The Making of a Ministry

Atlantic Union College Accreditation Update
Features

4 Cover Story: The Making of a Ministry

7 “Carrying a Pitcher of Water . . .”

8 Your Pastor, Your Partner in Ministry

16 Accountability: A Progress Report on Haiti

In this Issue...

In this issue we look at the growth and progress of women’s ministries in the Greater New York Conference under the leadership of the women’s ministries director, Yvonne Knight. Our regular features include Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover photo is from iStockphoto.

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

Departments
Editorial 3
Adventist Education 7
Youth Connections 8
Quoi de Neuf? 24
¿Qué Está Pasando? 25
Positions of Our Faith 26

News
Bermuda 9
Greater New York 10
Atlantic Union College 12
New York 14
Northeastern 18
Northern New England 20
Southern New England 22

Information
Bulletin Board 28
Obituaries 28
Classifieds 29

Deadlines
December 2010 October 8
January 2011 November 12
February 2011 December 10

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We are reminded constantly of our smallness and our greatness. Some days everything goes right and other days everything goes wrong. Some days we wake up to sunshine and blue skies. Our home is clean. Our car is clean. Traffic to work flows smoothly. The boss is very gracious to us. Dinner is prepared with love. Children behave extraordinarily well and we go to bed after such a day feeling truly special and blessed.

Some days begin with gloom and disaster. Traffic is horrible. The boss is grouchy. Our spouse gets angry, children misbehave, the bank calls to say the checks bounced, dinner is two slices of hard pizza, and we go to bed after such a day feeling worthless.

There is a song we sing that says, He is able, He is able, I know He's able. I know my Lord is able to carry me through. The man who limits God does not know God, but with God, all things are possible. He is able to sustain us in all situations, circumstances, and problems, whether we are having a good day or bad day.

He is able to save to the uttermost. It matters not how deep man goes in sin, God can save. Paul said, “Christ came to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15). Jesus is not only able to save the down-and-out, but also those who consider themselves up-and-up.

He is able to transform lives. When that change comes about, we can say that the things we once loved, we now hate, and the things we once hated, we now love. God is able to turn all that is vile and sinful into all that is good and noble.

He is able to keep us from falling. Jude 1:24 says, “Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” No man nor any power can pluck a Christian out of Jesus’ hands.

He is able to fill our hearts with joy. No life is without its troubles and hardships, but even when these things overwhelm us, we can be happy with Christ in our hearts.

He is able to use us in His service. People have said, “I have no talent, I cannot do anything for the Lord. Not me, Lord.” The people who serve in the church and keep the Lord’s work going are not all great, powerful, brilliant, or prominent people, but they are faithful. God can use even the least of us if we put ourselves in His hands.

He is able to keep His promise. God told Abraham that from him would come a great nation, and from that nation would come the world’s Messiah and Savior. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90. How could they have a child? God made His promise and Abraham believed it, although Sarah laughed at it. God kept His promise. God’s book is full of promises and He is able to keep every one of them.

He is able to raise us from the dead. The work of Christ in us does not end at death. When He comes in the air, our bodies will be raised and we shall be forever with the Lord.

Today, God stands at the door of our heart and says, “I am able to save you to the uttermost if you come to Christ. I am able to transform your life and keep you from falling. I am able to fill your heart with joy and use you in My service. I am able to keep My promises. I am able to raise you up at the last day and give you eternal life.”

All this and more He can and will do for us, if we will put our whole trust in Him. Yes, God Is Able.

Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.
The Making of a Ministry

The growth and progress of women's ministries in the Greater New York Conference

By Alanzo Smith

The Women's Prayer Retreat started some 22 years ago under the prayerful guidance of Juanita Kretschmar, wife of then president Merlyn Kretschmar. During those formative years the women met annually to pray, give praise, sing, read the Bible, and share testimonies. Several individuals were asked to serve as chair of the Women's Prayer Group, including Betty Cooney, Brenda Johnson, Alicia Marquez, and Yvonne Knight. However, it was not until January 2002 that the Greater New York Conference Executive Committee, under the leadership of Dionisio Olivo as president, formulated the women's prayer ministry into a department and Yvonne Knight was elected as its director.

With the rebirth of the Women's Ministries department, Knight took it to another level. It moved from a focus group that merely planned and prepared for its annual prayer retreats, to a more dynamic and skills-building department. Two advisory teams were formed: 1) the Women's Prayer Retreat Planning Committee, with responsibilities for planning and implementing the activities of the annual retreat; and, 2) the Women's Ministries Advisory, with responsibilities for planning other activities of the department.

In the broader scope of the ministry, several activities were initiated, including:

- **Training of Women's Ministries Directors.** This training was done at the conference level with the intent of establishing women's ministries leaders in the local churches. Special emphasis was given to the training of young women for service to God and humanity.

- **Leadership Certificate Program.** This program has four levels and is designed to help women see their potential, their skills, and to communicate effectively. It examines some of the female pioneers and women of the Bible and how they faced challenges, and dares women with personal challenges to model...
these heroines. At the end of each level there is a graduation and certificate ceremony. According to Knight, the growth in these women was astronomical. Women who were once shy and reticent are now leading out in church offices, evangelism, and other areas of the work.

- **Conventions.** Each year two conventions are held, one in English and one in Spanish. At these conventions spirituality is heightened and worshipers express praises to God. Men are permitted to attend, which serves to break down walls of suspicion and indifference, as they are able to see for themselves the work of women’s ministries.

- **Joy in the Journey Award.** Annually, women are identified for their contribution or impact in the community or church. Areas of recognition include counseling, encouragement, impacting the lives of others, and feeding the homeless. The women who are recognized have helped to make a difference in the lives of others by letting their light shine among their neighbors.

- **Baptism.** At the last two prayer retreats, baptisms were held as a result of Bible studies given prior to the retreat. Della Patton from the North Bronx church is responsible for preparing the candidates. Five women were baptized recently, and over the past 10 years, more than 110 people have been baptized in their respective churches.

According to Knight, her highest joy in working as the Women’s Ministries director over the years was “to see the growth in women, the expression of satisfaction for the blessings of a retreat, gratitude expressed for a workshop that met felt needs, and the ability to help people and to know it is appreciated.”
Charmaine Brown, Rocio Chan, Anthonette Desire, Marlene Francis, Glenny Mendez-Calcano, Teresa Moore-Medina, Asia Patton, and Della Patton. Health clinics were set up in the South Mission. In addition, a Vacation Bible School was held in the afternoons and evangelistic meetings at night. Two hundred students graduated and 29 were baptized as a result. With her winsome personality, Glenny Mendez-Calcano provided the translation at each evening session.

• Annual Women’s Retreat. The penultimate program of the Women’s Ministries department is its annual Women’s Prayer Retreat. These well-planned, well-executed, and highly-spiritual gatherings are a “must” for some women. They range from 875 to 1350 in attendance and draw from every ethnic population. The participants are pampered with spiritual blessings that come from their early morning prayer walks, testimony and anointing services, preaching, teaching, and baptisms. Professionals are brought in to address issues such as self-esteem, singleness, abuse, finances, conflict management, and relationships.

According to Knight, her highest joy in working as the Women’s Ministries director over the years was “to see the growth in women, the expression of satisfaction for the blessings of a retreat, gratitude expressed for a workshop that met felt needs, and the ability to help people and to know it is appreciated.”

Knight says her greatest challenge was “getting the leadership of the church to understand that Women’s Ministries is not similar to the Women’s Liberation Movement.”

Over these 22 years the Lord has certainly blessed the women’s ministry along the way. Knight has pushed the boundaries, stretched the limits, and squeezed the possibilities into making this ministry a fruitful and prominent spiritual ministry in the Greater New York Conference. Her invaluable contribution to leadership and inspiration to these women has been indelibly etched on their hearts. Her tirelessness, fortitude, and strength forged a union of mind, body, and Spirit among these godly women, and her adaptability, kindness, and people skills created a wave of growth with each succeeding year at the retreat. We salute Yvonne Knight for a job well done. Only in heaven will it be told of her selfless sacrifice.

Alanzo Smith is the Greater New York Conference communication and family ministries director.
“Carrying a Pitcher of Water . . .”

“And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him’”—Mark 14:13, NKJV

Recently, I had the opportunity to listen to two groups of individuals speak of a very special ministry. One group was the engineers that are entrusted with the Powerhouse at Atlantic Union College (AUC). The other was the receptionists/secretaries of some of our Atlantic Union schools.

What do these two groups have in common? They keep our schools running! Literally.

As I listened to what it takes to generate electricity, hot water, and steam heat for the AUC campus day and night, I was impressed. While the location may not appear pristine, there is an order that is required by physics and state law to meet the constant needs of a college campus. The capstone was to hear how miracle after miracle is seen as equipment and talent come together to keep the campus functioning 24/7/365.

In a similar fashion, the school secretary/receptionist is the first contact and usually the “face” for our schools. I listened as they recounted how they meet the needs of children of all ages, and the needs of the teachers, parents, and administrators. They juggle many tasks at one time with multiple requests, all of which are urgent. For example, while the phone rings, copies are made, and guests are welcomed, a child tearfully describes his or her forgotten lunch. The receptionist then pulls out lunch money, and dries the tears. These kind servants also perform miracles with a band-aid, a sticky note, a phone call, a smile, or a kind word.

Look at the words of Jesus. He said that when His disciples went into the city they would find a man carrying a pitcher of water at a specific spot and time. This man has no name, but he is in Scripture because he was faithful. He could be depended on. He went about his duty, his work, and his calling of carrying water so that, at the appointed time, he would meet the disciples and help direct them to the upper room. He was rewarded by having the chance to carry the water that Jesus would use to wash the feet of His followers.

Inspiration tells us, “The importance of little things is underrated . . . They supply much of the actual discipline of life for every human being . . . Faithfulness in the little things in the line of duty makes the worker in God’s service reflect more and more the likeness of Christ”—That I May Know Him, p. 331.

There are many faithful workers and volunteers who are a huge part of our school system. I want to say “thank you” to each one. Our schools are literally held together by faithful workers that view their thankless, repetitive, and exacting work as a mission service to Jesus. When we walk through a building to flip on a switch, use the restroom, go to a warm classroom, or request information at the front desk, we seldom consider that we are looking at the heart of the school.

These faithful workers hear Jesus’ voice. They have answered the call. While they may not be hearing their names honored at graduation or see them engraved on a plaque, they can hear Jesus saying, “Well, done.”

Jerrell Gilkeson is the Atlantic Union Conference education and children’s ministries associate director.

There are many faithful workers and volunteers who are a huge part of our school system. I want to say “thank you” to each one.
Your Pastor, Your Partner in Ministry

I am asked the question from time to time, “How can I get my pastor to be more involved in youth ministry in my church?” This is an issue that seems to face many of our youth leaders in the Atlantic Union. I want to suggest that your pastor can be a key partner with you in youth ministry and a key person in the success of your youth ministry.

As the chairman and leader of a local church youth counsel, I was also overseeing the local Pathfinder club. There was a series of evangelistic meetings scheduled for the church and the pastor asked that we shut down Pathfinders during the course of the meetings. I didn’t feel it was right to completely cancel Pathfinder meetings, and I expressed this to the pastor. I suggested to him that we could involve the Pathfinders in the meetings and didn’t feel it was right to ask the Pathfinders to give up their meetings. He liked the idea of involving the Pathfinders and allowed our meetings to continue. What is the point in this? When the pastor realized that we would do everything we could to support the meetings, he changed his thinking about Pathfinders and became a great supporter of the club.

Your pastor can be a great partner with you in all areas of youth ministry, but he needs to know that you are going to support his ministry, as well.

Here are a few suggestions to help you:

- Make it a point to visit with your pastor and ask him to share what his vision is for youth ministry.
- Share with your pastor your vision of youth ministry. You do have a vision, don’t you?
- Always make sure he is invited to your planning session’s committee meetings. Invite the pastor; he is an ex-officio member anyway. It does affirm him when he knows he is welcome.

- Get acquainted with your pastor on a personal level. Invite him out for lunch or into your home.
- Schedule prayer time with your pastor. During this time share with your pastor what is happening in youth ministry. You can both use this time to pray for the young people and the various youth initiatives.

As a youth leader you are a member of the church board. Be intentional about attending the board meetings. Become an involved member in the board meetings by being an advocate for the youth. As you attend these meetings, the pastor will be encouraged to attend your important meetings.

Make sure your pastor is invited to all planned activities of the youth department.

Ask your pastor if you could accompany him on some of his hospital visits, Bible studies, or other visitations. This way you can get a better feel for the life of a pastor.

Involve your pastor. Invite him to share devotions, teach a class, share his hobbies, tell stories, etcetera.

Remember that the pastor is responsible for the entire church, not just the youth. He has many responsibilities; be sensitive to that. He can’t be everywhere at the same time, so give him a little space.

Your pastor can be your strongest supporter. Make sure he knows that you are one of his strongest supporters in ministry. Why? Because both of you want to work together in preparing the youth for the kingdom.

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

Atlantic Union GLEANER, October 2010
The Café Eden Smoothie Bar opened on Monday, August 16, at the Adventist Book Center on King Street in Hamilton, Bermuda.

Sandra Hugabrook found the Carob Delight delicious. “You can taste the carob and it’s delightful.”

“I love the name,” Café Eden commented Bill Euler, who was one of the first to sample the new products.

“I endorse and encourage it,” stated Fitzgerald Tucker. “I am willing to take out flyers to advertise this place. It is long overdue, including the veggie burgers and hot dogs.”

—Randolph Wilson and Pete Saunders, associate communicators, Bermuda Conference

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Café Eden Smoothie Bar Opens

The much-anticipated smoothie bar opened on August 16, at the Adventist Book Center (ABC) on King Street in Hamilton. Commenting on the reason for the smoothie bar, ABC manager, Carolyn James, said, “Everyone has been asking for it. In addition, it is a healthy choice and will only add to our commitment to providing wholesome products to our customers.” The goal of the Café Eden Smoothie Bar is to have something for everyone—from the person who only wishes for something different to the more health-conscious individual.

The Café Eden experience promises to be unique and very fruity. When you visit the smoothie bar, you can expect to meet Mellow Yellow (which includes banana, mango, peach, almond butter, and nondairy milk of your choice), Carob Delight, Berri-licious, and Smooth & Easy.

Café Eden offers individuals a wide variety of healthy meals, Christian books, and gospel music.

Janice Richardson, left, and Sharon Gibbons operate the Café Eden Smoothie Bar.

The new Adventist Book Center sign helps to promote its new products.

Café Eden offers individuals a wide variety of healthy meals (such as veggie burgers, veggie dogs, veggie pies, soups, and more), Christian books (Bibles, novels, Christian living, etcetera), and gospel music. The ABC is committed to offering its customers a wide choice of wholesome and spiritually-motivated products while delivering superb customer service.

Judging from the clientele, it’s come none too soon. When asked about the new smoothie bar, here are some of the comments:

“A needy part of health,” stated Carol Bassett. “Strategically located—great choice. I’ll be back.”

Pamela Greyson said it was “Delicious! It is a real treat to have and a welcome addition to this area.”

“I haven’t even had anything yet,” stated Sandra Hugabrook. Then, after two samples, she said, “The Carob Delight is delicious. You can taste the carob and it’s delightful.”

Sheena Dill said, “I can come here to my own [church’s] place to purchase my smoothies. They have everything I want, including flaxseed meal. May God bless them in this new venture.”

“I love the name” [Café Eden], commented Bill Euler. “Excellent idea. I want to wish them all the best.”

Dana Bean simply said “Delicious!”

“I endorse and encourage it,” stated Fitzgerald Tucker. “I am willing to take out flyers to advertise this place. It is long overdue, including the veggie burgers and hot dogs.”

—Randolph Wilson and Pete Saunders, associate communicators, Bermuda Conference

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Atlantic Union GLEANER, October 2010

9
Evangelistic Programs Bear Fruits

Beulah Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, shared the message of salvation with children and adults in the community through two evangelistic programs held during the last two weeks of July. Forty-five children regularly attended a Vacation Bible School program held at the church Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thirty of the children were not Seventh-day Adventists. In the evening, Dwayne Lemon, an evangelist, conducted an evangelistic series for the adults.

The annual Vacation Bible School program, together with the evangelistic series, has yielded seven baptisms. Among the seven individuals are brother and sister Tia and Brandon Ebanks. Tia attended Vacation Bible School in 2008 and continued to attend yearly. In addition, since 2008, she has been attending church services and became an active member of the Pathfinder club. Tia could not keep the joy of serving the Lord to herself, so she invited her brother, Brandon, to church services with her. He, too, became an active Pathfinder. As Lemon expounded on the Scriptures during the two weeks, Tia and Brandon’s hearts were touched, which led them to seal their decisions for the Lord.

The church is rejoicing to see a seed sown two years ago in Vacation Bible School being watered and nourished by the Sabbath School, Pathfinder club, and other church services and become fruits that were harvested in the evangelistic series.

—Gillian Semple, communication secretary, Beulah Temple church

GNYC Family Ministries Director Presented With Distinguished Service Award

At its annual Family Celebration Weekend held on the campus of Andrews University, the North American Division awarded Alanzo and June Smith the Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding contribution to family ministries throughout North America. Willie and Elaine Oliver, newly-elected General Conference Family Ministries director and associate director, respectively, made the presentation. Oliver explained to the audience that this was the highest honor the North American Division gives to any member in the area of family ministries.

The Smiths were cited for their work in professional counseling as licensed marriage and family counselors and mental health counselors. June Smith has been a professor at Long Island University for more than 13 years, training school counselors and mental health counselors. In addition, she is a frequent speaker/presenter at churches, retreats, and camp meetings.

Alanzo Smith is an outstanding and highly successful family evangelist, conducting family evangelism across North America and the world field and baptizing hundreds of families each year. In 2010 alone, he baptized more than 300 people. He runs a vibrant men’s ministry and family ministry in the Greater New York
Greater New York
Alanzo Smith, communication director

Huntington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntington Station, New York, recently completed a total renovation of its lower-level, including the fellowship hall, kitchen, and bathrooms. During the dedication service, Huntington’s pastor, Lincoln Smith, along with Greater New York Conference (GNYC) officials Bancroft Daughma, English Ministries director, and Lloyd Scharffenberg, Corporation secretary/treasurer, were there to share in the culmination of a project that has been many years in the making.

The Huntington church has been in the community for many decades but, unfortunately, the lower auditorium fell into disrepair since the last remodeling project that took place in the 1970s. Church members prayed for years for the opportunity to redo the space and were collecting funds in anticipation of the big project. “We encountered many difficulties in getting the renovation on track, and for awhile, it seemed that it wasn’t going to take place,” said Smith, “but I remembered the Bible text from Luke 1:37 that says ‘nothing is impossible with God’ and, by His grace, we were able to move forward step-by-step with the renovation.”

During the dedication service, Daughma delivered the charge and Scharffenberg was on hand to cut the red ribbon, officially opening downstairs for the church’s use. The contractor, Alaebdin Baker, who attended the service, was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his work in beautifying the church and going above and beyond his duty by donating a new set of church doors and other items.

Now that the lower level is in excellent condition, the church looks forward to advancing several community service projects, including a food pantry, smoking cessation workshop, and holding English classes for the Hispanic community in the area. The church members rejoice in this wonderful victory for Huntington and ask for your prayers as they move forward with God’s ministry in their community.

—Oveta Foster, communication leader, Huntington church

Major Makeover at Huntington Church

The Greater New York Conference congratulates the Smiths on this achievement!

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

June and Alanzo Smith, right, were presented with the Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding contribution to family ministries throughout North America by Willie and Elaine Oliver, left, newly-elected General Conference Family Ministries director and associate director.
September 16, 2010

Dear Church Family:

In my July 30 letter to you, I told you that AUC’s accreditation was in danger. It is time for me to give you another update. This time, the news is good news.

Here are the basic facts:

• AUC has settled with NEASC for an extension of accreditation until July 31, 2011. This gives us an extra full year of graduations—winter graduation, spring graduation (the major one), and summer graduation. That protects all of our students and gives us all the time we need to complete new ways to accredit their education into the future.

• We have told you of AUC’s partnership with Washington Adventist University through which we could guarantee the accreditation of all of the courses and degrees AUC offers. That continues. In addition, because our NEASC accreditation has been extended, now that arrangement—if needed—will cover students throughout the 2011-2012 academic year. This partnership alone protects students’ credits for two full years if not more.

• AUC has applied for accreditation through a national accrediting association. We should be fully accredited by that association well before our NEASC accreditation expires, and they will accredit AUC’s students’ credits for many years.

• Although this accreditation threat is over, AUC still needs your prayers and your support. In turn, we pledge to continue preparing the students you love to be engaged citizens and servant leaders for as long as this world lasts.

That’s the basic news about AUC’s accreditation. God has blessed. We know that there will always be new challenges, yet we know that God surrounds challenges with blessings. You have been part of our biggest blessing, and the entire AUC family thanks you for your support.

Norman Wendth
President
Atlantic Union College
AUC Professor Teaches Tanzania’s Young Teachers
Community Engagement Reaches Africa

Ruth Prakasam, professor of English at Atlantic Union College (AUC), spent a month at the University of Arusha in Tanzania in Eastern Africa during the summer. She taught English literature to high school teachers. The trip was part of the Here and Home, Inc. program in cooperation with AUC, which sends professors to African universities each summer.

“My students were high school teachers working to get their bachelor’s degrees,” Prakasam said. “One was working on a bachelor’s in English with a minor in history and the other was working on a bachelor’s in history with a minor in English.”

Prakasam’s work helped Tanzania in its quest to secure college degrees for all of its high school teachers. This is one of the very reasons why AUC business professor, Issumael Nzamutuma, Ph.D., founded Here and Home, Inc., in Leominster, Massachusetts, in 2005.

Engaging the Community Worldwide

“We found there are about 300,000 African medical doctors, engineers, and professionals at the Ph.D. level working in the United States and Europe,” said Nzamutuma. “Consequently, there is a lack of these professionals to teach the younger generation in Africa. We decided to do short-term education missions that would make a significant contribution to their country.”

Nzamutuma teaches economics, statistics, and business mathematics at Atlantic Union College. He and fellow AUC business professor, Jacob Nortey, went on the first mission in 2008 to Valley View University in Ghana.

The Way It Works Is . . .

“Here and Home, Inc., a nonprofit organization, raises money for the airline tickets, visas, and textbooks. The host institution provides room and board, and professors donate their time. Friends, relatives, and organizations like AUC and Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, Tennessee, have assisted in fundraising.” This year, five professors from American colleges and universities went to Africa.

Teaching Swahili Speakers

Ruth Prakasam said the biggest challenge to teaching the course was the language barrier. “While English is one of the national languages and is required for instruction, Swahili is what Tanzanians are more comfortable with and speak at home. Because all the conversation in the classroom must be in English, it was challenging for them. It was good for me, though, because I don’t speak Swahili,” smiled Prakasam. “It was also a lot of hard work because old English literature is challenging, even for English speakers.”

The students tackled Chaucer’s THE CANTERBURY TALES, Shakespeare’s MACBETH, and the ancient epic poem Beowulf. “They’d studied African literature, yet they had not studied the majority of this English literature,” Prakasam said. “I wanted them to engage the literature, so I adapted my teaching style. They were used to a lecture format and were not familiar with discussion-based classes.”

Prakasam said the students were intrigued to see how different modern English is from the English used in the texts they studied. For her part, she appreciated the kindness and hospitality from her students and the wider college community. She found herself right at home in their culture.

“Tanzania is still dealing with post-colonialism challenges, but the people there want the same things as everyone the world over,” said Prakasam, “a good education and a good life. On the human level, there are very few differences.”

—John Weeks, correspondent
—Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director, Atlantic Union College
The Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, New York, sailed the High Seas Expedition during their annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) program held July 19-24. VBS has been a great community outreach in Auburn for many years and this year the attendance averaged around 35 children each night. About 10 of these children were our own regular attendees.

On Sabbath, July 24, the closing program was held and children showed their parents what they had been doing throughout the week. Emphasis was placed on how God’s Word is for everyone—it’s true, comforting, surprising, and life-changing. Lunch was served after the service.

One little boy in a nearby neighborhood was ready at 8:00 a.m. sharp to go to VBS, even though it didn’t begin until 6:30 p.m. Another little boy told his dad that “this was the best church he had ever been to” and wanted to keep coming.

Susan LeBlond, the VBS director, does a wonderful job each year. Her family plays a large part in this endeavor, especially her mom, Betty Tyler. The youth who participated as group leaders were faithful in taking part in every area that was presented. Songs, interaction, Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks were the highlights each evening.

Credit is given to Mark Johnson who was Captain Crowsnest, Kyle Howard who portrayed Frank Jonah, Amy Tyler who was Sailor Jane, Lily LeBlond who was Miley Spyglass, Miranda Parent who was Sarah Jessica Pirate, and Zack Hall who was Steven Seagull.

This program reaches not just the hearts of the children who attend, but also the hearts of those who help and are inspired by the children singing songs to Jesus and listening intently to the stories.

—Joyce Leonard, communication correspondent, Auburn church

Colleen Kabel, a registered nurse and a member of the Corning Seventh-day Adventist Church in Corning, New York, received a phone call two weeks following the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. A close friend, Beth, asked if she would consider going with her and her 16-year-old daughter on a two week medical relief trip to Haiti. Beth had responded to a group called Score International about their recent plea for medical personnel. Colleen talked with her family and boss, then the doors began to open and the trip became a reality. Friends helped them collect more than 1,354 pounds of medical and baby supplies and God arranged free shipping with UPS!

“I was overwhelmed by both the scope of the devastation and the squalor conditions these precious people were living in,” said Colleen. “Each day medical personnel were assigned to different locations, such as hospitals, city clinics, orphanages, and countryside clinics. These locations would contact the organization with requests for personnel the evening before.” Colleen and her friends were assigned to work several days at the Diquine Hospital, only to learn that it was a Seventh-day Adventist Hospital and one of the few medical facilities with no structural damage.

“Nursing in a third-world medical environment is humbling,” said Colleen. Colleen and Beth were privileged to assist a mom with the birth of her son Samuel, a highlight of the trip. As time passed, progress was made to provide better equipment and supplies to the Adventist Hospital. “Scores of people from all over the world came to help make a difference by sharing whatever skills they could,” she said. “The need in Haiti was so great, making it hard to return home to a life of comfort. We each have to come to understand that God is all-knowing.” Colleen reports that it was a privilege to go where God led and to share in His service.

—Marjorie Plumley, communication secretary, Corning church
A "barn conference" was held on the property of Bob and Cecelia Hess on June 25 and 26. Bob Hess is the pastor of the Dexterville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fulton, New York. The inspiration for the event came from a conference held in Oswego County in August 1848 called by Hiram Edson. Invited were Ellen and James White and Joseph Bates. That meeting was held in "Brother Arnold's" barn, which was located not far from the Hess’s home. The purpose of the meeting was to help members appreciate church history and some often misunderstood doctrines of the Adventist Church.

Richard Davidson of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University was the guest speaker. Topics included the investigative judgment and the sanctuary message in the book of Hebrews. The program included singing many of the early Advent hymns, a potluck dinner, an afternoon nature walk on the property, and the opportunity to participate in self-guided tours of Adventist points of interest in the area. Nearly 200 people attended the Sabbath events.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

Robert and Marie Putman were among those who attended the barn conference.

Cecelia and Bob Hess sponsored the barn conference on their property in Fulton, New York.

Team driver Les Holmes with Bob Hess in the front seat impersonating Hiram Edson and Jan Caster in the back with a group of children.

Camden Church Plant Becomes Company

In 2006, the Dexterville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fulton, New York, with Bob Hess as pastor, agreed to sponsor a church plant in Camden. Following three years of active and intentional outreach, the Camden church plant celebrated its change of status on July 17 to that of company, under the leadership of Dave Weeden, a lay pastor.

Stan Rouse, New York Conference president, presented the Sabbath sermon, and Florencio Zabala, the newly-elected New York Conference treasurer, was introduced. Angel Rodriguez, New York Conference executive secretary, invited the founding members to sign the official charter and then asked if there were others who would like to become members of this newly-formed company. One couple indicated their desire to join. The wife was already a member of the Dexterville church and the husband is preparing for baptism.

Currently the group is meeting in a building that formerly housed a movie gallery. The owner has allowed the church plant to meet rent-free for the past several months while they seek a permanent location.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

Contact Lynee Hamm, New York Conference women's retreat coordinator, for a registration brochure at (315) 391-6263 or e-mail abcshopgirl@yahoo.com
ACCOUNTABILITY:
A Progress Report on Haiti

By Louis B. Métellus

Christ has committed the work of the gospel to men in order to advance the interests of His kingdom on earth and to train his servants for increased responsibility”—SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY, vol. 5, p. 510. Every man entrusted with the treasures of the Master will be required to give an account in a responsible manner before the Judge of all the earth. Indeed, accountability constitutes a trademark of heaven.

The catastrophic earthquake of 7.0-magnitude that struck Port-au-Prince and other neighboring cities on January 12, 2010, claimed 230,000 lives, leveled 250,000 residential homes, 30,000 commercial buildings, and left 1.5 million Haitians homeless. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Haiti suffered great loss in the disaster. Six hundred members are reported dead, 55 churches collapsed, and scores of people were left homeless. In response, the international community poured assistance in goods to Haiti and promised millions or billions in financial assistance. It is reported that only three percent of monetary assistance has reached Haiti, thus far. The Prime Minister of Haiti states that the international community has begun developing strategies to assist the people of Haiti in permanent housing solutions, but everything is moving at a slow pace.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world, including the Atlantic Union Conference, pledged full support to the church members in Haiti. Our church members were called upon to help, and they responded. The display of their faithfulness calls for accountability. The following disclosures constitute a deliberate effort on our part to keep the membership abreast of the use made of their contributions.

Thus far, the Haitian Union reports they have received $3,478,248.07 ($670,000.00 in tithe and $2,808,248.07 in non-tithe).

THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:
General Conference .................................................... $382,752.55
North American Division ........................................ $1,839,222.15
Oakwood University .................................................. $10,000.00
Other World Divisions/Unions ............................. $1,246,273.37

While Maranatha International is working on rebuilding churches and schools in Port-au-Prince, ADRA International is engaged in a transitory home project.

The Atlantic Union, along with its sisterhood of conferences, has contributed a total of $612,839.15 to the Haitian disaster relief, which is divided as follow:
Greater New York ................................................... $232,957.06
Northeastern ....................................................... $220,000.00
Atlantic Union, Bermuda, New York
Southern New England, Northeastern, and
Northern New England ........................................ $159,882.09

The portion managed by the Atlantic Union Conference represents $159,882.09, and is budgeted in the following expenditure items:

RELEASED
100 Tents Purchased/Donated .................................. $31,619.00
Atlantic Union Conference Subsidy Disbursed .... $10,000.00
Medical Supplies/Hospital ...................................... $6,000.00
University Needy Students .................................... $6,000.00
Radio Station Equipment ....................................... $3,000.00

UNRELEASED
Additional Tents to be Purchased ......................... $35,000.00
Medical Supplies/Hospital ..................................... $7,487.21
Rebuilding Projects (churches, church members) $54,000.00
Miscellaneous ...................................................... $6,775.88

Last March, in a show of support, an administrative team from the Atlantic Union Conference comprised of Carlyle Simmons, secretary; Leon Thomassian, treasurer; Dionisio Olivo, Hispanic Ministries vice president, and I visited Haiti to disburse a portion of the funds to the Haitian Union. In July 2010, Thomassian and I returned to Haiti to discuss with church officials the temporary homes and rebuilding projects and to remit another fraction of the funds to the Haitian Union. On behalf of the Haitian churches and the Atlantic Union Conference, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the North American Division, the sisterhood of conferences in the Atlantic Union, and the world church for their tremendous display of kindness toward our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Louis B. Métellus is the Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries vice president and the Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries director.

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
Adventist World Radio Selects New President

The Adventist World Radio board on July 29 selected the ministry’s vice president for finance, Dowell Chow, to serve as its new president. Chow replaces Benjamin Schoun, who, in June, was appointed a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. In his new role, Schoun will still serve AWR as its board chair.

Chow has served as AWR’s vice president for finance since 2005 and previously served in several roles as an Adventist Church finance officer and administrator. AWR provides thousands of hours a day in broadcasting in 107 languages over AM, FM, shortwave, the Internet, and podcasts. Based at the church’s world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, AWR employs 31 people, including staff in offices overseeing operations in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Most of the hundreds of local studio and engineering staff worldwide are employed by local church entities.

Before joining AWR, Chow served as treasurer of the church’s Columbia Union Conference, the Maryland-based administration for the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region, and as president of the church in the state of New Jersey. He also served as a pastor in Puerto Rico and as an administrator of a publishing house in Venezuela. Chow also currently serves on the boards of the Takoma Park, Maryland-based Washington Adventist University, Washington Adventist Hospital, and Rockville, Maryland-based Adventist Healthcare.

Chow said some of AWR’s key operations include its extensive network of FM radio stations, training for local partners, and the ministry’s offerings of podcasting—in June the organization launched a Web site with podcasts in more than 80 languages.

For more information, visit awr.org.


Review and Herald Appoints New Leadership

Earlier this summer, the Review and Herald Publishing Association Board of Trustees confirmed Mark B. Thomas as president of the Adventist Church’s Hagerstown, Maryland-based flagship publishing house. Thomas, who has served as interim president since April, replaces Robert S. Smith who retired after 54 years of church service, including 17 years at the press.

Thomas, who worked in the Review’s pressroom while a student at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Maryland, returned 24 years ago. Since then he has served as vice president of the Review’s manufacturing, book, and marketing divisions.

Financial issues and rapid changes in the publishing landscape are challenges facing the new president, but he says he’s moving quickly to address them. “The church has always depended on the Review to help spread the Advent message through print. We’re enhancing our operations by embracing new technologies and utilizing digital platforms that will widen our reach,” he says. “For example, we recently released more than 30 titles in digital formats for e-book, iPhone, and iPad applications. And we’re planning to expand this to other areas of our work.”

He also named two new vice presidents and an assistant vice president: Graham Barham, vice president for finance, replaces the retiring Hepsiba Singh. He hails from Adventist-owned Stanborough Press in England where he served as financial director and associate general manager since 2000. John Gay, assistant vice president of the Graphics Division (manufacturing), was promoted. Rande Colburn, quality control manager, was named assistant vice president of the Graphics Division.

—Adapted from a news story in the September 2010 issue of the Columbia Union Visitor.
Hebron Youth Church Turns One

The youth at Hebron Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, and the Adventist churches in the surrounding area packed the sanctuary on June 12 to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the English worship service.

For years, members of the Hebron Adventist Youth Society prayed for the day when they would be able to have their own worship service in English and Creole. Under the leadership of Roberne J. Saint-Louis, the church’s pastor, and the board of elders, their vision became a reality.

Located in an English-speaking community, Hebron’s congregation, which speaks French, Creole, and English, also hoped this new service would attract former members and nearby residents, once deterred from attending the weekly services because of a language barrier.

The youth held consecutive worship services every Sabbath after the adult worship service in French. The schedule was later changed so that the English and French worship services would run concurrently.

The guest speaker for the anniversary service, Antoine Dumas, a graduate of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, presented the message for the day entitled “Baptism of the Holy Spirit.” The youth at Hebron church have chosen Christ as their personal Savior, realizing the call placed on their lives to do His will and to further the ministry of this church in the community.

Praises in the morning became showers of blessings in the afternoon as the anniversary celebration concluded with Hands in Ministry’s third annual Silent Praise Without Bounds Concert. With songs of praise and worship, the youth celebrated the realization of their vision, a year of challenges and victories.

—Kristia M. Beaubrun, communication director, Hebron church

Hundreds Attend Affordable Housing Workshops

Hundreds of church members and community residents crowded into the Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, on May 16 to attend housing workshops sponsored by the Northeastern Conference Stewardship Department and conducted by the National Assistance Corporation of America (NACA).

The program consisted of two workshops designed to help individuals with distinct housing needs. The first workshop, lasting two hours, was geared to homeowners who are facing the prospect of foreclosure. The inner-city neighborhoods of New York have been hit particularly hard during the current recession with higher foreclosure rates than the national average. Adventist church members have not been exempt from this crisis. The stewardship department has sought to provide help to members in this situation. NACA is a non-profit community agency that advocates on behalf of homeowners before banks and other lenders to insure fair lending practices. It is currently certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide counseling to homeowners in crisis while negotiating with banks to restructure unaffordable mortgages through the loan modification process. Because of its non-profit status, NACA does not charge any fees in connection with its home retention services. The agency has sponsored home-saving fairs in convention centers throughout the country. At these events thousands of homeowners meet face to face with representatives of the major banks who agree to be present beforehand to work out a modification resulting in reduced interest rates and monthly payments (NACA.com). Darwin Monro, the director of NACA’s New York/New Jersey office is a member of the Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton, New York.

Hebron’s congregation, which speaks French, Creole, and English, also hoped this new service would attract former members and nearby residents.

Darwin Monro is the director of New York/New Jersey office of the National Assistance Corporation of America and a member of the Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church.
A second workshop was provided in the afternoon for potential first-time home buyers. Participants were educated on topics such as pre-qualifying for mortgages, repairing damaged credit, and document preparation. A special “thank you” has been extended to Melwyn Mounter, pastor of the Hanson Place church, for hosting the event. Since May 16, several churches have sponsored workshops with NACA, including Emmaus and Mount of Olives in Brooklyn. On June 6 the Mt. Sinai church hosted a “standing room only” seminar in Queens. Stewardship leader Dwight Hamilton reports that the program introduced the church to community residents who would not come otherwise. The Linden church hosted a seminar on August 1.

—Daniel Honore, stewardship director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Hosts Chaplaincy Training

As a result of the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, the Northeastern Conference (NEC) continues to equip its pastors and workers to meet the potential challenges. On July 19 and 20 the NEC Adventist Community Services (ACS) department hosted a training in Group Crisis Intervention.

It is the first module of a series of courses leading up to certification in Disaster Chaplaincy that will be recognized by the Department of Homeland Security. The class was conducted by Steve Willsey, North American Division Adventist Community Services Crisis Care coordinator in the eastern United States. A total of 39 participants successfully completed the module. These included representatives from the Allegheny East, New Jersey, and Northeastern conferences.

—W. Fitzgerald Kerr, Adventist Community Services director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Academy Looks to the Future

The Northeastern Academy (NEA) family is thankful to God for His many blessings on the institution during the 2009-2010 school year. Throughout the year, NEA established partnerships with Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama; The Edna Mainly School of the Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies; Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California; and Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. These strategic partnerships provide the students the opportunity of taking college-level courses at a reduced rate throughout their tenure at NEA, thus enabling them to earn up to 18 college credits by the time they graduate. Next, NEA students performed very well on the New York State Regents Exam in the areas of Geometry, Algebra 1 and 2, Trigonometry, Living Environment, and Global 2.

Northeastern Academy is off to a great start for the 2010-2011 school year. As co-laborers with the Master, the importance of seeking Him for divine guidance and direction is critical to the overall success of the initiatives. The Scriptures plainly state that it is “not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit saith the Lord” (Zacariah 4:6). This Scripture resonates deep within the hearts of the administrators, faculty, and staff, as they strive to move NEA towards a brighter future. Opposition and challenges are sure to come, but they are assured and confident that while in the midst of trouble, the Lord has promised to see them through.

**Primary Goals for the 2010-2011 school year:**
- Placing a greater emphasis on becoming a school of prayer in cooperation with the divine in seeking to restore the image of the Creator within the lives of the students.
- Providing a rigorous academic program as well as a greater opportunity for students to exercise creative expression via the arts.
- Increasing community service outreach initiatives within the present location.
- Providing professional development opportunities for staff and faculty members.
- Competency in the use of the Hunter System and the Virtual Classroom Technology.
- Planning and preparing for the Interim Evaluation visit 2010-2011.
- Enhancing the quality of instruction via peer evaluation processes and joint interdepartmental lesson-planning collaborations.
- Improving marketing outreach strategies of NEA by increasing visibility via radio, television, the Internet, live presentation, print media, and video.
- Improving the effectiveness and implementation of schoolwide communication processes, internal and external.

—James Bennett, Sr., principal, Northeastern Academy

Thirty-nine people from the Allegheny East, New Jersey, and Northeastern conferences participated in Group Crisis Intervention training held by the Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Department.
As One was the theme for the 2010 Adventurer Spring Escape held at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, May 14-16. About 175 Adventurers, Pathfinders, parents, and leaders were in attendance for the entire weekend.

On Friday night the Pathfinders presented a skit entitled The Body, illustrating that if the feet won’t carry people around and the eyes won’t see because they don’t feel like seeing today, then the entire body is not able to function as God meant it to function—a unit that shines for Jesus.

On Sabbath, each Adventurer had the opportunity to go to “the clinic” to check their vital signs, height and weight, and visit the different stations that were full of learning activities about what makes up the body. Stories helped to make the concepts easier to understand, such as: “How about a trip through the ear canal? You might have been on the Erie Canal, but this canal is really different!” or “Have you ever been behind the scenes? Well, you are going behind the “seeing” (eyes) to see how amazing your eyes are!” They explored in depth about the eye, ear, mouth, brain, heart, digestive system, respiratory system, muscles, skin, and hands.

The event concluded on Saturday night with a pretend surgery conducted by “Ben Carson, M.D.,” played by James Davison. Each child and adult “scrubbed in,” complete with booties, cap, mask, gloves, and gowns. Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries director, was the patient and he was very patient. The team of operating room professionals found various things in his body. His cauliflower brain had a few things that needed replacing. His heart, though mostly good, needed a few repairs. “Carson” illustrated how God changes hearts, even though as a surgeon, the doctor is limited in what he can do. At one point the patient “lost his marbles” and they went rolling all over the place. However, they were quickly replaced.

In addition to the laughter of this humorous surgery, “Carson” told his life story. He gave his life to Jesus, and what a difference it made. Choices he made have altered the entire course of his life because he chose Jesus. As a little boy he was transformed from a failure into an individual with a bright future.

A special “thank you” to the booth presenters and helpers throughout the weekend! They blessed many children and adults.

The event always ends with a commitment to Jesus and some fun games. Each individual put a puzzle piece on a body, showing that everyone is connected to make the body of Christ. The games included “Three Legs Are Better than One,” “Coconut Connection,” “Battle of the Hill,” and “With or Without Eyes.”

This annual event is full of fun and thought-provoking activities for the children to experience, and the ultimate goal this year was to go into the communities ready to work together as one.

For more information on starting an Adventurer club in a Northern New England Conference church, e-mail Lanita.medina@gmail.com.

—Lanita Medina, communication correspondent, Camden church
**Stepping Out Results in Loss**

It started when Norman Medina, D.D.S., from Camden, Maine, decided it was time to lose weight, so he began to research what would work for him. As the pounds came off and he kept up his research, his wife, Lanita, experimented with ways to feed him. She made him a nice variety of food that was healthy, tasty, and quick to prepare. In the process they discovered some tips that really worked and made this weight loss “chores” very do-able. Incidentally, these followed Ellen White’s health principles very closely!

As the months passed and the pounds kept coming off, Medina’s patients started noticing. Many of them asked, “Are you sick or are you losing weight on purpose?” The next question that followed was, “How are you doing this so successfully? Tell us! We want to learn too!”

Medina started mulling around the idea about teaching a cooking/weight-loss class that would help his patients and anyone in the community who wanted to learn what he had discovered. He is not the kind of person to speak up front, so this was a big step for him. After “experimenting” with fellow church members, they encouraged him to invite the community.

Although this may not seem like a large number, 30 people signed up. The plan, however, was not only to teach them the principles, but also to feed them a full meal, show them how the meal was prepared, and have them taste other dishes.

With a crew of six church members to help cook, feed, clean up, and set up, the program began. The first week the group prayed, sweated and worried, and almost ran out of food. Lanita and her crew explained how the food was prepared, and then each participant was served a meal in an eight-inch cast iron pan. At the last session, each participant took home his/her pan so they could continue making food in it. Copies of the recipes were also handed out each week so participants could make notes as different foods and variations to the recipes were explained. Medina presented each topic using word pictures and illustrations, along with PowerPoint presentations and handouts to make it interesting and interactive.

Kay Fischer, a registered dietician, was a valuable resource, as many people had dietary questions.

At the end of the five weeks it was exciting to hear the success stories of not only weight loss, but healthier lifestyles. One woman came to learn how to help her husband who was a diabetic and overweight. By the end of the five weeks he had lost 15 pounds. When he went to visit his physician that week his doctor said, “What have you been doing? This is a miracle! You can cut way down on your insulin, and your blood pressure is within the normal limits. I would love to know how you accomplished this!”

“Stepping out of our comfort zones is not easy . . . but to see results like what we saw was really a lot of fun, and it sure motivates me to keep a healthy lifestyle also!” says Medina.

—Lanita Medina, communication correspondent, Camden church

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**LEGAL NOTICE**
Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the fourth quadrennial session of the Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., will be held at Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine, on Sunday, October 31, 2010. The first meeting of the session is called for 10:00 a.m. The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers, an executive committee, and the departmental directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the constituency and bylaws committee, and any other committees as may be necessary (Article IV, Section 1e). The nominating committee shall meet on Sunday, October 3, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the Portland Seventh-day Adventist Church (White Memorial), Portland, Maine. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the nominating committee to serve the constituency, constitution and bylaws committee, and any other committees as may be necessary (Article IV, Section 1a). The Organizing Committee shall meet on Sunday, October 3, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern New England Conference office headquarters (Article IV, Section 1a).

Michael F. Ortel, President
Merlin L. Knowles, Secretary
Ministerial Corner

As a body of believers, our mission is to go and make disciples. In the SHAREHIM OUTREACH LEADERSHIP TEAM HANDBOOK (p. 6), the disciple-making process is called “Evangeliving.” “Evangeliving is honoring Christ and reaching out to the others in our life. It is about growing relationships, building trust, and reflecting God’s love to those who have not yet accepted Christ as Savior and Lord.”

Clinton Madden, a member of the Salem church where Ray Daniels is the pastor, will tell you of his neighbor of 27 years who bought a new Harley Davidson motorcycle hoping to find happiness, but did not. One day this neighbor asked Madden for his secret of happiness. That question resulted in the neighbor receiving Bible studies.

John Amoah, pastor of the Quinebaug and Connecticut Ghanaian Company district, will tell you that Evangeliving is planting a new Ghanaian church in Boston and establishing a new Ghanaian company in Greater Bridgeport whose mother church, the North Bronx Ghana church, gave them $30,000 for doing Evangeliving.

Skip Johnson, pastor of the Waterford (New London), Norwich, and Willimantic district, will tell you that Evangeliving is training 60 of his members, ages 12 to 83, to share the good news of the gospel through evangelistic meetings in his three churches.

Luiz Biazotto, Light America director, will tell you that Evangeliving is 30 Light America workers, 10 pastors, and their 17 churches evangelizing Boston during 2010. This is indeed what Evangeliving is about.

—Whitford Shaw, ministerial director, Southern New England Conference

Fitchburg Church Thrilled with Revival

The Fitchburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, was packed when Tom Dombrowski, the church’s former pastor, baptized nine people at the close of a 30-night evangelistic series. Two more were baptized during the series and others are still preparing for baptism.

Dombrowski and the church members are thrilled with the spirit of revival the Holy Spirit is bringing about.

The speaker was Andre Waller, an Oakwood University religion graduate, former associate publishing director for Allegheny East Conference, and founder of a training school for Bible workers. Atlantic Union College theology graduate Lance Wilbur presented a health lecture each evening.

Preparation for this series began long before the meetings started. Church members gathered after the church service every week to pray. Several months before the series Dombrowski took church members through Dennis Smith’s book, 40 DAYS OF PRAYER. Every Sunday a small group of members and missionaries (young people trained by Andre Waller as Bible workers) would knock on doors in the surrounding community, visiting, praying with people, and starting Bible studies.

God blessed their hard work and answered their prayers. Fifty to 60 people attended each evening (almost half of Fitchburg church’s membership), with non-church members comprising about 20 percent of the nightly attendance.

—Sandra Dombrowski, former church member, Fitchburg church

Southern New England School Feature

At South Shore Seventh-day Adventist School in Braintree, Massachusetts, we challenge our students academically, care about them personally, and encourage them spiritually. Our church and school are committed to providing an educational environment that supports students and their families as they grow in Christ. South Shore school is Adventist education at its best.

www.sneckids.org. Click on “Schools.”
Pleasant Street Church Utilizes Summertime for Outreach

During the summer with the temperature rising, the Pleasant Street Seventh-day Adventist Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, reached out to the community, changing lives and building relationships.

The fourth Sabbath of each month was designated for outreach programs. Church members, adults and children alike, visited, sang, worshipped, and prayed with the residents at the Parson Hills Nursing Home. It was a joy to see the smiles on the faces of the residents as they clapped their hands while singing familiar songs they remembered from the past. Later that day a well-balanced meal was taken to the Worcester Veteran’s Shelter just in time for dinner, coordinated by Ben Ogunjobi, personal ministries director, and served by the church family. This meal helps veteran families meet a basic need while also developing and strengthening relationships among the families as they help each other.

Lowell All Nations is Officially a Church

The Lowell All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Company in Lowell, Massachusetts, was officially organized into a church on May 15.

In 1995, Paul Koroma, then a graduate from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, came to Lowell with Matthew’s inspiration to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” His soul-winning approach was powerful and many became a part of the new group of believers. God blessed mightily and on June 6, 2001, the group was organized into a company under the volunteer leadership of Koroma and was welcomed into the Southern New England Conference.

Koroma was eventually transferred to Rhode Island in 2006 and Moses Kiragu then assumed the leadership role. He served for one year and was then succeeded by Eric Voyard in August 2007.

On church organization Sabbath many people gathered to enjoy the blessings of the Lord. The Ogembo family, consisting of nine adults and known as one of the longest-serving families in the church, traveled from New Hampshire to be with their church family. George Mathu, absent for more than four years, was also present. Many visitors and members, along with special guests from the Southern New England Conference and Atlantic Union Conference, filled the pews.

A special recognition ceremony was conducted by Voyard to honor the longest-serving families. Koroma and his family were given special recognition for being instrumental in starting the group. Juan Borges, Southern New England Conference executive secretary, presented the message for the service.

Athol Church Welcomes Its Newest Member

On Sabbath afternoon, June 26, about 50 people gathered around a swimming pool for the baptism of Kendell Bidwell, who became a sixth-generation Adventist. He was baptized by Warren Ruf, the church’s former pastor.

Bidwell is in his senior year at South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. He is now an official member of the Athol Seventh-day Adventist Church in Athol, Massachusetts.
Reddition de Compte: Un Rapport de Progrès sur Haïti

“Le Christ a confié son œuvre de l’Evangile aux hommes afin de faire avancer les causes de son royaume sur la terre et de préparer ses serviteurs pour une plus grande responsabilité” 5 SDA BC, p.510. Chaque homme recevant les trésors du Maître auront à rendre compte d’une manière responsable devant le juge de toute la terre. La transparence c’est la marque déposée du ciel.

Le terrible et catastrophique tremblement de terre d’une magnitude de 7.0 qui, le 12 janvier 2010 avait frappé Port-au-Prince et les villes avoisinantes, causa 230,000 morts, détruisirent 250,000 demeures résidentielles, 3,000 bâtiments commerciaux et laissa 1.5 million habitants sans abris. L'église adventiste subit une perte énorme dans le sinistre. Six cents membres sont morts, 55 églises se sont effondrées, et un grand nombre de membres sont sans abris. En revanche, la communauté internationale déversa sur Haïti comme une onde, d’aides alimentaires et d’autres articles de première nécessité et promit des millions même des milliards en aide financière. Il est rapporté que seulement 3% de cette aide monétaire est déboursée jusqu’ici. Le premier ministre d’Haïti déclare que la communauté internationale a entamé de développer des stratégies pour aider le peuple haïtien à solutionner le problème de logement permanent; mais tout s’avance à pas d’écrevisse.

L’Eglise Adventiste Mondiale, y compris l’Union Atlantique s’engagea à fournir le plein soutien aux membres d’église en Haïti. L’appel a été lancé à nos membres en vue d’aider, ils en ont répondu.

comme une onde, d’aides alimentaires et d’autres articles de première nécessité et promit des millions où même des milliards en aide financière. Il est rapporté que seulement 3% de cette aide monétaire est déboursée jusqu’ici. Le premier ministre d’Haïti déclare que la communauté internationale a entamé de développer des stratégies pour aider le peuple haïtien à solutionner le problème de logement permanent; mais tout s’avance à pas d’écrevisse.

L’église adventiste mondiale, y compris l’union atlantique s’engagea à fournir le plein soutien aux membres d’église en Haïti. L’appel a été lancé à nos membres en vue d’aider, ils en ont répondu.

Tandis que Maranatha International reconstruit les églises et écoles à Port-au-Prince, l’ADRA (Adventist Development Relief Agency) International s’engage dans un projet d’abris transitoires.

L’union Atlantique, de concert avec ses fédérations sœurs a contribué $612,837.15. Le montant est divisé comme suit:

Greater NY Conference .......................................... $232,957.06
Northeastern Conference ...................................$220,000.00
Union Atlantique, Conférence de Bermudes, New York Conference, SNEC, NNEC .......... $159,882.09

La portion administrée par l’Union Atlantique s’élève à $159,872.15 est budgétisée en dépenses suivantes.

Déboursées
100 Tentes données...............................................$31,619.00
Subvention donnée par l’Union Atlantique .......... $10,000.00
Médicaments et autres articles médicaux/Hôpital .... $6,000.00
Subvention pour l’Université
pour étudiants affectés.............................................$6,000.00
Equipement pour la Radio Espérance.................$3,000.00

Non-Déboursées
Tentes Additionelles Achetées ..................................$35,000.00
Médicaments et autres articles médicaux/Hôpital ...... $7,487.21
Projet de reconstruction
(églises, membres d’église) .......................................$54,000.00
Divers .................................................................$6,775.88

En mars dernier, comme preuve de support, une équipe administrative de l’Union Atlantique, composée de Pasteurs Carlyle Simmons, Leon Thomassian, Dionisio Olivo et moi visitions Haïti pour donner une portion des fonds à l’Union Haïtienne. En juillet 2010, Pasteur Leon Thomassian et moi retournions en Haïti en vue de discuter avec les responsables de l’Eglise, les abris temporaires et les projets de reconstruction et nous avions confié une autre somme à l’Union pour l’hôpital, la radio et l’université.

Au nom des églises haïtiennes et l’Union Atlantique, Je voudrais exprimer les sentiments de mes remerciements à la Division Nord Américaine, aux fédérations sœurs de l’Union Atlantique et à la Conference Générale pour leur généreuse contribution aux frères et sœurs d’Haïti.

La division est répartie ainsi:
Conférence Générale............................................ $382,752.55
Division Nord Américaine...................................$1,839,222.15
Oakwood University ................................................ $10,000.00
Les autres Divisions et Unions...............................$1,246,273.37

Louis Métellus is the Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries vice president and the Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries director.
Miles de adventistas de todo Venezuela celebraron este mes los cien años de presencia adventista en el país, honrando la labor de los pioneros, mostrando el crecimiento de la iglesia y desafiando a una nueva generación de venezolanos a que continúen con la misión de la iglesia.

El evento del pasado 8 y 9 de agosto reunió a los principales líderes de la iglesia, incluyendo a Ted N. C. Wilson, presidente de la Iglesia Adventista mundial, en la que fue su primera visita a este país sudamericano.

En su mensaje alusivo, Wilson felicitó al gobierno de Venezuela por su compromiso con la libertad religiosa y le recordó a la audiencia, de unas trece mil personas, cuál es la identidad de la iglesia:

“Somos un pueblo de esperanza, que espera la venida del Señor,” dijo.

“Somos un pueblo que busca el reavivamiento y la reforma, que espera ser transformado.”

En su primer viaje oficial fuera de Norteamérica después de su elección como presidente de la iglesia mundial en junio, Wilson alabó la obra de los adventistas venezolanos y desafió a cada miembro a que avance y “expandan la obra de Dios de manera dinámica.”

Los líderes locales aceptaron el desafío, aprovechando el impulso de la celebración para buscar estrategias que favorezcan un mayor crecimiento de la iglesia.

Venezuela: la Iglesia Adventista Celebra su Centenario en el País

La expansión del mensaje de esperanza de la iglesia, no solo en Caracas, sino en todo el país, se encuentra en las manos de los feligreses de Venezuela, dijo Israel Leito, presidente de la iglesia en Interamérica.

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“Esta celebración es un punto de inflexión para la iglesia de Venezuela,” dijo Josney Rodríguez, presidente de la Misión de Venezuela Oriental, un territorio eclesiástico formado hace poco. El centenario motivará a los jóvenes a que “avancen y terminen la tarea que comenzaron los pioneros,” dijo.

Un joven llamado Rodny Emmons, de 30 años, dijo que la rica herencia de la iglesia en el país implica responsabilidades.

“Siento que mi generación tiene un gran desafío. . . . Vivimos en un tiempo cuando tenemos que ser parte de una fuerza que pueda adaptar el mensaje para llegar a otros con la verdad a través de los medios de comunicación, las redes sociales,” dijo Emmons, que es tesorero de la Misión de Venezuela Oriental.

Durante años, la iglesia de Venezuela formó parte de la Unión Colombo-Venezolana, con sede en Colombia. En 1989, cuando se estableció la Unión Venezolana-Antillana, la iglesia estaba compuesta por tres asociaciones y misiones y unos 43,000 miembros. Hoy día, la iglesia cuenta con doce asociaciones y misiones y casi 250,000 miembros.

“Queríamos usar este evento como una plataforma de lanzamiento, para que Venezuela pueda saber más de la Iglesia Adventista y de nuestro compromiso con una sociedad mejor y con la expansión del evangelio,” dijo Rodríguez.

Varios líderes de otras denominaciones religiosas también hablaron durante el evento, y felicitaron a la Iglesia Adventista por su crecimiento, influencia y compromiso constante con las verdades bíblicas.

Representantes de la Organización de Alimentos y Agricultura de la ONU en Venezuela aplaudieron la obra de la Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales (ADRA), el brazo humanitario de la iglesia, por su labor en las comunidades necesitadas.

Los líderes de la Misión Venezolana Oriental están comprometiendo el cincuenta por ciento de su presupuesto de evangelismo para la televisión, la radio y las publicaciones, para alcanzar a los miembros de la comunidad, especialmente en Caracas, la capital del país y su ciudad más poblada (más de dos millones de habitantes).

En la actualidad, hay en Caracas casi veinte mil adventistas.

La expansión del mensaje de esperanza de la iglesia, no solo en Caracas, sino en todo el país, se encuentra en las manos de los feligreses de Venezuela, dijo Israel Leito, presidente de la iglesia en Interamérica.

“Los animo a que, al celebrar el pasado, los pioneros, las victorias ganadas y las instituciones establecidas aquí, sientan el desafío de llenar el país con el mensaje de vida, del pronto regreso del Señor,” dijo.

En Venezuela hay casi 250,000 adventistas que se reúnen en 849 iglesias. En el país, la Iglesia Adventista cuenta con una universidad, varias clínicas y decenas de instituciones educativas.

Source: Adventist News Network (ANN)


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Source: Adventist News Network (ANN)

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).

The contemporary world is confronted by grave ethical, medical, and social problems resulting from increasing sexual permissiveness and associated promiscuity. Because Christians are a part of the larger social community, these attitudes and behaviors have infiltrated the Seventh-day Adventist Church as well, demanding that we address them. So serious are the challenges presented by sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) that the United Nations, in conjunction with most of the world's governments, the health-care community, religious, political, and economic leaders, has instituted a series of major research and health-education programs that focus on prevention and treatment. The goal is to prevent, cure, and minimize the effects—or at least slow the spread—of these diseases.

At particular risk are youth entering puberty at increasingly younger ages, when they are especially vulnerable to peer pressure and a barrage of media and peer messages that treat casual sex outside marriage as acceptable and normal. Many youth are sexually active early in their teen years and soon become well-established in patterns of sexual activity. Correlated with increased sexual activity is a dramatic increase in STDs associated with serious physical and emotional problems. Advances have been made along several lines: research has provided more accurate data; benefits of using condoms to reduce unwanted pregnancy and the spread of STDs have been documented; dangers of promiscuity have been recognized; more effective treatment has reduced the spread and progression of many STDs; risk of long-term emotional damage resulting from casual sex has been recognized; and support has grown for the position that abstinence from extramarital sex preserves sexual and emotional health.

These advances, despite their limitations, have proved beneficial and should be encouraged for their positive effects. Seventh-day Adventist caregivers should be encouraged to participate in promoting such efforts and deserve the support of church members as they do so. A pragmatic approach to dealing with these serious problems and the use of appropriate interventions should by no means be interpreted as endorsement or encouragement of sexual activity outside marriage or of unfaithfulness within marriage. Instead, these efforts must be seen as compassionate attempts to prevent or reduce the negative consequences of detrimental sexual behaviors.

At times, family members, and pastors, teachers, counselors, physicians, and others in helping professions may find themselves working with individuals who, despite strong counsel, refuse to turn from sexual decadence and live by God’s high standard of morality. In such cases, those entrusted with ministry may, as a last resort, counsel specific individuals to use contraceptive and prophylactic methods such as condoms in an attempt to prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of spreading life-decimating STDs. Utmost care should be taken when making such an intervention to make it clear to the individual(s) and members of the community involved that this extreme measure should in no way be misconstrued as a scriptural sanction for sexual intimacy outside marriage. Such action on the part of professionals should be considered interim and utilized only in individual cases. Though such interventions may provide a little time for grace to do its work in human hearts, they do not provide a viable long-term solution. The church must remain committed to making the most of every opportunity to reinforce the wisdom of God’s design for human sexuality and to calling men and women to the highest standard of moral conduct.

This statement was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee on Sunday, September 27, 1998, in Iguacu Falls, Brazil.

To view the entire statement on the Internet, visit: adventist.org/beliefs/statements/main-stat37.html. The statement will continue in the November 2010 issue of the GLEANER.
The SNEC’s Family Ministries Department is proud to host
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.

OBITUARIES

GERARD, June A. —91, b. Dec. 14, 1918, in Quincy, Mass.; d. Aug. 18, 2010, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. She graduated from the New England Sanitarium and Hospital with a nursing degree in 1940 and was employed there, as well. She worked as a nurse in industrial medicine and long-term care. She was predeceased by her husband, Earl (Joye) Gerard, M.D. September 19, 1990. She is survived by three sons, Geoffrey Gerard (Crystal) of Charlottesville, Va., Gregory Gerard (Nancy) of Calhoun, Ga., and Garland Gerard of Richland, Mich.; four grandchildren, Jessica, Grant, Andrew, and Allison.

GLADDEN, Edward L.—98, b. September 9, 1911, in Berkshire, Vt.; d. July 10, 2010, in Richford, Vt. He was a member of the Abercorn Quebec Seventh-day Adventist Church in Abercorn, Quebec. He was baptized and joined the Richford Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richford, Vt., as a young person. He is survived by a daughter, Esther Gladden Knutson, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and other family members/friends, Randy and Tia Gladden, Debbie and Alex Bezerra, and Emilee Bouthillette.

HARTMAN, Richard D.—73, b. Mar. 28, 1936, in Endicott, N.Y.; d. Jan. 21, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was a member of the Saint Petersburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was a Sabbath School teacher serving for 25 years in Syracuse, N.Y., and for eight years in St. Petersburg. He also served as head elder in Syracuse, N.Y., for 10 years and as an elder in St. Petersburg for eight years. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judith, who served in the New York Conference office for 20 years; a son, Douglas Salisburys, M.D. (Phyllis); a daughter, Denise (Rob) of St. Petersburg, Fla.; a brother, Ronald of Johnson City, N.Y.; sisters, Darla Walburger of Endicott, N.Y., and Penny Martin, Mesquite, Texas, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

MILLER, Myrtle M.—89, b. Apr. 14, 1921, in Jamaica, West Indies; d. Jun. 19, 2010, in Springfield, Massachusetts. She was member of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. She held many offices throughout the years including assistant church clerk, Sabbath School superintendent, assistant communication secretary, children’s choir director, sanctuary choir director, building committee secretary/treasurer, pianist, and treasurer for many years. She served as member of the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee for ten years. Her son, Neville Sweeney, predeceased her in 1996, and her sister, Viola Kelly, in 1988. She is survived by a son Byron Sweeney (Barbara) of Springfield, Mass.; two daughters, Carol Ward (Robert) of Granby, Mass., and Michele Grooms (David) of Round Rock, Texas, eleven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

GLEANER — Important Web Sites

Adventist Public Affairs & Religious Liberty, North American Division — www.nadfreedom.org
Liberty Magazine — www.libertymagazine.org
International Religious Liberty Association — www.irla.org
North American Religious Liberty Association — www.religiousliberty.info
Public Affairs & Religious Liberty General Conference — www.adventistliberty.org

The Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL) director in the local conference is also available if information is needed (see page 31 for the conference office numbers).
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K-12 POSITION—LANGUAGE ARTS AND ENGLISH TEACHER/DEPARTMENT CHAIR
required of Seventh-day Adventist academy in urban New York. Master’s degree or bachelor’s degree plus experience of at least five years, as an equivalent with Adventist denominational teacher certification and with advanced academic training in school administration. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

K-8 POSITION—TEACHER
with ability to teach all subjects at the elementary and middle school level between grades K-8, with Seventh-day Adventist denominational certification. Bachelor’s degree required plus at least 3 years of experience in an urban setting. Must be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist. Be able to direct the school choir and willing to engage in urban student recruitment.

K-8 POSITION—TEACHER/PRINCIPAL
required of Seventh-day Adventist denominational school in urban New York—master’s degree required, or Bachelor’s plus experience with academic knowledge in school law, general laws affecting schools, and leadership. Experience of at least five years in any similar, equivalent position. Required to be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist and a member of a Seventh-day Adventist church, visit churches in an urban area on weekends and engage in preaching, and recruitment activities.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY’S SCHOOL OF RELIGION
seeks professor for winter semester 2011. A Ph.D. or D.Min., developed skills in evangelism, and ministerial training required. Candidate must manifest contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of Scripture, and deep passion for Seventh-day Adventist message and mission. Ability to engage students in the classroom is essential. Send résumé, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references as e-mail attachments to Greg King, Religion Search Committee Chair, e-mail: gking@southern.edu; phone: (423) 236-2975; fax: (423) 236-1976.

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