Atlantic Union
Women’s Ministries Convention . . . a Blessing to Many
Features

Cover Story: Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries Convention . . . a Blessing to Many

Advantage

Catching the Vision

In this Issue...

Women from around the Atlantic Union Conference traveled to Albany, New York, on the weekend of August 15-17 to attend the first Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries Convention held in 13 years. There was something for everyone and seminars were presented in English, French, and Spanish. Beginning on page 4 of this issue, we share a report on the convention themed “Feel His Spirit: Grow in Grace. Also included are our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The photos on the cover were taken by Karlon Cromwell, C-Well Productions, Inc., and Ednor A. P. Davison.
Everyone would like to be rich. What would you do if you inherited a large sum of money? You may say, “I will buy a new house in a gated community. I will pay all my debts. I will quit working and retire comfortably. I will establish irrevocable trusts for my children. I will invest heavily in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and futures.” However, as a devoted Seventh-day Adventist Christian, what would you say?

As we look at the world’s condition, nationally and internationally, we see that events are happening in rapid succession. The Bible tells us that these things will occur in diverse places before Christ’s second coming. Conditions on earth fall into five major categories:

1. Political—“And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . for all these things must come to pass. . . . For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom”—Matthew 24:6, 7. Look at what is happening in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Chad, Palestine, Pakistan, and so on.

2. Economic—“Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you”—James 5:2, 3. Look at what happened to the stock market in the U.S. and around the world; it lost heavily. The food and gas prices have gone up drastically. Real estate values are dropping. The Federal Reserve Bank made a surprise three-quarters of a percentage point cut in interest rate and a week later, it cut the interest half a percentage point more; a move to stabilize jittery financial markets.

3. Scientific Discoveries—“Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased”—Daniel 12:4. At the time of the end, scientific knowledge shall explode with such advancements as DNA testing, cloning, intricate transplants, and the creation of weapons of mass destruction.

4. Religious World—“That there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts”—2 Peter 3:3. The world has lost all sense of morality, decency, and godliness, such as same-sex marriage, lesbianism, homosexuality, and teenage pregnancy.

5. Physical World—“And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places”—Matthew 24:7. Look at the fires, tornados, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, and avalanches.

How long can this go on? In these days, when TV and newspapers are filled with reports of terrible crime, corruption, and violence, we are relaxed, comfortable, and used to hearing such reports that we fail to perceive the significance of these conditions. Looking at the world conditions today, where would you invest your treasures and future?

The Lord tells us that the way to riches is to lay our treasures in heaven. There is only one way to do that—by investing money in those things that will help get people into heaven. Earthly things will fade away, but heavenly things will last forever. It is said that “It is better for you to allocate than for you to accumulate.” The young ruler failed Christ’s test. Ellen White says, “He called upon him to choose between the heavenly treasure and worldly greatness,” but he chose earthly riches—THE DESIRE OF AGES, p. 519. Let us invest our treasures in heaven as we are admonished by our Creator, for the second coming is at the door.

Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and Trust Services director.
Evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence could be seen, felt, and heard throughout the weekend of August 15-17 at the 2008 Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, New York. Doreen Thomas, from the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York, agrees and says, “This retreat was very inspiring, uplifting, and gave me courage to go out and be all I can be in Christ.” This was the first time she has ever attended a women’s ministries convention.

“The vision for this retreat was simple,” says Charlotte Thoms, Atlantic Union Conference Women’s Ministries director. “Come to Christ as you are, experience His grace, commit through baptism, and share with the community.”

The event was dedicated to God at a reception on Thursday night, August 14, at the Empire State Observation Tower. During this time, the presenters were officially welcomed, the musicians were introduced, and they blessed the group with music—vocal and instrumental. The administrators and directors present from the union and conferences were also introduced. The theme song, “Growing in Grace,” written especially for the convention was unveiled by the song’s author, vocalist Angela Bryant-Brown. The evening ended with a prayer of consecration offered by the host of the reception, Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president. As the function ended, it was clear that if the reception was any indication of what was to come, those attending the convention were in for a spiritual blessing.

There was something available for everyone—in English, French, and Spanish. The seminars in the language groups ran simultaneously throughout the weekend. Thompson Kay, Grace Ashley, and Charlotte Thoms interpreted for the deaf. And a special segment was included just for teens. There were a number of teens present, and it was the first time that many had ever attended a women’s ministries convention.

“The delegation heard from such speakers as Carla Baker, North American Division Women’s Ministries director, Rosa Taylor Banks, Nicole Brise, Sara Orfilia Silva de Bullon, Kathy Cameron, Ginger Church, Carmen Griffith, Deborah Harris, Gillen Molina, Linda Penick, Carrie Peters, Marie Samson, Mireille St. Pierre, and JerMara Welch. These individuals, rich with a wealth of experience, delivered messages using the theme “Feel His Presence: Grow in Grace.” Rosa Taylor Banks, General Conference associate secretary, opened the event on Friday evening with a message entitled “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall.” She shared with the

Truly, I could feel God’s presence throughout the retreat. It has helped me to renew my commitment to God. I hope and pray I will not forget that His abiding grace is always with me and us, and that I am to extend that grace to others.”—Beverly Dieto, Amazing Grace church
women that there are two looking glasses—the mirror and the Bible. The mirror, she shared, will never lie to us; it won’t beat around the bush; and it will reveal defects giving us an opportunity to clean ourselves up. The Bible, she went on to say, is God’s great looking glass because in it we will understand who God is, what He expects of us, and what He will do for us. She reminded the women that they are a part of God’s great plan, that being who they are is not the result of chance or accident, and that their purpose is useless to them and to the world if it is never launched.

Sabbath brought a day full of blessings from beginning to end. Each presenter shared a different aspect of how to “grow in grace” and the musicians helped them “feel His presence,” through their musical presentations. The worship message in English entitled “It’s Hard Out Here for a Pimp,” was presented by Deborah Harris, CEO of Deborah Harris, Inc. She talked about the many “lovers” in our lives that are keeping us so busy that we can’t see Jesus. She encouraged the women to get rid of the unnecessary things that are occupying their minds and their time and really get to know Jesus who, through His grace, can take the biggest messes in their lives and make something of them.

Following lunch and the afternoon sessions, there was a baptism. Permission was granted by the hotel management to use the pool for this special baptism. The women, quietly and prayerfully, formed a circle around the pool. All activities on the upper floors of the hotel that were open to the pool area stopped. Hotel guests who were attending wedding receptions could be seen looking on as the baptism was taking place. Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union executive secretary, officiated, and Charlotte Thoms, Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries director, was invited to join him in the pool. Four individuals recommitted their lives to Christ through baptism that evening—Shavisa Tramel, Daisy Fairwell, Cleo Woodard, and Cornice Williams. It was a spirit-filled moment as singing and praises ascended heavenward.

The day ended with an outdoor concert at the Empire State Convention Center Plaza that was open to everyone. The voices of Adventist artists, Ysis Espana, Jaydene Williams, Tammy Vice, Christine Sinclair, and others rang out between the Capitol and the Albany Museum. The concert provided an opportunity to share God’s goodness with the community. In addition, literature was distributed during the concert.

It was a triple blessing for singing evangelist Christine Sinclair to have members of her family, representing three generations, attend the Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries Convention with her. “This was a very special meeting to me. Three generations of women in my family attended the event together. It was the first

“My experience at the Women’s Ministries Convention was phenomenal. I walked away with a sense of renewed spirit, believing that I need to stay real with Jesus and make grace, His grace, evident in my daily walk with Him.”—Karen F. Ottley Burnett, Lebanon church
women’s ministries convention for both my mother, Joan Johnson, and my daughter, Jaslyn Sinclair. That in itself was a blessing! The entire weekend was filled with special moments. My heart filled with joy each time I heard my daughter minister in music playing the violin. To watch the tear-filled eyes of my mother as I sang and as Jaslyn played was extremely touching. The messages brought forth by the various speakers were so inspiring! This first-time occasion of the three of us bonding together in Christian fellowship will be a treasured memory for all of us."

Throughout the weekend the Women’s Ministries directors from the conferences in the Atlantic Union and others were there to assist, as needed, to make the event flow smoothly and counselors were available for those in need of that service. Included with those to whom a special “thank you” is extended are Katherine Browne, Senna-Kaye Denham, Rosalina Frias, Loretta Gibbons, Kelly Holman, Alice Jacobson, Yvonne Knight, Lynn Ortel, Lynda Penick, Casmelyn Quicoy, Brenda Rhyne, Diane Rowe, Mirielle St. Pierre, Lydia Pelote Wright, and Gerald Penick, South Central California Conference president, who provided the music for most of the weekend.

The seminars culminated on Sunday morning and they did not disappoint. Attendees Joycelyn Phillip, Valerie Johnson, Carol Hanna, and Theadeen Dalley from the North Stamford Seventh-day Adventist Church in Connecticut put it this way, “We have been richly blessed and spiritually rejuvenated to return home with a new commitment to our Heavenly Father that we will grow on with grace to do His will.”

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

His name is Shadrach (like Daniel’s friend). I found Shadrach reading his Bible when I recently visited our church’s Hope for Humanity-Nhlengelo project in Africa. While the local children performed, youngsters played, and grown-ups visited, Shadrach told me of his dreams. He is attending an Adventist school. His father wants him to have every advantage. He told me of his dream of becoming a pastor and preparing others for heaven.

Her name is Prudence. We went to Prudence’s home with Mama Mawela, a co-founder of Nhlengelo. Prudence’s younger sister was not at home because she was at a medical clinic. Her sister has HIV/AIDS. In the side yard of Prudence’s home is the marked grave of her mother. Prudence has no family to turn to now. Mama Mawela reminded Prudence that she can’t allow herself to be sweet-talked by one of the local men, promising to love her, and give her food, only to leave her with a baby, and possibly infect her with the disease that has decimated her family.

As bleak as the situation might seem, Prudence has some advantages. She proudly showed us her school report card, which shows that she excelled in advanced math classes. Prudence went to school because Hope for Humanity (the new name for Ingathering) provided a uniform, which is the ticket to high school in Africa. Prudence dreams of going to college and becoming an accountant.

There are about three million people living in this hill country of Buchbuckridge where the Nhlengelo project feeds more than 700 children one meal each day Monday through Friday. The North American Division Education Department and some Atlantic Union schools raised money to give the children food for Sabbath and Sunday. Now they have hope because they have food provided by students in America.

After returning, I think of Shadrach, Prudence, and the children of Africa with their common advantage—Adventist Education and clear goals. I wonder if our Atlantic Union children have this advantage. I look in wonder at children who have parents, material goods, no fear of missing a meal, and all the electronic gadgets that are available. I question whether Atlantic Union children have the advantage of clear goals and the advantage of Adventist education!

My prayer today is for the thousands of Atlantic Union children who have so much, yet are impoverished by small hopes and dreams. My prayer is for Atlantic Union parents who dream of retirement and financial security, but miss giving their children the dream of heaven. My prayer is that “All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children”—Isaiah 54:13 (NKJV).
A recent study was done across denominational lines to determine what makes youth ministry effective in small to large churches. The book, Youth Ministry That Transforms, was published as a result of that study.

One valuable concept that came out of this study is the importance of youth ownership. Does this sound familiar? As we reflect on the history of youth ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we are reminded that it was the youth who started the church. James White was a young adult in his twenties, Ellen Gould Harmon White was a teenager, John Nevins Andrews, a junior, John Loughborough, a teen, Uriah and Anne Smith were both in their early twenties, and the list goes on. (The AY Story, p. 1) These youth and young adults had ownership in their fledgling church. If it were not for these youth, where would we be today?

James White recognized a need and sought to solve it in a manner he knew best—publish. So he began a special magazine for youth called The Youth’s Instructor, which was the forerunner, of course, for Insight magazine. By the way, if your church is not supplying your youth with Insight, they should! It is a great magazine for youth and they also have an awesome Web site.

It was teenagers Luther Warren (14) and Harry Fenner (17) who had the honor of establishing the first Adventist Young People’s Society in 1879, conceived from a desire to help their young friends experience spiritual birth or revival (The AY Story, p. 2).

One more interesting and enlightening historical fact. It was the local congregation in Hazelton, Michigan, that kindled or nurtured their desire to reach out to the youth. In other words, they had the support of the church!

In this recent study, youth ministers have long appreciated how enthusiastic young people are in their patterns of attendance and participating when they feel that they own the ministry. “Those who care will be there.” Ownership is the process of helping persons (youth) feel they have a stake in the outcome.

When kids catch a vision for the potential of a trip or retreat, their enthusiastic support practically guarantees that the activity will be a winner. When teens decide that it would be a great thing for a bunch of them to find creative ways to serve the elderly in their community or church, their ownership will ensure that leaves get raked and walks get shoveled.

Now, the question is, “Do your youth feel ownership of their Sabbath School, youth group, Pathfinders, young adult group, AY society, federation events, etc?”

We give ownership to our young people by involving them directly in the planning and visioning of the youth group and its goals and objectives.

Are the youth of the church represented on the church board or the youth council? To their credit, we have conferences in this union that have intentionally placed youth and young adults on their conference committees. The Atlantic Union has young adult representation on its union committee. Are the youth given significant leadership positions in the church? Are they involved in the worship planning?

A business formula was produced by a business management expert that can be applied to youth ministry. This formula suggests that the effectiveness of any decision (goal, plan, etc.) is ultimately related to the quality of the decision times ownership of those stakeholders (youth) who will be required to carry out the decision (Youth Ministry That Transforms, p. 296, 297). Successful youth leaders and pastors appreciate the fact that they cannot expect to be ultimately effective without the ownership of teens.

Ellen White, writing from Australia in 1892, urged the church to give ownership to youth by stating, “We want [the youth] to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth”—The AY Story, p. 3.

Let us all take that advice as we empower and give ownership to our youth to help win others for Jesus here in the Atlantic Union.

Bill Wood is the Atlantic Union Conference youth, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director.
Remembering Those Who Made a Difference

On a cool summer afternoon, Pembroke Seventh-day Adventist Church members met on one of Bermuda’s premier family recreational parks, Astwood Park in Warwick, Bermuda, for a “Watermelon” AYS program.

Approximately 50 people, from children to seniors, brought their fold-out chairs and blankets to listen and sing along with a few of the youth and young adults.
The theme for this event was “Remembering Those Who Helped Us Along the Way.” Dividing into groups of two, they spent time recalling the people who were and are instrumental in their lives. Some, with tears in their eyes, recalled days of being deeply poor and the sacrifices their caregivers made to ensure that they never went without. Others were appreciative of the values that were passed on and recognized just how much of an impact others have had in making them the person they are today.
The evening ended with a watermelon feast, with children chasing each other through the park, and some peering over the precipice where the water crashed against the rocks forming white foam that receded back into the sea.

The greatest part of the evening was the indication that everyone left with a sense of history—their history—and an appreciation for where they came from and a responsibility to help others find their way.

Ulric Hetsberger, pastor
Pembroke church

Young Adults Realize “It’s Time Now!”

On the greatly anticipated 08-08-08, while the world celebrated the opening of the 2008 Olympics, the Bermuda Conference Youth Department had an “opening ceremony” of its very own. The first-ever Bermuda Conference Young Adult Summit was held using a most compelling theme, “It’s Time Now!”
The weekend was planned especially for Bermuda Conference young adults, ages 21–35, to minister to their needs and create a venue for worship and fellowship. The Friday night program launched with an evening of heart-filled praise. The praise team led the charge, opening with a “good-old-days,” “remember-when” skit and rendition of “I Love to Praise Him.” The evening flowed with special selections, inspiring words of testimony, and a dramatic presentation that had everyone on their feet. As the guest speaker, Pastor Kymone Hinds, rounded out the night, the stage was set for the main event—the summit!
Early on Sabbath morning, the Young Adult Summit began with a continental breakfast. As the 100+ registrants flowed in, we officially kicked off with a few songs by the praise team and opening remarks from our youth director, Damon Hendrickson. After the atmosphere was set, everyone divided into three discussion groups. The “Live Chat” sessions focused on young adult issues, such as transitions, decisions, compromise, and dealing with life’s curveballs.
As we transitioned into our worship service, it was clear that this day would be special. From the songs that were sung, to the prayers that were prayed, to the word that was preached, everyone was drawn into the very atmosphere of worship.
Poetry clips were played throughout the day that called us into reflection, and the fellowship gave reassurance that there are many young adults among us who are seeking the heart of God. We were reminded over and over again that, indeed, “It’s Time Now!”
After lunch, we reconvened for a final “Live Chat” session where we discussed our views of the church: how it is, how it should be, and how we can make a difference.
Judging from the resounding success in this, our pilot year, we can only expect greater things in 2009. Look out for next year’s Young Adult Summit! You won’t want to miss it!

Kylah Allers
associate youth director
Bermuda Conference
GNYC Office of Education Launches Web Site

The Greater New York Conference Office of Education recently launched its first-ever Web site using the domain name gnyced.org. Users are now able to access resources and information pertaining to Adventist education within the Greater New York Conference.

“This Web site will serve as the hub for our educational team of principals and teachers, current and prospective parents and students, and many more groups who are part of or who want to learn about the GNYC K-12 system of education,” said David Cadavero, GNYCs superintendent of schools. “Special thanks to Elvis Agard, seventh-grade teacher at Oakview Preparatory school, for designing the site. With his teaching skills and Web background, one will notice how content-oriented, user-friendly, and functional the site is.”

The Web site features news surrounding GNYC schools and the conference, highlights of conference-sponsored programs and events, information on conference services, such as the Three-Way Scholarship, a calendar, a section for employment opportunities, and more. Also included is a Superintendent's Blog that is a must-read for anyone; comments are welcome.

“In an innovative, savvy, and educated society, this Web site is one giant leap for the Office of Education toward technological advancement,” said Kimi-Roux James, administrative assistant to the Office of Education. “Our prayer is that the constituents will take full advantage of this medium. Our constituents matter and that’s why the site was created—to serve them better.”

Office of Education
Greater New York Conference

Six Baptized at New York Central Korean Church

Six individuals were baptized at the New York Central Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, July 26. Assisting me with the baptisms were Melbourne Gregory of the New York Central Korean church youth group, and Howard Martin of the Hope Fellowship young adult group.

Among the baptismal candidates were Philip Lillienfield, a Jewish pharmacist, and Thomas Lopez, a U.S. Army soldier who accompanied the late General Douglas MacArthur at Inchon Landing. Lopez had never seen or read the Holy Bible, but now, with the help of the Lord, he is a diligent Bible student. Lillienfield is also a Bible student whose scores on the Amazing Facts Bible studies were all As.
During the week of June 14–21 the Gethsemane Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its silver anniversary acknowledging God’s protection, the growth of the congregation, and its service to the Crown Heights Community of Brooklyn, New York.

Gethsemane was organized on January 5, 1983, with the blessing of the conference administration that included Merlin Kretschmar, president, John Lornz, executive secretary, and Juan Prestol, treasurer.

The theme, “Let’s celebrate the Lord,” was the focus of the week of spiritual activities sponsored by the church members and the Greater New York Conference administration. Most of the eight pastors who ministered to the congregation over the past 25 years participated during the 10 services that were a part of this grand celebration. On the first Sabbath, Jean Marie Charles, the senior pastor, delivered an inspirational sermon titled “God Deserves to Be Praised,” based on 1 Chronicles 29:18-20. The message for the second Sabbath of this week of jubilee was brought to an audience of approximately 1,500 worshipers by Richard Marker, the Greater New York Conference president.

His exhortation based on Matthew 16:18, was titled “Remember God’s Blessings.” Old time friends had great opportunity to meet again and to have a good time in the Lord.

The success of these celebrations was the result of a combined effort. Every department played superbly their roles, but special recognition should be paid to the music department under the leadership of Marie-Jude Joseph. Two main goals were set from the inception of the anniversary program: to praise God, and to start a new church. The first elder, Jean Joseph Lapierre, in conjunction with the pastor and the rest of his team, made it their goal to extend the festivities until July 19. A period of four weeks was set aside for evangelistic meetings.

Like David in front of Goliath, the God-chosen evangelist, the youngest among all, Brian Ladiny, assistant pastor in training, was given that heavy and challenging responsibility. By the grace of God, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, this young man was used by God to perform miracles. Twenty-three individuals were baptized.

The organizational committee thanks and congratulates every church member for their financial and spiritual contributions. They also thank every pastor and guest speaker for their collaboration, every department for their works and their expertise. We glorify God for the first 25 years of the gospel proclamation in this part of the earth. The congregation at large wishes to thank Naasson B. Prosper, Alourdin C. Benoit, Agniel Samson, Moab Honoré, Fénélon Destin, Samuel R. Dolénus, Louis B. Métellus, Yves Pierre, and Jean-Marie Charles, the pastors who have officially watched over the sheep during the past 25 years. who worked tirelessly to make the event a success to God’s only glory.

At the end of the festivities, a prayer of consecration was offered for the church members who would like to be present for the golden anniversary celebration. The congregation had expressed its preference rather to be ready if Jesus decided to hasten His Second coming before the next 25 years. And they all said: Yes, come Lord and Savior!

Daniel Beauzil
communication director
Gethsemane church

What’s Happening in Your Church?

Do you have news or other inspiring stories from your church that you would like to share with our readers?
Submit all articles and photos to your conference communication director.
For information on how and what to submit visit www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner.html and click on “Guidelines for Submitting Articles.”
We would love to hear from you!
A UC business professors Jacob Nortey, chair, left, and Issumael Nzamutuma, spent one month teaching business courses in Ghana, Africa. Both professors are originally from Africa. Nzamutuma is from Rwanda, and Nortey from Ghana. This gesture was an Atlantic Union College initiative to engage the community—the global community.

Business Professors Give Back to Africa

Jacob Nortey had to limit his water use, wake up to teach class at 7 a.m., and take charge of 133 students for almost a month. He was right at home.

Nortey was born and lived in Ghana, Africa, until 1996, attended classes in London, lived in California, and now makes his home in Lancaster, Massachusetts, serving as vice president for finance from 2002–2005 and then as a business professor at Atlantic Union College since 2005.

From June 2 to July 2 of this year, Nortey returned to Valley View University in Accra, the capital of Ghana, to teach a business finance course to 133 students from Ghana, Nigeria, the Congo, Mozambique, Togo, Guinea, and the Ivory Coast, among others.

Nortey said he was satisfied with his travels, and particularly with the eagerness his students displayed. “Everything was just beautiful,” Nortey said of his return to Accra. “The students that we met were so eager to learn. Classes started at 7 in the morning, and when I would get to class, they were sitting there, ready for me. I notice that for us here in the U.S. I would set assignments and try to give the minimum; there they were saying, ‘you are only here for a month, give us more work.’”

The course was offered free of charge, according to Nortey, as part of AUC President Norman Wendth’s mission to reach out in the community.

“Atlantic Union College, with our new president, Dr. Wendth, is trying to reach out in the community, form relationships and cooperate with various institutions,” said Nortey. “That’s how the contact with Valley View came in.”

Nortey, who speaks five languages, including English, French, Ga, Akan, and Dangme, the last three being Ghana-based languages, said he noticed a difference in learning styles between AUC and Valley View.

His Valley View students could not afford to buy $150 books, but were able to purchase reduced-price books for $34 that could not be sold in the United States.

“Because they cannot afford the textbooks, students listen attentively,”

Back from Africa with Ideas for Atlantic Union College —TIMES AND COURIER Article Reprint

Jacob Nortey, a Lancaster, Massachusetts, resident and AUC professor, traveled to his native West Africa in the summer of 2008.

Jacob Nortey
Issumael Nzamutuma

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
he said. “They take copious notes, so at least they have something.”

Nortey said Valley View, taking the example from a university in Holland, was going green as part of an energy savings program. He said Valley View is the first West African university to take these steps—including reduced water usage.

“The quantity of water you used in your restroom is pre-measured by the system and the amount of water you use to wash your hands is controlled by the system—so that you tap a faucet, and enough water comes to wash your hands and it stops,” he said.

Nortey, who was born in another Christian denomination, became a Seventh-day Adventist at the age of 20. He said his faith answered nagging questions he had as a youth.

“What is life all about, and why do we have to be where we are?” Nortey wondered, adding that his former pastor would not answer these questions. At the age of 19, his experience changed after hearing a young, unidentified African-American discuss the Adventist faith.

“He talked about the fact that the Bible, and the Bible alone, should be the basis upon which Christians form their faith—and it, of course, answered the questions I had for years,” said Nortey.

Nortey said the adjustment to an Adventist lifestyle was an easy one. When he stopped relying heavily upon meat for food, he noticed his health improve.

“The best of all is the emphasis on salvation through Jesus Christ, that my past, my color, my nationality, is nothing. What matters is that I have accepted Jesus Christ,” he said.

Nortey graduated from an undergraduate program in accounting and pursued theological studies from Babcock University in Nigeria, and at Andrews University in Michigan. He earned his accounting degree after attending professional correspondence courses, seminars, and completing exams through the London Metropolitan College, and became a fellow of the Association of International Accounts. Nortey said the achievement is roughly equivalent to a CPA exam in the United States. He earned his master’s degree in finance from La Sierra University in Riverside, California, in 1998 and completed his doctoral work in leadership and administration in 2002.

He earned his doctoral degree in 2005, after successfully defending his dissertation, which supports “acculturation,” meaning that understanding other cultures largely determines their moral development. Nortey later taught college courses in Ghana and at Babcock University, establishing the school’s business department.

For 15 years, he worked as an administrator for the Ivory Coast as part of the African-Indian Ocean Division of Seventh-day Adventists, during which he was responsible for 32 African countries as part of one of three divisions on the continent. There are 13 such Adventist divisions in the world.

From 1980 to 1985, Nortey served as a chief financial officer of the African-Indian Ocean Division, and was president of the organization from 1985 to 1995.

Nortey married his wife, Thelma, in 1969, and the couple has a daughter Myrna, who is now married, with two children, Christopher and Elizabeth. Nortey said Valley View students were required to complete a three-month internship at nearby financial institutions in order to graduate, and he is looking forward to the possibility of creating an internship program within the business department at AUC. He also suggested that research programs at AUC be started in the first year, as opposed to the normal time frame of students beginning them as juniors and seniors.

Jason Crotty, reporter
Times and Courier
Reprinted with permission.
Times and Courier, Thursday, July 17, 2008
Kids Programs Makes a Difference in the Niagara Falls Community

The Niagara Falls church plant held its first outreach seminar in the city of Niagara Falls on April 7. The Niagara Falls Housing Authority at Center Court was the site of four sessions of our Kids’ Time Character Building class. More than 15 children attended.

Using the same “light-skills” that are stressed in New York Conference schools, the theme for the program centered around doing their personal best. Kids enjoyed crafts, Bible stories, snacks, games, and during the last meeting, a party.

Many of the children, who do not attend church, were fascinated by the Bible stories. They learned about Jesus, the salvation He offers, as well as His second coming and heaven. We were thrilled that so many of the children asked Jesus into their heart.

They were encouraged to strive to do their personal best in all life situations, their decision-making, and their relationships with others. Goose Grey, a well known-storyteller from the Lockport Seventh-day Adventist Church, was a special guest.

During that same month, the Niagara Falls church plant began its Kids’ Time After-School Program on April 21. Receiving support and training from Adventist Community Services, we were able to begin this outreach to our community.

The program operated each Monday and Wednesday through mid-June. During this time we helped many students each week with their reading, math, spelling, and homework. Thanks to Union Springs Academy, we were able to provide the students with computers.

Located in the Resource Building in Center Court, we started the program with 10-12 kids. We have had a 98 percent retention rate of our students and, at the close of the program, were serving more than 25 students in grades K-8. Parents were excited about the program and the administrators of the Resource Building have asked us many times how we are able to be successful with kids. We give all credit to God as He has given us this vision for His precious children and their families in the city of Niagara Falls.

Each day we were able to work more and more closely with the families. Two students came to the program early to take one-on-one Bible studies. These young people had never read from the Bible and were so excited about hearing God’s Word for the very first time. Three children from the after-school program wanted to attend camp meeting with us.

We have shared many of the key elements of Adventist education with the administrators at the Resource Building and other community agencies. They have broken ground on a new resource building for this community, but have no programs for it as yet. Because of our devoted work with their young people, they have asked us to give them a proposal to have an Adventist school in their building.

We are grateful to the housing authority staff and Lockport church members who helped us with the Kids’ Time Character-Building programs.

Housing authority parents and administrators were extremely pleased with the Kids’ Time Program. Three additional seminars were held in June.

During the summer, another division of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority asked us to provide two sessions of Kids’ Time each week for their six-week summer camp, teaching 60 kids each session about the love of Christ and the plan that He has for their lives.

The after-school program resumed September 2008, expanding to another day per week. This is a wonderful outreach for any community and such a blessing to all involved. If you want more information, contact Sandra Brown at 1-800-331-2767 or go to www.hesaidgo.net.

Christina Webber, Kids’ Time and the after-school program coordinator Niagara Falls church plant

During the Kids’ Time Character-Building class, kids learned about doing their personal best while they enjoyed crafts, Bible stories, snacks, games, and, during the last meeting, a party.
Massena Company Invites Guests to Banqueting Table

The Massena company recently hosted a special dinner and church service as part of its evangelism thrust. The church family swelled to more than double its regular attendance with friends and family who were not Adventists. The theme of the day was prayer and its ultimate success, heaven. A fellowship dinner followed the church service. The tables were tastefully set to simulate that first feast in heaven and the vegan menu was well received. The centerpiece was a crown of thorns from Israel with two other crowns studded with jewels for contrast. Dotty Lombard and I were the speakers and coordinators of the occasion.

We don’t know the final results of this evangelistic endeavor and probably will never know until we gather around that real table in heaven, but I’m looking forward to finding some of our guests present for that glorious occasion.

Clara Jobes, communication secretary
Massena Company

Onondaga Native American Church Holds Revival

During the week of June 9-14, the Onondaga Native American Adventist Church held a revival. Lay speakers included my youth aged son, Ephraim, Russ and Tresa Striffler, as well as the former pastor, Bruce Wilkinson. The meetings were attended by as many as 20 guests from the community and are being followed up by a series of Bible studies at the church. The involvement of youth, including Ephraim and Sapati Bernard, was powerful as they invited both adults and young people to respond to the invitation to prepare for heaven by committing their lives to Jesus.

Ben Bernard, Bible worker
Onondaga Native American church

First Fruits at Geneva Church and Arthur S. Maxwell Christian School

June 8 marked a truly high and holy celebration for the members of the Geneva Seventh-day Adventist Church and their church school, Arthur S. Maxwell Christian School (ASM). As the congregation watched, Levi Smith received his diploma and became the first student to graduate from ASM.

Through steadfast prayer the Geneva church was built and yielded its first fruits in terms of membership. As those fruits multiplied, an addition was necessary to accommodate Geneva’s various ministries. From that addition sprung the desire to gift the membership and local area with a Christian church school. Through prayer, encouragement, and hard labor on the part of the members, Arthur S. Maxwell Christian School came into being.

Levi is the first graduate in the Smith family. The graduation was the first for teacher Vanessa Smith, who is also Levi’s mom. She signed her first diploma in her capacity as a teacher and principal at ASM.

Levi will attend Union Springs Academy for his high school education.

Marilyn M. Watson, chairperson
Arthur S. Maxwell Christian School

Unto Everything There Is a Season

October 17 - 19, 2008

The New York Conference invites you to the
Women’s Ministries Fall Retreat
Watson Homestead Retreat Center
Painted Post, NY

Registration fees range from $155 - $210 depending upon room selection. Check, money order, and credit card accepted. Please contact Lynne Hamm for registration forms and further details (315) 391-6263.

Collette Pekar is the associate pastor of the Brunswick Seventh-day Adventist Church and chaplain at Parkview Adventist Medical Center in Brunswick, Maine. She also works with older women who are experiencing life-changing medical challenges.

Levi Smith is the first graduate of the Arthur S. Maxwell Christian School.

Marilyn M. Watson, chairperson
Arthur S. Maxwell Christian School

at www.atlantic-union.org
Some said inspirational, others said uplifting. It was the 61st annual Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) Convention, held this year in Tampa, Florida, and themed “By Knowing Him.”

Beginning Wednesday evening, August 6, and ending Sabbath, August 9, the ASI Convention was attended by more than 2,500 people, including 500 young people. A full schedule included nine main meetings, 20 seminars under five themes, and complete programs for children and youth.

A highlight at the convention was the ASI Special Projects Offering, which will fund 41 projects chosen from the approximately 100 submitted to ASI. A wide variety of undertakings and locations made up the 2008 projects, including construction, evangelism, archaeology, lay outreach, and media projects.

Electrifying the convention, however, was the One-Day Church project. A joint effort between ASI and Maranatha Volunteers International, the One-Day Church project will provide prefabricated steel church buildings to “homeless” Adventist congregations around the world.

The response was overwhelming; an offering of $8,034,672 was pledged, more than quadrupling the 2007 offering. “It’s just fantastic,” said Dwight Hilderbrandt, interim ASI secretary-treasurer.

Not only was evangelism part of the offering projects, it was a powerful premise throughout the convention.

On Sabbath morning attendees were given a special ASI convention edition of the New Beginnings evangelism DVD, providing them with an attractive, user-friendly means to become evangelists in their communities.

Involving young people in evangelism is an integral tenet to ASI, and a special presentation was made about Youth for Jesus (YFJ). An ASI-sponsored youth evangelism program, YFJ reaches out to the community where the ASI convention is held each year.

Fifty-two youth participated in YFJ 2008 along with 19 Bible workers. From their efforts in the Tampa area, 103 people have chosen to keep the Sabbath, and 94 requested baptism.

Asked if she enjoyed the convention, attendee April Tracy replied with a big smile, “I called my granddaughter and told her, ‘Next year you’re coming with me.’”

Then there’s Kyle Tumberg. He and his wife spent their honeymoon at the ASI Convention. “And,” he glowed, “I don’t regret it!”

Mark Finley, vice president for the Adventist world church, appeals to members and guests at the 2008 International ASI Convention in Tampa, Florida, to help erect churches around the world in one day.

By Steve Hamstra
A Statement of Consensus on Care for the Dying (Part One)

For people whose lives are guided by the Bible, the reality of death is acknowledged as part of the current human condition, affected by sin (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5; Hebrews 9:27). There is “a time to be born, and a time to die” (Ecclesiastes 3:2). Although eternal life is a gift that is granted to all who accept salvation through Jesus Christ, faithful Christians await the second coming of Jesus for complete realization of their immortality (John 3:36; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54). While waiting for Jesus to come again, Christians may be called upon to care for the dying and to face personally their own death.

Pain and suffering afflict every human life. Physical, mental, and emotional traumas are universal. However, human suffering has no expiatory or meritorious value. The Bible teaches that no amount or intensity of human suffering can atone for sin. The suffering of Jesus Christ alone is sufficient. Scripture calls Christians not to despair in afflictions, urging them to learn obedience (Hebrews 5:7-8), patience (James 1:2-4), and endurance in tribulations (Romans 5:3). The Bible also testifies to the overcoming power of Jesus Christ (John 16:33) and teaches that ministry to human suffering is an important Christian duty (Matthew 25:34-40). This was the example and teaching of Jesus (Matthew 9:35; Luke 10:34-36), and this is His will for us (Luke 10:37). Christians look in anticipation to a new day when God will end suffering forever (Revelation 21:4).

Developments in modern medicine have added to the complexity of decisions about care for the dying. In times past, little could be done to extend human life. But the power of today’s medicine to forestall death has generated difficult moral and ethical questions. What constraints does Christian faith place upon the use of such power? When should the goal of postponing the moment of death give way to the goal of alleviating pain at the end of life? Who may appropriately make these decisions? What limits, if any, should Christian love place on actions designed to end human suffering?

It has become common to discuss such questions under the heading of euthanasia. Much confusion exists with regard to this expression. The original and literal meaning of this term was “good death.” Now the term is used in two significantly different ways. Often euthanasia refers to “mercy killing,” or intentionally taking the life of a patient in order to avoid painful dying or in order to alleviate burdens for a patient’s family or society. (This is so called active euthanasia.) However, euthanasia is also used, inappropriately in the Seventh-day Adventist view, to refer to the withholding or withdrawal of medical interventions that artificially extend human life, thus allowing a person to die naturally. (This is so called passive euthanasia.) Seventh-day Adventists believe that allowing a patient to die by foregoing medical interventions that only prolong suffering and postpone the moment of death is morally different from actions that have as their primary intention the direct taking of a life.

Seventh-day Adventists seek to address the ethical issues at the end of life in ways that demonstrate their faith in God as the Creator and Redeemer of life and that reveal how God’s grace has empowered them for acts of neighbor love. Seventh-day Adventists affirm God’s creation of human life, a wonderful gift worthy of being protected and sustained (Genesis 1-2). They also affirm God’s wonderful gift of redemption that provides eternal life for those who believe (John 3:15; 17:3). Thus they support the use of modern medicine to extend human life in this world. However, this power should be used in compassionate ways that reveal God’s grace by minimizing suffering. Since we have God’s promise of eternal life in the earth made new, Christians need not cling anxiously to the last vestiges of life on this earth. Nor is it necessary to accept or offer all possible medical treatments that merely prolong the process of dying.

This consensus 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 9, 1992.
It was a joyous spring season at the Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church! Three adults and two children made the decision to be baptized.

“The last baptism was very special!” said Pastor Michael Coleman. “We had Marcia Comrie, the wife of a councilman and a person who desired to be baptized from her youth, but was not allowed by her mother.”

In a statement to correspondents for the Corona church’s newsletter, the Corona Echo, Comrie explained that her mother, a Pentecostal Christian, “was afraid of my burgeoning independence in matters religious.”

“Now in her latter years,” Coleman said, “she finally gets baptized.”

Another baptismal candidate was Dave Clarke, a young entrepreneur who currently resides in New York. “Dave Clarke is a young man who grew up in an Adventist environment, but drifted away from church for a while,” Coleman said.

“After being embraced by the hospitality of Corona, he began attending church regularly and singing in the choir. Now he is a baptized member of our church family.”

For Monica Ellis, a visitor from Jamaica, West Indies, getting baptized was a top priority in her life. Prior to returning to Jamaica, Monica “made up her mind to be baptized at the Corona church,” said Coleman. “She is now in Jamaica rejoicing in the Lord. She is also planning to return to us as soon as she can.”

The Corona family also witnessed two young children, Roshaun Brady and Erin Cross, taking a stand for God. As the Bible states in Mark 10:14, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Camille Cross is a recipient of the Banneker Key Scholarship, the “most prestigious scholarship offered” to first-year college students at the University of Maryland.

“I didn’t think I was going to get it,” Camille said. “It was the same week that [I got into] a car accident and I [was unable to go to the required] interview.”

But after informing the college about her accident, Camille said she was given the opportunity to be interviewed via phone. A few weeks later, Camille received a letter stating that she won the scholarship.

Now, she doesn’t have to worry about any college expenses for the next four years! “I am very excited to embark on this new stage of my life—college,” said Camille. “I know I will miss everyone at home, but I am looking forward to meeting new people and living in a new environment.”

She encourages all students to put God first and to work hard. “[As for other] students, I encourage them [first and foremost] to put God first in everything that they do and trust Him,” Camille said. “Work hard and great things will come your way. Also, make sure to surround yourself with positive people who will encourage you.”

Camille is a member of the Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church. She lives with her family in Brentwood, New York.
A Conversation With Bill Cosby

More than 1,500 people filled the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hartford, Connecticut, on Thursday, July 10, to hear comedian Bill Cosby. The event titled “A Conversation With Bill Cosby” occurred at the culmination of the church’s “Stop the Violence Initiative” that yielded 25 new members. Cosby spoke on a variety of issues impacting the community, such as the importance of education, parents spending more time with their children, children disobeying elders, teenage pregnancy, high school dropouts, single parenting, and what drugs are doing to the community.

Even though he is a funny guy, Cosby’s tone spoke to the seriousness of his message to parents and children in the black community. “Get to know those who are teaching your children. Talk to them about their grades,” said Cosby as he encouraged parents to get involved and visit their child’s school. He also suggested that parents encourage their children to stay in school.

“Look in your children’s rooms often,” said Cosby. He encouraged parents to listen to the music their children are listening to, visit their myspace page, and get to know who their children’s friends are. “Get into their business,” said Cosby. “They are your children.”

Cosby talked with fathers about becoming more responsible and visiting the children they brought into this world. He encouraged them to spend time talking with their children and being a role model for them.

Cosby spends time touring across the U.S. lecturing in black communities (usually at churches) about his frustrations with certain aspects of African-American culture. Faith church was “a stop along the way.” The event was organized by Stephen Williams, Faith church’s pastor, and Steve Perry, principal of the Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford.

At the end of his talk, Cosby was presented with a copy of the Heritage Bible, and the Black Heritage Bible lessons.

Summer Meetings Empower Berea Nyack Congregation

As the flowers of June became the full, leafy blooms of July summer was official and our instincts told us to pack our bags and seek the great outdoors. Instead, the Berea Seventh-day Church in Nyack, New York, under the leadership of Pastor Ucall G. Harris, geared up for six busy weeks.

“The Power of Love” evangelistic series was held July 18 through August 16. Featured guest speakers included B.L. Robinson of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Royal Harris of Happy Valley, Oregon.

The banner of love waved high above the streets in the village of Nyack announcing the meeting.

A Conversation With Bill Cosby

Cosby spoke with the group about the importance of education, parents spending more time with their children, the problem of teenage pregnancy, and what drugs are doing to the community.
Thank you for giving to the Lord: I am a life that was changed.” These beautiful lyrics send a powerful message. The blessings of giving are beyond comparison, they are immediate, and they are eternal. Some like to say that the “the rewards are out of this world,” and I would agree, because giving to the Lord’s work actually places us in partnership with the Infinite. To this end, the Planned Giving & Trust Services ministry is focused on:

- Financial support of the Lord’s work—kingdom building.
- Meaningful Christ-centered legacy planning—preserving your dreams and values.
- Biblical principles of money management and stewardship of His resources.
- Personal wealth building through giving—protecting and managing assets.

We enthusiastically and humbly seek to hasten the return of our Savior by soliciting and receiving gifts of love, gratitude, and commitment from His chosen ones. There is much to be treasured spiritually and even financially, as we trust in the Lord with our plans.

It is quite amazing to discover how the principles of finance and the nuances of our tax code provide marvelous financial benefits to donors. Many do not realize that giving is rewarding here and now—financially rewarding! We work closely with donor clients to build effective giving plans that are custom-tailored to their unique opportunities, goals, needs, and challenges. When properly managed, the giving process provides maximum financial benefit to individuals, households, and to our Lord’s work.

Planned giving looks beyond the boundaries of our lifetime. There are wonderful opportunities to bless the Lord’s work and your loved ones even when laid to rest. Your treasured beliefs and values can be passed on to future generations with careful and thoughtful estate planning. Because of this we are prepared to offer valuable advice and planning assistance in preparation of your will and other testamentary documents. We would consider it our privilege to partner with you as you partner with the Infinite in the completion of His glorious work. Meaningful legacies don’t just happen, they are planned, and they are built. Start building your legacy today. Call us at (978) 365-4551 or visit our Web site at www.sneclegacy.org.

Tom Murray
Planned Giving & Trust Services director
Southern New England Conference

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Tom Murray, Director
Southern New England
School Feature

The Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist School is located in the beautiful Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. Our modern computer lab, outstanding school building, and campus, with 40 acres of surrounding forests and trails, are some of the highlights of the Berkshire Hills school. Our commitment to provide a Christ-centered educational environment meeting the academic, spiritual, and physical needs of our students sets us apart as a light for Jesus in our community.

www.sneonline.org. Click on “Schools.”

Grassroots Effort A Success

Jesus said, “Go and teach all nations,” and that is exactly what the Brooklawn Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bridgeport, Connecticut, did at the 34th annual Milford Oyster Festival (MOF) on August 16. Members set up a tent where various books, magazines, tracts, and pamphlets on health, Jesus’ second coming, and salvation were available for people to peruse. More than 200 people stopped by to have their blood pressure taken. Church members also handed out literature in the crowd, including children’s bookmarks with daily Scripture readings.

The Milford Oyster Festival is a one-day event that attracts local residents and visitors who want to enjoy Milford’s sights, sounds, tastes, and history. This year more than 30,000 people attended.

“It was our first time at MOF. Had we known that our effort was going to be such a success, we would have brought more literature,” said Daryl Williams, Brooklawn member.

Many seeds were planted in people’s hearts and minds. We hope to do this again next year. In the meantime, we will pray that the seeds that have been planted today will take root and grow.

Jamie Farley-Howanec
communication correspondent
Brooklawn church

Southern New England Women’s Ministries Department Presents
2008 Day Retreat

WOW! The Word on Women

Join women throughout Southern New England in a day of renewal, rest, and rejuvenation with Jennifer Jill Schwirzer.

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$25 fee includes lunch and Afternoon Tea
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No Walk-ins Please!

Contact
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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!
Randee Reynolds Accepts Position of Treasurer at NNEC

Randee Reynolds was elected to serve as conference treasurer by the Northern New England Conference Executive Committee on July 1, 2008. He will also serve as vice president for finance and vice president of the Northern New England Conference Association beginning August 1. He replaces Robert Sundin, who has relocated to the North Pacific Union in the state of Washington.

Reynolds, a graduate of Atlantic Union College, previously served as an accountant for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in Calhoun, Georgia, treasurer of the Carolina Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, and treasurer of the Florida Conference in Winter Park, Florida. Most recently, Reynolds was a broker and owner of a Realty group in Florida.

Reynolds and his wife, Julie, who is an registered nurse, have two daughters Christine, 17, who is currently attending Southern Adventist University, and Jennifer, 14, who is attending Pine Tree Academy.

Interestingly, Julie Reynolds’s father, Les Pendelton, served as the Northern New England Conference treasurer 40 years ago.

Reynolds joins the Northern New England Conference team that provides leadership for the more than 5,000 members worshiping in 65 congregations in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

The Northern New England Conference administrators and staff welcome Randee, Julie, Christine, and Jennifer and pray that God’s presence will be their “ever-ready help” throughout their ministry in the conference.

Lynn Ortel, communication director
Northern New England Conference
Ghana: Le président de l’université adventiste reçoit la plus haute distinction civile de la nation

S. A. Laryea est le deuxième adventiste récompensé par l’Ordre de la Volta

Seth Abang Laryea, président de l’Université Valley View (VVU), a reçu récemment la plus haute distinction nationale décernée par le Ghana aux citoyens, l’Ordre de la Volta, en reconnaissance de ce qu’il a apporté en matière d’enseignement supérieur. Appelée officiellement Collège Missionnaire Adventiste, VVU a été créée en 1979 par l’église adventiste du septième jour.

Le 3 juillet dernier, le président de la République du Ghana, John Agyekum Kuffour, remettait à S.A. Laryea les insignes de compagnon honoraire de l’Ordre de la Volta au cours d’une cérémonie qui se déroulait au Centre de Conférence International d’Accra.

S. A. Laryea et 250 ghanéens ont été récompensés pour ce qu’ils ont apporté à l’enseignement supérieur.

J. Paulsen a exhorté l’auditoire à faire en sorte que les jeunes de l’église soient impliqués dans cette œuvre. “Nous devons passer le flambeau aux jeunes” a-t-il dit, faisant appel ainsi à une “intention plus forte” pour “terminer l’œuvre” de l’église.

Le matin, Israel Leito, président de l’église pour la région interaméricaine, a parlé du “challenge de nos pionniers.” Il a fait remarquer que l’église au Guatemala avait grandi “grâce aux pas” des premiers adventistes dans la région.

Pour introduire ces cérémonies, plus de 60000 adventistes ont participé aux 30 marches organisées dans tout le pays durant le mois.


Libna Stevens, Staff Adventist News Network

Avec l’aimable participation de Juan Francisco Lopez

21 July 21 2008

Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

Guatemala : L’église adventiste fête ses 100 ans d’engagement auprès de la communauté

Le président de l’église adventiste mondiale dit que les jeunes sont la clé pour finir l’œuvre de l’église

Le 12 juillet dernier, des milliers d’adventistes du septième jour du Guatemala se sont retrouvés dans la capitale, pour fêter les 100 ans de l’église dans ce pays d’Amérique Centrale et pour promettre de poursuivre leur engagement en faveur de la communauté.

“Aujourd’hui, j’entends et je vois clairement votre déclaration d’engagement” a affirmé le président de l’église adventiste mondiale, Jan Paulsen, devant les 9000 dirigeants de l’église et membres rassemblés au Dôme Polideportivo pour cette journée spéciale.

J. Paulsen a exhorté l’auditoire à faire en sorte que les jeunes de l’église soient impliqués dans cette œuvre. “Nous devons passer le flambeau aux jeunes” a-t-il dit, faisant appel ainsi à une “intention plus forte” pour “terminer l’œuvre” de l’église.

“Le matin, Israel Leito, président de l’église pour la région interaméricaine, a parlé du “challenge de nos pionniers.” Il a fait remarquer que l’église au Guatemala avait grandi “grâce aux pas” des premiers adventistes dans la région.

Plusieurs de ces pionniers ont été honorés, notamment Policarpa Lopez, 105 ans, membre d’église depuis 78 ans et Javier Sosa, 96 ans, adventiste depuis 71 ans.

Pour introduire ces cérémonies, plus de 60000 adventistes ont participé aux 30 marches organisées dans tout le pays durant le mois.


Libna Stevens, Staff

Adventist News Network

Avec l’aimable participation de Juan Francisco Lopez

21 July 21 2008

Traduction: Stephanie Elofer
era una hermosa tarde de sábado en Julio. El sol casi se estaba ocultando cuando los miembros de la iglesia adventista hispana de Portland, Maine se reunieron a orillas del río Presumpscot para presenciar un bautismo. Después de una corta serie de reuniones evangelísticas que tuve el privilegio de presentar las cuales trajeron restauración espiritual a la congregación y a los visitantes, cinco personas decidieron bautizarse.

El pastor Josué Peña había planeado tener los bautismos en la iglesia Americana en Portland, pero debido a compromisos previos, el bautisterio no estaba disponible. Así que el pastor, junto a los ancianos de la iglesia hispana, decidieron tener el bautismo en el río a la puesta del sol.

El servicio del bautismo fue solemne. Muchos expresaron emoción acerca del evento. Mientras cantábamos himnos, nos deleitamos de la hermosa puesta de sol en ese sábado especial, testificando acerca del poder del evangelio. La predicación del mensaje adventista del séptimo día todavía alcanza los corazones en Portland, Maine.

La ocasión presentó la oportunidad de reflexionar en los comienzos de nuestra iglesia y la importancia de algunos eventos que se llevaron acabo en esos tiempos en Portland. Fue en esta ciudad que Elena G. de White (Harmon) nació, una joven muy frágil la cual se convirtió al mensaje adventista a la edad de 13 años durante la segunda serie de conferencias llevadas a cabo por Guillermo Miller en esa misma ciudad.

Dios escogió a esta joven-cita para ser la mensajera y guiar a su pueblo, para enviar mensajes por medio de ella y fortalecer y construir su iglesia. Fue en la ciudad de Portland, Maine, que Elena G. de White recibió su primera visión, y por medio de esta visión, Dios trajo consolación, valor y seguridad a su nueva iglesia. Tal consolación y valor nos ha mantenido a través de los años y continuará con nosotros mientras mantengamos nuestra esperanza en Dios y seamos guiados por los mensajes que El nos ha dado por medio de su sierva.

Dios continua en el trabajo de salvar personas en la ciudad de Portland, Maine. Los miembros de la iglesia hispana de Portland junto con su pastor Josué Peña entienden el compromiso que Dios les ha puesto en sus manos—el de alcanzar a la comunidad hispana del área de Portland y de servir como inspiración al resto de los miembros adventistas. Ellos entienden que deben continuar compartiendo el mensaje del pronto regreso de nuestro Señor, Cristo Jesús.

Siendo que esta historia es acerca de lo que está ocurriendo con nuestros hermanos adventistas en la ciudad de Portland, Maine y siendo que estamos en el mes de octubre, creo que es la mejor ocasión para reflexionar en nuestra existencia como pueblo escogido por Dios y como su última iglesia profética. Octubre 22 representa una fecha muy importante para nosotros. Fue en este día en el 1844 que Dios inició su juicio final con el juicio investigador. Es una verdad que nos distingue como el pueblo de Dios y ya que vivimos en los últimos días de este mundo, es necesario que hagamos un compromiso de consagración y dedicación a proclamarle al mundo que el fin esta cerca cuando Cristo cumplirá su promesa de regresar por segunda vez. Debemos estar preparados. Ojalá que su mandato encontrado en Apocalipsis 10:11 (NVI) sea una realidad en nosotros, “Entonces se me ordenó: ‘Tienes que volver a profetizar acerca de muchos pueblos, naciones, lenguas y reyes.’” Debemos decirle al mundo que Cristo muy pronto cumplirá la promesa de su segundo advenimiento y que debemos prepararnos.
Two new books from Joe L. Wheeler, “America’s Keeper of the Story”

Christmas in My Heart #17

The Christmas in My Heart series has become a regular part of thousands of Adventists’ and other’s Christmas holidays. Now you can share with friends and family the uplifting and inspirational stories of the seventeenth volume.

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Some of the most heart-tugging animal stories ever bound between two covers. This newest book in the series will appeal to animal lovers of all types.

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2. Call 1-800-765-6955
3. Shop AdventistBookCenter.com
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

Praying with Power with Shelley and J.D. Quinn from 3ABN

October 24-26, 2008
White Eagle Conference Center
Hamilton, New York
(40 miles southeast of Syracuse)

Rates: Single Occupancy $250 ($265 after October 1)
Double Occupancy $150 ($165 after October 1)
Sabbath Only $60 ($75 after October 1)

To reserve your space with a credit card by phone, call (315) 469-6921 or send payment to: New York Conference: 4930 W Seneca Turnpike; Syracuse, NY 13215. Please include your name, address, phone, e-mail, single or double occupancy (include both names), or Sabbath-only.

Union-wide Sabbath Offering
AUC Fund
November 22, 2008

You can make a difference in the lives of 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—dual 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.
Atlantic Union College
Do you desire to minister to the needs of others? The Master of Education with chaplaincy concentration at Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts (one hour from Boston), can provide you with the knowledge and tools you need to serve as a chaplain. These courses are offered each summer with completion possible in three years. Financial aid may be available. E-mail: chaplaincy@auc.edu for an information packet.

Great New York
Singer Christine Sinclair Featured on Hope Channel’s New Show “My Story, My Song.” Tune in on Friday night, October 10 at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (6:00 p.m. Pacific) for “My Story, My Song” featuring singer, Christine Sinclair. For those without satellite dishes, log on to www.hopetv.org. The show will be aired throughout the week of October 10 to 16. Visit www.sinclairmusic.com for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Missing Members

The Shalom Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3323 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10467, is trying to locate the following members: Ortho Arnold, Marie Barron, Pollyanna Clarke, Jesse Edmonds, Phelicia Edmonds, Dalice Edwards, Ray Edwards, Tiffany Hepburn, Sharon Jones, Hans Kruger, Sharlene Levene, Augustus Marshall, David Mitchell, Ethony Outen, Matilda Polem, Keisha White, Lee White, and Mattie White. If your name is on the list or you know any of these members, please contact Pastor Steve Cassimy at (516) 627-9350 ext. 173.

The University Park Seventh-day Adventist Church is trying to locate the following members: Paul Alen, Melanie Alen, Tony Baker, Verleen Bardin, Patricia Barnes, Priscilla Broomfield, Eric Brown, Anna Clyde, Christopher Collings, Georgina Danielson, Debbie Dethloff, Amy Deulen, Natasha Duplesis, Melissa Fry, Janice Garner, Lisa Greenfield, Amber Grill, Chris Haren, Daniel Holmes, Jim Lange, Arnita Larue, Steve Lehl, Ron Logan, Bion Mason, Matthew McConnell, Patty McLaughlin, La Janice McNeil, Loren Meisner, Wendy Meisner Barbara Mobley, Ron Moe, Ken Moffitt, Donna Moffitt, Karlan Patterson, Kelly Patton, Andrea Perkins, Nick Pierson, Gordon Plock, Ron Poe, Gail Poe, Randy Roane, Jason Root, Heather Rowton, Jeremy Satterlund, Shelly Satterlund, Eileen Smith, June Struzan, Duane Tyler, Raven Waloabita, Alan Wise, Wayne Woodward, if your name is listed, please contact Laurie at (503) 283-0624.

Obituary Submission
Obituaries are placed in the Gleaner in the order that they are received, on a space-available basis. For information on placing an obituary in the Gleaner visit the Web site at www.atlanticunion.org/gleaner.html and click on “Obituaries” on the menu bar or e-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

Out-of-Union

Health Summit West-Spanish, 2008, LaSierra, California—The North American Division, Pacific Union and Loma Linda, School of Public Health announce the first health certification training program Oct. 18–19. “Tell the World Christ Brings Health and Wholeness” will present featured speaker Jose Rojas. Six “train-the-trainer” health seminars will be conducted. Go to www.nadhealthsummit.com for more information.

For Your Information

2009 Designated as Year of Pastoral Evangelism by NAD
The North American Division (NAD) has designated 2009 as the Year of Pastoral Evangelism. The goal for the North American Division is to baptize 100,000 individuals in 2009. Every pastor, together with his leadership team, is being encouraged to conduct at least two evangelistic series of meetings. To stay informed about the initiative, register, or find available resources, visit: www.yearofevangelism.com. The Atlantic Union with its ongoing “Tell the World...Tell Atlantic Union” initiative takes an active part in helping the NAD to meet its goal of 100,000 baptized individuals in 2009.

Send your inspirational stories or information about what your church is doing to gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

Use of the Church Name
The name Seventh-day Adventist represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church, its institutions and organizations, its local churches, and its members. The church’s name and the logo are trademarked and registered identifiers.

There are appropriate and inappropriate ways to spell, pronounce, abbreviate, and otherwise use this name. The spelling of the name Seventh-day Adventist, includes the hyphen and a lower-case “d” for “day.” The preferred abbreviation when in communication about the church is Adventist.

For more information about the church’s name, logo usage, and the trademark, visit: www.adventist.org.

Religious Liberty — Important Web Sites
Adventist Public Affairs & Religious Liberty North American Division... http://www.nadfreedom.org
Liberty Magazine. ............... http://www.libertymagazine.org
Office of Legislative Affairs. .............. http://ola.adventist.org
Other Religious Liberty Links... http://ola.adventist.org/Links.htm

The Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL) director in the local conference is also available if information is needed (see page 31 for the conference office numbers).

Sunset Table

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Other Religious Liberty Links... http://ola.adventist.org/Links.htm

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Share Your Stories

The Atlantic Union Gleaner staff is always looking for stories written by members, especially young people up to age 35. Inspirational stories on topics including evangelism, witnessing, community outreach, and answered prayers are welcome. If you think you have a story that you would like to see published in the Gleaner submit your article of 250 words or fewer to gleaner@atlanticunion.org. Please include a phone number, church name, pastor, and the church’s phone number.

Jennifer Jill in Concert

November 1, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
109 Winthrop Street, Taunton, MA

Music for the whole family!

Jennifer has traveled world-wide bringing her unique brand of folk/inspirational music and uplifting stories to all ages.

What others are saying...

“A creative gift”
“The audience is captivated”
“Wow! I didn’t know you could say so much in the lyric of a song!”

For more information, contact Alice Jacobson ~ (603) 898-4075 ~ sdawomen@verizon.net

Admission is free: a free-will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.

Atlantic Union College’s Mission 2000 building program will travel to the island of Barbados. AUC students, church members, and friends will help build a kitchen and restrooms for a new auditorium being developed by the East Caribbean Conference. AUC students and volunteers will also help paint the Caves Nursing Home in Britten Hills, St. Michael Parish, adjacent to the conference office.

Two and three-week trips are scheduled: Jan. 1-19 and Jan. 1-23. Cost: $1,300/per person for three weeks and $1,200/person for two weeks.

Retired AUC employees, Henry and Dorothy Livergood, have hosted mission trips for 18 years. Currently, they are inviting students, members, and friends from the Atlantic Union and beyond to join the project in warm Barbados. Please contact the Livergoods for more details: (978) 368-8304 or dhlivergood@juno.com. If you cannot go, yet want to make a difference in a student’s life by helping him or her to participate, please send your check to Atlantic Union College, Office for Advancement, Attn: AUC Mission 2000, P.O. Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561.

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

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

All advertisements should be sent, together with pay - ment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is $35 for each inser - tion of forty words or less, and 50 cents for each addi - tional word. For all other advertisements the rate is $40 for each insertion of forty 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 Gl easer. The Atlantic Union Gl easer reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any ad - vertisement should not be construed to constitute disap - proval of the product or service involved.

Counsel, at whitem@gc.adventist.org.
The General Conference Office of Education announces Choral Music Clinic on the campus of Atlantic Union College
February 11-14, 2009
More than 100 academic and high school students will be invited to attend this Choral Music Clinic 2009. Clinicians will give instruction in traditional and gospel music. Students will be auditioning for the privilege to participate. There will be a Friday evening Vespers, Sabbath worship service, and Saturday evening concert open to the public.

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(301) 589-4440

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The General Conference Office of General Counsel is accepting résumés for a full-time lawyer position. Required: good standing as a member of a U.S. state bar, licensed to practice in the United States, and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in corporate, contract, and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring, Maryland. A wide range of benefits is included. Submit résumé to the attention of Bob Kyte. General Counsel, at whitem@gc.adventist.org.

Beautiful Adventist Hospital
Located in North Georgia seeking 4 BC IM/HHospitals. 5+ years experience preferred. Employment model. Excellent salary. Annual bonus. Great benefits. Outstanding Adventist schools within community. Southern University within a 45 minute drive. For more information contact bonnie.shadix@atlanticunion.org, or call 1-800-264-8642. www.gordonhospital.com.

Florida living - Where the living is easy! Senior Community less than one hour from Disney/beach. Ground level apt. and rooms for lease. Transportation/ housekeeping available. Church/pool/shopping/activities. 3ABN, Hope TV. SHORT TERM RENTALS - Fully furnished 2BR apt. $45, $75/night (minimum stay 3 nights) $300 or $400/week. 1-800-729-8017; (407) 962-2646, ext. 24. Web site: floridalivingretirement.com; e-mail: JackieFLRC@com.

Vacation on Kauai, Hawaii—“The Garden Island”—Kahili Mountain Park is a scenic mountain getaway located at the base of Kahili Ridge. Just minutes from popular Kauai 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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Home of the pinless/rechargeable True Minutes phonecard. True Minutes long distance service is 19¢/minute including U.K. and Canada. No tax, no fee, no expiration. Visit www.phonecardland.com and choose the best plan for all your phone calls around the world. User-friendly/Secure. E-mail: sales@phoncardland.com. Call (863) 216-0160.

Victory in Jesus
By Pastor Bill Liversidge
February 11-14, 2009
More than 100 academic and high school students will be invited to attend this Choral Music Clinic 2009. Clinicians will give instruction in traditional and gospel music. Students will be auditioning for the privilege to participate. There will be a Friday evening Vespers, Sabbath worship service, and Saturday evening concert open to the public.

For more information: Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education E-mail: education@atlanticunion.org Phone: (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020

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At www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, October 2008

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Did the Nominating Committee ask you to be a Communication Director?

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Free kits also available with this special promotional code for Elder, Adult Sabbath School, Greeter, Children's Ministries, Deacon, Personal Ministries, Youth Ministries, Women's Ministries, Family Ministries, and Stewardship.

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Come to Korea!

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

Mission Opportunity in Korea

Jesus is calling you to come to Korea as a missionary to teach Bible and English! You will love it!

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- Bachelor’s degree
- Baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Benefits:
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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

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Local Conferences and Institutions
Bermuda: Jeffrey Brown, President; Kenneth Manders, Secretary; Derek R. Furbert, Treasurer. Office Address: Box 1170, Hamilton, Bermuda (+441) 292-4110. Web site: www.tagnet.org/bdaconf


New York: Stan Rouse, President; Angel Rodriguez, Secretary; Doug Falle, Treasurer. Office Address: 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13219. (315) 469-6921. Web site: www.nyconf.com

Northeastern: Trevor R. C. Baker, President; Larry Bailey, Secretary; Ebenezer Agboka, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11416. (718) 291-8006. Web site: www.northeastern.org

Northern New England: Mike Ortel, President; Merlin Knowles, Secretary; Randy Reynolds, Treasurer. Office Address: 91 Allen Ave., Portland, ME 04103. (207) 787-3768. Web site: www.nnortheastern.org

Southern New England: Frank Tochterman, President; Juan Borges, Secretary; Randall Terry, Treasurer. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 368-4000. Web site: www.sneconline.org

Atlantic Union College: Norman Wendth, President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 368-2000. Web site: www.aucc.edu

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, October 2008
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