Tell Them What God Has Done for Us

Quoi de Neuf? Adventist Education Youth Connections ¿Qué Está Pasando?
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.html.

In This Issue...
The cover story this month features an article about Seventh-day Adventists in Shenyang, China. Read more beginning on page 4. In addition, the 2008 Caring Heart Award recipients are presented on pages 16-17. Our regular features include: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover photo showing a portion of the church in Shenyang, China, was taken by Evelyn Gilkeson.
Tell The Story — Effective Witnessing

Every Christian is called to witness and share their faith. This is part of our heritage as Seventh-day Adventists. But, the relevant question is, “How can we effectively do so?” By definition, a witness is “one who can testify to the facts bearing on any specific question because he has observed directly; also the attestation of the fact or facts involved”—SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE DICTIONARY, vol. 8, p. 1179.

Concerning his testimony about Jesus, the apostle John writes: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life. . . . That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us”—1 John 1:1, 3 (NKJV). Underlying this biblical truth is the belief that a witness must possess visible evidence, palpable proof, and audible experience. Here effective witnessing is gaining firsthand information and sharing one’s faith and experience as they relate to the word of God and Jesus, the Son of God.

Here is a model of witnessing found in the resurrection narrative (John 20:1-17, NKJV). In the fourth Gospel it is written that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus early on the first day of the week and noticed that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Peter and another disciple who is believed to be John. The latter went and saw the empty tomb, the linen clothes, and the handkerchief. However, Mary lingered longer by the tomb weeping. Finally, her eyes beheld the Savior whom she mistook for a gardener. And Jesus said to her: “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” (vs. 14). And the Lord called her by her name. She recognized the risen Savior and Jesus admonished her: “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” (vs. 17). She had new information and evidence that the two disciples did not possess. She saw the angels; and ultimately, she met Jesus who spoke to her and told her what to say. Bringing the glad tidings and the good news of the resurrection to the brethren was exciting to her. She saw Jesus. Effective witnessing requires that one linger longer and stoop, low even kneel at the foot of the cross. One must agonize and weep in prayerful contrition in the quest to know Jesus and the truth. One must stick around and spend more time with Jesus.

So, it was for the witness of the Centurion (Mark 15:32-39, NKJV). At first, he did not believe. But, when he saw new evidence he convincingly testified: “Truly this man was the Son of God” (vs. 39).

To effectively witness, our experience with Jesus must be renewed every day. Our understanding of Him must be deepened. Our words must be similar to our actions. Then, the old story of the Cross will become the new story of salvation.

Effective witnessing is not telling someone else’s story or merely repeating what is found in the Bible. True witnessing is sharing one’s own experience. What Jesus means to us, what He has done, and what He is doing in our lives. It is a newfound truth and a new way of life we are experiencing in Jesus that we are eager, happy, and excited to tell and share with others.

Louis Métellus is the Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries vice president and the Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries director.
Tell Them What God Has Done for Us

I was in China recently, and the visit was such a blessing! I returned with more faith, hope, and joy for having made friends with these wonderful believers. I also feel a greater urgency for sharing God’s Word and love with others because of witnessing their wholehearted dedication.

My visit to China was to form an exchange program and to take college students, or adult professionals, to learn Chinese and teach English. The universities were closed for a long weekend, so I took the opportunity to spend time with the hundreds of friendly college youth who came from different provinces to celebrate the holiday at the large Shenyang church. (Shenyang is in the northeast and has a population of about 7.4 million.)

The beautiful big reddish marble church, with clock tower and cross, glistens in the sun. Flowers line the steps to the doors and on entering the lobby, you look up to a grand chandelier. The biggest surprise is that on entering this formal building, as you step into the sanctuary, you are bathed in sunlight streaming in from a glass ceiling four stories above. This huge area seats about 5,000. Besides the large sanctuary there are two more chapels, one that seats about 600 and another about 900. There are numerous administrative offices and classrooms within the same building and during Sabbath, all are used!

At 4:30 a.m., the believers start arriving for prayer and they do so until 7:00 a.m., when the first Bible study begins. Then at 8:00, 9:00, and 10:00, respectively, they study such subjects as Daniel and Revelation, the life of Christ in the book The Desire of Ages,
or doctrines. The congregation takes studying seriously and the pews are designed so they can have their Bibles, notebooks, and other study materials on a ledge constructed into the pew in front of them. This table-like surface makes it easy for them to take notes and mark their texts.

At 11:00 a.m., they have the traditional service with the choir, congregational singing, prayer, and sermon. I don’t know Chinese, but the preacher preached with such power and clarity that the audience was totally engaged as they listened to her. I felt the presence of God. The Holy Spirit was there with power! My soul was touched by being there. At the end she made a call for all of those who had never been inside a church to come forward, and about 60 persons came up for further Bible instruction.

A curious thing is that they keep their Christmas tree up all year because it attracts those walking by on the busy street. People have heard of Christianity and have seen movies that include Christmas trees and churches, so they are curious and come inside and hear the gospel for the first time.

The speaker and her two sisters, had, as teenagers, copied the entire Conflict of the Ages series of books by hand and diligently studied the scriptures. At that time, Bibles and Christian books were not available and there was only one set of Ellen G. White books for a very large area of China. So, to study, they copied them on sheets of paper and bound them together with string. From two families has grown this huge multitude of more than 7,000 believers. This church appreciates the religious freedom given to them in this part of China.

In the afternoon there was a program with skits and musical groups of all ages taking part. These included: Pathfinders, children with their teachers, traditional Chinese instruments, a harmonica choir, a singing choir, and unexpectedly, they asked me to sing! I was surprised, but God blessed.

The church serves as a popular wedding site and on Friday there were seven weddings. On Sunday there was a big wedding for the son of a surprise, when after the wedding ceremony, we were chatting and he told me he was an Atlantic Union College graduate. Samuel, class of ‘85, sends his greetings to all and especially his professor, Dean Davis.

The next weekend the choir invited me to go on tour with them. We visited people in homes, high rise buildings, the suburbs, the hillsides, the condominium grounds, industrial areas, farm lands, and a forested country side.

To put the task of sharing the gospel in perspective, the United States population is more than 300 million; China’s population is more than one billion, 300 million persons.

Evelin Harper Gilkeson is the program director for University Language and Culture Association for Programs Abroad (ULCAPA).

If you would like to find out more information about Adventist missions visit www.adventistmission.org.
Northeastern Conference Reelects Officers at Session

The Northeastern Conference convened its second quadrennial session on Sunday, June 8 at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. During the session, the constituents received reports, voted recommendations regarding proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, and elected officers for the next quadrennium. All items on the agenda were completed at the session. Trevor H. C. Baker, Larry J. Bailey, and Ebenezer Agboka were reelected president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively.

Language coordinators are: Pierre Omeler, Haitian Ministries, and José Burroughs, Hispanic and Portuguese Ministries. Departmental directors are: Stacy Gordon, Adventist Book Center; Fitzgerald Kerr, Adventist Community Services; Leroy Daley, Health Ministries; Oswald Euell, Personal Ministries; Lawrence Brown, Sabbath School/Religious Liberty; Daniel Honoré, Stewardship/Trust Services; Mireille St. Pierre, Women’s Ministries; Jesse Bevel, Family Ministries; Nigel Lewis, Youth Ministries; Philip Wesley II, Youth Ministries associate director; Walton Rose, Ministerial; Sylvan Lashley, Education; and Stephen Williams, Communication. The Publishing/FHES position was referred to the executive committee.

The executive committee members are, ex-officio members: Trevor Baker, chairperson; Larry Bailey, secretary; Ebenezer Agboka, Sylvan Lashley, Walton Rose, Daniel Honoré, Pierre Omeler, José Burroughs, and a rotating departmental director; members: Winston Perry, John Williams, Parkinson Small, James Stewart, Stephen Carryl, Frank Blair, Deborah Felder, Godfrey Ansah, Leo Levy, Kevin Holman, Alicia Flowers, Rafael Solano, Raniurton Diaz, Salnave Gilles, Marie Claude Lacarriere, Sednak Yankson, Valriicts Bims, Michael Coleman, Kenneth Green, Kenneth Jones, Mario Augustave, Mirlande Pierre, and Betty Singleton.

Fourteen churches were voted into the sisterhood of churches: Agape (Richmond Hill, New York), Bridgeport Tabernacle (Bridgeport, Connecticut), Brockton Spanish (Brockton, Massachusetts), Capernaum (Rochester, New York), Central Falls Spanish (Central Falls, Rhode Island), Cypress Hills Spanish (Brooklyn, New York), Danbury Luso-Brasileira (Danbury, Connecticut), Mont des Oliviers French (Norwalk, Connecticut), Mont Moriah (Brooklyn, New York), New Brighton Community (Staten Island, New York), North Bronx Ghana (Bronx, New York), Smyrne French (Brooklyn, New York), Somerville Portuguese (Somerville, Massachusetts), and Voice of Hope (Brooklyn, New York).

Representatives from the Atlantic Union, North American Division, and the General Conference Auditing Service were present at the constituency meeting.

An important highlight was the announcement of the total liquidation of two bonds six years ahead of schedule. By liquidating the bonds (originally issued in 1998), the total long-term debt has been reduced by 60 percent and all liens on property owned by the conference have been removed.

In addition, several key changes to the Constitution and Bylaws were voted. Starting with the next quadrennial session, the Organizing Committee must meet at least 14 days prior to the constituency session to elect a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee must meet seven days prior to the constituency session. It is anticipated that this change will help to improve the length of time it takes to complete the agenda at future constituency sessions.

In the closing paragraph of his report to the delegates, Baker stated, ‘As we looked back across the past quadrennium and have seen how God has led us, let us also cast a wishful eye to the bright future that is Northeastern’s as we bring our lives in conformity with His will. For surely, ‘no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.’ (Psalm 84:11).’

Editor A. P. Davison is the Atlantic Union Conference assistant to the president for communication and GLEANER editor.
Encouraging Positive Thinking

Have you heard the expression, “If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time?” Even though the author is unknown, it was definitely someone educated in the art of life.

At most schools, students can gain the knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic, but in Adventist schools they can gain something even more—a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as they study His word daily in the classroom. One important text they will learn is Proverbs 23:7: “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

That power of positive thinking has transcended the universe as preachers have written countless sermons and books about it and scientists have studied its effects. If you Google “positive thinking,” you have 10,500,000 options to peruse.

Recently in an office worship someone read about the following study:

“Scientists wanted to find out if people’s thoughts have anything to do with their performance. So they asked a group of college students to try an experiment. The students were divided into three groups. All three groups went to the school gym, where they took turns throwing a basketball through a hoop. After each person had made 100 free throws, the scores were recorded.

“Next, the scientists gave each group specific instructions that were to be carried out for 20 days:

“Group A was not to touch a basketball during the time.

“Group B was to go to the gym every day and make 25 practice shots.

“Group C was also to go to the gym, and its members were to make 25 practice shots each, but instead of actually throwing the ball, they were to just think about throwing it through the hoop.

“After the 20 days, the groups were brought back into the gym and retested.

“The people in group A, those who didn’t do anything to improve their score, increased their score by one percent. Group B, those who practiced making free shots in the gym, did 24 percent better. (Just as the scientists expected.) But what surprised them were the results of Group C. After practicing their free throws in their minds, they improved by 22 percent, a score just slightly less than that of those who had gone to the gym and actually practiced their free throws.”

GUIDEPOSTS magazine co-founder and author Norman Vincent Peale wrote The Power of Positive Thinking in 1952 to inspire readers to create a positive change in their lives. As a youth, Peale claims, he had “the worst inferiority complex of all,” so he developed his positive thinking/positive confession philosophy just to help himself. The book, now translated into more than 40 languages with more than 22 million copies sold, has obviously helped more than just himself.

Each day our teachers have the opportunity to help students develop their positive thinking as they look to the future with hope, knowing that Jesus is in charge of it all and will have the ultimate victory.

Gary Swinyar is the Southern New England Conference superintendent of schools.

Go Where They Are

More and more of our young people are attending public schools. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of Adventist young people attend public schools at all levels. Even though we feel that Adventist education is the best education, and our hope is for all Seventh-day Adventist youth to attend an Adventist school, that is not reality.

Among the many reasons why Adventist youth do not attend church school, one major reason is finances. Many Adventist parents simply cannot afford the cost of Christian education, and it has been said by some, “I cannot afford to send my child to the Seventh-day Adventist school.” Other reasons for not choosing Adventist schools include the decision to home school, lack of proximity, or concerns about curriculum offering.

Because of this, those of us in youth ministries must be intentional about reaching out and meeting the needs of those in public schools. Usually, this column addresses local church youth leaders; however, this particular article is also addressing our pastors. The local public school may be the greatest mission field for anyone who works with young people. This may be a new thought, but look around you. How many in your church attend the local public school? This could be a new paradigm in your youth ministry. What can we do to minister to the needs of students attending public schools?

It is important to make meeting the needs of this special group a priority. Intentionally include public school youth in all church social and spiritual activities. It is particularly important to have planned activities on weekends. Public schools have many extracurricular activities on weekends, such as ball games, dances, parties, etc. Local youth ministries need to fill that void by planning wholesome activities of various types.

Pastors and youth leaders should look at the local public school as a mission field. Be intentional about your work in the public schools. Have a plan that might include introductions, observation, and participation. Take time to visit the schools and get acquainted with public school teachers and administrators. Offer them your services. There are ways in which a pastor or youth leader can assist the local public school.

Pray for local public schools and teachers. If God’s precious youth are in those schools, we want nothing but the best for them, so keep them in prayer. Young people who attend these schools are exposed to so much. We must ask for God’s protection on these students.

Local Adventist churches can write letters to teachers who receive special awards or affirm their work with the youth of your church. Write school administrators thanking them for their educational leadership.

Practice the ministry of presence. As you are able, attend as many school events as possible. Have representation there from your church. Attend concerts, games, etc., when it is appropriate.

Church members could volunteer at the local schools. Ask local administrators what volunteer positions are available.

There is scriptural support for ministry to our public schools and students who attend. Matthew 5:13-16 strongly points out that followers of Jesus must be “salt and light.” There is no better place to be salt and light than to have a presence in the public schools.

Bill Wood is the Atlantic Union Conference youth, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director.
Midland Heights Church Hosts Leadership Seminar for Men

The Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a Men's Day leadership seminar on Sabbath, June 7. Bramwell Osula, Ph.D., was invited by the church's Men's Ministries department to speak to the men of the church and community about being effective leaders.

Osula, an assistant professor in the School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship at Regent University, holds a doctorate in sociology. He is a frequent participant in and organizer of leadership training workshops and professional development seminars. His teaching, research, and consulting practice have taken him to areas in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Canada, the United States, and Europe. He has a wealth of experience that cuts across the arenas of leadership education, training, community development, and consultant management.

Commenting on the success of the program, Pastor Damon Hendrickson said, “There is no doubt that what Dr. Osula presented warrants a second visit to Bermuda. We, as men of this church and community, have truly been equipped to become better leaders.”

Milton O. McKenzie, Men's Ministries leader, said, “It was great having Dr. Osula in Bermuda sharing with the

New Beginnings Group Builds Relationships

It was a night to remember for the New Beginnings study group that meets every Friday. One night, they had the opportunity to witness for God, meet new people, and have fun. It was something they will remember for a long time. Each member invited at least two people to be on their team, along with their children. The first complete team to arrive at the starting point was the first team to leave to begin "The Amazing Race." Equipped with a flashlight, camera, and the first clue, they began their race around St. George's.

The clues required them to do various activities while giving testimonies, praying, and distributing tracts. They even had to share ice cream with a stranger and also roast marshmallows. At the end of it all, they returned to the starting point where they shared their pictures and experiences while having refreshments. Each participant received a book, and the winners received a book, medalion, framed picture of the team, and a gift certificate “valued at more than a million dollars, redeemable in heaven.”

The New Beginnings study group meets to build relationships with each other, experience the power of the Holy Spirit, make decisions for Christ, and enjoy themselves. Three members of St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Church facilitate the meetings at Sandra Brangman's house each week. This study runs for about 12 weeks and at the end of four weeks, the group has an event. The last event was a Matthew birthday party. It included a big cake with the names of each member, along with candles and party hats. With invited guests, there were about 25 people in attendance.

The aim for the group as they go through the colorful New Beginnings DVDs and study the Amazing Facts lessons is to find inner peace, a sense of life's purpose, and have confidence and understanding regarding the future.

The organizers voiced their enjoyment in witnessing the growth of each member. There are five registered members who come out each week. While the adults are studying, the children have their own time with Bible study at another location.

Elizabeth Stovell, member
New Beginnings study group

The Amazing Race winners are, from left, Beverley Pitcher, little Nijanae Pemberton, Georgiee Crane, and Patricia Sadden.
14 Students Baptized at GNYA Week of Prayer

Students and faculty were nurtured spiritually by God at the Greater New York Academy (GNYA) spring Week of Prayer, April 7-11. Alonzo Smith, Greater New York Conference family ministries and communication director, was the speaker.

Each day, the school took a break from classes to gather in the chapel. The students led out in the services, starting with the praise team and ending with closing prayer. Special music was presented by the choirs of the different classes, beginning with the seniors on Monday.

Dr. Smith spoke to the students on various topics, including grieving the Holy Spirit, sexuality, self-esteem, and self-worth. The students learned of practical ways to improve their lives. On Friday, the last day of the Week of Prayer,

Principal Lillian Mitchell prays with students who are about to be baptized.

14 students were baptized and many more recommitted their lives to Christ. The students who were baptized included: Marcia Brown, Jean Colín, Carmen Colon, Kadeem Dorvilier, Turquesa Elías, Yashmer Guillaume, Lawsanne Johnson, Shastri Lloyd, Cadesha McNish, Anthony Rigby, Malcolm Scott, Eunice Soljour, Arielle Sterling, and Julena Sylvan. Family members and friends came to support them as they made the best and most important decision of their lives.

As I sat and watched my classmates publicly commit their lives to God, I couldn’t help but notice the emotional atmosphere. A female student stood crying in the pool as Dr. Smith prepared to baptize her. Another female student’s voice seemed to tremble as she sang before her baptism. I’m so glad Greater New York Academy offered this opportunity, because students were yearning for this chance. The heavenly atmosphere in the chapel which all baptismal candidate sank into the watery grave was a moment to be cherished forever.

Bellina Phaeton, junior
Greater New York Academy

Greater New York Adventist Youth Impact Central Jamaica

Jamaica is known for its year-round warm tropical climate, beautiful white sand beaches, and great waterfalls. The island is rich in cultural heritage, exquisite tropical fruits, unique craft items, and a rich dialect to fascinate any foreigner. In the midst of all of this beauty and culture, however, is the need for help. Greater New York Conference youth, young adults, and adults heard the call from the Lord, saw the need, and gave up their spring break and funds as they responded with gladness and joy during the week of March 16-23.

After a brief welcoming ceremony at the Central Jamaica Conference headquarters, where a partnership of cooperation between the two conferences’ youth departments (Greater New York and Central Jamaica) was formalized, we headed to our intended destination— the Spanish Town Infirmary that housed individuals from their mid-20s to more than 100 years old.

After scraping and sweeping away cobwebs and old paint, we painted the exterior portions of the main building. Within minutes it was clear that the mission here was going to be more than physical labor. It became an opportunity to uplift emotions and impart spiritual cheer. Our given duty, among many, was to personally greet the residents each morning. The sad, dejected faces of the resi-
Our mission trip to Jamaica this year marks the beginning of many more to come in that country and other destinations around the world. By the time this article prints, we will have made our sixth trip to Cancun, Mexico (July 28-August 5) and our second to the Philippines (July 27-August 5). For more information, contact the Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department at (516) 627-9350 or visit the Web site at www.gnycym.com.

Jesus Christ commissioned us to take care of the less fortunate in our world. The Greater New York Conference youth have seized that commission and are running with it—with a passion.

Teddy Williamson
area coordinator
upstate churches

The Huntington and Antioch Seventh-day Adventist churches joined forces to present a one-of-a-kind youth event on Sabbath, March 22. The event, titled “Where You At?” was intended to be a thought-provoking program designed to get young people thinking about where they are in their Christian walk, devotional life, and witness. The rally was spearheaded by Lincoln Smith, who currently pastors both churches. The idea was an outgrowth of his continued vision of inspiring people, both young and old, to follow Christ and become involved in evangelism.

The rally featured a powerful speaker, Pastor David Newton, along with musical selections by several youth groups, and a skit performed by the Antioch AYS department. There was also a health segment conducted by Dr. Herbert Goulding. He spoke on the importance of young men and women honoring their bodies and maintaining their purity. He also surprised one of Huntington church’s young biology students by giving her a stethoscope.

The Huntington Police Department came out to show their support for this inspiring event. Pastor Smith had the privilege of presenting Captain John Palumbo and Sergeant Paul Mamay with a special gift for their dedication to the community in and around Huntington.

We pray that God will continue to bless the churches with zeal to see many people saved in God’s kingdom.

Oveta Foster
communication secretary
Huntington church

Pastor Lincoln Smith, left, presented Sergeant Paul Mamay and Captain John Palumbo from the Huntington Police Department with a special gift for their dedication to the community in and around Huntington.
Thank You. Thank You Very Much!

We want to thank the members of the Atlantic Union Conference, especially pastors, and alumni and friends throughout the nation and world, for remembering Atlantic Union College during the special days of prayer and offering last February 20-29. The executive officers of the six conferences and the Atlantic Union designated Sabbath, February 23 as a special Day of Prayer and Offering for AUC.

On behalf of the union and local conference officers, and the administration of Atlantic Union College, we share our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your partnership and for sharing in the vision that Atlantic Union College has for students today.

With some church remittances and other gifts still coming in, we report that the amount given totalled $409,954.02, of which $169,950.54 came directly from the February 23 offering.

Reason For Special Emphasis
Atlantic Union College’s primary accreditor, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, asked AUC to address its financial base and its relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In order to respond well, the college embarked on a new direction that emphasizes Christian leadership and social action in local communities. This shows the accreditors—and you—how strongly AUC supports the mission of the Atlantic Union Conference and prepares students well for professional careers that make a difference.

And, the period of special prayer and offering demonstrated how the Atlantic Union Conference supports the college. The union Prayer Ministries Advisory scheduled dynamic prayer sessions all across the union. E-mail letters went to pastors and head elders, bulletin inserts went to churches, alumni visited many churches and shared their testimony. A Prayer Hotline was established to pray for the special appointment that we, as chairman of the board of trustees and president of Atlantic Union College, had with the NEASC board on February 29.

The meeting with NEASC was successful. They were particularly impressed with the support of Seventh-day Adventists for the college.

You make a difference!

We also wish to recognize and give an extra “thank you” to those who are our active partners, praying without ceasing and continuing to send the college generous gifts in support of students or special projects.

Donald King, chair & president
Atlantic Union Conference
Norman Wendth, president
Atlantic Union College

“God’s Masterpiece”

Sally Tocherman
Excerpts of the May 10, 2008 Nurses’ Pinning speech.

“We pay tribute to these graduates of the A.S. program and the B.S. program by celebrating their accomplishments and achievements,” said, AUC nursing professor Sally Tocherman.

“These nursing students are here in this house of worship to affirm their commitment to the profession of service in helping others.

“According to the American Nurses’ Association Web site, there are 2.9 million nurses making a significant impact on health care in the United States. . . . So, class of 2008, are you aware that you have a commodity that is rarely seen in the 2.9 million nurses—a Christian nurse who is well equipped to deliver spiritual care to their patients?

“People you will be caring for want nurses who can boost their spirits and help them find inner peace, find a meaningfulness of life, and find hope.

“AUC not only prepares students for the rigors of nursing with course work in anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, and literally hundreds of hours of clinicals, it prepares Christian nurses. This is why our nursing program is different and you are a unique graduate.”
LANCASTER — Steve Weaver, 41, had a stroke at age 34, but a lay person wouldn’t know it today. He had Human Factor V Leiden. It is most common in young men in their early 30s and he had a blood clot that went to his brain.

Initially after his stroke, Michelle, his wife, then 28 years old, now 34, helped him practice basic skills to “work his mind.” At that time, she worked in a nursing home and talked with the occupational therapist who provided suggestions to aid in Steve’s recovery.

As time went by, Steve needed to do something to stay active and volunteered his services at Chan Shun Dining Commons at Atlantic Union College, 338 Main St., South Lancaster, under the direction of then Food Services Director Henry Livergood.

Weaver graduated this month as the first associate in science degree candidate in the vegetarian/vegan culinary arts program at Atlantic Union College. In fact, when the program was implemented two years ago, he was its first student.

His first academic year, he got straight A’s — and this is going to school and working 20 hours a week at Chan Shun Dining Commons. The next semester, one B slipped into his GPA.

Because of business classes in the curriculum preparing culinary arts students for business ownership and management, his goal now is to complete his bachelor’s degree in business. His dream then, is to open a niche business in the trades.

“He’s also great with customer service,” added a college staffer dining at the cafeteria. “He was trained elsewhere by a hard-nosed business person to give the customer what they want — make ‘em happy. And he does just that.”

Weaver graduated May 11, as the first associate degree vegetarian/vegan culinary arts student. Four other culinary arts students earned their one-year certificates: Scott Kelly, Nicholas Raynor, Betty Jo Salters and William Muir.

Stroke survivor and Vegetarian/Vegan Culinary Arts graduate at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Steve Weaver (right) received his diploma from College Health Services nurse Joan Mitchell. Mitchell is Weaver’s his mother-in-law. With years of nursing experience, Mitchell was also helpful to him in his recovery and rehabilitation.

Why I Chose Nursing

One of my aunts has been mentally unstable for many years. I have always been very protective of her and wanted to be there to care for her. I find that my nature is to want to care for others and promote wellness.

God has truly been a blessing in my life and in attaining my goals. After graduation, I will be working in an oncology unit in Washington, D.C. I also plan to further my education to become a nurse practitioner.
Good “Ole Fashion” Fun

If you had walked into the Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist School around 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, you would have witnessed church members participating in the second annual Mother’s Day pie auction. The evening started out with everyone sampling approximately 25 pies, deciding which one was worthy of their bid. After everyone had their fill, the bidding started for pies identical to the ones they had sampled.

The pie auction is hosted by the Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist Church social committee and the profits go toward a project of the committee’s choosing. Last year, a group of about 20 contributed more than $500 toward repaving the church parking lot. This year the goal was to raise $1,000 toward repairing the stage in the school gym.

The pies were so good that the committee was able to exceed their goal, collecting about $1,250! The social committee hopes Brad Marsa, a professional auctioneer and the brother of Kingsbury school teacher Ami Wells, is able to make the trip from Michigan every year to continue to help make this event a success.

Besides raising so much money, the pie auction is good old-fashioned entertainment. Everyone left with sore sides from laughing so much for so long!

Wendy Wells, social committee member
Kingsbury church

Cornerstone Church Honors Community Farmers

The Horseheads Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted a special service and dinner for the farmers of Chemung County on February 16. Ashur Terwilliger, president of the Chemung County Farm Bureau, shared information on what the organization does for the county. They are involved in much more than farming. They help to ensure that farmers are treated fairly and equally, and they help them to protect their land. Many of the bureau board members and area farmers attended.

Pastor Dustin Hall presented an enlightening service with slides showing how difficult farming was many years ago using the now obsolete tools with which they had to work. The program also included inspirational music, a catered dinner, and fellowship with our special guests.

Farming continues to be very hard work as farmers work hundreds and hundreds of acres of land from dawn until dusk. God has, however, blessed them with machines and tools to make their jobs a little lighter. It was a privilege to honor these faithful workers.

Donna Gordy
church secretary
Cornerstone church
Jamestown Church Ministers Through Radio and TV

Advent Radio Ministries, Inc., and its station, WIHR-LP, ministers to the Jamestown, New York, area. Originally licensed for 12 watts, the station has now been licensed for 100 watts and reaches a 10-mile radius that includes Jamestown, Bemus Point, Ashville, Lakewood, Stow, Falconer, Frewsburg, and several other small communities.

Recently, a letter was sent to the station with a donation enclosed. The listener said, "You can never know what a blessing your station has been to me...." Another listener called and said, "I love the speakers, I love the scriptures, and I love the music!"

"These are the messages we love to receive," says Jim Warner, the radio station treasurer and program director. "It encourages us to know that there are people, children of God, listening and being blessed by our meager efforts. It makes it all worthwhile."

The church’s television ministry is also growing. Sabbath sermons with various fillers are being broadcast every Tuesday and Friday evening on Cable Channels 3 and 19, reaching a potential audience of 60,000 people. We have had many positive responses and look for big things to happen.

Please keep Jamestown in your personal and corporate prayers that the Lord will build a hedge around these ministries so they may do their intended work.

Dan Kelly, head elder
Jamestown church

Bible Study Leads to Sabbath Discovery

Cynthia (Cyndi) Cooper has been a Christian for a number of years and was baptized in another church in the past. Through her own personal Bible study she discovered the Sabbath and began to keep the Sabbath alone in her home. When her sister, Helen Harper, a Seventh-day Adventist, moved back to Syracuse from California, she invited Cyndi to attend the Westvale church.

Cyndi has been attending Westvale now for about two years. She has attended seminars at the church, including Doug Batchelor’s Amazing Facts satellite meetings, Shawn Boonstra’s satellite meetings, and has also watched Keepers of the Flame (a video series on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church).

She also had Bible studies with Carmen Gonzalez, one of the church elders. Cyndi decided to be rebaptized on May 3 to publicly confess her faith in the truths that she discovered through her study of God’s Word.

Cyndi recently attended the ShareHim Evangelism Training Seminar at Parkview Junior Academy because she has a strong desire to share Christ with others through personal evangelism.

Bill Hrovat, pastor
Westvale church

New York Conference Annual Singles Retreat 2008

Camp Cherokee
August 20–24, 2008

Speaker: Pastor Melville Andrade
Pennsylvania Conference

Activities Include: Boating, Canoeing, Surfing, Sailing, Tennis, Hiking, Swimming, Horseback Riding, Basketball, and more.

Fees: August 20-24: $140 August 22-24: $70

Fees include all meals and camp activities. For more information contact Carmen Gonzalez at (315) 451-4017. Don’t miss out on a great time! Register now.

Name: ______________________

Address: ______________________

Phone No: ______________________

Mail Registration to:

Adventist Singles Ministries is active in New York!

at www.atlantic-union.org
Students Awarded for Leadership and Service

The 2008 Caring Heart Award Recipients

Jamie Kelly, a senior at Central Vermont Academy (CVA), shares the distinction of being one of only two students to spend 12 years at CVA. He is a quiet, steady student who is proud of his Canadian heritage; he was born just over the Vermont border. He is a sports fan and enjoys playing ice hockey. He made his decision for baptism in his sophomore year and has proven his ability to be a leader. Jamie is not one to follow a crowd or to feel the pull of peer pressure. He is not a young man who would use unkind words or a disrespectful tone. He has been an active part of every mission project during his academy years. Never one to say no to helping or to walk away from a need of any kind, it can be easily said that Jamie has a caring heart.

Ahmed Jallow, Jr., has developed into a dignified citizen and student leader over the last four years. He is respectful and has an excellent relationship with students and faculty alike. He has a passion for service and is active in school, church, and the community. Because of his honesty, commitment, and responsible behavior, he was selected to serve as president for the Adventist Youth for Better Living Club at the Greater New York Academy. As president of the club he has demonstrated to his peers what it means to be a servant leader.

He has faithfully spearheaded activities that have been a blessing to the community. These activities include hosting Adventist youth programs in local churches, preaching in student-led evangelistic series, conducting a food drive, Christmas caroling, and visits to nursing homes.

He is a model student—spiritually, academically, and behaviorally. We are proud to claim him as a student at Greater New York Academy.

Jonathan Jervis, a junior at Bermuda Institute, exemplifies a life of Christian service. He is polite, reliable, and consistently portrays a Christ-like character. At school Jonathan serves as a prefect due to his exemplary behavior, deportment, and kind nature. He is well respected by both his teachers and peers.

Within the community, he is a member of the youth Parliament where he learns firsthand how to render service from a governmental perspective. Additionally, Jonathan volunteers, assisting breast cancer survivors. Even though he also works part-time for pay, he gives additional voluntary hours to the same company as an assistant to his grandfather.

At church Jonathan plays the piano for Sabbath School and worship. He also voluntarily helps the elderly members of his congregation with chores around their homes.

Always seeking ways to be of assistance, Jonathan has been known to see people in need of help and has stopped and offered a helping hand. This young man is to be commended for his life of service and is a worthy recipient of this year’s Caring Heart Award.
Emily Sirbu is a senior at Union Springs Academy. She is the resident assistant (RA) for the girls’ dorm, the Student Association (SA) president, and active member of the National Honor Society, band, choir, and basketball team. She is a bridge-builder among the diverse groups that make up our student body. As SA president, she has made significant contributions to the school spirit of the students.

Andrew Pekar, a junior at Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine, went to India with a group from the Northern New England Conference in January 2007, where he helped with evangelistic meetings in three villages.

Andrew is a long-time member of the Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers. There is a significant time commitment to being in this group that witnesses throughout the local community, conference churches, and overseas. The group used a part of summer vacation to tour Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland in 2006.

This year, Andrew organized and planned a “30-hour Famine” at his school. As a result, more than $6,000 was raised for a hunger-relief organization called World Vision.

Andrew also volunteers at his local church in Brunswick, Maine. For years he has been a babysitter for children whose parents are attending the local chapter of Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meetings, as well as other church meetings. He also volunteers in his church, running the sound equipment and PowerPoint presentations for church services and vespers.

Chris Daum and Alina Archilla are the 2008 Caring Heart Award recipients for South Lancaster Academy. There was a tie in the selection process between these two, it was apparent that the “caring attitude” has been present both in their family and academic lives. The solution was to present each candidate with an award. It is wonderful there are individuals so strong that two awards were needed! Chris and Alina have demonstrated compassion toward others, were active in community outreach through service, and spiritual leadership throughout their academy years. Chris and Alina are both college bound in fields that demonstrate their concern about others. They have done a great job and we pray for their continued leadership in Christ.

Information on the Caring Heart Award recipients was provided by the academies.

at www.atlantic-union.org
Pine Tree Academy Seniors Leave Their Mark in Ireland

Seventeen seniors from Pine Tree Academy graduated on Sunday, June 8, following a weekend of memorable events. It was an extra special weekend because the class invited Claudiu Popescu, the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Derry, Northern Ireland, to be their guest speaker. The students helped refurbish the Derry church during their spring mission trip. The church, built in 1978 by Maranatha Volunteers International, had fallen into disrepair and needed a new heating system, sound system, kitchen, painting, and more. Church members, wanting to do some outreach in their community, were embarrassed at its condition. Now, with the students’ help, the church is in much better condition for church members to feel comfortable inviting the community for meetings and programs.

What made the biggest impression on the local church members in Derry was the fact that their children saw, through exposure to our seniors, that one can grow into the teenage years and still love and serve God. There are no Adventist schools in the area and the children have to attend public schools, so parents are concerned about the future of their children. Our seniors truly set an excellent example of hard work and love for the Lord that impressed even neighbors of the church in Derry.

We are proud of the class of 2008 and wish them God’s blessing and guidance as they pursue their careers.

Brendan Krueger, principal
Pine Tree Academy

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.html and click on “Guidelines for Submitting Articles.” We would love to hear from you!

Have you considered moving to the country?
We are inviting families, workers, and professionals to join us in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont, home of the Barre Seventh-day Adventist Church and Central Vermont Academy. We will assist you in your search for housing and for local jobs available with SDA employers. We have a growing, active church with Pastor Bob Rice and an on-site radio station (WJLP-LP) broadcasting 3ABN 24-7.

For information and assistance contact Ron Kowalkowski at mkowalk417@aol.com or call 802-318-8359.

Central Vermont Academy

“Back to the Roots of SDA Education In the Heart of the Green Mountains”

- Senior Academy — Grades K–12
- Now offering Mops, Preschool
- Unique Experiential/Career Education
- Strong Outdoor/Nature Curriculum
- Family Style Dorming with Supervised Weekend Activities
- Curriculum Integrated on Campus Radio Station WJLP-LP
- Activities: Mission Trip, Rock Climbing, Gymnastics, Skiing, Art Clinic, Outdoor Club and More

***Accepting Applications Now for Next Year ***

Central Vermont Academy
317 Vine Street—Berlin • Barre, VT 05641
Sherrie Wall, Principal Phone: (802) 479-0868
For more information call or visit our website:
www.centralvermontacademy.org
Northern New England Conference Treasurer Called to North Pacific Union

After ten years of service in the Northern New England Conference (NNEC), Robert (Bob) and Kathy Sundin are relocating in August to the North Pacific Union, where Bob will serve as an undertreasurer for the union and Kathy will continue her work as a dental hygienist.

Sundin and his family moved to Maine in 1998 when he began his service in NNEC as an assistant treasurer, and in April 2000 he became treasurer. Sundin, who received his undergraduate education from Loma Linda University and his master’s degree from Boise State University, has been working for the Adventist denomination since 1980, including mission work in Africa from 1983-1989. He was the treasurer for the New York Conference before his arrival at NNEC.

During his time as NNEC treasurer, he has also served on the boards of Pine Tree Academy (PTA) and Parkview Adventist Medical Center. Additionally, he has served on numerous committees and associations connected with the conference.

His wife, Kathy, has volunteered innumerable hours to her local church and Pine Tree Academy. She organized the citrus fruit program, supported the community orchestra through PTA, and assisted in the music clinic and served on the music committee at camp meetings. She has hosted many events at her home, where her hospitality and gracious ways were so welcoming.

Sundins’ daughters, Michelle and Janelle, attended and graduated from Pine Tree Academy and worked at Camp Lawroweld during the summers. Michelle is married to Ryan Williams and they reside in Canada. Janelle is a sophomore at Southern Adventist University.

The administration and staff at the Northern New England Conference prays for God’s promises to accompany Bob and Kathy as they move. May they experience the satisfaction of a job well done. They will be greatly missed.

Lynn Ortel, communication director
Northern New England Conference

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144th Bordoville Anniversary Homecoming

September 20, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Featuring Bill Knott
Adventist Review Editor

We are invited to come and join us as we celebrate the founding of the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vermont.

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Take a break from the busy noise of everyday life.
Set aside the “to do” list and your agenda and let the words of God sink in;
“Be Still and Know that I AM God.” (Ps. 46:10)

Northern New England Conference Prayer Ministries

Annual Fall Prayer Retreat
Join us October 17-19, 2008
at beautiful Camp Lawroweld

We will explore the depth of
Psalm 46:10
“Be Still and Know that I AM God.”

If you would like to go deeper in your personal relationship with Jesus, learn to listen to His voice, and become an effective Holy Spirit filled Christian, this retreat is for you. There will be breakout sessions, testimonies, singing, praying, and enjoying God’s presence.
This will truly be a one-of-a-kind Prayer Retreat Experience!

Don’t miss this Powerful Prayer Retreat Experience.

Register early before September 17 and pay $50.00. Regular cost is $65. Cost includes seminar materials, accommodations, meals, and a free gift.

For more info, including a registration form, go to: www.lawroweld.org.
Click on year-round events or e-mail Kelly at kellyv07@yahoo.com

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, August 2008
God Is At Work

I recently read the book EXPERIENCING GOD by Henry Blackaby for my doctoral studies. In it he said, “When you see someone seeking God or asking for spiritual matters, you are seeing God at work” (p.70). This statement made me get on my knees and ask God to show me in whose heart He was working. It didn’t take God much time to answer His servant’s prayer.

A short time later, I received a call from Oscar Osorio asking to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Of course, I inquired about his newfound faith. He explained that he had heard the Seventh-day Adventist message from well-known Hispanic evangelists, Alejandro Bullón and Steven Bohr, for many years. He was determined to stop running and make the decision to follow Jesus and join His church. What is remarkable about Osorio’s testimony is that he had been an Assemblies of God minister for 24 years.

I had the grand privilege to welcome and baptize Osorio on Sabbath, April 19, at the Lowell Spanish church pastored by Cirilo Vazquez.

Let’s continue to pray for Osorio and his family as he faces the future with hope in the blessed second coming of Jesus Christ.

Juan Borges, executive secretary and Hispanic Ministries director
Southern New England Conference

In A Class of One

What do you do if your grades and SAT scores are high enough to be considered for admission to Harvard University? If you’re James Harper, you at least give Harvard a chance. With perfect scores on the math and critical reading sections and a far above average score on the writing section, Harper, an honor’s diploma candidate at Greater Boston Academy, has reason to be excited about college. His academy credentials guarantee that any college admissions committee will give him more than a passing thought.

Since kindergarten, Harper has been a fixture first at Edgewood Elementary and then Greater Boston Academy. Talk with any of his teachers and they will tell you that he is “unique” in his perspective, “focused” in his approach, and “independent” in his quest for knowledge. Talk with any of his classmates, and you will hear admiration and respect in their voices for a friend who has always towered above them academically, yet worked side by side with them, often helping them to understand what comes so easily to him.

It became obvious this past fall that Harper might have something special going on when the school received word that his PSAT scores last school year (14th highest in the nation) had qualified him as a National Merit semi-finalist. Working with both of his English teachers, Harper wrote an essay as part of the next step to qualify as a finalist. While waiting for those results, Harper took the SAT I, receiving the highest scores for any GBA student in recent memory. Previous high scores came out of the class of 2006, with three students, all 12-year Edgewood/GBA students, scoring in the high 1900s. Harper’s score of 2270 puts him in a class by himself.

While he considered Harvard, Andrews, Southern, and Walla Walla, he ultimately chose Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Harper feels that is where God wants him to be with its unique academic approach and scholarship options. “I am 100 percent glad that I went to school at Edgewood/GBA. I love this place,” Harper says. “I believe in Christian education. I got a good start here.” While his current interest is architecture, Harper has many interests and hopes to find something that will help him to make a difference in someone else’s life, not just make a lot of money for himself. One could say he’s well on his way to doing just that.

Rondi Aastrup, principal
Edgewood Elementary
and Greater Boston Academy

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
Life After Retirement

Melvin Johnson graduated from Atlantic Union College in the class of 1942 as pastor of his class and has a master’s degree from Andrews University. Even though he is now retired, there is no rocking chair for Johnson, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday!

He begins his day with pushups and a long brisk walk. He faithfully follows Spirit of Prophecy’s recommendations for healthful living.

He grew up in the small town of Stockholm, Maine, where his family of eight was the only Adventist family. His godly mother’s prayer was that at least five of her sons would become ministers. Her prayer was answered.

Johnson’s ministry began in the Boston Temple Church as assistant to Pastor Theodore Carich, then on to Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and the last church in New England was the Springfield, Massachusetts, church. During his ministry he was pastor of several churches from the east coast to the west coast.

In his retirement he decided to move to Turner, Maine, to be close to his family. While there he was given the opportunity to assist the Turner church while continuing to give Bible studies. His efforts were rewarded with three baptisms.

He then moved to the Topsham area where he could be close to his wife, Virginia, who is in an Alzheimer’s facility. Virginia is a retired registered nurse and accomplished organist. She was very supportive of her husband in his evangelistic endeavors and his pastoral ministry. He is active in the Topsham church, teaching and serving as one of the elders.

As Johnson approached his 90th birthday, an opportunity presented itself to fulfill a desire that he had for many years: to create “The Reformation Tour.” He was warned that the trip might be too rugged for a man of his age, but he was prepared physically. He took many pictures and prepared a PowerPoint presentation that he has shared with various churches. It is a biblical message titled, “Standing Up for Jesus,” based on the book, The Great Controversy.

Since moving to the Topsham area, the Lord has blessed Johnson as he shares his faith during his early morning walks. As a result, he has several Bible interests, including one who is interested in baptism.

Johnson has one daughter, a registered nurse in Colorado, who was a member of the first medical team that started the helicopter, “Flight for Life” rescue program.

Pathfinders Camp Despite Rainy Weather

In the mud and in the rain, hundreds of Southern New England Conference Pathfinders set up camp at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, for the annual spring camporee.

The weather did not deter the campers. They were blessed by wonderful song services, sermons, and activities. The rain moved out of the area in time to let the sun shine on the camp all day Sabbath. It was a day filled with singing, worship, inspections, honors (Bats, Worms, and Indian Lore), and more.

The evening provided options for swimming, a film, music, games, and hanging out, allowing the Pathfinders a break before the Sunday morning activities. On Sunday they participated in organized activities, including a first-aid relay, swimming relay, a triathlon, and canoeing.

The camporee concluded with a flag-lowering ceremony and rain that arrived shortly after most Pathfinders were back on the road.

Einar Rom, pastor
Connecticut Valley church

Pathfinders were blessed by wonderful song services, sermons, and activities.

On Sunday, the Pathfinders participated in organized activities, including a first-aid relay, swimming relay, a triathlon, and canoeing.
A Londres, marche de la jeunesse adventiste contre la violence

Maniféstation dans les rues de Londres suite à la mort de 16 adolescents dans la ville cette année.

Samedi dernier, lors d’un rassemblement à Kennington Park, Mark Prince s’est avancé vers le micro pour s’adresser aux 5000 jeunes qui venaient juste de faire une marche à travers Londres en proclamant un message de vie positive pour lutter contre la violence dans la rue.

“Nous sommes la réponse de ce crime commis avec un couteau, vous tous jeunes qui êtes là.” M. Prince faisait allusion à son fils de 15 ans tué à coups de couteau en 2006. Depuis, il dit qu’il a choisi d’aider et de pardonner.

Il ajoute: “Si cela signifie que je dois pardonner au gars qui a tué mon fils, alors c’est juste ce que je vais faire, parce que moi aussi j’ai besoin de miséricorde, moi aussi j’ai besoin de pardon.”

Les dirigeants de l’église adventiste du septième jour disent qu’à l’origine de cet événement se trouve la violence qui a conduit 16 adolescents à trouver la mort par des fusils et des couteaux dans la ville de Londres depuis le 1er janvier. Ce rassemblement et cette marche n’ont pas été organisés pour lutter seulement contre la violence.


La journée s’est terminée par un concert de gala pour collecter des fonds, concert qui a eu lieu au Centre Emmanuel de Westminster qui se trouvait à proximité. Cette opération a permis de collecter 6000 livres sterling (soit environ 8000 euros) qui seront utilisés pour la création d’un centre LIVE et de programme pour la communauté.

Un de plusieurs groupes d’Éclaireurs Adventistes dans la marche du 7 juin.

Tessa Jowell.

“Nous pensons que les auteurs de ce type de violence ne regardent pas les nouvelles. Cet événement permet d’aborder le problème de la violence et de surmonter les obstacles.” Voilà ce que C. Stewart a dit à London Broadcasting Company.

Après cet événement, les responsables de la jeunesse de l’Église ont reçu des appels téléphoniques de mères à la recherche d’un soutien et d’une manière d’aller de l’avant suite à
Jóvenes adventistas de Londres marchan contra la violencia

Mark Prince dirigió la palabra el sábado pasado a unos 3,000 jóvenes reunidos en Kennington Park, en Londres, después de marchar con un mensaje a favor de la vida y contra la violencia.

“Ustedes son la respuesta para los crímenes violentos como este,” dijo al referirse a su hijo de quince años, que murió después de ser apuñalado en el 2006. Desde entonces, Prince dijo que ha necesitado el amor y el perdón.

“Si esto requiere que perdone al que mató a mi hijo, es lo que haré, porque yo mismo necesito misericordia y perdón,” dijo.

Los líderes adventistas dijeron que el evento estuvo motivado por la ola de violencia que dejó 16 adolescentes muertos en forma violenta en Londres desde el 1 de enero. La marcha no fue planeada solo para combatir la violencia sino para ofrecer una alternativa positiva. “Nuestro mensaje fue claro: Vivimos vidas con sentido,” dijo Colin Stewart, director de Ministerios Jóvenes de la iglesia en el Sur de Inglaterra.

La marcha de los jóvenes adventistas y de otros por las calles de Londres cruzó junto al Parlamento y a la residencia del Primer Ministro en Downing Street. Al cruzar el Támesis, los residentes de Lambeth salieron de sus departamentos y tiendas para aplaudir y saludar.

Ray Lewis, vicealcalde de Londres, dijo que Londres necesita eventos como este. Otros oradores destacados fueron David Cameron, líder de la oposición, y Tessa Jowell, ministra del gabinete.

“Sabemos que los violentos no miran las noticias, pero este evento ayuda a que el tema atraviese las barreras,” dijo Colin a London Broadcasting Company.

Desde el evento, los líderes de jóvenes han recibido llamados de madres en busca de apoyo luego de haber perdido seres queridos. “Hay muchas personas dolientes que esperan que la iglesia se ponga al frente de iniciativas como esta,” dijo Colin.

“Fue maravilloso,” dijo Katya Gariyeva, de 18 años, proveniente de Berkshire. Fue increíble el interés que mostró la gente.”

Andrew Leonce, un adulto joven de London dijo que “se sintió impresionado por la alegría y el mensaje positivo de los participantes.”

En defensa de la vida positiva, los jóvenes pasaron junto al Parlamento y la residencia del primer ministro en Downing Street, recibiendo el aplauso de los habitantes y funcionarios de la ciudad.

El día culminó con un concierto de recolección de fondos, donde se recolectaron 6,000 libras esterlinas (unos 12,000 dólares) para establecer un centro LIVE y proyectos comunitarios.

Victor Hulbert, Staff Adventist News Network 10 de Junio del 2008 Traducción: Marcos Passeggi


ADRA incrementa su ayuda a China y Myanmar

La Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales está brindando su asistencia a los supervivientes de dos catástrofes naturales producidas en el Asia Oriental a comienzos de este mes.

El 20 de mayo, los obreros de ADRA fueron los primeros en distribuir su ayuda entre los supervivientes en las Islas Pyinsalu, en Myanmar, dos semanas después de que un ciclón azotara la zona costera del país.

ADRA está trabajando con las Naciones Unidas y el gobierno de Myanmar para brindar ayuda de emergencia al menos 30,000 residentes de la muy afectada región sureña del Delta de Irrawaddy.

Más de 78,000 personas murieron y otras 56,000 continúan desaparecidas, informó hoy la Prensa Asociada.

Los equipos de ADRA, que viajan en bote, han distribuido alimentos para alimentar a unas 2,000 personas durante una semana. Los obreros asistenciales también han distribuido suministros médicos, sistemas de purificación de agua, juegos de cocina, mantas y prendas de vestir.

ADRA se ha asociado también al Programa Mundial de Alimentos para brindar unas 25 toneladas métricas de arroz, para los aproximadamente 50,000 personas desplazadas de catorce campos.

Los esfuerzos de respuesta a emergencias de ADRA en conclusión del terremoto de 7.9 puntos de magnitud de la escala de Richter en la provincia de Sichuan, donde se espera que unas 12,000 personas reciban asistencia directa. El personal de emergencia de ADRA, compuesto por cuatro voluntarios ya han coordinado la primera distribución de artículos asistenciales con la asistencia de las autoridades locales.

El número de muertes ha superado las 67,000 personas, y hay otras 20,000 desaparecidas, indican los informes. Esta catástrofe es considerada el peor sismo en China desde 1976, cuando otro terremoto produjo más de 240,000 muertes.

Más artículos de emergencia están siendo trasladados hacia el lugar del desastre. Los directivos de ADRA informaron que el estado de ánimo local aún era tenso debido a los continuos réplicas, aludes de barro y lluvias torrenciales.

Si desea más información, visite el sitio adra.org.

Adventist News Network Staff 21 de Mayo del 2008 Traducción: Marcos Passeggi

A Statement of Confidence in the Spirit of Prophecy

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

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

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

A Statement of Confidence in the Spirit of Prophecy

We, the delegates assembled in Utrecht for the fifty-sixth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, express praise and thanksgiving to God for His gracious gift of the Spirit of Prophecy.

In Revelation 12, John the Revelator identifies the church in the last days as the “remnant . . . which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (verse 17). We believe that in this brief prophetic picture the Revelator is describing the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which not only keeps “the commandments of God” but has “the testimony of Jesus Christ,” which is “the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10).

In the life and ministry of Ellen G. White (1827-1915), we see God’s promise fulfilled to provide the remnant church with the “spirit of prophecy.” Although Ellen G. White did not claim the title “prophet,” we believe she did the work of a prophet, and more. She said: “My commission embraces the work of a prophet, but it does not end there” (SELECTED MESSAGES, Book One, p. 36); “If others call me by that name [prophetess], I have no controversy with them” (ibid., p. 34); “My work includes much more than this name signifies. I regard myself as a messenger, entrusted by the Lord with messages for His people” (ibid., p. 36).

Ellen G White’s chief burden was to direct attention to the Holy Scriptures. She wrote: “Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light” (REVIEWS AND HERALD, January 20, 1903). She believed that although her writings are a “lesser light,” they are light, and that the source of this light is God.

As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that “in His Word God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience” (THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, p. 7). We consider the biblical canon closed. However, we also believe, as did Ellen G White’s contemporaries, that her writings carry divine authority, both for godly living and for doctrine. Therefore, we recommend:

1) That as a church we seek the power of the Holy Spirit to apply to our lives more fully the inspired counsel contained in the writings of Ellen G White, and
2) That we make increased efforts to publish and circulate these writings throughout the world.

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 30, 1995.

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

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
The North American Division with Mark Finley Presents:

**DISCOVERIES '08**

It's Not Too Late to Sign Up!

Live via satellite on the Hope Channel from Greater Orlando in a series of all new Christ-centered biblical presentations exploring the past, present and future!

Join thousands of churches from October 24 — November 29, for an incredible journey through the great teachings of the Bible featuring:

- Live Call-in Questions
- An Interactive Chat Room
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Register now to receive Empowered by the Spirit — a 2-DVD set of five sermons that will revive your church!

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For nearly 100 years, Florida Hospital has extended the healing ministry of Christ through programs and people that are committed to making a difference. Be a part of our vision to be a global pacesetter delivering preeminent, faith-based health care. You'll cultivate your calling with the national leader in faith-based health care, while living in one of the country's most celebrated Seventh-day Adventist communities.

From its renowned schools to its diverse culture, Central Florida is fast becoming the example for a strong Christian community. Grounded in integrity, compassion, balance, excellence, stewardship and teamwork, Florida Hospital extends the healing ministry of Christ through our caring and spiritual environment in a state-of-the-art-setting. You'll enjoy the perfect mix of mission, vision and values to inspire your spirit and make your soul smile.

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877-Job-4SDA (877-562-4732)
FHAAdventRecruiter@ffhosp.org

replenish... your soul.

Florida Hospital
The skill to heal. The spirit to care.
Atlantic Union Conference Sabbath School Department Presents

SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP BOOT CAMP

A Special Leadership Training - Retreat for Sabbath School Leaders, Directors, Assistants, Teachers, Secretaries

September 19 - 21, 2008
Camp Winniekeag

Training Certification Levels 1 & 2 will be offered. A diploma will be presented during a graduation ceremony upon the completion of the training program.

For more information or to register:
Atlantic Union Conference
Sabbath School Department
(978) 368-4333 ext. 3016
http://www.atlantic-union.org/ala_lcd09.html
or request a registration form from your local pastor

Registration Fee: $110.00 per person (includes lodging, meals, and materials) Cost is: $70.00 (includes meals and materials)

Sleeping Quarters: lodge rooms, 4 people per room. Cabins are also available with a capacity of 10 people per cabin.

Registration Deadline: September 2, 2008

Greater Boston Academy Alumni Weekend

October 17-19, 2008

For information contact:
Arthur Barnaby
Alumni President
afbarnaby@juno.com
(951) 359-4344
http://www.greaterbostonacademy.com/alumni.htm

South Lancaster Academy Alumni Weekend

October 10-11, 2008

Write to dlsabo1@charter.net
for more information or call
the SLA Alumni Office at
(978) 365-5225.

http://www.sla-browning.org/links-alumni.html
Sunset Table

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Atlantic Union College

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

Southern New England

South Lancaster Academy (SLA) Alumni Cruise, October 20-27, 2008. You are invited to join us as we set sail for our next alumni cruise on October 20, 2008. We will be setting sail from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on the Carnival Miracle, the very same ship we sailed on for our first alumni cruise. Our eight-day itinerary will take us to the beautiful Southern Caribbean where we will visit St. Maarten, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts. You don’t have to be an alumnus of SLA to join us. All are welcome. For more information please contact our travel agent, Gene Farrell, at Twin City Travel. His phone number is 1-800-698-6015. You can also contact me with additional questions at (978) 368-1667. Space is limited so make your reservations early. July Hilbert Harris, SLA ’65.

Out-of-Union


Oak Park Academy Alumni return to Gates Hall, Nevada, Iowa, Sept. 19-20 for a great time with classmates and friends. The honor classes are ’33, ’38, ’43, ’48, ’53, ’58, ’63, ’68, ’73, ’78 and ’83. For more information go to opaintowa.com

Sunnymdale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 2-5. Honor classes are ’48, ’33, ’38, ’63, ’68, ’78, ’83, ’88, and ’98. Activities start with the Silver Showcase, Thursday evening, October 2. For additional information call (573) 682-2154 or visit our website: www.sunnymdale.org

The Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, church will commemorate the 40th anniversary of its founding with special all-day services on Sabbath, Aug. 16. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited to participate. If you have any stories, articles, or pictures for a public display, or for more information, contact Denise Mayberry, 99 Brookview Acres Dr., Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 (denise-franklin@aol.com), (304) 218-6679, or Mark Hann, 250 Lantern Lane, Berrien Springs, WV 25411 (hann@ pennwoods.net), (304) 238-3888.

The Pioneer Valley Academy Alumni Association will hold Reunion 2008 at Camp Winnakeeg, South Ashburnham, Mass., Oct. 17-19. All former students, faculty, staff are invited. For more information write: PVAA, 7 Johniel St., Paxton, MA 01612 or e-mail: pvainfosvpn@aol.com

Atlantic Union College Business Department

6th Annual Golf Classic
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Sterling National Country Club
Sterling, Mass.

Time:
10:30 a.m. (warm-up)
12 Noon (tee-off)

All are welcome! Please plan to join us!

For more information or to register, please contact Chris Garerty at (508) 341-5032 or e-mail: cgarerty@auac.org. Proceeds benefit AUC business students.

You are invited to submit your ideas for...

- a theme
- a theme song (may be original or already existing)
- a logo

For the Atlantic Union Conference Pastors and Teachers Convention August 2-5, 2009

Purpose for the Convention:
Two of the primary conveyors of the Advent message are churches and schools—deal tracks. The goal of Atlantic Union Conference Pastors and Teachers Convention is to provide strategies and tools to fuse these tracks—churches and schools—so the gospel can be diffused with strength as these two conveyors join forces.

Suggestions for any or all of these components: theme, theme song, and/or logo may be mailed to the Atlantic Union Conference, Office of Education, PO Box 1189, South Lancaster, MA 01561 or e-mailed to athomassian@atlanticunion.org. The deadline is December 31, 2008.
CLASSIFIEDS

All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local community office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is $35 for each insertion of forty words or less, and 50 cents for each additional word. For all other advertisements the rate is $40 for each insertion of 40 words or less and 50 cents for each word over the 40. There is an 80-word maximum. Check or money order should be made payable to Atlantic Union Gleaner or Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The reproof of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved. Classified and display ads appearing in the Atlantic Union Gleaner are printed without endorsement or recommendation from the Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertisements, but in no case can the periodic personnel assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or for typographical or categorical errors.

EMPLOYMENT

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEeks a comptroller: The applicant should have at least a bachelor's degree in accounting and an earned CPA, three years of experience with computer applications relevant to accounting, at least three years of supervisory experience, preferably in field of higher education. Must be willing to contribute actively to the mission of the college, as well as show respect for the Seventh-day Adventist and AUC identity. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, resume, copy of transcripts, and three professional letters of reference to: Roberto Reya at auc.edu. For details visit www.auc.edu.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES seeks a treasurer assistant with knowledge of payroll, spreadsheets, benefits. Requirements: Five years accounting experience, bachelor's degree in accounting or finance. Contact Alcidean at (402) 488-0981, ext. 222 or priv@christianrecord.org.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES seeks Chief Development Officer. Requires positive leadership. Experience in a development program: identifying, cultivating, soliciting major gifts, experience in planning family giving. Experience in working as a team player, etc. Contact Alcidean at (402) 488-0981, ext. 222 or priv@christianrecord.org.

Jobs4MyFaith.com Want a rewarding career in Adventist ministry service or need the perfect candidate for your church, ministry, or organization? Then Jobs4MyFaith.com is your source for affordable, easy-to-use job matching! Post resumes, jobs, and do more at Jobs4MyFaith.com!

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ADVENTIST REALTORS GORDON & KARINNA MOORE of HOGAN REAL ESTATE "Serving YOUR Massachusetts Real Estate Needs." If you or someone you know are looking to buy or sell real estate call today: (978) 410-5248 or visit www.RealEstateNerve.com.

For RENT: Snowbird Haven, Clearwater, Fla., 2 BR, 2 BA, 55+ village. Furnished. Bring food and suitcase. W/D, $1,500.00 monthly Clubhouse, hot tub, heated pool, security. (727) 560-8023 or (334) 366-2823 Ask for Bob. Virtual tour available, e-mail: bobs360VT@gmail.com

Florida home: 2,639 SF, 4BR, 3BA, study, pool home in excellent condition. 2- acre lot with mature landscaping, Oversized 2-car garage, SS appl, new roof, carpet, paint. Near Forest Lake Academy and Markham Woods church. Quiet neighborhood with Wekiva River access. Owner anxious, price negotiable. Visit www.realtor.com (MLS. 04802010); or call (512) 358-1350.

DULUXE CONDO, NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 3rd floor, one block across street from beach. Fully furnished including 1 king and 1 queen bed, TV's, DVD/VCR, 2 recliners. Gated community, gated underground garage, elevator, 2 club houses, 2 pools. Available for few days to few months. E-mail: dave708@gmail.com or phone: (913) 322-9420.


ORLANDO, FL—Beautiful country home on 1.5 fenced acres. Kitchen/baths recently updated. Five bedrooms, 4 baths, 3554 sf. on quiet dead-end street. No HOA. Five minutes to Forest Lake Church. 15 minutes to downtown Orlando. Call or e-mail for virtual tour. (407) 342-2871 or julymanderson@charter.net (Owner/realtor).

ChristianHomeFinders.com (formerly Adventist-Realtor.com) is a nationwide real estate referral service, assisting church members and employees in the process of buying or selling homes. We have a network of over 300 Seventh-day Adventist realtors ready to serve you. Call Linda Dayen at 1-888-582-2888 or go to www.christianHomeFinders.com. More realtors are welcome!

VACATION ON KAUI, HAWAII—"THE GARDEN ISLAND"—Kahili Mountain Park is a scenic mountain getaway located at the base of Kahili Ridge. Just minutes from popular Kaaui attractions, the park has an assortment of 1-4 room cabins with sleeping for 2-6 persons. See pictures and rates at www.kahilipark.org. Reservations: (808) 742-9921.

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FLORIDA LIVING—WHERE THE LIVING IS EASY! Senior Community less than one hour from Disney/Beach. Ground level Apartments and Rooms for lease. Transportation/Housekeeping available. Church/pool/shopping activities. 3ABN, Hope TV. VACATIONERS—Fully furnished 2BR apartments. $457/night (minimum stay 3 nights) $300 or $540/week. 1-800-729-8017; (407) 862-2464, ext. 24; Web site: floridaliveingretirement.com; e-mail: JackieFLR@AOL.com.

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VICTORY IN JESUS by Pastor Bill Liversidge. A new book or 5CD series explaining how victory over sin is possible by embracing His death and receiving His ongoing life. Available through creativegrowth ministries.org, or your local ABC, or call (828) 403-0653 (East Coast) or (661) 827-8174 (West Coast).

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Lee’s RV City, Oklahoma City. Visit our Web site leesrv.com or e-mail: LeesRVs@aol.com.

SERVICES

SPONSOR A CHILD! $25 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing, food, clothes, and medical. ADVENTIST CHILD INDIA is an official project of Southern Asia Division. (403) 430-0476 www.adventistchildindia.org or child care@sad-adventist.org.

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AUC Mission 2000
Winter Get-a-way

Atlantic Union College’s Mission 2000 building program will be going to the island of Barbados to help build an auditorium for the conference and help paint a retirement home. Two and three-week trips: Jan. 1-19 or Jan. 1-23. Cost: $1,000 per person for three weeks.

We are trying to get as many people from the Atlantic Union to join AUC students in warm Barbados. Please contact Dorthea and Henry Livergood for more details (978) 368-8304 or dhlivergood@juno.com. If you cannot go, but want to help students to go, please send your check to AUC Mission 2000, Atlantic Union College, Office for Advancement, P.O. Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01581.
Atlantic Union Conference Media Union-Wide Offering
AUGUST 9 2008

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

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Leon D. Thomassian, Treasurer

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(978) 368-8353 – www.auam.tv

at www.atlantic-union.org

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