Developing Students’ Spiritual Lives at Atlantic Union College
inside February 2010

Features

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In This Issue...

On page 4 of this issue, read about how students’ lives are changing and baptisms are taking place on the campus of Atlantic Union College. Our regular features in this issue include Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. On the Cover are Atlantic Union College’s 2009 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Eligible students are in their third or fourth year with a minimum 3.25 grade point average. Participation and leadership in both academic and extra-curricular programs, and responsible work experience is taken into consideration. Seated clockwise from the left are: Marilee Mathos, Michael Mergenthaler, Devin Berry, Maria Alvarado, Ryan Amos, Pauline Nanton, David Chavannes, Yumiko Tsuda, and Dorothee Louis, center foreground. Standing clockwise from the left are: Alexander Kirchberg, Christopher Bazile, Matthew Runnals, Chantei Alves, Dain Smith, R. Sebastian Henri-Saturné, Aileen Bravo, Patrick Monteiro, Donald Bryan, Christian Ponciano, and Tiffany Christie. Not pictured are: Kaitlynn Ban, Amanda Beaton, Harry Gomez, Katherine Kilbourn, Jason Knopp, Emmanuel Lausier, Robinson Robin, Trudy Stapleton, Seth Sweet, and Steven Weaver. The cover photo was taken by Cindy Kurtzhals.

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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April 2010 February 12
May 2010 March 12
June 2010 April 9

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

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The prayer of Jesus, recorded in John 17 (NIV), can be divided into three segments: Jesus prays for Himself (verses 1-5); Jesus prays for His disciples (verses 6-17), and Jesus prays for all believers (verses 20-26). In verses 20-21, Jesus says, “My prayer is not for them alone,” referring to the disciples mentioned in verses 6-17. “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

It is so comforting and encouraging to know that Jesus prayed for us as far back as 2000 years ago. His prayer was rather unique, in that it involved all future Christians who would become followers of Jesus as a result of the testimony or the preaching of His disciples. It seems that it was God’s plan to establish the kingdom of grace on earth and then entrust the disciples to carry the good news about that kingdom to the entire world. We can all boast of God’s blessings today and the transformation of our lives, as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit and the sharing of the good news of salvation by His dedicated disciples of yesteryear and/or His modern disciples of these current times.

Last year in the Atlantic Union, as of the third quarter, more than 2,198 individuals were added to our ranks as the result of faithful witnesses and preachers who shared the hope of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and soon-coming King. We can only rejoice that men, women, youth, and children are sensing their need and turning their lives over to the control of Jesus.

The valuable preaching of the disciples, recorded in the Word of God, is a constant challenge for every Christian living in these times. We must, therefore, allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit in 2010 as never before, in order to share hope, and disciple someone for the kingdom of God. Let us do all we can to receive the blessings promised and prayed for in the prayer of Jesus recorded in John 17:1-26. ¶

Carlyle C Simmons is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and director of the Health Ministries, Human Relations, and Prayer Ministries departments.
Developing Students’ Spiritual Lives at Atlantic Union College . . . Doing So for 127 Years

Atlantic Union College stimulates, develops, and energizes the spiritual lives of students. Graduates then belt the globe in service and successful professions, whether it is motherhood and raising quality Christian children, or saving patients’ lives as a surgeon.

Today’s students are shepherded spiritually, nurtured, and baptized by a one-time high school dropout. “GED. General Education Diploma. That was the best degree I ever got,” says Danny Sierra, Atlantic Union College’s chaplain. He’s since earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees and has pastored churches for 12 years.

Sierra quit school when he was 16. “Well, that’s when I officially quit school. I didn’t attend any class the whole year when I was 15,” he explained. Having lived in New York City and hanging out on the streets, his life turned around in 1987-88.

He came to Atlantic Union College as a 31-year-old student in 1993 and graduated in 1997. He also met his spouse at AUC, Catalina, who graduated in 1994.

Today, as chaplain, he can relate to students. His spiritual energy and experience translates well to the college’s diverse community of students.

This academic year, through Friday, October 2, 2009, 14 students have already been baptized, with five or six becoming the first Seventh-day Adventist in their family.

Sierra isn’t a one-man show on the campus. Professors, theology majors, other students, administrators, and staff, are the right arms of God—praying, talking, socializing, and encouraging students.

AUC Continues to Change Lives

“The last four months I have been so happy,” says freshman William Lopes, who was one of 10 students baptized on Friday, October 2. (Lopes is second from left in the top photo.) “The only reason I got baptized is that I want to be saved. We all know being baptized is not enough to be saved, but I know I was completely lost and my life was a disaster. I am so glad I got a chance to know more about our God and worship Him the best way I can.”
Spiritual-life Activities

Opportunities abound for students to get involved on campus, and services are well-attended.

Several Bible studies are taking place—the largest group has 30 students attending, growing, learning, questioning, understanding, and making life-changing decisions for God.

- **Friday Night Vespers**—worship services where students give testimonies, sing, and pray. It’s held at the College Church of Seventh-day Adventists, across the street from the college.

- **Sabbath School**—Breakfast launches the day in the Spiritual Life Center in the E. E. Miles building. Then students study about the Sabbath straight from the Bible. “It’s important for the students to know why we as a church do what we do, and the reasons we keep the Sabbath holy. They can take ownership and biblically understand the faith of the church and why they are Seventh-day Adventist—that it’s not only their parents’ religion,” says AUC chaplain Danny Sierra.

- **Student Church**—held in Chan Shun Dining Commons, it’s a church service run for students by students, which includes students preaching and singing.

- **Old-fashioned Prayer Meeting**—in Founders Hall on Wednesday nights. Conducted by theology students, students give testimonies, sing hymns, and hear a sermon by their peers.

- **Women of Worship**—serves to unite all women on campus.

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**A Sound Biblical Foundation**

Theology major Duddley Francious, above, made an altar call at a vespers service where 19 students decided to be baptized. Instead of holding a baptism right away, he conducted Bible studies teaching the students what it means to be baptized, and the importance of the commitment it takes to follow Christ and be a member of the church. Ten of the 19 students were baptized (see page 4) and they continue with follow-up Bible studies, as do the other nine students.

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**thrive: worship empowered**

Four hundred to 800 young adults attended thrive: worship empowered. The October 16-17, 2009, event was hosted by the Southern New England Conference Young Adult Ministries, Atlantic Union College, and KC Ministries (Kirosha Huggan). Huggan is a 2008 Atlantic Union graduate and is now an AUC enrollment management counselor. Edwin McBride, a 2000 AUC graduate, was the guest speaker; the BCU Choir (Black Christian Union) sang; along with many other guests. Singing from the left are Jessica Desormes, Jean-Yves Joseph, Clarissa Dacil (background), Ketacha Aitena, and Carlton Robinson. The music event drew many alumni to the campus. “This was the best Sabbath I ever had since I left AUC,” said Cathelina Pauleus, a May 2008 graduate. “God truly infuses His spirit,” said Rachelle Abilhomme. “It was a really awesome concert.”

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Cindy Kurtzhals is the Atlantic Union College Public Relations Department director.

at www.atlantic-union.org
A 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti, on the afternoon of January 12, 2010, leaving massive devastation in its wake. News reports indicate it was the strongest quake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years. As a result, thousands lost their lives and thousands have been injured and left homeless. Damage to the infrastructure was severe.

Following news of the quake, administrators in the Atlantic Union and its six local conferences met individually and collectively to determine the most effective method of mobilizing members to assist the Haitian community. “Our prayers go out to the millions of Haitians who have been affected by the earthquake and to our Seventh-day Adventist brothers and sisters,” said Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president.

In addition to the many prayers being offered on behalf of the people of Haiti, a union-wide special Day of Prayer was held in churches across the Atlantic Union on January 16. The Atlantic Union administrative leaders also designated, February 6, 2010, as a day when a special offering for Haiti would be collected in all of the churches in the Atlantic Union. “We solicit your prayers for the leaders of the country and people of Haiti as well as the leaders and members of our churches. As you may imagine, the needs are enormous, so we request your financial support in alleviating the suffering of the people,” said Louis Métellus, vice president for the Atlantic Union Haitian Ministries Department and one who has been directly impacted by this tragedy.

Many of the 470 Adventist churches in Haiti are now in ruins. This is also true of hospitals and schools. The 335,000 Adventist members in Haiti need our help. Their economy is destroyed, making it difficult to continue ministry and to rebuild.

The leaders of the North American Division, headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, also voted to collect a special offering in churches across North America on February 6, 2010. They are sending $600,000 to help rebuild the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Haiti. This is in addition to funds for relief sent...
through ADRA in January. “We must become the helping hands of family members who care,” says Don Schneider, president of the North American Division. “Our heartfelt prayers and concerns are with the people of Haiti suffering the effects of this devastating earthquake.”

“The Atlantic Union leaders have voted to send a minimum of $10,000 in addition to other funds received that are earmarked for Haiti,” says Donald King. The special offering on February 6 allows each member in the Atlantic Union to join with others across the United States to help Seventh-day Adventists in Haiti rebuild and reach out to their country in this time of tragedy.

In addition to sending funds, other methods of assistance for the people of Haiti differs by conference in the Atlantic Union. Local conference leaders are sharing information with church leaders in their fields about what else they are doing to assist in the relief efforts.

As of this writing, Haiti is still suffering from the aftershock of the quake, many are still unaccounted for, the death toll is still rising, and the needs of the people are great.

The more than 102,370 members in the Atlantic Union worshiping in about 562 churches and 62 companies have an opportunity to get involved and respond to the February 6 offering appeal by giving as they are impressed to do so. If you happen to miss the February 6 special offering date, remember, it’s never too late to give.

In order to facilitate the movement of funds to Haiti in a timely manner, it is preferred that checks be made payable to the Atlantic Union Conference and in the memo line of the check indicate it is for the “Haiti Relief Fund” and mail the check directly to the Atlantic Union Conference, PO Box 1189, South Lancaster, MA 01561. An alternate, but slower, method would be to enclose your check payable to the Atlantic Union Conference in a tithe envelope in your church and note on the envelope that it is for the “Haiti Relief Fund.”

For additional updates about Haiti and related links, visit www.atlantic-union.org.

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.
“Receive this Child in My Name . . .”

Christians often ask the question, “If Jesus were to come and visit in the flesh . . . my street, my church, or stop at my home, would I recognize and accept Him?”

That question is answered by Christ Himself in Luke 9:48 (NJKV). “He said to them, ‘Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me.’” Today we have similar questions. We live in a secular society. We live in an age that is faithless. As Christians, we question whether we would accept Jesus if we were to see Him in our context.

Christ quickly moved the discussion to a practical question: “Do you accept this child?” We love our own kids. We love the neat and clean, oh, and quiet children listening in Sabbath School. We love our grandchildren. Before we glibly say, “Yes, of course, I love children,” we should think of how we accept the children that Christ picks up out of the crowd and puts in front of us. Statistically, only about 30 percent of the children in our church receive a Christian education. Then there are all the other children. What about that child who is just dropped into our world? These are the children that we often don’t even see!

Recently, I was introduced to a young child, George. He was full of energy, anxious to please, and ready to talk. He was on top the pew, under the pew, and, oh my, writing in the hymnal! This was all during the first three minutes as the church program began! I could see that he fell into the category that we call the “unchurched.” My clues were not the tobacco scent or his covering his ears when the organ began to play. No, I knew when he pulled out the tithe envelopes and fanned them out, smiling broadly and saying to me, “Take a card, any card!”

George is four years old. No, George is not a church member. He returns no tithe. He doesn’t know what an offering is. But I think I can distinctly hear Christ saying, “Do you accept this one?”

Oh, sure, I love children. Christ asks me to look deeper. Are you sure that the Sabbath School is ready for George? Do they have the help they need? The materials they need? What about Vacation Bible School? Is it ready for George? The pre-school, kindergarten, and church school . . . will George be able to attend? Not able as in “can he?” . . . but able as in resources, money, tuition. Is this school, along with this church, excellent enough for this child for whom Christ says, “You accept him and you accept Me?”

I have to go now. I have lots to do to help my church—and myself—get ready to accept George and others like him. Are you ready for George?

Jerrell Gilkeson is the Atlantic Union Conference education and children’s ministries associate director.
BI Students Excel at Local Student Challenge

Six high schools on the island of Bermuda participated in The Butterfield Student Challenge: Solutions for Success, a business competition sponsored by the Butterfield Bank in Bermuda. Each school was required to form a team of its most business-savvy students to represent a fictitious company. Among those participating in the competition were students representing Bermuda Institute (BI); Stefan Holdipp, Arianna Hodgson, Chelsea Crockwell, and Connie Dawes (see top photo). The students worked hard to highlight key issues facing their company and to provide logical and professional solutions that would put their company on a path to success.

At the finale, held at the Hamilton Fairmont Hotel on November 21, 2009, each team was allotted 10 minutes to present its winning business solutions to a panel of five business leaders, including Sir John Swan, former premier; and from Butterfield Bank, Alan Thompson, president and CEO; Shawnette Griffin, vice president, consumer credit; Phil Jones, vice president, retail banking; and Rhonda Joy, vice president, marketing. Bermuda Institute was awarded second place in the competition. Media representatives from CITV and The Royal Gazette, along with Butterfield Bank executives, teachers and principals from the various schools, and the students’ families and friends attended the event.

The schools competing in the event included Berkeley Institute (third place), Bermuda High School (first place), Bermuda Institute (second place), CedarBridge Academy, Saltus Grammar School, and Warwick Academy. The Butterfield Student Challenge: Solutions for Success was created specifically for Bermuda’s secondary students. The primary objective was to challenge students to think creatively and strategically about financial issues in today’s current economic climate. It was also a means to provide students with an opportunity to showcase their schools and allow the public to witness Bermuda’s talented young people.

The winners were awarded prizes to assist with future educational development that included cash, travel vouchers, and gift vouchers. Bermuda Institute’s visual presentation and skit captured the cup known as The People’s Choice. The team was assisted by students Elizabeth Tuzo and Courtney Smith. The faculty sponsors were Frigga Simmons and Tanya Dickinson.

“The students enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to participating next year,” said Frigga Simmons, Bermuda Institute Office of Development director. “Well done, Bermuda Institute!”

—Sheila Holder, director, and Pete Saunders, assistant director, Bermuda Conference

First Bermudian Called to the General Conference

Former Central States Conference treasurer Delbert B. Pearman assumed new responsibilities on February 1 as planning director for the Office of Adventist Mission. Pearman is the first Bermudian to be called to the General Conference to serve in an elected administrative capacity. In his position at the world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, Pearman will be responsible for planting new congregations in parts of the world where congregations don’t currently exist and for promoting the church’s international mission program around the world.

In June 1986 Pearman began his ministry in the Bermuda Conference as an accountant. At a subsequent constituency session he was elected as treasurer and later as secretary-treasurer. He was recognized for his meticulous service and was awarded the Jewel W. Peel Award for Excellence in Risk Management. Pearman, who has always expressed his love for foreign missions, left Bermuda in 1997 when he answered a call to serve as treasurer of the Sri Lanka Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. That began a journey that has taken him with his family to many foreign countries where he has provided financial oversight for numerous institutions. He has rich experience as a missionary, having served in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Pearman says that, as he works in this administrative capacity, he seeks to emulate Christ’s character in all of his dealings. The Bermuda Conference takes this opportunity to congratulate Delbert Pearman, along with his wife, Curdell, and two daughters, Cierra and Lydette, on this stellar achievement.

Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference
Adventist Home Resident Celebrates 90th Birthday

The Livingston Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated monthly birthdays on October 31, 2009, with special honoree, Vivian Austin, who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 30, 2009. Austin lives on the campus of the Adventist Home, which is adjacent to the church. She is one of the many active retirees who live there. Active is a very good word to describe Austin! She continues to drive her car and participates in many community and civic activities. She, along with other residents at the Adventist Home, works to help the others and to promote a community spirit.

As a child, Austin lived in the Bronx with her parents and two sisters. Her parents instilled in her the ideals of service and they were also active in many community and civic activities. She was employed as an undercover detective for eight years with the New York City Police Department, working in all five boroughs. When she retired with a work-related disability, she was given a Citation of Excellence for her duties as part of the Woman's Police Department of New York City.

Retirement to the Adventist Home campus did not end her work but transitioned it into volunteering. She has served as the president and organizer for the Greene County, New York, chapter of the Christian women's group Aglow International, where she is still active. She was the recording secretary for the Hudson, New York, Business and Professional Woman's Association. She has also served as communication secretary for the Livingston church. Austin is well known in the local communities for her work. She keeps her computer busy as she designs and prints material for the organizations to which she belongs. Friends from the community also gave Austin a gala celebration for her 90th birthday.

—Paul Fitts, executive director, Adventist Home, Inc.

Oakview Preparatory School Burns Mortgage

The Oakview Preparatory School mortgage burning was an occasion for celebration and thanksgiving. It was celebrated on October 11, 2009, with pride and humility—they were proud of the accomplishments, yet humbled because of the realization that this milestone was not achieved through the many talents or abilities of its trailblazers, past or present, but by God’s leading.

The historic evening’s program started with the sounds of the Greater New York Conference Bronx Area Pathfinder Drum Corps. Yvonne Sheridan, the school board chairperson, welcomed everyone. G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference executive secretary, brought greetings on behalf of the administration. Congratulatory messages from the Atlantic Union Conference were shared by Astrid Thomassian, education director, and Leon Thomassian, treasurer. Mr. Thomassian was also the speaker for the evening. He emphasized that students of our schools should also be students of the kingdom of God. Bordes Henry-Saturné, former superintendent of schools for Greater New York Conference and currently vice president of enrollment and retention at Atlantic Union College, and David Cadavero, superintendent of schools for the Greater New York Conference, also spoke.

Attending the event were pioneers of the school who gave of their time, talents, and financial support to help the school realize their dream. These noble visionaries were victorious in fixing the many physical challenges in the building before it was habitable. They
faithfully attended many committee meetings and planning sessions. The goals they envisioned were accomplished only through the eyes of faith in a God who never fails His children.

Dorrette Anderson, the mastermind, the hub and energy behind the Bronx-Westchester Education Committee (BWEC), gave a brief history of the miraculous ways in which God has led them. The principal, J. Eric Imbert, shared updates on the progress of the school and future projections. The students, both past and present, inspired us with music and singing, showing the fruits of our labor while reminding us of why we are to remain dedicated to the cause of educating our children.

Many have expressed their realization that it was God who led in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

—Sheila Allen, vice principal, Oakview Preparatory school

Historical Pastors Appreciation Reception

The Bronx-Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist School is committed to its quest for excellence in every aspect. It believes in the unity of the home, school, and church, and that each plays an important role in establishing and maintaining high standards for the school. Part of this responsibility is fostering bonding relationships with the constituent churches. These relationships deepen and are full of meaning when pastors, teachers, parents, and students work together to promote Christian education.

It was with such sentiments, and in response to resolutions set at the Atlantic Union Conference Pastors and Teachers Convention in August 2009, that leaders of the Greater New York Conference, along with pastors of the Bronx-Manhattan school’s constituent churches, as well as some spouses and teachers, united in a historical event on October 8, 2009. The Bronx-Manhattan school proudly hosted an appreciation dinner in which prayer, music, and a meal were shared in an atmosphere of camaraderie and Christian fellowship. Pastor Anthony Romeo, in his keynote address, reminded the audience of their God-given responsibilities regarding the ministry of Christian education. G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference executive secretary, also shared inspiring words regarding his own upbringing in Christian schools. One pastor exclaimed, “In all the years of my ministry in this area, I have never witnessed anything like this between the school and the pastors of the constituent churches!”

One teacher also commented, “The coming together of pastors and teachers will bring better outcomes for Christian education. It was a pleasure getting to know the pastors better in such a setting.”

I pray that this event will strengthen the bonds that have already been forged and will serve to further the evangelistic efforts in the Highbridge area of the Bronx. Praise God for the body of Christ working in unity in the ministry of Christian education, and for the proclamation of the soon return of Jesus Christ.

—Marlene Romeo, principal, and Bevan Charlene McKenna, teacher, Bronx Manhattan school
Tuition-free College Credits

Summer Ignition Program at Atlantic Union College

July 25, 2010 to August 18, 2010

If you will be entering your first year of college in the fall, come earn up to 5 credit hours before the semester begins! Take courses in algebra, art, business, medical terminology, physical education, and/or religion. Several activities are included such as trips to Boston and other local attractions.

Contact us at: 978-368-2235 or goauc@auc.edu

Ask for more information about the Summer Ignition Program.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE
338 Main Street, P. O. Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561
www.auc.edu
Starting with the Thursday night banquet, our guest speaker is State Representative Harold Naughton.

For Friday vespers, we are happy to be joined by Angel Rodriguez ’85, New York Conference executive secretary.

Sabbath School will start with a celebration of mission work.

The worship service message will be delivered by Ernestine Finley ’00.

Sabbath vespers will be a very exciting program with a BCU Choir 40th anniversary reunion concert. Ten past directors, spanning four decades, are working together to bring an exciting program with a choir that already numbers more than 150. It’s not too late to join the choir.

Don’t forget the cooking classes, history tours, ice cream socials, and visiting with friends. This is all just the beginning of an exciting weekend. Watch for further updates on the alumni Web site, www.aucalums.com.

—John Satelmajer ’98, Alumni Association president 2008-2010

Join us for the 2010 Alumni Weekend, April 15-18, 2010. The theme is Transforming Our Communities. Highlights for the weekend follow.
Corning/Bath Area Spiritually Alive and Well

The members of the Corning Seventh-day Adventist Church in Corning, New York, celebrated as three individuals were baptized on October 31, 2009, in the Corning church baptistry. Susan Jackson, Nancy Highley, and Richard Vanderpool were baptized by Bible worker Charles Hammer, an elder in the Corning church. Hammer conducted evangelistic meetings nightly, October 14-24, 2009, at the Bath church plant in Bath, New York. As they felt the Holy Spirit speaking to their hearts, individuals committed their lives to Christ. Dustin Hall, pastor of the Ithaca Seventh-day Adventist Church, who started the Bath church plant in 2005, and his father, Terry Hall, joined Herb Cady in special music, singing “Jesus Paid It All.”

God’s blessing was evident in the weekly attendance at Sabbath services and the activities of the members. The women’s ministries group collected food and personal items for the local food pantry. In November 2009, winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves were collected by the primary school for children. Additionally, the women filled diaper bags with baby items and donated them to the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys, Inc., in Bath, New York.

—Marjorie L. Plumley, communication secretary, Corning church, and Kelly Cranmer, member, Bath church plant

Academy Seniors Take Over Sabbath School

“I wish Sabbath school wasn’t over already,” said Mackenzie Tupper, a senior at Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York. “We didn’t get to cover the most amazing part!” Tupper is enthusiastic about Sabbath School.

Teenagers excited about Sabbath School? What brought on this change? The senior class at Union Springs Academy decided that they wanted to take over teaching the Sabbath School lesson for their fellow students every week. Each group is led by two seniors. The class can claim 100 percent participation! “We wanted to start a trend,” Adam Boyd, senior class president said, “It has really opened my eyes. Now I look forward to Sabbath School every week. It is fun to discuss the issues and I enjoy teaching.”

The underclassmen are giving the seniors great reviews. “The lesson is more meaningful when it comes from your friends,” Kim Ford, Student Association pastor, commented. Other students have said it is easier to understand the seniors, they get to talk more, and are less afraid to open up.

The blessings definitely fall on both the leaders and the participants. Amy Ali said she was nervous and afraid to lead out at first, but she overcame it. “It is helping me to be a better speaker, and I know that will help me in the future,” she added. All the seniors would agree that it has brought them closer to God, and made them study more. Yharitza Miranda said it so well when she mused, “In teaching others, I teach myself.”

Praise God that the next generation of leaders has already begun to serve!

—Esther Baker, administrative assistant, Union Springs Academy
OFFICIAL NOTICE
New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the fourth regular quadrennial Constituency Session of the
New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at
10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 11, 2010, at Union Springs Academy
in Union Springs, New York.

The purpose of the meeting is
for the receiving of reports, the
election of officers, departmental
directors, and pertinent commit-
tees for the ensuing quadrennium,
the amending of the constitution
and/or bylaws, and the transac-
tion of 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 fif-
ten members or major fraction
thereof. Delegates for the New
York Conference will also be dele-
gates for the New York Conference
Association and Union Springs
Academy sessions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a meeting of the Organizing
Committee is being called for
Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 10:00
a.m. at the New York Conference
office in Syracuse, New York.
All members of the Organizing
Committee should plan to be
present.

Stan Rouse, President
Angel Rodriguez, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE
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the amending of the constitution
and/or bylaws, and the transac-
tion of other business as may
properly come before the delegates.

According to the constitutional
provision, the delegates to the New
York Conference constituency ses-
sion also serve as delegates to the
New York Conference Association
session.

Stan Rouse, President
Angel Rodriguez, Secretary

Learn it! Speak it! Live it!

Nine-year-old Rhonda Grakov, a
homeschooler from the Greater
Albany Seventh-day Adventist Church, is
the second-place winner in the Primary
age group at the 2009 National Bible Bee.

The event took place in Washington,
D. C., November 5-6, 2009, with only
the top 100 contestants in each of the
tree age divisions competing. On the
first day the contestants answered written
questions and gave recitations. The
top 20 then competed in the semifinals
the following day, followed by the top
seven competing in the final. Along
with the second-place trophy, Grakov
received a $10,000.00 prize.

The motto of the National Bible Bee
Contest is: “Learn It! Speak It! Live It!
Building Character . . . One Verse at a
Time.” The main idea of the Bible Bee is
to help children and young people search
God’s Word daily and hide it in their
hearts. There were 300 Bible passages for
memorization for the Primary age group,
which includes more than 1,000 verses.

Grakov wants to encourage young
people to spend time memorizing and
diligently searching God’s Word to find
out for themselves how sweet Jesus is.
One verse that encourages her to con-
tinue memorizing Scripture is found in
Psalm 45:1 (NIV), “My heart is stirred
with a noble theme, as I recite my
verses for the King.” She shares that she
“has never loved Jesus so much before.”

Grakov practiced public recitations
at church, many times reciting entire
chapters of the Bible. A keen memory
is not the only talent she shares with
the congregation. She plays the piano
for the praise time during worship
and often presents special music as a
solo and with her younger brother and
sister. In September 2008, during the
conference evangelistic event in the
capitol district, Grakov was the speaker
for some of the children’s seminars.
The Greater Albany church is greatly
blessed to have Grakov and her family
as active members.

—Judi Eels, member, Greater Albany church

North Creek Church Host Harvest Dinner

Members of the North Creek Seventh-day
Adventist Church in North Creek, New York, hosted
their annual Vegetarian Harvest Dinner on October
18, 2009. About 70 people, most from the community,
attended the dinner held in a rented community hall.
Many have expressed their interest in vegetarian cook-
ing and attend the outreach festivity sponsored by the
church each year. The hall is decorated in an autumn
decor. The cuisine is made up of many dishes—most
are vegetarian/vegan delights. The food is all made
and donated by the church members and many of the
dishes are labeled with the recipes attached.

As the guests left at the end of the
dinner, they were presented with The
Desire of Ages and a free
Bible study card. The North
Creek church members expressed their thankful-
ness that it was a wonderful
day and that God blessed
with a great attendance.

—Ruth Lehrer, member, North Creek church

Rhonda Grakov, front row, fourth from right, a homeschooler
from the Greater Albany Seventh-day Adventist Church, was
the second-place winner in the Primary age group at the 2009
National Bible Bee.
“Visionary Leadership” was the theme for the Atlantic Union Conference Academy Leadership Conference held at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, on November 5-7, 2009. More than 120 students from the eight academies in the Atlantic Union came to learn about basic leadership traits as found in the Bible.

The featured speaker for the weekend was Alex Royes, pastor of the Westminster Good Samaritan Seventh-day Adventist church in Westminster, California. Royes emphasized the importance of following the leadership of Jesus Christ. During his presentations he cited several areas of leadership that are important.

Atlantic Union College theology students, Ryan Amos, Akeem Brett, Marcelo Mansur, Sam Ulett, and Dane Smith, led out in the workshops that dealt with leadership traits as found in the Maxwell Leadership Bible. Traits addressed were positive attitude, character, competence, responsibility, and self-discipline. Each of the presenters did an outstanding job in preparing the material and leading out in the workshop discussions. Each academy delegate was given a hardcover Maxwell Leadership Bible. One student exclaimed “We can keep these Bibles, Wow!” Many students were surprised to find out that the Bibles were not just on loan for the weekend.

Both the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department and the Office of Education partnered together to plan and coordinate this weekend. Principals and chaplains from many of the academies came to lend support and also to help facilitate roundtable discussions. The roundtable topics included “Organization and Leadership,” “Spiritual Leadership,” “Social Leadership,” “Ministry of Service,” and “Communications.” The conference youth directors also assisted with the roundtable discussions.

Bill Wood is director for the Youth Ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer departments in the Atlantic Union Conference.
20 Youth Ministries Tips for the New Year

1. Plan youth and Sabbath School programs to reflect the needs and interests of the young people, not the adults. Use resources available through the Review and Herald, Advent Source, and other publishers of youth ministry materials.

2. If you expect your youth to arrive at AY and Sabbath School on time, you should arrive early and stay late.

3. Make sure every AY meeting or activity is well-organized. It lets the youth know they are important and reduces discipline problems.

4. Develop good job descriptions for your youth ministries team. Clear expectations will go a long way toward having a well-run youth group or Sabbath School.

5. Build a good youth ministries resource library for your church. Make the resources available to all your volunteers.

6. Make sure you have at least one male and one female adult youth sponsor working with your group.

7. Avoid counseling with someone of the opposite sex in a private room. Prevent any unnecessary rumors by meeting in a public place.

8. Avoid making promises to parents and your youth group that you can’t keep. If this happens, you lose credibility fast!

9. Become a good listener. Learn to withhold your opinion and just listen. You’ll be much more helpful when you listen.

10. Admit that you don’t have all the answers. If you can’t answer a question, let them know that you will research the issue and come up with a good answer.

11. Avoid depending on immediate results to determine success or failure. Lasting results come later—often much later.

12. Get acquainted with the parents of your youth. They can be your strongest supporters.

13. Involve the youth in the life of the church—not just your youth group. Put them on committees, involve them in working with the younger “kids,” and allow them to help plan worship programs and other ministries in the church.

14. Have fun with the kids. As you do, don’t attempt to be “one of the kids.” Act your age; kids need to see you as a real person.

15. Plan an evangelistic youth-led series of meetings in 2010. Let the youth preach, lead praise and worship, make the announcements, keep track of the offerings, and develop a marketing campaign for the meetings.

16. Plan a community service project once a quarter. Service projects not only give kids a chance to make a difference in someone else’s life, but they are great for building community.

17. Build self-esteem in your youth by affirming them when they are alone and when they are with their peers. During the course of the year, make it a point to say something positive on a regular basis to each one.

18. Be a role model. As you set the example, you will be an effective “discipler.”

19. Attend your conference’s annual youth ministries training events that will give you valuable tools to be used in your youth group.

20. Last but not least, make plans to attend with your youth and young adults, the “Dare2Do” Atlantic Union Youth Congress, October 14-17 and the Young Adult Congress, October 15-17.

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

at www.atlantic-union.org
Several pastors from the Northeastern Conference held a rally on the steps of the Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, on November 1, 2009, to voice their support of the health care reform bill that proposes a nationwide change in the health care system. Organized by Northeastern Conference directors Nigel Lewis, youth ministries director; Leroy Daley, health ministries director; and Stephen Williams, Sr., communication director, the purpose of the rally was to heighten awareness of the thousands of members in their congregations who cannot afford health insurance or have been deemed ineligible for coverage.

“Young people in our nation have taken their place, I should say their rightful place, in the discussion of what makes America. Young people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church have a noble and established tradition in support of health. Health and temperance is a major focus of the church’s Youth Ministries department. At a time when our nation is making serious decisions about health, we thought it necessary to enter the discussion to lift our voice and say that the proposal to have a health care reform bill to provide health coverage for millions of underprivileged Americans is a good thing. It is something that we support and our prayers are with our nation’s leaders as they debate this issue. We want to see this happen very soon,” said Lewis.

The proposed health care reform bill, also known as the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962) narrowly passed the House of Representatives on November 8, 2009, by a vote of 220 to 215. This bill would increase access to health care for the thousands of families who cannot afford it, were deemed ineligible for coverage due to pre-existing conditions, or both. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), the Senate version of the bill, passed on December 24, 2009, by a vote of 60 to 39.

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, who represents several communities within the Northeastern and Greater New York conference territory, attended the rally to express her views on the bill and the reasons why its passage is so critical for the nation. She challenged every American to contact their representatives, and let them know they support the bill, because it affects everyone. “As supporters of health care reform, you must mobilize by contacting your elected officials and demanding action. Write to your member of congress. Write to your local newspapers and television stations. Call your local radio stations. Let the whole country know that you support comprehensive health care reform,” Clarke said.

—Kristia M. Beaubrun, public relations director, Northeastern Conference Franco-Haitian Youth Federation

*The Seventh-day Adventist Church currently has no official position with regard to health care legislation.*
More Than 200 Attend Franco-Haitian Federation Rally Day

There was standing room only as more than 200 youth packed the Canaan AME Church in Astoria, New York, for the annual Northeastern Conference Franco-Haitian Youth Federation Rally Day on September 12, 2009. “Finish the Race,” the Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Department theme for 2009, was the theme for the event.

From the Sabbath School skit by the Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Department to the choirfest that closed out the day, songs of praise and worship rang throughout the sanctuary and surrounding community.

The speaker, Frantzel Aguy, from Rochester, New York, presented the message to the young people. He stressed the importance of having their eyes fixed on Jesus. He reminded them that, so often in life, people forget that the race should be run with patience and not with speed. He pointed out that it doesn’t matter when they cross the finish line, as long as they run the race with God on their side. He also reminded them that God is the sole source of strength that can enable individuals to prevail against all obstacles. Aguy shared several steps that one can take in order to be successful in Christ. He encouraged the youth to remember that people succeeded before them, and that they need to set their priorities, to run with perseverance and patience, because the race has already been marked for them. They must also keep their eyes fixed on Jesus. “If you keep these steps in mind, you will be delivered.” said Aguy.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”—2 Timothy 4:7, 8 (KJV).

—Kristia M. Beaubrun, public relations director, Franco-Haitian Youth Federation

Living in the Now

The Kingsborough Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, celebrated Singles Day on December 12, 2009, with speaker Jessie Bevel, Northeastern Conference Family Ministries Department director.

The theme for the day was “Living in the Now.” Bevel reminded the congregation that “When you change the way you look at things, then things will change. You cannot change the past, you cannot predict the future with 100 percent accuracy, but you make every decision count in the now.” Bevel went on to quote from Aristotle, who said: “We live in deeds, not years: In thoughts not breaths; In feelings, not in figures on a dial. We should count time by heart throbs. He most lives Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.” The main focus of his message to the singles reflected on the Old Testament story of Joseph.

In addition to presenting the morning’s message, Bevel, a trained counselor with more than 33 years in pastoral ministry, also presented an afternoon workshop.

—Margaret St. Jean, single ministries leader, Kingsborough Temple church

Send Us Your News and Other Stories

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) to the Northeastern Conference communication director and the GLEANER editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org. Be sure and include a caption with each photo and name of the photographer if that is available.

For information on what types of stories to submit, visit www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner5.html.
Members of the White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portland, Maine, and the staff of the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) office collaborated to make one of the goals established at the NNEC spring 2009 ChurchWorks seminar a reality. With much prayer and planning, the team, that included members from both the church and the conference office, held a block party in the parking lot adjacent to the church and the conference office. The purpose of the block party was to help create an awareness of the church and conference office in the community.

In preparation for the event, 300 invitations were hand-delivered to local residents. Featured at the event were prizes donated by local businesses, face painting, balloon sculpting, a clown, a juggler, a unicyclist, two Southern Gospel bands, vegetarian food, and a resource table.

God blessed with great weather and generous donations. About 200 people participated in the festivities, with more than 20 families from the neighborhood experiencing Adventist hospitality. Some who attended said they had always wondered what the church was all about, and this event gave them the opportunity to get connected. One lady commented, “I am amazed that a church would do something like this for the neighborhood . . . and not charge for admission. I am impressed!”

—Lynn Ortel, communication director, Northern New England Conference
How is your wife doing?” asked our new banker. Raising my hands high, I responded, “Oh, I am praising God daily for the continuing miracle since she learned that she had Alzheimer’s.” The banker’s countenance glowed with joy. “Oh, you must be a Christian,” I remarked. “Yes.” “Southern Baptist?” “No, Roman Catholic.” Wonderful, that confirms my convictions that there are many genuine Christians in that communion as well.

So began a thrilling drama of God’s love and power on behalf of His chosen ones. A chain of questions began to generate during business visits in her office. I also learned that her husband, a businessman and former athlete, was battling Lou Gehrig’s disease. After an independent Bible study on the book of Daniel, many questions arose. Debbie Paradie invited me to her home to help her with answers and to meet her husband, Verne. He quickly informed me that he was not interested in religion. Period! But we truly enjoyed developing a wholesome friendship. His disease progressively robbed him of walking and standing abilities, necessitating a power wheelchair controlled by his head movements.

While he slept, so we thought, we continued our regular series of Bible studies. During the study on baptism, Debbie requested baptism. She chose to move the Bible studies to another room so we would not disturb his sleep! We were pleasantly surprised one day, when Verne also expressed his desire to be baptized with her. I knew that they loved each other dearly. But there was more to it, for one day he dropped a spiritual bombshell. He later confessed that it did not take him long to discover which day was the true Sabbath.

When the time came for their baptism, Verne could not stand up, even in a pool of water. We searched many hospitals for a Hubbard tank—now a thing of the past, we discovered. The large wonderful Paradie family wanted to be part of this great event, celebrating the greatest love story ever told in the entire history of our world and recorded in 1 John 4:16, “God is love.” The family came up with an idea that involved them and a shower wheelchair at a private beach on a lake in their township. When the chair became stuck before reaching a sufficient depth, three young men from the Paradie family, with God’s help, lifted him into deeper water, leaving only his head to be immersed and his wife by his side waiting to be baptized by the ordained minister! “Praise God,” the water will still warm on that glorious day. The Paradies are now members of the Dixfield Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dixfield, Maine.

—Melvin G. Johnson, retired pastor and member of the Topsham church
Operation Christmas Child is a special program organized by Samaritan’s Purse, a non-profit organization that sends wrapped shoeboxes full of gifts to needy countries around the world. The Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newington, Connecticut, began taking part in this special ministry four years ago as a youth project. Averaging 30 boxes each of the previous three years, some of the members desired to make more.

In July 2009, announcements for items to fill the shoeboxes were made. The collections were to start immediately and end on October 31. The goal was to complete 100 boxes. It seemed like a tall order, especially since there would also need to be enough volunteers to pack all of the boxes. The church moved out in faith and God blessed when an unexpected phone call was received from a member of the Connecticut Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Windsor, Connecticut. The member had heard about the project, and some of the members of her church expressed a desire to participate. Together, members from the sister churches continued selecting items to pack in the shoeboxes and soliciting volunteers to help. On Sabbath evening, October 31, members of both churches gathered to pray and pack shoeboxes. At the end of two hours more than 136 boxes were packed!

After experiencing the blessings that resulted from working on this project, the church members can say without reservation, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”—Ephesians 3:20, 21 (NIV).

—Sara Plaisted, volunteer, Three Angels church

SET Fund scholarship, an increase of almost 20 over the previous semester. These students who are attending Seventh-day Adventist academies all over the world received scholarships of $524 (day academy students) and $1,048 (boarding academy students). The 2010 spring semester scholarships will depend on the number of students who apply (www.sneckids.org). God has provided this money for the conference to distribute for students to receive an Adventist education in grades 9 to 12.”

The SET Fund has been a real blessing for students going to a Seventh-day Adventist academy. The 2009 fall semester had 177 students apply for the SET Fund scholarship, an increase of almost 20 over the previous semester. These students who are attending Seventh-day Adventist academies all over the world received scholarships of $524 (day academy students) and $1,048 (boarding academy students). The 2010 spring semester scholarships will depend on the number of students who apply (www.sneckids.org). God has provided this money for the conference to distribute for students to receive an Adventist education in grades 9 to 12.”

—Randall Terry, treasurer, Southern New England Conference
Southern New England Schools Experience Record-setting Increase in Enrollment

The Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Education Department recently announced a record-setting increase in student enrollment in Southern New England Conference schools. Seventy-four more students are enrolled in the 16 schools than were enrolled at the same time last year. These numbers represent an increase of 12.4 percent!

A comparison of SNEC opening enrollments five years ago and today shows a gain of 96 students or 16.7 percent!

Greater Boston Academy and South Lancaster Academy have a combined increase of 19 students or 15.6 percent! In fact, South Lancaster Academy has the highest enrollment since 1998!

Eleven of the 16 SNEC schools showed an enrollment gain; one school opened with the same enrollment, and one missed it by one student. Other milestone enrollments:

- Cedar Brook school which had nine students in 2003 opened this year with 49 students!
- The Warren school, which almost closed three years ago, opened this year with 26 students—two students under its all-time high enrollment of 14 years ago!
- The Lincoln school which opened only seven years ago set a new enrollment record of 56 students!
- The Worcester school jumped 38 percent to 26 students!

Although the pre-kindergarten program totals are not reported as part of the Atlantic Union Conference totals, we are thankful to show continued growth over the past five years in the three schools operating a pre-kindergarten program. Browning elementary school combines their preschool with the pre-kindergarten program and, as such, does not report their enrollment numbers as part of the opening report. Five years ago there were 11 students enrolled. This year there are 28!

This year, Cedar Brook became our third school to operate a preschool program for parents who wish to have their child in a Christian environment. Other preschools are operated at Browning elementary school and Edgewood elementary school.

There are three factors which, when combined with God’s blessing, have made such an enrollment report possible. The first has to do with the work of our education evangelist Del Métellus. Three years ago, this position was created to keep before the constituency the imperative of Seventh-day Adventist education. Métellus has worked tirelessly preaching, working with local school boards, and even making personal calls and visits to encourage parents to enroll their children.

The doubling of funds available to students through the three-way scholarship has made a Seventh-day Adventist education available to many more students in these difficult financial times. Local church members have supported this plan sacrificially to insure that every child has the opportunity to be in an Adventist school.

Lastly, our principals and teachers continue to represent Christ before their students, reflecting God’s love to each of His children. Every teacher recognizes and accepts their calling to a ministry we call “Seventh-day Adventist education!”

“With such an army of workers as our youth right-ly trained might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!”—EDUCATION, p. 271

—Gary Swinyar, superintendent of schools, Southern New England Conference
Les dirigeants adventistes commentent le sommet sur le climat de Copenhague

Les chrétiens devraient-ils se faire du souci pour ce qui est de prendre soin de l’environnement? A l’occasion du sommet de Copenhague, le président de l’église adventiste du septième jour mondiale, Jan Paulsen, répond “oui” à cette question dans une vidéo diffusée sur “YouTube.”

J. Paulsen a déclaré: “Très fondamentalement, le fait de prendre soin de l’environnement remonte aux tout premiers débuts de l’adventisme.”

L’archevêque de Canterbury a dit qu’il pense que les chrétiens devraient s’inquiéter du changement climatique. Les dirigeants de l’église d’Angleterre ont rejoint 16 autres hauts fonctionnaires du Royaume-Uni à Westminster la 6 Décembre dernier pour participer à une marche pour “empêcher le chaos climatique.”

L’archevêque de Canterbury fait partie d’un certain nombre de leaders chrétiens dans le monde à suivre les débats de l’actuel sommet du changement climatique de Copenhague. Dans une conférence au mois de mars, il a déclaré que “les communautés religieuses échouent profondément par rapport à ce qu’on attend d’elles pour ce qui est de stimuler une réaction dans la société en matière de changement climatique.”

Il a ajouté que “nous sommes près d’un point” de non-retour en matière de réchauffement global “et que l’Eglise et les autres communautés religieuses ne font pas leur part pour aider la planète à lutter contre le réchauffement.”

De nombreux chrétiens ne considèrent pas la question du réchauffement global d’origine humaine comme un problème important. Une enquête réalisée par Barna Research a indiqué que seulement 33% des évangéliques aux États-Unis considèrent le réchauffement global comme un problème important. En plus, la législature de l’Australie a récemment supprimé la limitation des émissions de gaz carbone et la Chine et l’Inde se sont retirées de la conférence de Copenhague.

“Malheureusement, je ne suis pas très optimiste sur le fait que quelque chose de spectaculaire sorte du sommet de Copenhague” a dit Samuel Soret, président du Département de l’Hygiène Publique et de la Médecine du Travail de l’Ecole de Santé Publique de l’université adventiste de Loma Linda.

“Des décisions qui engagent devraient être prises pour ce qui est des émissions à effet de serre et pour régler les problèmes entre les pays développés et les pays en voie de développement” a ajouté S. Soret. “Le changement climatique est certainement une des inquiétudes de santé les plus graves de l’histoire de l’humanité.”

Bien qu’il soit sceptique au sujet du changement climatique, le pasteur adventiste britannique Paul Lockham a dit qu’il concentre son attention sur le fait d’être créationniste, et donc que son travail est de “s’occuper” de la planète.

“Sans être trop radical, je ne cherche pas à faire ma part. Nous sommes appelés à être des intendants de la création de Dieu, et non pas des gardiens de musée ou des destructeurs.”

Les autres ont une vision différente. “Je me demande quel impact nous pouvons réellement avoir en tant que ‘chrétiens’, connaissant ce que sera la fin du monde” a dit le scientifique Peter Walton, un sceptique du réchauffement global.


Mais P. Walton pousse le raisonnement dans une direction différente, citant les opinions de l’écrivain Michael Crichton, qui s’est exprimé au National Press Club à Washington, D.C. en 2005, disant que nous “ne sommes pas justifiés moralement pour les larges sommes (des milliards de dollars) engagés pour cette question spéculative lorsque finalement et plus important encore, nous ne pouvons prédire l’avenir, mais pouvons connaître le présent.”

P. Walton cite une conférence de M. Crichton dans laquelle il a indiqué que “un enfant devient orphelin du SIDA tous les 7 secondes et que cinquante personnes meurent de la maladie d’origine hydrique chaque minute.” P. Walton soutient que cela ne devrait pas arriver et appelle à se recentrer sur les priorités.

“Es-ce que le changement climatique est une réalité ou non, voilà une question qui ferait l’objet d’un rigoureux débat. Miroslav Ostrovljanovic, un étudiant en communication au Kings College de London, a dit “à la création, Dieu a dit que les hommes sont censés prendre soin de la création. Cela n’a pas changé puisque nous savons que le monde va s’arrêter.”

Victor Pilmoor, trésorier de l’église adventiste en Grande-Bretagne, a récemment médité sur le sommet climatique à la lumière de Genèse 1 et Colossiens 3. “La position adventiste devrait être plus claire: notre responsabilité (par l’alliance) en tant qu’intendants de la création est antérieure au pêché et ses conséquences. Nous montrons du respect pour tout ce que Dieu nous a donné, sans tenir compte de la science” a-t-il dit.

En dépit du débat sur le réchauffement global, la communauté mondiale représentée à Copenhague par 70 dirigeants environ, exprime une préoccupation que la société mondiale doit considérer comme décisive.

“Il n’y a pas que les gouvernements qui doivent faire leur part. La question d’améliorer notre intendance de l’environnement est une responsabilité aussi bien personnelle qu’individuelle” a dit Rajmund Dabrowski, directeur des communications pour l’église adventiste mondiale. “Par respect de la création et en tant que chrétien, je devrais employer avec sobriété les ressources de la terre, et équilibrer mes sou haits et mes besoins.”

Source: Adventist News Network
6 January 2010
¿Qué está pasando en la Iglesia Mundial Adventista?

¿Deberían interesarse los cristianos en cuidar del medio ambiente? Jan Paulsen, presidente de la Iglesia Adventista mundial, dice sin dudarlo que “sí” en un video dado a conocer en YouTube, al momento de la Cumbre de Copenhague. “Por sobre todas las cosas, el cuidado del medio ambiente se remonta a nuestros comienzos [adventistas],” dijo Paulsen.

El arzobispo de Canterbury dijo que él cree que los cristianos deberían interesarse en el cambio climático. Los líderes de la Iglesia de Inglaterra se unieron a otros 16 directivos del Reino Unido en la Abadía de Westminster el pasado 6 de diciembre para realizar una marcha que busca “detener el caos climático.”

Un informe de Barna indicó que solo el 33 por ciento de los evangélicos de Estados Unidos consideran que el calentamiento global es un gran problema.

Muchos cristianos, sin embargo, no creen que el tema del calentamiento global sea de su interés. Un informe de Barna indicó que solo el 33 por ciento de los evangélicos de Estados Unidos consideran que el calentamiento global es un gran problema.

“Desafortunadamente, no soy demasiado optimista en relación con los resultados de la cumbre,” dice Samuel Soret, director del Departamento de Salud Ambiental y Ocupacional de la Facultad de Salud Pública de la Universidad de Loma Linda.

Por su parte, aunque se muestra más escéptico de los cambios climáticos, el pastor adventista británico Paul Lockham dice que para él, el énfasis está en ser creacionista, que significa “cuidar” de la tierra del calentamiento global. Para Walton, el problema pasa por otro lado. Y cita al escritor Michael Crichton, quien dijo que “no tenemos la justificación moral de gastar vastas sumas en este tema especulativo cuando no podemos predecir el futuro, pero sí conocer el presente.”

Walton sigue citando a Crichton: “Cada siete segundos, surge un nuevo huérfano del SIDA y cada minuto fallecen cincuenta personas por enfermedades relacionadas con el agua contaminada.” Walton cree que, en consecuencia, hay que reorientar las prioridades.

Victor Pilmoor, tesorero de la Iglesia Adventista en Gran Bretaña, se refirió a la cumbre climática a la luz de Génesis 1 y Colosenses 3: “La postura adventista debería ser clara: Nuestra responsabilidad del pacto como mayordomos de la creación es anterior al pecado y sus consecuencias. Debemos respetar todo lo que Dios nos ha dado, más allá de la ciencia,” dijo.

Rajmund Dabrowski, director de comunicaciones de la Iglesia Adventista mundial, agrega: “No solo los gobiernos necesitan hacer su parte. El tema de mejorar nuestra mayordomía del medio ambiente constituye también una responsabilidad personal e individual. Por respeto a la creación, como cristiano debería refrenarme en el uso de los recursos mundiales, y equilibrar mis deseos y necesidades.”

Source: Adventist News Network 16 December 2009

Operating Principles for Health-care Institutions

1) Christ ministered to the whole person. Following His example, the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church includes a ministry of healing to the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. The ministry of healing includes care and compassion for the sick and the suffering. It also includes the maintenance of health. Teaching the positive benefits of following the laws of health, the interrelationship of spiritual and natural laws, man’s accountability to these laws, and the grace of Christ, which assures victorious living, are integrated into the ministry of healing.

2) Health-care institutions (hospitals, medical/dental clinics, nursing and retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, etc.) function as an integral part of the total ministry of the church and follow church standards, including maintaining the sacredness of the Sabbath by promoting a Sabbath atmosphere for staff and patients, avoiding routine business, elective diagnostic services, and elective therapies on Sabbath. These standards also include the promotion of an ovo-lacto vegetarian diet free of stimulants and alcohol and an environment free of tobacco smoke. Control of appetite shall be promoted, use of drugs with a potential for abuse shall be controlled, and techniques involving the control of one mind by another shall not be permitted. The institutions are governed as a function of the church with activities and practices clearly identified as the unique Christian witness of Seventh-day Adventists.

3) In harmony with Christ’s reaffirmation of the dignity of man and His demonstration of love, which forgives and cares regardless of the past and maintains the right for individual choice in the future, Seventh-day Adventist health-care institutions give high priority to personal dignity and human relationships. This includes appropriate diagnosis and treatment by competent personnel; a safe, caring environment conducive to the healing of mind, body, and spirit; and education in healthful habits of living. It also includes supportive care of the patient and family through the dying process.

4) Health-care policies and medical procedures must always reflect a high regard and concern for the value of human life as well as individual dignity.

5) Seventh-day Adventist health-care institutions operate as part of the community and nation in which they function. In representing the love of Christ to these communities, the health of the community and the nation is a concern of each institution. Laws of the land are respected and the regulations for the operation of institutions and licensors of personnel are followed.

6) The institutions welcome clergy of all creeds to visit their parishioners.

7) The mission of institutions in representing Christ to the community, and especially to those who utilize their services, is fulfilled through a compassionate, competent staff that upholds the practices and standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the development of the staff, institutions regularly schedule classes which assist the staff in keeping up to date professionally, growing in understanding, and in sharing the love of God. Long-range staff planning supports formal education of prospective staff, including utilizing an institution for clinical practice for students.

8) Institutions must operate in a financially responsible manner and in harmony with the Working Policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

9) Primary prevention and health education shall be an integral part of the health emphasis of health-care institutions.

10) The administration and operation of individual health-care institutions shall be conducted in consultation with the Health and Temperance Department [now Health Ministries] on a regular and continuing basis. Communication shall include the mission/conference, union, division, and General Conference Health and Temperance Departments as circumstances and occasions may indicate.

Establishment and Closure of Health-care Institutions

1) When consideration is being given to the opening of a new institution, building a major addition, or evaluating the continued operation of an existing institution, consideration shall be given to:
   a. The long-range plans of the church in that area and whether the institution facilitates the mission of the church.
   b. The health-care needs of the area.
   c. The available resources, especially finances, personnel, and equipment, to operate the institution.
   d. Government regulations for the operation of the institution.
   e. Government regulations for closing an institution.
   f. The impact that the opening or closing of the institution will make on the church in the area and on the community at large.
   g. The educational needs of the church

This statement was released by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee at the Annual Council session in Nairobi, Kenya, October 1988.
AWR Annual Offering
MARCH 13, 2010

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE
Music for “Dare2Do” Atlantic Union Youth/Young Adult Congress 2010 – Are you an outstanding musician, soloist, choir or group? Would you like to be a blessing to someone? The Atlantic Union Conference is looking for excellent music for the upcoming Dare2Do Youth Congress, Oct. 14–17, 2010, in Hartford, Conn. Please contact Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department for more information: youthministries@atlanticunion.org, (978) 368-8333.

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

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
The Barre-Montpelier Seventh-day Adventist Church is trying to locate the following members: Anna LeClerc, Kevin Charlestream, Edward Deres, and Monica Deres. If your name is listed, please contact Ken Ladd at (820) 479-3130.

Whispering Pines Seventh-day Adventist School is a comprehensive Christian elementary school exclusively for children from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, located on 13 acres of grassy land in a quiet neighborhood in Old Westbury, New York. Whipping Pines has an open door policy that embraces all who desire to provide a better quality of preparedness and education for their children. What makes them stand out is consistency in obtaining high scores on state tests, the quality of music presented by the school orchestra and choir, outstanding drama performances, the after-school sports program, the foreign language program, the professionalism of staff, dedicated teachers, the promotion of cultural diversity, but most importantly, numerous opportunities for a personal relationship with Christ. To learn more about Whispering Pines, visit them at www.wpschool.net or call (516) 997-5177. They are located at 211 Jericho Turnpike, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
Pleasant Street Adventist Church is sponsoring a follow up visit with Vernon and Sheree Dawson from the Voice in the Wilderness Mission, February 19-21, at 370 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01609. For more information contact Ben at (508) 752-1756 or e-mail: boganjobi@msn.com, or Pastor Michael Henry at (508) 612-2668 or e-mail: michael_henry7@yahoo.com.

OUT-OF-UNION
Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend at the North Aurora Seventh-day Adventist Church, is the April 30 to May 1. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Honor classes: ’50, ’60, ’70, ’80, ’85, ’90 and ’00 Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch, and afternoon musical program. For communication purposes, we need your e-mail addresses. Send information to Shona Cross at cross@ broadviewacademy.org or call Ed Gutierrez at (630) 232-9034.

OBITUARIES

CARKIN, Merrill E.—76; b. Jul. 8, 1933, of Nashville, Ga.; d. Nov. 12, 2009, in Richmond, Maine. He was a member of the Brunswick Seventh-day Adventist Church, and 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 served for two years as a medic in the U.S. Army. He worked for 37 years as a protective social worker for the State of Maine. He is survived by his wife, Gail E. Stuber Carkin (AUC ‘58); sons, Peter Carkin of Fitchburg, Mass., and Patrick Carkin of Millord, Mass.; daughters, Joline Carkin-Meja of Clinton, Mass.; brother, Warren Carkin of Auburn, Maine; sisters, Muriel Cox (twins sister) of Days Creek, Ore., Anna Ford of Nashville, Ga.; Bernice Vaughn of Sanbornville, N.H.; five grandchildren, Joshua Erika, Mikey Mejia, and Brandon and Kate Hall, one great-grandchild, Tristan Sedeno. He was predeceased by his brothers, Loren Carkin of Rosanne, Va., Robert Carkin of North Woodstock, N.H., and Gordon Carkin of Laconia, N.H.

CRANDALL, Warren—66; b. Dec. 14, 1942, in Stoneham, Mass.; d. Nov. 26, 2009, in Newburyport, Mass. He graduated from Greater Boston Academy in 1961. He attended Atlantic Union College and later graduated from the Peterson School of Engineering. He served in the U.S. Army from 1964-1966 and served in Vietnam. He worked as a stationary steam engineer in the power plant of the former Boston Regional Medical Center in Stoneham, Mass. He was a member of the Amesbury Seventh-day Adventist Church in Amesbury, Mass. for the past 15 years. He has served as a deacon, Sabbath School teacher, treasurer, and also as the chairman of the Greater Boston Academy board. He is survived by his wife Karyl of Amesbury, Mass.; his mother Rose Crandall and sister Nancy of Stoneham, Mass.; a son Stephen of Brunswick, Maine; a daughter Sharon Hinkley (Brodie) of Freeport, Maine, and a granddaughter, Yulia Hinkley.

FLEISCH, Sandra R.—64; b. July 8, 1945, in Jersey City, N.J.; d. Dec. 1, 2009, in Bangor, Maine. She partnered with husband, Ed Fleisch, by serving alongside him in his pastoral ministry in the Calais, Maine, District in the Northern New England Conference. She served in many areas including church treasurer, financial director, and Pathfinder director. She also served at the food bank at the Three Angels’ church in Whiting, Maine. She was predeceased by two granddaughters Nicole and Danielle Suficool. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Ed Fleisch; a daughter, Christina Suficool (John) of Okeechobee, Fla; two grandchildren, Bradley Suficool of Okeechobee, Fla., and Emily Scott of St. Stephen, N.B.

KISTLER, Jean E.—81; b. Nov. 12, 1928, in Malden, N.Y.; d. Nov. 27, 2009, in Valencia, Calif. She was a member of the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arden, N.C. Survivors include her husband, Robert C. Kistler; daughter, Cherie Lynn Kistler of Santa Cruz, Calif.; two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.
ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEeks BIOLoGY ASSISTANT/associate PROFESSOR. The successful candidate must possess a doctorate from an accredited institution of higher education. Teaching experience at the college level in the health science is most desirable. Must share our love of teaching and interacting with students, be an active Seventh-day Adventist who affirms our beliefs and values, have a bachelor’s degree or higher and have five years experience managing a radiology department. Avista Hospital is a 114-bed facility with an outpatient imaging center located near Boulder, Colo. We serve our community in all imaging modalities performing 50,000 exams annually with a competent staff of 60 associates. Online at www.Avistahospital.org.

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