Reaching Beyond the Pews

Bermuda Conference Administrators, Directors, and Committees Elected in Record Time
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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The Gleaner deadline schedule is available online at www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner4.htm.

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In this Issue...
In this month's cover story, beginning on page 4, we take a look at what some Adventist youth are doing to impact their community. On page 10 you will find the Bermuda Conference Constituency Session report. In addition, you will find our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover design uses a photo from iStockphoto.
As we try to do God’s will, we have seen how He has established Himself in the Women’s Ministries and Disabilities Ministries departments in the Atlantic Union.

For approximately two years, I have wanted to focus on autism. I spoke at a church in Michigan where I met a mother who had been an Adventist missionary with a son who has autism. I don’t think it was happenstance that I was there the day she gave her testimony.

What is autism? Autism is a developmental disability that causes delay in language development, creates deficiency in social interaction, and fosters repetitive or odd behavior. There is no known cause or cure for autism. The medical community is saying there is a genetic predisposition, some environmental trigger, or some trauma. Autism is called a spectrum disorder because no one child is like any other child. Warning signs include delay in language, no babbling by 12 months, no pointing, no waving, no single words, and by two years old, the inability to connect two words.

Autism is a national epidemic. This disability is bigger than breast cancer, bigger than diabetes, yet it is largely ignored. The year 2008 has been designated the Year of Autism by the North American Division Commission for People with Disabilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one out of every 150 births in the United States will be affected by autism. We can bind the parents together and prayerfully support those who are praying for some relief. The sacrifices are enormous. Some say it costs $3 million in a lifetime to care for one child with autism. Every 20 minutes a family hears the words, “Your child has autism.”

I have received calls from parents asking for help because the churches where they attend have asked them not to bring their autistic children to services. Whenever this occurs, it sends a message that the church lacks compassion. This is contrary to the four major goals for the Disabilities Ministries department which are (1) accommodation, (2) accessibility, (3) encouragement and education, and (4) employment.

Surprisingly, I took a minute and turned on the television, only to happen upon a program focused on autism. I was in tears as I listened to the comments. A mother said, “What we need is compassion and not disdain.” Then the evening news reported a headline that caught my attention: “Breakthrough for children with autism.”

We can, at the least, raise the level of awareness as we continue to promote the goals for Disabilities Ministries and recognize the seven major disability groups: cognitive, hearing, hidden, mobility, psychiatric, speech, and visual.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 assures us that our endeavors in women’s and disabilities ministries are in God’s hands as long as we remain in His hand. We can bring joy like a spirit-filled melody swelling into the hearts of those for whom Jesus died.

Charlotte L. V. Thoms is the Atlantic Union Conference Disabilities Ministries and Women’s Ministries director.

1 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)
2 http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/research/initiatives/environmental_factors_peter_letter.php

For additional information, visit www.nad.adventist.org/disability, www.autismspeaks.org, or call (585) 329-9295.
"Revival," "evangelism," "church planting." These are just a few of the phrases used when talking about church growth. Throughout time, missionaries have traveled and continue to travel to distant lands to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Sabbath after Sabbath, in churches around the world, pastors preach messages of repentance, deliverance, hope, and the need to "come to Jesus." The gospel commission to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach is clear (Matthew 28:19, 20). However, there is concern that many Adventist youth and young adults are not "getting involved in the work of the church.”

Seventh-day Adventist Church youth leaders spend countless hours discussing ways to "help Adventist youth to stay in church and become involved." So what are Adventist young people doing? Are they involved? Do they care to be involved in their church’s programs and activities? The answer to those questions will be as varied as the number of young people. Interestingly, some of the same concerns that were shared about young people several decades ago are still the concerns of today.

The reality is that we must look beyond what is obvious. It is important to step outside the doors of the church and to look beyond the pews to find out what Adventist youth are doing. Yes, there are some who are not attending church and others who are attending, but refuse to get involved. Yet, there are still others who are very active and thriving in their walk with God.

In today’s climate, and with the arrival of the Internet and the advances in technology, the possibilities for ministry are endless, and many young people are taking advantage of the opportunity to share Christ with the world.

On any given Sabbath if you visit such churches as Bethel, Ephesus, Bethel, and others around the world, you will find young people behind the cameras in churches that stream services and other programs live on the Internet.
Kingsboro, or Mount Vernon in New York, or Calvary church in Connecticut, chances are, you will see teenagers and young people behind the cameras or in the video production rooms operating the equipment that enhances your worship service experience.

More and more churches are becoming involved in providing their services live on the Internet so that their message goes beyond the pews, and it is the young people who are doing it. Gary Saunders, a member of the Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mount Vernon, New York, is a young Adventist professional who desires to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in as many ways as possible. Recognizing there were churches with broadcast ministries that wanted to get their programs out, but were unsure how to do so, he came up with an idea to assist them, and he shared his idea with several other young professionals.

As a result of sharing his idea, these individuals, who have companies of their own, joined forces with Saunders to establish the ministry called Praizevision.com. Their mission is to “provide state-of-the-art broadband technology that empowers churches and other ministries to share the gospel anywhere in the world.”

Initially, as the group started working on this endeavor, Terrance Bowen, owner of Bowen’s Web Services, along with Saunders, owner of GSWEB Multimedia, developed the Praizevision.com Web site. Damian “Chip” Dizard, owner of Absolute Presence, spearheaded the marketing aspect of the site. Richard Herard, owner of Herard Media, Inc., was responsible for the video module and production entity and they sought counsel from Kevin Anderson, Deena Reeves, and Ronald Reeves (Newstalk Radio). Several of these young professionals involved in Praizevision have roots in the Atlantic Union.

After much planning and preparation, on March 1, 2006, the Web site “praizevision.com” was launched. “I can remember us staying up until 12:00 a.m. to make sure it launched on time,” says Saunders. Since then, Praizevision has evolved to become more than just a place where people can go and watch church services, but it is a viable Internet broadcast ministry and production company. Praizevision has been the production company for the Northeastern Conference camp meetings for 2006 and 2007. They have also been involved in providing technology assistance for the North American Division Adventist Singles Ministries, the North American Division Haitian Ministries, the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA) Youth Conference in Atlanta in 2006, the Allegheny East Conference camp meetings 2006 and 2007, and Southeastern California Conference camp meetings 2006 and 2007, to name a few.

Because of the demand for this type of service, the team has grown since its inception and now they have full production crews in New York, Maryland, and California. It is a full-service production company with a management staff, production staff, and talent staff. The management staff runs the company and guides it along the path to its desired objectives. The production staff members are the field generals who execute the plan, and the...
Churches in the Federation are blessed with talented individuals who provided music for the weekend events. Photo: Ednor A. P. Davison

talent staff members are the faces you see in interviews across the county.

They train individuals in churches on the preparation of their program to be aired, not only on Praizevision, but on regular broadcast stations. They have a television ministry consultant who can help churches through the process. There is a senior technology liaison who helps in developing the church's needs and figuring how best Praizevision can work with them and their budget. The technical director is available to assist the church in obtaining the very best equipment their budget can buy. He also trains the staff that trains the staff. “What we want to see is that all of our churches go out and reach as many people as possible. So we don’t necessarily just install cameras, but assist in the overall production of the worship experience,” says Saunders.

Yes, You Can Stop the Violence: Don’t Talk About It, Be About It

Another focus on the involvement of youth within the Atlantic Union, takes us to the members of the New England North Adventist Youth Federation (NENAYF). This body held its ninth annual Federation rally on the weekend of September 21-22, when leaders chose to focus on an area of great concern—violence in their communities.

The theme for this year's rally, “Yes, You Can Stop the Violence: Don’t Talk About It, Be About It,” was highlighted at events, which included Friday evening vespers, a panel discussion during Sabbath School, morning worship, a Walk for Peace parade, an afternoon seminar focusing on creating action plans to help decrease violence in the city, an evening concert, and Sunday morning training sessions on developing plans for community outreach programs in 2008. The Sabbath venues included the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Prior to the weekend of events, the Federation held a series of evening meetings at various churches in its territory. Young people were the speakers and many of them told “their stories.” They were also guests on radio stations in the Boston area promoting the rally and the vision for their community.

The idea of holding the anti-violence rally began with Lee Bulgin, a medical school resident at the Brigham and Women's and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Bulgin, also a member of the Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Federation's first vice-president says, “Young people's health suffers when social, educational, and recreational resources are ravaged by violence. The Federation's goals this year are to expand community support and participation, connect with other organizations working in the area, and initiate plans for a formalized mentoring program.”

The featured speakers for the weekend were Gary D. James, Sr., from Renewed Hearts, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia, and Willy Ramos, a former gang member, known as the Ghetto Preacher. Contributing to the lively Sabbath School panel discussion on violence prevention were five individuals who are very active in their communities: Ulric Johnson, Ph.D., founder and director of Teens Against Gang Violence, Gayl Crump-Swaby, M.S.W., Dimock Community Health Center Youth Development and Enrichment Services director; Brian Gibbs, Ph.D., a senior research scientist and director at the Harvard School of Public Health; William Celester, a consultant and lecturer on public safety, community policing, and gang violence from the Washington, D.C., area; and Milton W. Jones, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute director of programs.

Thanks to the assistance of Delores Richardson, the external affairs coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist
Many from the area churches attended the worship service held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

They were joined by several local and state representatives along with individuals from local organizations and members from the community and churches in the New England area.

The event is just one of several ongoing programs that allow young Adventists to reach out beyond the walls of their churches and provide hope to hurting communities. It was supported by the local churches and sponsored (in part) by Partners in Healthcare, Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Atlantic Union and Northeastern conferences.

Rose Maynard, NENAYF president and Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist Church treasurer, says, “As we find ways to share our message of hope, I look forward to the relationships that will develop with our Adventist youth and community leaders and organizations and with the residents in the neighborhoods around our churches. Together, we can all make a difference.”

Acts 2:17, 18 (NLT) says “In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.” So, don't give up on your young people. Just take the time to love and nurture them. Take a moment to listen to their ideas. Give them a chance to show their leadership skills. Give God thanks for them. It might be necessary for you to get out of the pew and seek out the young people to see the activities in which they are involved—activities that will bring honor and glory to God. There might be a refreshing surprise for you!!

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.

Are you involved in an interesting community project in your church that you want us to write about in the Gleaner? Send an e-mail to the editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org.
“Now that the anti-violence weekend is over, I would like the youth in the various communities to feel empowered to work with their churches and local and state representatives to create a task force to address some of the issues raised during the rally. It is important for them to understand that it is only when they become involved that change will occur. They can no longer continue to ignore or to talk about the effects of violence. It is time they start creating solutions to violence.”—Rose Maynard, New England North Adventist Youth Federation president and Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist Church treasurer

“We are not the first religious or community-based organization to stage an anti-violence rally, and we certainly will not be the last. What is key for us at this time is to follow through with our plans for community outreach, whether it be with the mentoring programs or the community service efforts. We need to let the community know through these efforts that we are here and that we genuinely care about what happens in our neighborhoods.”—Dwaina M. Howson, New England North Adventist Youth Federation assistant secretary and Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist Church communication secretary and music coordinator

“It is a real joy to see young people and church members excited about something positive that the church is doing in the community. As we move forward, we want to connect that positive energy and the commitments made to enhance the active ministry and evangelism of our team. This is discipleship in the greatest sense of the word—an outreach that lifts up Christ, draws all men into His service, and helps suffering communities.”—Lee Bulgin, M.D., New England North Adventist Youth Federation vice president and Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church elder and Adventist Community Services leader

“Now that the rally is over, I would like to see the youth of my area coming together to form an alliance with the different organizations to combat violence in the Providence area. I think that when young people see other young people doing positive things, they will want to join or be like them. You may not reach all of them, but even if it is just one, then your work will not have been in vain.”—Bernadine Williams-Dormer, New England North Adventist Youth Federation treasurer and Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church Women’s Ministries leader

“This year’s weekend rally has left a deep impression on me. It was a weekend that has already impacted our community in a positive way. This is just the beginning of something new and great. What I would love to see is the development of a real meaningful relationship between our church and the community. Programs that mentor and foster positive and spiritual growth are what I expect [to see]. I look forward to seeing our Federation leading out in meeting the needs of those who long for more than a lifestyle of violence. Most importantly, I hope to see lives being changed and many being brought to Christ, the real answer to the problem of violence.”—Michelle Bobb-Semple, New England North Adventist Youth Federation social co-coordinator and Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist Church education secretary

If you are 30 years or younger, and would like to join these young people in sharing your opinions and ideas, e-mail the GLEANER editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org.
A Statement on Racism

One of the odious evils of our day is racism, the belief or practice that views or treats certain racial groups as inferior and, therefore, justifiably, the object of domination, discrimination, and segregation.

While the sin of racism is an age-old phenomenon based on ignorance, fear, estrangement, and false pride, some of its ugliest manifestations have taken place in our time. Racism and irrational prejudices operate in a vicious circle. Racism is among the worst of ingrained prejudices that characterize sinful human beings. Its consequences are generally more devastating because racism easily becomes permanently institutionalized and legalized and in its extreme manifestations, can lead to systematic persecution and even genocide.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church deplores all forms of racism, including the political policy of apartheid with its enforced segregation and legalized discrimination.

Seventh-day Adventists want to be faithful to the reconciling ministry assigned to the Christian church. As a worldwide community of faith, the Seventh-day Adventist Church wishes to witness to and exhibit in her own ranks the unity and love that transcend racial differences and overcome past alienation between races.

Scripture plainly teaches that every person was created in the image of God, who “made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26). Racial discrimination is an offense against our fellow human beings, who were created in God’s image. In Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek” (Galatians 3:28). Therefore, racism is really a heresy and in essence, a form of idolatry, for it limits the fatherhood of God by denying the brotherhood of all mankind and by exalting the superiority of one’s own race.

The standard for Seventh-day Adventist Christians is acknowledged in the church’s Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 13, “Unity in the Body of Christ.” Here it is pointed out: “In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation.”

Any other approach destroys the heart of the Christian gospel.

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 June 27, 1985, at the General Conference session in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Resources

Listed are some resources that will help you learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s beliefs, positions on specific topics, and established guidelines.

Web sites

Official Statements voted since 1980: www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html
Guidelines: www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html
Fundamental Beliefs: www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html
Other Documents: www.adventist.org/beliefs/other_documents/index.html

Books

Available online at AdventSource (www.adventsource.org) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) (www.adventistbookcenter.com)

Statements, Guidelines, and Other Documents

Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual
Bermuda Conference administrators, directors, and committees elected in record time

The executive committee members are: Roxanne Eve, Shirlene Nisbett, Joi Tyrrell, Maryelle Jackson, Damon Hendrickson, Dora Baker, Errol McLean, Malcolm Clarke, Ulric Hetsberger, Desmond Greyson, Llewellyn Williams, Gregory Todd, Dwayne Wilson, Shurnette Caines, Sheila Holder, Diane Desio, and Lois Tucker.

The departmental directors are as follows: Damon Hendrickson, Adventist Youth; Frederica Tucker, Children’s Ministries; Sheila Holder, Communication and Education; Ulric Hetsberger, Adventist Community Services; Pauline DeShield, Disabilities Ministries; Jeffrey Brown, Family Ministries; Mellonie Furbert, Health Ministries; Stefan Burton-Schnull, Human Relations/Intercultural Ministries; A. Llewellyn Williams, Ministerial; Dwayne Wilson, Music; Roy Butler, Pathfinders; D. Randolph Wilson, Prayer Ministries; Errol McLean, Personal Ministries and Media Ministries (radio and television); Phillip Rego, Publishing; Kenneth Manders, Reclamation/Retention/Evangelism; Debra Goins, Religious Liberty; Howard Ebbin, Sabbath School; Eugene Gibbons, Stewardship; Derek Furbert, Trust Services; and Loretta Gibbons, Women’s Ministries.

The afternoon session was mainly devoted to receiving the report on Bermuda Institute. The delegates confirmed their love and support for Bermuda Institute and there was healthy dialogue and involvement. Five Bermuda Institute students who were present gave such positive testimonials that many in the audience were moved to tears.

“Now that the 8th Triennial Constituency Session of the Bermuda Conference is over,” said Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, “I want to personally, and on behalf of the Atlantic Union Conference, congratulate all those who have been asked to serve for the next three years. Particularly, I wish for the president, Jeff Brown, and all of his colleagues, God’s richest blessings as they strive toward excellence for the Lord’s mission in Bermuda. This has been one of the most spiritually-led and well-organized sessions held in Bermuda. The prayers of our people in the Atlantic Union territory will continue to be made so that Bermuda will be lightened with the glory of God, that the Three Angels’ Messages will permeate every corner of the island, and that people will come to know and accept His last warning message for the world. May His peace be with you.”

Many of the delegates expressed the sentiment that God’s presence was among them and they felt led by the Holy Spirit.

Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference
Food Pantry Dream Becomes a Reality

Starting a food pantry to help the hungry was a dream of Yonkers church member Bernice Humes. That dream became reality in April 2001. A year later when Humes moved to Korea for mission work the church continued her vision under the direction of Donna Lewis Taylor, assisted by Martha Covi. The pantry grew from servicing two or three dozen families to serving more than 100 families.

The neighbors on this quiet street objected to some of this intrusion. To accommodate them, the number of clients was reduced by restricting visits to only once a month and keeping track of visits.

In addition to basic ingredients, the food baskets are supplemented by monthly fresh produce donated by Apple Farms, baked goods donated by Costco, and eggs donated by Sunlight Farm in New York State. Robert and Donna Taylor pick up the hundreds of dollars worth of bread, bagels, muffins, pies, and cookies each Wednesday morning before 8:00 a.m. Grants help with other food basket expenses, and are supplemented with free items received weekly from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and church member offerings.

The food baskets are packed by Donna Lewis Taylor with help from church volunteers and food pantry clients and are distributed on Wednesday afternoons. The pantry has functioned 52 weeks a year since 2001. As the weather changes, clothing is also distributed at the pantry.

Martha Covi, Food Pantry associate director
Yonkers church

What’s Happening in Your Church?

Do you have news or other inspiring stories from your church that you would like to share with our readers?

Submit all articles and photos to your conference communication director.

For information on how and what to submit visit www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner.htm and click on “Guidelines for Submitting Articles.”

We would love to hear from you!

Spotlight on a Buzzing Church

Situated in the cozy borough of Staten Island, on the picturesque, buzzing street of Manor Road, lies the Manor Road Seventh-day Adventist Church. You cannot miss it as 641 Manor Road is conspicuously situated like a lighthouse on a coast, a reminder to the community that Jesus is the Lighthouse.

In June 2004 the church was blessed with a new pastor, Steven G. Siciliano, and his wife, Elena. During his three years of pastoral leadership, the membership grew to 104, the largest since the pastor took over. When asked the reason for the steady growth of the church, Pastor Siciliano stated that the church grew because of a number of new programs implemented.

Members participated in community service outreach projects, spiritual gifts seminars, a new year’s vision retreat, training programs that taught the congregation to minister to the needs of the community, and much more. The results were stunning. The church experiences a vibrant worship service; the social life has come alive; an Adventurer group is active; picnics, outings, and hikes take place; guest speakers refresh our vision—all this has contributed to the steady buzz of the church.

The congregation spent more than $40,000 upgrading the building and making it more attractive, and there are plans for more renovations. Manor Road church will never be the same again. Pastor Siciliano says that it is exciting to be at Manor Road church as each Sabbath they witness excitement and joy in the hearts of the people and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation.

Alanzo Smith, communication director
Greater New York Conference

Members and visitors of the Manor Road church are involved in a number of in-reach and outreach programs which have contributed to the growth of the church.

Pastor Steven G. Siciliano, and his wife, Elena, have led the Manor Road congregation since June 2004.
Meet Our New Chefs!

A skilled vegetarian chef is only needed where people want to eat in order to live long, healthy lives.— Executive Chef Sualua Tupolo.

Chefs Beaton, Reyes, and Karoway-Waterhouse are involved in food preparation at Chan Shun Dining Commons and are instructors in the Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts program.

Rob Beaton, a professional baker with 27 years of baking experience, is in charge of the bakery and will be developing an on-site bakery business for campus and public consumption.

Beaton holds a certificate in Baking and Science Technology (BST) from the American Institute of Baking at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. His experience includes eight years as a navy cook aboard nuclear-powered submarines based in San Diego, California, and Groton, Connecticut.

His professional bakery career began at Oasis Breads, the San Diego, California, bakery that produced flourless breads. Within five years he was promoted to general manager.

At Donatos Pizza Corporation in Columbus, Ohio, he was the commissary manager responsible for producing 10 million pizza doughs distributed to 137 stores in seven states annually. That figure rose to 12 million. Later, as quality assurance manager for dough product development, he generated new dough recipes geared for existing bakery production lines.

His family recently came to the Atlantic Union College campus from Weimar, California, where he served as the director of the Weimar NEWSTART® bakery, and was an instructor in the Weimar College Culinary Arts program.

Chef Alberto Reyes’ passion for great cuisine began at a young age by watching his mother in the kitchen, and then cooking Latino food with her. Because he comes from a Puerto Rican and Ecuadorian background, rich with flavorful ethnic food, finding the correct balance of seasoning has always been very important to him.

During his Le Cordon Bleu culinary education at The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago in the Culinary Arts program, he learned the traditional French style of cooking and was able to refine his talent in creating cuisine that looks beautiful and has spectacular flavors.
He earned an associate degree in occupational studies in Le Cordon Bleu Hospitality and Restaurant Management, along with certification in Le Cordon Bleu Hospitality and Restaurant Management from Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Oregon. Reyes and Heather, his wife, then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was recruited by Pridgeon and Clay, a manufacturing firm employing more than 1,000 people. The firm created a health-awareness program for their employees, and Reyes was hired to manage the healthy food line in the cafeteria, consisting of plant-based food. Singlehandedly, he enhanced the popularity of the line because of his skill in making healthy food taste fantastic.

Today, Reyes is executive sous chef at Chan Shun Dining Commons. Justine Karoway-Waterhouse is a certified vegan chef dedicated to providing delicious, healthy, cruelty-free cuisine with an elegant presentation. He has a passion for preparing raw, living foods, ethnic dishes, cultured foods, sprouting, dehydration, and juicing. He is committed to using organic and fairly-traded products whenever possible that help support ecologically and economically sustainable farming practices.

Karoway believes that adopting a plant-based diet is a key factor in combating many modern diseases, such as cancer and obesity. He and Robin, his wife, live in Clinton, Massachusetts, and he is a graduate of Atlantic Union College’s Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts program. After completing the one-year certification, he was asked to teach in the Culinary Arts program. This fall, he is teaching Introduction to Raw Food Preparation in which he emphasizes a cuisine filled with whole, organic foods that are nutrient-dense, enzymatic, and vital with life force.

Join us in the Dining Commons!

Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director

### AUC’s Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts Program

- To equip professionals as leaders for service in the community with outreach programs and using culinary arts in global evangelism.

Students learn the important five principles of what a good vegetarian chef should promote, teach, and live—food that looks good, smells good, tastes good, is nutritious, and medicinal.

——Executive Chef Sualua Tupolo

Vegan/Vegetarian Culinary Arts graduates will be qualified to work at educational and medical institutions, and other health care facilities or venues. Those who desire to be a personal chef or be employed in health spas, lifestyle resorts, health food ministries, or own and operate restaurants or catering businesses, will be well-prepared upon completion of this program.

Spring Semester Begins January 23

A new program begins every semester. The curriculum offered in spring semester includes: Legal Aspects of the Hospitality Industry; Garde Manger (gar-mawn-zhay), keeper of the cold foods; Culinary Nutrition; Advanced Vegan Pastry, Baking, and Decorating; and Advanced Quantity Food Preparation and Supervision.

For information: www.auc.edu, 1-800-282-2030, or (978) 368-2235.

Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director

Students garner a new career in AUC’s one-year certificate program. Two students this semester plan to start their own businesses upon certificate completion. The Culinary Arts program collaborates with the School of Business to obtain the business side of the profession. Culinary Arts students, from left, Scott Kelly, Brandon Lee, Betty Salters, Mary Brunelle, Leslie Wood, Nick Rayner, Chef (and graduate) Justin Karoway-Waterhouse, Chef Alberto Reyes, and Bill Muir.

Bon appetit!

Culinary Arts students will have a professionally stimulating opportunity to combine the faith and learning standard as they experience the Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts program.

The mission of the Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts Program at Atlantic Union College is threefold:

- To prepare highly qualified, professional, vegetarian chefs for the commercial segments in the food service industry who specialize in vegan and vegetarian cuisine.
- To train professionals in practical, life-changing health principles by using food science concepts and theory as the core curricula.
- To equip professionals as leaders for service in the community with outreach programs and using culinary arts in global evangelism.

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For information: www.auc.edu, 1-800-282-2030, or (978) 368-2235.

Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director

Students garner a new career in AUC’s one-year certificate program. Two students this semester plan to start their own businesses upon certificate completion. The Culinary Arts program collaborates with the School of Business to obtain the business side of the profession. Culinary Arts students, from left, Scott Kelly, Brandon Lee, Betty Salters, Mary Brunelle, Leslie Wood, Nick Rayner, Chef (and graduate) Justin Karoway-Waterhouse, Chef Alberto Reyes, and Bill Muir.
Annual William Miller Sabbath Held at the William Miller Farm

Each year, the last Sabbath of July is a day to look forward to at the William Miller Farm. This year was no exception. Under the big tent Don Bozarth, dressed as Martin Luther, shared experiences from the New York Conference Germany trip. A very interactive Sabbath School lesson led by Greg Carlson followed. At the worship service, 250 guests were blessed by early Advent singing and the message given by Northern New England Conference evangelist Rick Kuntz. Tours of the William Miller home and chapel were of particular interest to first-time visitors.

This year, special emphasis was given to providing all-day programming for the young people so they could learn more about their Adventist heritage. The Explorers in Adventist history (ages 10-17) heard Dick Keech, Kathy Harriss, and Jane Kuntz share stories from the past. Rick Kuntz gave a special appeal for the young people to accept God’s call to His service. The Kennedy family and Joanna Sauriol provided special music.

In the 19th century barn, Linda Everhart and Retha Rempher led the Adventurers in Adventist history (ages 0-10). Becky Hoague, Sheryl Collier, Thelma Cheney, and Lois Griffin assisted them with their music, stories, and lessons. Jim and Linda Everhart gave the young people a special tour of the William Miller home, chapel, and ascension rock, while relating stories about William Miller and the early Adventists. In the afternoon, Linda Everhart, Jack and Katie Hamilton, and I led 26 young people on a Bible-Adventist history treasure hunt, helping them to value the rich heritage shared by members of the Adventist family.

Kathy Harriss, member Kingsbury church

A Recipe for Fun!

What do you get when you add five women, five youth, and a great group of children to Bible stories, games, and crafts, and then focus everything on Jesus?

What you get is one terrific week of Vacation Bible School (VBS)!

From August 6-10, the Buskirk church opened its doors every morning to the children and guests from the neighborhood to share the gospel and make new friends. The program started with prayer, followed by science experiments focusing on object lessons from the Bible, then stories, crafts, and games.

One of the highlights included balloon-launching day. Balloons filled with helium bearing the message of John 3:16 were released with prayer and the hope that they would be delivered to individuals in need. Another day giggles and laughter rang out as Alka-Seltzer rockets were launched into the air. Water balloon games brought great joy to the little ones and their parents, and getting wet (or avoiding getting wet) was half the fun! The final event was a treasure hunt, focusing on teamwork and getting to the treasure together; symbolic of helping one another get ready for Jesus’ return and being ready to go to heaven.

We had so much fun and can’t wait to do this again next year!

Susan Carpenter, communication leader
Buskirk church
Hartman Lodge Celebrates 50 Years

Fifty years ago the Glens Falls church (now the Kingsbury church), under the leadership of Benjamin Hartman, was given 10 acres of forest on a nearby mountain. The members built a camp, now known as Hartman Lodge. Members have spent many Sabbaths there in God’s great outdoor sanctuary. The Pathfinders and young people have enjoyed the camp. Many have stayed there, even in the wintertime.

On Saturday, August 11, 56 members celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hartman Lodge. Hartman (now 95 years old) traveled from North Carolina to preach the message and see the fruit of his endeavor. Campers came on Friday night and cooked supper over an open fire. Other members came on Sabbath for the services.

Many enjoyed hiking after the fellowship. To top off the day, an afterglow was presented with a songfest. We all formed a circle and closed with the song “Family of God.” Some campers stayed again Saturday night while the rest packed up and went home.

Bonita Nims, Hartman Lodge Sabbath coordinator
Kingsbury church

Three Young People Baptized at Buskirk

On August 4 the Buskirk church family celebrated as three young people were baptized. Kerysa Ford, Kathryn Ryan, and Johnathan Ryan spent nine months studying with Martha Ford in preparation for this day.

The ceremony included their favorite hymns led by Courtney Ryan and Heather Ford. All three prepared testimonials about what this day meant to them and the things in this world that they have renounced to enjoy the blessings that Jesus has promised. Some of these included giving up meat and jewelry. All three spoke of the blessings of the Sabbath. Johnathan told how he was restricted from speaking about God when he was in public school a few years ago. They also shared their desire to commit their lives to Jesus and be able to go to heaven someday.

Pastor Roman Kozlov introduced the candidates before they publicly pledged their commitment to their baptismal vows. Kozlov then invited the congregation to recommit themselves and support these young people in their Christian journey.

On a solemn and joyful occasion such as this, may we remember that there is “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”—Ephesians 4:5, 6.

Father of all, who is above you all and through you all, and in you all”—Ephesians 4:5, 6.

Pastor Roman Kozlov introduced the candidates Johnathan Ryan, Kathryn Ryan, and Kerysa Ford before they publicly pledged their commitment to God.

Susan Carpenter
communication leader
Buskirk church
The arts are a part of the curriculum in Northern New England Conference (NNEC) schools. NNEC Music Clinic has brought students together to celebrate with music for 27 years at Pine Tree Academy.

From January 31-February 2, 2008, NNEC will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Art Clinic hosted by Central Vermont Academy (CVA). Starting out with only 20 students in 1998, NNEC Art Clinic has grown and up to 130 students at one time have registered for the event.

At Art Clinic students are immersed in a medium of their choice for 15 hours on Thursday and Friday. The CVA gym is then turned into an art gallery to display the students' art on Friday evening and Sabbath. Over the years, the classes offered have included: Acrylics, Calligraphy, Visual Presentation, Drawing, Floral, Mural, Origami, Photography-Composition, Paper mache, Photography-Developing, Scrapbooking, Sculpture-Clay, Sculpture-Wire, Three-D, Tole, Watercolor, and Wood-carving.

All students are involved in a group snow sculpture. The sculpture follows the year’s spiritual theme and a delightful lighting on Friday evening after worship. Snow sculptures have included: The Garden of Eden, The Celestial City, Calvary, Noah’s Art, and Christ in a Cloud. Weather is always challenging ranging from 20 below to melting point.

Saturday afternoon the Visual Presentation class presents their spiritual play based on the Art Clinic theme. This year's theme will be Heroes of the Bible, and students will present the life of Joseph.

Art Clinic enriches the lives of the students and those who come to view their art expression. God-given talent is realized and developed. Students realize that art can be a means of worship and communicating spiritual thought.

Trudy Wright, the Northern New England Conference superintendent of schools, writes from Portland, Maine.
$40 and a Dream to Make a Difference

It was Christmas Sabbath, 2006, at the Plainville church when church member John Tompkins gave each attending youth $20 and commissioned them to go and do a good deed and then report back to the church.

Rachel, 14, and Jesse Gray, 9, gave their $40 to their mother and asked her to open a special account for them—a mission account. They then asked her to call Maranatha to see if they had a mission project going on that they could attend. Not wanting to tell them that $40 could not take them on any mission project their mom made the phone call to Maranatha.

The children chose to go to Ecuador to build a church. Two Sabbaths later they brought back their report to the church. By faith on July 3, Rachel and Jesse were on their way to Ecuador with 17 other volunteers to build a church.

The group included John Tompkins, Laurie Tompkins, Warren Gray, Beverley Gray, Winston Marshall, Adassa Marshall, Lloyd Rose, and myself from the Plainville church, Pauline Danvers, Terry Danvers, and Victoria Flear from the Hanson Place church, Claver Legg from the Faith church, Norman Little from the Hope church, David Gomes and Patricia Gomes from Seattle, Washington, Nick and Katie Wolfier, who provided all media coverage, from Andrew University, and Dr. Sam Oyugi from New Jersey.

They were greeted in Ecuador by Maria Molleda, the local Maranatha coordinator, who arranged for their lodging, cooking facilities, and transportation.

The next morning with hard hats and trowels in hand they were ready to work. With 90 percent of them knowing nothing about building, Maranatha sent three of their best workers Jose Abad, Santiago Gonzales, and Daniel Salvador. Despite the language barrier, the group mixed concrete, poured mortar, and laid one brick at a time. After 12 days the work was completed. A church of solid concrete with a seating capacity of 200, the Quis Quis Seventh-day Adventist Church, was dedicated.

Along with building a church, the group held a mini evangelistic series and Vacation Bible School. I preached on two Sabbaths to a standing-room-only crowd.

The Vacation Bible School held during the construction period was led by Laurie Tompkins and Beverly Gray with the assistance of Rachel Gray. More than 70 local children attended, many of whom were not members of the church.

One little girl lost her mom and cousin in a tragic car accident. Nine of her other family members were also hurt. Pastor Concepcion, Laurie Tompkins, and I visited the family to console and witness to them. Taking into consideration that the major religion in this community is Catholic, it was a joy to see both parents and children requesting Bible studies. At least four of the families attended church on Sabbath morning.

John Tompkins made it possible for a streaming video to be viewed via the Internet so the church group can view services and follow the progress of the Quis Quis Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Rollin Shoemaker is the pastor of the Plainville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plainville, Connecticut.
Nine students and a teacher from Northeastern Academy's International Club journeyed to Sagunto, Spain, for six weeks this past summer to study Spanish language and culture. The program was hosted by Adventist Colleges Abroad and was conducted on the campus of Escuela Superior de Espanol de Sagunto College (ESDES). Northeastern Academy sent the largest delegation of any school that participated. The students were among the youngest out of a group of approximately 65. While in Spain they experienced gelato, the Prado museum, Roman theatre, and bull fighting among many other things.

The International Club is presently making preparations for their jaunt next summer. The exact site has yet to be determined, however, the students are anxiously awaiting this trip. All who are interested in making this language and culture immersion program a reality for more students can contact Kimberly Sampson at (212) 569-4800 for further details.

Kimberly R. Sampson, English teacher
Northeastern Academy

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Unity In Christ

August 25 was a historic Sabbath for the town and churches of Elmira, New York. The Friendship and Elmira Seventh-day Adventist churches combined efforts to bring the Atlantic Union Adventist Media (AUAM) truck to Elmira for a taping.

Pastor Ivor Myers of Power of the Lamb Ministries, and also a former rap artist, presented two powerful sermons along with the music ministries of Yolanda Innocent-Palmer, Christine Sinclair, Paul Buckley, and the Poholka Sisters. Each artist brought a different style that complemented the program with diversity, yet unity. The theme of the day was Unity in Christ. Pastor Clement A. Murray was there to produce the program along with a staff of six individuals.

The day was hot, but so was the Holy Spirit, as Pastor Myers encouraged everyone to die to sin, but live in Christ. Churches from Rochester, Syracuse, Horseheads, Sayre, Corning, and Ithaca came to support and attend the event. Pastors Philip M. Wesley, Sr., Herbert Poholka, and Roger Curtis represented the Northeastern, Greater New York, and the New York conferences. The AUAM staff included Ruben Carr, Andrea Hicks, Debbie Michel, Wilson Trigo, Franklin Mota, and Alexander Andrews, a member of the Friendship church, who fit in as third cameraman.

We pray that God will do amazing things through this project and help us prepare many individuals for the Christ’s second coming.

Philip M. Wesley II, pastor
Friendship Adventist church
Northeastern Academy Produces Published Poets

Since 1993 Creative Communication has sponsored writing contests for students across the United States and Canada. They receive thousands of applications per contest, but only the best poems and essays are invited to be published in an anthology. Recently, two students from Northeastern Academy (NEA) received notification that their poems were among the best entries submitted. Julia Phipps, a senior, has had her poems, “Shadowed” and “Unspoken Communication,” published thus far. Another student, Donavon Plummer, a junior at NEA, also received a congratulatory letter stating that his poem, “Why Do We Look at People” was deemed worthy of entering the student anthology. These students are now eligible to receive up to $1000 in scholarship money for their outstanding work.

The faculty and staff are extremely proud of their accomplishments and hope that this will encourage their fellow schoolmates to embrace writing as an extracurricular activity.

Kimberly R. Sampson, English teacher
Northeastern Academy

Bethany Church Health Fair a Big Success

Dr. Stephen S. Carryl from the Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church organized the annual health fair that was held on August 26. The purpose of the fair was to educate the community about various health issues. The Nassau County Department of Health provided a mammogram van and 13 women were screened. The Brooklyn Hospital Center provided the staff to assist with the fair.

Dr. Wesley Augustine completed tests for glaucoma and various eye problems, and Dr. Gregory Perrier screened for bone and skeletal diseases. There were also screenings for obesity, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

Many individuals from the community participated. According to the organizers of the event, “This was the most successful health fair, because we had the largest attendance, the greatest diversity of patients, and the greatest diversity of tests.”

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their time in service to the Bethany church community.

Leigha Carryl, junior writer
Bethany church

Health Ministries Day at Bethany Church

The Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church has been blessed to have many healthcare workers including three medical doctors in its congregation. The Health Ministries days are exceptional and this year was no different. Dr. Stephen Carryl, the Health Ministries department leader, planned a special day packed with lots of information and encouragement to help us be in better health.

The speaker, Dr. Marcellus Chapas, a physiologist from Maryland, presented a sermon entitled “It’s Only a Prayer.” He encouraged the congregation to do more, with the understanding that, when we pray, our prayers are heard and answered. He reminded us of Solomon and David and the way God blessed Solomon because of his selfless prayer.

After a very healthy lunch, the afternoon program was presented by individuals from South Nassau Hospital. Among the topics discussed were, “Preventing and Living with High Blood Pressure” and “Diabetes and Heart Disease.” Special musical renditions were brought to us by Sheryl Linton and Amelia Flynn.

The day ended with individuals expressing the determination to practice good health. Thanks to the Health Ministries department for another superb day.

Sydni Baker, junior writer
Bethany church
At last, all preparations were finished! After months of prayer, planning, and pre-work, the “Revelation of Hope” prophecy series in Portland, Maine, began on Friday, September 28. Located at the spacious Abromson Community Education Center at the University of Southern Maine, the meetings kicked off in powerful fashion with the spirit-filled singing of Charles Haugabrooks. Following a stirring rendition of “There Stood the Lamb,” Ernestine “Tennie” Finley began her opening-night lecture. The audience, numbered at more than 250, listened and watched as Teenie shared an overview of the book of Revelation in a one-hour multimedia presentation. Weaving together both current events and biblical prophecies in her talk, Teenie shared how history is indeed drawing to a close, and God’s end-time books of prophecy—Daniel and Revelation—can give us hope in the midst of the trials this world can present.

Opening night drew to a close with “No More Night,” sung powerfully by Haugabrooks, and those in attendance departed having received the hope-filled message of Revelation.

To help serve those communities for whom English is a second language, we provided both Spanish and French translators. We were blessed to have as many as eight to ten people at a time making use of those services.

At the Abromson Center, we also had two very dedicated teams ministering to the children who came to the meetings with their parents each evening. Babysitting was provided for ages two to five, while older children enjoyed a full program that included songs, activities, crafts, and stories.

We are excited about what God is doing in Portland and Southern Maine. . . . Men and women, both young and old, are thrilled with what they are learning.

Men and women, both young and old, are thrilled with what they are learning and are making eternal decisions for Christ.

Charles Noles, area coordinator
Revelation of Hope meetings

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Weaving together both current events and biblical prophecies in her talk, Ernestine Finley shared how history is indeed drawing to a close.

We are excited about what God is doing in Portland and Southern Maine. People from as far away as eastern New Hampshire and central Maine came from night to night to hear God’s end-time message proclaimed.

Northern New England Conference Presents
Music Clinic 2008
Amazing Grace

April 3-5, 2008
Applications due December 1, 2007
for early registration ~ $10 Savings

For applications or further information, please contact the NNEC Education Department at (207) 797-3760, ext. 13 or visit us at www.nnec.org

Final piano application deadline February 1, 2008
Final application deadline for all others March 1, 2008
The “Ready, Set, Go Healthy!” television program was started by Cheryl and Dennis Farley who are deeply motivated by the health principles outlined in the Bible. As teachers of healthy cooking and lifestyle classes in hundreds of homes, they felt the need to share the message with more people. When they realized television was the answer, various doors were opened confirming that God was behind the decision. So far, 19 programs have been taped and are being shown in more than 160,000 Time Warner subscribed homes. Just recently, seven other neighboring stations, including one in New Hampshire, started airing the programs, bringing the viewing audience to approximately 250,000.

Parkview Adventist Medical Center is a major sponsor of the show with Cheryl as the executive producer and host of the program. Dennis leads a health-talk segment called “Ask the Doctor” and helps with camera work. Mona McFarland shares her gift of food and table decorating in a segment called “Here’s the Dish.” Chef Jeff Chase enjoys showing others that food that is good for you can look and taste incredible.

Dr. Melinda Skau, a Loma Linda University School of Medicine graduate, is one of the resident physicians who answers questions fielded by Dennis. Another Loma Linda University School of Medicine graduate and “Ask the Doctor” participant is Dr. John Clark, who also runs the main camera, is the editor, and built the teleprompter used on the show.

Sue Hayford Wallen is the director and producer. Tom Watts, a professional photographer, runs the close-up camera and works with Dr. Clark on lighting and audio.

The group prays before each taping for those who watch the program to adopt this healthier lifestyle and, ultimately, to accept Jesus as their Savior.

For more information regarding the times and channels, visit their Web site at www.readysetgohealthy.com.

Sue Hayford Wallen checking a script.

Each September the Adventurer clubs in the Northern New England Conference have a special “Fun Day” as a kickoff for the year. This year they met at the William Miller Farm in Whitefield, New York. The group visited four places to learn about the history of Adventism. Starting at the chapel, they learned that the chapel was built because the Millerites were run out of the other churches after the “Great Disappointment.” Then they learned about the 2300-day prophecy, made simple enough for 6-10 year-olds to understand. At the cemetery they saw the tomb of William Miller—and seemed to be awed at how white and clean the tomb still remains as they listened to a description from the book Early Writings about angels guarding the grave.

At Ascension Rock, they experienced waiting, having hecklers throw rotten apples at them, then being comforted by “angels.” During a tour of the farm the kids ran around excitedly finding nature items. Throughout the day the showers of rain came down, but they didn’t seem to be bothered, in fact, they liked splashing in the puddles and getting wet!

Finishing the program at Ascension Rock, we reminded the children and adults that, although we will never be together in this place again, the promise is true and sure that Jesus will come again and His coming is soon. As the sun shone through the clouds, making them look silver-lined, and a rainbow appeared, we sang “Never Part Again.” What a blessed Sabbath it was!

Lanita Medina, counselor
Adventurer Club
For two years in a row the Leominster English church completed “The Holy Land Adventure” Vacation Bible School (VBS). Their VBS program, held August 12 to 16, ended with a special Moroccan-style dinner and graduation program.

“It was an incredible spiritual experience,” many attendees commented. An average of 85 children experienced “Galilee by the Sea” along with about 50 volunteers, many dressed in Bible-time clothing. The entire church was even transformed into Galilee.

“We had an exceptional crew working that, obviously, the Lord handed picked,” said Milly Grey, VBS director. When looking at the VBS choices, Grey was intrigued with the Holy Land Adventure option because everyone, no matter what age, can learn valuable spiritual lessons making great crafts from the shops, eating simple healthy snacks, and singing uplifting songs.

Many of the parents and guests commented on how the large group of volunteers worked in harmony, just like the disciples on the day of Pentecost.

The greeters, coordinated by Glennis Reynolds and assisted by Millie Felt, welcomed attendees with the word “Shalom” meaning peace. The children of all ages were then divided into tribes. Coordinated by Kim Gile, they would walk together, and then visit the seaside playground, coordinated by James Grey. The Synagogue with Rabbi (led by Pastor Warren Ruf) was the next stop. Then it was off to the farmer’s market for some mini snacks, prepared by Dorcas Sweeney, before they visited the shops, arranged by Penni Shelton, for their crafts. They also had a drama event with Joanna Archilla, plus an exciting praise gathering with Lisa Paden. Two Roman soldiers played by Clive Henry and Jonathan Girma guarded the surrounding areas from any harm.

It was an unbelievable spirit-filled week full of unity, love, sharing, praising, and praying. Next year, the journey will continue to Jerusalem.

The church Web site has more pictures at www.Leominsteradventistchurch.org.

Milly Grey, VBS director
Leominster English church
Baptismal Classes and Bible Studies Lead to Baptisms

Six people were baptized at the Billerica Seventh-day Adventist Church on August 4 as a result of a Sabbath School baptismal class and Bible studies.

Guy Sciortino and Hector Guillen, two church elders, teamed with me to conduct a Sabbath School baptismal class for the teenagers attending the church. Four teenagers, Rahab, Lila, Eric, and Margaret, attended the baptismal class and were baptized that August morning.

In addition to the teenagers, two adults were baptized: Edith and Raquel. Edith, Lila’s mom, asked to recommit her life to Christ through rebaptism. Raquel, who grew up in an Adventist environment was never baptized and strayed from the faith. The Holy Spirit began convicting her and she started attending church again. Sciortino shared her story with me. I phoned her to see if she was interested in Bible studies. She was, and joined the church family by baptism.

Phil Vasseur, pastor
Merrimack Valley/Billerica District

Connecticut Valley Rejoices with 10 Baptisms

The Connecticut Valley Adventist Church (CVAC) experienced not a drought this summer, but outpourings of the Holy Spirit as a total of 10 people were baptized in the month of July!

For some, the journey began when the youth group attended the Just Claim It Prayer Conference in Texas where they began training to become evangelists. In July some of the youth group members presented a multi-night series entitled “Peace Above the Storm.” On the last Sabbath, July 21, Bajel Markland was baptized!

The following week was a Sabbath filled with mixed emotions. It was the last Sabbath that Heather Cook, who served two years at CVAC as their youth director, would be with the church before heading off to China where she and her husband, Dustan, have accepted calls to serve at an Adventist academy. It was a day filled with smiles, though, as nine people were baptized or rebaptized.

The day also consisted of a performance from the puppet ministry team. Heather often mentioned that the youth are not the future of the church, they are the church. How right she is!

Einar Rom, pastor
Connecticut Valley church

Portuguese Family Camp

Portuguese Family Camp was held over Labor Day weekend at Camp Winnekeag. The guest speaker, Williams Costa Jr., General Conference vice president for communications, focused on the necessity of family time, family worship, and faithfulness. He appealed for couples to make a pact to be faithful to each other and encouraged the youth to remain pure. More than 300 Portuguese-speaking members attended on Sabbath.

Art Preuss, associate youth director
Southern New England Conference

Even though it was their youth director’s last Sabbath at the church, they couldn’t contain their excitement for the people who were baptized or rebaptized. Pictured are Heather Cook, youth director, left, China Barriga, Diana Barriga, John Barriga, Jennifer Barriga, Jason Giese, Joyce Dabydeen, Jeremy Giese, Basil Dabydeen, Pastor Einar Rom, and Yvonne Davis.

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Phil Vasseur, pastor
Merrimack Valley/Billerica District
Le président de l’église s’adresse à la communauté d’émigrés ghanéens d’Europe

Cette année, les membres se sont engagés à construire un nouveau logement pour accueillir le personnel de l’université de Valley View, institution adventiste située à Accra au Ghana. À ce jour, les adventistes ghanéens vivant en Europe ont donné plus de 150 000 dollars pour la construction de ces bâtiments afin de pouvoir diminuer les défis de logement de l’école.

J. Paulsen a passé deux années au Ghana, comme professeur de Bible à l’établissement d’enseignement supérieur adventiste de Bekwai dans les années 60. Au cours de la rencontre, il a raconté certains de ses très bons souvenirs de sa vie au Ghana et a dit que Dieu avait intentionnellement envoyé la famille Paulsen là-bas pour faire l’expérience de l’hospitalité généreuse des ghanéens.

Plus tard, J. Paulsen ajoute: “Je félicite leur engagement profond dans l’évangélisation de leurs compatriotes et reconnaît la responsabilité unique de ceux qui sont en marche. Voilà la réalité de notre monde d’aujourd’hui: beaucoup de personnes vivent en dehors de leur pays natal et peuvent être amenées à Dieu.”


Au Ghana, environ 320 000 adventistes se retrouvent dans 1 000 églises.

L’ouragan Félix emporte cinq adventistes, l’Église évalue les dégâts

Les responsables de l’église adventiste du septième jour du Nicaragua sont inquiets pour les milliers de membres d’église touchés par l’ouragan Félix, tempête de catégorie 5 qui a frappé l’Amérique centrale dans la matinée du 4 septembre.

Au nord du Nicaragua, à environ 600 kilomètres de Managua, la capitale, Félix a frappé de vents violents et de pluies torrentielles des communautés entières où plus de 5 000 membres résident.

Le nombre de victimes dépasse les 100 personnes et jusqu’à présent, 5 membres d’église sont morts. Cependant, certains membres sont toujours portés disparus aux Miskito Keys, là où les vents ont été les plus violents (chronométrés à 260 km/h).

Juan Angel Guevara, président de l’église au Nicaragua, fait remarquer: “Nous n’avons toujours pas réussi à connaître les conditions dans lesquelles se trouvent les membres qui sont sur-vécus à l’ouragan. La totalité des infrastructures de l’église de la région de l’Atlantique nord de cet été a été touchée.”

J.A. Guevara, qui a seulement pu communiquer par radio avec quelques-unes des communautés des régions touchées, dit que deux églises construites sur des pilotes de bois ont été détruites et que 45 autres églises ont été endommagées dans des zones où les rivières débordent régulièrement chaque année.

J.A. Guevara déclare qu’il n’a pas pu joindre une station de radio et une clinique adventiste qui se trouvent près de la frontière est du pays, frontière avec le Honduras.

Toutes les salles de classe des écoles primaires et secondaires adventistes de Puerto Cabezas, où plus de 700 personnes ont cherché refuge, ont perdu leurs toits.

Selon les responsables de l’agence d’aide et de développement adventiste (ADRA) du Nicaragua, l’équipe de sauvetage d’urgence a distribué plus de 1 000 kits de premiers secours dans les premières zones surveillées par l’armée de défense civile du pays. De plus, de la nourriture et des bâches ont été distribuées.

Plinio Vergara, responsable d’ADRA au Nicaragua, dit: “Notre plus grand défi est de travailler aussi vite que possible tout en dépendant du nombre limité d’hélicoptères disponibles pour approvisionner les régions inondées de la jungle tropicale.”

Wally Amundson, directeur d’ADRA à la division interaméricaine de l’église, affirme que des fonds ont déjà été débloqués pour aider les victimes de l’ouragan.

Selon J.A. Guevara, les responsables et membres d’église des régions non touchées du Nicaragua collectent activement des dons dans leurs églises locales pour aider les victimes de l’ouragan. Dans la capitale, Managua, l’église a mis en place un centre de dons dans les bureaux de son siège, grâce à des appels au public par la radio, et des équipes ont été montées avec la Croix Rouge.

Plus de 87 000 adventistes vivent au Nicaragua et se réunissent dans 186 églises.
Institución adventista en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México celebra el septuagésimo aniversario

Son las siete de la mañana y Miguel Borquez, estudiante del último año del curso secundario, se encuentra a sólo unas pocas cuadras de su colegio. Puede ver el campus pero aún así, podría pasar media hora antes de que pueda estar en clase.

Con la visa de estudiante F1 otorgada por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos, Borquez sale de su hogar del lado mexicano y cruza el límite internacional hacia los EE. UU. para asistir a la Escuela Misionera de Calexico, una escuela primaria y secundaria de 400 alumnos operada por la Iglesia Adventista desde 1937.

En los 70 años de vida, algunas cosas han cambiado en la institución. Hay un nuevo gimnasio con aire acondicionado para que los jovencitos puedan jugar bajo techo en los días por lo general alcanza los 40 grados en septiembre. Y lo que una vez fuera una cerca de cadenas sobre el límite internacional del otro lado de la calle de la escuela ha sido reemplazada con barras de hierro de cinco metros de altura. Pero muchas cosas siguen siendo las mismas. Alrededor del 90 por ciento de los estudiantes no son adventistas. Casi ese porcentaje vive del lado mexicano y debe levantarse temprano para caminar hacia el puesto aduanero a unas pocas cuadras de la escuela.

Dos años atrás, las filas de estudiantes eran extremadamente extensas, y algunos tenían que esperar hasta dos horas para cruzar la frontera. “Tenían que levantarse a las cuatro de la mañana para alistarse,” dice Theresa Diaz, directora de desarrollo escolar. “Y estamos hablando de niños de cinco años de edad. Era muy difícil para ellos.”

Desde entonces, después de presiones comunitarias por parte de la cámara de comercio de Calexico, los agentes fronterizos crearon una línea expresa para estudiantes peatones. Si llegan entre las 7 y las 8 de la mañana, pueden hacer los trámites en unos 10 minutos.

La institución es una buena opción para los padres que quieren que sus hijos aprendan inglés y sean educados por un grupo internacional de docentes. Alrededor del 30 por ciento de los estudiantes reciben ayuda financiera de la Iglesia Adventista y de donantes privados. Muchos padres dicen que la institución posee una gran reputación del otro lado de la frontera. “Es muy conocida,” dice Bernardo Samano, que ahora es rector del Colegio Adventista de Valley Grande, en Weslaco, Texas. En la década de 1970, su padre, empleado del gobierno mexicano, les pidió a sus amigos de la guardia fronteriza que le recomendaran una escuela donde su hijo pudiera aprender inglés. Samano era católico e inmediatamente comenzó a hacer preguntas acerca de las diferencias obvias que pronto surgieron en la escuela, en especial en relación con el día de adoración y el estado de los muertos. Samano se unió a la Iglesia Adventista dos meses después por medio del bautismo. Más adelante, dice, su familia y 34 parientes también llegaron a ser adventistas.

“La gente solía saltar sobre la cerca para asistir a nuestros eventos sociales,” dice Samano al recordar sus dos años en la institución a partir de 1974. A veces la gente se trepaba a los árboles para esconderse de los guardias fronterizos. “Puede que se vayan de aquí sin haberse decidido por Cristo,” dice Díaz. “Pero sabemos que cinco o diez años después se van a dar cuenta que hallaron a Cristo aquí.”

Muchos ex alumnos se han unido a la iglesia mucho después de la graduación. Diaz dice que es la razón de la existencia de la escuela durante estos 70 años. “Es muy conocida,” dice Bernardo Samano, que ahora es rector del Colegio Adventista de Valley Grande, en Weslaco, Texas. En la década de 1970, su padre, empleado del gobierno mexicano, les pidió a sus amigos de la guardia fronteriza que le recomendaran una escuela donde su hijo pudiera aprender inglés. Samano era católico e inmediatamente comenzó a hacer preguntas acerca de las diferencias obvias que pronto surgieron en la escuela, en especial en relación con el día de adoración y el estado de los muertos. Samano se unió a la Iglesia Adventista dos meses después por medio del bautismo. Más adelante, dice, su familia y 34 parientes también llegaron a ser adventistas.

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Ansel Oliver
Adventist News Network
28 de Agosto del 2007
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

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ALDRICH, Myrtle—b. Oct 7, 1913, in Eagle Bend, Minn.; d. June 16, 2007, in Avon Park, Fla. She was a member of the Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. Myrtle was married to Paul Aldrich and resided in South Lancaster, Mass., when they were not doing mission duty. She and her husband were missionaries in Bagdad, Iraq, as well as other countries. She worked as a nurse at Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, Fla., for many years. After retirement, she was involved with Maranatha for many years. She was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her daughter, Sylvia Aldrich Fischer, three granddaughters and their families, and other relatives.

BLASER, Eva May Perry (nee Taylor)—b. Mar 25, 1917, in Mercer, Maine; d. Apr. 6, 2005; In 1968, she received her B.S. in elementary education from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass. She spent 23 years teaching in multi-grade classrooms (grades 1-8) in Maine, New Jersey and Massachusetts. More than half of that time was spent at Riverview Memorial School in Norridgewock, Maine. Over the years, she opened her home to more than 30 students so they could have a Christian education. She is survived by three children, Henry Perry of Norridgewock, Maine; Jesse Perry of Las Vegas, Nev.; and Joy Card of Gautier, Mo.; nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two sisters, Addie Miner of Plano, Texas, and Mae Ellis Cram of Bandon, Ore.; She is predeceased by two husbands, Henry Towne Perry and Lawrence Blaser.

HOFFMAN, Craig M—b. Oct 31, 1951, River Vale, N.J.; d. Jan. 20, 2007, in Deep Gap, N.C., from complications following an injury. He was baptized into the Westwood Seventh-day Adventist Church at the age of 11. In 1980 he married Mary Ann (Berger) of Livingston Manor, N.Y., and for 26 years accompanied her in her teaching career that included Union College in Lincoln, Neb.; Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.; Arizona State University; Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.; and Appalachian State University in N.C. He was always active in church, serving as a deacon and teaching in children’s Sabbath School departments. Craig worked at furniture manufacturing plants on the campuses of several Adventist colleges and academies. He also worked as a carpenter for Andrews University Plant Services for 15 years. He was a generous supporter of mission work. Craig is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; two daughters, Lorraine, of Phoenix, Ariz., and Rachel of Deep Gap, N.C.; and two brothers, Herby and Dean, of Narrowsburg, N.Y.

TERRELL, Evelyn—b. Apr 3, 1930, in Tampa, Fla.; d. May 25, 2007, in Connecticut. She was a member of the North Stamford Seventh-day Adventist Church in Stamford, Conn. She was a Sabbath School superintendent and teacher and she gave Bible studies. She leaves to mourn, her daughter, Debra; a brother, Chester Ponder; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Ponder; a sister, Barbara Ponder Jones, a brother-in-law, Hezekiah Jones; nephews Brian and Kenneth Ponder, and a niece, Donna Ponder.

WHITE, JR., Edmund—67; b. Apr. 18, 1940, in the Parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, West Indies; d. Jun. 23, 2007, in Boston, Mass. He was a member of the Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mattapan, Mass., where he served as a deacon and the Adventist Community Services director for many years. He is survived by his wife, Doreen; four sons, Michael, Bonitto, Robert, and Edmund III; three daughters, Sheline, Donna, and Cheryl; 18 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two brothers Alphonso and Benito; two sisters, Mhettie and Noestra; and many nieces and nephews.
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