Instruments of Praise
Sharing God's Message Through Music
inside DECEMBER 2009

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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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In this Issue...
In this issue of the GLEANER, the cover story features individuals from the Atlantic Union who are using their talents to spread the love of Jesus through music. Our regular features include: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover photo is from iStockphoto.
A few weeks ago I returned from the world leadership conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church known as Annual Council held at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Since this was the last meeting of this kind before the General Conference Session to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23-July 3, 2010, there were numerous items on the agenda. Some included recommended changes to the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, which will go to the session next year for consideration. However, there was one item that caught and held my attention. Allow me to share my enthusiasm about this item with you.

For a church not always known for being on the forefront of social action, I was delighted to hear a report and appeal from ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) and the General Conference Women’s Ministries entitled: "enditnow: Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women."

According to the enditnow report, here are some alarming facts:

1. One in three women around the world are victims of physical or psychological repression.
2. More than 135 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation and an additional two million girls and women are at risk each year; 6,000 every day.
3. In the United States one woman is battered every 15 seconds, usually by her husband or boyfriend.
4. One in five women around the world will be the victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.

The following description of the campaign was abstracted from the General Conference Web site (www.adventist.org): "enditnow is a global campaign to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence against women and girls around the world... Through enditnow, Seventh-day Adventists... affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and decry all forms of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse."

During the initial phase of enditnow, one million signatures are expected to be collected worldwide and will be presented to the United Nations to raise additional awareness about the issue, advocate for the creation of effective new policies that protect women and girls, and make public the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s efforts to end violent practices against the female gender. enditnow seeks to extend God’s vision of love and compassion for all His children.

Domestic violence has been documented as a major issue within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Incidences of abuse follow trends documented in non-Adventist populations. This is why enditnow seeks to increase personal awareness, responsibility, and involvement to effectively help end violence against women and girls in every family and community.

While enditnow focuses on violence against women and girls, abuse of any kind should never occur against men or women. This campaign aims to highlight abuse against women because the majority of victims of gender-based violence are indisputably women.

Why this campaign now? Because we can't wait!

I encourage every member of the Atlantic Union Conference to join with the Seventh-day Adventist Church at all levels, as well as all other caring organizations, to help stamp out this scourge of evil among God’s children on this planet.

My wife, Lois, and I extend best wishes for a safe and blessed holiday season. 

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
There is a wide array of musical talent in the Atlantic Union. Many members are sharing their musical gifts in their local churches, communities, across the United States, and abroad. It is easy to become familiar with those from the local area, but there are so many others whom we have never heard. So, as the holiday season approaches, we share highlights about just a few of the artists who are proclaiming the message about a wonderful Savior through their music.

Anthony E. Ashby

Anthony E. Ashby was encouraged by his dad from a young age to develop his musical talents through singing. A native of Barbados, West Indies, Ashby and his siblings often sang for church services. He wanted to play the organ, but was not allowed to touch it because he couldn’t play. “Even though I didn’t know how to play, I could hear the music in my head,” says Ashby. So, he created a make-shift organ and he says, “I practiced all the hymns from the church hymnal all day for three months straight.” Then one Sabbath, the organist was absent from church and Ashby decided to fill in, to the surprise of the congregation. “From that time, I have never stopped playing,” he says. At the age of 12 he was voted to be the organist at his church, a position he held until he migrated to the United States. Ashby also developed a passion for the saxophone and mastered that instrument, as well.

Ashby was the minister of music for more than 15 years at the Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in Medford, Massachusetts. Now, he is primarily ministering with his voice and soprano saxophone. He has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, and parts of Europe. “I go wherever I am called,” Ashby says. He has performed for various events, including rallies and camp meetings in the Bermuda, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England conferences. He participates regularly in local state functions and benefits and has taken part in concerts with Whitley Phipps, Ullanda Innocent-Palmer, and Neville Peters. His CD, “Breath of Praise,” was released a few years ago and is currently working on another project to be released in 2010. Ashby says, “My mission is to share the gospel through music with as many people as possible. My prayer is that the lord will use me as His instrument so that every instrument I touch will render Spirit-filled, God-blessed music.”

Kristie Stevenson

Kristie Stevenson has been performing in churches since she was five. She performed in her
first of hundreds of weddings, that would eventually take her from coast to coast, at the age of seven. Through her “tween” and teen years, she enjoyed giving mini-concerts for the adults, earlies, and juniors, at the Carolina Conference camp meetings, and sharing her love of Jesus through song during intermissions. Her vocal gift grew through her academy years at Mt. Pisgah Academy in Candler, North Carolina, with vocal training and performance in choir, a girl’s trio, and solo work. At Southern University, in Colledgadale, Tennessee, she studied classical voice and explored Italian, German, and Latin.

It wasn’t until she moved to Boston that she began to explore her potential of vocal texture through private coaching. She began to enjoy using newly-found techniques in her music to create a more contemporary feel. This allows her to have a range of flexibility in her style that she enjoys immensely.

Over the years, Stevenson has done numerous projects, including a recording project for the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education music curriculum. She stepped up to the challenge of writing her first two original songs when the then Southern New England Conference (SNEC) youth director, Bob Saunders, invited her to perform at a youth conference in 2002. “I was so impressed by the topic that Pastor Bob had picked for the event, and for the life of me, I couldn’t think of a song that would be appropriate,” she states. “So I prayed about it, and God gave me the opening line as soon as I stepped out of the church and into my car right after meeting Pastor Bob for the first time—the tune and all! It was so amazing that I made a promise to God right then and there. I said, “As long as You give me the words and the melody, I will write the songs. They haven’t stopped since!”

She was also inspired to write last years SNEC camp meeting theme song, “Share the Hope (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REdPzUrF2dw)” when she couldn’t find an appropriate song for the theme.

Stevenson’s philosophy is simple. If He has given you a talent and you aren’t using it, there is no way that you will feel complete. But if you are allowing the One who created you to use you, then you can’t help but feel fulfilled. And that is the stuff that rubs off on others around you, and opens the doors to let God work through you. Stevenson says, “It is exciting to think that He can use us in that way.”

The Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers

During the summer of 1976, I heard, for the first time, an AYA singing group from Texas play one short, simple song on English handbells. (English handbells is the correct term for the type of bells used in bell choirs.) A few weeks later, I attended the last half of a concert by Ringers-on-the-Green, an outstanding bell choir. I was enthralled and caught the vision that Pine Tree Academy (PTA) would be able to include this in its music curriculum” says Doris Krueger, the director for the Pine Tree Center for the Arts in Freeport, Maine.

The Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers now play five octaves (61 bells) of English handbells and five octaves (61...
chimes) of choir chimes. The current group of 11 young musicians are students in grades 7 through 12. In past years the Bell Ringers have performed throughout the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and Iceland, as well as many countries in South America and Europe. According to one church leader in Argentina, “They have opened a door that has always been closed. They will never realize the impact and extent of their influence.”

The group has played in a variety of venues, such as the Maine State Capitol and Governor’s Mansion, the steps of the United States Capitol, and the rotunda of the United States Senate, Radio City Music Hall, television, radio, shopping malls, schools, churches, service clubs, prisons, nursing homes, and hospitals. The group has played for four General Conference Sessions. It has also played for heads of state.

In addition to producing two full-length recordings, the Bell Ringers was one of 10 Maine groups featured on the WCSH TV (NBC affiliate) first Christmas in Maine album. Their latest CD (21 songs) is available at the Southern New England and Northern New England Adventist Book Centers and at PTA.

During this Christmas Season, the group will also be playing for the Freeport Women’s Club, the Freeport Historical Society, the Freeport First Baptist Church, the open house at Portland’s Victoria Mansion, as well as a couple of retirement/assisted living homes.

The Bell Ringers present a unique type of music performed “to the glory of God.” Tours provide once-in-a-life-time educational experiences for members. “Music is a universal language. It opens up the world of music to others and opens up the world to our students. They become changed people,” says Krueger.

Christine Sinclair

Christine Sinclair is an international gospel recording artist from Stamford, Connecticut. She is known for her vocal versatility, which is a unique blend of classical and gospel music. In addition to countless performances in the United States, Sinclair has performed internationally in several European countries, throughout the Caribbean, Canada, and Africa. She has appeared on many radio and television shows, including BBC, 3ABN, the Hope Channel, and the Word Network. She recently returned from Africa, where she was the singing evangelist for the “Hope For Malawi” tele-evangelistic meetings where 1,600 people were baptized.

Sinclair was a featured soloist for the world church’s General Conference sessions in 2000 and 2005. She has been invited to sing at the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia. She has a passion for singing at evangelistic meetings. She sang for the world-wide NET 2004 broadcasts and has sung for programs sponsored by It Is Written, Amazing Facts, and the Pathway of Hope Television Ministries. She was the featured soloist for the 3ABN LIVE special 9-11 broadcast. In 2008, her one-hour show, “My Story, My Song,” debuted world-wide on the Hope Channel.

Sinclair has been blessed to sing in concerts with artists such as Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle, CeCe Winans, Cissy Houston, Vickie Winans, Donnie McClurkin, Richard Smallwood, and Wintley Phipps. She has performed at many major venues, including Madison Square Garden, the Prudential Center Stadium, the Manhattan Center Studios, and the Apollo Theater in New York City. In 2006, she was honored at the Caribbean Gospel Music Awards, where she was presented with the “Spiritual Award” for her dedication to helping others through the ministry of music.

She has four recordings entitled, “Yes, God is Real,” “Holy Ground,” “Praise From The Soul,” and her latest release, “Hymns and Inspirational Songs of Reflection.”

“The opportunity to proclaim the gospel to the world through song is truly a privilege,” she says. “God keeps opening doors.” www.sinclairmusic.com

Eddie Edwards

Eddie Edwards, a native of Jamaica, West Indies, started singing at age of three. “My mother and grandmother both served as choir-masters for our church, so, grooming for the limelight came naturally for me,” says Edwards. He migrated to New York City in 1984 with his family. After pursuing a career as a financial services professional and after his children completed their education, his focus shifted to music.

In 1992, he started singing at his...
church and, before long, he was singing all over New York City for events, including church services, evangelistic meetings, concerts, weddings, funerals, and prayer vigils. He manages juggling his time between writing and arranging gospel songs and music and spending countless hours in the recording studio. He has performed before large gatherings, at a Bill and Gloria Gaither and Friends Homecoming concert, and the annual Northeastern Conference departmental training convention. His ministry has taken him throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

“Yes,” Edwards says. “I have been busy for the Lord.”

Edwards has written and arranged several gospel songs and has recorded four albums. His music is distributed worldwide by Chapel Music. Edwards says, “My mission is to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, creeds, and all religious persuasions around the world.”

Apryl Maloon

Apryl Maloon has always loved music. When she was about 12 years old, her church had neither an organist or pianist. The members eagerly gave her the encouragement she needed to perform the task. “Because of the acceptance and affirmation I received, I stayed in the church during my teenage years,” says Maloon. “God used music to keep me there.”

She always wanted to write music and tried for a time, but it just never flowed. “One night, years after I’d given up trying, the Lord sent me a dream. In it I saw a woman standing on a street corner, singing the chorus of a song I’d never heard before. I tried to go back to sleep, but couldn’t, so I got out of bed and wrote it down,” she says. A few weeks after that, she was asked to be part of an evangelistic team. Now, most songs start with a passion she has for something or a burden on her heart.

Maloon, an Atlantic Union College graduate, has three albums, and a fourth master is almost completed. She has traveled widely, performing and sharing her testimony. She has been featured on 3ABN Presents, and her music is played on Family Radio stations across the United States.

Her mission is to touch people with God’s love. One of her songs is titled “The Gift of Forgiveness.” “It speaks of our need to forgive those who have hurt us, even if those people are not remorseful,” she says. “I never could have written that song without going through a dark valley myself. I was hurt by someone and tried to forget, but bitterness and resentment grew in my heart, crowding out the joy of even life itself.” Through prayer, Maloon realized that God didn’t expect her to generate this forgiveness on her own. It was a gift from God. “Praise the Lord that He gave me this gift,” she says. After singing this song in concert, people have approached her in tears, verbalizing how much they needed to forgive someone in their life, how they needed to hear that forgiveness is a gift. “The trial I bore was difficult, and at the time I was going through it I could not understand how God could be leading, but I would not ask God to take it away now. Praise God for the lessons, for the experiences that come from Him each day” she says.

We are all blessed with talents and gifts from God. How we use them is totally up to us. The individuals featured in this article choose to use their gifts to honor God and to bless others with their music. We thank them for sharing their information and allowing our readers to see just a glimpse of who they are and what the are doing with their ministry.

Editor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.

Visit our Web site for the full version of their stories.

We would like to feature other individuals in the Atlantic Union who have a ministry in music and have published CDs. If you would like to be considered, e-mail the Gleaner staff at: gleaner@atlanticunion.org.
Mission Trips in the Atlantic Union

From its earliest beginnings, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has believed in the importance of missions. I am reminded of the many times I drove by the former home of John Andrews, our first missionary to Europe. We have been challenged in Matthew 28:19-20 to take the gospel to the entire world. That we have done with a passion.

Each year, hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist youth perform mission service in faraway places, such as the South Pacific, Africa, South America, and other international destinations. Scores of youth groups affiliated with academies, colleges, churches, and other organizations take short-term mission trips to many and varied locations. These mission trips have impacted the lives of the youth forever!

Let us not forget that there are many mission opportunities available right here in North America and specifically, the Atlantic Union. Yes, there are needs in New York City, Boston, Hartford, Portland, Syracuse, and Bermuda. There are many needs in the territory in which we live, but we must realize that we don’t participate in mission trips just to serve those in need. We conduct mission trips that will help our young people come into direct contact with Jesus Christ in a far richer way than if they were to stay at home in the small churches and communities.

One of our responsibilities as youth leaders is to help young people become life-long disciples of Jesus. We can do this by creating opportunities that will allow young people to see themselves as disciples. Mission experiences can be an extremely powerful way to do just that.

One of the goals of the Atlantic Union Youth Ministries is to plan some local mission trips in our territory. Several are being planned for 2010 that include Hartford, Connecticut, on August 6-15 and Syracuse, New York, on July 9-18. The dates for Portland, Maine, and Bermuda will be announced as they are available. The local conferences are working with the Center for Youth Evangelism to plan each mission trip.

The benefits of planning these types of experiences are many. First, mission trips move youth out of their comfort zones, take them to new places, and give them new experiences. As young people participate in a mission trip experience they come in contact with people from different backgrounds and lifestyles. Learning about other cultures through firsthand experience is more effective than simply observing or reading about them.

Second, the reason that Jesus called the early followers to “go” is still relevant today. Jesus is telling us to go into the large cities and evangelize. Mission experiences must challenge young people’s preconceived notions and make them think. For example, many young people think that a homeless person just needs to get a job to better his or her situation. It is not until they begin to understand the disparity between what a minimum wage job pays and what it costs for basic living expenses that a young person can change his or her thinking. It is not enough just to talk about these issues. When the young people see them firsthand, it gives them a whole new perspective.

You can be assured that as our young people participate in one of these local mission trip experiences, their lives will be changed forever.

For more information about the mission trips, contact your local youth ministries or union youth ministries department.

Bill Wood is director for the Youth Ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer departments in the Atlantic Union Conference.
Imagine 25 individuals, males, females, singles, married, young adults, and adults, from countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Peru, all coming together to learn or improve their English skills.

That was the experience on the opening day of the English as a Second Language (ESL) class organized by Ministerio Hermandad under the auspices of the Bermuda Conference Hispanic Ministries Department. Ministerio Hermandad, was organized early in 2009 by five women, members of different churches, to minister to the more than 1,500 Hispanics in Bermuda.

Imagine learning to write English sentences through the story of Adam and Eve. Or what about learning pronunciation through the story of David and Goliath? That is all possible. The main curriculum for the ESL class is a Bible-based, fun, action-packed curriculum by which students will be exposed to Bible characters from Adam and Eve to the empty tomb of Jesus. Their learning is also reinforced through Rosetta Stone®, a complete curriculum in itself.

The class began with an evaluation to determine the English proficiency level of the students. Three levels were organized—beginner, high beginner, and intermediate (conversational emphasis).

The classes always begin and end with a prayer, and the students also recite “The Lord’s Prayer” before they leave to go home. One student said, “Oh, how I wish I could memorize that prayer.”

The classes began Sunday, September 27 at the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church and will continue through the remainder of the year. The teachers at the various levels are Geneva Inghman, Somerset church; Robert Dummont, Southampton church; Sandra Stowe and Donna Belton, Warwick church; Martha Black, Pembroke church; and Karina Villanueva, a student who came for the conversational course last semester and is now teaching the beginners level. Others like Gabriela Pozo, Merley Sanchez, and Loida Ratteray, are giving child care services for the teachers and the students, as well. All these individuals have committed their time and are working together to provide an important service to individuals in the Hispanic community in Bermuda.

—Ariel Manzueta, pastor, Warwick church

Many individuals from the Hispanic community in Bermuda are learning English as a second language by attending classes organized by Bermuda Conference’s Ministerio Hermandad and held at the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Individuals from various churches in Bermuda invest their time and energy to teach English as a Second Language classes at three levels: beginner, high beginner, and intermediate.

Child care is provided for the children while their parents attend classes.
Team Effort Results in Baptisms

Sixty-one people were baptized into the Spanish Intervale Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Bronx this year, following dedicated efforts by Rafael Familia, the church’s pastor, and Hugo de Leon, the personal ministries director. Another member of the evangelistic team, Yeury Ferreira, has been helping church missionary leaders through seminars and missionary counseling.

One of the last persons to accept Jesus as his personal Savior was Peter Polanco, house engineer for the well-known Spanish radio station Radio Vision Cristiana. He was given the Spanish Bible course La Fe de Jesus (The Faith of Jesus) and accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. He was baptized in June.

The team hopes to have more baptisms before the year is over.

—Carlos Munoz Medina, communication leader, Spanish Intervale church

Bronx Youth Week of Evangelism Well Attended

The Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York, hosted the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Bronx youth week of evangelism on September 26 to October 2.

José Cortés, GNYC youth director, was present to kick off the meetings that were conducted by Melvin Hayden III, youth pastor of the Community Praise Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. The week-long meetings featured Spirit-filled sermons, praise and worship, drama performances, testimonies, and a well-attended prayer room.

The meetings were planned and presented by Adventist Youth coordinators, directors, and leaders from churches in the Bronx who are passionate about the Christian young people in their churches.

Many adults attended and supported the meetings, including pastors, parents, non-Adventists, and church members. The Lord blessed as people, young and old, committed and recommitted their lives to Him.

—Lloyd Cohall, communication director, Three Angels church
I was nervous! It was my first experience directing camp meeting as the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Hispanic Ministries director. It was my responsibility to coordinate all the activities that were to take place at camp during that week. I was excited, but at the same time, I was worries because I wanted everything to be perfect for God’s honor and glory. About 300 people attended the entire camp meeting week.

The focus was on soul-wining, and the theme was, “Each One Win One.” Roberto Herrera, stewardship director for the Inter-American Division, presented the morning and evening devotionals. He encouraged us to be part of the church group that does more than it is expected to do. Evelyn and Ivan Omaña, retired director of Siema, Inter-American Division, shared anecdotes and instructions about structuring Christian homes so “they become heaven’s antechamber here on earth.” James W. Zackrison, special assistant with the Voice of Prophecy, spoke on final events. His seminars encouraged us to reflect on our greatest hope—the second coming of Jesus Christ!

Rosa Alvis dedicated meetings especially for the women entitled, “Between Us.” Evelyn Omaña and Ivelisse Herrera assisted with the presentations. During the meetings many questions posed by the women who attended were answered. Evelyn and Ivan Omaña captivate their listeners during the presentation for couples.

Bonnie Marker, the GNYC president’s wife, held a meeting with the pastors’ wives on Sabbath to make plans to work together in the ministry that God has given them.

Throughout the meetings, one could sense that there was a Christian environment of harmony and fraternity. During the adult and youth meetings, many individuals made decisions for Jesus. On Sabbath, July 18, a baptism ceremony took place at the camp swimming pool and 17 people were baptized.

All types of recreation were provided, including morning walks for health, coordinated by Marco Molina, pastor of the Bay Shore, Central Islip, and Hampton Spanish churches. Other social activities and green juices were provided for anyone who was interested.

A Vacation Bible School was conducted by Delrita Cañas.

The music added a special touch to our meeting. There were soloists, choirs, musical groups of all kinds, and a concert by Eusebio Díaz.

We give thanks to God for His great care for us while we were camping. We also thank the camp administrators who live and work there; each one of them was a tremendous help to us. Thanks to the pastoral team that assisted me so the work would be lighter. Thanks to GNYC Hispanic Ministries office secretary Karen Perez for her valuable assistance. Thanks to each individual who attended the camp meeting, for without them there would not be a camp meeting. At the end, there was one statement uttered that was music to our ears: “This camp meeting was great!”

—Gilberto Alvis, Hispanic Ministries director, Greater New York Conference

On graduation day, the children who attended Vacation Bible School pose with the drama section presenters.
As all the pieces fall into place, aligning in a miraculous way, the dawn of the 2009-2010 school year points to a brilliant year for the 127-year-old institution.

- Enrollment is up, with the college welcoming the largest freshman class in five years.
- Enthused students have plunged into their work with a drive for academic success, all while embracing the high spiritual atmosphere the college fosters.
- Renovation projects, including the exterior painting of Founders Hall, are in process to preserve, improve, and beautify the campus.
- Students are never at a loss for something to do because of the variety of activities on campus.
- A new strategic plan and marketing philosophy are in place to guide the institution to further heights, positioning the college for continued success.

The Kick-off

Fall semester kicked off with a picnic on the campus lawn. Students and college employees enjoyed veggie hotdogs and healthy drinks in an atmosphere of fellowship. During the Saturday night games, known as “Almost Anything Goes,” vice president for student services Jack Mentges led students in “getting to know you” icebreakers. “The games were a resounding success,” Mentges said. Meanwhile, the Student Association holds Bible studies and musical events and is planning community engagement initiatives and mission trips.

The fall 2009 Week of Prayer, directed by the new College Church pastor, Don Pate, brought fresh inspiration, rededication, and record attendance to both the morning and evening services. Special music performed by choirs, quartets, and soloists added to the sermons. “God is at work on this campus,” says Atlantic Union College chaplain, Danny Sierra. “We meet every Tuesday and Thursday at noon just to pray with anyone who needs prayers. Stop by and you will receive a blessing.”

Physical Plant Updates

Anyone strolling through the campus cannot miss the busy work crews hard at work fixing the Haskell Hall roof and refurbishing Founders Hall, the oldest educational building still in use in the Adventist Church. The Brown House is sporting a new look after a fresh coat of paint was applied this summer. The residence halls benefited from the volunteer work of alumni and friends, and church members who banded together to paint walls, wax floors, and clean rooms.

Intellectual Life/Spring Semester Nursing Offered

Vibrant intellectual life is as strong as ever on AUC’s campus, with the Faculty Lecture Series and Departmental...
 Forums challenging students to learn who they are and how they relate to their society.

The college’s prized nursing department students achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the state board exams this year. Every single student passed. Today, there are so many qualified nursing applicants for the nursing program, there is a waiting list. In January, the department will receive a second cohort of students. The nursing department has doubled its enrollment since the college’s board of trustees voted to accept two cohorts (semesters) of students each year. Additional faculty members are in place to handle the increased number of nursing students.

Balanced Budget
Atlantic Union College’s senior vice president for finance, Lloyd Brown, and finance committee chair, Leon Thomassian, are pleased with the balanced budget the college achieved this year. President Norman Wendth and board of trustees chair, Donald King, look to the future with confidence. It all adds up to a very bright future for the “school of the prophets” in New England.

—Bordes Henry-Saturné, vice president for enrollment and retention and professor of religion, Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts

Top photo: Quartet Festival. The crowd loved them! Pictured from left is the Bag of Chips Quartet: Justin Stringer, Ricky Pierre, Patrick Monteiro, and Reevney St. Luc.

Middle photo: Parent’s Weekend. Parents Mike and Julie Harlow, far left and far right, came from Norway, Maine, to visit their young adults. Stephanie, second from right, is a freshman biology student and Andrew, not pictured, is also a biology student and plans to graduate in May. Pictured with them in Chan Shun Dining Commons is Atlantic Union College president Norman Wendth.

Bottom photo: Teachers of Tomorrow was sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education. The event connected AUC education majors with the six local conference superintendents of schools and eight academy principals in the union. Students were interviewed for prospective positions. Pictured is John Turner, left, as he received the book Education by Ellen G. White, from Marlene Alvarez at the Education Forum and Banquet. Alvarez is the new certification registrar and assistant director for Early Childhood Education and Care for the Atlantic Union Conference.
Members’ Commitment Yields Fruit

Members of the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Syracuse, New York, witnessed the results of the commitment of members, both locally and across the conference, on Sabbath, October 3. On that day three Karen young people, resettled from refugee camps in Thailand, made a public declaration of their love for Jesus and were baptized by local elder Alan Kaiser. What a joy it was to see Kyaw Shwe Aye, Eh Dar, and Say Wah Paw take this most important life step. Others are planning to follow in the near future.

Local members have supported their families as they set up homes and struggled through their first winter. Members locally and conference-wide have made Adventist education a possibility by helping to fund tuition expenses to Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York, and other schools where many Karen and African families have settled.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

Pathfinder Leadership Training Renews Vision

Pathfinder Leadership Training is alive in the New York Conference. September 11-13 brought 46 people together from around upstate New York to Camp Cherokee in Saranac Lake, New York, to learn how to be better Pathfinder leaders. Fifteen of these were young people in the Teen Leadership Training program.

Three tracks of learning for nine hours each were offered: Basic Staff Training, Master Guide, and Pathfinder Continuing Education. Presentations were made by seven leaders, including Dick Bradt, Derek Colaw, Dorothy Lombard, George Silver, Dan Whitlow, Lisa Whitlow, and Bill Wood.

Dan Whitlow challenged participants to teach God’s Word and bind it in their minds, so that it will always lead and guide them in their work for young people. Bill Wood, Atlantic Union Conference youth director, encouraged leaders to be people of influence, like Joshua and Caleb. George Silver, New York Conference Pathfinder director, reviewed world events to encourage them to prepare and be ready for Jesus’ soon return. Derek Colaw, Pathfinder area coordinator, presented the “Parable of the Turtles,” in which he taught the importance of servant leadership.

During free time attendees could canoe, kayak, hike, visit, or rest. They returned to their churches and Pathfinder clubs with a renewed vision of God’s desire that they be involved in service for Him.

—Dorothy Lombard, club director, Messina church
Community Outreach Leads to Bible Studies

Duane and Teresa Honyoust from the Buskirk Seventh-day Adventist Community Church in Buskirk, New York, organized a fishing tournament as a community outreach. They were inspired to try it after hearing Bill Roeser’s experience shared at the New York Conference Lay Training Institute held this past February. Bill held a tournament, complete with a devotional and made many positive connections to people in his community.

Buskirk church members helped make their own tournament a success with approximately 75 people attending. Families, men, women, and children of all ages participated. Prizes were given, lunch was provided, and the day ended with make-your-own-sundaes. It was an enjoyable day as we got to know our local community.

Since then, we have started Bible studies with some of the families. We look forward to making this an annual event as an evangelistic outreach.

—Julie Marques-Lawwill, communication coordinator, Buskirk Community church

Buskirk Church Increases through Friendship Evangelism

Friendship evangelism works best in the Seventh-day Adventist church plant in Buskirk, New York. Since this church building was bought three years ago, many new faces have entered its doors, Kelsey Bunting among them.

Kelsey Bunting was baptized on February 28. The first time Kelsey met an Adventist was when Miriam Ford stopped by the Bunting Farm. They were soon talking about God. One Sabbath morning, Kelsey called the Ford home requesting the time of the church service. Miriam invited her to bring a friend and stay for lunch. Kelsey came with her boyfriend, and church friendships were made. Soon after, they both began Bible studies at the Ford home.

Next came Kelsey and Ray Bunting’s wedding in the same country church. You may have seen their photo and article in the GLEANER. A year and a half later, the couple announced they were expecting a baby boy.

With a baby on the way to bless their home, Kelsey wanted to be baptized immediately. As her husband smiled and sat beside the baptistery, the young mother-to-be stepped down and rose from the waters to a new life in Jesus. Tyler Ray Bunting was born on August 24. Baby and family are doing well.

We wish God’s wonderful blessings on this budding family.

—Julie Lawwill, communication secretary, Buskirk Community church

No More Men’s Retreat

Every year we seem to be blessed more than the year before at the Men’s Retreat; and this year was no different. There were about 35 men attending. Richard O’Ffill, revivalist and author, presented a seminar entitled “Plain Talk to Men.” And plain it was!

“First off, there will be no more men’s retreat,” O’Ffill said. “Men do not retreat. So, next year it will have a different name, ‘Men’s Camp,’ ‘Men for Jesus,’ or some other appropriate name.” In typical O’Ffill style, the message was mixed with humor and down-to-earth biblical teaching. We were strongly encouraged to step up to the plate and be the Christ-like representatives that Jesus wants us to be. He encouraged us to pray more and spend time in private devotion. During the weekend we had many occasions to pray with and for each other.

The struggles that all men face were openly discussed and O’Ffill presented biblical counsel on how to overcome temptations. There was also great emphasis placed on submitting, committing, dedicating, or rededicating our lives to Jesus.

O’Ffill stated more than once: “I’m impressed! I have never been to a men’s camp where the total focus, all weekend, was on such a high spiritual level.”

Men, prepare now for next year and be ready to receive a blessing, but most of all, be ready to give a blessing.

DVDs of O’Ffill’s presentation are available by contacting Jim Hammer at (716) 532-4099.

—Jim Hammer, participant, Men’s Retreat
This year, in addition to participating in and supporting evangelistic meetings at the conference level, the Atlantic Union Conference administrators, departmental directors, and office staff conducted a four-week series of evangelistic meetings at the Village Church of Seventh-day Adventists in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. The Keys of Hope Bible series was hosted by the Village Church and the Atlantic Union. Held four nights each week during the months of September and October, it was the first time that the entire Atlantic Union office staff participated as a team in an evangelistic series.

Donald King, president; Jerrell Gilkeson, associate education director; Dionisio Olivo, Hispanic Ministries vice president, and Carlyle Simmons, executive secretary, all from the Atlantic Union, presented the messages weekly. Students from Browning elementary and South Lancaster Academy assisted Gilkeson, during the week he presented his messages. And, a children’s program was conducted simultaneously during the four weeks under the direction of Astrid Thomassian, Atlantic Union Children’s Ministries director.

The seed for the idea to conduct these meetings was planted by Trevor Forbes, Atlantic Union Conference associate treasurer and personal ministries director. He worked many hours along with David Dennis and Robert Sierra, pastor and associate pastor of the Village Church, to plan the meetings. “The series served to spiritually revive many people who attended and to nurture three persons who were baptized three weeks later,” says Forbes. “Some people are continuing to attend Bible instruction in preparation for baptism. Moreover, the local church pastors indicated that the series encouraged the church to make evangelism a cycle whereby the church will have at least one evangelistic meeting yearly.”

At a time when many people are losing hope because of the challenges they face due to the unstable economic situation, the Keys of Hope Bible series served as a reminder that when all else fails, there is hope in Jesus. 

Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor
A Big Lesson From a Little Boy

I am sorry to admit it. I know that every worship talk I present should be an exciting adventure for my students that leaves them wanting to know more about our great creator God. And that it should inspire them to want to invite Jesus Christ to be the Lord and Savior of their lives. But, to be honest, I was feeling as if this was a fairly routine worship—singing the usual songs, praying the usual prayers and reading or telling the usual story—when something happened that I never anticipated.

One of my new students, a boy who keeps me very busy, but who also has a way of keeping a smile on everyone’s face with his carefree, let’s-do-the-next-fun-thing attitude, suddenly got a very serious expression on his face. He looked up at me and said, “Mr. Bugbee, there are bad things in this book.” The book he was referring to was the Bible. I wasn’t sure what he was talking about. Was he delving into the romantic poetry of the Songs of Solomon? Not likely for a third-grade student who was a neophyte to Bible reading. Or maybe he had found some of the gory imagery that was the result of Israel’s struggle with its own sin, and the sinfulness of its neighbors found in the book of Judges. But no, my young student had stumbled on a picture in the Bible. A picture that, as Christians, we would recognize as the focal point for all of the writings in the Bible and the highest demonstration of God’s love for the human race.

The picture, of course, was Jesus Christ hanging upon a cross for my sin and yours. But to Caleb*, this was a bad picture, because it showed a man being beaten and tortured on a cross. Caleb had never heard the story of Jesus and His mission to save humanity from the inevitable consequence of sin—eternal death and separation from God. Caleb had never heard of Jesus’ amazing love and self-sacrifice for all of His creation. To Caleb this was nothing more than a bad picture in a book. It was then that I realized how great my responsibility was to share the gospel in every way I can, not only with Caleb, but with all my students. I cannot assume that all my students know the story of Jesus and His love for them and that all I have to do is teach them the doctrines of our church and lead them to baptism. I must teach all of my students that Jesus loves them so much that He gave up everything, even His own precious life and His connection with God so that they could have life and life eternal. More than that, I must show that love to my students, by my words and my actions to them every day.

So I want to thank the Lord for the little boy in my class, who had the courage to tell me about the bad picture in the book that we call the Bible. May God give me the courage and the love to genuinely share the good news of the Man who was suffering in that bad picture. And may God help me to know how much Jesus loves that little boy and wants him delivered safely into the Father’s kingdom to live with God forever.

"I must teach all of my students that Jesus loves them so much that He gave up everything, even His own precious life . . ."

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

* not his real name
More than 300 people gathered at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel in East Elmhurst, New York, on Sunday, September 27, to participate in a black tie function with keynote speaker His Excellency Most Honorable Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, Governor General of Jamaica. The event was a fundraiser for the Northeastern Conference youth center project.

The idea to build a youth center was shared more than 29 years ago by Trevor Baker, the Northeastern Conference youth director at that time. Now as president of the conference, Baker was present to witness the revival of the plan by Nigel Lewis, the current youth director, and Philip Wesley, the associate youth director. The youth center is expected to cost upward of 6.5 million dollars.

Sir Patrick, a veteran Seventh-day Adventist Church leader, encouraged those present to involve the youth in the church and they may stay. He said he considered himself a product of the Seventh-day Adventist youth department. According to Sir Patrick, young people desire role models more than indoctrination or elocution. They want to see Christ embedded in their mentors in deeds of love and mercy. They want us to engage them and respect their maturing consciousness. We should believe in them, train them, and trust them. He talked of his journey as a young man, which included words of wisdom from his mother, many of which were familiar to his audience. As he recited the first few words of a proverbs, the audience completed the sayings with him such as “If you steal a penny, you will steal a pound, do not steal.” “Show me your company and I will tell you who you are.” Choose your friends wisely. “Evil communication corrupts good manners.” “Labor for learning before you grow old, because learning is better than silver and gold. Silver and gold will vanish away, but a good education will never decay.” He ended his presentation by challenging those present to support the youth.

The guest list at the event included dignitaries and luminaries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and local officials, including Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president; Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president; Eunice Baker, Northeastern Conference Information Technology Systems coordinator; Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica, and his wife, Lady Patricia Allen; and Genevieve Brown Metzger, Jamaica’s Council General in New York.

The event was sponsored by Air Jamaica, and Herbert Thompson, Northern Caribbean University president, served as the master of ceremonies. Special music was presented by Stacy Donkoh, Breezy Mckenley, and Anika Sampson. “Truly it was an outstanding evening,” was the common remark heard as the guests left the function that evening.

—Stephen L. Williams, Sr., communication director, Northeastern Conference
Members of AY departments from churches in Western New York (WNY) joined forces in Christian love as they took to the streets in the Rochester area to provide services for local non-profit organizations. The rainy day did not stop them from “finishing the race” on August 29, under the direction of WNY Adventist Youth Federation president, Nicole Robinson.

Following a brief charge from Marcus Vassell, assistant pastor for the Jefferson Avenue and Antioch churches and the Tabernacle of Joyful Praise mission, the five group leaders assembled their teams of 15-20 members each, gave instructions, and headed to their designated sites.

Organizations such as the Open Door Mission, Genesis House, Blossom Road Home for Seniors, Rochester Presbyterian Nursing Home, and the Episcopal Home for Seniors were the recipients of joy and sunshine as the youth arrived ready to serve. Gerald Brady, of the Genesis House, a half-way house for youth between ages 13 and 18, was amazed by the outpouring of support from so many young men and women. As the school bus of Buffalo youth, led by WNY AY federation assistant president, Carol Dozier, arrived, Brady scratched his head in amazement and looked for more things on the agency’s “To Do” list for the group to tackle.

Each organization welcomed the youth groups with open arms. In fact, they were delighted to see so many young people on fire for the Lord and willing to lend a hand to their organizations.

The tasks for each location varied, so at any given point throughout the day, members could be found singing hymns, reading stories, performing skits, sorting men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, organizing the donation center, and distributing literature throughout Rochester.

—Angela Tucker, communication director, Jefferson Avenue church

The Northeastern Conference Health Ministries Department hosted its 5th annual Nutrition and Wellness Training at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York, on October 8 - 11. With more than 100 individuals attending, the training included hands-on preparation of total plant-based vegetarian and raw food dishes presented by Ivett Ash, food service manager at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York; Moses Calderon, certified executive chef at Palm Beach Hotel in Brooklyn, New York; Jurea Dawson from the Voice in the Wilderness Mission, Savoy, Massachusetts; and Marlene McKinney, certified lifestyle educator at McKinney’s Oven.

The devotional speakers included Eunice Baker, Northeastern Conference Technology and Information Systems coordinator and Leroy Daley, Northeastern Conference Health Ministries director. George E. Guthrie, M.D., assistant director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida, made a presentation on battling diabetes, and simple and consistent home exercises were introduced by Maureen Kellman, certified fitness trainer from the Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton, New York. Massage therapy was available daily, courtesy of Malaika Sharp from the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hartford, Connecticut.

—Keicha Gosling, Communication and Health Ministries administrative assistant, Northeastern Conference
God Honors Those Who Honor Him

About 50 members of the Dixfield Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dixfield, Maine, were at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, on June 9 to witness the baptism of Wendell Blood. Also present for the baptism was Blood’s wife, Louise, and his daughters.

Blood, employed at the New Page Paper Mill in Rumford, Maine, had not been able to honor the Sabbath as he wanted to while working in his current position. Being impressed by the Lord to keep the Sabbath more faithfully, he started looking into other positions at the mill to see if he could get a different job. After approximately a

Post publically made that same proclamation when she was baptized by Arnet Mathers, pastor at the Bennington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bennington, Vermont. It was such a burden on her heart to experience a water baptism, despite very trying circumstances. You see, Post has rheumatoid arthritis, and moving is very painful and difficult for her. Most of us take it for granted that we can get in and out of a baptismal tank or some other body of water, but for Post, it was a great challenge that she met with grace and dignity.

Post spent many years studying and following the Adventist message, but it wasn’t enough to just live the truth that she had learned. She wanted the full experience of dying to her old life and coming up out of the water, born anew as a child of the King. And, that she did! Despite physical discomfort, the pure joy and love of Jesus shone on her face as Mathers raised her up out of the water. Post showed all of us, that, with God, all things are possible!

Visit our Web site: www.nnec.org

Baptism at Bennington Church

Philip told the Ethiopian, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest (be baptized).” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”—Acts 8:37. In June 2009, Dorothy Post was determined to be baptized at the Bennington Seventh-day Adventist Church, in spite of her physical challenges.

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Baptism at Bennington Church

Orthodox New England

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Journey to My Resting Place

Many generations ago, Bill Shirks’ ancestors came to America to find freedom of religion. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and brought up with very strict traditions, similar to those of the Amish people. Just before graduating from the ninth grade, Shirks was given a work permit so that he could work on his father's farm. To gain too much knowledge in those days was considered as being “puffed up.”

When Shirks got older, he began to question the religious beliefs on which he was raised. After making the statement that “legislation is not salvation,” he was asked to leave his church. He left and never went back. He and his family visited many churches but didn’t find a place where they fit in.

After seven or eight years of searching, he inquired about the Dexter Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dexter, Maine, and started attending. The church, but came under the strong conviction about keeping the commandments. He asked several different people about the subject, but received different answers from everyone he spoke to.

After seven or eight years of searching, he inquired about the Dexter Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dexter, Maine, and started attending. He was not ridiculed for asking questions or for making certain comments, but instead, was referred to the Bible. He continued to attend regularly, digging deeper into the Word of God, and finally came to understand the books of Daniel and Revelation and their significance to the end times.

In July 2009, Arnold Schnell, the church’s pastor, baptized Shirks into the Dexter church. “Despite all the ridicule from my family and friends,” he said, “my faith has found a resting place.”

—Colleen Giles, communication correspondent, Dexter church
Connecticut Valley Church Provides Blood Drive Location

On a warm summer day in August, people from the community drove to the Connecticut Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church to give something very precious to them, their blood. For the past several years the American Red Cross has been holding a summer blood drive at the church located in South Windsor, Connecticut.

The drive is easy to sponsor since the Red Cross has their own callers who call registered blood donors and line up appointments. They have a set-up and tear-down crew and their own staff of qualified people to draw blood.

While people are there, they have the opportunity to sign up for one of our upcoming seminars, which several indicated they were interested in attending.

We are blessed to provide this assistance to the community.

—Einar Rom, pastor, Connecticut Valley church

Brooklawn Church Members Blessed by Prayer Events

The prayer ministries team at the Brooklawn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, held three prayer events on August 22, September 1, and September 4.

The first event began with a small, but strong in faith, group of 15 members meeting for a prayer breakfast. One individual shared a message about prayer and the Word. Emphasis was placed on 2 Chronicles 7:14-16. After the meal, each person was given a slip of paper with a prayer request on it. Then they joined together, taking turns praying for the specific requests.

The second event focused on prayer warriors joining together to pray for people with special needs. Psalm 119:9-16 was the focus for this day. Practical ways on how to communicate and have a closer relationship with God were shared. Those gathered prayed for special needs, such as healing from drug addiction, depression, and God’s intervention for wayward children. The group was drawn into an atmosphere of prayer and it seemed as though no one wanted to leave.

Day three concluded with fasting and prayer. “It’s a blessing to be in the house of the Lord with my brothers and sisters,” said Raymond Martells, Sr., the church’s head elder. By the third event, the number of prayer warriors had doubled. As they sang, “It Is Well With My Soul,” their voices filled the entire sanctuary. A series of Bible texts were read and comments were made. The promise found in Luke 10:19 was read collectively and claimed by faith.

In groups of four they prayed as they were moved by God’s leading. Additionally, elders prayed for anyone who had a special need. Many went forward to be touched by His healing hand. While attending the prayer-fest, one such individual gave a testimony on how he was healed from kidney stones.

As the events came to an end, those in attendance all agreed that there is a balm in Gilead. From all accounts, no one went away without being touched by God.

—Jamie Howanec, communication correspondent, Brooklawn church
A Win-Win Proposal

The Southern New England Conference is growing! This growth creates need for new and/or improved church and school facilities. The Atlantic Union provides a marvelous financial service to local churches and schools by providing loans for such needs. The Atlantic Union Revolving Fund is able to provide these very competitive loans to the extent that they are funded by deposits from churches, schools, and members like you.

The Atlantic Union is currently paying an interest rate of 2.75% APR on all deposits. By creating an account with the Atlantic Union Revolving Fund you will do more than earn a competitive interest rate on your deposits, you will facilitate the growth and ministries of the Southern New England Conference by making funds available for church and school growth.

For more information, call the Southern New England Conference treasury office at (978) 365-4551.

—Tom Murray, planned giving and trust services director, Southern New England Conference

Celebration Provides Witnessing Opportunities

The Norwich Seventh-day Adventist Church in Norwich, Connecticut, members participated in the town’s 350th anniversary celebration parade on July 5. Church members created and entered a float in the parade with the theme “He Has the Whole World in His Hands.” Members, some in native costumes from around the world, sang the song as they sat on the float and walked behind the float as it moved along the street. Other members distributed thousands of Who are the Seventh-day Adventists booklets to bystanders.

They were honored to win first prize for the float. The reigning Miss Connecticut was there to congratulate the group. The cable TV crews were there filming the parade, which was later shown on the town’s cable networks.

—Terri Nozil, church treasurer, Norwich church, and Van Sailo, pastor (now pastoring the Framingham and Waltham, Massachusetts, churches), and Ernest Nozil, head elder, in front of the Norwich church’s first place-winning float.

Friend Day Produced a 400 Percent Attendance Increase

The Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church in Foxboro, Massachusetts, hosted Friend Day on September 26. We praised God for a 400 percent attendance increase as 120 people flowed through the doors on Friend Day.

The event was planned with much prayer, several months in advance. We saw the power of a friendly invitation to church. Members invited relatives, neighbors, coworkers, and friends. Several who responded invited others, which helped fill the pews. A dinner was hosted afterward.

—Barry Kimbrough, pastor, Foxboro church

Online Giving for evangelism

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

~ Proverbs 22:6 KJV

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L’église Adventiste Et Adra Lancent Une Campagne Pour Faire Cesser La Violence Envers Les Femmes

Le 13 octobre, l’Agence Adventiste d’Aide et de Développement (ADRA) et le Département du Ministère auprès des Femmes de l’église adventiste se sont associés en lançant une nouvelle campagne de plaidoirie pour faire cesser la violence envers les femmes.

Intitulée “EndItNow,” la campagne appelle les adventistes du monde entier à œuvrer dans leurs communautés pour faire cesser la violence envers les femmes et les filles, ont expliqué les organisateurs de la campagne.

La campagne “EndItNow” est une campagne qui vise à récolter un million de signatures issues des 200 pays dans lesquels les adventistes sont représentés. A terme, ces signatures seront présentées aux Nations-Unies.


Le président d’ADRA Charles Sandefur a dit que la violence envers les femmes peut être une menace silencieuse et subtile qui a un impact sur des centaines de millions de vies.

“EndItNow” constitue une voix commune qui appelle le reste de l’église à la suivre” a dit C. Sandefur.


Les coordinateurs ont demandé aux délégues de signer la bannière de “EndItNow” pour donner le coup d’envoi de la campagne de signature. Le président de l’église adventiste mondiale Jan Paulsen a été le premier à signer, disant que la campagne constituait en elle-même une déclaration “forte, puissante.”

“J’espère, je prie et ferai ma part afin que cela ait un impact et que la position que nous prenons en tant que peuple, à savoir de donner la plus haute valeur aux femmes, devienne connue et soit soulevée au-delà des frontières... religieuses, culturelles et matérielles” a dit J. Paulsen.

Le secrétaire de l’Association Pastorale de l’Eglise Jim Cress a exprimé un puissant soutien en faveur de la campagne.

“De partout, les pasteurs vont se joindre à nous pour affirmer la dignité des jeunes gens, des femmes, de toute personne qui a subi des violences” a déclaré J. Cress.

Le Département du Ministère auprès des Femmes fait la promotion de la Journée annuelle de Prévention de la Maltraitance de l’église adventiste qui a lieu le quatrième sabbat du mois d’août. Ce département propose également des bourses dans le monde entier aux jeunes femmes qui n’auraient pas eu les moyens de recevoir un enseignement supérieur, a expliqué H.D. Small.

ADRA, organisation humanitaire de l’église adventiste, finance des programmes en faveur des femmes et des filles, notamment des initiatives de prévention de mutilation génitale féminine et des programmes de lutte contre le trafic humain, ainsi que des programmes d’alphabétisation destinés aux femmes.

Lorna Grace Okotto, déléguée laïque du Kenya, pense que cette campagne représente une étape importante dans la bonne direction.

“Cela représente peut-être une surprise pour certaines personnes, mais la violence envers les femmes est même présente dans l’église de Dieu, quelquefois même parmi nos anciens ou nos pasteurs” a affirmé L.G. Okotto. “Je remercie beaucoup mes sœurs et ADRA d’avoir pris cette initiative.”

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez enditnow.org.

Source: Adventist News Network (ANN) 23 Octobre 2009


L’église adventiste Lance Une Série de Vidéos Sur “YouTube”

Adventists About Life’ devrait permettre d’élargir la sphère d’influence traditionnelle de l’Eglise.

Les responsables des communications de l’église adventiste du septième jour expliquent que la nouvelle émission de séries vidéo sur “YouTube” fait partie des efforts continus de l’Eglise pour élargir le champ de ses activités sur internet.

Programmé pour faire ses débuts le 6 octobre, ‘Adventists About Life’ a été conçu pour stimuler la discussion et proposer un regard adventiste sur des questions telles que la liberté, loi contre science, l’environnement et l’intégrité.

“Ces vidéos ont les capacités d’atteindre un public habituellement ‘en dehors’ des méthodes plus traditionnelles de ministère de l’Eglise” a déclaré Rajmund Dabrowski, directeur des communications et producteur exécutif de la série.

Les deux premières vidéos présentent les remarques du président de l’église adventiste mondiale Jan Paulsen, qui se dit “vivement intéressé” par le fait de “faire connaître la voix de l’Eglise là où nous ne sommes pas encore présents” a affirmé R. Dabrowski.

La diffusion d’autres épisodes est prévue dans le but de présenter un large éventail de dirigeants de l’Eglise et de penseurs.

Adventists About Life est une production du Département des Communications de l’église adventiste mondiale.

Source: Adventist News Network 9 Octobre 2009

La Iglesia Adventista y ADRA Lanzan Campaña Para Poner Fin a la Violencia Contra las Mujeres

La Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales (ADRA) y el departamento de Ministerios de la Mujer de la Iglesia Adventista mundial se unieron para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres durante el lanzamiento de una nueva campaña de apoyo. Bautizada “EndItNow,” la campaña hace un llamado a los adventistas de todo el mundo para que trabajen en sus comunidades para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas, afirmaron los organizadores.

La campaña impulsa la recolección de un millón de firmas en representación de cada uno de los doscientos países donde hay presencia adventista, dijeron los organizadores. Cuando se alcance el blanco, las firmas serán enviadas a la ONU.

“Es una crisis global, y como iglesia necesitamos participar y ser conscientes,” dijo Heather-Dawn Small, directora de Ministerios de la Mujer.

Una de cada tres mujeres en el mundo es víctima de represión física y psicológica, mientras que aproximadamente 135 millones de niñas han sufrido la mutilación genital, dijeron los líderes de ADRA durante la presentación de “EndItNow.”

Charles Sandefur, presidente de ADRA, dijo que la violencia contra las mujeres puede representar una amenaza silenciosa y sutil que afecta a cientos de millones de vidas. “Esta campaña nos da una voz común y hace un llamado para que toda la iglesia nos acompañe,” dijo Sandefur. ADRA y Ministerios de la Mujer presentaron esta iniciativa conjunta a los delegados del Concilio Anual 2009.

Los coordinadores pidieron a los delegados que firmaran la pancarta para dar inicio a la recolección de firmas. Jan Paulsen, presidente de la iglesia mundial, firmó en primer lugar, y dijo que la campaña era una declaración “fuerte y poderosa.”

“Es mi esperanza y oración, y yo haré mi parte para que tenga impacto, que la posición que tenemos como pueblo, que da el más elevado valor a las mujeres, llegue a ser ampliamente conocido y apoyado más allá de los límites religiosos, culturales y nacionales,” dijo Paulsen.

James Cress, secretario de la Asociación Ministerial de la iglesia mundial, expresó su fuerte apoyo a la campaña. “Los ministros de todo el mundo se unirán para afirmar la dignidad de los jóvenes, de las mujeres y de todos los que sean víctimas de la violencia,” dijo Cress.

El departamento de Ministerios de la Mujer propone cada año el Día de Enfasis sobre la Prevención del Abuso, que se lleva a cabo cada cuarto sábado de agosto. El departamento también ofrece becas a mujeres de todo el mundo que de otra forma no podrían costearse los estudios superiores, dijo Small.

ADRA, la organización humanitaria de la Iglesia Adventista, financia programas que benefician a las mujeres y a las niñas, como por ejemplo programas de prevención de la mutilación genital, iniciativas que buscan prevenir el tráfico humano y programas de alfabetización femenina.

Lorna Grace Okotto, una delegada laica que asistió a las reuniones desde Kenia, dijo que sintió que la campaña significaba un gran paso en la dirección correcta.

“Puede que resulte una sorpresa para algunos, pero la violencia contra las mujeres está dentro de la iglesia de Dios, y en algunos casos los responsables son ancianos de iglesia y aun pastores,” dijo Okotto. Muchas gracias, mis hermanas y ADRA, por llevar adelante esta iniciativa.”

Si desea más información, visite enditnow.org.

Source: Adventist News Network (ANN) 23 de Octubre del 2009

Ban on Sales of Assault Weapons to Civilians

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).

Automatic or semi-automatic military-style weapons are becoming increasingly available to civilians. In some areas of the world it is relatively easy to acquire such guns. They show up not only in the street, but in the hands of youngsters at school. Many crimes are committed through the use of these kinds of weapons. They are made to kill people. They have no legitimate recreational use.

The teachings and example of Christ constitute the guide for the Christian today. Christ came into the world to save lives, not to destroy them (Luke 9:56). When Peter drew his weapon Jesus said to him: “Put your sword back in its place . . . All who take the sword will die by the sword” (Matthew 26:52, TEV). Jesus did not engage in violence.

The argument is made by some that banning assault weapons limits the rights of people and that guns do not commit crimes, but people do. While it is true that violence and criminal inclinations lead to guns, it is also true that availability of guns leads to violence. The opportunity for civilians to acquire by purchase or otherwise automatic or semi-automatic assault weapons only increases the number of deaths resulting from human crimes. Possession of guns by civilians in the United States has increased by an estimated 300 percent in the past four years. During the same period there has been a staggering increase in armed attacks and resulting deaths.

In most of the world such weapons cannot be acquired in some areas. Their availability can only open the possibility of further tragedies.

Pursuits of peace and the preservation of life are to be the goals of Christians. Evil cannot be effectively met with evil, but must be overcome with good. Seventh-day Adventists, with other people of good will, wish to cooperate in using every legitimate means of reducing, and eliminating where possible, the root causes of crime. In addition, with public safety and the value of human life in mind, the sale of automatic or semi-automatic assault weapons should be strictly controlled. This would reduce the use of weapons by mentally disturbed people and criminals, especially those involved in drug and gang activities.

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.
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Third annual Adventist Health System CEO Reunion, January 29-30, 2010, Avon Park, Fla. For information, contact Bill Sager at (863) 452-2593, e-mail wcsager@tnni.net; Tom Anos at (863) 452-1979, e-mail dtamos@gmail.com; or Jim Culpepper at (615) 415-1925.

OBITUARIES

CARKIN, Merrill E.—76; b. Jul. 8, 1933, in North Woodstock, N.H.; d. August 27, 2009, in Richmond, Maine. He was a member of the Brunswick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brunswick, Maine. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in 1959. He was assistant publishing secretary for the student colporteurs in Northern New England Conference for one year. He is survived by his wife, Gail E. Stuber Carkin (AUC ’58); sons, Peter Carkin of Fitchburg, Mass., and Patrick Carkin of Milford, Mass., daughters, Joline Carkin-Jeza of Clinton, Mass., and Jennifer Hall of Casco, Maine; brother, Warren Carkin of Auburn, Maine; sisters, Muriel Cox (twin sister) of Days Creek, Ore., Anna Ford of Nashville, Ga., Bernice Vaughn of Sanbornville, N.H.; five grand-children, Joshua, Erika, and Mikey Meja and Brandon and Kate Hall; one great-grandchild, Tristan Sedeno. He was predeceased by Loren Carkin of Roanoke, Va., Robert Carkin of North Woodstock, N.H., and Gordon Carkin of Laconia, N.H.

FUNKA, Raymond—82; b. Oct. 17, 1926, in Houston, Pa.; d. Aug. 11, 2009, in Washington, Pa. Following service as a U.S. merchant marine during World War II, he spent much of his life in graphic arts sales and management. He served Atlantic Union College as manager of the College Press from 1973 to 1981. He was also active in the South Lancaster (Mass.) Village Church and in the local community. As a talented musician he played his viola in regional community orchestras and as a sought-after soloist in area restaurants. He is survived by his daughters, Dianne Altman and Tamara Stuart; two sons, Daniel and John; and a younger brother, Marlon, along with 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

SALTERS, Lorraine Agnes (Wegner)—91; b. Feb. 28, 1918, in Manchester, Conn.; d. Apr. 19, 2009, in Tolland, Conn. She attended the Rockville-Tolland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tolland, Conn. She was active in her church and served as Sabbath school secretary, singer, pianist, church custodian, and greeter. She is survived by her brother, Douglas M. Wegner (Nancy) of Conway, S.C.; daughter, Gail S. Hjalmer Mitrowski (Ronald) of Tolland, Conn.; son, Robert C. Hjalmer (Sharon) of Waterbury, Conn.; eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband James Salters (2003) and daughter, Jacqueline A. Hjalmer Lockery (2007).

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Atlantic Union GLEANER, December 2009
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Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff
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