.

Eglise mondiale: L'assemblée de printemps de l'Eglise commence avec le programme 'Dîtes-le au monde' et la fidélisation des membres

Où en est l'église adventiste dans son projet d'annoncer Jésus au monde? Cette question trouva une réponse au début de l'assemblée de printemps. Cette assemblée est une des rencontres administratives bi-annuelles de l'église. Pour commencer, des comptables de tous pays firent l'exposé des sept manières par lesquelles l'église met en pratique sa vision.

La vision de l'église pour 2005 à 2010 est d'inviter chacun de ses membres à annoncer Jésus au monde. Les rapports ont montré un accroissement au niveau des objectifs du programme 'Dîtes-le au monde': croissance spirituelle, implication dans la communauté,

témoignage personnel, implantation d'église, aide dans la ville, programmes d'évangélisation et ministère des médias.

Gabriel Maurer, secrétaire de l'église pour la division eurafricaine, s'exprime sur la croissance considérable du ministère des médias: "Ce ne sont pas les grands événements mais plutôt des milliers de petits témoignages qui amènent les gens au Christ."

Michael L. Ryan, vice-président de l'Eglise adventiste mondiale, commente sur les rapports: "C'est merveilleux de faire partie d'une église qui avance." Il ajoute que l'église planifie de tenir 400,000 réunions d'évangélisation au cours des cinq

prochaines années.

Gary Krause, directeur du bureau de la mission adventiste de l'église, met l'accent sur le fait que les membres doivent personnellement nourrir leur foi. Cela est essentiel pour qu'une implantation d'église soit réussie. G. Krause pense ici à la reprise qui a lieu dans les nouvelles congrégations adventistes depuis 2001.

A l'ordre du jour du rapport sur l'augmentation des offrandes des missions. Ce fait indique que la conscience de la mission se développe dans les églises locales à travers le monde.

Le jeudi, le conseil a voté un article intitulé 'Garder nos membres,' déclaration

qui a trait à la fidélisation des membres d'églises et à la reconquête des anciens membres. Ce document est le fruit d'une recommandation du conseil de l'évangélisation et est destiné à une large diffusion aux dirigeants de l'église mondiale et des congrégations locales.

Ce document fait allusion aussi à une croissance rapide du nombre de membres à travers le monde. Entre les années 2000 et 2005, l'église a baptisé plus de cinq millions de personnes et en a perdu presque 1,4 million.

*Adventist News Network Staff
10 April, 2007
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer*

English translation available at news.adventist.org/data/2007/03/1176246731/index.html.en.

Eglise mondiale: Le président de l'église adventiste réagit à la tragédie de Virginia Tech

Commentant sur le massacre qui a coûté la vie à trente-trois étudiants et professeurs de l'Institut technologique université d'Etat de Virginie à Blacksburg (Virginie) le 16 avril dernier, Pasteur Jan Paulsen, président de l'église adventiste mondiale, a délivré un message de compassion et de solidarité aux membres des familles, amis et camarades de classe des victimes, dans une déclaration publiée le 17 avril.

"Quels mots sont appropriés face à une telle tragédie?" a dit Pasteur Paulsen. "En quelques minutes, plu-

sieurs vies ont été détruites, d'espoirs et de rêves se sont éteints, et beaucoup de jans continuent à pleurer."

La déclaration se poursuit en les termes suivants: "Les membres de l'église adventiste du monde entier prient pour les familles en deuil et pour ceux qui ont perdu des amis, des camarades de classe et des collègues. Nous prions pour le complet rétablissement de ceux qui ont été blessés, et pour que ceux dont les blessures ne sont pas physiques puissent être profondément guéris.

"Nous prions aussi pour que même au milieu de cette douleur,

la lumière de la compassion de Dieu puisse briller. Alors que les étudiants et le corps enseignant de Virginia Tech regardent vers l'avenir, qu'ils puissent sentir la main guérissante de l'Esprit de Dieu.

"Qu'ils puissent avoir l'assurance que le bien triomphera du mal, et faire l'expérience d'une espérance et d'une paix au-delà de toute compréhension."

*Adventist News Network Staff
18 Avril 2007
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer*

English translation available at news.adventist.org/data/2007/03/1176900431/index.html.en.

¿Qué Está Pasando? en el Ministerio Hispano y Portugués en la Unión del Atlántico

Los Comités de Asesoramiento Hispano y Portugués de la Unión del Atlántico se reunieron en el mes de marzo para discutir algunas de las iniciativas y los planes de trabajo por los próximos cinco años en beneficio de los miembros hispanos y portugueses de esta Unión.

Los miembros de estos comités se reunieron bajo un ambiente muy animador, cooperativo y por sobre todo espiritual. Los miembros entienden la responsabilidad que tienen de trazar planes serios y sólidos para que la obra en estas dos comunidades de nuestra Unión pueda continuar creciendo y perciban el apoyo a este crecimiento.

Esta fue la primera reunión del quinquenio para ambos comités. Esperamos poder reunirnos una vez cada tres meses. Desde luego, los miembros están de acuerdo que si la necesidad lo demanda nos reuniremos más a menudo.

Algunas de las iniciativas que fueron discutidas con planes de implementación en el futuro son las siguientes:

1. Crear un boletín informativo para la hermandad hispana y portuguesa de nuestra Unión. Hay muchas actividades que están ocurriendo en nuestras iglesias que son positivas y que podrían ser de beneficio para toda nuestra hermandad. Este boletín servirá como un instrumento para mantener a las iglesias de la Unión informadas. Una fecha específica para comenzar la publica-

ción de este boletín no ha sido decidida. Pedimos sus oraciones para que este proyecto se haga realidad.

2. El evangelismo en la comunidad hispana y portuguesa es extremadamente importante e indudablemente es una parte integral de nuestro ministerio como hijos de Dios. Por lo tanto, planes para el evangelismo y el crecimiento de la obra hispana y portuguesa fueron parte de nuestra discusión.

Uno de los planes discutidos, el cual creo que es muy importante y merece que lo compartamos con ustedes tiene que ver con un esfuerzo evangélico que estamos organizando para ser llevado a cabo en el mes de octubre. Este evento evangélico correrá simultáneamente por todo el territorio de la Unión del Atlántico en todas las iglesias hispanas y portuguesas durante la semana del 13 al 27 de octubre. El objetivo es que todas las iglesias participen del evento mediante alguna clase de evangelismo. Concluiremos este gran evento con una celebración que incluirá un bautismo el sábado 27 de Octubre. Se le anima a cada iglesia para que comience a prepararse para participar activamente en este esfuerzo evangélico de la Unión del Atlántico.

3. *Sábado Joven* es una organización dirigida por jóvenes que ha estado operando en la Unión del Atlántico por varios años. Consideramos que su trabajo es

beneficioso en alcanzar a la juventud de nuestras iglesias mediante los programas que presentan. Los comités han discutido la función y contribución de *Sábado Joven* y le recomienda a las iglesias hispanas y portuguesas a tomar ventaja de esta iniciativa invitando a *Sábado Joven* a sus iglesias. Estoy seguro de que esto será una bendición para cada iglesia ya que *Sábado Joven* puede inclusive presentar programas en inglés para alcanzar a esos jóvenes que prefieren adorar en este idioma.

Otros puntos discutidos indudablemente serán implementados en el futuro. Continuaremos reuniéndonos con el objetivo en mente de contribuir al crecimiento de estas comunidades para servir como inspiración a la armonía y crecimiento de nuestra Unión en general. Es nuestro deseo que cada pastor, líder y miembro de iglesia local continúe creciendo y desarrollándose espiritualmente, fortaleciendo así su relación con Cristo Jesús para estar preparados para su pronta segunda venida. Por medio de estas actividades, esperamos apresurar ese gran encuentro con nuestro amante Salvador.



Dionisio Olivo es el vicepresidente del Ministerio Hispano y Portugués, director de vida familiar y escuela sabática en la Unión del Atlántico.

English translation available at www.atlantic-union.org/news150.html

Homelessness and Poverty

In order to increase awareness of the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on various subjects, the Atlantic Union GLEANER will publish monthly one of the position statements or guidelines voted by church leadership since 1980. These official statements were issued by the General Conference in session, the General Conference Executive Committee, the General Conference Administrative Committee, or the office of the General Conference president.

As the church continues to grow and make an influence, its role in the society will require that its views and what it holds true become known. Such will continue to be the demands of the society, and such will be the need to define Adventism's relevance, or present truth, to those who are asking questions and seeking answers to their dilemmas and problems.

The documents presented here are not an end in themselves, but a reflection of a movement sensitive to its calling and the people who "know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).

Homelessness and Poverty

In a world ravaged by sin, the bitter fruits of greed, war, and ignorance are multiplying. Even in so called "affluent societies" the homeless and the poor are growing populations. More than 10,000 people starve to death every day. Two billion more are malnourished, and thousands more go blind annually because of dietary deficiency. Approximately two-thirds of the world's population remains caught in a cycle of hunger-sickness-death.

There are some who bear liability for their condition, but the majority of these individuals and families are destitute by political, economic, cultural, or social events largely beyond their control.

Historically, those in such circumstances have found succor and advocacy in the hearts of the followers of Jesus Christ. Caring institutions are in many cases begun by the church and later assumed by government agencies, or vice versa. These agencies, aside from any ideological altruism, reflect society's recognition that it is in its own best interest to deal compassionately with the less fortunate.

Social scientists tell us that a number of ills find fertile ground in the conditions of poverty. Feelings of hopelessness, alienation, envy, and resentment often lead to antisocial attitudes and behavior. Then society is left to pay for the after-

effects of such ills through its courts, prisons, and welfare systems. Poverty and misfortune as such do not cause crime and provide no excuse for it. But when the claims of compassion are denied, discouragement, and even resentment are likely to follow.

The claims upon the Christian's compassion are not ill-founded. They do not spring from any legal or even social contract theory, but from the clear teaching of scripture: "He has showed you, O man, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 7:8 RSV)

The fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is precious to Seventh-day Adventists. We see our responsibility in this chapter as those raised up to be "The repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in" (verse 12).

The call is to restore and "to loose the bands of wickedness... to deal thy bread to the hungry... bring the poor that are cast out to thy house... when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him" (verses 6, 7). So as repairers of the breach, we are to restore and care for the poor. If we carry out the principles of the law of God in acts of mercy and love, we will represent the character of God to the world.

In effecting Christ's ministry today, we must do as He did, and not only preach the gospel to the poor, but heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the downcast (see Luke 4:18, 19; Matt. 14:14). But verse 16 explains that it was so that "they need not go away." Christ's own example is determinative for His followers.

In Christ's response to Judas' feigned concern for the poor: "For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me" (Matt. 26:11 RSV), we are reminded that it is the "Living Bread" that people most desperately need. However, we also recognize the inseparables between the physical and the spiritual. By supporting those church and public policies that relieve suffering, and by individual and united efforts of compassion, we augment that very spiritual endeavor.☺

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on July 5, 1990, at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Single Parents' Day Proclaimed in Bermuda



Minister for Parliament the Honorable Dale Butler, J.P., M.P., declared March 21 as National Single Parents' Day in Bermuda.

On the steps of city hall, in the capital of Bermuda, minister for Parliament the Honorable Dale Butler, J.P., M.P., declared that March 21 was National Single Parents' Day. It was a first for Bermuda. The event was planned for, prayed for, and promoted by the Bermuda Conference Adventist Single Adult Ministries Department. Butler declared, "The Adventist Single Adult Ministries has taken the initiative and is sponsoring this day of awareness. They are to be thanked and congratulated for their concern,

foresight, and determination to bring this event to the attention of all in Bermuda. I am therefore very pleased to have been asked to present this proclamation. I hereby declare this 21st day of March, 2007, to be the National Single Parents' Day in Bermuda."

In his affirmation of single parents, Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda Conference president, director of family ministries, and author of *SINGLE AND GIFTED*, declared that single parents are often misunderstood, misinterpreted, and mistreated. Fixated with the circumstances surrounding their status, we wrongly interpret their past, interrupt their present, and ignore their future.

Jeremiah's "potter and clay" narrative never focuses on how the clay became marred, scarred, or hard; it simply declares that the clay was molded "in the hands of the potter." We affirm, then, that single parents are still in the Potter's hands and that, as with the rest of us, the Potter wants to put us back together again.

Enda Matthee herself a single parent, spoke with vigor, verve, and

vitality on the subject, "I Matter." While there is never enough time, never enough money, and never enough energy, single parents rise up every day and fulfill their responsibilities to their families and communities. Single parents and their children are not parasites in our society, nor should they be pariahs. Single parents are to be accorded parity, esteem, and respect. In short, single parents matter. Matthee's spirited challenge was met with resounding applause.

Kudos to Christine O'Brien, Bermuda Conference Adventist Single Adult Ministries director, and her team: Donna Belton, Renee Burrows, Gwen Creary, Robert Dunnett, Loumeeka Orgill, Cheryl Simons, Melba Wilson, and Marsha Woolridge.

Here was a church simply and proudly declaring to the world, "Single parents, we think you are wonderful. May God bless you."

*Information provided by Jeffrey Brown
Family Ministries director
Bermuda Conference*

Bermuda Institute Seniors Honored as Outstanding Teens

The annual Outstanding Teen Awards program hosted by Teen Services Bermuda, took place on March 4.

Teens who are making a difference in their communities are nominated by their churches, schools, and community organizations. They are nominated in such categories as community services, spiritual leadership, performing arts, and academics. Each nominee must attend an interview by a panel of judges, which selects an outstanding male and female for each category.

This year Bermuda Institute students emerged as winners in three of the ten categories. Senior students Delrae Knight and Martin Wolffe won both awards in the Most Progress category. Delrae was awarded for the outstanding academic growth and motivation she

has displayed during her four years in high school, while Martin was honored for the tremendous strides he has made toward improved behavior and deportment.

In the categories of Visual Arts and Academic Achievement,



Adventist winners of the annual Outstanding Teen Awards program are: front row second from left to right, Samantha Scott, Delrae Knight, and LaRoya Hardiman; back row: second from left, Martin Wolffe, and fourth from left, Micrae Smith.

Bermuda Institute seniors Samantha Scott and Micrae Smith led the way. Samantha's consistent exemplary academic achievement

distinguished her as exceptional among her peers and worthy of the award for Academic Achievement. Micrae Smith, already an accomplished artist whose work has been on display at City Hall and purchased by prestigious businesses in Bermuda, was recognized as the Outstanding Male for Visual Arts.

Overall, it was an enlightening evening highlighting all of the positive contributions teens are making in their community. All nominees were recognized for being "the best of the best"—a fitting honor for their significant accomplishments. The staff and students of Bermuda Institute give God all glory and praise for gifting His children with the ability to achieve excellence in their endeavors.

*Coleen M. Birkett, staff writer
Bermuda Institute*



AUC—A Family Tradition Since 1882

Rooting Through History and Reminiscences by the President's Wife

My husband, George Babcock, and I came to AUC on a “temporary” assignment in 2003. He came to serve as president. I had fond memories of being a faculty child here in the 1940s. I didn’t realize until we arrived that my connection to AUC really started back in 1882!—*Written by Fern Gibson Babcock.*

Our Family's First Encounter With AUC

I discovered that in 1882, my great-grandfather Dores A. Robinson, then pastor of the Village Church, worked with Stephen Haskell and others to start South Lancaster Academy. Dores helped to select the site, sold some of his own land to the school, and when it opened with 19 students on April 19, 1882, he taught the Bible classes. Two years later, he became the second principal of South Lancaster Academy and his wife, Edna Dewey Robinson, taught there also.

Five male students boarded with the Robinsons and when a flu epidemic struck, Edna took sick students home and nursed them back to health.

When the school board decided to build the first building—later known as Founders Hall, Ellen White led the workers in donating to the project.

Unearthing A Time Capsule

In the Heritage Room of AUC’s library, I discovered that Dores, a Canadian, came to the States to work for an Adventist farmer and then

joined the farmer’s church. Alarmed, his brother Asa came to straighten him out—and ended up also becoming an Adventist.

After some training at Battle Creek, Dores joined Stephen Haskell in nurturing the spread of the gospel in New England. In addition to pastoring the Village Church and serving as principal of the new school, he became conference secretary.

In 1886, the Dores Robinsons, C. L. Boyd, and two colporteurs sailed to South Africa to further spread the gospel, taking with them one of South Lancaster Academy’s first graduates, Miss Carrie Mace.

After a few years in South Africa, Dores was invited to go to England.

There, the childless Robinsons selected a daughter from among the many children of a struggling widow. That child became my grandmother—Ethel Robinson Chilson. In 1895, when the Robinsons were asked to take the gospel to India, they agreed and took Ethel with them. Later they adopted Mary, an Indian orphan.

In 1899, Dores died of smallpox and was buried in India. Ethel and Mary accom-

panied their grieving mother, Edna, back to South Lancaster where Ethel cared for her on Prescott Street until she died in 1905. Last year, I located Edna’s grave beside graves of her parents in Berlin, Vermont, her family’s hometown. Thus ended my family’s first encounter with AUC.

Thayer Purchased for \$12,500!

Our second encounter began in 1941 when my father, Jesse O. Gibson, moved our family into the little brown house beside Mrs. Rochelle Kilgore and became business manager for AUC. My sister Bonnie was born here, and I began school at Browning Normal.

My memories include a flood that covered the pasture and brought hundreds of tiny green frogs; a terrible fire that burned up the maintenance building; my daddy placing the final brick on the top of the new powerhouse smokestack; fun-filled days playing in the two college barns with Elsie Olsen and Janice Robinson; and my daddy’s purchase of the Thayer Mansion with 100-140 acres of land (sources vary) for only \$12,500. I

recall him saying that the price was the appraised value of the rhododendron bushes on the property! I heard him saying to mother that if the board members didn’t approve the purchase quickly, AUC would lose out. Then he got into the car and drove from person to person obtaining board member signatures until the documentation was complete.



Dores A. Robinson



Edna Dewey Robinson



Jesse O. Gibson, Babcock's father-in-law, Fern's dad, purchased the Thayer Mansion for \$12,500! He served as business manager for Atlantic Union College from 1941–1944.

From the Thayer auction, he bought me a dollhouse complete with oriental rugs and china dolls—all for \$8.00! While our parents cleaned out the mansion, Janice Robinson and I ran from one marble bathroom to another collecting cosmetics. We couldn't wear the nail polish and lipstick, of course, but we decorated our mud pies exquisitely for days! Mixed with the Thayers' genuine French perfume, they smelled wonderful!

Mission Service

We Gibsons answered a mission call to West Africa in 1944. Daddy worked in Ghana for the next 11 years, supervising construction of the Accra and Kumasi mission compounds and becoming president of the West African Union before returning home again.

Later, George and I and our two children followed our mission heritage by serving in Pakistan for more than seven years.

Answering God's Call

Pulled out of retirement, we served again—back on the campus that great-grandfather Robinson selected, leading

out in the school that he helped establish, attending concerts in the Thayer mansion that Daddy bought.

George and I were humbled as we walked in the footsteps of these family pioneers and focused on AUC's mission of training young people for God and His service.



Dave Sherwin

President George Babcock and Fern, his wife.
June 1, 2003 – May 31, 2007

Fern Gibson Babcock, author, wife of AUC president George Babcock, and great-granddaughter of one of the school's founders.



Joint chapel with South Lancaster Academy and Atlantic Union College at the Village Church, one in a series of 125th anniversary celebrations.

Atlantic Union College and South Lancaster Academy are jointly celebrating their 125th anniversary this year. The theme is *Share the Light!*

You Are Invited to Our Upcoming Celebrations:

- Join us for the 125th anniversary presentations at your conference camp meeting.
- September 22, Worship Service, 11:00 a.m. College Church. Speaker: Bill Knott, editor, ADVENTIST REVIEW, ADVENTIST WORLD.
- September 22, Lyceum. Historical Lecture, 8:00 p.m., Machlan Auditorium, Atlantic Union College.
- September 23, 125th Anniversary Walkathon, 10:00 a.m. Jack Mentges and Coach Sandy Smith, coordinators.
- October 5–7, South Lancaster Academy Alumni Weekend.



Photos: Cindy Kurtzialis

125th Anniversary Committee chair, Bordes Henry-Saturné, and assistant to the president, Atlantic Union College; Allyson Cram, principal, South Lancaster Academy; Donald King, board chair, Atlantic Union College and president, Atlantic Union Conference; and George Babcock, president, Atlantic Union College.



Awards Presented to 47th Precinct Community Affairs Unit



Pastor Lincoln Smith, right front, presents award to Officer Gary Bucknell.

The Bronx Adventist youth awarded and acknowledged the Northeast Bronx 47th Precinct Community Affairs Unit for their untiring dedication to community services and programs. Receiving the awards were Officers Gary Bucknell and Debra Jack. It was noted that Officer Jack had been involved with the youth since their first rally in 2005. She admonished the young people to continue to be involved and “to build strong character.” She also reminded them that if they are exemplary young people they will become achieving adults. Officer Bucknell said it was his delight to provide support and protection for the young people and that it was truly amazing to see such dedicated youth working for God and their community.

*Alanzo Smith, communication director
Greater New York Conference*



Pathfinder Director Dahlia Reid, center, and Pastor Smith present an award to Officer Debra Jack.



The North Bronx church Pathfinder club marched in a youth rally in conjunction with the event.

Oakview Students Raise Funds for ADRA Projects

If you asked the fifth-graders of Oakview Preparatory Seventh-day Adventist School what they are doing in their school to make a difference, they would probably say that they are working on projects with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), a global Adventist development relief organization established in 1956 whose purpose is to help those in dire need.

When several class members were asked why they wanted to work with ADRA, they replied, “To help others get food and supplies

and have better care; to help the poor and the needy.” For these reasons many class members thought that the project was important.

Students who went to the ADRA Web site had to choose an ADRA project they were willing to support and then find ways of raising money for that project. Choices included such projects as feeding an infant a hot meal for a day in Bangladesh or giving a goat to an Ethiopian family.

Delighted to do something for others, the students, Biajha Anderson,

Elisabeth Yacoub, Eric Bogui, Tahani Hayles, Ariel James, Sasha Savage, Adria Williams, Teddy Cooper, and Linton Witter, came up with many creative and insightful ideas to raise money for the projects.

The students have not yet reached their goals, but they are really close. As they work effortlessly to raise funds for ADRA, they are, in their own way, making a real difference for someone who needs it most.

*Fifth grade students
Oakview Preparatory school*

Spotlight on a Growing Church

The Bayanihan (Filipino) church was organized into a church in 2000 with a membership of 55. Having no place to call home, they were like nomads moving from place to place. They started their worship service as a company in the basement of the Manhattan church; they moved next to the apartment of a member, afterward to the Korean church, then to the Methodist church. Finally, in 2003, they bought their own church building at a cost of \$590,000. The experience brought joy mixed with sorrows. Soon after the purchase, they learned that another investor was challenging their rights to ownership. It took three long years to resolve the matter in the courts. God prevailed on the church's side and today the congregation legally owns the building at 3949 29th Street, Long Island City.

With its many programs, the church has become a beacon of light in the community. Every Saturday visitors come and Adventists from the Philippines vis-



The Bayanihan church has become a beacon of light in the community. Adventists from the Philippines visiting New York frequently seek out the Bayanihan church for worship.

iting New York frequently seek out the Bayanihan church for worship. In a little more than six years the group's membership has doubled; today there are 107 members, besides visitors and friends.

Pastor James Wong, a visionary leader, has given the church spiritual leadership and steered it successfully through its challenging times. The church hosts a garden of singers and its services are embellished with a variety of talented singers and musicians. Each Sabbath, the attendees are given a scrumptious meal after the midday service and most stay for the afternoon service. We join with Pastor Wong and his congregation in saying, "to God be the glory, great things He has done."



Pastor James Wong

Alanzo Smith, communication director
Greater New York Conference

Family Evangelism Meetings Held on the Turks and Caicos Islands

In the first quarter of 2007 the Turks and Caicos Mission launched one of its biggest attacks on the deterioration of family values with a series of meetings on the island of Providenciales, one of eight islands that make up the Turks and Caicos Islands. They are located more than 500 miles south of Miami, Florida. There are only three Seventh-day Adventist churches on the island, one French and two English. The challenge was given to veteran evangelist and family specialist, Alanzo Smith, who preached through a translator, for four weeks, five nights a week. Each night, he challenged the audience to build stronger

families against all odds. He drew from a plethora of family themes and family values, and augmented them with relevant Bible stories and Bible texts.

Energized by these powerful family messages and the call to repentance, 92 individuals were baptized. Many more signed up for baptism which will increase the baptism total beyond 100. This represents the largest first-quarter baptism in the one hundred years of Adventism on the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Government officials visited, members talked about the positive impact of the meetings, and visitors raved about the spiritual and social blessings the



Ninety-two individuals were baptized as a result of the family evangelism meetings held on the Turks and Caicos Islands.

meetings brought to them and their family. People expressed feelings of sadness on the final night as they came to bid farewell to the evangelist and to thank

God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit during the series of meetings.

Lisa Gonzales, communication
department secretary
Greater New York Conference

Academy Students Participate in Music Clinic



Despite the wintry weather, academy students participated in the joint Atlantic Union Conference and Atlantic Union College Music Clinic directed by Atlantic Union College music professor Erick Parris.



Breaking tradition in wardrobe, Hector Figueroa and Josh Gonzalez sang a duet "in costume" during the final performance of the music clinic.



Erick Parris, choral clinic conductor

By Tamara
Michalenko
Terry

The voices of almost 50 students filled Machlan Auditorium for the grand finale concert on the campus of Atlantic Union College (AUC) on February 17. The concert was the climax of a four-day music clinic co-sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference and the Atlantic Union College.

Five of the eight high schools in the Atlantic Union participating in the music clinic included Bermuda Institute (BI), Greater Boston Academy (GBA), Pine Tree Academy (PTA), South Lancaster Academy (SLA), and Union Springs Academy (USA).

The music clinic began on a snowy Valentine's Day. Even though most of the schools in the area were closed for the day, choir rehearsals took place as scheduled. With about 15 hours to practice before performance time, there was little time to waste. Fortunately, each school prepared their music in advance so choir clinician Erick Parris had only to fine-tune the blended voices.

Parris, originally from Panama, is presently the professor of music theory and composition, choral director, and Atlantic Union College Music Department chair. He is also on the board of directors of the International Adventist Musicians Association. A composer in his own right, he composed an original piece for the clinic,

"Make a Joyful Noise!" and dedicated it to the students attending the clinic.

The weekend performances included Friday evening vespers featuring SLA's choir, Vocé, and speaker Bordes Henry-Saturne, a vice president at AUC. On Saturday, the clinic choir performed a mini-concert at the College Church. That afternoon's vesper service featured a musical selection from each academy that reflected their cultural genre.

"Teachers and parents alike were very impressed with the performances," says Astrid Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference director of education. "I received comments from students that they didn't realize they could stretch their vocal chords to that extent and parents thought they sounded like a college choir."

Jerrell Gilkeson, Atlantic Union Conference associate director of education, added: "One of the primary factors in the success of this clinic was the teamwork of all those involved. The total cooperation between the college and union office of education made a foundation of support for the music program. Additionally, the outstanding job by Erik Parris, in preparing, writing an original composition, and leading the students to a level of excellence while still having fun, was a cornerstone of the clinic. The main reason for the success was that Jesus gave us music and gave these musicians the talents to praise Him."

Robert Malin, South Lancaster Academy Vocé director added, "It is good for SLA students to realize that other schools are working hard to perfect their musical craft and they are not alone. It is also important for students to have our core values reinforced from different individuals. Thank you Dr. Parris. SLA students liked the social interaction with students from the other academies."[®]

Tamara Michalenko Terry is assistant editor for the Atlantic Union GLEANER.



Sacred Spaces

By Bill Wood

On Saturday morning February 3, young adults attending the Atlantic Union's fifth GODencounters weekend woke up to a snow-white winter wonderland at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts. One of the attendees remarked that God has blanketed the camp with this fresh snow to help us start the Sabbath day as a symbolic gesture of what the Sabbath can mean in each one of our lives—making our lives as white as snow!

Nearly 150 young adults worshiped, praised God, and enjoyed a “sacred space” as never before.

John Henderson, a pastor from Oakland, California, was the guest speaker. In his first message he gave a brief history of the Sabbath and on Sunday he highlighted the spiritual importance of the Sabbath. He called for commitments to keep the Sabbath and prepare for baptism and several young adults responded.

Several workshops were conducted through the weekend highlighting several aspects of the Sabbath. Samuel Pipim, secular campus ministries director for the Michigan Conference, conducted a seminar entitled “A Day to Remember – Ethics, Relationships, and Spirituality,” Angelo Grasso, a young adult, presented a seminar on, “Finding Your Sacred Space,” and Rick Trott, a professor at Atlantic Union College, conducted a seminar on, “Grace in the Sabbath.” All three seminars were well attended.

Scott Campbell and a young adult group from Freeport, Maine, led out in a very worshipful “praise and worship” time before each general session.

Courtney Fadlin, from Silver Spring, Maryland, blessed the group throughout the weekend with great music from his saxophone.

Saturday night was spent in group games, volleyball and basketball, and just relaxing and “hanging out.”

GODencounters 2008 is already in its planning stages. The date is February 1–3. Mark it down on your calendars now and plan to be part of this special event for young adults in the Atlantic Union. 0

Bill Wood is the, youth, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director for the Atlantic Union Conference.

Photos: Bill Wood

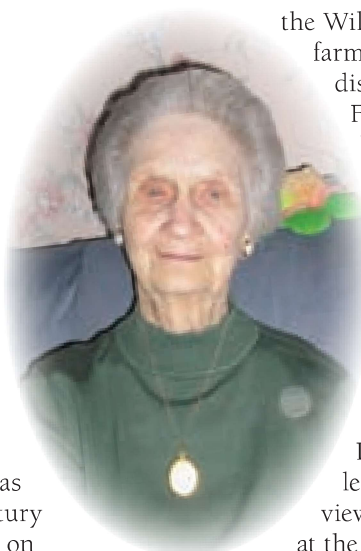


William Miller Site Gains a Schoolhouse



Plans call for restoring the schoolhouse so it can once more welcome children.

Adventist Heritage Ministries (AHM) is excited by one of its most recent acquisitions—a one-room public school known as County School #4, now known as the 19th Century Schoolhouse on



Hazel Stannard

the William Miller farm just a short distance from Fair Haven, Vermont. Among its former teachers is Jane Stannard, an Adventist.

This past December, I was privileged to interview Stannard at the home of

her sister-in-law, Hazel Stannard with whom she now resides. According to Jane, life was not easy for school- teachers in this remote area. She remembers boarding with a family and sleeping in a room so cold that she had to go to bed with all of her clothes on to keep from freezing. Wages were \$17 per week and she sometimes had up to 15 students in many grades. Both Jane and Hazel are descendants of William Miller and many of the artifacts that AHM has gratefully placed on display in the Miller home have been donated by great-grand- daughter Hazel.

All who come to visit this historic area fall in love with the land and its people, as did William Miller.



Jane Stannard

Though he traveled far and wide, it was here that he chose to await the coming of his Lord and Friend. It was in this school- house that the Millerites gathered to pray for the soon return of Jesus, making the property recently donated to AHM so meaningful.

Plans call for restoring the schoolhouse so it can once more welcome children, exposing them to their Millerite roots. Funds for materials and volunteer help are needed to accomplish this restoration project. Why not be a part of the fun? Call the William Miller Home at (518) 282-9617 or Jim Everhart at (802) 442-4926 to reserve a time when you can help.

*Linda Everhart, assistant manager
William Miller Farm*

Students Make a Joyful Sound at Annual Music Festival



Alisa Andrade inspires students musically.

Union Springs Academy hosted the annual music festival on the campus March 8-10 for students in grades 5–8. Students were blessed with the return of Alisa Andrade whose goal for the event was to help students learn and value the hymns of the faith. She chose upbeat, kid-pleasing arrangements and in short order transformed students into a choir of amazing quality. In addition to learning some great music, students also enjoyed fellowship and opportunities to grow spiritually. What a delight it will be to sing with these young people in the celestial choir. May it be soon!

*Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference*

A Powerful Prayer Breakfast

On January 21 the Kingsbury church women's ministry team fulfilled its dream of ministering to families when they conducted a family prayer breakfast entitled Powerful Praying.

Transforming the gymnasium into an elegant prayer hall, the formally invited guests were treated to a buffet breakfast and dined on tables filled with fresh flowers. Prayer stations were set up around the room for guests to experience different types of prayer, from a prayer walk, with large footsteps of specific prayer requests for ministries within the church, to a "thank-you" prayer station where each person wrote a prayer of thanks to someone attending. They even engaged in different forms of

prayer, such as a sentence praise prayer session and an alphabet prayer, naming Bible texts starting with each letter of the alphabet.

The "washed away" prayer station encouraged a person to write what-



Orin and Wendy Wells, at one of the prayer stations, writing appreciation cards for the church family.

ever they struggled with on a piece of cloth that was then submerged in a basin of water and washed away.

Areas for small-group and pri-

vate prayer were available. A red rose was given to each one, symbolizing God's love and forgiveness. The event came to a touching conclusion with a prayer of blessing on Pastor David Harriss and his wife, Kathy, followed by the song, "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

All of this became a reality as a result of the concerted efforts of the women's ministry team, including: Wendy Wells, Ami Wells, Carol Grimes, and Janice Close.

If you want to put power into your own prayer life, plan a prayer breakfast for your church. Prayer doesn't just change circumstances... it changes us.

*Janice Close, Women's Ministries staff
Kingsbury church*

Rise to the Call

How does one know that an organization is no longer doing business as usual? Perhaps it is when it radically alters the way it spends its money. The New York Conference is no longer doing God's business in the usual way and, as evidence of that, evangelism money was used to train more than 200 members as ministers for Christ. It happened at a weekend seminar entitled Rise to the Call hosted by the conference's Lay Training Institute. The event took place February 23-25 in Auburn, New York, resulting in members and pastors who were empowered to move forward with lay-driven ministry. Attendees were blessed and

inspired by leaders who have been used by God to bring many to Christ, resulting in dramatic church growth. Among them were Del Dunavant, S. Joseph Kidder, Shane Anderson, and conference ministry director, Angel Rodriquez.

Dawn Phelps of the Lincklaen Center church described the weekend as very motivational and inspiring. Victor Nelson, a non-member who came with his brother, was impressed by the Adventist teaching that members can and should be taking their marching orders directly from God. Patricia Keys from the Macedonia church described herself as an introvert but said that she gained a lot of helpful tools and was convinced that others might benefit from what she has to share. The weekend was intense and the presentations were Christ-centered, liberating individuals to claim upstate New York for Christ. Watch out world!

*Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference*



Pastor Shane Anderson was among the presenters.



Lisa Crittenden provided special music for the event.



Joseph Kidder shares strategies for church growth.

Camp Meeting Registration:

For information or to register for camp meeting. Contact the New York Conference at (315) 469-6921.

Mount Vernon Church Affirms Its Children

One hundred young people met at the Mount Vernon church in Mount Vernon, New York, on February 11, for a first of its kind pre-Valentine's Day awards banquet. This event was designed to reinforce positive values and to honor and encourage youth to continue being a positive influence in our society.

During the event one parent said, "From where I am I can see carpenters, plumbers, electricians, lawyers, doctors, nurses, computer specialists, veterinarians, astronauts, and on and on. These youngsters have already shown great potential by their dedication to the church, the respect they show their parents and other adults, the high regard they have for their teachers, and, of course, their love for God."

The mistresses of ceremonies for the event were teenagers Janene Laurent and Natoya Lewis who



Enjoying the pre-Valentine's Day awards banquet on the back row are, Amber Forbes, Tianna Livingston, Candice Smith, Darby Allison, Taylor Ralph, and Nalani Thompson; on the front row, Briana Clark, Moniesha Foot, Brianna Miller, and Jasmine Laurent.

kept the program moving and had everyone laughing. Darby Allison led in the Black National Anthem; Shane Hall-Booth recited the poem "What a Success." Marc Richardson played El Shaddai on his alto saxophone. Amber Forbes and

Selena Hackett sang "Count on Me." Tianna Livingston gave a rendition of "We Shall Overcome." Richard Anthony and Joshua Allison showed off their talents as pianists.

The high point of the afternoon was the presentation of

them repeat: "I am special because God made me." He challenged them to work not only in the church, but to also work in their community. He was joined by Lynette Cox, Pastor Edward Herndon, and Litieth Coke, who gave every award recipient a certificate of appreciation for their involvement in Sabbath School, Pathfinders, and Adventurers.

Sandra Herndon challenged the young people to be whatever they want to be. As the children left, their faces beamed as they received a heart-shaped box of chocolates showing how much they are loved. "Our children are very special," said Pastor Herndon, and this program demonstrated it.

*Winsome Dyer Anthony
Children's Ministries coordinator
Mount Vernon church*



Public speaking and Bible Bowl award recipients include, on the back row, Shane Booth-Hall, Sherman-Lee Rowe, Ebon Thomas, Danree Brown, Aishia Williamson, and Tierra Burrell; on the front row, Jervau Higgs, Sederick Dawkins, Richard Anthony, Michel Scott, Sydney Spence, Marc Richardson, and Taylor Ralph.

awards. Oswald Euell, the Northeastern Conference Sabbath School director, gave a charge to the children and then had

Northeastern Academy Alumni Association Establishes First Official Chapter

Continuing its efforts for growth and redefining itself, the Northeastern Academy Alumni Association, Inc., is launching its first official membership drive. If the current results are any indication of what the future holds, they are off to a great start. The association is pleased to announce the establishment of its first official chapter at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama.

This chapter is the first component of the region and will be known as *N.E.A.3 South*. The group is comprised of both current and former staff and students of the col-

lege. The initial inquiry and request was led by Adrienne Matthews, associate dean of women and director of Carter Hall on the college's campus. In addition to involvement in community service projects, the chapter will also function as a transition unit providing support for students from Northeastern Academy who are beginning college life at Oakwood.

A few other members of the chapter include Matthews' husband, Louis, Amanda (Barry) Harris, Abdulla Sutherland, Gregory Allen, George Daley, Theodore and Ruth Gunn, and

Carla Ephraim, class of 2005, Northeastern Academy salutatorian and inaugural recipient of the Delisa Gonzales Knight Esq. Academic Achievement Award.

The association is pursuing the possibility of establishing chapters in Maryland, Atlanta, and New York City which is the home of its national headquarters.

Any group or individuals interested in joining the association may contact Barry Thomas, president at BarryT@yahoo.com.

*Barry Thomas, president
Northeastern Academy Alumni Association, Inc.*

Women's Day of Prayer Conference Held in Rhode Island

The New England Region Women's Ministries group held their eighth annual Women's Day of Prayer conference on March 17 at the Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island.

Esther Chandler, Gethsemane church's public relations officer, started the program with a poem called "Sister" by Annie Ruth. A workshop followed entitled "A Meeting in the Ladies Room: A Lesson in Conflict Resolution." During the interactive segment, teams of women paired up to resolve problem scenarios with insightful and often humorous results.

Paulette Allen, women's ministries coordinator from the Cambridge church in Medford, Massachusetts, performed an anointing service followed by a moment of meditation. Ednor Davison, Atlantic Union communication director and GLEANER editor, was the guest speaker. In her message, "Hush...Somebody's Calling Your Name," she expounded on how important it is to develop a close relationship with God in order to be able to discern when He is speaking to you. She shared a personal example of how God led her during a tumultuous period in her life to act with great certainty.

In the afternoon, Davison conducted a workshop entitled "The Secret to Having a Successful Ministry." She gave practical steps with scriptural references that

made us cognizant that we all can have viable ministries. She further noted that ministry does not occur just on Sabbath but every day of the week.

The day concluded with information about two ministries coming from the Northeastern Conference Women's Ministries Department:

- *Rays of Hope* — Aimed at creating a nucleus for evangelism among women by providing the tools necessary for conducting friendship evangelism. This program would prepare people for Bible studies and baptism and to utilize the time and talents of women to help others in need.
- *GEMS* (Girls Emerging into Mature Sisters) — Developed by members of the New England team and geared to address the needs of young women by establishing strong communities of Christian young women between the ages of 12 and 19.

The entire event was captured on video by Jimmy Jordan and family. If interested in obtaining a copy, please contact the Northeastern Conference Women's Ministries Department.

*Carrie Peters, Women's Ministries director
Northeastern Conference New England Region*

Outstanding Teacher Recognized

Though teaching can be a thankless job at times, there are precious moments that make the effort worthwhile. That moment came last year for Juan D. Gomez, the

vice principal for Hispanic Affairs and Spanish teacher at Northeastern Academy, when Carla B. Ephraim, a student from the class of 2005 and the Northeastern Academy salutatorian,

nominated him for the National Honor Roll's Outstanding Teacher 2005/2006.

Having worked at Northeastern Academy for the past 11 years, Gomez is no stranger to honors and awards. His personal philosophy (success means God first, prayer, and making the effort to get the excellence)

has led him to be listed in the Who's Who (three times), the International Biographical Centre (Cambridge, England, 2005), the American Biographical Institute (U.S.A., 2005) and the National Society of High School Scholars (U.S.A., 2006).

"Mr. Gomez is part of the fabric of Northeastern Academy," said principal Marlene Alvarez. "He is a multi-lingual, multi-talented man of faith whose life is grounded in prayer. His infectious smile and easy-going mannerisms will be missed when he leaves us at the end of the year. May God continue to guide and direct him wherever life takes him."

Gomez has a master of

arts in administration education from the University of New Mexico, 1993; a bachelor of arts in secondary education and literature from the Dominican Adventist University, 1988, and several other associate degrees. A speaker, poet, and writer, he has authored several poems, a book on human relations, and various articles that were printed in newspapers and magazines in Mexico and the United States. His radio program, Words and Songs, covers such topics as religion and education and sometimes features church leaders.

If you know of an outstanding teacher who you would like to see featured, please e-mail us at gleaner@atlanticunion.org.



Juan D. Gomez

Mountain View Church Hosts Revelation of Hope Series

After a year of preparation, the Mountain View church members in Vernon, Vermont, and Pastor Art Miller hosted a "Revelation of Hope" series with Northern New England Conference evangelist Rick Kuntz. Two hundred names were compiled by interest coordinator Jean Brodis. The prayer coordinator, Larry Farley, and his team were actively praying for those people and other attendees. The health ministries director, Ken Gaspard and his wife, Diane, presented a successful community Coronary Health Improvement Program (CHIP). The music concert series director, Lloyd Condon, organized great musical programs on eight Saturday evenings. The Bible study coordinator, Gary Brodis, purchased more than

2,000 Bible study cards, which were faithfully distributed. A "Last-Day Events" series was presented by Diane Gaspard and several local elders.

Under the capable leadership of Deb Campbell, head deaconess, the church was cleaned from top to bottom. Lovely autumn plants were donated by the Miller Farm. A large banner announcing the meetings was provided by Dennis Tier and Dennis Harris.

During the meetings, the 14 team members arrived at least an hour early to pray. About 20 other members assisted Laura Smead as greeters and ushers. Music was coordinated by Yolanda Harris.

On opening night 35 non-members and approximately 60 members attended. As the meetings continued four to five evenings each week, between 18 and 25 non-members attended and from 40-50 church members came. The messages Kuntz presented resulted in decisions for Christ nearly every night. The reception hostesses baked and served refreshments, providing a relaxing time of fellowship after the Saturday evening meeting.



The church sign was updated each evening by Dennis Harris.

God blessed our church. Church members grew spiritually and were connected as never before. Pastor Miller began a baptismal class with about 14-16 attending. Each of the 14 new members is committed to being an active part of the church family.

A Bible marking class each Sabbath morning and Kim Johnson's Spiritual Body Building class each Wednesday night provide continued fellowship and study. We are praising the Lord for His blessings.

*Jean Brodis, communication secretary
Mountain View church*



Jewel under Mount Washington

Mount Washington, in its lofty grandeur, has fame and followers a plenty, but tucked away in the Mount Washington Valley, is a priceless jewel that is very little known. Cady Memorial school, sponsored by the Conway church, has benefitted children for the past 18 years. It was inspired by Helen Cady, an older member who had a huge heart for children and ministering to them.

Whereas public education has closed down the village schoolhouses, and is herding children by the bus load to large centralized schools, Cady Memorial has fought to preserve the character of a one-room, multi-grade school. Teacher Sonia

Edwards states, "I believe that within each child is the potential to excel spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically. As an educator, it is my goal to facilitate this process in a safe and challenging environment." To foster spiritual development is a primary focus for this teacher. Yes, there is the daily Bible class and the weekly worship with the pastor, but Edwards is teach-

ing Christianity every hour of the day. Students are not just learning doctrine, they are developing character.



Earlier this year some of the students enjoyed a snow day at Mt. Cranmore.

Outreach is a natural outgrowth from this philosophy, and the school is involved in ongoing ministry and mission. The fruit sale program not only helps with funding, but gives students

an opportunity to meet the community and serve them as they come to pick

up their juicy, tree-ripened oranges and grapefruit. Visits to Sun Bridge Nursing Home enable students to mingle with the older generation and cheer those who are lonely and abandoned. Last Christmas the school longed for a spiritual celebration, so they planned an old-fashioned family Christmas and invited the church and school family and friends from far and wide. This proved to be a wonderful evening with a festive meal, a thought-provoking drama, and trimming the tree with ornaments. The tree was also decorated with donations to make up care packages for injured soldiers from the Iraq War. One package



The students made Christmas stockings for a soldier in Iraq.

was especially meaningful—the one being sent to a soldier, church member Tony Wilson. More recently, Pastor Al Cyr and head elder Jay Neil held a Breathe Free program. Students wanted to be part of this ministry too, so on graduation night they gladdened the celebration with their music.

Academics also excel at Cady Memorial, but it would be a rare sight to walk into the school and see the students confined to their desks. Edwards is not an “open your books to page 101, and do the exercises,” type teacher. Books are carefully selected and treasured, but do not form the mainstay of the academic diet. Teaching and learning is very much project-oriented and experiential. A recent field trip to the Museum of Science in Boston sparked an entire unit on the human body. While older students compiled portfolios of the different body systems, first-grader Jasmine Kuntz drew around her own body and colored and named her bones and muscles. Studying the body led to health of the body, and students have been examining their diets to see how many calories they are eating and whether they are getting all

the important nutrients they need. Even language arts can be aided by activity. A young student struggling to learn long vowels, found they were mastered much more easily when the words were written on colored footprints, and she could hop a trail to learn them! This is a motivated, enthusiastic classroom. How can students forget what they learned while having fun researching, building models and displays, and going on field trips?

The beauty of a small school is that the teacher knows each one individually—his/her temperament, learning style, and special interests. She can become equally acquainted with each one’s emotional needs. One student came to Cady from a very painful family break-up and divorce, but she found acceptance and affirmation from the teacher and students alike. As she experienced understanding, warmth, and caring, healing began to take place, and she began to feel secure. When asked by her father if she wouldn’t prefer to go to public school, where she would have lots of friends her age and a large, well-equipped playground, this little girl replied emphatically, “No Daddy. They don’t



Hannah Leonard and Olivia Bragg petting an alligator on a recent trip to New England Reptile Distributors.

know Jesus there!”

Cady may not have a huge playground, but it does have swings, slides, and a climbing frame for daily recess. And once a week, students pile into Mrs. Edwards van to make use of physical education facilities at the village recreation center. Throughout the winter the school is able to enjoy downhill skiing at nearby Cranmore Mountain Ski Resort. Shortly after school starts in September is another highlight—a whole week of Outdoor School at Camp Lawroweld, amid the lakes and mountains of Maine.

Cady has a group of students about to graduate from eighth grade, and will have openings this fall for families who want to avail themselves of the treasure of true education at its best. Plans are in place to offer kindergarten as well as grades 1-8. There may be families who would like to consider moving to this area of outstanding natural beauty, in order to access Cady Memorial. Those interested may call Sonia Edwards at (603) 447-6298 for more information or to set up a visit.

*Jane Kuntz, evangelism correspondent
Northern New England Conference*

LEGAL NOTICE

Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE is hereby given that a special constituency session of the Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine, on Sunday, June 24, 2007. The first meeting of the session is called for 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the two primary agenda items of building a new Conference Office/Heritage Center and the forming of a single Corporation for all Conference business. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifteen members.

Michael F. Ortel, President
Merlin L. Knowles, Secretary

LEGAL NOTICE

Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. and Maine Conference Association

NOTICE is hereby given that a special constituency session of the Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. and Maine Conference Association will be held at Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine, on Sunday, June 24, 2007. The first meeting of the session is called for 11:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the two primary agenda items of building a new Conference Office/Heritage Center and the forming of a single Corporation for all Conference business. The delegates chosen for the regular session of the Northern New England Conference shall serve as delegates to the corporation session.

Michael F. Ortel, President
Merlin L. Knowles, Secretary

Del Metellus Accepts New Education Evangelist Position

The Southern New England Conference Executive Committee recently elected Del Metellus as the new education evangelist. This newly-created position was established to bring before the constituency the importance of our Adventist schools! In her capacity as education evangelist, Del will work with pastors, principals, and church and school boards to more effectively promote the critical role of Adventist education in helping our children remain faithful Seventh-day Adventists as youth and adults.

Del is no stranger to Seventh-day Adventist education! She has taught at all levels from elementary school through college. For

nine years she was the principal of Greater New York Academy. Most recently, she served as director of guidance for the Greater New York Conference.



Del Metellus

She attended Andrews University and received both a B.S.W. degree and a M.A. degree in education with an emphasis in counseling. Del and her husband, Louis, have two sons. Edmund graduated from Southwestern

Adventist University in May and Rendell is a sophomore at Andrews University. Del enjoys outdoor activities, especially if they involve water. She loves whitewater rafting!

"I am thrilled to have Del on our education team," said Gary Swinyar, superintendent of schools. "Her

passion for Adventist education is absolutely contagious!"

Conference president Frank Tochtermann added, "The days when parents automatically sent their children to our Seventh-day Adventist schools are over. It's more imperative than ever that the church and school work together to educate our parents on the importance of Adventist education. We need to prepare our children to live in eternity as well as to live in the world today."

*Tamara Michalenko Terry
assistant communication director
Southern New England Conference*

Camp Meeting Registration:

For more information or to register for camp meeting, contact the Southern New England Conference at (978) 365-4551.

Students Gather to Share the Light

South Lancaster Academy (SLA) got a welcome change in schedule on March 27 as the students walked to the Village Church to celebrate the

125th anniversary of Atlantic Union College (AUC) and SLA. The church was filled to capacity as students from Browning and SLA filed in on the right and AUC stu-

dents squeezed in on the left and into the balcony to join the celebration. The program started with an energetic song service by Kirosha Huggan, Milca Amich, and Reevney St. Luc. It was followed by a warm welcome from AUC president George Babcock and the opening prayer by SLA principal Allyson Cram.

As the musical portion of the program began, the audience was blessed with the tremendous vocal abilities of Carline Waugh, soprano and music major at AUC, as she sang "Upon the Rock," emphasizing Jesus as our rock and stronghold. SLA's select choir, Vocé, sang "The Word" led by director Robert Malin. Henry

Saturné introduced the morning speaker, Donald King, AUC board of trustees chair and Atlantic Union Conference president. "Share the Light" was the theme as he encouraged the youth of both campuses to be confident witnesses for Christ.

The service drew to a close with the intonation of the hymn, "Jesus Is Coming Again" and a solemn prayer by AUC chaplain Luis Gracia. He thanked God for blessing our institutions with 125 years of Christian education. It was a very enjoyable service and many commented that events like these should happen more often.

*Rebecca Barcelo, senior
South Lancaster Academy*



Dindy Kurzhals

Browning elementary and South Lancaster Academy students participate in the 125th anniversary of Atlantic Union College at the Village Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Bob Daum Retires After 26 Years of Planned Giving & Trust Service

Anyone who knows W. Robert (Bob) Daum knows that retirement is merely a word. Bob is just as busy (if not busier) after retirement than before.

As a certified specialist in planned giving (CSPG), Bob has worked for more than 26 years as a director of planned giving and trust services for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in various locations: Pacific Union Conference,

California; Andrews University, Michigan; Ohio Conference; New York Conference; and at the Southern New England Conference for a total of 11 years (1980–1985 and 2001–2007).

The mission of Bob's preaching and teaching ministry is to help born-again disciples of Christ...

- To know Jesus Christ enough to trust Him with their tithes, offerings, and even major gifts—to trust Him with all of their possessions and life itself.

- To trust Jesus Christ enough to love Him with all their heart, mind, and will—in all of life's joys, victories, trials, troubles, and frustrations.

- To love Jesus Christ enough to give Him all that they are, all that they have, and all that they ever hope to be—to place all on the altar of God in a "covenant by sacrifice."

- To adopt Christ's mission to seek and to save the lost peo-

ple around them by the use of the resources available to them.

Bob will continue that mission while

serving part-time for the Southern New England Conference and part-time for It Is Written. When asked how long he expects to continue working part-time for SNEC, Bob responded: "from 15 to 25 years—hoping the Lord comes way before the end of that time."

Bob and his wife of 47 years, Mary Jo, have two adult children, Mike Daum and Terri Perrone. They are very proud of the fact that all five of their grandchildren attend Seventh-day Adventist schools.



W. Robert Daum

Tamara Michalenko Terry
assistant communication director
Southern New England Conference

Students Let Freedom Ring

Even with the largest snow of winter nothing could stop the young people who were trained and ready to deliver the Word during their Let Freedom Ring evangelistic series that began on Friday, March 16. Using sermons written by Skip Johnson, a pastor from the Stoneham, Massachusetts, district students from Edgewood elementary, Greater Boston Academy, and the Lynn church challenged listeners with fast-paced and timely connections between Bible characters and familiar names of today. Joshua Mendez, pictured above, was one of the speakers who allowed God's freedom to ring in our lives. He is a freshman at Greater Boston Academy.



Jerrell Gilkeson

Information provided by Jerrell Gilkeson, Atlantic Union Conference associate director of education and children's ministries

SNEC LEGACY

The Southern New England Conference Office of Planned Giving & Trust Services has a new quarterly newsletter called LEGACY. Please call (978) 365-4551 ext. 27 if you would like a copy.

Growing in Christ

The Little Lights Adventurer Club from the Merrimack Valley church held its first Adventurer Sabbath on March 3. Using the story of Zacchaeus the four-year-old little lambs shared how Jesus knows our name.

Citing Saul's experience on the way to Damascus, the six- to nine-year-old Adventurers told how Jesus comes looking for us.

Jesus Himself said, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven"—Matthew 18:3 (NIV). When we choose Him, He changes us!

Sherrri Dovich, associate director
Merrimack Valley Little Lights Adventurer Club



Merrimack Valley Little Lights Adventurer Club on its first Adventurer Sabbath.

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BulletinBoard



Sunset Table

July 2007	6	13	20	27
Bangor, ME	8:23	8:19	8:13	8:06
Portland, ME	8:24	8:21	8:15	8:08
Boston, MA	8:23	8:20	8:15	8:08
South Lancaster, MA	8:26	8:22	8:17	8:11
Pittsfield, MA	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:17
Hartford, CT	8:27	8:24	8:19	8:13
New York, NY	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:15
Albany, NY	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:18
Utica, NY	8:42	8:39	8:33	8:27
Syracuse, NY	8:46	8:42	8:37	8:30
Rochester, NY	8:52	8:48	8:43	8:36
Buffalo, NY	8:56	8:52	8:47	8:40
Hamilton, Bda	8:27	8:25	8:22	8:18

Eastern Daylight Saving Time

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Earn the degree you've always wanted without sacrificing your professional or personal life. The Adult Degree Program at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., is a flexible program designed so you can continue to work while pursuing your education goals. Design studies around personal interests and earn prior learning credit for life experience. There are two mandatory 2-week seminars in January and July. The next seminar is July 8-19, 2007. Info: 1-800-282-2030, (978) 368-2300, adp@auc.edu.

Degree in Chaplaincy—If you are a working adult who wants to specialize in chaplaincy ministries, a new master's degree in education with a concentration in chaplaincy is now being offered. There are twice yearly intensives—two weeks each on campus—January and May. A 3-year completion is possible and financial aid is available. chaplaincy@auc.edu.

NORTHEASTERN

The Linden Church of Seventh-day

Adventists, Laurelton, New York, will be celebrating its 80th anniversary during the week of Aug. 25-Sept. 2. Theme: "To the Next Level...Heaven Next." All former members and friends are encouraged to join us. For more information call (718) 527-1950 or visit our Web site: www.lindensdachurch.org.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

South Lancaster Academy Alumni Cruise to Alaska, July 9-20. This time we are heading for Alaska. Two options are being offered. A 7 day cruise only from Vancouver, BC to Anchorage (Whittier) or a 12 day Sea and Land tour which continues on to Denali via glass domed train where we spend two nights, then to Fairbanks for two additional nights. For more information contact our travel agent: Kathy Rice at (215) 412-8367, e-mail: krice@aaaeastpenn.com. Also contact June Harris, at (978)368-1667, e-mail: ronald.harris3@comcast.net.

OUT-OF-UNION

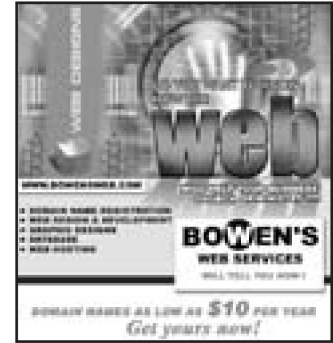
Come to Orlando, Florida, for the first

Adventist Single Adult Ministries Convention, July 5-7. Register for \$179 through June 26. Don't miss the powerful speakers, challenging seminars, fellowship with other singles, networking opportunities, ministry training, Sabbath trip to the Holy Land Experience, and more. For more information visit www.PursueYourPassion2007.com or call 1-800-732-7587.

Calling all alumni and friends of Southern Adventist University! A supper meeting will be held Sabbath, June 30, in the Union Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Rob Raney at (423) 236-2781 or rraney@southern.edu. Families are welcome!

June 23—Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, Wash., invites former staff members,

managers, and directors to celebrate its 50th anniversary with programming at Auburn Academy and Sunset Lake. Bring memorabilia to share. Call (253) 681-6008 or visit www.sunsetlake.org for details.



ADVENTIST SINGLES MINISTRIES RETREAT

**Camp Cherokee
August 23-26, 2007**

Activities Include: boating, canoeing, surfing, sailing, tennis, hiking, swimming, horsebackriding, basketball, and more.

For more information on this seminar call Carmen Gonzalez at (315) 468-6915, or Barbara Bridgers at the New York Conference office (315) 469-6921.

Fees: August 23-26: \$95 August 24-27: \$65

Don't miss out on a great time! Register now.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Mail Registration to:

Singles Ministries, New York Conference, 4930 W Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY 13215. Make checks payable to New York Conference - Singles Ministries.

Adventist Singles Ministries is active in New York!



PINE TREE ACADEMY

2007 Alumni Weekend

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For more details visit the alumni section of the Pine Tree Academy Web site at www.pinetreeacademy.org

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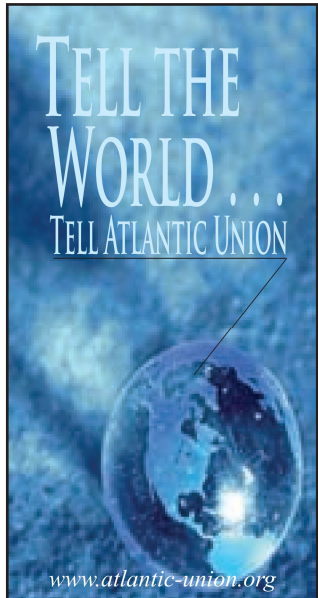
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Health Presentation Afternoon

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AUGUST 11, 2007



With your financial support, AUAM will produce local evangelistic and ministry programs. Please mark your tithe envelope "AUAM Production Truck Offering." Thank you!

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Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff
E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor Ednor A. P. Davison
Assistant Editor Tamara Michalenko Terry
Copy Editor Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design Hazieli Olivera

Correspondents

Bermuda Sheila Holder, sholder@bermudaconference.bm
Greater New York Alanzo Smith, aljune77@aol.com
New York Kim Kaiser, kim@nyconf.com
Northeastern Trevor Baker, tbaker@northeastern.org
Northern New England Lynn Ortel, ortel@nnec.org
Southern New England Frank Tochterman, frochterman@sneonline.org
Atlantic Union College Cindy Kurtzhals, cindy.kurtzhals@auc.edu
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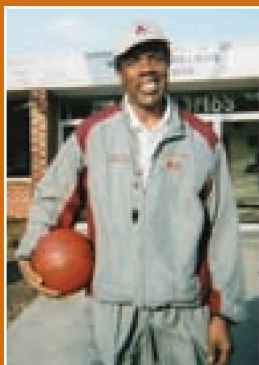
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