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Parkview Adventist Medical Center in Brunswick, Maine, is celebrating 50 years of blessings. Read about how the hospital has demonstrated a faith-based program of total medical care—designed to treat the whole person, not solely physical needs, but the mental and spiritual needs, too. Included in this issue are our regular features Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. The cover photo of the front of Parkview Adventist Medical Center was taken by Carl Hyatt.

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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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
Recently, I was asked to give a chapel talk to the students at Atlantic Union College (AUC)—the first chapel for the second semester. As the students gathered together, beyond the usual bustle of college kids’ brisk activity, the reminder that second semester is the beginning of the end of another school year, and the inevitability of another graduation, there was something else.

You see, I was invited not only to give a chapel talk but also to share the latest update on the situation in Haiti due to the massive earthquake on January 12 and what was being done by the Adventist Church to bring relief. So there was sadness in the air. There was sadness in the world. The television screen still screams with pictures of the dead, the dying, and suffering in Haiti in the aftermath of one of the largest and deadliest earthquakes to hit the Western hemisphere. As of this printing, there are still untold numbers of family members, church members and workers, and friends of the Haitian Adventist family community that remain unaccounted for. I urge you, please continue to pray for and donate funds to help the people of Haiti.

Well, I shared with the students, faculty, and staff who nearly filled the College Church (on the campus of AUC) some of the ways the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including the Atlantic Union, was helping in the emergency. For example, I spoke of the teams from New York City, from both the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences, that had already left for Haiti, the pledge of financial support from the Atlantic Union, as well as all the unions in North America and the world church, the special union-wide offering, and the union-wide day of prayer.

But most of all, I reminded them of a favorite passage of Scripture taken from Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV) in which the Apostle Paul, who was no stranger to suffering and hardships, wrote: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

I’ll never forget the scene as I watched on CNN the ordeal of that female bank employee trapped under the rubble of her collapsed bank. But her husband refused to give up. He kept searching the mound of debris, calling, calling, till he heard her voice. They stuck a snake camera inside the rubble—and sure enough, they found her, still alive after a whole week! When they pulled her from the rubble, she came out singing and praising God and telling her husband how much she loved him! I believe that lady understood in a practical way the meaning of Romans 8.

My friends, God has called us to a momentous task in the midst of extremely challenging times. Let us be faithful knowing that “in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

“...pulled her from the rubble, she came out singing and praising God and telling her husband how much she loved him!”

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
Parkview Celebrates 50 Years of Blessings

God Bleses Through Health at Parkview Hospital

How does a small, Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Brunswick, Maine, end up on the pages of COMPUTERWORLD magazine, representing the world’s best and brightest in America’s Fortune 500 companies? Just ask Ted Lewis, Parkview Hospital’s president.

In December, the name of Bill McQuaid, Parkview’s CIO, appeared in COMPUTERWORLD’s 2010 Premier 100 IT Leaders List because of his team’s seamless implementation of new technology that strengthened Parkview’s access to patient information. At the same time, McQuaid also was nominated as SC magazine’s Chief Security Officer of the Year, along with high-level IT professionals from Ebay and the State of California.

In contrast, when McQuaid was hired in 1999, Parkview Hospital had just begun to explore the Internet and only a few senior employees had e-mail. At that time, hospital computers were running incompatible and antiquated systems in different departments, all requiring various login and password information.

McQuaid and others could see the day when the hospital would be paperless, with doctors logging onto computers with a simple touch of a finger on a small biometric panel.

Gone are the days when nurses cannot read a doctor’s handwriting on a prescription pad. At Parkview, doctors enter their own medication orders on mobile computer stations or in their offices. The order goes straight to the hospital pharmacy.

“What we accomplished in 2004 and 2005 will be the required standard for all hospitals by 2015,” said McQuaid. “We’re way ahead of the curve.”

“I couldn’t fail,” said McQuaid, who left his job at L.L. Bean to build a Parkview dream team of forward-thinking professionals. McQuaid said he needed a handful of people who could troubleshoot with him for an innovative solution to tough medical records challenges.

“People told me I was crazy to work at Parkview, but what more could I...
As a result, Parkview was the first hospital in Maine to implement bedside medication verification and repeatedly ranks number one in the state for medication safety.

rolled out at the same time as “bedside medication verification,” which reduced medication errors at Parkview by the use of an ATM-like medication dispenser. Patient armbands and medications are all bar-coded, so patients can easily be matched with medications unique to them.

Being a leader in healthcare is nothing new to Parkview. What set this blessed work in motion in 1959 was opening Parkview Hospital, the first modern medical facility in Brunswick, Maine. Ever since, Parkview has been devoted to Adventist health principles of compassion, prayer, and positive, healthy lifestyles.

For more than 50 years, Parkview has demonstrated a faith-based program of total medical care—designed to treat the whole person, not solely physical needs, but the mental and spiritual needs, too. The hospital provides a fully integrated health and wellness program, based on a spiritual path that honors the infinite nature of God. Parkview offers the best in healthcare, along with extraordinary technology, such as digital diagnostics and minimally invasive surgeries.

Comprehensive, acute care services at Parkview include general surgery, oncology, physical rehabilitation, women’s health, emergency medicine, pastoral care, community health and wellness, and the popular Spirit of Women programs.

After a half-century on this sacred journey, Parkview is recognized for medical advances and consistent, top-level accreditations. A few examples:

• A water program, based on Adventist health principles, encourages employees and visitors to drink more water. Parkview provides free bottles of water to staff to stand by the Adventist health message of using water both for medicinal purposes and for general wellbeing. The outcome of this program has been exceptional. Employees have more energy and require less medical care, proving that if we do the right thing and follow the light given, that such efforts will be blessed. Parkview saw its employee health care costs significantly decline as a result.

• Because Parkview’s Prayer Positive Program makes such a difference in the medical outcomes of patients, hospital teams are very serious about respecting a vow that all patients be prayed for.

• Parkview’s medical team has the privilege of attending to the lives of other human beings. As such, a much-needed helipad was built outside the doors to the emergency department. This allows quick transportation and care for critically ill or injured patients needing tertiary care that is not available in their own community. Several precious lives were saved during the helipad’s first month of use.

• In dedication to Adventist health guidelines, Parkview teaches that exercise, stress management, and sensible nutrition can reverse many chronic diseases and markedly reduce the use of medication in most illnesses. Parkview is a pioneer in lifestyle medicine and one of Maine’s first medical centers to offer lifestyle interventions as a therapeutic tool in the treatment and management of illness. The premier Lifestyle Choices program is Parkview’s sought-after healthy living course for people at high risk for developing chronic illness. There is a growing waiting list for the spring curriculum, which will put more patients on the road to wellness.
Parkview: Our Best Years Lie Ahead

• Parkview earned a national award, placing it in the top one percent of hospitals in the U.S. and Canada for adoption of electronic medical records (EMR). Parkview was named one of only 24 hospitals nationwide to win a prestigious award for EMR adoption by HIMSS Analytics, which studied nearly 6,000 hospitals. Parkview is the smallest hospital, with 55 beds, to earn this honor using only in-house resources.

• In the area of televised health care education, Parkview physicians participate in 30-minute facilitated discussions on important health issues. Parkview’s Healthy Living TV program is available on PEG Media and piped into nearly 40 percent of the homes in America, giving the entire nation new resources for living the good life. This is one more way that God has blessed Parkview’s work, causing our knowledge to be spread far beyond our borders.

• Parkview expanded its health care facility into neighboring Topsham in 2007 and opened the Physical Rehabilitation and Wellness offices.

• AVATAR awarded Parkview the Five-Star Award for patient satisfaction—highest in the nation in the category of hospitals with 50-100 beds.

• Recent improvements—a new Oncology Suite and Infusion Center, and expanded rehabilitation, sleep lab, and urology programs. Parkview is also one of only six hospitals in Maine accredited in Stereotactic Breast Biopsy by the American College of Radiology.

Living Green, Going Green at Parkview
As a faith-based hospital, Parkview is concerned about the environment. Parkview became the first hospital in Maine to sign the pledge for Healthy Food in Health Care. Executive chef Oleg Opalnyk buys fresh organic produce from local farms and started a vegetable and herb garden on the hospital grounds. Meals are made from scratch and offer fair-trade, free-range, and hormone-free products. Utensils, plates, and cups are all biodegradable.

Meeting Future Needs
Parkview executives have spent considerable time making sure the hospital will meet the needs of area residents in the years ahead. A partnership with the Central Maine Medical Center in nearby Lewiston has given the Brunswick community access to services and physicians that were previously not available.

Thank you, God, for this most amazing hospital.

Catherine M. Palmer is manager of marketing and development at Parkview Adventist Medical Center.
Great News! A Milestone Achieved

For the first time in its 108-year history, the Atlantic Union Conference has surpassed 5,000 baptisms and individuals joining the church on profession of faith in one year—2009—reaching a total of 5,250. This represents 105 percent of the goal of 5,000 established by the administrators last year. To God be the glory, over and over again!

“I want to express profound thanks to God and to our pastors, teachers, lay evangelists, church members, literature evangelists, ministerial leaders, and union/conference administrators for their part in helping to achieve this milestone in the history of our union territory,” says Donald G. King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference.

Congratulations to two conferences—Greater New York and Southern New England—for surpassing their own goals for 2009 of 1,200 and 750, reaching 126 percent and 127 percent respectively.

King notes that while numbers and goals serve as indicators of success, they do not fully reflect the deeper meaning behind the numbers, which is really the power of God’s spirit working in the hearts of those convicted of His present truth for these times. God is always working on hearts, but at junctures such as this, it’s important to acknowledge Who is at the center of success.

Founded in 1901, the Atlantic Union Conference, headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the northeast United States and Bermuda, serves six conferences, 69 schools, one college, one health care facility, and almost 102,330 members worshipping in 562 churches and 62 groups.

It is our prayer that God will continue to convert hearts for His kingdom in 2010 and that the Atlantic Union will see even greater results in years to come.

—Editor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor

Evangelism Homecoming Rally Coming to a Location Near You

The Atlantic Union Conference is hosting three one-day, power-packed evangelism homecoming Rallies in 2010 to celebrate God’s blessings through the evangelistic efforts of pastors, teachers, lay evangelists, church members, literature evangelists, ministerial leaders, and union/conference administrators during 2009. Members will share testimonies of God’s goodness, evangelism reports will be presented, and much more. Look for the location nearest you and make plans to attend.

May 1, 2010
College Church of Seventh-day Adventists
South Lancaster, Massachusetts
Main Speaker: Donald G. King

October 2, 2010
Driver’s Village Convention Center
Syracuse, New York
Main Speaker: Ron Halvorsen, Sr.

November 13, 2010
Brooklyn College
Brooklyn, New York
Main Speaker: Glen O. Samuels

See the ad on the back cover for more information or visit: www.atlantic-union.org/homecoming2010.html.

2010 Union-wide Calendar of Events
www.atlantic-union.org

May 1, 2010  Evangelism Homecoming Rally
South Lancaster, Massachusetts

October 2, 2010  Evangelism Homecoming Rally
Syracuse, New York

October 14-17, 2010  Dare2Do Atlantic Union Youth Congress
Hartford, Connecticut

October 15-17, 2010  Dare2Do Atlantic Union Young Adult Congress
Hartford, Connecticut

November 13, 2010  Evangelism Homecoming Rally
Brooklyn, New York
Twenty-five Couples Renew their Vows

Members and friends from the Bayanihan Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the leadership of James Wong, the church’s pastor, recommitted their love to each other and to the Lord in a “Marriage Recommitment and Renewal of Vows” ceremony at a Hilton Hotel in New Jersey in September 2009.

The number of years couples were married ranged from six months to 42 years. Alanzo and June Smith facilitated the recommittal service, taking the couples through a litany of marriage commitment and vows. With smiles beaming from ear to ear, the enthusiastic couples recited their vows.

Wong charged them to live lives of sobriety, devotion, and faithfulness. He said, “I charge you before God and His people that you remain faithful to Him and to your family. You are required to be an example in the home, a light to the community, salt to the earth, and a bulwark of strength to each other. May the spirit of grace, peace, and goodwill emanate from you daily, and may the God of heaven bless you, your spouse, and your family.”

The evening of elegance was enhanced by classical poetry, music serenading the couples, lighting of a renewal candle, singing a renewal song, and signing of renewal vows. A five-course meal was served banquet style.

The Apostle Paul assures us that without love, we have nothing, so it is, without commitment, our relationships are shallow at best. These couples are determined to preserve the institution of marriage for their children and generations to come. May God continue to keep them faithful to their vows.

—Information supplied by Alanzo H. Smith, communication director, Greater New York Conference

A Church on Fire for God

With the sword in one hand and tracks and flyers in the other, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church members took to the streets of Brooklyn to distribute handbills and invite people to the “Family Enrichment Evangelistic Series.”

Conrad White, senior pastor, organized his team of Bible workers, elders, and members into an army of soul-winners. His aim was to turn them into an intentional group of evangelistic fishers of men.

Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference director of family ministries, communication, and Sabbath School, was the featured speaker for the series held October 3-24, 2009. His appeals were pinpointed, his messages were direct, and his target, “the family.” He went after husbands, wives, singles, youth, young adults, and children.

As a result of his passion for the healing of families, and bringing others to Christ, 51 individuals were baptized.

—Information supplied by Conrad White, pastor, Ebenezer church
Members of the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, testify with profound sincerity of the unwavering and divine guidance that the church experienced over the past year. In 2009, a broad spectrum of the church’s members experienced some type of tragedy that caused anguish.

As if in anticipation of the turmoil ahead, Vidal Shane, the church’s pastor, led the church to a state of spiritual preparedness that helped cushion the impact of the various incidents. On January 31, 2009, an all-night prayer conference was held at the church. The occasion brought together the local church, a wide range of guest speakers from throughout the conference, a singing evangelist, and the local elders, who assisted Vidal in a special anointing service. The prayer vigil helped strengthen the congregation’s belief in total dependency on God. This was evidenced as members testified that their faith would be unmoved, though troubled by varied concerns.

In spite of the challenges, the church continues to remain on course in its mission to tell others of the unending love of Jesus Christ. With a strong emphasis on involving the community, the principal from a nearby school and individuals from the fire and police departments were acknowledged at a community guest day program on April 25.

A health fair held on June 14 had full participation from the schools in the vicinity. A 40-day period of prayer and fasting was held from May 30 to July 9 to ensure that the church’s efforts remain synchronized. Each family received special reading material to use as they prayed daily.

A youth prayer group was established which includes individuals from the Bronx and from the new choir, Portraits of Grace, that ministered at the Greater New York Conference United Camp Meeting in September. A committed, ongoing prayer ministry at the church prayed specifically for an evangelistic meeting conducted by Vidal in August that resulted in 21 baptisms.

The church will continue to pray for Vidal and his family, along with all the leaders of our churches as they, too, seek divine guidance to lead God’s people in preparation for His return.

—Gloria Cottoy, communication director, Maranatha church

Shane Vidal, pastor of the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church, works to help members of the church and residents of the surrounding community become spiritually prepared for the soon return of Jesus Christ.

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Administrators from the Greater New York Conference, Richard Marker, president, and G. Earl Knight, executive secretary, were present to show their support on opening night, September 12, 2009.

Accommodations and security were provided by the communication departments under the supervision of Felipe Barrientos, Mott Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church communication leader. Barrientos worked with the deacons and deaconesses of participating churches.

Sabbath, September 19, 2009, marked the successful conclusion of the meetings. This is the third series of meetings held at the Thessalonia Baptist Church in Bronx, New York.

—Carlos Munoz Medina, communication director, Spanish Intervale church

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The annual evangelistic campaign, an event organized by all Spanish-speaking Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Bronx, opened successfully with an extraordinary musical concert. It was highlighted by such singers as Tony Polanco, Frank Valdes, Rafael de la Cruz, and direct from the Dominican Republic, Jose Gomez.

The speaker for the event was Roberto Herrera, a pastor from the Dominican Republic. Rafael Familia, pastor of the Spanish Intervale and Spanish Emmanuel churches, served as master of ceremonies. The attendance was good throughout the week. The Holy Spirit impressed several individuals to make a commitment to the Lord and they registered to receive Bible studies.

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The Holy Spirit impressed several individuals to make a commitment to the Lord and they registered to receive Bible studies.

—Carlos Munoz Medina, communication director, Spanish Intervale church
Church families and friends gathered together for the third annual prayer breakfast at the Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hudson Falls, New York, on Sunday, January 17.

The event was sponsored by the women's and men's ministries of the church, which collaborated to provide the meal.

Miguel Crespo, Greater Albany Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, was the featured speaker and spoke on the “Ten Essentials of Prayer.”

The prayer time, which followed the message, was interactive. Each person prayed for the individual to his or her right, with the focus on one thing, on each person's heart.

The event sponsors were most gratified by the attendance of people of all ages, including young people from the church.

—Carol Grimes, women's ministries clerk, Kingsbury church

Ministries Merge for Kingsbury Prayer Breakfast

Baptism at Elmira Church

It was a special day at the Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church in Elmira, New York, on Sabbath, January 9, when Makayla Curtis was baptized by her father, Roger Curtis, Elmira’s pastor.

Her two grandmothers joined other family members to witness this special event.

The Elmira church members welcomed Makayla into their church family, but will miss the Curtis family as they prepare to move to another district.

We pray that God will be with the Curtis family wherever He leads them.

—Erich Haesche, communication secretary, Elmira church

Pastor Roger Curtis, Mac Dwyer, and Earl Stewart kneel with Makayla Curtis to pray for her on the day of her baptism.

Baptism at Elmira Church

Springs of Living Water

North Country Women’s Retreat
May 14-16, 2010
Camp Cherokee, Saranac Lake, NY

Guest Speaker:
Charlotte Thoms
Women’s Ministries Director, Atlantic Union Conference

Fees:
$60.00 (includes room and meals)

For More Information:
315-469-6921 ext. 29
Youth Ministries Department, New York Conference
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 committees for the ensuing quadrennium; the amending of the constitution and/or bylaws; and the transaction 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 fifteen members or major fraction thereof. Delegates for the New York Conference will also be delegates 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
New York Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the fourth regular quadrennial session of the New York Conference Association 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 a board of trustees and officers, the amending of the constitution and/or bylaws, and the transaction of other business as may properly come before the delegates.

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

Stan Rouse, President
Angel Rodriguez, Secretary

Lacks Honored for Years of Volunteer Service

Walter Lacks of the Massena Seventh-day Adventist Company in Massena, New York, was honored on November 18, 2009, at the Best Western Inn in Canton, New York. The staff and director Ruth Fishbeck of the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative in Postdam, New York, presented the 84-year-old church elder with a plaque honoring him for his many years of volunteer work in disease prevention. He also received citations from the New York State Assembly and State Senate.

Lacks has been active for more than 40 years in assisting smokers overcome their life-threatening tobacco addiction, working in recent years with the St. Lawrence County Tobacco Free Coalition, the County Health Initiative, and Adventist churches in the North Country.

During the past 10 years, Lacks has helped the dedicated workers at the County Health Initiative to fight obesity in school children, encouraging a more healthful diet in the cafeterias, and ridding schools of harmful food and soft drinks in their dispensing machines. One of the departments at the County Health Initiative he enjoys helping is called “Eat Well, Play Hard.”

“I personally believe that good health is a moral issue. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and we are responsible to our Maker for our health. We influence many people by how we take care of ourselves. We can’t say, ‘It’s my own business what I do to myself,’ because when we get sick and useless, suddenly it’s everybody else’s business to take care of us! So, good health should be everyone’s priority,” said Lacks.

His current project is working with the kindergarten teachers at the local public school in setting up container gardens for very young children.

—Linda Jobes, communication secretary, Massena company

Camden Church Events Enriching the Community

Melissa Main was baptized into the Camden Seventh-day Adventist Church on December 18, 2009, following the “Revelation of Hope” evangelistic meetings. The meetings, held in the Camden church, were conducted by pastors Roger Curtis and Bob Hess. As a result of these meetings, Main’s husband, Tim, and several more families are taking Bible studies and attending church.

This baptism was the culmination of a series of events. The first was led by a young person, Randy La Celle, with his family supporting. He sent out flyers featuring David Asscherick, Discover Prophecy seminar speaker, on video, inviting the public to meetings at the Camden library.

This was followed by a weekend series with Roy Weeden, a pastor from the Iowa Conference, entitled “United States in Prophecy,” and then the “Revelation of Hope” series mentioned above. It is expected that other individuals will soon be ready to take their stand for Jesus.

—Doreen Weeden, Sabbath School superintendent, Camden church

Kim Kaiser, communication director

NEW YORK

at www.atlantic-union.org
“I was always bent on becoming a doctor. However, after taking Intro to Microeconomics with Dr. Alwyn Fraser during the second semester of my freshman year, I fell in love with business and finance. That is what I have done ever since.”
—Henry Noel, Jr., ’92

Henry Noel, Jr., is very positive about his educational experience at Atlantic Union College. “My education gave me a good foundation in economics and finance,” he said, “and the personal attention from teachers gave me a high level of confidence in my own skills.” These professors included Alywn Fraser and Joseph Ghosn.

Noel next earned a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in finance from Hofstra University in Long Island, New York.

Today, he is an investment banker with Nile Capital, an investment boutique based in Newton, Massachusetts. As vice president, he raises capital for new and small business interests.

What is your favorite thing to do at work?
“I really enjoy meeting new clients and learning about the new and exciting technologies they are working on. I primarily work with growing, innovative companies with revenues between $5 million and $50 million and assist them in accessing the capital markets. I essentially play matchmaker to these companies and the individual and institutional investors looking for ‘the next big thing.’ ”

Noel’s Career Portfolio Includes:
• Bond Analyst—Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF). It was at this firm that he met his spouse, Debbie.
• Financial Advisor—Merrill Lynch and other firms

———Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director, Atlantic Union College
Two of our pre-med students are involved in original research sequencing a gene from *Digitalis purpurea* that cannot be found in public databases. It is novel work and has potential medicinal value,” says Tim Trott, associate professor of biology. Scientific databases were scoured to support this claim.

The research has been under the direction of Trott and a previous biology professor, Anton Dormer.

Senior biology major Gael Moncoeur explains, “The purpose of our project was to identify and sequence the GAPDH gene (Glyceraldehyde 3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase). This gene is a quintessential component to the process called Glycolysis, which is one part of cellular respiration. (Glycolysis is the metabolic pathway that converts Glucose into Pyruvate). First we extracted DNA from a plant called foxglove—*Digitalis purpurea*. Extracts from this plant are highly toxic for both human and animal. It was used as a medication preventing heart disease, but due to adverse side effects, it should be used with extreme caution.

“The reason this project is important is the fact that it gives us the opportunity to clone and sequence a gene that has not yet been analyzed. We will end by publishing our findings and add it to the body of scientific knowledge. Not only have we learned a lot from this project, we hope it will inspire further scientific research at AUC. We need to move AUC on to the next level so that we can contribute more to the scientific world.”

Gael Moncoeur—senior biology major, Boston, Massachusetts

**Goal:** I will pursue my M.D./Ph.D. and enter a research field.

**About AUC:** “I attempted to leave here my first two years, but prayer changed me. AUC brought me closer to God. Now I learn more, faster, and better. I am also inspired by the professors who will work with us 24/7.”

Ravi Kriss—junior biology major, Albany, New York

**Goal:** I plan to go to medical school, then maybe into medical research.

**About AUC:** “The professors have helped me sharpen my focus on what I want to do and shown me the importance of what we can do in this world if we have the right tools and right education. We can go out and do what God wants us to do. The professors are involved in everything and when you need help, they are right there—helping you toward med school, grad school, or right now. They know what they are teaching.”

More info at [www.auc.edu](http://www.auc.edu).

—Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director, Atlantic Union College
Brown Authors New Book for Clergy Spouses

Pattiejean Brown, family ministries assistant director and shepherdess director for clergy spouses at the Bermuda Conference, is the author of What On Earth Am I Doing? Leadership Lessons for Clergy Spouses.

Brown was inspired to write this book when, in 2009, two great and very different pastors’ wives passed away. Sandra Holland-Pearson (1945-2009) was the wife of evangelist Walter Pearson, speaker/director of Breath of Life since 1998. She was outgoing, trendy, and employed at the Seventh-day Adventist world church headquarters. Anne Koleada-Melashenko (1919-2009) was the wife of evangelist Joe Melashenko and mother of the Melashenko singers, including Lonnie Melashenko, speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy, 1993-2008. She was a quiet, supportive, behind-the-scenes homemaker.

“I wanted to show that pastors’ spouses are different, yes, but dissimilar, no,” states Brown. “Pastors’ spouses are not homogeneous. There is no one-size-fits-all. Some are conservative, some are not. Some are traditional, some are not. Some are quiet, some are not. But all face similar challenges. All make similar sacrifices. All experience similar joys.

“Some of the challenges they face are moving, [living up to people’s] expectations, being an example, living under scrutiny,” she adds, “but there are also joys, unprecedented opportunities for spiritual growth as we realize that we, too, are called to minister in our own right.”

Brown feels this book will inspire pastors and their spouses of all denominations, seminarians and their spouses, church members, and the general public to a deeper respect for a corps of faithful servants who receive few thanks, but who lovingly inspire a global army of godly pastors.

Not her first book, together with her husband, Jeffrey Brown, they have authored The Total Marriage and A Guide to Parenting.

Pattiejean Brown is from Southampton, Bermuda, from the Darrell family of Riviera Estate. She met her husband Jeffrey at Andrews University in Michigan and they were married in Southampton, Bermuda. They have two young adult children: Kristle, a senior at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, and Jamel, a junior at La Sierra University, Riverside, California.

She has two degrees from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, in behavioral science and liberal arts.


—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Bermudian Medical Team Departs for Haiti

It needed an initiator, an organizer, and a facilitator. God provided all three in the persons of three Seventh-day Adventists from the Bermuda Conference.

On Tuesday, January 19, church member Lois Wilson heard of a benefactor that was offering his plane to the Red Cross and the Bermuda Government. She made a request and God made available a 12-seater private jet to Haiti, free of charge.

Wilson then approached church member Phillip Rego whose Feed My Lambs Ministry in Haiti had garnered enormous support from the Bermuda public long before the earthquake. “There is a plane ready to take you, a medical team, and supplies to Haiti,” Wilson told Rego. “And it will be ready to leave on Sunday.”

Rego contacted church member Stanley James, M.D., a Bermuda Institute and Loma Linda University graduate. He agreed to gather a team of Bermudian surgeons and nurses. A team of three doctors was joined by five nurses and EMTs, and Rego, for the trip to Haiti.

They also wanted a young person to be involved, and they found Erin Lovell, a 22-year-old church member and daughter of Lieutenant Dana Lovell, commander of the Bermuda Fire Service. Lovell had given exceptional volunteer service in Haiti before and she was more than ready to go again.

Bermuda General Agency, suppliers of Bermuda’s pharmacies, provided as many medical supplies as the plane could hold. A falcon 900 aircraft left Bermuda with the team at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 24.

We thank God for the initiator, the organizer, and the facilitator, but we praise Him for the benefactor, the Bermudian philanthropist, and the Author and the Finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ, who sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to accompany the group in Haiti.

—Jeffrey Brown, president, Bermuda Conference
Awards Presented to Pastors at Workers Meeting

Armando Amadias, pastor of the Springfield, Esmirna, and Hartford Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches, and Abraham Jules, pastor of the Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church, were the respective recipients of the Northeastern Conference 2009 Pastor of the Year and Evangelist of the Year awards. The Pastor of the Year award is given to the pastor who, during the year, best fulfills the expectations of a pastor, and the Evangelist of the Year award is given to the pastor who achieves the highest number of baptisms during the year. Amadias, along with providing excellent pastoral care, led the churches of his district in achieving the assigned goals. Jules led the conference in the total number of baptisms with a total of 106. The awards were presented at the conference’s annual Fall Workers Meeting.

Three Churches Retire Mortgages

Three churches in the Northeastern Conference retired their mortgage obligations in 2009. The First Nigerian Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, under the leadership of Pastor Richard Calhoun, celebrated the momentous event on Sabbath, October 3.

The First Rochester Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, with Pastor Josue Cruz, followed suit on Sabbath October 10.

The Morija French Seventh-day Adventist Church, pastored by Jose Joseph, rejoiced in the same accomplishment on Sabbath, December 12. The Morija church, on that occasion, also officially opened and dedicated their newly-renovated and expanded church facilities. Officers from the Northeastern Conference were present and participated in each celebration.

Brooklyn Temple Hosts Good Health Brooklyn Day

The Brooklyn Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the leadership of the pastor, Marlving Charlet, celebrated Good Health Brooklyn Day on December 5, 2009. Good Health Brooklyn is a health-related program initiated through the Brooklyn Office of Minority Health. Their goal is to collaborate with houses of worship to educate congregations and communities on the importance of healthful living. The Brooklyn Temple church is one of the partners with Good Health Brooklyn, educating the community with regard to good health. The day focused on diabetes, hypertension, HIV, and healthful foods and diet. It proved to be a very powerful and successful outreach to the community.

Celebrating the event with the church were Congressman Edolphus Towns; Borough president Marty Markowitz; Councilman Albert Vann; and Keith Carr, project manager for Good Health Brooklyn and brother of gospel singer Kurt Carr. Rawle Philbert, M.D., chairman for dental and oral surgery at Lincoln Hospital in Bronx, New York, was the speaker for the morning service and Poly Cornelius was the presenter at the afternoon meeting.

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Modern-day Daniel

The ballroom setting was augmented by the presence of the head of state, dignitaries of various levels, business executives, and a bevy of other notable officials.

This grand occasion was to recognize and award those individuals who had distinguished themselves by rendering unselfish service to the people and community of Bermuda. Though not on the list of honorees, a sextet of young men who had matriculated through the ranks of the schools of the prophets was called to share the spotlight.

Moments later, it was announced that James would be leading the team from Bermuda for relief work in Haiti the following day.

Unexpectedly, the Deputy Premier of Bermuda was then called to recognize the efforts of brothers Dwayne, Wayne, and Travis Caines, legal researcher with ASW Law Firm, along with their comrade and friend, Lou Matthews, Ph.D., for their initiative in fighting against gang violence. The Caines brothers spent all 13 years at Bermuda Institute (K-12) and completed their education at Oakwood University. Matthews graduated from Bermuda Institute and completed his undergraduate degree at Atlantic Union College. Their bold stand against violence and a burning desire to help young people compelled them to form the organization Rise Up Bermuda. Deputy Premier Cox used the acronym SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-sensitive) to describe the innovative and profound impact this organization is already having on the community.

Philanthropist Philip Rego, another recipient of Christian education at Bermuda Institute, and founder of Feed My Lambs Ministry, was applauded for his stellar work in Haiti. He, too, was set to board the humanitarian flight along with a team of medical professionals to assist the people of Haiti, especially the children who resided in his two orphanages. The local Bermuda community has rallied to support this Adventist Christian young man.

It was a night designed to honor those who had rendered service to humanity, but it became a showcase for those who had been instructed in the ways of the Lord. Their parents had seen to it that their children were taught by the Lord and, in return, the God of heaven had elevated them among the honored positions of men. Dwayne Caines currently serves as the media relations manager for the Bermuda Police Service. Wayne Caines holds the position of CEO for Digicel, Bermuda. Travis Caines and Lou Matthews were recently assigned as director of Standards and Accountability for the Ministry of Education.

The honoring of these young men was a clear testimony that “a noble character is the result of self-discipline . . . the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man.” They demonstrated that their “strength, time, intellect, are but lent treasures. . . . Every youth [should] put them to the highest use.” Throughout their years of Christian education they embraced the eternal principle that “every youth, every child, has a work to do for the honor of God and the uplifting of humanity.” (excerpts from EDUCATION, pp. 57, 58) The cost of Christian education may be paid back over a period of time, but the rewards and results can only be measured in eternity.

Delmas Campbell is the math teacher at Bermuda Institute.
At Union Springs Academy (USA), community service is a very important part of our school program. Every week students assist the community with various projects. One such project involves going to the nursing homes in the area and spending quality time with the residents. Justin Willette, a freshman at USA says, “I get to see my Grammie and visit the elderly, who all have great stories to tell if I only take the time to listen.”

“Helping Hands” is another school community service activity. Students brave the cold to shovel snow or fight the wind to rake leaves. Kathryn Halbritter, a freshman at USA says, “The thing that I like the best is knowing that I am sharing God’s love by helping people.”

Other community service activities include working at Booker T. Washington, an after-school program or volunteering at a local animal shelter.

Community service is a highlight in our week. As a school working together, we log in about 3,000 hours a year. Community service is just another part of our daily lives at Union Springs Academy that molds us into the Christian people that God wants us to be.

Members of the community have testified that their attitudes toward USA have changed since the program began. One community member commented they used to think of USA as a strange, elite school that nobody knew anything about. Through the students’ community service they have come to understand and appreciate what goes on in the “city on the hill.”

—Kyle Raymond, sophomore, Union Springs Academy
Three years ago the Kellogg Seventh-day Adventist School, located next door to the Manchester Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bedford, New Hampshire, was closed due to rising operating costs, low student enrollment, and a building in need of expensive repairs. After the last three years of uncertainty about what to do with the vacant and deteriorating school building, the prayers of the congregation were answered when an individual who attended the Manchester church on a regular basis graciously donated nearly $75,000 for the purpose of refurbishing the school building.

Over the past several months, much work has been done and is ongoing to make the school suitable for occupancy:

- The exterior of the school was recently painted.
- Plans are in place to replace all the windows.
- The interior is being completely cleaned and overhauled.
- Both the heating and plumbing systems will be repaired.

Not only will the entire school be cleaned, painted, and renovated, but the name has also been changed to the Kellogg Christian School. It is the hope of the Manchester congregation that the school will reopen for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Lord has blessed the Manchester church in many ways over the past few years. As they develop a renewed focus on prayer and commitment to Him, church attendance continues to increase. Thanks to the church’s pastor, Carl Behrmann, for the way in which he is serving the church, and for his leadership in the refurbishing efforts of the Kellogg Christian School.

Keep the Kellogg Christian School in prayer as they continue to strive to reopen soon. It is the church members’ desire that the Lord will help them to achieve the goal of offering a Christian education to the children in the surrounding neighborhoods.

—Robert McMurray, communication correspondent, Manchester church

The Price of Honor

A few months ago I read a sign on the campus of West Point Military Academy stating that “A Cadet will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do.” This is a code worth considering. The Honor Code demands and expects all members of the Corps of Cadets to conduct themselves with absolute integrity, both in word and deed.

This honor code at a secular institution begs the question of whether or not it is common to find such a code of honor within the Christian community. Recently I had the privilege of writing a letter of thanks to an adult who has a strong code of honor. This parent has faithfully sent monthly checks of $50 for more than 10 years to Pine Tree Academy (PTA) in order to pay off their child’s outstanding account! This 18-year-old student looked me in the eyes and told me that, even though he was leaving school, he would personally pay off his account to PTA, because it was the right thing to do. Within one year, despite going to college—and without any help from his family—he had paid down his PTA account!

To paraphrase Ellen White, the world desperately wants men and women who will be absolutely true to their duty and will stand for right, even if the going is difficult. I have been privileged to come in contact with these two people, and have been blessed by their integrity and sense of honor.

—Brendan Krueger, principal, Pine Tree Academy

*This Code of Honor, according to West Point, is an essential vehicle for the development of character. The Honor Code demands and expects all members of the Corps of Cadets to conduct themselves with absolute integrity, both in word and deed. Cadets accept this obligation freely and with great pride.
Holloman Recognized by City of Lewiston, Maine

Theresa “Teri” Holloman, a member of the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, Maine, was presented the VIBE (Volunteer Inspire by Example) Award last August by Laurent Gilbert, mayor of the City of Lewiston, and Maggie Chrisholm, director of recreation, for her dedication as a volunteer, coordinating all aspects of basketball usage at the River Valley Village in Lewiston. This came as a total surprise to Holloman, who, for the past 15 years, was the self-appointed caretaker over the basketball court. During these years, she has interacted with the youth in her community and gained their respect, both on and off the court.

This is a witness of commitment and selflessness, as she has carried out this job of voluntarily overseeing and maintaining a place of fun activity for those using this facility. The Auburn church family is proud of Holloman, her efforts, and her example as a representative in the community that reflects “what Jesus would do.”

—Joyce A. Leonard, communication secretary, Auburn church

Woodstock Church Baptizes Three Youth

Three young people were baptized into the membership of the Woodstock Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bryant Pond, Maine, in 2009. The three, Andrew Wiggin, Cassidy Lane, and Kaitlyn Cannuli, all students of the Forestdale Seventh-day Adventist School, took Bible studies with Richard Wright, the church’s pastor. Cannuli’s words sum up the important choice she made, “I want to become closer to God because I love Jesus very much.” The Woodstock members are proud of these students for the examples they are setting in the church and for their eagerness to follow Christ.

—Ashley Tardif, communication correspondent, Woodstock church

Northern New England Prayer Retreat

Date: May 26-30, 2010
Theme: “Seeking God’s Righteousness”
Location: Camp Lawrowied, Weld Maine
Speakers: Pastor Dennis Smith, Pastor Roy Rugluss, Pastor Sedley Johnson
Cost: Individual - $105.00 by 04/01/10 $155.00 after 04/01/10
Couples - $200 by 04/01/10 $155.00 after 04/01/10

Price includes: 4 nights lodging, meals and materials. No refunds after April 26, 2010. No telephone registrations, please.

Register online at www.lawrowied.org or print out a mail-in brochure at www.nnec.org, search under ‘calendar of events’ month of May 2010.

FMI: contact kellyv07@yahoo.com

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union Gleaner, March 2010
Evangelism in Southern New England

Let no one doubt these are challenging days for our society in general and for families in particular. But for us as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, this is the most exciting time to be alive and seize the opportunity to model how we must live and witness for Jesus in these challenging days. In the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) it is inspiring and heart-warming to see and hear fantastic news of the various soul-winning events that are occurring around the conference.

The year 2009 began with 33 of our pastors attending the Adventist Ministries Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The focus was on empowering pastors to “Share the Hope” of Jesus. For SNEC it was a phenomenal year for baptisms—750 baptisms. Never in the conference’s history have there been so many baptisms in one year.

The phenomenal results were the team efforts of pastors and lay members working together, through ShareHim evangelism activities, media evangelism, public evangelism, and partnering with Light America Mission. Today Ellen White’s vision for the eastern states must be taken seriously: “Instruction has been given me that the message should go again with power in the cities in the Eastern States. . . . We are to make every effort to give a knowledge of the truth to all who will hear, and there are many who will listen”—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 98.

For 2010 the Southern New England Conference Evangelism Department will spend a portion of its budget for evangelism in Boston. Light America Mission, under the leadership of Luis Biazotto, has been a blessing to the conference. In 2010, the Light America Mission students will focus their energies in Boston, where they will be working with 17 churches and 10 pastors.

This is an urgent call to the entire SNEC membership to support the following evangelistic endeavors for 2010: Project Boston, new church plants, ShareHim evangelism, media evangelism, personal evangelism, along with public evangelism. The operative word here is support—with your prayers, your finances, and your involvement.

“The Holy Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ Let those who hear say, ‘Come!’ Anyone who is thirsty should come. Anyone who wants to take the free gift of the water of life should do so”—Revelation 22:17 (NKJV).

—Whitford Shaw, ministerial director, Southern New England Conference

Pathfinders Find a Path of Kindness by Giving

“It is better to give than receive.” We have heard it a hundred times and know it is true. During the holiday season, the Rockville-Tolland Golden Eagles Pathfinder Club, under the direction of Ellsworth Cross, put those words into practice as the club from Connecticut prepared a dozen bread/gift baskets to give to those who could use some encouragement or would be blessed by receiving a gesture of grace.

The club provided the baskets, basket lining, and cellophane wrapping, but each Pathfinder supplied the breads, jams, sparkling juice, crackers, cookies, and candies that he or she wanted to include in the basket, as well as the name of the person they were targeting with their mission of kindness.

After the baskets were prepared, the club members delivered their baskets. According to the Pathfinders, preparing and delivering the gifts brought them joy and warm feelings during the holiday season.

In the same spirit of this project, the club is undertaking the task of memorizing 1 Corinthians 13—the love chapter—to emphasize the point that “the greatest of these is love.”

—Einar Rom, pastor, Rockville-Tolland church

Josiah, Jovan, Renee, David M., David H., Chelsea, Natalia, Devon, Adryan, and Jason assembled, organized, and decorated their gift baskets to share some kindness with others.
“Together, We’re Stronger”

Many years ago two farmers were standing together discussing the strength of their draft horses. They decided to have a small competition to see how much each horse could pull. Each horse was hitched to a load and each horse pulled about 750 pounds. A small crowd had gathered and began speculating. How much could the two pull together? Estimates from the anxious spectators ranged from 900 to 1,500 pounds. The two horses were hitched up to the load and, to the amazement of all present, together, the horses pulled a surprising 2,500 pounds! Together, they pulled almost twice the combined amount they could each pull individually.

This year the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Youth Ministries Department theme is “Together, We’re Stronger.”

We believe that our strength comes from joining forces, working together, and being united in purpose—together with God; together with each other in community and fellowship; and together in mission and purpose. We believe that there is no limit to what God can do in us and among us when we come together, united by His Spirit to partner with each other and God to accomplish His plans through our lives.

The Youth Ministries department covers Adventurers, Camp Winnekeag, Family Ministries, National Service Organization, Pathfinders, Public Campus, Singles, and Youth/Young Adults. That’s a lot of different people to bring together. That’s a lot of strength to harness. With God’s help, we will. Together, we’re stronger.

This year we will focus much of our energy and planning on events in Hartford. We have chosen Hartford as our Impact city for 2010. We will have special events there all year long, including a mission trip August 6 to 15. We will also have our “Impact Hartford: Live With Hope” event on October 2 and 3. This will be an awesome weekend where the SNEC’s “army of youth” will go out into the streets and neighborhoods of Hartford to help the citizens of Hartford to see their Seventh-day Adventist churches as places where they can get answers to life’s questions and be challenged to “live with hope.”

We will partner with the Hartford area churches and pastors to be a blessing to our church communities and the citizens of Hartford. Make plans to be with us for those two days.

Remember the story of the horses at the beginning of this article? There is an even more amazing discovery that has been made. While each horse could pull individually about 750 pounds and together they could pull about 2,500 pounds, they have found that if a team of horses is properly trained and accustomed to working together, they can pull more than 4,500 pounds. What an amazing reminder that together, we’re stronger. Let’s use all of our strength in 2010. Imagine all the needs in our conference for youth ministry—needs in Connecticut; needs in Rhode Island; and needs in Massachusetts. Now imagine all the needs of Adventurers, Pathfinders, youth, and young adults. How can we do it? Together. Wherever there are kids and wherever there are Spirit-led adults, ministry can happen and together, from Boston to Bridgeport, from Worcester to Willimantic, from Providence to Pittsfield, from Cambridge to Central Falls, God can use us to make a difference.

Together, we’re stronger.

—Pedro Perez, youth director, Southern New England Conference
www.snecyouth.org

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, March 2010 21
En décembre dernier, j'avais eu le privilège d’accompagner un groupe de missionnaires Coréens, comprenant pasteurs, médecins, médecins de l’Orient, dentistes, ophtalmologistes, et infirmières qui se rendaient en Haïti. Ce voyage m’a permis d’expérimenter le fonctionnement pratique du ministère holistique. Puisque l’être humain est une créature merveilleuse, tout ministère conçu à répondre à ses besoins doit être compréhensif afin d’englober les trois dimensions suivantes: corps, âme et esprit. Dans ce cas, il est souligné que l’appel qui a été adressé à l’église d’être impliquée au ministère holistique signifie: “Atteindre la communauté par un évangélist pour atteindre les communautés par le moyen d’évangélisation.”

1. Incarnation

2. Les Services Sociaux
Le Ministère des Services Sociaux a été utilisé comme un moyen d’évangélisation. L’église est appelé à partager l’évangile par la bonne nouvelle et aussi par les bonnes œuvres. Nous devons être prompts à préoccuper des besoins immédiats des gens, besoins sociaux et physiques, qui peuvent éclipser leurs besoins fondamentaux. Lorsque le groupe décida de se rendre en Haïti, ils prirent un engagement personnel de servir au lieu de faire un don monétaire.

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¿QUÉ ESTÁ PASANDO?

En la Iglesia Mundial

En una declaración transmitida en el Hope Channel, la estación de televisión de la Iglesia Adventista, Jan Paulsen, el presidente de la iglesia, instó a los haitianos a no desanimarse.

“Vuestros hermanos y hermanas de todo el mundo piensan en ustedes, oran por ustedes y quieren ayudar,” dijo Paulsen horas después que una réplica de 6.1 grados golpeara el país, renovando la angustia de los sobrevivientes.

“La escala de sufrimiento que ha sido infligida al pueblo de Haití es inimaginable,” dijo Paulsen. “Queremos mostrar nuestro sentido de hermandad con el pueblo de Haití,” dijo que cada miembro tiene algo que dar, sea su servicio o dinero.

Paulsen instó a los adventistas para que animen a sus hijos a participar en la ayuda a Haití.

“Que sus hijos vean que en estas tragedias nos involucramos en actos humanitarios,” dijo. “Cuando algo así sucede, tenemos una responsabilidad que cumplir.”

Paulsen concluyó diciendo que es su esperanza que “el futuro de Haití sea mejor que su pasado.”

Las agencias asistenciales estiman que el sismo puede haber producido unos doscientos mil muertos.

De a poco se están recibiendo informes sobre decesos entre los adventistas del país, dijo Orville Parchment, asistente de Paulsen.

Parchment dijo que dos coros estaban practicando en una iglesia al momento del sismo. Se han hallado catorce cuerpos, pero no se sabe aún el número de sobrevivientes.

Los niños de una escuela adventista escaparon cuando corrieron afuera para ver de dónde venía un ruido sumamente fuerte, dijo Parchment. No se informó de niños muertos, pero un portero quedó atrapado y falleció.

Numerosas iglesias adventistas, el hospital y la universidad adventista han sufrido daños estructurales.

La iglesia mundial votó una donación de 200,000 dólares para ayudar a reconstruir iglesias y otras instalaciones. La División Norteamericana votó enviar 600,000 dólares, y otros territorios locales añadieron al menos otros 175,000.

El Dr. Elie Honore, director del ministerio de salud de la División Interamericana, dijo que el hospital adventista necesita cirujanos ortopédicos y anestesiólogos. Si desea ofrecerse como voluntario, contáctese con Honore a honore@interamerica.org.

La Iglesia Adventista de Interamérica ha establecido un fondo especial para asistir específicamente a los feligreses. Las donaciones pueden ser enviadas en forma de cheques a la División Interamericana, Re: Haiti Catastrophe Fund, 8100 S.W. 117th Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33183.

Los donantes también pueden enviar un mensaje electrónico a: catastrophe-fund@interamerica.org.

Si desea actualizaciones sobre Haití, visite interamerica.org.

Si desea más información sobre la obra asistencial general o para donar a ADRA, visite adra.org.

Source: Adventist News Network 27 January 2010

English translation available at:
http://news.adventist.org/2010/01/adventist-church-pre.html
Seventh-day Adventist Statement of Consensus Concerning Female Genital Mutilation

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).

Introduction

As part of their mission to the entire world, Seventh-day Adventists have a firm commitment to provide health care that preserves and restores human wholeness. By wholeness we mean the harmonious development of the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual dimensions of a person’s life, unified through a loving relationship with God and expressed in generous service to others. Because Adventists believe that each human being is created in God’s image as a unified person, rather than as a duality of body and soul, we believe in a ministry of grace that affects all aspects of human life, including physical and emotional well-being.

Ministry to the entire person leads Seventh-day Adventists to be concerned about the widespread practice of female genital mutilation. Often referred to as “female circumcision” or, more recently, “female genital cutting,” such practices currently affect millions of living women and girls, with additional millions of girls disfigured annually. These estimates do not account for the young girls who die as a result of the more radical forms of genital mutilation. These practices range from excision of the clitoral prepuce to complete removal of the vulva with closure of the vaginal opening. Our central concern, expressed in this statement of principles, is for all forms of female genital injury that lead to physical dysfunction or emotional trauma. Moreover, such procedures are often done with unclean instruments, without anesthesia, on forcibly held young girls between the ages of four and twelve. Hemorrhage, shock, infection, incontinence, damage to surrounding organs, and massive scarring are frequent results. In addition to this physical devastation, genital mutilation is also emotionally traumatic.

Women who have been subjected to genital mutilation are also often afflicted with a variety of long-term gynecological health problems, including fistulas, chronic infections, and problems with menstruation. Upon entering marriage, intercourse is usually a painful, traumatic event, often necessitating reopening of the scarified vaginal opening. Childbirth may also be impeded due to rigid scarring of the tissues. At times, maternal and fetal deaths also result.

In the cultures where female genital mutilation is prevalent, the practice is considered justified for a variety of reasons. It is believed, for example, that such mutilation will preserve virginity in unmarried women, assist in controlling their sexual drive, strengthen sexual faithfulness for married women, and increase sexual pleasure for their husbands. It is also believed that removal of all or part of female genitalia improves cleanliness, is cosmetically desirable, and makes childbirth safer for the infant. Because of these beliefs, women who have not undergone such procedures may be considered unsuited for marriage. Despite evidence against such reasons, and despite the efforts of numerous human-rights organizations, the practice of female genital mutilation continues in a variety of cultures, with a prevalence exceeding 90 percent in some countries. In some cultures, female genital mutilation is defended as a form of religious practice. While
Seventh-day Adventists strongly advocate protection of religious liberty. Adventists believe that the right to practice one's religion does not justify harming another person. Thus, appeals to religious liberty do not justify female genital mutilation.

**Biblical principles**
The Adventist Church’s opposition to female genital mutilation is based on the following biblical principles:

1. **Preservation of life and health.** The Bible presents the goodness of God’s creation, including the creation of human beings (Genesis 1:31; Psalm 139:13, 14). God is the Source and Sustainer of human life (Job 33:4; Psalm 36:9; John 1:3, 4; Acts 17:25, 28). God calls for the preservation of human life and holds humanity accountable for its destruction (Genesis 9:5, 6; Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 24:16; Jeremiah 7:3-34). The human body is “the temple of the Holy Spirit,” and followers of God are urged to care for and preserve their bodies, including the Creator’s gift of sexuality, as a spiritual responsibility (1 Corinthians 6:15-19). Because female genital mutilation is harmful to health, threatening to life, and injurious to sexual function, it is incompatible with the will of God.

2. **Blessing of marital intimacy.** Scripture celebrates the divinely ordained gift of sexual intimacy within marriage (Ecclesiastes 9:9; Proverbs 5:18, 19; Song of Solomon 4:16-5:1; Hebrews 13:4). The practice of female genital mutilation should be renounced because it threatens the Creator’s design for the experience of joyful sexuality by married couples.

3. **Healthful procreation.** For married couples, the gift of sexual union may be further blessed by the birth of children (Psalm 113:9; 127:3-5; 128:3; Proverbs 31:28). The fact that successful childbirth is threatened by female genital mutilation is additional grounds for opposition to this practice.

4. **Protection of vulnerable persons.** Scripture prescribes that special efforts be made to care for those who are most vulnerable (Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Psalm 82:3, 4; Psalm 24:11, 12; Isaiah 1:16, 17; Luke 1:52-54). Jesus taught that children should be loved and protected (Mark 10:13-16; Matthew 18:4-6). The genital mutilation of young girls violates the biblical mandate to safeguard children and protect them from harm and abuse.

5. **Compassionate care.** Love for the neighbor prompts Christians to provide compassionate care to those who have been injured (Luke 10:25-37; Isaiah 61:1). Christians are called to care with compassion for those who have experienced physical and emotional trauma caused by female genital mutilation.

6. **Sharing truth.** Christians are called to overcome error by expressing the truth in a loving manner (Psalm 15:2, 3; Ephesians 4:25). The fundamental truth of the gospel is intended to liberate people from all types of bondage to falsehood (John 8:31-36). Thus, Christians should join in sharing accurate information about the harm of female genital mutilation and the beliefs that underlie this practice.

7. **Respect for cultures.** Christians should be sensitive to and respectful of cultural differences (1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Romans 12:1, 2). At the same time, we believe that God’s principles transcend cultural traditions (Daniel 1:8, 9; 3:17, 18; Matthew 15:3; Acts 5:27-29). The fundamental principles of Scripture provide a basis for the transformation of cultural practices. While we acknowledge that female genital mutilation is firmly entrenched in many cultures, we find this practice to be incompatible with divinely-revealed principles.

**Conclusion**
Because female genital mutilation threatens physical, emotional, and relational health, Seventh-day Adventists are opposed to this practice. The church calls on its health care professionals, educational and medical institutions, and all members, along with people of good will, to cooperate in efforts to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation. Through education and loving presentation of the gospel, it is our hope and our intention that those threatened by this practice will find protection and wholeness and that those who have been subjected to this practice will find solace and compassionate care.

This document was adopted by the General Conference Christian View of Human Life Committee in April 2000, and was referred to those church departments and institutions that will find the material useful.
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5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Lincoln Church, Maine

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The Barre-Montpelier Seventh-day Adventist Church is trying to locate the following members: Anna Le Clerc, Kevin Charlestream, Edward Deres, and Monica Deres. If your name is listed, please contact Ken Ladd at (802) 479-3130.

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Remembering . . .

R. Dale McCune
Former Atlantic Union College President

MCCUNE, R. DALE—80, b. Mar. 23, 1929, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; d. Dec. 4, 2009, in Calif. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Union College and his master’s and doctorate at the University of Southern California (USC). McCune’s ministry included service as a teacher and dean of boys at Maplewood Academy in Hutchinson, Minn., ‘51-’55; teacher and dean of boys at Oak Park Academy in Nevada, Iowa, ‘55-’56; teacher and pastor at Sheyenne River Academy in Harvey, N.D., ‘56-’58; teacher at Glendale Adventist Academy in Glendale, Calif., ‘58-’61; principal at Mountain View Adventist Academy in Mountain View, Calif., ’61-’63; dean of students at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., ’63-’70; vice president for academic affairs at Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash., ’70-’75; president at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., ’75-’80; and provost at La Sierra University (formerly the Riverside Campus of Loma Linda University) in Riverside, Calif., ’80-’90.

His brother, Larry Albert McCune pre-deceased him. He is survived by his wife, Betty Thompson McCune; two daughters, Cheryl Henry (’53) and Luanne Rice (’62); son, Richard McCune (’59); daughter-in-law, Kristi McCune; sons-in-law, Ric Henry and Reginald Rice; sister, Verna Mae Floyd; grandchildren, Jeff Henry, Melissa Pratt, Nic Henry, Danika Rice, Christian Rice, Camyrn Rice and Camille Rice; and great-grandchildren, Zoey Pratt and Indiana Pratt.

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