In this Issue...
It’s 2008. Can you believe it? Where has the time gone? Where have we been and where are we going on our journey through life? “With time seemingly dissipating into vapor, it is important for us to reflect on past accomplishments, reevaluate our mission and goals, and recommit to the work that is next on our agendas.” In this issue, we take a moment to ponder these thoughts, in the cover story beginning on page 4. Also in this issue are our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover design uses an image from iStockphoto.
picked up a 30-year-old photograph that shows a group of people in a classroom setting. Among the people is a young man who, at the time, had recently become an Adventist. This young man was anxious to witness for Jesus, and his church had emphasized the need for everyone to win souls for Jesus. After all, the Word of God says, “He who wins souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30) and “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

The young man, along with much more mature or older Seventh-day Adventists, had enlisted in a lay Bible instructor’s class taught by the local church’s Bible worker. The young man was very shy, but found the class very valuable in preparing him to share God’s Word. Subsequently, he witnessed to many people, including his family members, some of whom were baptized and are looking forward to seeing their blessed Lord soon. Some of these new members have also become soul winners and are continuing to help others get ready for heaven. Others who were baptized are serving in various capacities in their respective churches.

The Atlantic Union Conference Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference will take place March 28-30 in Stamford, Connecticut. It is being coordinated by the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI). The conference will offer a powerful opportunity to help prepare you to be a soul winner, church planter, and a church nurturer. If you want to be effective or become more effective in the great enterprise of partnering with Jesus to save people, this is your opportunity. There will be 15 tracks and 65 seminars, given in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. The presenters are very experienced soul winners and will enrich your lives and equip you for your heaven-inspired role for Jesus.

The Atlantic Union Conference Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference will be a historic meeting as this will be the first time our lay people have been united union-wide to train in the art of soul winning. This will be a time to meet local church soul winners and leaders, and enable you to network and perhaps learn strategies that are making a difference in individual congregations.

The personal ministries leaders and administrators of all the conferences in the Atlantic Union support this important initiative for Jesus and look forward to seeing you in March at the festival.

The young man in that picture was me. It gives me much joy as I reflect on that lay Bible instruction that helped me to be a soul winner. As a pastor, I have baptized many whom I look forward to seeing on that great day of the Lord when the trumpet shall sound and we who are alive will be changed and join those who will be raised from the dusty grave to be with our loving Jesus.

I encourage you to be a soul winner and experience the joy of seeing a person saved in God’s kingdom. Come to the Festival of the Laity in March 2008.

Trevor Forbes is the personal ministries director and the associate treasurer for the Atlantic Union Conference.
Late last November, several days into an overseas trip to New Zealand and Australia, I received word that my brother had suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and was not expected to last 12 hours. I immediately made plans to return to the United States; and in less than 12 hours after notification of his grave situation, word came again that he had died. It seemed almost like a dream as I prepared to fly to California. Nowhere on my agenda when this trip was placed on my schedule was there an item that said, “Notification of your brother’s death.”

As I was preparing to leave California for my home, my sister-in-law asked me for the address for David Taylor, the pastor who officiated at the memorial service. She wanted the information so she could say a special “thank you” to him for calling and talking with her husband when he was alive and for taking charge of the service. I had no idea when I asked David Taylor to officiate at the service that he had ever been in contact with my brother, by phone or any other means. He had just graciously consented to do the service and drove two hours from Loma Linda to San Diego to be with us that day.

Before leaving California, I asked him to clarify what my sister-in-law shared with me. And, with a smile on his face, he admitted it was true. He had been in touch with my brother. He said he had heard me talk so much about him and his medical challenges that he was impressed to contact him and pray with him. He never said a word about it and neither did my brother. In his schedule, Taylor made time to perform a random act of kindness that has made a lasting impression.

So, why do I share this with you? With time seemingly dissipating into vapor, it is important for us to reflect on past accomplishments, reevaluate our mission and goals, and recommit to the work that is next on our agendas. Are we able to recall the intentional acts of kindness that expressed Christ’s witness through us during the past 12 months? Are our agendas for 2008 planned with intentionality to include building relationships as we minister to others? The New Living Translation presents Psalm 90:12 this way, “Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.”
life, so that we may grow in wisdom.”
As we face each new day, what’s next on our agenda?

There were many items on the Atlantic Union’s agenda during 2007. Some have been completed, others are in progress. Many were reported in the Gleaner and many were not. Some items called for opening doors to new relationships, others were to help strengthen old ones. Following are four summaries of agenda items covered recently in the Atlantic Union.

Prayer for the leader of the state of Massachusetts
On October 24, 2007, a delegation of 10 individuals from the Atlantic Union led by the president, Donald King, who was impressed that we needed to pray for the governor and his staff, went to the Massachusetts state house to visit with Governor Deval Patrick. The delegation first gathered in the office of Robert Antonioni, the senator representing the Worcester and Middlesex district, who escorted the group to the governor’s office. Members of the delegation were Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union executive secretary; Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union treasurer; Attorney Charles Eusey, Atlantic Union PARL director; Frank Tochterman, Southern New England Conference president; Norman Wendth, Atlantic Union College president; Ray Daniels, pastor of the Southern New England Conference’s Amesbury district; Yrvain Jean-Philippe, pastor of the Temple Salem church; Delores Richardson, Temple Salem church member and external affairs coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Greater Boston area; and myself.

Prayer for the leader of the state of Massachusetts

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The appointment, which took months of planning to schedule, was short and to the point. Once all the introductions were complete, King informed Governor Patrick, “We are not here because we want something from you. We are here to give you something and to pray with you.”

Patrick was presented with a leather-bound copy of the book The Desire of Ages, a packet of information about the Atlantic Union, and a packet of information about Atlantic Union College. Pastor Daniels spent a few moments in prayer for the governor, his family, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As a result of this appointment, Senator Antonioni was invited to AUC and has visited with Wendth and King to discuss ways in which the college could receive assistance with scholarships for students. The item on the agenda that day in October was to pray for the leader of the state of Massachusetts.
ACS signs a Memorandum of Understanding
In September 2007 representatives from the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) and from Adventist Community Services (ACS) signed a “Memorandum of Understanding” stipulating that the Adventist Community Services would be responsible for donations management and multi-agency warehouse management in the event of a disaster in New York State. ACS directors, Ruben Merino, from the Greater New York Conference, Angel Rodriguez, from the New York Conference, and Fitzgerald Kerr, from the Northeastern Conference, have all signed the agreement representing their conferences. These three conferences will be working closely with SEMO. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has provided relief in time of disaster through Adventist Community Services since 1874 and it is one of the oldest voluntary emergency relief organizations. The agenda item that day was to strengthen a long-standing relationship that will allow individuals to be serviced in the time of disaster.

“Tell the World . . . Tell Atlantic Union”
The Atlantic Union’s “Tell the World...Tell Atlantic Union” initiative has been in full swing since 2006. The initiative encourages (1) members to establish relationships with others and bring at least one person into fellowship with God’s family; (2) leaders to help identify and equip members according to their spiritual gifts; (3) our youth at every level to engage in evangelism and outreach; (4) prayer ministries to be an integral part of evangelism; (5) the nurturing and retention of church members; and (6) churches to set aside the month of October as the time of reporting, celebrating, and sharing stories of how the Lord has blessed in the Atlantic Union throughout the year. Some of the results of this initiative were realized when the 100,000th member was baptized in the Atlantic Union (see the January 2008 issue of the Atlantic Union). Through its “Goals for Souls” program, the leaders in the conferences in the Atlantic Union have worked diligently toward realizing that goal. This recurring item on the agenda is geared to carrying out the Atlantic Union Conference’s mission, which is to “lead all people, through the power of the everlasting gospel, into a growing, balanced, mature Christian experience; to serve the local community, and to prepare every person for the soon coming of Jesus Christ.”

Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference
The Atlantic Union is beginning 2008 with a very important event to which everyone is invited. It is the Atlantic Union Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference. This will be the first time that lay people are being united in a union-wide event to train in the art of winning souls. The place to be on March 28-30 is the Sheraton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut. The conference will include seminars in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. All of the local conference Personal Ministries department directors are involved with planning this event and are looking for strong participation from pastors and lay members. This item on the agenda is specifically planned to prepare members to build lasting relationships in the community. Hope to see you there!

The reality is that, as we take time to plan our days, we must leave room for the unexpected, but we must also always be about building relationships, and plan to be intentional about our witness. The unexpected on that day in November was my brother’s death, but in his death, I could see that the hand of the Lord was revealed through an intentional random act of kindness. What work for the Lord do you have on your agenda today?

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.
Bible Conference Focuses on Prayer

By Bill Wood

More than 100 young people from seven of Atlantic Union’s academies converged at Camp Winnekeag on November 8–10, 2007, to learn about and experience prayer and to explore how prayer can impact their lives. The theme for the annual conference was www.prayer@heaven.com. The Atlantic Union Conference youth directors were the speakers for the weekend. Each youth director spoke on at least one aspect of prayer. The presentations included “Prayer—Communicating with God,” by Harry Sabnani; “The Lords Prayer,” by Art Preuss; “Does God Always Answer Prayer?” and “Obstacles to Answered Prayer,” by Jose Cortez; “Jesus—Our Example,” and “Why Jesus Prayed,” by Dan Whitlow; “Developing a Devotional Life,” by Pedro Perez; and “Thanksgiving,” and “Asking,” by Garnett Morris.

After each presentation they met in groups with their chaplains and sponsors for discussion using study guides prepared by the speakers. Lively discussions took place at each breakout session.

On Friday morning they participated in a special “Outdoor Prayer Experience” that give each participant an opportunity to connect with God through nature. This activity was led by Pedro Perez and Art Preuss of the Southern New England Conference.

Luis Gracia, the chaplain at Atlantic Union College, presented an interactive Sabbath School program with emphasis on praise and worship as part of prayer. Chaplain Jonathan Nino from South Lancaster Academy and his students presented a creative and contemporary drama depicting Jesus forgiving the adulterous woman. My presentation on the prayer of praise, confession, and forgiveness followed the drama segment.

Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference youth director, led out in inspirational music assisted by groups from each academy. Several of the academy participants provided special music at various sessions.

Time was allotted for each academy to plan ways to bring this special prayer experience to their own academies. Thanks to the staff of Camp Winnekeag for being awesome hosts, providing hospitality, great meals, and a comfortable place to stay.

The 2008 Academy Bible Conference will be held at Camp Winnekeag, November 6-8, 2008.†

More than 100 young people

Participants taking part in the interactive Sabbath School program.
Pine Tree Academy students with their chaplain Jamie Trott in their small group discussion session.

Harry Sabnani, NNEC youth director, with a group of students leading out in praise and worship.

Jose Cortez, Greater New York Conference youth director, gave two presentations on prayer.

Northeastern Conference academy students participating in their small group discussion.
God, the Great Ecologist

By Jerrell Gilkeson

I would like to propose to you that God is the greatest of all ecologists. Is God concerned about ecology? The world is going to be destroyed. He made everything and can make anything He wants. He could just use it and abuse it! So why bother with our planet now?

Why bother? He created our world! He pronounced it very good (Genesis 1:31). He loves us (Jeremiah 31:3, 5)! You might also note in Revelation 11:18 there is a curse pronounced against those who destroy the earth. He even notices when hairs and sparrows fall. Yes, we would have to say, God is an ecologist. He is concerned about our world to both preserve and renew.

In researching for this article, I wanted to find out what Adventist schools in the Atlantic Union are doing in ecology. These are things that please our Father, who gave us this world. At right are some of the current projects!

But there is more! There is a personal application from our God! This is the outstanding part of God’s ecology. He never wastes anything! No, really! We are told that not one drop of water is lost in our world’s cycle. We also know that He counts each hair of our heads, He knows each blade of grass and constellation, and He tracks even the falling of a sparrow. God does not waste anything!

Let me give you an example. At the beginning of my career, I had the opportunity to teach reading to students in a one-room Adventist elementary school. I confess, for decades, I had no clue why I had been allowed that experience. God knew why: He wastes nothing! That experience has proved invaluable as I now sit on the North American Division Reading Steering Committee.

For every experience that we have, God has a plan. He is in charge of our education! He knows that we will need that small, maybe painful piece, sometime in the future. But there is more good news; all these pieces will work out in the long run to make your life more beautiful and perfect (Romans 8:28). Insightfully, we have also been told that when the last piece is fitted in our puzzle, we will look back and say we would not change anything. (MinD, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, p. 463).

God, the great ecologist, is preserving you for eternity. He is not going to waste one piece. Each lesson, each experience is valuable for the perfect picture that He is painting in you. God will finish the good work He has begun in you! (Philippians 1:6)

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

Atlantic Union School Ecology Initiatives

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bermuda Institute</td>
<td>Campus beautification; landscaping and gardening class; recycling printer cartridges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Vermont Academy</td>
<td>Cooperation with the University of Vermont on stream ecology; study of weather ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Boston Academy</td>
<td>Retrofitting gym lights to conserve power; automatic on/off light switches; community recycling program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeastern Academy</td>
<td>Recycling paper and bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>NNEC Outdoor School</td>
<td>Forestry conservation; clean up of West Brook; lake erosion project; pond building project; worked with EPA waste management project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Tree Academy</td>
<td>Major bottle, paper, cardboard recycling program; retrofitting the outside windows; energy-efficient gym lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poughkeepsie Elementary</td>
<td>Church/school botanical garden beautification project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Springs Academy</td>
<td>Ecology projects in local area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many other schools</td>
<td>Retrofitted with energy efficient lights which save oil and help the local school budget</td>
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Physics teacher, Arnaldo Mercado, and senior, Rachel Slocum, show the bins from their new recycling program.
Caring for Creation — A Statement on the Environment

The world in which we live is a gift of love from the Creator God, from “Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water” (Revelation 14:7; 11:17, 18). Within this creation He placed humans, set intentionally in relationship with Himself, other persons, and the surrounding world. Therefore, as Seventh-day Adventists, we hold its preservation and nurture to be intimately related to our service to Him.

God set aside the seventh-day Sabbath as a memorial and perpetual reminder of His creative act and establishment of the world. In resting on that day, Seventh-day Adventists reinforce the special sense of relationship with the Creator and His creation. Sabbath observance underscores the importance of our integration with the total environment.

The human decision to disobey God broke the original order of creation, resulting in a disharmony alien to His purposes. Thus our air and waters are polluted, forests and wildlife plundered, and natural resources exploited. Because we recognize humans as part of God’s creation, our concern for the environment extends to personal health and lifestyle. We advocate a wholesome manner of living and reject the use of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs that harm the body and consume earth’s resources; and we promote a simple vegetarian diet.

Seventh-day Adventists are committed to respectful, cooperative relationships among all persons, recognizing our common origin and realizing our human dignity as a gift from the Creator. Since human poverty and environmental degradation are interrelated, we pledge ourselves to improve the quality of life for all people. Our goal is a sustainable development of resources while meeting human needs.

Genuine progress toward caring for our natural environment rests upon both personal and cooperative effort. We accept the challenge to work toward restoring God’s overall design. Moved by faith in God, we commit ourselves to promote the healing that rises at both personal and environmental levels from integrated lives dedicated to serve God and humanity.

In this commitment we confirm our stewardship of God’s creation and believe that total restoration will be complete only when God makes all things new.

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee at the Annual Council session in Silver Spring, Maryland, October 12, 1992.

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)

Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual

Atlantic Union GLEANER, February 2008

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Monday, November 12, 2007, was a significant day for the future of youth ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference. Most of the conference youth directors met at Camp Berkshire for a day of visioning and prayer for youth ministries in each conference of the union. We believe according to Pastor Dennis Smith in his book *Spirit Baptism & Prayer* “United prayer is also essential for the advancement of God’s kingdom on this earth. Satan will resist every forward movement of God’s work. United prayer will significantly increase God’s power to advance His kingdom” (p. 28). The youth directors of the Atlantic Union are passionate about growing youth ministries in all phases. To do that they have committed to uniting in prayer on the first Tuesday of every month during the year 2008. On that Tuesday they will participate in a conference call and spend time focused on prayer.

The impetus for this special day of prayer at Camp Berkshire was to set into motion various types of ministries that we are challenging our local youth leaders to get involved with during the next two years. These types of ministries will culminate with a massive youth celebration to be held some time in 2010 (location yet to be decided).

The youth directors created a list of specific plans and ministries for which they will pray. We invite our youth and youth leaders in the Atlantic Union to join in these specific prayer initiatives.

**Public Youth Evangelism**—We challenge each youth group to plan some type of public evangelism outreach. We encourage them to use the ShareHim format. You may inquire of your local youth director how to access the ShareHim evangelistic resource. There are many others types of public evangelism programs that can be used. We encourage the use of small group evangelism which is being implemented in the Greater New York Conference.

**More than 50 percent of churches in the Atlantic Union to have active youth ministries**—Our goal is to see that more than 50 percent of our churches have active, involved youth ministries outside of Pathfinders and Sabbath School. Every church should have some type of significant youth ministries happening. Remember, you can have youth ministry happening with two young people as much as you can with 50 young people. The goal is to “do something” for the youth of your church.

**Youth given meaningful leadership positions**—We challenge each pastor and church board to involve their young people in leadership positions. Young people can teach the Sabbath School lesson, lead out in Sabbath Schools, fill positions as elders, deacons, deaconesses, greeters, or hold membership on church committees or the church board. Seventy-five percent of the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is under 30 years of age. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is made up of some of the most dedicated and Christian youth you will find, and we need to find ways to fit this large constituency into the leadership of their church.

**Adventist youth involved in community activities**—We challenge our Pathfinder clubs, youth groups, and junior, earliteen, and youth Sabbath School groups to get involved in working in the community and participating in community activities. Anytime there is a community event, Adventist young people need to be there. March in parades, participate in community runs and walks, clean parks, pick up trash, work with the homeless shelters, and the list could go on and on.

**Youth involved in short term mission trips within the Atlantic Union**—According to Ellen White the work should go again with power in the cities of the Eastern States…. We are to make every effort to give a knowledge of the truth to all who will hear, and there are many who will listen. All through the large cities God has honest souls who are interested in what is truth”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 98. The youth directors of the Atlantic Union Youth Ministries team wants to help each one of our youth and each one of our churches to take this statement seriously so that the work can be finished! Please pray with us through the year that we might see great things accomplished for the church through the “great army of youth” in the Atlantic Union.

Ellen White stated this about the work in the east. “Instruction has been given me that the message should go again with power in the cities of the Eastern States…. We are to make every effort to give a knowledge of the truth to all who will hear, and there are many who will listen. All through the large cities God has honest souls who are interested in what is truth”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 98. The Atlantic Union Youth Ministries team wants to help each one of our youth and each one of our churches to take this statement seriously so that the work can be finished! Please pray with us through the year that we might see great things accomplished for the church through the “great army of youth” in the Atlantic Union.
My name is Anita Dyman. I am nine years old. Before summer began this past year I was thinking about what I could do as a special project for the summer.

One day, my dad gave me a Time magazine. I like to read it, as I always find many interesting stories. In one of the pages I saw pictures of very sad kids with cleft lips. I learned it is possible to help these kids and to return a smile on their faces for $250. So, together with my seven-year-old brother, Mark, we thought of making cards and selling them to raise the $250. People in the Greenwich Village neighborhood where we live liked the cards very much! Many came back over and over again to buy them.

In September 2007 we sent our first check for $250 to The Smile Train organization that provides surgery for kids with cleft lips. By fall we had collected close to $1,000. I met many interesting people as a result of this project. I have so many stories to tell, but only enough space to tell two:

One day a man came to the table where Mark and I were standing. He was very loud and in his mouth was a cigarette. He was puffing cigarette out and crushed it with his shoes. “I know! I know! I am supposed to quit smoking, but I can’t. I need help with that.” My dad overheard him from his office, and he came out and talked to the man about quitting. I hope he will stop smoking one day.

Another night it was already starting to get dark when a man came to the table. He chose the card he liked, gave a donation, and then turned to me and said: “I want you to write on this card: ‘Life is good. You have choices. God loves you.’” He then asked me to give the card to any really sad homeless man.

Anita Dyman, pastor’s daughter
Manhattan church

The Smile Train (www.smiletrain.org) is a leading international charity that provides cleft lip surgery to children in need. One hundred percent of the contribution goes toward program expenses.

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Babylon Church Celebrates Its 75th Anniversary

The Babylon Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary on October 26-27, 2007. A reunion of members, both past and present, along with their family and friends gathered to celebrate this special occasion.

Pastor Ron Halvorson gave three special sermons emphasizing the importance of going forward. He indicated that we must prepare ourselves for Christ’s soon coming, the real reunion with our Lord and Savior!

There were pictures and documents to commemorate the church’s history including music and stories and, of course, plenty of delicious food!

Thank you to all who joined us and to all who helped make this a special Sabbath weekend. We praise God for our many blessings over the past 75 years and praise Him for our growth as He continues to bless His church so we can all be ready for Jesus!

Michele DeFalco, communication leader
Babylon church

Elders Kevin Lilly (left), Lou Pescatore, Pastor Daniel Zabaleta, Pastor Ron Halvorson, Harry Montello, and Kent Solomon participated in the Babylon church 75th Anniversary service.

The children participated in the service with a “Kids Under Construction” program during Sabbath School that focused on our continuous growth in Jesus!

It was a special weekend celebrating Babylon church’s 75th anniversary with Pastor Ron Halvorson as the guest speaker.
If you noticed some young adults wearing green T-shirts walking neighborhoods and carrying brown grocery bags to the front doors of homes several weeks ago, they were Atlantic Union College and South Lancaster Academy students actively preparing to make some struggling families’ Thanksgiving a brighter occasion. Homeowners were invited to put non-perishable foods in the bags to be picked up another day.

“The generosity of Lancaster residents to help other fellow residents was fantastic,” says Jane Morrison, pastor for caring at the College Church of Seventh-day Adventists, 337 Main Street, Lancaster, Massachusetts. Church members packed non-perishable items given by area residents to Atlantic Union College and South Lancaster Academy students through a program called IMPACT Lancaster, initiated by Atlantic Union College.

“I wanted to do something for the community and have a community service day for students,” says IMPACT Lancaster coordinator Gordon Dezotell. Dezotell is a junior mathematics major from Burlington, Vermont. He wasn’t the only one thinking along these lines. Last year, college chaplain Luis Gracia was also thinking, “Let’s give something back to the community.” Together, they orchestrated the event with Dezotell gaining experience in leadership training. This year, Dezotell carries the leadership responsibility.

“Last semester we did the can drive,” says Dezotell. “We presented bags to each house and told them if they were interested in giving non-perishable food items, to put their porch light on and put the bag outside and then we would collect it.”

Community response to the students was overwhelming. In addition to residents’ gifts of food, College Church members also donated food products and financial gifts to purchase carrots, onions, celery, potatoes, apples, lettuce, and eggs. “Several grocery stores in Weston, patronized by one member, donated 60 bags of flour, cooking oil, pies, peanut butter, jelly, and cranberry sauce,” said Morrison. The plan for AUC students and the church to create 55 Thanksgiving boxes turned into 65 boxes! “Thank you Lancaster!” they say.

Dezotell says that in April students will again do random acts of kindness for neighbors. IMPACT Lancaster last spring was promoted on campus as an event to give something back to the community. They visited homeowners two weeks ahead and asked what the homeowners needed—from scrubbing toilets to raking the yard. “We had so many people call in that we had to start telling them we’d reached the limit of households we could help—about 100 homes, so we accomplished a lot on that Sunday. About 50-60 students participated,” he said. “We raked leaves, washed windows,
vacuumed, did lots of yard work, and much more.”

“Impact Lancaster was fun,” said senior Mike Shellong last year. “Our goal was to meet the community and I felt I met a lot of new people.”

“I enjoy putting Impact Lancaster together,” says Dezotell. “I feel like the students are really connecting with the community and it also gives them a chance to get their community service hours before they graduate.”

Students exemplified the college’s mission statement—“Atlantic Union College is a Christian liberal arts college in the Seventh-day Adventist tradition. As a diverse learning community, its mission is to develop the whole person by inspiring faith in a loving Creator God and encouraging a passion for knowledge, truth, and service to humanity.”

Atlantic Union College is located at 338 Main Street (Route 70) in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and is open to the public regardless of faith affiliation. For information visit www.auc.edu.

Who’s Cooking on Hope Channel?

World-renowned Chef Sualua Tupolo is creating good food and encouraging healthy habits on Hope Channel’s newest cooking program, “Cooking Vegetarian.” In each of the 22 television shows, he promotes Atlantic Union College’s Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts Program.

After 25 years in culinary arts, Chef Sualua made a decision to promote only vegetarian foods. “I hope it will encourage not only church members, but others to incorporate beans/legumes, vegetables, fruits, and grains into their diet,” said Tupolo. He also commented that often people are surprised by how simple and tasty vegetarian cooking can be.

According to the chef, many people are still unaware of the dangers of unhealthy eating habits and there is still room for education. Hope Channel is a good way of reaching millions of people with the health message.

Hope Channel’s vegetarian cooking series is co-sponsored by Worthington Kellogg, a leading brand of vegetarian foods. Don’t miss this great opportunity to cook healthy and tasty vegetarian food with one of the world’s finest chefs. Join Chef Sualua on “Cooking Vegetarian” at the following times and dates on Hope Channel (www.hopechannel.org): Mondays at 12 noon EST; Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. EST; and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. EST.
A Receptive Heart—New York Conference Women’s Retreat

Two weeks before the New York Conference Women’s Retreat was to begin, only 86 women were registered. Numbers were low, there were lives to touch, a budget to meet, and God’s work to be done. Just to break even we needed close to 120 attending. What did God have planned?

Ursula Falle, mother, nurse, wife, and caregiver, shared her journey and that of her daughter, moving from a devastating relationship to healing and wholeness through Christ.

Kay Rizzo, writer, speaker, storyteller, and former New Yorker, was the keynote speaker for the weekend.

Charlotte Thoms, Atlantic Union Conference Women’s Ministries director, opened the weekend with a short devotional. CHARLOTTE THOMS

The New York women were blessed to hear from outstanding speakers. Charlotte Thoms, Atlantic Union Conference Women’s Ministries director, opened the weekend with a short devotional. With her gift of humor and insightful, she set the tone for what a receptive heart looks like—interested, approachable, sympathetic, loving, forgiving—all attributes which our heavenly Father exemplifies.

Ursula Falle, mother, nurse, wife, and caregiver, shared her journey and that of her daughter, moving from a devastating relationship to healing and wholeness through Christ.

Kay Rizzo, writer, speaker, storyteller, and former New Yorker, was our keynote speaker. As she brought to life women in the Bible, we learned even more of what God can do through us when we are receptive to His will and calling.

The weekend would not be complete without a special outreach project and a Saturday night filled with fun, food, and laughter. "Operation: From the Heart" gave participants the opportunity to prepare gift boxes for women's shelters and crisis pregnancy centers. This was followed by a sock party, complete with a couple of unplanned “tugs of war.”

Throughout the weekend we were blessed with beautiful music, answered prayers, and an incredible group of ladies who came searching and found what they were looking for—a receptive heart in God.

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When dinnertime rolled around, we had 118 ladies with 11 of those women being guests from other denominations. God says, “Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear”—Isaiah 65:24.

The New York women were blessed to hear from outstanding speakers.

Church and School Team Up to Help Sick and Homebound

On December 15, 2007, members of the Westvale church delivered 20 baskets to the sick and homebound. This annual outreach is organized by Joan Payne, Homebound Ministries coordinator. Parkview Junior Academy students distributed poinsettias and gift packages and at the same time, brought the sick and homebound some holiday cheer.

Margaret Ahles (right) with Pathfinder Shawna Thomas get ready to deliver a fruit basket as part of the Westvale church Homebound Ministries annual outreach program.

Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference
Making a Difference in the Church and Community

Elmira church has had many opportunities to witness to young people and the community in 2007. These are just a few of the stories about what the church is doing to make a difference in the church and community.

New Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs
Four Adventurers and three Pathfinders were recently inducted into Elmira church’s new Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs during a candle-lighting ceremony. The clubs meet on Tuesday evenings, separating into groups to work on classwork, honors, and awards. So far, they have taken a camping trip where they worked on the camping skills honors and the camping award. As part of their sewing honors, the Pathfinders made skirts for their uniforms, and they are now working on the honors in baking.

Adventurers have finished part of the sewing fun award and have completed the hygiene, temperance, and fitness fun awards. The children are learning the books of the Bible, reading book club books, and memorizing Bible verses. They also spent two evenings collecting canned goods for Thanksgiving baskets. With lots of good helpers, they are learning many things and having lots of fun!

Food Pantry Bake Sale
During the past few months, Elmira church has become especially aware of those who are in need of food. They have an ongoing food pantry ministry that provides food boxes each week to those who can use a little extra.

On November 6, 2007, a bake sale organized by Carol Cau raised $238.06 for this project. The bake sale was held on the day of the general election. The church’s fellowship hall was one of the voting locations and 500 voters came through the doors during that time. In addition, a literature rack and table were filled with material for use by members of the community.

Brand Park Tree Lighting Ceremony
Last December, the Elmira church was asked to present the program in the tree-lighting ceremony at a local park. Adventurers, Pathfinders, leaders, and a few adults from the church sang several carols. A city councilman and the mayor said a few words and then the tree was lit. All were invited back to the church fellowship hall for refreshments. We appreciated the opportunity to participate in this outreach to our community.

Sharon Reynolds, Adventurer director and Personal Ministries co-leader Elmira church

Friendship Tea Creates Community Connections

On November 11, 2007, the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church Women’s Ministries leaders, Lynee Hamm and Marion Lake, coordinated a fellowship harvest tea for members and guests. Members were encouraged to bring a non-member guest as well as a teacup and saucer and a hat to wear. As an ice breaker, attendees shared the stories behind their teacups and Jane Okyere Appiah, a Westvale member, delivered an enjoyable presentation on friendship.

Pictures were taken, developed, and used to create a frame for each picture. A fancy supper and tea was served. Approximately 20 women attended including four from the community. Those present are looking forward to subsequent friendship teas to create bridges between members and non-member acquaintances.

Kim Kaiser, communication director New York Conference

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The Friday evening session began with the topic, “When Mercy Grows on Trees.” Nelson expounded on six surprises found in the first chapter of Matthew. Jesus’ family tree oozed with mercy as the likes of Tamara, Rahab, and Ruth the Moabite are prominently displayed as a part of the genealogy of Jesus.

Sabbath dawned bright and beautiful as the early morning service began at eight o’clock. Costa Vaggas, a lay evangelist from the United Kingdom, led the congregation in another spiritual feast. During the eleven o’clock service Nelson continued the series and proclaimed to the congregation that mercy “comes a runnin’” to anyone who wants it. He reminded us that God in Christ is interceding with his Father for men to be reconciled to Him.

Another highlight of the service was the presence of the Premier of Bermuda, Ewart Brown, J. P., M. P. He addressed the congregation and thanked them for their support and prayers during his years of service to the country. He was accompanied by Senator Wayne Caines, a member of the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church. Also attending were members of the Opposition Party, led by their leader, Michael Dunkley, J. P., M. P., who also addressed the congregation. Wayne Furbert, M. P. the former Opposition Leader, sang to the delight of the audience, “My Living Shall Not Be in Vain.”

The last sermon of the series, preached on Sabbath evening, let the audience know that mercy comes full circle. If we do not extend mercy to others, then mercy cannot be extended to us. All indications are that many were blessed by this series and are already asking the conference administration to consider a similar event again next fall.

Sheila Holder, communication director Bermuda Conference
Members of the Devonshire Seventh-day Adventist Church (DCL) joyfully celebrated and gave glory and honor to God for the great things He has done for the church throughout the past 30 years. On the evening of November 21, 2007, the program began with Founder’s Night, acknowledging the church’s founding members with a plaque. The plaque will hang in the church in honor of their service. The speaker for the evening, Sidney Gibbons, executive officer for the Commission for Unity and Racial Equality (CURE), presented a message entitled, “We’ve Come This Far By Faith.”

The next evening, Thanksgiving night, we celebrated with an agape feast as members gave thanks and awesome testimonies of praise. The guest speaker, Pastor Eugene Virgil, entitled his message, “If You Continue.”

On Friday, November 23, we showed appreciation to our pastors, presenting them with gifts and unveiling their portraits that will hang in the church. Pastor David Rogers’ sermon for the evening was entitled “Show Me Thy Glory.”

On Sabbath, designated as Community Guest Day, we were honored by the attendance of many guests, including high-ranking government officials. We celebrated with high praise and worship that included a community Pathfinder march, acknowledgement of the original church property owners, and a presentation of an architectural portrait of the church. The guest speaker, Pastor Colin Dunbar, entitled his message “The Seal of God Today.” After the fellowship meal, a musical concert was presented by the DCL praise team and choir, along with many other musical renditions. After sunset, copies of an architectural portrait of the church were made available, with the proceeds going toward the building fund.

The celebration culminated on Sunday with a banquet held at the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club. This was a night of thanksgiving and praise to the glory of God through prayer and the sharing of food, laughter, and fellowship.

Those attending participated in a game devised to test how well they know their pastors. Those who participated in any or all of these special times at DCL served with love and gratitude. We’re thankful for the opportunities and joys throughout the years to honor and give thanks to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Patricia Pimental, communication secretary
Devonshire church

 Devonshire Church Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

Copies of an architectural portrait of the church were made available, with the proceeds going toward the building fund.

A musical concert was presented by the DCL praise team and choir, along with many other musical renditions.

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Volunteerism is alive and well at the Danbury Luso-Brasileira church in Danbury, Connecticut. This past summer, Danbury church member Clayton Cunha toured the Miller home and offered to raise the money to purchase and install new gutters on the house. He offered to bring a crew of men to paint the house as well.

On September 16, 2007, he kept his promise. Nine men made the three-hour drive to the William Miller Home, painted the house, installed gutters, and returned to Danbury that same day. At lunch time this high-energy work crew would only take a few minutes to eat before resuming their task. Their pastor, Luiz Henrique Souza, had to be back in Danbury by 7:00 p.m. that night because he was scheduled to preach! It was amazing the amount of energy, good humor, and dedication these men radiated throughout the whole day.

The full beauty of the historic William Miller Home now greets visitors thanks to this gift from our brothers and sisters in Danbury, Connecticut. Truly the spirit of sacrificial giving still glows and grows in the hearts of those who love Jesus and want Him to return soon.

We encourage everyone to visit and see what great things the Lord has done at the William Miller Home, 1614 County Route 11, Whitehall, New York. We are open year round, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call (518) 282-9617 for more information or to arrange a tour group.

The workers who gave the William Miller Home a “facelift” included Clayton Cunha, Ranilton Dias, Americo Lacerda, Cleiber Santos, Walter Pereira Jr., Delandes Ferreira, Jesus D. Costa, Jaime Castro, and Pastor Luiz Henrique Souza.

We encourage everyone to visit and see what great things the Lord has done at the William Miller Home, 1614 County Route 11, Whitehall, New York. We are open year round, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call (518) 282-9617 for more information or to arrange a tour group.

Jim and Linda Everhart, site managers

William Miller Home

Hyde Park Church Dedicates New Building

Members, guests, and friends of the Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church (formerly Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist Church) stood outside in almost 20-degree weather to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that signaled the beginning of worship in their new building. This was the continuation of events that began on December 14, 2007, in the auditorium of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy on 800 Morton Street in Mattapan, Massachusetts. Sylvan Lashley, Gethsemane church’s pastor, was the speaker for the Friday evening service signaling the end of worship in the auditorium where the church was located for more than 20 years.

George Bulgin, the church’s pastor, led the congregation into the building shortly after 9:25 a.m., on Saturday, December 15, 2007, after cutting the ribbon and declaring the doors of the church officially open for worship. The procession marched into the church to the hymn “God of Our Fathers,” sung by the church’s adult choir and accompanied on the pipe organ by Fitzgerald Reid, the church’s organist. After Bulgin gave a few brief remarks and a special opening prayer, the day’s events began with superintendent Cecily Williams leading the Sabbath School program.

More than 600 worshipers filled the sanctuary for the first worship service in the building located at 6 Webster Street in Hyde Park, Massachusetts. As individuals entered for worship, they were presented with a program of the weekend’s events along with a bookmark and a pen as tokens of the special occasion. Individuals from sister churches and guests from the community were on hand for this historical moment in the church’s history. Also participating were Northeastern Conference representatives, Trevor Baker, president, accompanied by his wife, Eunice; Larry Baily, executive secretary, and Ebenezer Agboka, treasurer. They were joined by Atlantic Union Conference representatives, Donald King, president, accompanied by his wife, Lois, and Carlyle Simmons, executive secretary, accompanied by his wife, Marilyn.

The sermon “Pressing Toward the Mark” was presented by George Bulgin. The weekend events culminated with a dedication service in the afternoon. Three local representatives were present for this event: City Councillor Charles Yancy, State Representative...
Shepherdesses Retreat Held at Sagamore Resort

Forty-seven ministers’ wives from across the Northeastern Conference gathered at the Sagamore Resort on Bolton’s Landing in Lake George, New York, for a very special weekend retreat. The retreat, supported by the conference administration and ministerial department, was the first in recent memory.

The women came from as far away as Rochester, New York, and Boston, Massachusetts. Most traveled in cars, but 20 of them from the New York City area utilized the specially arranged Hummer stretch limousine service. Upon arrival, all were warmly welcomed by the organizing committee as well as members of the Sagamore staff.

The weekend activities began at the hotel spa where they were treated to massages, facials, body scrubs, and chromotherapy baths. The Sabbath hours were filled with songs of praise, worship, and fellowship. Special music for the occasion was presented by Miranda Manie and Daschelle Cuke, two pastor’s daughters. Prayer time enabled the women to pray for their families, their church ministry, and themselves. One heartwarming experience occurred during one of the prayer sessions when a young female hotel guest requested prayer for her sister’s children.

The main presenter for the retreat was Linda Penick from the Southeastern California Conference. She addressed areas pertinent to ministers’ wives. Other inspiring presentations were made by Lois King, the Atlantic Union Conference Shepherdess coordinator and adjunct professor at Atlantic Union College, and Roseclaire Bulgin, first lady of the Roxbury church in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Included in the full program was time for leisurely walks around placid and beautiful Lake George and Sunday morning ride in the Sagamore horse-drawn carriage. From many accounts, those in attendance enjoyed the experience and left Sagamore with wonderful memories and a closer bond and look forward to the next retreat.

Elfreda Blue
Shepherdess Club president
Northeastern Conference
Final Events DVDs a Big Hit at the Mall

Members from the South Berwick Fellowship were able to assist in the Portland area meetings conducted by Ernestine Finley in October 2007. In only four nights or 12 hours, we were able to give out 300 Final Events DVDs to shoppers at the Maine Mall in South Portland. Many individuals from around the country and the world took advantage of this free offer.

On one occasion a lady from Bulgaria gladly accepted a DVD when she found out it was in her native language. One of the most interesting stories was about the president of the third largest company in the world which makes semi-conductor machines. He was in Portland on business. Oscar Beijert, a Christian, was amazed by our outreach and took DVDs provided by the South Berwick Fellowship back to his family.

The Holy Spirit is calling people from all walks of life. May we be faithful in sharing Jesus in the marketplace.

John Hersom, lay pastor
South Berwick Fellowship
Happy to Be a Seventh-day Adventist

Three years ago, Jo Salisbury stopped at our community center in Norridgwock, Maine, for two reasons; she had clothing to donate and she was in need of additional clothes. After a short visit, we learned that her family was looking for a church to attend and a Christian school for their little girl. We had both—a welcoming church and an accredited Christian school.

Jo’s visits were frequent and welcoming. That fall she enrolled little Nicole in pre-Kindergarten. Nicole’s teacher quickly realized the opportunity to witness to this family. “I belonged to two different denominations, and there was always something missing,” said Jo. It wasn’t long before Jo was ready and excited to be baptized. She attended camp meeting and she and her husband attended all functions at Camp Lawroweld where they made many new friends. Still, Randy wasn’t quite ready to join her in her faith.

Jo announced that she wanted to be baptized and set a date of September 15, 2007. She said, “After my baptism, I will wear a shirt that says, I am a Seventh-day Adventist.” Her statement stuck in my mind. Jo couldn’t wait for her baptismal day to come. She prayed that it would be a sunny day that she could share with friends and family. But on the morning of her baptism it began to rain.

Pastor Disch invited her family to join him on the platform because he had some news to share with the congregation. He announced that Randy had decided to join his wife in baptism!

Randy said that he had been at our school’s vegetable stand, Country Cupboard, that week with nothing to do or read except some of our church’s flyers. God used that time to convict him of some of the issues with which he had been battling. Jo had absolutely no clue about any of this.

As she stood in the water, Randy stepped up to the piano and began to play, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine.” As the final notes were played on the piano, Jo noticed that the sun had begun to shine brightly. She knew that was nothing short of another miracle.

What a precious family God has brought into our lives.

Bette Luther,
communication correspondent
Norridgwock church

Northern New England Conference invites you to the 4th Annual Women’s Ministries Spring Retreat

April 25-27, 2008
Grand Summit Resort Hotel
Mount Snow, Vermont

“Lemons to Lemonade”

Rates per person:
Double, Triple, and Quadruple (4) $195.00 if received by March 17
Single Occupancy $295.00 if received by March 17
No onsite registrations.
Must pre-register!
No registrations accepted after April 8, 2008

For more information or questions call (207) 797-3760 ext. 27 or go to our Web site: www.nnec.org.

“I belonged to two different denominations, and there was always something missing”
The information below highlights some of the Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries activities that took place in the fall 2007. Please visit our Web site at www.snecyouth.org to join us for our 2008 events.

**It's Time Youth Rally**
- It's Time Youth Rally was held on September 7-8, 2007, in Machlan Auditorium.
- The guest speaker was Israel Mora, a SNEC-sponsored pastor studying at Andrews University. Pastor Mora took the youth through a journey of commitment by using the story of Joseph and highlighted points from the storyline that are still pertinent to today’s youth culture such as friendships, commitment, sexuality, and a personal relationship with God.
- More than 200 youth attended the rally.
- Youth had the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings on a board at the entrance of the auditorium.

**Pathfinder Fall Camporee**
(September 14-16, 2007)
- Guest speaker Pastor Abiezer Rodriguez, Puerto Rican Union youth director, emphasized the need to stand up for Jesus and believe in God’s commitment to provide what we need.
- Friday night’s program kicked off with a special drum corps presentation by the Clinton Amazon Pathfinder Club followed by a flag parade ceremony.
- On Sabbath morning Pastor Rodriguez made a call for Pathfinders and staff to dedicate their lives to serving God. The corridors were bursting with Pathfinders and staff.
- “This has been the best Southern New England Conference Camporee that I’ve been to. The speaker was great, the activities were great, and the kids had a wonderful time”—Wanderlei Cunha, Clinton Amazon Pathfinder Club director.
- On Sabbath afternoon Pathfinders participated in events that challenged them spiritually, mentally, and physically. One of the highlights was the wild animal presentation where Pathfinders had the opportunity to pet a baby alligator.

**Adventurer Fun Day**
(September 23, 2007)
- More than 400 Adventurers and staff traveled from all parts of the conference to attend the annual Adventurer Fun Day.
- The event was held at Davis Farmland in Sterling, Massachusetts. Davis Farmland is a unique place where children, along with their families, are given the opportunity to learn about endangered domestic farm animals as well as feed and pet them.
- Another highlight of the day was having the chance to see, up-close and personal, several birds of prey, such as the barn owl, peregrine falcon, turkey vulture, and the great Bald Eagle.

*Artur Preuss, assistant youth director
Southern New England Conference*
School Reflections . . .

It seems like only yesterday I was walking with my mom and dad to my first day of school at Browning elementary. I look back on my years at a Christian school and realize how greatly I have been blessed.

After spending 13 years in Browning/SLA, I know this school like the back of my hand. In kindergarten you eat chicken soup with rice as you learn the months of the year, third-graders have the privilege of dissecting owl pellets, and in eighth grade you get to leave your elementary years behind and enter the threshold of high school.

As I look back at my education, the things that pop out at me definitely have to do with Jesus. Yes, learning about the anatomy of the human body, algebra, and the table of elements is very important, but in my opinion, having a daily education of the Bible is more important.

Browning and SLA have done what no other school could do for a student. My teachers have taught me many valuable life lessons. My personality and character have been shaped by these teachings.

This school has provided so many opportunities for me. Performing with Vocé (the choir) has given me many priceless lessons. Sharing our love for God with an audience is an indescribable experience.

Now, as I prepare for my college experience, I can be sure that I am ready. I learned my multiplication tables and my alphabet, but most of all I came to know Christ.

Arielle Cady ’07 was a senior at South Lancaster Academy when she wrote this.

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!

First Springfield Holds Special Baby Dedication Service

The First Springfield church held a special service this past fall, dedicating some of its youngest members.

Four families participated with their babies and children. They included: Denise and Robert Smus with their two children, Robert Alan, seven, and Racheal Anne, five; Kristen Hatfield and Datu Joseph with Davine Richard, one; Frank and Anna Kilcoyne with Joshua Aaron, three months; and Jason and Jinsil Maloney with the youngest member, Danielle Sangah, three weeks.

The afternoon program was filled with parents and families dedicating songs, Scripture, and poems to their little ones. Since former pastor Paul Wasmer had been there when some of the births took place, it seemed only natural to ask him to return to perform the dedication service. He shared the story of little Samuel when Hannah brought him to the temple.

The first day of September will always be a special day for these families as they reflect on this memorable and very special time with our church family.

Luisa Cabana, children’s ministries coordinator
First Springfield church

Arielle Cady reflects on her time at Browning elementary and South Lancaster Academy.
Kenya: Les employés de l’université adventiste sont évacués alors que le conflit national continue

Des rassemblements politiques sont attendus pour inciter à la violence; les étudiants adventistes sont bloqués en Ouganda

Le 6 janvier dernier, les dirigeants de l’église ont fait évacuer à Nairobi les 280 étudiants, membres du personnel et employés internationaux de l’université adventiste de l’Afrique de l’Est de Baraton. La semaine dernière, plus d’une centaine de membres du personnel avaient déjà trouvé refuge dans un poste de police local, suite à la violence suscitée par les résultats contestés des élections au Kenya.

Pendant le week-end, les responsables de l’église adventiste en Afrique de l’Est et du Centre ont obtenu, de la part de la Conférence Générale à Silver Spring dans le Maryland (Etats-Unis), l’argent nécessaire pour évacuer l’université vers la capitale du pays, où la situation est plus sûre.

La situation à Nairobi s’est améliorée: la plupart des bureaux sont ouverts et le système de transport de la ville fonctionne, mais “les choses ne sont pas revenues à la normale,” a déclaré Geoffrey Mbwana, président de la Division de l’Afrique de l’Est et du Centre de l’église.

Bien que les tensions ethniques aient diminuées durant le week-end, les dirigeants nationaux et les dirigeants de l’église prévoient que la violence va s’intensifier à nouveau lorsque les leaders de l’opposition vont contester le deuxième mandat du président Mwai Kibaki. G. Mbwana explique que le transfert du personnel et des étudiants a été envisagé afin d’anticiper le conflit, alors qu’une série de rassemblements politiques est prévue dans tout le pays pour ce début de semaine.

G. Mbwana affirme: “Bien-sûr, nous prions pour que les rassemblements aient lieu dans le calme et la paix, mais nous faisons attention à tout.”

Le 4 janvier, les dirigeants de l’église ont réitéré leur appel à la modération et réconciliation nationale dans une déclaration de presse publiée par l’Union de l’Afrique de l’Est. Cette déclaration faisait écho à un appel à mettre fin à la violence publié la semaine dernière par le secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence Générale, Matthew A. Bediako.

La déclaration disait: “La responsabilité de protection et de maintien de la paix repose sur chacun de nous.” Elle conseillait aussi à Mr Kibaki et à l’opposition, Raila Odinga, d’entamer des négociations “honnêtes et sans détours.”

La déclaration disait aussi: “Il devraient assurer la direction du pays, en cette période sombre, en menant ensemble un dialogue ouvert et honnête, pour trouver une solution durable à cette impasse. Rappelons-nous que ce pays est plus grand que nous tous.”

L’Agence adventiste d’aide et de développement au Kenya apporte une aide alimentaire d’urgence et des fournitures médicales aux familles déplacées, en coordination avec les autres associations humanitaires présentes dans le pays.

Pendant ce temps, les dirigeants de l’église au Kenya œuvrent pour aider un groupe d’étudiants adventistes kényans à quitter le Rwanda pour revenir dans leur pays. D’après G. Mbwana, bien que certaines routes aient rouvertes, la plupart restent fermées. Les dirigeants de l’église ont fait parvenir du ravitailllement et des produits de première nécessité aux étudiants, notamment des tentes, alors qu’ils sont tous bloqués à Kampala en Ouganda.

Elizabeth Lechleitner, assistant editorial
Adventist News Network
7 January 2008
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

Un dirigeant adventiste lance un appel au calme au Kenya

Dans le conflit sur les élections nationales, la violence ethnique touche les institutions de l’église; la foule encercle l’université adventiste du Kenya

Les adventistes du septième jour ont rejoint la communauté internationale en exprimant leur préoccupation à propos de la violence au Kenya. On rapporte que cette violence a fait 300 morts et 100,000 déplacés à la suite des conflits sur les élections présidentielles.

Dans une déclaration le 3 janvier dernier, le secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence Générale, Matthew A. Bediako, a appelé “les dirigeants politiques, les responsables des communautés religieuses, les leaders traditionnels et les personnes pacifiques du Kenya, à se retrouver pour trouver des solutions pour promouvoir la réconciliation.” Cet appel sera retransmis à la télévision sur la chaîne de l’église, Hope Channel.

“M. Bediako a déclaré: “Recourir à la violence ne fait que des victimes, dont de nombreux enfants innocents. En tant qu’église chrétienne, nous exhortons tous les kényans à apprécier la solidarité et à placer les principes bibliques de pardon, de paix et de réconciliation au-dessus des loyautés ethniques.”

Il a aussi appelé les dirigeants et membres adventistes à être des exemples en matière de promotion de l’unité.


Selon USA Today, un responsable kényan a dit que la violence n’avait touché que 3 % des 34 millions de personnes que compte le Kenya.

M. Bediako ajoute: “En tant que communauté religieuse, nous croyons beaucoup en la prière. Nous invitons nos frères et sœurs de par le monde à amener les kényans devant le trône de Dieu, ainsi que les autres régions du monde où il y a des crises. Nous prions pour que le calme revienne au Kenya et dans le monde entier.”

Le Kenya compte plus de 560,000 adventistes qui se réunissent dans 3,500 congrégations.

Ansel Oliver, assistente directeur
Adventist News Network
3 January 2008
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

Quoi de neuf?
Bermuda Abre Sus Puertas a la Obra Hispana

Al principio del siglo 16 (1503, según algunos historiadores) un explorador español llamado Juan de Bermudez descubrió un grupo de islas en el océano Atlántico en la costa este de los Estados Unidos. Bermudez no trató de llegar a estas islas inhabilitadas porque las mismas estaban rodeadas de unos arrecifes peligrosos.

Durante la siguiente década, exploradores de otros países llegaron a las islas, algunos de ellos porque sus barcos fueron destrozados por los arrecifes que rodeaban las islas. Entre ellos hubo un grupo de marineros portugueses que llegaron a las islas en el 1543. Sin embargo, ninguno de ellos decidió habitar las islas en ese momento.

En el 1609 un grupo de británicos que viajaba de Plymouth hasta Jamestown, Virginia navegando en la embarcación llamada “Aventura del Mar” (Sea Venture), una de nueve embarcaciones de la Compañía de Londres y piloteada por el caballero George Somers, fue separada del resto de la tropa durante una tormenta. Su naufragio los llevó hasta la isla en donde tuvieron que quedarse por diez meses.

El caballero George envió reportes a Inglaterra los cuales estimularon gran interés por las islas y en 1612 el Rey Jaime extendió los estatutos de la Compañía Virginia para incluir las islas. Más tarde ese mismo año, 60 colonizadores británicos llegaron a la isla y fundaron el pueblo de St. George, el poblado Inglés más antiguo de el hemisferio occidental.

Esta es solo una parte de la historia de Bermuda, la otra parte de la historia está siendo escrita hoy mientras usted lee este artículo. Entre los miembros de la iglesia adventista del séptimo día en Bermuda, hay varios hispanos los cuales han sido llamados y retados por el Espíritu Santo a trabajar por la comunidad hispana en este lugar.

Como resultado, seis mujeres, de diferentes iglesias, se han unido y han iniciado un ministerio dentro de la iglesia el cual han llamado “Ministerio Hermandad.” Esta iniciativa ya está dando resultados—ellas están visitando a personas y estudiando la Biblia con ellos.

Eileen King, Loida Rojas-Ratteray, Isis Guerrero-Wellman, Katiouska Guerrero-Durrant, Sandra Stowe, y Erika Hinds son las valientes mujeres que han comenzado esta iniciativa de alcanzar a la comunidad hispana en Bermuda. Todas ellas son profesionales. Todas excepto una están casadas y están dedicando su tiempo para predicar el evangelio a sus compañeros hispanos. Agradecemos a sus esposos por el apoyo incondicional que le han brindado.

Se estima que la comunidad hispana en Bermuda es de casi 1,500 personas. Muchos de ellos necesitan ayuda con traducciones en los hospitales y las cortes, mientras aprenden inglés y con otras necesidades. El “Ministerio Hermandad” esta tratando de suplir estas necesidades y al mismo tiempo alcanzarlas para Cristo. Oremos por esta iniciativa que quiere alcanzar a los hispanos en Bermuda.

Jeffrey Brown, presidente de la asociación de Bermuda, derecha, saluda a Dionisio Olivo, vice presidente de el Ministerio Hispano de la Unión de Atlántico.

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Não se esqueça que em 28-30 de março vai ser realizado o Festival de Leigos Diga ao Mundo.

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Alvin Kibble ’67
Vice President
North American Division

Sabbath Morning Speaker
Jere Patzer ’69
President
North Pacific Union Conference

Thursday evening: elegant banquet with a European menu prepared by AUCs culinary arts instructors and students.

Friday: a variety of activities which includes an historical tour with David Knott; a health/cooking class; a CEU class for nurses.


Sabbath afternoon: the Honor Classes will meet in Chan Shun Dining Commons for pictures and reminiscences; the Art department and its directors, Maria ’75 and Wayne Hazen ’75, will sponsor an exhibit in the Mabel Bartlett Gallery.

Eugene “Pete” Christoph ’52 has been selected as an Alumnus of the Year. Additional names may be submitted for this or for the Rose Bush or Living Legends honors to the Office for Advancement at the college.

Ed Collins ’82, Alumni Association President
SONscreen Film Festival Hosts Sixth Film Event

SONscreen Film Festival is hosting its sixth annual event on April 10-12. Previously, the festival has been held in various parts of the country, including California, Texas, and Florida. Now, organizers have made Simi Valley, California, the official home of the festival. In 2006 SONscreen was welcomed by Adventist Media Productions (AMP Studios), giving them the opportunity to utilize the state-of-the-art facility for the festival event. This partnership has opened the door for the festival to be an even more outstanding experience for those who attend.

Upcoming festival activities include outstanding film screenings each evening by talented Adventist/Christian filmmakers from around the nation and the global community. This year’s workshops will cover screenwriting, secrets of great cinematography, and the art of capturing the story through documentary filmmaking. Sabbath afternoon’s panel discussion is entitled “Behind the Scenes: The Gospel in the Trenches of Hollywood.” A panel of Christian experts in the field will explore what it is like to work outside of the spotlight in Hollywood.

“We take pride in the fact that many SONscreen alumni have gone on from our festival into other film festival arenas and have won various accolades for their films. These alumni include students from Southern Adventist University, whose film Secret of the Cave received the Crystal Heart Award at the Heartland Film Festival, and now the film is in national store chains such as Blockbuster, Walmart, and Best Buy,” said Stacia D. Wright, festival producer.

For more information, visit www.sonscreen.com or call 1-866-766-3146.

George Johnson, Jr., is the associate director for the North American Division Office of Communication.

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For more information or to register online visit www.nadei.org or request a brochure from your Pastor or Conference.

**Lodging:** Ask your conference if they are reserving rooms for the group OR reserve your room by March 14 at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel by calling 1-800-325-3535. Request the “Atlantic Union Group Rate” of $95 + tax per room/night.

**Registration Fees**
**Fees:** $129 by March 4; $149 from March 5-20; $169 from March 21-25. Meals are included. No registration at the door.

Your Personal Ministries Directors look forward to seeing you!

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