Share the Hope . . .
Tell the World . . .
Tell Atlantic Union
In this Issue...

The North American Division (NAD) has declared 2009 as the “Year of Evangelism.” For one year, they have established one goal, and that is to invite 100,000 new members to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. To assist the NAD in accomplishing this goal, the Atlantic Union Conference and its six local conferences have committed to getting involved in evangelism in a way they have not done before. Read more about their plans for evangelism beginning on page 4 of this issue. Also included are our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. The cover photo of the ice-covered berries is from iStockphoto.
Hope Lifeline in 2009

The year 2009 has been designated the Year of Evangelism by the North American Division. There are compelling reasons based on recent happenings on our planet to suggest that there is no better time than now to engage in soul-winning activities. The fierce urgency of now demands that a “Hope Lifeline” be cast in 2009.

But the “hope” of which I speak is not merely due to the national mood as reflected in a front page headline article in USA TODAY on Tuesday, November 11, 2008. This article states in part, “Americans have soaring hopes for the incoming Obama administration and an even higher opinion of the Democrat they just elected president …” Certainly, as a Christian faith community, we are called upon to join all peoples of America in praying for our new president-elect Barak H. Obama, and family, as he takes the oath of office this month. (See Statement from Atlantic Union President: www.atlantic-union.org/news_message.html).

Indeed people everywhere, regardless of race, class, creed, or culture, are searching for hope. And I’m here to remind you as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, that “we have this hope that burns within our hearts, hope in the coming of the Lord.” This is an ultimate, lasting hope for which we all yearn. This is the hope as found in Scripture that we offer as a lifeline to our friends, communities, and the world.

During this Year of Evangelism, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Atlantic Union hopes to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ as never before. Our pastors, teachers, leaders, and members are poised to give major emphasis to evangelism this year.

From April 9–11, there will be a union-wide ShareHim Rally at the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. As at the Seeds Conference, held last year in Connecticut, our lay members will be trained at the ShareHim Rally to conduct evangelistic meetings in their homes, churches, and communities with the support of their pastors serving as coaches. Later, on August 2–5, the first-ever Atlantic Union Pastors and Teachers Convention will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, with the goal of unifying the labors of pastors and teachers, churches and schools in a focused, strategic effort to prepare our youth for Christian service and the hope of eternal life.

In Scripture, the story is told of a man whose friends tried desperately to get him healed by Jesus. Since there was no other way to get him into the packed house, they broke up the roof of the house and let him down by ropes into the presence of Jesus. Praise God! The man was healed! (Mark 2:1–12).

We are called to do the same today and throughout this new year—to bring others into the presence of Christ’s healing grace. It’s God’s way of populating heaven with people from planet Earth. This is the hope that burns within every Christian’s heart. It’s the greatest hope lifeline of all!

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.

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“During this Year of Evangelism, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Atlantic Union hopes to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ as never before. Our Goal for Souls in the Atlantic Union in 2009 is 5,000 new members. By His grace we hope to reach this by the end of 2009 and celebrate what God will have wrought in our territory. There are compelling reasons based on recent happenings on our planet to suggest that there is no better time than now to engage in soul-winning activities. People everywhere, regardless of race, class, creed, or culture, are searching for hope. Our pastors, teachers, leaders, youth, and members are poised to give major emphasis to evangelism. We are called to do the same today and throughout this new year—to bring others into the presence of Christ’s healing grace.”—Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president

“Instead of only depending on the pastors to share the Good News of Jesus, the New York Conference administration is providing leadership for all members to discover how God desires to use each one in our evangelistic mission. We have encouraged, trained, equipped, and involved all willing lay members in making disciples for Jesus. In 2009, the Year of Evangelism, our goal is not only to bring many others to Christ, but to dramatically increase the New York army of passionate, active disciples.

“We challenged our members and the camp meeting evangelism offering jumped from $35,000 to $105,000! We are facilitating our churches to each develop and implement a yearly cycle of evangelism including sowing, cultivating, and reaping activities. Our pastors will lead by being involved in two reaping campaigns as they involve and train more lay evangelists.

“Conference administrators, pastors, and lay members are all involved in planning an extra evangelistic emphasis for the city of Buffalo as part of a five-year cycle of evangelizing our major cities begun in 2007. The key reason for the existence of every New York Conference Adventist church is to be a center for evangelism!”—Stan Rouse, New York Conference president

“In 2009, the Northeastern Conference is seeking to have every church adopt evangelism as a way of life throughout the year. That “way of life” is to include training members and empowering and challenging them to “share the hope” in whatever way they are comfortable. We are encouraging the pastors to set quarterly baptism dates and work to meet them with individuals for baptism. Each church is assigned a goal, and we aim to lead 3,000 individuals to Christ.”—Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president
“The Northern New England Conference is eager to join the North American Division’s 2009 evangelism initiative. Every district is planning a witnessing event, tailor-made to the giftedness of the member and needs of the community. Some areas will hold public evangelistic meetings; others will do health evangelism and/or family life evangelistic meetings. Since there’s no such thing as a non-witnessing Christian, all of our pastors and churches will have a plan, and, by God’s grace, work that plan. Our goal is to place our feet in the water of evangelism and see God miraculously part the water and give us souls for His kingdom.”—Mike Ortel, Northern New England Conference president

“The Southern New England Conference has no lack of a soul-winning challenge with 13 million people living within its territory! Our members and pastors are excited about sharing the gospel and our distinct Adventist message in these last days. Our multi-ethnic conference has a goal of bringing 1,200 new members to Christ through ShareHim initiatives, the Light America Mission literature evangelism program, visiting evangelists from Central and South America, youth outreach programs, secular campus ministries, student-led evangelism initiated in Seventh-day Adventist schools, and local church evangelism by pastors and members. The harvest truly is great and we believe God will provide an abundant harvest in 2009.”—Frank Tochterman, Southern New England Conference president

“The Greater New York Conference is excited about evangelism in 2009. The events in the world have made people ripe for the gospel and the Three Angels Messages. With the ShareHim initiative, strategic planning, and church plans in place, we are praying for a greater harvest of souls than at any time in our history.”—Richard Marker, Greater New York Conference president

“The Bermuda Conference has pledged to “share the hope” in an unprecedented way. All pastors and churches will conduct at least two evangelistic meetings and participate in one of three district meetings. All administrators will be involved, including the pride of our conference, Bermuda Institute. We aim to achieve and exceed our union’s goal of 200 souls for Bermuda by utilizing the ShareHim model of sowing and reaping. Some ask whether we can really achieve all of this. We say, with men it is impossible, but with God, all things are possible. Or, in other words, yes, we can.”—Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda Conference president
Suggestions for Churches and Members

Here are some things your church can do to get involved.

1. Identify members who are already active in outreach and find out what they are doing.

2. Identify the talents, gifts, and skills of the members. Encourage them to become involved in the ministry that best suits them.

3. Take time to examine the needs of your community—social, physical, psychological, and spiritual. Get to know those whom you are trying to reach.

4. Determine which needs are the easiest to address by the current ministries in your church and establish a plan to help meet those needs. Then, assess the needs that can’t be met by the existing ministries of your church and create a plan to address those, as well.

5. Invite a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor to church or meetings held by the church.

Nurture Members

Each member in the church is at a different level in their Christian experience. In addition to getting involved in outreach ministry, members need to be nurtured to ensure that they are growing. Here are some suggestions that might help them in their Christian growth.

1. Find out what are the topics of interest and importance to the members, then develop and present seminars that will address those topics.

2. Establish support groups that focus on areas in which members may be struggling.

3. Keep in contact with the members. When they are not at church, give them a call to let them know they are missed.

Share Continually

Prayer is an important component for successful evangelism efforts and the growth of the church.

1. In addition to individual prayers, emphasis should be given to establishing prayer groups that function on a regular basis. The prayer focus for each group should be determined by the evangelism program and the needs of the church.

2. Pray for the pastor, leaders, and evangelistic teams of your church.

Share

As we embark on this important evangelistic initiative, there will be many stories to tell. We are interested in including some of those stories in the Gleaner on a monthly basis throughout the year. If you believe you have a story that should be shared with our readers, here is what you need to do.


2. Include the name of the individual who wrote the story, the name of their church, a telephone number, and their e-mail address.

3. Include a photo relating to the story, a caption about the photo, and the name of the photographer.

4. E-mail the story to the Gleaner editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

Web Site for Evangelistic Meetings

If your church has scheduled evangelistic meetings for 2009, send us the dates, location, speaker, church, and pastor sponsoring the event, and the information will be added to the Evangelistic Meetings page on the Atlantic Union Web site. www.atlanticunion.org/evangelism.html.

Share the Hope... Tell the World... Tell Atlantic Union

Evangelism is one of the major topics of conversation around the Atlantic Union. The Atlantic Union and its six local conferences have committed to keeping evangelism alive in their territory. Two initiatives will exist side-by-side in 2009—Atlantic Union’s Tell the World... Tell Atlantic Union, an ongoing initiative for the quinquennium, and the North American Division’s Share the Hope, the 2009 Year of Evangelism initiative. Church members, workers, and youth are encouraged to get involved in some form of outreach ministry for the 365 days of 2009.

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Ministry or Work?

As the school year approached, I felt the usual mixture of emotions—excitement about a new school year and frustration at the end of summer which, for me, had gone too fast. There was so much I wanted to get done, and much of it lay untouched. I was nervous. Could I do the job? Would I be able to handle the unavoidable problems?

These feelings are typical for teachers. Unfortunately, so is the fact that two months later these feelings had all been replaced by stress. I couldn’t get all the “education” to fit into one day. Some parents want things organized this way, others want it that way. Little Suzy can’t get multiplication facts memorized and little Joe isn’t reading up to his proper level. Papers to be graded are piled on my desk at school and next to my computer at home. On top of all of that, I feel like I’m neglecting my home and other ministries at church.

Wait, what was that word? “Ministries.” Doesn’t my teaching license say Minister of Teaching? Then why is this so stressful?

I believe the answer is a spiritual one. I believe, and have believed for a long time, that the end is near. I feel in my bones that we are on the precipice of the mountain of time and soon we will be in a free-fall of end-time events, a time of spiritual and physical conflict. It is for this time that we prepare our students.

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The kind of training that is needed here is not so much “teaching” as we traditionally think of it, but a training that only happens in ministry. That is why we are “ministers of teaching,” and not just merely teachers.

So, how does this relate to the stress mentioned above? Simple—Satan doesn’t mind if we teach. He is okay with our kids knowing math, reading, writing, history, and science, for these things pose no threat to him. What scares him immensely is to see our kids trained to stand for what is right, even when it’s hard, learning to be dependent upon Jesus to see them through whatever lies ahead. Satan’s panic intensifies if students can also be intelligent users of their minds—skilled at reading, writing, math, and so on—in their struggle against him. That’s why we are called to be ministers and teachers. Satan knows that when we are stressed we stop ministering and merely teach. We separate ourselves from the Source of Power and, therefore, cannot pass power on. If you are a minister of plumbing or medicine or auto mechanics, the same may be true for you.

I encourage teachers and all others in the service of God: do not stop ministering. For teachers it may mean putting the math book aside for a day or two, or pausing from science to have a revival in your class. Do not stop ministering, or we cease to be ministers. Let the Spirit guide your ministry and be at peace knowing you are within His will.

Jeremy Garlock teaches grades 2–4 at Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York.
“As a youth leader, the most important aspect of my ministry, Conquerors for Christ (C4C), is reaching out to people in my community. This is done by going out and teaching, preaching, and serving. The ministry teaches by letting others know about the love of Jesus Christ, preaches by notifying others of salvation and the Second Coming, and serves by helping the underprivileged by donating school supplies to children and coats during the winter season to those in need, and more.”—*Esther Reme*, Jerusalem French Seventh-day Adventist Church Pathfinder director

“The most important aspects of my ministry as a youth leader are enthusiasm, honesty, and having a personal relationship with my Pathfinders. Today’s youth are always looking to their leaders for guidance, leadership, and understanding. Finding a way to show the youth that you can relate to them, and that they can trust you, is the key to opening their hearts and minds to receive your ministry’s message. One that says that eternal salvation lies in Jesus.”—*Matthew Gerachty*, Luso-Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Church Pathfinder director

“I believe the most important aspect of my ministry as a youth leader is reflecting the character of Christ to young people. God’s character as reflected through Jesus is patient, kind, humble, and helpful. Because Christ died for my sins and gave me the hope of salvation, I believe the least I can do is reflect His character. I consider it a privilege to reflect patience, kindness, humility, and servant leadership in my relationships with young people.”—*Ryan Sharpe*, Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church elder

“One of the most important aspects of my ministry is first drawing closer to Christ and then trying to lead like Jesus did. Jesus loved us before anyone did and this is one of the most important aspects of my ministry. I love young people and I am aware of the great value each person has, how rewarding it will be to see a person happy in this life and the life on the new earth.”—*R. Darwin Garcia*, Spanish Weeks Seventh-day Adventist Church elder and Bronx Adventist Youth coordinator

“Building a relationship with the children/adolescents of our church is the fulfilling and rewarding part of our ministry. It is important to engage in safe and Christ-centered activities with the youth. For the little ones, a simple smile, an encouraging pat on the back, listening to what they have to say, and even taking time to play, will form a friendly bond. Teens yearn for your approval, counsel, and humor and then begin to develop a respectful and lasting relationship. I believe it is highly important for leaders, even with all their administrative duties and responsibilities, to take time to build a relationship with their audience and find specific ways to meet their needs. Once that genuine connection is made with them and they feel that you, a leader, are interested in their lives, feelings, and interests, then they will more easily connect with your message—the hope of Jesus Christ. In essence, building meaningful relationships with our youth is vital to building true disciples of Christ.”—*Roseangel Luna-Badia*, Spanish Dyckman Seventh-day Adventist Church Pathfinder director and Greater New York Conference Adventurer area coordinator

This is your opportunity, if you are a youth leader who is 35 years old or younger, to participate in this segment of YouthTalk. E-mail your response to the question “What do you believe is the most important aspect(s) of your ministry as a youth leader?” to the GLEANER editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org. Be sure to include your full name, age, church, position in the church, and a high resolution photo.
Dressed in their distinguishing yellow shirts and surrounded by an air of anticipation, the prefects of Bermuda Institute arrived at school knowing that this day would be different than any other. This was the day they would be officially pinned and installed as the prefects for the 2008-2009 academic year. A prefect is a student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and deportment and who has maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. These students are selected by the faculty to assist with monitoring school activities inside and outside of the classroom.

On October 30, 2008, those who had met these criteria assembled for the solemn, yet exciting Prefect Pinning Ceremony. As their peers looked on, the prefects ceremoniously marched in outside of the classroom. Each and took their places in the auditorium. The returning prefects paired with a returning prefect to “dare to be a Daniel. Dare to have a purpose firm and dare to make it known.” It was a powerful and thought-provoking speech.

Following the address, the long anticipated pinning took place. The returning prefects were called to the stage first, to be pinned and sign their pledge of commitment. Then they escorted the new prefects to the stage where they had the honor of inducting them into the office of prefect.

Wearing their newly conferred pins and carrying their signed pledges, the prefects stood at the front of the auditorium. Each new prefect was led by a returning prefect, symbolizing their welcome and support as they serve in this capacity for the first time.

As Tucker read the tenets of their pledge, the prefects responded in the affirmative to seal their commitment and dedication to upholding the ideals of the position.

After a prayer of dedication by Jeffrey Brown, the Bermuda Institute school board chair and Bermuda Conference president, the prefects recessed from the auditorium—each new prefect paired with a returning one. They left with a new sense of commitment and determination to:

• Be good Christian role models for other students.
• Be good ambassadors for the school at all times.
• Wear the school uniform correctly and with pride.
• Report or act upon any actions that may adversely affect the school.
• Assist wherever possible with the smooth running of the school.

It is our prayer that the prefects will continue to look to God for wisdom and direction as they embark upon this high calling of service to Him and their school.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

New Pastor Installed at Southampton Church

A capacity congregation of members and visiting friends witnessed the installation of Errol McLean, the new senior pastor at the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church, on Sabbath, October 4, 2008.

McLean, who was born and raised in an Adventist home on the island of Jamaica, West Indies, graduated from West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) with a Bachelor of Theology degree. While there he met his wife, Melzetta Ratteray, a native Bermudian. They were married in Bermuda on January 3, 1988, and to this union they were blessed with two sons, Newton and Jovan.

McLean began and continued for eight years in ministry in Jamaica, where he distinguished himself in evangelism. The family moved to Bermuda, where he continued his educational pursuits at Webster University, earning a master’s degree in human resources and management. Through the NTL Institute and Bermuda College he also earned certification as a diversity facilitator.

In 1995, he accepted a call to pastor the Pembroke church, a position he held for five years. He then accepted the call to pastor the Devonshire church, remaining there eight years. During this tenure, he continued his studies at Atlantic Union College and Andrews University, earning a master’s degree in pastoral ministry. Presently he’s completing his doctoral studies at Andrews University.

On October 1, 2008, McLean accepted the call to be the senior pastor of the Southampton church, along with his wife and two sons. The members of Southampton church are pleased to have a pastor of this caliber as their spiritual leader.

—Wendell Simons, communication department, Southampton church
The Dunamis Seventh-day Adventist Church held a three-week family enrichment series last October. Alanzo Smith, front row second from left, Greater New York Conference Family Ministries director, was the guest speaker. Donnieval Walker, front row right, the church’s pastor, worked with the team during the series.

Integrating the gospel with family themes must have resonated well with the people. By the conclusion of the meetings, 57 people had been baptized.

“God has indeed blessed us,” said Whitney Britton, first elder. “Adding 57 new members to the church is a mighty blessing. With a membership of 100 plus, these newly baptized members will move our growth beyond 200 members and will help to strengthen God’s church.”

Donnieval Walker, the church’s pastor, Bible workers Gillian Paul, Dwayne Green, and Pauline Forbes-Charlot, along with Britton, and the dedicated members of the Dunamis church worked as a team to conduct the series.

“We give God the glory and the praise for what He accomplished, and pray that these new members will grow in God’s grace and seek to lead others to the kingdom.”

—Lisa González, administrative secretary, Greater New York Conference Communication Department

Church Bible workers Gillian Paul, Dwayne Green, and Pauline Forbes-Charlot were instrumental in the success of the family enrichment series.

The success of the meetings can be measured by the 13 individuals who took their stand for Christ in two separate baptisms during the event.

International speaker and author Keith Augustus Burton delivered Bible-centered lessons on prophecy, the second coming of Christ, and practical Christianity during a three-week evangelistic series at the Huntington church. The series, themed Access Granted, was well attended. The success of the meetings can be measured by the 13 individuals who took their stand for Christ in two separate baptisms during the event.

The Access Granted series was planned jointly by the Antioch and Huntington churches in Long Island, New York, and spearheaded by Lincoln Smith, who pastors both churches. “Access Granted has been a breakthrough for all of us at Antioch and Huntington,” said Smith. “God was glorified, lives have been changed, and we were reassured that access is granted to the kingdom of God through the blood of Jesus Christ.”

Both churches took part in handing out flyers and issuing invitations in the neighborhoods in and around the community. The evangelistic committee, Personal Ministries department, Bible workers, and church members made a concerted effort, not only to reach out to the community but to renew connections with missing members.

As they rejoice in the success of the event, members of the Antioch and Huntington churches will continue their outreach efforts, following up with the many contacts made during the meetings, and praying for more baptisms for Christ.

—Oveta Foster, communication director, Huntington church

Churches Combine Efforts for Evangelistic Series

Fifty-seven people were baptized following a three-week family enrichment series at the Dunamis church. Alanzo Smith, front row second from left, Greater New York Conference Family Ministries director, was the guest speaker. Donnieval Walker, front row right, the church’s pastor, worked with the team during the series.

Church Bible workers Gillian Paul, Dwayne Green, and Pauline Forbes-Charlot were instrumental in the success of the family enrichment series.
Greater New York Conference Launches ShareHim Evangelism

The annual Greater New York Conference United Camp Meeting drew more than 1,000 leaders and members who came to learn how they can share Christ more effectively with their neighbors and friends. Robert Folkenberg, ShareHim founder and former General Conference president, used the entire day to train these leaders.

Richard Marker, Greater New York Conference president, and G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference executive secretary, coordinated the event. Both men expressed satisfaction with the response of the people and believe that such enthusiasm and commitment will only serve to strengthen and bless the conference.

The ShareHim program is the brainchild of Folkenberg and is designed to mobilize and train church laity to conduct evangelistic meetings.

Following the launch of the ShareHim outreach at the United Camp meeting, follow-up training was held at Camp Berkshire. The size of the group indicated that the Greater New York Conference laity is ready to do soul-winning on a bigger scale.

As we draw closer to the coming of the Lord, the work will not be finished until the laity and clergy unite to proclaim the everlasting gospel to the entire world.

—Alanzo Smith, communication director, Greater New York Conference

God is Moving at Crossroads

Crossroads Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomed its new pastor, Oriel Thomas, on September 6, 2008. A native of Trinidad, Thomas’ pastoral experience includes the Maranatha church in Brooklyn and the New Life church in the Bronx.

In his inaugural sermon, Pastor Thomas challenged his new congregation to reach out to the international world that walks right outside its Times Square doors.

“It is my conviction that the charter members named this church Crossroads to emphasize a mission,” Thomas said. “What a name! What a location! How true to Israel! Here we have unparalleled opportunities.”

“The world crosses here—addicts and pimps. In the desert of 42nd Street one can find Christ, the Living Water. In the failing economy and the dropping Dow on Wall Street one can find Living Bread. The time has come to put ministry within the reach of people.”

Approximately one month later Crossroads saluted 17 of its members during “Deacon and Deaconess Day.” Head deaconess Loretta Haywood said church assistants do not get the accolades they deserve. She then presented them with certificates of recognition.

Among those who have served at least 20 years were Mervyn Eversley, Henry Lyew, Alfred Sesay (emeritus), Merle Fearon, Marion Gibbs, Simone Hector, Mary Niles, and Elma Phillip.

The female group, Strings & Harmony, sang inspirational hymns such as “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship.”

Guest pastor Kevin Brown welcomed the new pastor with mild kidding, saying, “I’d like you to know you have a pastor who is young—at heart.” After that he preached a stirring message, telling worshippers: “The meaning of an unproductive day is a day we do not tell someone about Jesus.”

—Neil Graves, communication secretary, Crossroads church
Atlantic Union College and Loma Linda University Move Toward Affiliation Agreement

The initial details of a planned campus affiliation between Loma Linda University (LLU), Loma Linda, California, and Atlantic Union College (AUC), 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, Massachusetts, was voted by the Loma Linda University Board of Trustees on Wednesday, December 10, 2008. Atlantic Union College’s Board of Trustees met that evening following LLU’s trustees meeting and voted unanimously to endorse the action taken by the Loma Linda University Board of Trustees.

Loma Linda University’s trustees voted that the Loma Linda University administration draft details of an affiliation agreement with Atlantic Union College that attempts to protect AUC’s accreditation for the two-year period of 2009 to 2011. The Loma Linda and Atlantic Union College administrations will be in consultation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the regional accrediting body, in the course of drafting the agreement.

“The terms of the agreement, along with financial implications for Loma Linda University during the two-year period, will be presented for the Loma Linda University and the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Board of Trustees’ consideration before the end of January 2009,” says Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University.

If board approval is given to the affiliation agreement, and if continued accreditation is secured or reasonably assured for the two-year period, an agreement regarding the possible merger between Loma Linda University and Atlantic Union College will be presented to Loma Linda’s board of trustees and Atlantic Union College board of trustees by May, 2010, according to Dr. Hart. “If that proposal is approved, Loma Linda’s and AUC’s boards of trustees then could move toward a merger implementation.”

Loma Linda University is a private university 60 miles east of Los Angeles, California, and was founded in 1905 as the College of Medical Evangelists. Loma Linda, along with Atlantic Union College, are institutions founded on the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Loma Linda includes eight schools—Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Religion, and Science and Technology, and a Faculty of Graduate Studies offering more than 200 degree and certificate programs. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Atlantic Union College, established in 1882, is a private New England specialty college focused on community engagement and Christian leadership. It is one hour from Boston and three hours from New York. Over the past three months, Loma Linda and AUC trustees, faculty, and staff have been in exploratory discussions regarding affiliation opportunities. “In recent weeks, conversations brought into clear focus the partnership options which we have now decided to pursue going forward to our planned branch campus affiliation and possible eventual institutional merger,” states Dr. Hart.

LLU and AUC have developed a mission-complementary approach to leveraging their respective program and faculty strengths—and matching these resources with unmet undergraduate and graduate student educational needs. Through discussions, partnership planning retreats, and roundtable conversations, both institutions have reached an agreement in principle as a shared vision for joining these two venerable institutions. The collaboration will enhance Seventh-day Adventist education for Adventist young adults and students in the community from the region.

Central to our values, strategic drivers, and importantly, mutual long-range goals and near-term objectives, Loma Linda and AUC will achieve future enrollment growth based on mission-complementary and collaborative programming. The intent is to create an undergraduate health science campus with a variety of health professional career tracks available.

At the heart of partnership will be a carefully-planned sequence of phased collaboration, consolidation and merger strategies, aimed at the phased integration of faculty, staff, and students. Among the benefits that Loma Linda brings are economies of scale, efficiencies in operation, and non-duplication of program effort.

Initially, Loma Linda will collaborate with complementary academic programs at the AUC campus, allowing for cross-registration, dual enrollment, and teaching and learning. During the first six months of the partnership, the faculty and staff will identify programs that can be offered jointly to reduce program and course duplication. Further, Loma Linda and AUC will identify back office operations for future consolidation and cost reduction.

“Norman Wendth, PhD, president of the college, and I are encouraged and supportive of this new affiliation between Atlantic Union College and Loma Linda University,” says Donald G. King, DrPH, chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees and president of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Atlantic Union Conference is headquartered in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, and serves the Northeast United States and the island of Bermuda.

“We believe this will be most effective and beneficial to both institutions as they work together in a mission-collaborative and community-focused way.”

Norman Wendth, president, Atlantic Union College
Donald King, chair, Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees and president, Atlantic Union Conference
Richard Hart, president, Loma Linda University
Lowell Cooper, chair, Loma Linda University Board of Trustees
Reverberations

Meet some enthusiastic members of the great Atlantic Union College family! This month, we invite you to hear reflections from members who came to Atlantic Union College from the Northeastern and Southern New England conferences.

“Hello, my name is Nicolette. I am a student at Atlantic Union College and I am in my second semester of the clinical nursing program. “I love Atlantic Union College. I am here because God called me to be here. In this place, I am given the opportunity to make a difference in my life and in the lives of others. As a nursing major, I am learning how to treat my clients with superb professional care, and provide them with spiritual support. Once I leave AUC, I know my career will be my ministry. “Atlantic Union College has helped draw me closer to God in a way I never thought possible. I thought my relationship with God was so close, but I realized I had to grow more. I am indebted to this institution for my growing faith in, and love for the redeemer of my soul. With Christ, I know I can take on any challenge, overcome any obstacle, and achieve success at any endeavor. “The instructors here are caring and really want you to succeed and we pray at the beginning of classes. “I love the activities on campus, the camaraderie, the fun we have together, and how we all know one another. “AUC has taught me to be myself, to explore the world, and it showed me how to get to know people much better and accept people for who they are and not be judgmental. “I love the campus—the quiet, homey setting, the beautiful trees, the people, the students, and the teachers. It’s a close-knit family and a wonderful atmosphere.” —Nicolette Piaubert, Associate of Nursing ’09. Member of the Hebron French church in Brooklyn, New York.

“Hi. My name is Sabina. I am from Skoczow, Poland, and I am a nursing student at Atlantic Union College. “Before starting classes at Atlantic Union College, I was in Northern California at a public college. There, I learned that the difference between public and Adventist education is huge. “My sister and I were enrolled in an EMT program (emergency medical technician). The class had labs on Sundays. However, one lab fell on a Saturday. “We decided to go to church instead of the lab. We called our professor to tell him we were not going to be there and he told us that ‘if a pilot wants to fly an airplane, he needs to know how to do it.’ We ended up being kicked out of the class. “After contacting the dean of the college and several other people in power, we were let back in. Of course, we were scared, thinking the professor would fail us anyway. But, God blessed us. We were allowed to finish the course, and we were the first international students who passed the boards in this teacher’s class. “That week, we were also studying the book of Daniel in Sabbath School. We then really knew that God was in control of the whole situation. “At Atlantic Union College, when I come to class in the morning, my teachers are able to pray with us, have worship with us, and encourage us. We also have the freedom to worship on God’s day. It is amazing to be in a Christian environment where you are not judged by what you believe and it is a relief to know that no one will be opposed to it.” —Sabina Brzozowska, nursing major, ’10. She is a member of the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

This feature is presented by the enrollment office, Bordes Henry-Saturne, vice president for enrollment and retention, and Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director.
Church Plant Impacts the Community

The Master’s Vineyard church plant impacted the city of Niagara Falls this past summer for six weeks at the local Doris Jones Resource Building summer camp. Three programs were held each week, including a Junior Achievement program that teaches youth about money management and entrepreneurship. The other two classes, with 40 students each, were the Kids Time Character Building classes that were designed around the theme Health Land. It was created by Myrtle Neufeld, a 90-year-old church member.

At the end of the program we sponsored a party for the students and staff with about 150 people attending. Bibles were made available for the young people and the teen and adult staff members were given a copy of Ben Carson’s book *Think Big*.

Health Ministries

Christina Webber and Fran Brent from the Lockport church traveled to Oshawa, Canada, in July 2008 to participate in the CHIP (Coronary Heart Improvement Program) leadership training course. Both received a certificate to conduct CHIP programs in their area. As God opens the doors, we look forward to using this knowledge to lead others to Him in the Niagara County communities.

Community Events

The Heritage Festival was held in the city at the end of July. Twenty-five hours were spent at our table giving away back-to-school supplies, handing out literature, signing up kids for the Kids Time program and the adults for Bible studies.

The most fun-filled event this past summer was the City Crime Night on July 29. A table was set up and material about our church and ministry was shared with people. In two hours more than 65 people completed community surveys. These surveys gave them an opportunity to enroll their children and themselves in programs and Bible Studies. It was difficult to keep up with so many people stopping by. Back-to-school supplies and literature were also distributed.

It really makes an impact when people meet you face to face and see that you care for them. Many friends from the community now participate in our programs each week as a result of our efforts.

—Chris Webber, member, Niagara Falls church plant

Plattsburgh Church Holds ShareHim Meetings

The Plattsburgh Seventh-day Adventist Church held 16 ShareHim meetings September 5 through October 1, 2008. The meetings were held four nights a week.

Pastor H. Eugene Thomas and 13 church members preached the sermons. Three of the preachers were from our sister church at High Banks. The appeal songs were sung by Plattsburgh, High Banks, and Saranac Lake church members.

Three visitors attended the meetings, including one who came every night. That individual requested further studies and expressed an interest in joining the church. Two children are studying with their parents in preparation for baptism.

Investing in Investment

Sabbath School Investment is alive and well in Tioga County! Members donated $300 to the investment program as a result of some unique projects they worked on last year. Some of the projects included donating for the number of quarts of blueberries gathered from their own bushes, the number of tomatoes grown from a patio tomato plant, golf balls resold after being hit onto a member’s yard from the neighboring golf course, home grown onions, and transporting horses. The most unique project was donations made for the number of ears of corn grown on corn stalks on a cemetery grave site! A Sabbath School member is a summer caretaker of his neighborhood cemetery and he noticed that a farmer passed away a few years ago and the family plants corn on the grave site every year.

We are looking forward to next year and more unique projects!

—Marnie Schrader, Sabbath School superintendent, Tioga County church

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Revival Week Triples Congregation

When Bible worker Ben Bernard announced Revival Week at the Native American church in Oneida, New York, the members in attendance had no idea what to expect. Still, Bernard, head elder Jerry Winnie, and others in the church went out into the community and invited everyone they met to the meetings held throughout the week of October 19, 2008.

Every morning and evening, Bernard brought Bible truths long forgotten to the members and to those who had never heard the truth. The highlight of the week was Revival Sabbath on October 25 when more than 30 people attended, three times the usual congregation!

Many of these were Native Americans. Bernard’s children Silvia, Ephriam, Sapati, and Solomaa, the “Singing Samoans,” lifted their voices in praise during the service.

Bernard arrived four years ago to work among the Native Americans at Onondaga and in Oneida. The native people have welcomed him as one of their own, since the Samoan and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) cultures have many similarities. Many non-Indian people in the city of Oneida are also responding to the Holy Spirit. We ask for your prayers that God will continue to bless His ministry in Oneida and also at Onondaga.

—Liz Robert, member, Vienna church

Vienna Church Partners With ShareHim

The Syracuse Boot Camp created a new level of enthusiasm in the Vienna Seventh-day Adventist Church. Church members voted to present a ShareHim evangelistic series. About 100 invitations were made and distributed to friends.

Leaders included Fred Parker on Mondays, Bob and Jean Prest on Wednesdays, and Robert Tobiasson on Friday nights. I led the songs with Lois Edgerton playing the organ.

The group met in the comfort of the prayer meeting room three nights per week for 15 meetings and then transitioned to meeting only on prayer meeting nights for 24 weeks. We had five visitors, along with church members, attending the meetings.

I know God will bless our efforts as we go out to spread the gospel in our neighborhoods using the tools provided by ShareHim.

—Gordon Edgerton, pastor, Vienna church

Westvale Church Highlights

The Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a series of events in the last quarter of 2008 that served to benefit the members as well as individuals in the community.

• On September 16, 2008, Neal Barnard, M.D., founder of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, presented information on a plant-based diet to help people reverse diabetes and lose weight. Sally Hafner, Health Ministries assistant leader, spoke to the 400 participants about the church’s CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) program.

• Joan Payne, Health Ministries leader, was the guest speaker at two cooking schools at nearby Adventist churches. Her presentation was entitled “Healthy Heart,” and she also discussed the importance of reading food labels.

• Marion Lake, an elder of the church, and Sally Hafner presented vegetarian cooking classes to a local Girl Scout group at the Solvay Public Library.

• Approximately 125 church members and guests attended a special Thanksgiving celebration at Parkview Junior Academy on Sunday evening, November 16, 2008. It was the first special event of its kind hosted by the social committee of the church. The church members contributed food for the meal. In the program following the meal, members Fred and Beth Burghardt led in singing Thanksgiving hymns; Larry Berg, a church elder, gave a presentation on the history of Thanksgiving and the Melloaires and Burghardt family treated the group to special music.

—Joan Payne, communication secretary, Westvale Church
Caring for the Caregiver

A rainy, cold weekend, with reports of an impending storm threatening the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, did not thwart the plans made by Dionisio Olivo, Atlantic Union Conference Family Ministries director, to host a retreat for the local conference Family Ministries directors. Neither did it dampen the spirit of the directors and their families as they traveled through the storm to Cape Cod for the first union retreat of its kind.

“The retreat titled ‘Caring for the Caregiver’ was planned with the Family Ministries directors from the six conferences in the Atlantic Union in mind,” said Olivo. “They spend a good portion of their time working with many families in their conferences and they encounter various challenges. The retreat was an opportunity to set aside time and have someone minister to these caregivers.”

Rene Drumm, the Southern Adventist University Social Work and Family Studies Department chair, was the presenter. Her relaxed and non-academic approach was well received. Through the sharing of our feelings and thoughts we were able to debrief and focus on ourselves as caregivers. She challenged us to take care of the caregiver, because if the caregiver is broken, then the service rendered by the caregiver will be broken as well.

Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary, gave a powerful and thought-provoking sermon. Using Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy he showed the challenges the children of Israel faced and overcame by God’s power and he challenged the directors to utilize the power of God when faced with challenges.

—Alanzo Smith is the Greater New York Conference Family Ministries director
issues were cheating, appearance, violence, Internet abuse, Sabbathkeeping, anger control, and prayer. Some of the highlights of the weekend included the workshops presented by the academy students. Each academy was assigned two of the “hot button” teen issues. The students researched, prepared, and presented the topics using PowerPoint presentations, small group activities, videos, and more. Many comments were made about the students’ presentations.

Musician Courtney Fadlin joined the conference for the weekend and presented several instrumental pieces on the saxophone. Fadlin also shared his testimony of his “battle within” to either become a track star or to give his life in full-time music ministry. Now he blesses many with his music ministry.

As the Sabbath ended, students had opportunities to pray for one another and the issues they face. They were reminded that they are not alone in their battles with sin and that, through the power of the Holy Spirit and with encouragement from one another, they will win the battle within.

—Bill Wood is the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director.

From this Day Forward — De Este Dia en Adelante

Approximately 50 Hispanic couples from around the Atlantic Union attended From This Day Forward, a one-day marriage retreat, co-sponsored by the Atlantic Union Hispanic Ministries and the North American Division (NAD) Family Ministries departments. The event, which took place on October 11, 2008, at the Sheraton Hotel in Suffolk Long Island, New York, featured seminars and presentations conducted by Willie Oliver, NAD Family Ministries director, Jorge and Nibia Mayer, Enrique and Viviana Calandra, and Alfredo and Juanita Ruiz.

Some of the topics presented included: The Joy of Unity, Resolving Problems, Communication, Sexual Unity, and Forgiveness. Each seminar offered the couples practical, professional, and biblical encouragement to help strengthen their marriage relationships while encouraging them to reconnect, re-energize, and recommit themselves to each other in love.

The event culminated with an opportunity for couples to renew their relationships based on love, understanding, forgiveness of past mistakes, and new beginnings in their marriages. Oliver led out in a marriage vows renewal ceremony in which each couple had the opportunity for a fresh start in their marriage.

After the ceremony concluded, many couples indicated they were happy to have had the opportunity to experience a revival in their marriage, a recommitment of love, and a new beginning to help form happier, stronger, and healthier families in their communities and churches. A request was made to continue providing excellent seminars such as this event for families.

I would like to personally thank each couple present for their heartfelt desire to reconnect, re-energize, and recommit to their marriage. Also, my profound thanks goes to each of the presenters for such practical counsel. Special thanks to Willie Oliver for pressing forward with God’s plan for each marriage to be a little piece of heaven on earth. May God continue to use him and his wife, Elaine, in this ministry of fostering stronger and healthier marriages.

—Dionisio Olivo, vice president Atlantic Union Hispanic Ministries
More than One Million New Members in 2008

In 2008, for the fifth consecutive year, more than one million people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide, according to the church’s statistical report. This brings the world membership to 15,780,719. “Leaders said church growth came from many initiatives, including media outreach, personal witness, schools and other institutions, and public evangelism.” Read the entire article at: news.adventist.org/data/2008/1223926120/index.html.en.

—Ansel Oliver, assistant director, Adventist News Network

Adventist Church Tightens its Belt

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders announced financial restraints and cutbacks to deal with the current economic situation, ranging from delaying pay increases and budgeted increases in appropriations to reducing travel budgets and relocating executive meetings. Also, a hiring freeze is in effect for the church’s General Conference, one of several entities at the church’s headquarters building near Washington, D.C.

The moves come in response to global economies facing declines in stock market value, a credit crunch, and increased unemployment rates, realities that could significantly affect tithe and other contributions to local congregations and administrative offices worldwide.

Read the entire article at: news.adventist.org/data/2008/1226940699/index.html.en.

—Ansel Oliver, assistant director, Adventist News Network

Voice of Prophecy: New Broadcast Formats Coming in January 2009

Voice of Prophecy broadcasts in 2009 feature new formats and a new on-air team of speakers. Fred Kinsey, speaker/director for Voice of Prophecy, focuses on his favorite Bible texts on the magazine-style weekend broadcast. He and co-host Connie Vandeman Jeffery will also dialogue on spiritual applications of current events and interview interesting authors, mission workers, and others.

Joining the broadcast with occasional segments is Willa Sandmeyer, an Emmy-award-winning reporter, who will bring inspirational stories of people whose faith is making a difference in the world as they reach out and touch lives for Jesus.

The daily broadcast is all new as well, featuring Pastor Mike Tucker and Pastor Elizabeth Talbot in great conversations about the Bible. Through the end of February, they will be looking at the Gospel of Matthew, with special emphasis on the ways that the life of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. Their high-energy discussions will bring listeners a fresh approach to Bible study.

“Our voices on the broadcasts have changed,” says Kinsey, “the mission is still to tell a hurting world the story of Jesus through radio, Bible courses, and the Internet.”

The Voice of Prophecy radio station log is posted at www.vop.com. Programs are also available as podcasts, and may be accessed 24/7 as RealAudio and mp3 files at this Web site, where they are permanently archived.

—Eldyn Karr, communication director, Voice of Prophecy

GUIDE Magazine Receives $75,000 Grant for Outreach Project

GUIDE magazine has received a $75,000 grant from Versacare, a Seventh-day Adventist nonprofit organization, to help launch a new outreach magazine for children.

Building on more than 50 years of ministry to Seventh-day Adventist children ages 10–14, GUIDE now wants to target young people who don’t attend an Adventist church. The planned monthly outreach version of the magazine, slated for release in early 2009, is designed for church members to share with children they know through a program called “Guide a Friend to Jesus.” GUIDE is raising $350,000 to fund the development and promotional costs of launching the new magazine successfully.

“This may well be the largest child evangelism project in the Adventist Church since GUIDE began in 1953,” said GUIDE editor Randy Fishell. “We are very grateful to Versacare for their generous support.”

GUIDE is currently holding a contest to name the new magazine. For more information about the outreach project, including ways to get involved, visit www.guidemagazine.org/friend or call (301) 393-4037.

—Nick Bejarano, periodical marketing manager, Review and Herald Publishing Association

The Voice of Prophecy radio team, front row, Mike Tucker and Fred Kinsey, and, back row, Elizabeth Talbot and Connie Vandeman Jeffery.
Northern New England Conference presents

**Art Clinic 2009**
**February 5-7, 2009**

Renaissance and Reformation

Program Schedule
Friday, February 6
Vespers - 6:30PM

Sabbath, February 7
Sabbath School - 9:50AM
Church Service - 11:15AM
Visual Presentation of Martin Luther - 2:15PM
Worship - 3:00PM

Art Gallery Open during Sabbath

Hosted by
Central Vermont Academy
395 Vine Street, Barre, Vermont

Application Deadline January 15, 2009

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

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Northern New England Conference presents

**Music Clinic**
**April 2-4, 2009**

Trust and Obey

Hosted by
Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine

Applications due December 1, 2008 for early registration • $10 SAVINGS

Final Piano Application Deadline
February 1, 2009

Final Application Deadline for all others March 1, 2009

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

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More than 100 people came from far and near to participate in the 144th Annual Homecoming Sabbath at the Bordoville church in Bordoville, Vermont, on September 20, 2008. Bill Knott, Adventist Review editor, presented the sermon, “The Call of Stories.” In the afternoon, he shared another story about Hannah Moore. Her story can be found in the Testimonies books. Thanks to volunteers, major renovations to the church were completed during the summer. The inside of the church was repainted. The old bathroom and stairway were gutted, making way for a new handicapped-access bathroom and another single bathroom. The materials for all the projects totaled $1,500. The offering received during the church service more than covered the cost.

We can only praise God as He has been so gracious to provide all the funds to do the work that has been done.

We can only praise God as He has been so gracious to provide all the funds to do the work that has been done. So far, all the labor has been on a volunteer basis and all the bills for repairs are paid.

After the church service, another family offered to scrape and paint the outside of the building in the spring—another of God’s blessings.

We would love to see the church being used each week, but so far the Lord has not answered that request. We still trust Him to work it all out in His time.

We look forward to seeing you at the 145th Annual Homecoming on September 19, 2009.

—Erwin and Ginny Eckson, members Bordoville church
When Samuel Bulgin began his term as pastor of the Roxbury Seventh-day Adventist Church in February 2007, he became aware that one of the major items on the agenda of the then 160-strong congregation was to acquire a church home. Since its formation in 1999, the church had been worshipping in a building owned by a Lutheran church. Over the years, the members were actively involved in trying to find a building.

Bulgin took the mandate seriously to find a church, and when Kathleen Farrell, a church member, called him in February 2008 to say that her employer, a real estate lawyer, had the perfect building for the Roxbury congregation, he did not hesitate to check it out. On seeing the 18,000 square-foot edifice, many would have concluded that it was beyond the means of the 200 members. But, being a man of strong faith, Bulgin determined that, with God, the church members could achieve this feat.

On June 27, 2008, after four months of negotiations and many hours of prayer, the purchase of the church property at 1048 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, Massachusetts, was finalized. On June 28, the Roxbury congregation voted on a new name, The Waymark Seventh-day Adventist Church, and began planning for a grand opening on the weekend of September 12–14.

The church began its opening celebration, using the theme, Unity, Community, Eternity, with a communion service on Friday, September 12. Ives Roberts, senior pastor of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church, was the speaker. He used Luke 22:14 as his key text and reminded everyone of the importance of communion.

On Sabbath, September 13, Roseclare Bulgin led the Sabbath School lesson study, which focused on the great controversy and the seemingly impossible mission of overcoming the evils of this world. She pointed out that the battle can indeed be won if we team up with Christ.

Approximately 850 people filled the sanctuary for the worship service. The Voices of Hope mass choir set the tone for the sermon, with renditions of “Hallelujah: Christ on the Mount of Olives” and “Bless Your Name Forevermore.” The speaker, Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president, used Isaiah chapters 3 and 8 as passages of focus. He preached on the subject “What Have They Seen in Your House?” The message served as encouragement for all to prepare for the second coming of Christ.

Before the praise and thanksgiving concert capped off the events of the day, Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, cited Romans 1:16 and Zachariah 4:6 and challenged the congregation to share the light of God in their new location.

The final day of celebration was the ribbon-cutting ceremony and official opening that took place on Sunday, September 14. The Pathfinders began the evening’s proceedings with the raising of the American flag to the singing of the American national anthem. Bulgin along with Ebenezer Agboka, Northeastern Conference treasurer, and Trevor Forbes, Atlantic Union Conference associate treasurer, performed the ribbon cutting to officially declare the building open for spiritual business. And with that, The Waymark Seventh-day Adventist Church had reached a significant milestone and was well positioned to do what was commissioned in Jeremiah 31:21, “Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way: which thou wentest: turn again O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.” It is our prayer that the members of The Waymark will remain united, as they labor in the community to gather people for eternity...

—Agnes Jordan, communication secretary, The Waymark church
Heritage Camps Encourage the Future by Looking at the Past

The Northeastern Conference Hud-Cap Youth Federation held its second annual Heritage Campout, August 1–3, 2008, at the William Miller Farm in Whitehall, New York. About 30 people camped at the farm and another 30 joined the worship service on Sabbath.

The Hud-Cap Youth Federation includes churches and missions in New York State’s Hudson Valley and Capital Region that are members of the Northeastern Conference. Our goal is to mentor, support, love, and infuse youth with Christian values, equipping them with the Word of God so that they may remain strong no matter the temptation, no matter the trial.

The purpose of the Hud-Cap Heritage Camps is to increase our understanding about Bible prophecy, the history of Christianity, the history and purpose of the Seventh-day Adventist movement and the biblical principles on which it stands. Each year, we hope that attendees leave with a more fortified faith, better prepared to share the gospel, and sensing the urgency of the three angel’s message found in Revelation 14:6–12.

On Friday night, the group engaged in a two-hour discussion about what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian among other faiths and denominations in this generation.

The Sabbath speaker, Andrew Ranglin, from the Covenant Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southwest Ranches, Florida, blessed our camp for the second time by teaching Daniel 7 and 8 and Revelation 12. He preached about the promises of God to free us from a life of sin through Jesus Christ. He emphasized repeatedly that we were able, through Christ, to live a life free from sin if we are faithful to lose ourselves in Him.

In between Ranglin’s morning presentations, Federation president Sean Thomas continued discussions such as those held on Friday night in his presentation, “Be Not Conformed to This World: Stand Out!”

The afternoon was spent relaxing, touring the William Miller Home, singing praise songs, participating in Bible quizzes, and listening to a final presentation by Pastor Ranglin.

On Sunday morning, Serean Smart facilitated a discussion on how we practice our Christianity—how we live out our faith.

We look forward to visiting other historic Seventh-day Adventist sites and learning more about our past and our future as the body of Christ.

—Rachel Josil, communication leader, Hud-Cap Youth Federation

Northeastern Conference Stewardship Director Visits Berea, Nyack, Church

Daniel Honore, Northeastern Conference stewardship director, was the guest speaker at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nyack, New York, for their Personal Ministries and Ushers Day program. In his remarks, Honore commended the members for being faithful in their stewardship in spite of the current economic conditions.

His message titled, “Breaking Down Walls,” was centered around Acts 10. As an introduction to his message, he spoke briefly about the Berlin Wall and how it emerged to separate a nation. In comparison, he shared how God used Peter to break down the walls of hatred and prejudice among the Jews and the Gentiles.

Honore challenged the church members to work with the Personal Ministries department to help carry the Word of God to people in the community. He also reminded the ushers to embrace and treat with respect and kindness those who enter the doors of the church.

He expressed that it was his prayer, for the members and friends of Berea, Nyack, that “when the roll is called up yonder, we’ll all be there.”

—Frances E. Pratt, communication secretary, Berea church, Nyack
Christian Education . . . an Adventist Essential

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth”—3 John 1:4, NIV.

The Southern New England Conference has 16 schools. Its mission at each one is to lead each student in a closer walk with the master teacher, Jesus Christ. Most of these schools are, by the world’s standards, very small. Their task, however, is huge!

The church has been given very specific guidance that, “in localities where there is a church, schools should be established if there are no more than six children to attend”—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 199.

Committed to this mission are a group of outstanding teachers who lead our children each day. First and foremost is their deep commitment to model a Christian life before the students. Each teacher has accepted the calling of God to minister to the children and youth of our conference.

An academic preparation is important. To this end, all teachers must hold a denominational teaching certificate or be working toward its completion. One measure of the quality of our teaching staff is that 65 percent of our full-time teachers presently hold master’s degrees. Seven others are presently enrolled in a master’s degree program. A third of our teaching staff has an ethnic background. Each teacher spends at least five days during the year in professional development activities provided by the Southern New England Conference Office of Education.

The results of the education provided by these teachers are demonstrated on nationally recognized standardized tests. Each year, the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) is given to students in grades 3–8 and grades 9 and 11 with the results analyzed by the Center for Statistical Research at Andrews University.

For the past four years, the results confirm that the longer a student attends a Southern New England Conference school, the greater the rate of improvement as measured by their national percentile standing on the ITBS. Additionally, our students are learning at or above the national average when compared to students in both public and private schools.

To what do we attribute this success? Every morning before school begins teachers in the Southern New England Conference pray this prayer: “Lord, teach these students through me. I give You my lesson plans that my plans will be Your plans. I give You my words that my words will become Your words. I give You my life that it will be an example to those looking to see Jesus through me.”

Recognizing the need to assist some financially, the Secondary Education Trust (SET) Fund was created to assist those attending Seventh-day Adventist academies. This scholarship is given during the fall and spring semesters. During the 2008 spring semester, 178 students attending Seventh-day Adventist academies received scholarships of $459 (day academy students) and $918 (boarding academy students). A number of academy students have used SET Fund scholarships to attend schools in Canada, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Ghana.

Two years ago, the Southern New England Conference Three-Way Worthy Student Plan was expanded to provide assistance to elementary, as well as academy and college students at Atlantic Union College. By providing up to $300 per semester based on financial need, this fund has made an Adventist education a reality to many students.

Seventh-day Adventist education in the Southern New England Conference continues to be a high evangelistic priority. “The experience of the children of Israel was written for us ‘upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ 1 Corinthians 10:11. As in their day, so now the Lord would have the children gathered out from those schools where worldly influences prevail, and placed in our own schools, where the word of God is made the foundation of education”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 166.

—Gary Swinyar, superintendent of schools, Southern New England Conference

A Teacher’s Prayer

“Lord, teach these students through me. I give You my lesson plans that my plans will be Your plans. I give You my words that my words will become Your words. I give You my life that it will be an example to those looking to see Jesus through me.”
Praying For Peace . . . Popcorn-Style


“Peace means no pain, no hurt, no sadness . . . just to be happy” said Kiana Gurley after praying.

“If there’s no peace, some people might not hear God speak” said Andrew Zhang. Popcorn (sentence) prayers are common in the classrooms at Laurel Oaks—where students enjoy a Christian education luxury not granted to their public school peers.

While some of the young prayer warriors have a global vision, others see peace as vital everyday.

“If we didn’t have peace, we’d be a wreck” said Nina Hurt, no sadness . . . just to be happy” said Kiana Gurley after praying.

“Sometimes we’re all fighting when we start to have lunch, but then someone yells ‘A. J.!’ That means, ‘Ask Jesus’ and we think about what He would do and we forget why we were fighting anyway.”

As “Amen” wrapped-up the string of “popcorn” prayers many of the students reminded us that peace is an inner, daily decision originating from “Jesus, not ourselves,” continued Gurley.

Andreea Gardner put it simply, “When we want peace, we can just pray about it.”

—Cheri Daniels, member, New Haven church

“If there’s no peace, some people might not hear God speak.”

Southern New England
School Feature

Our desire at the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Regional School, located in Willimantic, Connecticut, is to change our world, one family at a time. We strive to reach each student through a Christ-centered, hands-on curriculum, encouraging students to grow spiritually, academically, physically, and as individuals.

Once a month students use their imagination by creating something with only a few mystery items in a box. Once complete, the students discuss the scientific reasons why it works or doesn’t work. Bible class enhances their personal relationship with Jesus while the music class teaches them to sing a capella. They also share with the community handwriting border sheets that the students have colored and which is written on their weekly Bible verse. Learning can be fun and, at Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Regional School, children are encouraged to laugh and enjoy learning.

Submit articles/photos to:
Frank Tochterman, communication director
34 Sawyer Street - P.O. Box 1169
South Lancaster, MA 01561
Phone: (978) 365-4551
Fax: (978) 365-3838
E-mail: fttochterman@sneconline.org

Submit articles/photos to:
Frank Tochterman, President
Juan Borges, Executive Secretary
34 Sawyer Street - P.O. Box 1169
South Lancaster, MA 01561
Phone: (978) 365-4551
Fax: (978) 365-3838
E-mail: fttochterman@sneconline.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE
Southern New England Conference Association

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the 35th Session of the Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called to convene at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 31, 2009, in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. The purpose of this meeting is:
1. To receive reports
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, and executive committee
3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the conference
4. To accept new churches or disband churches as may be necessary.
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee will convene at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2009, in Bailey Hall, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561, for the purpose of appointing the members of the Nominating Committee to serve for that meeting. There shall be one member chosen for each constituent church plus an additional member for each thirty-five (35) church members or major fraction thereof. Lunch will be provided.

Statement of Name, Address, and Office or Field of Interest of member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
Southern New England Conference Association
Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the Regular Constituency Session of the Southern New England Conference Association, a Massachusetts corporation, is called to meet in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561 on Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the conference.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and a board of trustees, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of Southern New England Conference Constituency Session will be the delegates for the Southern New England Conference Association. Lunch will be provided.

Frank Tochterman, President
Juan Borges, Executive Secretary
34 Sawyer Street - P.O. Box 1169
South Lancaster, MA 01561
Phone: (978) 365-4551
Fax: (978) 365-3838
E-mail: fttochterman@sneconline.org
L es moments de crise ont toujours produit l’incertitude, la crainte, et la perplexité. Même la vie du chrétien peut être remplie de déception, de découragement, et de tristesse si sa foi n’est pas ancrée dans le Seigneur.

L’image de l’expérience des deux disciples sur la route à Emmaüs, projetée par Luc, fournit la perspicacité valable de l’importance de la présence constante de Dieu dans le pèlerinage du chrétien. Plusieurs conclusions peuvent être tirées de la rencontre de ces deux disciples avec Jésus en ce jour de résurrection. Le véritable récit de cet événement est enregistré dans Luc 24:13-35.

1. Si nous marchons et parlons avec Jésus, il nous révèlera des vérités et des mystères du royaume de Dieu.

2. Quand nous perdons tout espoir, souvenons-nous de la parole de Jésus et de mots de ce chant: “Donnez-Moi La Bible Quand Mon Coeur Est Brisé.”

3. Les insensés, selon Dieu, ne sont pas ceux qui ne comprennent pas la parole de Dieu, mais ceux qui entendent les paroles de Jésus et ne les mettent pas en pratique.

4. Le désir de Jésus de rester avec nous est proportionnel à l’urgence de notre invitation pressante faite à Lui. Car “le Christ n’impose jamais sa présence à personne.”

5. La parole de Jésus, par la puissance du Saint-Esprit, peut animer nos âmes et nous pouvons courir la bonne nouvelle du salut sans nous lasser.

Si nous demandons à Jésus de demeurer en nous par son Saint-Esprit, il nous révèlera des mystères inconnus, il réchauffera nos coeurs, et il réconfortera nos âmes.
Los líderes de la Iglesia Adventista anunciaron ajustes y recortes financieros para enfrentar la actual situación económica, que van desde un retraso en los incrementos salariales e incrementos presupuestados de las asignaciones hasta la reducción de presupuestos de viaje y la reubicación de encuentros administrativos. Asimismo, anunció que el cese de incorporaciones y la reducción en el presupuesto de viajes no se aplicará al personal del Servicio de Auditoría de la Asociación General, una entidad que de lo contrario tendría que contratar a auditores externos para llevar a cabo su tarea.

Los funcionarios financieros de la iglesia han monitoreado continuamente la economía. En septiembre, Roy Ryan, gerente de inversiones de la iglesia dijo que no se estaba cambiando la estrategia de inversiones, que mantenía un enfoque conservador y a largo plazo de los fondos de jubilaciones y pensiones.

“El Señor y su pueblo son inmensamente fieles, aun cuando enfrentan dificultades,” dijo Jan Paulsen, presidente de la iglesia mundial, en la reunión del pasado lunes. “Por ello, avanzamos hacia el futuro con seguridad, pero al mismo tiempo con un sentido de responsabilidad, siendo prudentes y cuidadosos. “Alabamos al Señor por el privilegio de servirlo, aun en tiempos difíciles,” dijo.

Ansel Oliver, assistant director, Adventist News Network 17 de Noviembre del 2008 Traducción: Marcos Paseggi


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An Affirmation of Family

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).

An Affirmation of Family

The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred of any human relationship on earth. God instituted the family as the primary provider of the warm and caring relationships for which the human heart yearns.

In the family circle, deep and abiding needs for belonging, love, and intimacy are met in significant ways. God blesses the family and intends that its members will help each other in reaching complete maturity and wholeness. In the Christian family, the personal worth and dignity of each member is affirmed and safeguarded in an environment of respect, equality, openness, and love. In this intimate circle the individual’s earliest and most lasting attitudes toward relationships are developed and values are conveyed from one generation to another.

God also intends that a revelation of Himself and His ways be gained from the family relationship. Marriage, with mutual love, honor, intimacy, and lifelong commitment as its fabric, mirrors the love, sanctity, closeness and permanence of the bond between Christ and His church. The training and correcting of children by their parents and the loving response of offspring to the affection shown them reflects the experience of believers as children of God. By God’s grace the family may be a powerful agency in leading its members to Christ.

Sin has perverted God’s ideals for marriage and family. Furthermore, the increasing complexity of society and the enormous stresses that fall upon relationships, lead to crises within many families today. The results are evidenced in lives and relationships that are broken, dysfunctional, and characterized by mistrust, conflict, hostility, and estrangement. Many family members, including parents and grandparents, but especially wives and children, suffer from family violence. Abuse, both emotional and physical, has reached epidemic proportions. The rising number of divorces signals a high degree of marital discord and unhappiness.

Families need to experience renewal and reformation in their relationships. This will help change the destructive attitudes and practices prevalent in many homes today. Through the power of the gospel, family members are enabled to acknowledge their individual sinfulness, to accept each other’s brokenness, and to receive Christ’s redemptive healing in their lives and relationships. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, and restoration from damaging experiences may not be fully accomplished, where the love of Christ reigns, His Spirit will promote unity and harmony, making such homes channels of life-giving joy and power in the church and community.

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

August 2-5, 2009
Providence Convention Center
Providence, Rhode Island

A learning opportunity for pastors and teachers employed by Seventh-day Adventist conferences within the Atlantic Union.

For registration information, contact your local conference education or ministerial department. For additional information, call the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education at (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020. Web site: www.atlantic-union.org/pastors-teachers2009.html
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USA Phone: 1-866-567-3257 (KOREALS)
E-mail: woowks@yahoo.com
Sunset Table
February 2009

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Three 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.

Choral Music Clinic
on the campus of Atlantic Union College
February 11-14, 2009

More than 100 academy 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

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE OFFICE OF EDUCATION
ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE
ANNOUNCE

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Co-sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education and Atlantic Union College

OUT-OF-UNION

Health Summit Orlando, 2009 will be bigger than ever. Several new seminars will be offered. This annual health certification training program will be held Jan. 30 – Feb. 7 and will present featured speakers Jose Rojas, and Samuel DeShay. A special “Festival of Health” evening program will feature Pastor Derek Morris and a health expert speaking each evening. Register now to save your space. Go to www.nadhealth-summit.com for more information.


Andrews University Undergoing Accreditation
Public Invited to Comment

Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The university will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit March 22–25, 2009, by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Andrews University has been accredited by the Commission since 1939. Its accreditation is at the doctoral degree level and includes degree sites at various other locations around the world.

The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university:
Public Comment on Andrews University
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed. Comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by February 22, 2009.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

Important 2009 Dates

January 4–16 Adult Degree Program Winter Session and M.Ed. in Clinical Ministry
January 21 Spring Semester First Day of Class
February 22, 23 AUC Winter Open House
March 26–30 AUC Basket Ball Hoops
April 5, 6 AUC Spring Open House
April 16–19 Alumni Weekend
April 21 Fall Registration Begins
May 8–10 Graduation Weekend

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Atlantic Union Gleaner, January 2009
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, preferable 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 identity. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcripts, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reynal@auc.edu. For details visit: www.auc.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an instructor in Maternal-Child tenure track position. Doctorate with teaching experience preferred. Must have M.S.N with teaching and clinical experience. Submit CV, letter of reference and three references to Jeff Joiner, Union College, 3800 S 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506 or jjjoiner@back.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks two instructors in the School of Journalism & Communication to teach public relations, public speaking, or other communication courses. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master’s degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Runsey, runsey@southern.edu, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Computer Science/Embedded Systems professor. Position requires a master’s degree (doctorate preferred) in computer engineering, electrical engineering, or computer science (embedded systems experience preferred). Responsibilities include teaching embedded systems, computer science, and academic advisee. The successful candidate will be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. CVs or requests for more information should be directed to Dr. Richard Halterman, Dean, School of Computing, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 or halterman@southern.edu.

SOUTHADORVENTISTUNIVERSITY’S SCHOOL OF NURSING seeks an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner faculty member who holds ACNP certification and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Doctorate preferred, but will consider other qualified individuals. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, dbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

HOSPITALIST OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH GEORGIA, Gordon Hospital is seeking BC/BE IMG physicians-69-bed facility: 8 ICU beds, 79 physicians on active staff, Outstanding Adventist elementary and high school within community. Southern Hospital within 45 minutes. E-mail CV to bonnie.shadick@ahhs.org. (800) 264-8642. To learn about all opportunities in Calhoun, visit www.gordonhospital.com.

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SOUTHADORVENTISTUNIVERSITY’S SCHOOL OF NURSING seeks an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner faculty member who holds ACNP certification and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Doctorate preferred, but will consider other qualified individuals. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, dbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.


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