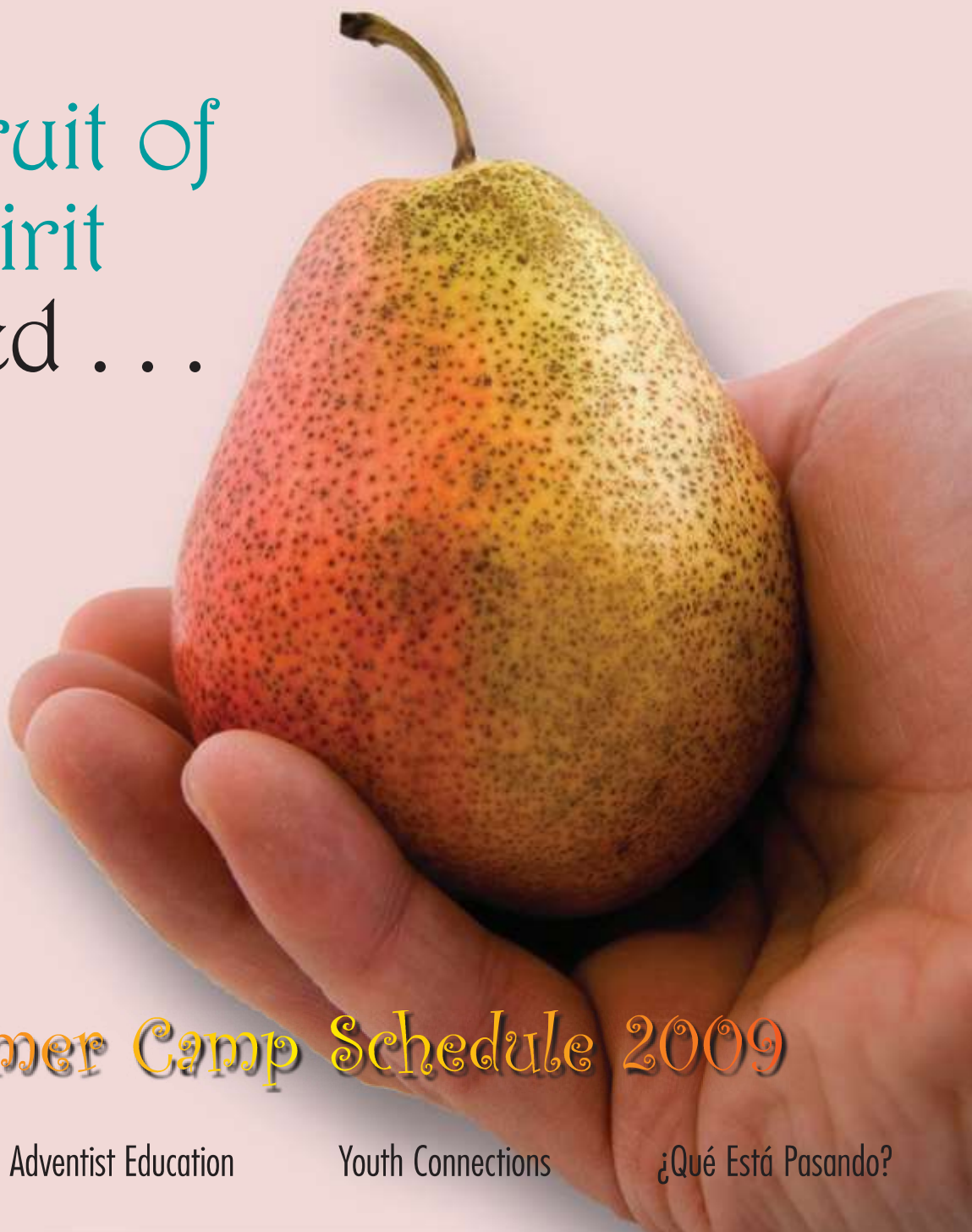


THE ATLANTIC UNION

APRIL 2009

GLEANNER

The Fruit of
the Spirit
Applied . . .



Summer Camp Schedule 2009

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

Youth Connections

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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The Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bermuda launched an evangelistic initiative in January 2009 known as the "Fruit of the Spirit Campaign." It is expected that, as a result of this ongoing initiative, members of the church will develop a stronger and closer relationship with God, members of their communities, and their church family. Read more about this special ministry on page 4 of this issue. Our regular features include: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover photo is from iStockphoto.

MISSION STATEMENT

To faithfully chronicle the work and progress of the church in the Atlantic Union territory and inform, instruct, and inspire our church members.

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June 2009	April 10
July 2009	May 15
August 2009	June 12

The GLEANER deadline schedule is available online at www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner4.html.

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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site

Beyond Meltdown

Lately, the following terms appear frequently on radio and television broadcasts or in magazines and newspapers: “financial turmoil on Wall Street,” “real estate crisis,” “bank failures,” “a shaky economy,” “unemployment,” “recession,” “bailouts,” and the list could go on. Variable mortgage rates, sub-prime loans, the absence of regulations, no equity in the housing market, greed, lying about income assets, unnecessary leveraging, excessive use of credit cards, the market’s volatility in stocks and bonds, and the auto industry failure are the reasons behind this unprecedented world-wide financial crisis.

It will cost the governments of the world a huge amount of money, and the taxpayers (you and I) will have to pay more to correct the resulting situation—if it can ever be corrected. It is predicted the future will hold very stringent regulations restricting the freedom of citizens to spend or invest money. Business will not be conducted as it has been in the past. As lending tightens, the gears of commerce get stuck, resulting in a very slow recovery. There will be difficulty in securing approval for mortgages and auto loans, since these depend on a good credit rating. Food, utilities, and medical costs will reach unparalleled highs. Warren Buffet, an American investor, businessman, and philanthropist, described these as “weapons of mass destruction.”

Where there is high unemployment, the suicide and crime rates increase. Believe it or not, so do the divorce rates. You may ask what we should do. The answer is simple: pray, do not panic, and always remember the battle is the Lord’s. Be a good steward of your blessings, put your money in insured vehicles, and improve your credit worthiness.

The Bible predicted that the world’s economic, social, religious, scientific, and physical condition would get worse as we approach the second coming of the Lord. I would like to propose for your consideration some events that will take place beyond the current meltdown. Our focus should be fixed on the final meltdown in the history of this world. This is the last and final showdown when Jesus will come and take us to our heavenly home. When He comes, there will be no death or debt, no sorrow or disappointment, no sickness or disease, no pain or hurt, no grief or weeping in heaven.

Beyond this earth’s meltdown there is life with Christ for eternity. Jesus, the “Bright and Morning Star,” shines brightest in the darkness that immediately precedes the dawn. We are living in the darkest history of the world and Jesus shines the brightest when we need Him the most. In the fullness of time, Christ will come as the long-awaited Messiah and Savior of the world. He is the light of the world, and all who give their hearts to Him will find peace, rest, assurance, and joy.

Beyond the meltdown, heaven awaits. There we will have perfect bodies, minds, hearts, friends, fellowship, and a perfect Savior. The gift of God beyond this world is eternal life through Jesus Christ to the repenting, believing sinner. The words of the old gospel song ring true today, “If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now.” Our destination and future lie beyond the meltdown and financial turmoil which we find in this old wretched, miserable, and sin-sick world. We’re heaven bound!®

Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.



*The words of
the old gospel
song ring true
today, “If we ever
needed the Lord
before, we sure do
need Him now.”*





The Fruit of the Spirit Applied . . .

By Pete Saunders

I shared an idea with members of the ShareHim team last summer about running a Fruit of the Spirit campaign at the Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. I explained to this small group my desire to see the church family and members of the community “living” and “sharing” the fruit. Additionally, I saw an opportunity to improve the image of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bermuda. Many residents are aware of the Adventist Church, but unsure of what we do. They view us as a strict, non-meat eating organization. The Fruit of the Spirit campaign idea was quickly embraced and plans were put into place to make this initiative a reality.

On January 3, the Midland Heights church launched its Fruit of the Spirit campaign. Many guests and members shared in the kick-off program. From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, members of the church will assemble on Northshore Road in front of the church to give away fruit and share a message of hope to passersby. During this interaction, invitations will be extended to these individuals to fellowship with the church family. “I am thankful for the opportunity to share with members of the community. I am aware that many persons wonder what we do as a church and this is an opportunity to tell and show them,” said Cecil Hendrickson, head deacon for the church, who participated in the distribution of the fruit. “It was great seeing members of the church on their day of worship giving out fruit. I got the feeling that they care, especially since I didn’t have any breakfast this morning,” said one member of the community. It was sharing God’s love in a practical way.

Members of the community were quite surprised to see the small group in the cold distributing free fruit. In fact, because this was such an unusual act, it took a while before passersby realized what was happening and developed the courage to stop. There was one particular individual, a non-Adventist who lives in the community who was offered free fruit, who later decided to join the group in distributing the fruit. What’s so powerful about this experience was that this person eventually joined us for worship for the remainder of the Sabbath. When asked why he decided to assist the group and later join us for worship, he said, “When I first realized what you were doing, I was compelled to be a

part of the experience and to attend church that day.”

The first Sabbath of each month will be a grand celebration. These celebration Sabbaths will feature music, fellowship, and power-packed messages. Each month’s theme (fruit) will be the focus for other outreach and in-reach programs. Café Eden, the weekly young adult Bible study meeting, spearheaded by the ShareHim team, will center its discussion topics on the fruit being celebrated for that month. In addition, children’s ministries events and weekly prayer and praise sessions will also emphasize practical ways of living and sharing the fruit of the Spirit.

It is expected that members of the church will develop a stronger and closer relationship with God, members of the community, and their church family by the end of the year. Damon Hendrickson, Midland Heights church pastor, said, “I am excited about this marvelous journey the members of the Heights will be embarking on in 2009. Throughout the year, we’ll be focusing on personal and spiritual growth and getting to know our neighbors better.”

Fruit of the Spirit Schedule

In addition to the ingredients of the fruit of the Spirit, the church will include three other Christ-like qualities to complete the year.

Month	Fruit of the Spirit	Fruit
January	Joy	Banana
February	Peace	Kiwi
March	Meekness (Kindness)	Orange
April	Gentleness	Pear
May	Goodness	Plum
June	Righteousness (starts in last week of May)	Apple
July	Truth	Banana
August	Self-Control	Kiwi
September	Longsuffering	Pear
October	Faith	Orange
November	Forgiveness	Plum
December	Love	Apple

Photo page 4: Steve Darrell, a member of Midland Heights church ShareHim team and music ministries leader (holding the “Stop for Free Fruit” sign), distributes fruit with Cecil Hendrickson, the church’s head deacon and one of the campaign organizers, and Pete Saunders, the church’s communication director. **Top three photos:** On the first Sabbath of each month members of the church will assemble in front of the church to give away fruit and share a message of hope. **Bottom photo:** Midland Heights church members assemble in front of the church for prayer before they begin to distribute fruit and literature to the passersby.

About the fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is the traits of character God grows inside of us. The most famous Bible passage about the fruit of the Spirit is in Galatians 5:22, where the apostle Paul lists the ingredients of the fruit. By using a singular subject and verb, “fruit . . . is,” Paul is suggesting that there is really one fruit. It can be demonstrated that this fruit is love, and the other eight virtues listed are characteristics of love. The list is meant as a contrast to the list of the deeds of the flesh found in Galatians 5:19-20. While this list is not an exhaustive one of the character traits God would like to see in His children, the family at Midland Heights church will focus on these traits in addition to forgiveness, truth, and righteousness.

The fruit of the Spirit is meant to be a list of qualities which the Holy Spirit produces in us. If you look at your character and find that you are lacking in any of these areas, take heart. We are human beings and not one of us is perfect. Paul’s description of the “fruit of the Spirit” to the Galatian church is truthfully a description of the perfect character of Jesus. However, God calls us all to strive for that perfection—and that takes work. Through prayer, you can ask for the fruit of the Spirit and ways for help to develop a Christ-like character.

The fruit of the Spirit in one’s life is a physical manifestation of a Christian’s transformed life. In order to mature as believers, we should study and understand these attributes of the fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is the subject of a wonderful study for everyone regardless of the level of spiritual maturity. We cannot develop these qualities by our own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit grows in the believer when that life is fully surrendered to Jesus. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”—Galatians 2:20. Because of Christ, we no longer have to struggle on our own; we have Him to guide us and support us. He has sent His Holy Spirit to live in us. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”—1 Corinthians 3:16. When we let Christ live His life through us, by His Spirit fruit will be produced.①



Pete Saunders is the Bermuda Conference assistant communication director.





By Mark Bugbee

Big Things Come in Small Packages

We are small, but
even the limitations
that we face can
be a blessing when
we allow God to
work with us exactly
where we are.

What comes to mind when you think of excellence in Christian education? You may think about a quality teacher who is dedicated to seeing her students learn and grow in a Christ-centered environment. You may picture a classroom bustling with active and engaged children, learning from the teacher, each other, and most importantly, from the Master Teacher—Jesus, who through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit promises to lead us into all truth. Certainly, that “us” includes school children. You may imagine a school where students are encouraged, challenged, and motivated to reach their God-given potential in all areas of development. In your mind’s eye you may see children who are learning to follow Jesus, developing Christ-like characters, and sharing their experience with others. These and many more thoughts may materialize when you ruminate on Christian education.

At Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist School in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, it is our mission to strive to make those ideals a reality for the students, the families, the church, and the community that we serve. Yes, we are small, but even the limitations that we face can be a blessing when we allow God to work with us exactly where we are. At Berkshire Hills we have many big things happening in spite of our small size. Last year our students went on a mission

trip to Chile, and this year they will be going to Guatemala. They have planned and participated in local evangelistic meetings, maintained the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail near the school, worked at the Christian Center stocking shelves and feeding the less fortunate, and sung Christmas carols at the Berkshire Medical Center.

The evangelistic meetings held last fall at the Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church were a highlight, because the students actually developed their own presentations for sharing the Bible stories that Jon Clayburn, the church’s pastor, used to introduce each night’s meeting. The students gained valuable experience sharing Jesus with others through public evangelism. Of course, the students at Berkshire Hills school experience the daily routine of math, language, reading, and the other academic disciplines, and they are important. But when all is said and done, the most important lessons that the students of the Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist School will learn are that Jesus loves them, wants them to grow and mature in that love, and that by sharing His love they can accomplish great things for God and His kingdom.®



Mark Bugbee is the principal and teacher at the Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist School.





I've been reading a very interesting and revolutionary book, *Do HARD THINGS*, by two young brothers, Alex and Brett Harris. It is about a teenage rebellion against low expectations. They are challenging adults to expect more from teenagers and for their fellow teenagers to do more. This is a question worth considering. Do we, as youth ministries professionals or lay youth leaders, challenge our young people enough to do great things for Jesus? We need to "dare" our young people to do something great for the Lord.

The brothers have listed what they call the "Five Kinds of Hard" (pp. 57-59). These give us a picture of the incredible variety of hard things available for teenagers to do. So, what are they?

Things that are outside their comfort zone.

This could be any activity that takes youth outside their rut of normal day-to-day, week-to-week activities. Why not challenge our young people to conduct a public evangelism meeting under a tent or in their

local church? Pastors could invite the youth to accompany them to observe a Bible study, then they can give a Bible study. The Atlantic Union is looking for two young people from each conference who will be willing to step outside their comfort zone and be part of a youth evangelistic meeting to be broadcast on the Hope Channel and will air throughout the Atlantic Union and the North American Division.

Things that go beyond what is expected or required.

Now, what could that be? Maybe the church needs a little extra tender, loving care. Youth could volunteer to help with custodial work, or maybe their neighborhoods could use a good clean-up, or maybe their schoolteach-

er could use a little extra help. Surprise somebody by offering to help them with whatever their needs might be when they least expect it.

Things that are too big to accomplish alone. Do some brainstorming and see what your youth group can do to make a major impact in your neighborhood, school, or community. Challenge the youth to get involved in a "cause." It could be to organize a parade against violence, drugs, etc. Or, how about a cause to support the fight against AIDS or breast cancer. They could volunteer to help in some type of community projects.

Things that don't earn an immediate payoff. These would be things that nobody notices until years later. It might be a self-improvement project, doing more

Bible study, or determining to get physically fit. Challenge the young people to do whatever it takes to better themselves through God's help.

Things that challenge the cultural norm. What would cause your youth group to make a major difference? It could be

how they relate to someone from a different cultural group; it could be visiting another church not of your cultural group. It could be to intentionally put forth an effort to understand diversity and be accepting of diversity. It could be how the youth conduct themselves when they are not around other Adventist young people.

All we are asking is that Seventh-day Adventist youth step out to make a real difference in the world. What happens next is the payoff!¹

All we are asking is that Seventh-day Adventist youth step out to make a real difference in the world.



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

Bermuda Conference Youth Department Hosts Youth Ministries Intensives Weekend

Embracing Ellen G. White's words from her book *CHRISTIAN SERVICE* that all be trained so they can honor God "in any branch of the work where they are qualified," the Bermuda

Conference Youth Ministries Department in collaboration with Bill Wood, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, hosted an intensive weekend of training on January 30 and



Phil Rosburg, young adult leader from Carolina, presented one of the Youth Ministries Intensives training seminars.

Esmee Burrows . . . A Faithful Centenarian

On many Sabbath mornings one can see the smiling face of Esmee Burrows, a member of the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is the oldest member of the Adventist Church living on the island of Bermuda. In spite of her age, 102, she still enjoys attending church whenever possible. She was baptized in 1953 and has been a faithful member ever since. She has held several positions in the church, such as deaconess, assistant Sabbath School secretary, and community service and gourmet committee member.

During Bermuda's annual camp meeting in 2008, Burrows was honored by the Bermuda Conference for being the oldest member and for 55 years of faithful service to the church.

The Burrows family has a special place in the history of Adventism in Bermuda. Reginald C. Burrows, Esmee



At 102 years of age, Esmee Burrows still enjoys attending church whenever possible.

Burrows' late husband, was the grandson of Profario Gomez, the first baptized Adventist on the island. Gomez donated the land that the original Southampton church was erected on at Jews Bay.

The Burrows family was blessed with two children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless her with many more years of good health.

—Wendell Simons, communication director, Southampton church



Some of the facilitators of the Youth Ministries Intensives training weekend shown here with Jeffrey Brown, left, Bermuda Conference president, include Damon Hendrickson, pastor and Bermuda Conference youth director, Lynette Albuoy, Youth Ministries department secretary, Bill Wood, Atlantic Union youth director, Dejuan Tull, pastor and Bermuda Conference associate youth director (teens), Kylah Allers, associate youth director (young adults).

31 for the youth leaders across the island.

The 50-plus attendees were able to benefit from the insight and experience shared by three guest presenters from overseas, Bill Wood, Garnet Morris, and Phil Rosburg, along with our very own Damon Hendrickson. These presentations were geared toward inspiring a higher level of excellence in ministry for both youth and young adult age groups.

The youth leaders conference-wide were truly blessed to start the year with such a wealth of information and the opportunity to exchange notes with other youth leaders who share common goals and challenges. As we face 2009, we are looking forward to great things coming from our youth departments all across Bermuda!

—Kylah Allers, Bermuda Conference, associate youth director

What's Happening in Your Church?

If you have news or other inspiring stories from your church that you would like to share with our readers, we would love to hear from you!

E-mail your stories with the photos attached as separate files (not embedded in a Word document or the e-mail message). Be sure and include a caption with each photo and the photographers name, if it is available.

For information on what types of stories to submit, visit www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner.html and click on "Guidelines for Submitting Articles."



Sheila Holder
Communication Director
Bermuda Conference
E-mail: sholder@bermudaconference.bm

Church Members Utilize Spiritual Gifts to Share the Gospel

Over the past two years, a group of Ithaca Seventh-day Adventist Church members devel-

attended. Plans are being made to continue with these and other outreach programs.

sidered part of the Finger Lakes district. Their pastors and members have been prayerfully planning how

closed, the members presented a ShareHim evangelistic series with two of the three churches also holding an Amazing Adventure satellite series for the children. Ithaca church pastor, Dustin Hall, gave the final presentation followed by a baptismal service. Young and old alike recommitted to becoming "fishers of men."

—Greg Gizewski, communication secretary, Ithaca church

The church has held community recognition days to honor various individuals and agencies, which community members and those from sister churches attended.

oped a vision for expanding church membership. They also considered the building and ground modifications necessary to accommodate the growth.

The church has held community recognition days to honor various individuals and agencies, which community members and those from sister churches

A young Hispanic family felt impressed to start a Spanish church. At a recent service, 13 people joined through profession of faith, while two more were baptized. They even found a new place of worship in which to meet each Sabbath.

There are six churches in the conference that are con-

all six churches could work together to make the best use of the spiritually-gifted membership and financial resources for planting two new churches. As 2008

Horseheads Church Family—Active and Growing

The past year has been a busy one for the Horseheads Cornerstone church family. During the summer, two retreats were held, one for men and another for women. After each group celebrated Communion they joined together for a baptism in an outdoor pond.

Another event honored farmers from the community. Speakers recognized the hardships of farming and the importance of the farmers' role in providing for the needs of the community. A wellness program was conducted over a span of eight weeks and food baskets were given at Thanksgiving.

Church members reached out to the young people at Freedom Village, a home away from home for troubled teens, and the teens presented a moving program to our church family.

Pastor Dustin Hall conducted evangelistic meetings and the whole church was involved in mailing out Bible study cards to surrounding communities. Seven new members were added to the church family.

When the church first opened, we had only 11 pews. My niece, while attending a memorial service at our church, noticed that our pews were the same as the ones her church had. Since they had just renovated their church, they had several pews available to us for free. All we had to do was pick them up.

We praise God for the privilege of working with Him and for the extra delights He brings our way.

—Doris Elliot, member, Horseheads Cornerstone church

Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church *150th Anniversary* **DEDICATION**

June 12-13, 2009

The members of the Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church cordially invite all to attend the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church. Meetings will begin Friday evening June 12, 2009, and continue through vespers on Sabbath, June 13, 2009.



Merlin D. Burt, director of the E. G. White Estate Branch at Andrews University, Michigan, will be one of the guest speakers along with the officers of the New York Conference.

Merlin D. Burt

The Roosevelt church is the oldest church built and still in use by Seventh-day Adventists. Due to the nature of the weekend, please be sure to bring enough food for yourself, a lawn chair, and an umbrella.

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June and Alanzo Smith have shared their professional experience with families across the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, and other parts of the world.

Smiths Featured on 3ABN Family Program

Marriage in God's Hands, is a 13-part series of family programs featuring Alanzo and June Smith, which aired on Three Angles Broadcasting Network (3ABN) in the first quarter of 2009. Set against the backdrop of a family living room, this semi-formal approach is geared to reach its viewers in the comfort of their homes while dealing with a wide range of family issues.

Alanzo Smith serves the Greater New York Conference as director of the Family Ministries and Communication departments. His wife, June, is a tenured professor at Long Island University, C. W. Post Campus. The Smiths have shared their professional experience with families across the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, and other parts of the world. They have co-authored many publications, articles, and books, including their premier book, WHY GOOD RELATIONSHIPS TURN BAD — WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

Visit www.3abn.com to view the current programming schedule.

—Rohann Wellington, associate communication director, Greater New York Conference.

Patchogue Church Features Youth Day

The Patchogue church had the privilege of having Dedrick Blue, Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, as the guest speaker for Youth Day. Blue's sermon titled, "Written in the Book," provided a message of hope, moving some people to request baptism and Bible study. C. J.

Hudson from the Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton, New York, sang "No More Night" for the meditation. Anthony Ashby, a member of the Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in Medford, Massachusetts, played the saxophone and sang "The Midnight Cry."

Follow the Bible Throughout Greater New York Conference

A very special Bible is being carried by the youth, young adults, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and Master Guides to all of the churches in the Greater New York Conference (GNYC). The journey of the traveling Bible began at the Livingston Seventh-day Adventist Church, in upstate New York, on Saturday, January 31, and will finish at the Staten Island Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in the summer of 2010. The event will culminate at the Greater New York Conference 2010 United Camp Meeting with a Follow the Bible rally.

You can follow GNYC youth and young adults on their journey with the Bible and see its scheduled stops by visiting the GNYC Adventist Youth Ministries department Web site (www.gnycyouth.com).

At every stop, the young people carrying the Bible will challenge the local church to read the Bible and continue to be the people of the "book." A guide to read the Bible in one year will be provided to members at each local church during this special visit and they will be encouraged to begin reading the Bible on that day and read it through for the entire year. The Bible guide also has a list of resources for differ-

In the afternoon, a concert with Beverly Burton and friends provided songs of praise. Anthony Ashby played the saxophone, Earl Huie, elder, shared a beautiful baritone solo, and Patchogue's own a cappella group, One Voice, lifted their voices in harmony.

The group Light of all Nations from the Patchogue Baptist Church made a joyful sound unto the Lord, and Leacroft Green closed the concert with a song from the heart.

—Mark Armstrong, communication director, Patchogue church



Dedrick Blue, left, Ephesus church pastor, and Mark Armstrong, Patchogue church first elder, participated in the Patchogue church Youth Day.

ent versions of the Bible, Bibles for kids, audio Bibles for those who don't want to read or can't read, podcasts, video Bibles, and more. We want to ensure that we make reading the Bible attractive, available, and readily accessible.

Our project is based on a larger project undertaken by the Seventh-day Adventist Church under the theme "Follow the Bible." A traveling Bible is currently circulating around the world and will finish in Atlanta, Georgia, at the world church's General Conference Session in 2010. For more information, visit: www.followthebible.net.

—José Cortés Jr., youth director, Greater New York Conference

Prayer Warrior Weekend at Patchogue

Ron Halvorsen, Sr., retired Adventist pastor, recently visited the Patchogue Seventh-day Adventist Church and presented two messages, "Faith on Fire" and "Prayer Revival." He also presented an afternoon seminar that went into greater depth on three topics: taking cities for God, prayer walking, and warfare praying.

A musical concert ended the prayer-filled day with musical presentations by Steven Welch, Anthony Ashby, and Patchogue's own music coordinator, Carmen Whitfield.

Many church members have since voiced that they appreciated the presentations and have put into practice much of what they learned.

—Mark Armstrong, communication director, Patchogue church



Steven Siciliano, pastor, Ron Halvorsen, Mark Armstrong, and Mary Tegone, church clerk, participated in the prayer warrior weekend.

15th Annual Men's Prayer Convention

Sponsored by the Greater New York Conference
Men's Ministries Department

Brotherhood in Christ — Building Relationships for Eternity

May 15-17, 2009

Honor's Haven Resort and Spa
1195 Arrowhead Rd.
Ellenville, New York

Speakers

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Men's Ministries Director
Greater New York Conference

Dionisio Olivo
Family Ministries Director
Atlantic Union Conference

Moab Honore
Haitian Ministries Director
Greater New York Conference

Bing Alabata
Itinerant Gospel Preacher
Hinsdale, Illinois

Shain O'Conoor
Family and Personal Ministries Director
Cayman Islands Conference

Cost:

Double Occupancy	\$229
Triple Occupancy	\$215
Quadruple Occupancy	\$205

For more information, contact the
Greater New York Conference
Men's Ministries Department
(516) 627-9272

21st Annual Women's Prayer Retreat

Sponsored by the Greater New York Conference
Women's Ministries Department

"Come . . . NOW is the Time!"

April 30 – May 3, 2009

Hilton Stamford Hotel and Executive Meeting Center
One First Stamford Place
Stamford, Connecticut

Featured Speakers

English
Doris Gothard
Motivator, Teacher, Author

Shelly Quinn
Speaker and Co-director, Word Warriors Ministries
Program Development Manager, 3ABN

Spanish
Norka Blackman-Richards
President and Founder, 4 Real Women International, Inc.

Youth
Julian Jones-Campbell
Associate Pastor, Grand Concourse Seventh-day Adventist Church

Registration

Register online with plusline: www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=10131 or call (800) 732-7587. Additional information about the event can also be obtained from the PlusLine Web site.

Lodging

To reserve your room, call (800) 445-8667. Use the code "GNYS" to receive the rate of \$99, plus tax, for up to four persons per room, per night. This rate is good through March 31, 2009.

For additional information, contact

Lisa Gonzalez at (516) 467-5219 or e-mail: lgonzalez@gnyc.org

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Dave Sherwin

An innovative group of professors and administrators took the lead in founding the Adult Degree Program in 1972, during the presidency of William G. Nelson. Two AUC alumni, Academic Dean Eugene Gascay and Professor Otilie Stafford, were especially prominent among the founders.

Strongly committed to Christian liberal arts education, the founders wished to make its advantages available to women and men who could not readily complete a college degree in a conventional setting. At the time, they believed that the program would benefit the college financially through the increased use of its facilities and resources during summers and inter-session periods.

The idea of distance learning was relatively new. To learn first-hand how an established program operated, a delegation of the founders visited Goddard College in Vermont. As a result, they modeled AUC's external program quite closely after Goddard's successful program.

In July 1972, the first Adult Degree Program seminar met on campus in the White House, the home of AUC's

English department. Working closely with a small group of professors, the pioneer class of five students planned units of study to pursue at their homes for the next six months. Within a year, enrollment in the ADP had grown to more than 20. By the time Otilie Stafford became the program's coordinator (and later, director) in 1974, it had become a significant part of the college's academic life.

Continued rapid growth was one measure of the success of the Adult Degree

Program. Another important validation came in 1978, when AUC's regional accreditation was renewed. After carefully scrutinizing the new program, a team of visitors from the accrediting association commended the college for its quality and Otilie Stafford for her strong leadership.

Building on the strong foundation of those early years, the Adult Degree Program would eventually enroll more than 100 students. Women and men would, and still do, come from around the world to attend July and January seminars and then return home to pursue their educational goals.

For information or to enroll, contact adp@auc.edu.

—Myron Wehtje, professor emeritus of history and former Adult Degree Program coordinator

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Communicators: Using Technology to Expand God's Kingdom

Iwant to get a full understanding of my position as communication [leader] and the tools I need to fulfill my mission," said Rachel Josil of Capital City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Albany, New York, one of the delegates

The delegates who had gathered from various churches in Northeastern Conference came to understand their mission—using technology and the media to “inform the church, improve its image, and expand God’s kingdom.”

who attended the communication workshop in Albany, New York, on February 16. The delegates who had gathered from various churches in Northeastern Conference came to understand their mission—using technology

and the media to “inform the church, improve its image, and expand God’s kingdom.”

Stephen L. Williams, Sr., the new Northeastern Conference communication director, presented the introductory seminar on the potential for spreading the gospel through communication ministry. “When 12 o’clock came, I could have gone back home [satisfied] because the information and ideas were so relevant. I could implement them right away,” commented Loma



The Garden of Prayer was led daily by Patricia Langley, left, Northeastern Conference prayer coordinator, with assistance from other prayer warriors, including Sonia Grant, right, from the Hartford Faith church.

McKinnon of the Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York. Williams considers commu-



Individuals from churches throughout the Northeastern Conference territory gathered early each morning to praise the Lord in song and for the devotional message given by T. A. McNealey, a pastor in the Southeastern Conference.

nication the “most important ministry in the church.” Communication, he com-

mented, used to be about “making the church look good to the community.” However, he is convinced that, with the new technology, we now have the tools to reach the world with the gospel message. First he suggests that each church should develop its own Web site and keep it updated. An easy way to do this is to sign up at Adventist Church Connect (www.adventistchurchconnect.com). Another idea shared was for churches to apply for a time slot on the local cable access channel. Even our giving can now be done online at Adventist Giving (www.adventistgiving.org).

As churches grapple with ways of involving the youth more effectively, through MySpace, Facebook, and other personal network-



Dionisio Olivo, back to the camera, Atlantic Union Hispanic Ministries vice president, presents a seminar in Spanish.



Larry Bailey, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, and Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, address the leaders during the early morning praise and devotion time.

Communication, [Steven Williams] commented, used to be about “making the church look good to the community.” However, he is convinced that, with the new technology, we now have the tools to reach the world with the gospel message.

ing media, young people can meet millions who might not be reached otherwise. “We have to use their technology if we really want to connect with them,” suggested Williams. One example is using cell phones to help our youth be more actively involved in the service. If the church is signed up for pollanywhere.com, the youth can use cell phones to send the most

important points of the sermon and their reactions to the pastor or to the church’s Web site.

In the afternoon seminar, Ednor Davison, the Atlantic Union GLEANER editor, presented tips on writing articles for publication. Davison lamented that “lots of people don’t read or write anymore.” She suggested that contributors submit “[more] pictures and write shorter articles.”

These should be “clear, concise, accurate, and interesting.” John King of Peeskill Seventh-day Adventist Church says that the seminar will help him improve the communication department in his church and community.

At the end of the first day in the communication workshop, delegates indicated that they felt equipped and were excited about using new technology to “inform the church, improve its image, and expand the kingdom of God.”



T. A. McNealey, a pastor from the Southeastern Conference, was the early morning devotional speaker at the Northeastern Conference Departmental Training Workshop.

—Cellierose Williams, Faith church and Annette Michael, Brooklyn Faith church

Education Seminar Makes the Grade

The education seminar held in Albany, New York, and hosted by the Northeastern Conference received an A+ from several of its participants. According to Sylvan Lashley, Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools and a key presenter at the workshop, the aim of this year’s seminar was to allow parents, teachers, leaders, and educators the opportunity to gain strategies for the fulfillment of financial aid.

The seminar was designed to inspire delegates to help develop schools that are S.A.F.E. This acronym embodies the philosophy that Seventh-day Adventist schools should be Spiritually strong; Academically rigorous; Financially feasible, and Excellent in service.

Bernice Morgan-Johnson, a teacher and education secretary for the Voice of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Brooklyn, New York, described the seminar as “very informative.” Motivated by presenter Gwendolyn Wesley, Northeastern Conference assistant superintendent of schools, Morgan-Johnson pledged to get the parents of her church actively involved in generating fundraisers so that money would no longer be an obstacle to those seeking a Seventh-day Adventist education.

Another delegate, Angela Ware of the New Dimension Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, said, “The seminar fired me up and made me want to go out and do something! I feel that if I don’t act, I will be reneg-



Education seminar presenters at the Northeastern Conference Departmental Training Workshops, in Albany, New York, included Sylvan Lashley, right, Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools, and Gwen Wesley, assistant superintendent.

ing on my responsibility as a Christian.” As a teacher, Pathfinder director, and education secretary, Ware expressed that since we are living in the last days, it is imperative that our children be educated under the banner of Adventism.

With its participants

all geared up and ready to work for the Lord, one can only conclude that the Northeastern Conference Education Department certainly made the grade and is definitely “fit for service.”

—Pamela Spinks, Women’s Ministries assistant director, New Dimension church

A Change Is Coming!

Not business as usual, but “unusual business.”

Something new and exciting has begun in the Atlantic Union educational system. It was not “business as usual” at our last Atlantic Union Conference curriculum committee, but rather, some pretty “unusual business” occurred. It all started so innocently—no fanfare, no trumpets blaring, no sirens blasting, no warning of any kind. But suddenly, a group of teachers and administrators were posed a question that erupted into deadening silence, “What makes Adventist education unique?” As teachers and administrators scrambled to find a defining answer, no one was cognizant of the firestorm that had been set in motion. The heat grew with such intensity that no one escaped, no one remained untouched. Instead, we went back to the basics as we struggled to answer the question and through a process of continual prayer, research, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we were able to formulate a response.

Our main business would no longer be the dissemination of information, but rather the transformation of character.

The entire committee was divided into three groups and assigned sections of the book *EDUCATION* to study and derive some of the great principles of education there delineated. It was a truly remarkable, invigorating, and uplifting experience as we ran into roadblock after roadblock and had to continually stop and seek the Lord’s guidance in our journey. It is an experience I will never forget and it reminded me of our early pioneers as they struggled to discover truth and wrestled with the Word of God through prayer and Bible study.

The end result was that instead of integrating the Bible into our curriculum, the Bible would now become the standard and basis of all our instruction, and our curriculum would now be integrated into the Bible. In other words, our main business would no longer be the dissemination of information, but rather the transformation of character. We want all of our teachers and schools in the Atlantic Union territory to go back to the stated mission of our schools in the North American Division,

which reads, “The primary aim of Seventh-day Adventist education is to provide opportunity for students to accept Christ as their Savior, to allow the Holy Spirit to transform their lives and to fulfill the commission of preaching the gospel to all the world.” We solicit your prayers and support as we continue this journey—“a journey to excellence.”

—Del Métellus is the Southern New England Conference education evangelist and associate superintendent of schools.

24/7 Worship

More than 200 young adults from across the Atlantic Union attended the annual GODencounters Young Adult Retreat at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, on the weekend of February 6–8. Targeted to young adults who attend public colleges and universities and young adult professionals, the weekend has grown from its beginnings eight years ago. “I attended GODencounters for the first time, not knowing what to expect and walked away with a life-changing experience,” said Izaida Gonzalez from the Worcester Airport church in Worcester, Massachusetts, of her experience as a first-time attendee. “I grew closer to the people I went with and have found my heart yearning for a deeper relationship with God. God has opened my eyes and my heart to what His love truly means, what He can do for me, and for others. And I will never be the same.”

The theme for the weekend was “24/7 Worship,” which fits the goals and objectives of GODencounters to encourage young adults to have a 24/7 experience with Jesus. Liza Hope, Advent House director at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, inspired the young adults with



Maria Long from Bonnerdale, Arkansas, was the guest musician. She wrote and arranged all the songs she sang, which were personal testimonies of what God has meant to her.



More than 200 adults from across the Atlantic Union attended the annual GODencounters Young Adult Retreat at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts.

three messages. "After hearing the speaker, it made me want to worship more in my own life," said Kyle Slingo, from the Middletown-Portland church in Connecticut.

GODencounters is a movement of young adults wholeheartedly pursuing a 24/7 experience with Jesus Christ. This movement was started in the Florida Conference by three young adult pastors, Allan Martin, Jeff Gang, and Juan Rodriquez, who had a vision to reach out to one of the most neglected constituencies in the church. From those humble beginnings the young adult movement has spread like a fire to all corners of the North American Division.

Three worship-related workshops were presented by young adults. Mairim Pina from the Advent Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, presented a workshop on ancient worship practices. Sean Peters, one of the individuals who attended the workshop said, "This year was my fifth time attending GODencounters at Camp Winnekeag and, as usual, I was truly blessed by the experience. I attended a workshop entitled 'Bring Back Ancient Worship' that focused on three types of prayer. This workshop helped me not only understand the power of prayer, but it also explained how I can improve my prayer life. I left feeling uplifted and excited about improving my prayer life."

Other presenters included Todd Stout, Advent Hope church member, who presented a workshop titled "A Cry to Understand My Local Church." The guest speaker, Lisa Hope, presented "Embracing Worship as a Way of Life," and Alex Espana, Advent Hope church member, presented a workshop entitled "Jump-starting a Collegiate Ministry on Your Campus."

Scott Campbell and his worship and praise team from Freeport, Maine, led out in the praise service. Maria Long from Bonnerdale, Arkansas, was the guest musician and presented a concert Sabbath afternoon. She wrote and arranged all the songs, which were personal testimonies of

what God has meant to her.

"The weekend was one of the best I've ever had with an Adventist youth group," said Liliya Gandrabur, a Columbia University student. "I don't know how, but God did something to me. I've been so joyful since then!"^①

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

Youth Ministries Intensives Inspire Youth Leaders

The Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department, in conjunction with the six local conference Youth Ministries departments, is conducting a series of Youth Ministries Intensives (YMI) training events in the Atlantic Union territory. Three meetings have already occurred this year at the Devonshire Seventh-day Adventist Church in Devonshire, Bermuda (January 31, see page 8 for article), the Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts (February 28), and the New York Conference office in Syracuse, New York (March 28). Three more of these one-day training events are on the schedule: Hartford, Connecticut (May 9), New York City, New York (October 17), and Nashua, New Hampshire (October 24).

This is just one of many events scheduled for young people in the Atlantic Union that will culminate with a youth celebration in October 2010 with a Dare2Do youth congress in Hartford, Connecticut.

To find out what other interesting events the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department has planned for the youth and young adults, visit: www.atlantic-union.org/youth.html and click on the DARE2DO - A ROAD MAP TO 2010 booklet in the right-hand column.^②

—GLENER editor

Existing, informative, practical youth ministries ideas, encouragements. Opportunity to unlearn and network with youth leaders from surrounding conferences.

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Atlantic Union
YOUTH MINISTRIES INTENSIVES

YMI
2009

My Colporteur Experience

After my six-hour journey to Vermont with my parents, we arrived at Pastor Octavian Poenaru's house where our colporteur training would begin. His son greeted us at the door. We said our hellos and then he led us into the dining room where other kids were waiting.

After learning everyone's name (I knew most of them already), we went out to look at the town to get familiar with the surroundings. It was the usual, quiet town.

When we went back to the house, it had the beautiful smell of lasagna. (I like lasagna if you didn't know.)

After everyone was finished eating, including me and my rather large plate of lasagna, we headed into the living room. The pastor gave each person a bag with a pad of paper so we could write what books we sold, a pad of receipts, and a pen.

On Sabbath, we played music for the church. After a wonderful potluck we cleaned up and played Bible Trivia till sundown. After

sundown a girl who had been a colporteur before taught us our "canvass." A canvass is what you say to someone to whom you're trying to sell the books. After we had learned the canvass pretty well, we pretended that we were at someone's door. It was pretty funny to watch each other practice.

On Sunday we got up, drove to the church, and

others would not. At our first house the lady was very nice. She was moving, so she didn't buy a book, but she encouraged us and we moved on to the second house, where we sold two books. That got our hopes up again and the whole week was like that. Mason and I sold the most books.

After we sold books each day, we played games, like

would just buy cookbooks to get rid of us. We went into a college dorm that had broken windows, loose bricks, and trash all around, almost like it was abandoned. We were thinking that nobody would buy anything. We were happily surprised, because we sold about 12 books, including *THE GREAT CONTROVERSY*, *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, *HE TAUGHT LOVE*, and *PEACE ABOVE THE STORM*.

We learned that you can't look at the outer layer of a building to know what's inside, just like you can't know someone's heart from the outside. Like the verse from 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV), "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"

—Josiah Wannemacher, age 15, member, Saco church

Mason and I were partners and became known as the "fearless team" because we would go to houses that others would not.

ate breakfast. As usual, the food was very good. Then the pastor wrote everybody's name on little pieces of paper and put them in a bag. Half of us drew one name out of the bag to figure out who would be our partner.

Mason and I were partners and became known as the "fearless team" because we would go to houses that

tag baseball. That's how most of the days went, but, don't get me wrong, I had a blast each day.

On our last Sabbath, Mason and I decided that each person would give a one minute talk about how God helped him or her that week. This is what we said for our one minute talk:

A lot of the time people

Bread and Boots Provide Ministry Opportunities

Relationship evangelism is one of the most powerful ministries available to the church. The Bread and Boot Ministry conducted by White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Portland, Maine, enables members to develop relationships with a wide variety of people.

In the current economy, a weekly gift of bread, donated by area specialty bakeries, is very encouraging and expresses continuing love and concern far better than words alone. The par-

ticular effectiveness of this ministry has come from learning the preferences of recipients and then trying to provide them with that specific kind of bread.

Quality boots and practical shoes are received from community donations, area thrift stores, and yard sales. Volunteers learn the types and sizes of footwear needed by a given person or family and providing those specific items has allowed them to be more effective in their boot and shoe ministry. People are truly

touched, not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually when this type of personal attention is given to them.

Just as Jesus showed compassion and intense interest in people with needs during His ministry, so we are called to minister sincerely and intently to human needs. When this is done from the heart, a door of opportunity may open for sharing the gospel message from the written Word.

—Mark Fink, Bread and Boot Ministry correspondent, White Memorial church

Depression Recovery Program an Answer to Prayer



The Newport Seventh-day Adventist Church members sponsored several well-attended depression recovery programs sponsored in part by the local radio station, WJSY-LP.

The Newport Seventh-day Adventist Church family presented several depression recovery programs sponsored in part by the local radio station, WJSY-LP. We were not sure how it would all work out at first when only six people signed up before the first event.

We prayed for this program, reserved a conference room in the local recreation facility, ran newspaper ads, put up flyers, and handed out brochures, but the reservation line wasn't ringing. So we prayed again.

We thought we might have 10 people, so having six preregistered made us

feel confident to proceed with the eight-session program. We continued to pray, though, for the Lord to "fill the conference room," and that He did. Two days before the first session we had 30 people signed up. Now we had a new problem, as the room only held 20 people.

That problem became even bigger when on the night of the first session we had 55 people registered. What would we possibly do? Turn people away? We prayed together at the site and waited to see what the Lord had in store for us. After rearranging the room, we were able to fit 55 chairs. The session began and every chair was filled.

Just outside the room we prayed again, asking for the Lord's direction. He inspired us to offer two sessions on

the same night, back-to-back. So at the end of the first night's presentation we offered the participants the opportunity that the Lord had put on our hearts. From the second session on we averaged 24 people in each time slot. What an awesome God we serve. Nothing is impossible for Him.

The program was held in the spring and fall of 2008 in different locations throughout the community. The Lord has blessed us with more than 95 contacts, several of whom attend the monthly follow-up/support meetings.

We enlist your prayers not only for our church members but also for the radio station, WJSY-LP, as we continue ministering to those in northeast Vermont.

—Kathy Johnson, communication correspondent, Newport church

Special Evening Supports Girl's Dormitory Activities

Pastors, Bible workers, and their spouses were treated to a special evening at Pine Tree Academy (PTA) during their biannual Northern New England Conference Pastoral Couples Retreat. The event was hosted by PTA girl's dean Sara Huston, and, as a special treat, student Daniel Pierre-Louis served as the official doorman as participants entered the chapel.

Held on Valentine's Day, the room was decorated by the students with lighted trees, red table cloths, and centerpieces. The food was prepared by David DePalma, White Memorial church member. Entertainment was provided by a PTA girl's dormitory string trio playing classical music, as well as solo piano numbers by student Jenna Neil.

An offering was collected for dormitory activities, including outreach projects, totaling \$400. Dean Sara Huston and the dormitory girls would like to thank those who participated by either donating funds or giving their time.

—Alises Bragg, senior, Pine Tree Academy

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

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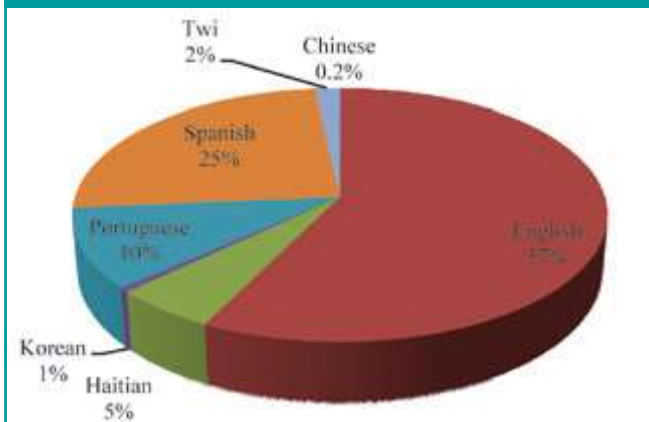
Presenter: *David Westbrook*, pastor, *Back to Eden Ministries*

Cost: \$50.00 per person; \$65.00 after May 1

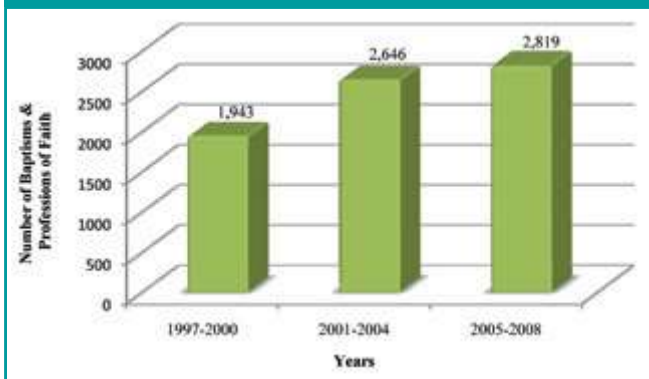
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What a Wonderful Place to Live In —To Share the Hope

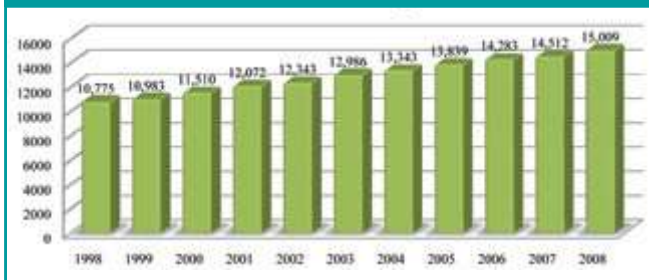
This graph shows the percentage breakdown according to language group for the 15,009 Southern New England Conference members at the close of the fourth quarter 2008.



This graph shows the yearly average of baptisms and professions of faith from 1997 through 2008.



The Southern New England Conference membership during the past 10 years had a net gain of 4,234.



Juan Borges, Southern New England Conference executive secretary, shares a map of our local mission field.

The Southern New England Conference executive secretary wears many “hats” of responsibility—from committees to constituency, employee credentials to retirement, human resources to religious liberties, just to name a few.

One of the main areas of responsibility is that of the conference statistical officer, a fancy title for the person who keeps track of the membership records. The local church submits their membership records to the conference on a quarterly basis. The conference then charts those to keep track of how our membership is doing.

I’ve created several graphs so you can see the changes in our Southern New England Conference membership. The passionate evangelistic efforts by our pastors and lay people are definitely making a difference, as we have seen a substantial growth in membership during the past 10 years.

Blessed be the name of the Lord that we are fulfilling God’s commission to all!🙏

Juan Borges is the executive secretary for the Southern New England Conference.



Massachusetts Adventist Youth Collect Bibles for Africa

Young people from the Lancaster, Massachusetts, Portuguese church participated in a Bible collection program to benefit people in Africa. The group set up booths at various events for the purpose of sharing DVDs and information packets about the program, and collecting Bibles that would be distributed throughout 19 countries in Africa. In a three-month period, they collected 717 Bibles

in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and French. They even collected two audio Bibles for the blind.

Remnant Publications, a non-profit press in Michigan, loads the donated Bibles onto a freight ship to Africa where they are distributed free of charge to anyone who wants to read the Word of God. The only request made is that the person receiving the Bible must share it with 20 people. That means the 717

Bibles collected and shipped overseas will be read by more than 14,000 people all over the African continent.

For more information on the Bible for Africa program, visit www.africabibles.com.

—James Hodson,
deacon, Lancaster
Portuguese church



A young African boy helps unload the cases with Bibles for Africa.



The Lancaster, Massachusetts, Portuguese youth collected more than 700 Bibles to be shipped to Africa.

Southern New England School Feature

Greater Boston Academy is the secondary level of a pre-school through 12th grade multi-cultural Adventist school located on a secluded neighborhood campus nine miles north of Boston. A certified, experienced, diverse staff brings academic excellence with an emphasis on service in a small family-friendly setting. Cutting-edge computer and videography classes, honors, and advanced placement (AP) classes are offered. After-school offerings include gymnastics, soccer, basketball, and baseball. Mostly importantly, students have the opportunity to meet Jesus and make decisions to follow Him.

www.sneckids.org. Click on "Schools."



You Can Help God's Work While Helping Yourself

The Southern New England Conference is growing. This creates needs for new churches and schools. Some of the old ones need to be replaced or renovated. The Atlantic Union Revolving Fund provides loans for churches and schools, but only based on the deposits held in the Atlantic Union Revolving Fund by Southern New England Conference members, churches, and schools. Unfortunately, we have more requests than we have funding for. That's where you come in. If you create an account with the Atlantic Union Revolving Fund or add to your existing account, not only will you earn interest (currently 3.5 percent) on the money deposited, you'll be enabling more Southern New England Conference churches and schools to grow as they need to—a win-win situation!

For more information, please call the Southern New England Conference Treasury Department at (978) 365-4551.

A Seventh-day Adventist Statement on the Well-being and Value of Children

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

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

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

A Seventh-day Adventist Statement on the Well-being and Value of Children

Seventh-day Adventists affirm the right of every child to a happy and stable home environment, and the freedom and support to grow up to be the person God intended. In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the fundamental importance of children by voting the "Convention on the Rights of the Child." In harmony with many of these lofty principles, and considering the value Jesus placed on children when He said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14, NIV), we seek to aid children who suffer from the following destructive influences:

- **Poverty**—Poverty impacts children's development, robbing them of necessary food, clothing, and shelter, and adversely affecting their health and education.
- **Illiteracy**—Illiteracy makes it difficult for the parents to earn wages or care for their family or for the child to reach his or her potential.
- **Poor health care**—Millions of children have no access to health care because they lack

the proper insurance coverage or they live where medical care is unavailable.

- **Exploitation and vulnerability**—Children are corrupted and exploited when they are used for cheap labor, sweat shops, armed conflict, and the perverted sexual pleasure of adult predators, and are exposed to sexually explicit materials in the mass media and on the Internet.

- **Violence**—Every year many children die violent deaths. The vast majority of individuals who suffer in armed conflicts are women and children. Children bear deep physical and psychological scars, even after the fighting stops.

In response to the above issues and needs, Seventh-day Adventists stand for the following rights of children:

1. The right to a loving and stable home where there is safety and freedom from abuse.
2. The right to adequate food, clothing, and shelter.
3. The right to proper health/medical care.
4. The right to an education that prepares children for a positive role in society by developing their personal potential and giving them earning capacity.
5. The right to a religious and moral education in the home and church.
6. The right to freedom from discrimination and exploitation.
7. The right to personhood, respect, and the development of positive self-esteem.^①

This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM), for release at the time of the General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada, June 29–July 9, 2000.

La 'Bible qui voyage' est à l'origine de manifestations dans une vingtaine de villes roumaines

Le mois dernier, l'église adventiste du septième jour de Roumanie a organisé 10 jours de manifestations liées à la Bible dans 20 villes différentes. Le but était de présenter des expositions de Bibles rares et de montrer le rôle joué par la Bible dans l'histoire et dans la vie de tous les jours. Ces événements s'inscrivaient dans le cadre du projet 'Suivre la Bible', programme de l'Eglise adventiste qui prend fin en août 2010.

"Le message principal de cet événement, c'est que la lecture quotidienne de la Bible guérit moralement, fortifie spirituellement et améliore la qualité de vie" a déclaré Viorel Dima, coordinateur de 'Suivre la Bible' pour la Roumanie.

Cette initiative est sponsorisée par la Conférence Générale (Eglise adventiste

mondiale) et ses Divisions dans le monde entier. Il s'agit de présenter une Bible en grand format écrite en 66 langues différentes, qui parcourt le monde entier pour promouvoir la lecture de la Bible. L'église adven-

regroupent des centaines de participants et ne fonctionnent pas comme des séminaires classiques. Ils mettent plutôt l'accent sur la conversation.

L'église adventiste de Roumanie travaille en

L'église adventiste de Roumanie travaille activement depuis 2007 à la promotion de l'étude de la Bible dans le pays, au moyen d'une campagne de publicité nationale et de clubs de lecture au nom de 'Sola Scriptura'.

tiste de Roumanie travaille activement depuis 2007 à la promotion de l'étude de la Bible dans le pays, au moyen d'une campagne de publicité nationale et de clubs de lecture au nom de 'Sola Scriptura'. Ces clubs

collaboration avec l'association Conscience et Liberté et la Société Biblique Interconfessionnelle Roumaine pour emprunter à des collections personnelles les centaines de Bibles rares qui étaient exposées.

A certains endroits, les visiteurs avaient la possibilité de bénéficier de téléchargements gratuits de la Bible sur leurs téléphones portables, et d'un programme de lecture de la Bible sur une année.

Ces manifestations diverses se sont déroulées en Roumanie du 21 au 31 janvier. C'est avec la présentation de la 'Bible qui voyage' et une cérémonie de dédicace pour ceux qui s'engagent à étudier la Bible de manière quotidienne que ce programme s'est achevé.

Au cours du mois de mars 2009, la 'Bible qui voyage' va parcourir l'Europe et l'Afrique du nord.

Aurelian Horja
Adventist News Network
3 February 2009
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/data/2009/1233678295/index.html.en.

Le président du Ghana fait l'éloge du travail humanitaire et de l'éducation adventiste

Le 31 janvier, dans une déclaration lue pendant un service de prière, John Evans Atta Mills, président du Ghana, a fait l'éloge de l'église adventiste du septième jour pour le rôle joué en matière d'éducation, de développement et pour ses efforts d'aide. Le service de prière intitulé 'l'Unité du Ghana par le Christ', faisait suite à l'élection nationale qui a eu lieu dans le pays au mois de décembre dernier.

Récemment élu, le président J.E.A. Mills a déclaré que la journée de prière organisée par le gouvernement avait pour but de remercier Dieu d'avoir

béni le pays, car l'élection s'est déroulée dans la sérénité.

La journée de prière et d'action de grâce qui a eu lieu samedi à l'église adventiste du septième jour de Garrison à Accra s'accorde avec les services des fidèles musulmans le vendredi et des autres dénominations chrétiennes le dimanche.

Dans sa déclaration, J.E.A. Mills a applaudi l'église adventiste pour ce qu'elle a apporté à la société, notamment en ce qui concerne les différents niveaux d'instruction proposés par les écoles d'église et l'Agence Adventiste d'Aide et de Développement (ADRA)

qui travaille aux côtés du gouvernement pour améliorer la vie des ghanéens.

J.E.A. Mills a aussi dit dans sa déclaration qu'il travaillera avec les institutions comme l'église adventiste pour réaliser les objectifs de l'église.

"Nous allons proposer davantage d'opportunités pour permettre aux églises et aux autres organisations non-gouvernementales de compléter les efforts du gouvernement pour répondre aux besoins de notre peuple" a-t-il affirmé.

Durant le service de prière, le président de l'église adventiste du Ghana, Samuel

Larmie, a appelé les ghanéens à enterrer leurs différences politiques et à vaincre la "partition qui nous devise."

S. Larmie a ajouté que l'objectif de tous les ghanéens devrait être de travailler ensemble pour faire en sorte que la nation devienne solide économiquement, qu'elle mûrisse politiquement, qu'elle soit forte d'un point de vue social et à la pointe sur le plan technologique.

Solace Asafo
Adventist News Network
2 February 2009
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/data/2009/1233612807/index.html.en



Lugar de nacimiento de la Iglesia Adventista cumple 150 años

Battle Creek, una ciudad de Michigan, Estados Unidos con historia y significación cultural para la Iglesia Adventista, cumplió 150 años esta semana.

Los funcionarios de la ciudad celebraron la ocasión el martes 24 de febrero, con la presencia de ocho ex alcaldes.

Establecida como ciudad en 1859, Battle Creek sirvió como una de las bases de los líderes abolicionistas que trasladaban esclavos hacia la libertad. En esa ciudad, vivió durante veintisiete años la activista de los derechos humanos Sojourner Truth.

El alcalde Mark Behnke dijo que una cosa que no ha cambiado en estos ciento cincuenta años es el espíritu de los habitantes de esa ciudad. “Me siento orgulloso de ser alcalde de Battle Creek,” expresó.

Behnke dijo que el aniversario era un momento de apreciar la historia de la ciudad

pero de mirar también hacia adelante.

Durante cinco años, Battle Creek hizo las veces de centro de la naciente denominación que dio en llamarse Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día. Los fundadores del adventismo probablemente supusieron que en Battle Creek serían bien recibidos, dijo James Nix, director del Patrimonio Elena G. de White.

“Battle Creek sintió la influencia de los cuáqueros que se destacaban por ser tolerantes de los diversos puntos de vista de los demás,” dijo Nix. “Puede que eso haya significado una recepción más abierta y tolerante de los adventistas observadores del sábado que en otros lugares.”

Battle Creek es el lugar donde se estableció la primera casa editora de la Iglesia Adventista, la Review and Herald, y el famoso Sanatorio de Battle Creek dirigido por

John Harvey Kellogg. Elena G. de White, una de las fundadoras de la denominación, vivió con su familia en la ciudad.

En 1855, los creyentes que observaban el sábado en Michigan invitaron a Elena G. de White y a su esposo Jaime a mudarse a Battle Creek, donde ellos prometieron hacerse cargo de la imprenta de la iglesia.

Los nuevos creyentes de Battle Creek se organizaron en una estructura eclesiástica mundial en 1863, y allí adoptaron el nombre de adventistas del séptimo día. En los siguientes cincuenta años, el movimiento adventista llegó a superar los cien mil miembros. Hoy día, la feligresía está cerca de los dieciséis millones.

Si bien Battle Creek ya no es la sede de la Iglesia Adventista mundial, William Fagal, director asociado del Patrimonio White, dice que la ciudad guarda partes importunes de

la historia de la iglesia.

“Aquí es donde comenzó a suceder las cosas,” dice Fagal. “Se dieron los primeros pasos hacia la organización de la obra médica y educativa, y desde ese lugar se envió el primer misionero. Todos estos emprendimientos, entre otros, se llevaron a cabo durante los años de Battle Creek.”

Hoy día, Battle Creek alberga a la Villa Histórica Adventista, una colección restaurada de edificaciones que tuvieron una función vital en la herencia de la iglesia. Entre ellos se hallan los hogares de Elena y Jaime White y de William Hardy, un adventista afroamericano muy influyente.

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

*Adventist New Network Staff
5 de Marzo del 2009*

*English translation available at:
<http://news.adventist.org/2009/02/birthplace-of-sevent.html>.*

Red de televisión adventista firma acuerdo con nueva proveedora

La red de televisión oficial de la Iglesia Adventista se incorporará a las prestaciones básicas de la proveedora televisiva DIRECTV a fines de abril próximo, una decisión que según los ejecutivos del canal permitirá que la programación para la familia de Hope Channel alcance a una audiencia potencialmente mayor y más diversa.

El contrato con DIRECTV, una de las principales proveedoras de los Estados Unidos, representa el “mayor hito en los medios para la iglesia en Norteamérica,” dijo Mark Finley, presidente de la Junta de Directores de Hope Channel, según se informa en un comunicado de prensa del canal. DIRECTV, que comenzó a operar en 1994, posee una base de suscriptores de más de dieciséis

millones de hogares.

“Nos entusiasma asociarnos con DIRECTV,” dijo Brad Thorp, presidente de Hope Channel, y añadió que Hope

prestaciones.

Si bien los ejecutivos de Hope Channel dijeron que DIRECTV se mostró impresionada por la diversidad de su programación, en particular por su énfasis en la educación, la vida saludable y la vida familiar, existen planes de concentrarse a “programas que fomenten un sentido de comunidad,” dijo Finley.

Hope Channel será el canal 368 del servicio básico de DIRECTV, y aparecerá entre varios canales de noticias y educacionales, expresó el comunicado del canal.

*Adventist News Network Staff
5 de Marzo del 2009*

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/2009/02/adventist-churches-te.html.

Mark Finley, presidente de la Junta de Directores de Hope Channel, y Gary Gibbs, director asociado, firman un contrato de DIRECTV a comienzos de esta semana. Para fines de abril, el programa del canal aparecerá como parte del servicio básico de la proveedora.

Channel estaba agradecido por la “buena recepción y cooperación” de la proveedora, que añadió la programación de la red a su paquete básico de



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Lodging: Contact your local conference Office of Education or Ministerial department for information on your hotel reservations.

Information: For additional information, contact your local conference Office of Education or Ministerial department or call the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020, E-mail: ptc@atlanticunion.org.

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BulletinBoard

Sunset Table

May 2009	1	8	15	22	29
Bangor, ME	7:41	7:50	7:58	8:05	8:12
Portland, ME	7:44	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:14
Boston, MA	7:45	7:52	8:00	8:07	8:13
South Lancaster, MA	7:47	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:15
Pittsfield, MA	7:54	8:01	8:09	8:16	8:22
Hartford, CT	7:50	7:57	8:05	8:11	8:17
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Hamilton, Bda	7:59	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:18

Eastern Daylight Savings Time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OUT-OF-UNION

Madison College Alumni Homecoming, June 26-28, honoring class of 1959. Those attending/graduating from 1950-1964, will also be honored. Friday evening,

Sabbath, and Sunday breakfast, all at the Madison Academy campus. Jim Culpepper (615) 654-3311.

OBITUARIES

DAH, Saw Shwe—65, b. Feb. 15, 1943, in Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar); d. Jan. 23, 2009, in Middletown, N.Y. He was a member of the Middletown Seventh-day Adventist Church in Middletown, N.Y. Survivors include his wife, Ampy Dah; sons, Philip (Cindy) Dah of Berrien Springs, Mich., Samson Dah of Baltimore, Md., and Darlington Dah of Middletown, N.Y.; daughter, Karen Dah; and one grandchild, Elizah.

QUAILE, Mary Marie Walker—91, b. Oct. 28, 1917, in Homer, N.Y.; d. Dec. 23, 2008. She was baptized in 1935 into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in

Syracuse, N.Y. Her husband, Robert, preceded her death in 1994. She is survived by her nine children, Juanita Quail of Freeville, N.Y.; Frank Quail of Ocoee, Fla.; Frederick (Barbara) Quail of Fairbanks, Alaska.; Janet (Brian) Caster of Oswego, N.Y.; Julianne (Wayne) Lee of Canadensis, Pa.; Jenienne (John) Kriegelstein of Anchorage, Alaska; Jennifer (William) Hurlbutt of Clayton, N.M.; Leonard (Janna) Quail of Bismarck, N.D.; Jocelyn (Patrick) Botimer of Groton, N.Y.; a sister Christine (Clayton) Whetmore of Suamico, Wis.; Leonard Walker of Mountainview, Calif.; 27 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

THAMES, Max H.—82, b. Mar. 20, 1926, in Macon, Ga.; d. Dec. 17, 2008, in Crosslake, Minn. He attended Union College in Lincoln, Neb. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps. He was a Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor for 40 years in Scottsbluff, Sidney, and South Sioux City, Neb.; Knoxville and Burlington, Iowa; Buffalo, N.Y.; Spartanburg, S.C.; Fitchburg, Springfield, and Athol, Mass. Survivors include his wife, Goldie; his children, Linda (James)

Trana of Crosslake, Minn., Barbara (George) St. Pierre of Springfield, Mass., Rodney (Natalie) Thames of Douglasville, Ga., and Marsha (Delvin) Delong of Mount Dora, Fla.; his brother, Clarence (Ramona) Thames of Ga., eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; nephew, Scott Turner; and many other nieces and nephews.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Southern New England Conference
Constituency Session

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.

According to the constitutional provision, each organized church is entitled to one delegate and one additional delegate for each thirty-five (35) church members or major fraction thereof.

Lunch will be provided.

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 the Organizing Committee for each constituent church plus an additional member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof.

Lunch will be provided.

Frank Tochtermann, President
Juan Borges, Executive Secretary

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 Tochtermann, President
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seeks full-time faculty in the School of Education and Psychology for area of research and statistics. Criteria includes Ph.D. in research or related area, teaching experience (preferably higher education). The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should send résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, sep@southern.edu; fax: (423) 236-2468.

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seeks Director to develop and implement a new master's program in social work. A doctoral degree in social work or

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'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, drbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Nursing seeks Mental Health nursing faculty member who loves teaching and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Master's in Nursing required. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, drbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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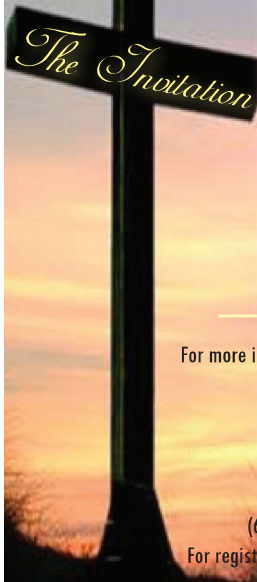
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Atlantic Union Conference Summer Camp Schedule 2009



Camp Berkshire

Greater New York Conference

Web site: www.campberkshire.org

Junior Camp

Jun. 28–Jul. 5 (Ages 10–12)

Tween Camp

Jul. 5–Jul. 12 (Ages 13–15)

Camp Cherokee

New York Conference

Web site: www.cherokeesummer.com

Teen Camp

Jul. 5–Jul. 12

Junior/Tween Camp

Jul. 12–Jul. 19

Adventure Camp

Jul. 19–Jul. 26

Family Camp 1

Aug. 2–Aug. 9

Family Camp 2

Aug. 9–Aug. 16

Home School Camp

Aug. 23–Aug. 26

Camp Victory Lake

Northeastern Conference

Web site: www.campvictorylake.org

Summer Camp Session 1

Jul. 5–Jul. 19

Summer Camp Session 2

Jul. 19–Aug. 2

Summer Camp Full Session

Jul. 5–Aug. 2

Camp Lawroweld

Northern New England Conference

Web site: www.lawroweld.org

Junior Camp I

Jul. 5–Jul. 12

Junior Camp II

Jul. 12–Jul. 19

Blind Camp

Jul. 19–Jul. 26

Teen Outpost Camp

Jul. 19–Jul. 26

Horse Camp (Limited to 6 campers)

Jul. 19–Jul. 26

Teen Camp

Jul. 26–Aug. 2

Family Adventure Camp

Aug. 2–Aug. 9

Motorcycle Weekend

Aug. 14–Aug. 16

Camp Winnekeag

Southern New England Conference

Web site: www.campwinnekeag.com

Adventurer Camp

Jun. 21–Jun. 28 (Ages 8–9)

Teen Extreme

Jun. 21–Jun. 28 (Ages 13–17)

Junior Camp

Jun. 28–Jul. 5 (Ages 10–12)

Tween Camp

Jul. 5–Jul. 12 (Ages 12–14)

Teen Camp

Jul. 12–Jul. 19 (Ages 13–17)

Family Camp I

Jul. 19–Jul. 26 (All Ages)

Family Camp II

Jul. 26–Aug. 2 (All Ages)

Courage to Stand–International Camporee 2009
Oshkosh, Wisconsin • August 11–15, 2009 • Web site: www.camporee.org

For information on summer camp activities, contact your local conference youth department. The phone numbers for each conference are listed in the directory on page 31. For more Atlantic Union youth activities, visit the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Department Web site: www.atlantic-union.org/youth.html.

Photos courtesy of the camp staff from the camps in the Atlantic Union.