EVANGELISM
Beyond the Church Walls
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In this issue we include highlights of the Atlantic Union one-day, power-packed evangelism homecoming rallies in Syracuse and Brooklyn New York. Other features include: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. The cover photo is by iStockphoto.
Over the past several years we have given a great deal of emphasis to the primacy of evangelism. This we must never cease to do, since it’s the life-blood of the church’s mission. Therefore, we thank God for the many precious persons brought into the fold—the church—through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Nevertheless, in keeping with the concept of the “outward and upward look” (see November 2011 editorial), I would like to suggest the following: That during this first year of a new decade—2011—we give ourselves also to the nurture of the faithful (young and old), and especially those who have recently joined the church.

The psalmist David, in Psalm 84:3, envied the birds that lived around the house of the Lord: “Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.”

Sparrows were considered in Bible times as worthless (five for two farthings), needy creatures, requiring food and a place to live. Because they were so numerous, they were driven away. But in the house of God (the altar), they found safety, rest, delight, society, nearness, and were not forgotten by God (Luke 12:6).

This must also be true for every believer who comes to the house of God for refuge and fellowship. Christians come to church as they would a hospital for healing and nurture, . . . not to be verbally bashed and driven away. At the altar of the house of God, Christians come to find peace, fulfilled needs, love, and closeness to God.

But unlike the sparrow, it is not every bird that does this. The eagle is too ambitious. The vulture is too foul. The cormorant too greedy. The hawk too war-like. The ostrich too wild. And the owl too fond of darkness. But the sparrow and the swallow— they are little and loving.

As the house of God is a nest for sparrows, so it must also be for our children. The sanctuary of God is a nursery for our young. There, they will be safe and free like the swallow, the “bird of liberty.”

“The house of God is a nest for sparrows, so it must also be for our children.

The sanctuary of God is a nursery for our young.”

Let me take this opportunity to appeal for greater and more detailed attention given to children’s ministries in our churches. Let every opportunity be taken to nurture our children and keep them safe for time and eternity. If they are joyful and happy in their holy worship to God, they are more likely to return to the nest on a regular basis as the swallows do.

My wife, Lois, and I wish each of you a very blessed and spiritually fulfilling New Year as you labor for the Master in 2011, to help provide a nurturing environment for all people in the house of the Lord. ¶

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.

at www.atlantic-union.org
Last year, 2010, was a year of celebration for the Atlantic Union Conference and its six conferences. Of particular note were the three one-day evangelism homecoming rally celebrations that took place. Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, shared the following thoughts at the conclusion of the first rally held on May 1 in South Lancaster, Massachusetts: “I want to express profound thanks to God and to our pastors, teachers, lay evangelists, church members, literature evangelists, ministerial leaders, and union and conference administrators for their part in helping to achieve this milestone in the history of our union territory.” The major milestone to which he was referring was the 5,250 accessions by baptism or profession of faith achieved during 2009. King would repeat similar words of thanks at the conclusion of the two additional rallies held on October 2 in Syracuse, New York, and November 13 in Brooklyn, New York.

A renewed emphasis on evangelism in the Atlantic Union began back in 2006 when the Tell the World . . . Tell Atlantic Union initiative was launched. The initiative
focused on several areas, including baptisms, identifying and equipping members according to spiritual gifts, engaging the youth and educational system in supportive roles and leadership, blending prayer ministries with evangelism, and nurturing church members. The leaders of all six conferences have been doing their part involving members in many evangelistic events in their respective fields.

To acknowledge their hard work in evangelism, emphasis was placed on a time of reporting, celebrating, and sharing stories of the way the lord has blessed.

A report of the May rally was included in the June 2010 issue of the Gleaner. The Rally held in Syracuse, New York, was combined with the culmination of the New York Conference’s Revelation of Hope.
evangelistic series and included a Let’s Connect Live Sabbath School program in which the youth directors from the Atlantic Union, New York, and Northeastern conferences answered questions from young people. A one-hour mini-concert involving local talent was held at the beginning of the afternoon program.

The Rally in Brooklyn included Sabbath School, the morning worship service, and a musical concert interspersed throughout the afternoon rally. Choirs and groups from the local area participated. The events in Syracuse and Brooklyn were streamed live on the Internet by AUAM on www.auam.tv.

In all cases, pastors and lay persons from each of the conferences were recognized for their work in evangelism. Those who attended the events were encouraged to look up, in order to stay connected to God, and to look out, in order to reach the world, while, at the same time, nurturing the members in the church.

“The Atlantic Union Conference, comprised of more than 103,000 believers and 561 churches, has a big challenge on its hands to finish the work,” says King. “However, since God has not called us to be merely successful, but has certainly called us to be faithful, we know that He will enable us to do our part in this great work before us.”

The thread of evangelism continues in the Atlantic Union in 2011. It is important to reach out with the message of hope into the 16 unentered counties with no Adventist presence and into the 17 cities with a population of 100,000 people or more. Each member in the Atlantic Union can be involved as a living testimony of God’s goodness by taking this message that is needed today more than ever before beyond the walls of the church.

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.
In August 2010, pastors and teachers from the New York Conference attended a retreat at Camp Cherokee in Saranac Lake, New York. The devotional speaker for the event was Dennis Smith, director/speaker of Holy Spirit Ministries, and his messages are having a positive trickle-down effect in schools where students are being taught a practical understanding of what it means to let Jesus live in them.

Stop Trying!

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n August 2010, pastors and teachers from the New York Conference attended a retreat at Camp Cherokee in Saranac Lake, New York. The devotional speaker for the event was Dennis Smith, director/speaker of Holy Spirit Ministries, and his messages are having a positive trickle-down effect in schools where students are being taught a practical understanding of what it means to let Jesus live in them.

1. Immediately upon waking up, we should ask the Holy Spirit to fill us for the day.

2. All day long, whenever there is a problem to solve or a temptation to be resisted, we should give Jesus permission to take possession of our mind, words, and actions. For example, when I need to relate to someone I dislike I say, “Jesus, I have no ability to love this person as you do, but I give you permission to think your thoughts in my mind.” Since He is standing at the door knocking for entrance, this enables Jesus to “move in” and take possession of me. It frees me from acting in my own strength and thinking, saying, or doing things that I will regret. Furthermore, having the mind of Jesus changes my desires so that it is easy to obey. As the young people would say, “Sweet!”

Some of our schools may lack the latest in technology or sports equipment, but I’d trade both of those and so much more, any day, for the power of the Holy Spirit guiding teachers and students.

Often we talk about letting Jesus into our hearts. It is a nice thought, but does anyone know how we can actually make that happen? Smith taught it in remarkably simple, yet profoundly meaningful terms, and young people who heard it readily grasped it. In a nutshell, he said, “If you are trying to be like Jesus, stop trying.” He continued and explained that by trying, we will only get in the way. Instead, he advised us to follow the counsel of Galatians 2:20, which we can repeat, but which may not have sunk in. In this text Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live.” (Dead people don’t do much trying, now do they?) Instead, “Jesus Christ now lives in me.” Smith taught us to do two things:
I am the product of Adventist education; a graduate of the Greater New York Academy and Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School. I am currently a student-athlete at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and I can honestly say that education in an Adventist atmosphere during the most critical time in a child’s life, the adolescent years, helped mold my behavior and actions toward life. I am now a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, pursuing a major in Deviant Behavior and Social Control and a minor in Public Administration. My mother’s sacrifice for my Adventist education was well worth it, and I would like to publicly thank her for that!

During the fall of 2007, I participated in the All Stars Project, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting human development through the use of an innovative performance-based model. I was a part of Development School for Youth, a leadership training program that focuses on development for young people between the ages of 16 and 21. Students who graduate from the 14-week long program are placed in paid summer internships provided by sponsoring companies. My participation in the project landed me a paid internship with Health Plus Insurance Company during the summer of 2008.

In the fall of 2009, I stumbled on an ad on Facebook promoting a White House Internship. After much procrastination and battling with myself, I decided to apply to the program. After going through the vigorous application process, I was chosen out of thousands, along with 120 elite young people to be a part of the spring 2010 class. When I got the e-mail, stating that I had been chosen, I cried and thought to myself, Who else but God?

To have worked at the White House during such a historical era meant a lot to me. I worked in the Correspondence Office, where I had a chance to view the enormous amount of letters, faxes, e-mails, and gifts sent to the president of the United States. I was able to hear and see the voice of the American people—their struggles, their views, and their thanks. We had meetings on a weekly basis with some of the senior staffers, who gave us incredible advice. One piece of advice I remember the most is that “we should approach situations with humility and authenticity.” Needless to say, I met some incredible people. I also had the opportunity to tutor and mentor young people at a Washington, D.C., high school.

This experience humbled me, and motivated me even more to rise above what naysayers may project. I am in the process of applying to law school as well as graduate school while I am still playing basketball and tackling seven classes, but Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Many young people may think that this verse is a cliché, but honestly, I am a firm believer that we just have to have a little more faith in Christ as well as ourselves. My plans include establishing a non-profit organization to assist with juvenile justice reform, as well as helping young people to be empowered, whether it is through ministry, cultural activities, service projects, and/or mentoring sessions.

I would like to encourage my fellow Adventist young people to understand that being young is a struggle and being young and Adventist is even harder, but we can still be prosperous and not have to conform to the ways of the world. Seek out mentors, for they are needed in everyone’s life. Confucius said, “When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.” So, keep striving toward the goals that you have set for yourself, but remember to include God before you even think to start the process.

With the support of my East New York Seventh-day Adventist Church family, I am who I am today. So I just want to say, “Thank you!”

Crystal Ferguson shares her experience as a summer intern in Washington, D.C.
A Leap of Faith

It took a leap of faith for Peter to walk on water. It also takes a big step of faith for us to live up to God’s calling, especially as it relates to stewardship. During 2010, the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church family experienced growing evidences of faithful stewardship. This is reason to rejoice, because faithful stewardship is evidence of spiritual maturity, proof of a true disciple of Christ.

Since stewardship covers a wide range of areas, I want to focus on two measurable aspects as examples of faithful stewardship development in the church family. The first area is the stewardship of time. Although Bermuda’s speed limit is legally 35 km/hr, people are usually “speeding” on the highway of life. Many of us would get a speeding ticket if the way we are running our lives were to be measured against God’s speedometer.

Warwick church is not immune to this dangerous reality, so we began 2010 with a visit from Jim and Sally Hohnberger from Empowered Living Ministries. Jim was a successful businessman who was going through life as if running on two treadmills going in different directions. The Hohnbergers encouraged the members to “slow down” and pursue an authentic walk with God. I believe the week of meetings set the tone for faithful stewardship renewal, even though the word stewardship was never used.

I have noticed an increasing number of our church family making more time to be used in the service of God. Members spanning all ages are seeking ways to be involved in ministry according to their gifts. They are following their passion, and utilizing their own style for service. This is certainly an important evidence of faithful stewardship.

The other aspect of stewardship is that of finances.

Faithfulness in financial stewardship certainly requires a leap of faith . . .

Many people have been affected by the economic downturn in the past couple of years. Certainly, these are times in which all Christians have been tested to see whether they would remain faithful stewards in times of drought. However, irrespective of the economic climate, I rejoiced in knowing that our members have not only remained financially faithful but have also increased their giving.

Faithfulness in financial stewardship certainly requires a leap of faith, especially when finances are limited. This year the Lord has blessed us with a number of new members; and it is a joy to see these spiritual babies taking a leap of faith in their finances. Still, it is even more joyful to see mature members becoming faithful in their finances even in times of upheaval in the financial market. A growth in spirituality among members and a growth in membership have caused an increase of faithfulness in financial stewardship in our church. As a result, about 75 percent of our active members are returning what belongs to the Lord and more than 50 percent are going beyond that to give a freewill offering.

In spite of the financial crisis, God has been faithful. He has not failed us, and I know He will not fail you, either. If God has anything but the first place in your life, if you are struggling with financial stewardship, I challenge you, like Peter, to take a leap of faith and “walk on water.”

Slow down, Christian, and be blessed.

—Ariel Manzueta, pastor, Warwick church
GREATER NEW YORK

Greater New York Academy Hosts Pastor Appreciation Day

The faculty, staff, and students of Greater New York Academy hosted the first annual Pastor Appreciation Day on October 28, 2010, for the pastors of the Greater New York Conference who have consistently supported the academy. The program began after the pastors in attendance were seated in their places of honor in the newly-refurbished chapel.

Damali Boston, the academy’s chaplain, along with teachers Sandra Ball and Claudia Valcin, led a lively song service, and Student Association pastor Fred Edouard gave the opening prayer.

Lillian Mitchell, the academy’s principal, welcomed the pastors, teachers, and students, and shared with them the joy that she and the academy family experienced because the dream of hosting such an event had become a reality.

Keynote speaker Edy Gomez, who is the student pastor of the freshman class, reminded the audience that a pastor’s work is more than a job, it is a calling. One to which the pastors have committed themselves despite comparably low wages, great demand on their time, and scant regard or appreciation from many parishioners.

Gomez encouraged the pastors to continue working for the Lord, and urged his teachers and peers to continue to support their pastors. Gomez’s father was among the pastors who were honored.

Vice principal Loris LaBorde appealed to the pastors and teachers to work together in ministry because the work of education and redemption are one. He underscored this appeal by ending with the rallying cry, “All for one, and one for all!”

Students and teachers of the academy recognized the pastors with tributes, music, poetry, and special presentations. Tributes to the pastors were given by Roseanne Thornhill, senior class president; Walix Vacin, French and Spanish teacher; Deborah Nicoleau, history teacher; and Ebony Marks, vice president of the freshman class. The tributes were interspersed with poetry and musical selections by Justin Dempsey, the Delta Mu Chorale, Edison Alvarez, Danielle Samuel, Danielle Cornwall, Stephen Alexander, Shatika Lee, and Donna-Lee Streete. Each pastor was presented with a gift bag as a token of the love and appreciation from the academy family for their constant support and dedication, not only to Greater New York Academy, but to the youth in their congregations.

Following the ceremony in the chapel, the pastors were...
escorted to the neighboring community services building, where a gourmet meal was prepared for them by the faculty and staff of the academy.

In attendance were pastors Allan Hay, Anders Peralta, Andy Lagradelle, Angel Rodríguez, Anthony Romeo, Reginald Bartheimy, Daniel Zabaleta, Donnieval Walker, Easton Marks, G. Earl Knight, Gregory Carrol, Horace Russell, Jean Charles, John Pirozki, José Cortés, José Cruz, José Dominguez, Lincoln Smith, Lloyd Scharfenberg, Orette Michell, Pedro Gomez, Rohann Wellington, and Shane Vidal.

We look forward to the continued fostering of relationships between the academy and the pastors as we work together for the social, academic, and most importantly, the spiritual success of the students as we prepare them for the kingdom of heaven.

—Sydonne Walker, teacher, Greater New York Academy

Jackson Addresses Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department Graduates

The Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York, New York, was packed to capacity on Sabbath, November 20, 2010, for the annual consecration, investiture, and graduation service for Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department. Families, friends, and supporters all gathered to express their support for the 184 graduates representing the largest graduating class in the history of the conference’s youth department. The graduates stood ready, as duly qualified beneficiaries, to receive their blazers and insignias. The graduates were comprised of Certified Adventist Youth Leaders (AYLC), Master Guides (MG), Adventist Youth Emergency Services (AYES Corps), Pathfinder Leadership Awardees (PLA), Pathfinder Instructor Awardees (PIA), Adventurer Leadership Awardees (ALA) and the first-ever, and Adventurer Instructor Awardees (AIA).

Delivering the main address, Daniel Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, charged the graduates to be faithful like Moses. He cautioned that self-directed leadership will fail because spiritual leaders are always called and directed by God. “If God lights the fire,” he said, making reference to the burning bush, “He will keep the flames burning. It is never about you,” he told the graduates, “it is always about God.”

During the service, the youth ministries department also recognized the secretaries who served in the department. Those receiving recognition were Tina DeFranco, Mira Perez, Diosalma Melgar, Merisol Forrester, Joanne Cortés, and Veronica Chang.

—Eion Williamson, volunteer assistant to youth director, Greater New York Conference

The Delta Mu Chorale performed at the Pastor Appreciation Day hosted by the Greater New York Academy.

The Delta Mu Chorale performed at the Pastor Appreciation Day hosted by the Greater New York Academy.
International Students Adapt to American-style Education

Figuring out the wash cycles, and what exactly a dryer sheet does, is a typical battle for some incoming college students. Alma Salcedo, a senior at Atlantic Union College, said she had never even stumbled across a laundry room prior to moving to the campus four years ago from Venezuela.

“I had no idea how to do the laundry at first,” said Salcedo inside the Nelson Fieldhouse at AUC. “It’s hard to be apart from everyone, but it’s something I had to do. . . . The hardest part of moving was trying to learn the language. I didn’t know any English before moving, so that was a struggle at first.”

Salcedo is just one of a number of students adapting to the American lifestyle at AUC, as more than 40 percent of students are international.

Cindy Kurtzhals, director of public relations for AUC, said the diverse ethnicity on campus acts “as another learning tool for students. The students are able to learn from each other,” said Kurtzhals. “They’re able to learn about different cultures, languages, cuisines, and customs from all around the world just by talking to each other.”

Sabina Brzozowska, a senior at AUC, said public bathrooms and drinking fountains caught her off guard when she moved from Poland by herself eight years ago.

“I had to figure out how the drinking fountain worked at first,” joked Brzozowska. “And paper towels in bathrooms are free here. In Poland, you have to pay for paper towels.”

Toiletries and laundry aside, like most students at AUC, Brzozowska said she decided to study in America because it gave her more options.

“There’s a broader set of options in this country, and more opportunities for me,” she said. “After graduation I plan on continuing my education. . . . I’m going to try to get a master’s degree in clinical psychology.”

While getting adapted to the subtle difference
in culture, the most difficult transition for students is unanimous—the language—confirmed Bruno Monteiro, who moved with his family six years ago to Boston from the Republic of Cape Verde.

“It was a real struggle at times, and I won't lie, I wanted to give up sometimes,” said the 21-year-old senior. “I'd learn English all day, and then go home and have to speak Creole with my family, so it made things difficult. . . . The most difficult part of learning is trying to learn math and science terms because I have to translate the language and understand what they're talking about.”

Monteiro said he's grateful for the opportunity his parents have given him to further his education.

“Now, I'm living the American dream, and trying to go as far as possible and learn as much as I can,” said Monteiro sitting in a classroom at AUC. “My parents taught me not to feel comfortable with average, and I feel like I'm a role model to the rest of my community.”

Upon graduation this spring, Monteiro said he plans to pursue a master's degree in business, with the goal of opening up his own business some day.

Senior Emmanuel Lausier, 21, said he plays a crucial role in helping his parents adapt to the American culture.

“My parents (who moved from Haiti to West Orange, New Jersey) don't speak English, so I have to help them with filling out forms and documents,” said Lausier. “Also, they came from a completely different generation. All through elementary and middle school they were dressing me up with a tie and a nice shirt because that's how kids went to school in Haiti. Finally, in high school, I had to tell them that enough was enough because I didn't want to keep getting made fun of.”

Lausier hopes to further his education after this year, pursuing his master's degree in English with a concentration in secondary education.

With an incoming student population this year of about 400 students, Atlantic Union College is a Seventh-day Adventist institution. While furthering students' education, the school's primary goal is to prepare lives within the church and in the wider society around it by providing them with an education in a Christian setting, said Kurtzhals.

—Kevin Doherty, staff reporter, © 2010 SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.
Adventist students from public colleges and universities across upstate New York attended the first annual Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Retreat on October 8-10, 2010, at Camp Bristol Hills near Canandaigua, New York. The retreat was designed to allow students to grow spiritually and interact with their cohorts from other campuses. About 47 people attended all or part of the retreat. Some who came only for Sabbath left determined to come for the weekend next year. One participant from Rochester called this “the best retreat I’ve ever attended.” The schedule included time on Sabbath afternoon to hike nature trails around the camp.

Students led out in most of the services and will plan the retreat for next year. Eunice Shim, from SUNY Geneseo, was the Sabbath speaker. She challenged the students to draw closer to God and allow Him to use them on their campuses. Tom Albrecht from Syracuse University closed the Sabbath with a presentation for vespers. Special guests at the retreat included Bill Wood, youth ministries director for the Atlantic Union Conference, and Ron Pickell, ACF coordinator for the North American Division.

Students at other campuses in New York who want to participate in ACF activities or just want information on ACF should contact Gary Wagner, pastor and ACF coordinator for the New York Conference.

—Gary Wagner, coordinator, ACF/ New York Conference

EMT Shares Christ With Friends

The Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church in Roosevelt, New York, was one of the sites that held the series of evangelistic meetings sponsored by the New York Conference. A young man who attended the meetings asked for a copy of the PowerPoint presentations and an audio copy of the sermons that were being recorded for use on radio programs in Albany. On one of the nights when the meeting was not held, the young man went to his EMT training and, after the training session ended, told his friends about the Revelation seminar. He told them he just wanted to share with them all that he was learning.

When they asked him specifically about what he had learned, he turned on his laptop and clicked through the PowerPoint presentation while playing the recorded audio sermon. They were there from 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Subsequently, the young man made his decision to accept Jesus and is considering baptism. The young man’s knowledge was limited, but that didn’t keep him from sharing what he knew and from being a source of inspiration to not only his friends but to those holding the meetings.

—Miguel Crespo, pastor, Roosevelt church

Fall Harvest in Central New York

All the seed sowing of the New York Conference members through mass mailings and Bible workers’ efforts in the Central New York area paid off. From Pulaski to Syracuse, Central Square to Fulton, the churches that participated in the Revelation of Hope seminars reaped an abundant harvest of new members in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. On the evening of October 30, 2010, the Dexterville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dexterville, New York, warmed up the baptismal tank for six individuals who were ready to participate in a memorial service symbolic of “death to self” and a “new creation” in Christ.

Members of three churches, Camden, Pulaski, and the new church plant in Oswego, witnessed the baptism. We are told there are more on the way. What a harvest indeed.

We want to not only congratulate the new members for their outward expression and commitment to Christ, we also want to encourage all church members to remember what it was like to be a new babe in the faith. We want the members to help foster these new converts as they adjust and learn what it means to serve Christ as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

—John Adolfi, member, Dexterville church

New members, from left to right are Fran Conroy, Oswego church plant; Sandra Bruns, Oswego church plant; Magwood McCrady III, Oswego church plant; Larry Mirra, Camden; Teresa Mirra, Camden; and Michael Lake, Pulaski.
New York Conference Holds Evangelistic Meetings in the Greater Syracuse Area

Three weeks of evangelistic meetings in the greater Syracuse area and beyond culminated with an evangelism rally at the Driver’s Village Convention Center on October 2, 2010. More than 700 attended and others watched live via the Internet on www.auam.tv. The rally was a joint effort between the Atlantic Union, New York, and Northeastern conferences. Ron Halvorsen, Sr., was the guest speaker for the weekend, and Bible workers are following up on the decisions turned in from the event.

There were 15 sites during the evangelistic series, most of which had substantial involvement by lay people. The locations included the meeting place for a new church plant, a prison site, a university site, and a Karen language site. To date about 20 baptisms are expected to take place, with additional people making decisions.

John Livergood, pastor of the Adirondack District, presented his first evangelistic series at the Ellisburg church-sponsored site at the Adams Restaurant and Brew in Adams, New York. Several guests attended the first three nights of meetings, and on the fourth night, when it was time to begin, there were no guests. Only four people were present, the speaker, John Livergood; the Bible worker, Josh Rietman; the registration clerk, Cecelia Hess; and the visitation coordinator, Cecil Harlin. Harlin said, “Let’s have prayer and go forward as if there was a room full of guests,” and that’s what happened. After the meeting was well underway, a young lady entered, asking if it was too late to join the meeting. She was invited in. She continued attending the meetings and received visits from the Bible worker and coordinator several times during the three-week series. The district pastor, Bob Hess, along with the Bible worker, continued studying with her and she is now planning to be baptized. She has indicated that she is excited about inviting her friends and sharing the truths with them. Her young son also attended the meetings with her.

A 90-year-old woman who received a flyer in the mail walked 10 to 12 blocks each night to attend the meetings. As soon as some of those helping with the meetings found out she was walking, they offered to pick her up and take her home, and she accepted their help. She will also be baptized and will join the Oswego church plant.

—Cecelia Hess, pastor’s wife and evangelism worker, New York Conference

Union Springs Academy Students Keep Christ in Focus

There is a fire burning at Union Springs Academy (USA) in Union Springs, New York. The school year started off with a strong, spiritual high. The students are putting forth an effort to make this year one that is completely devoted to God.

The senior class has initiated Adventist Youth meetings on Sabbath afternoons. They are taking a leadership role and want to keep the school on track with God. As a class, they lead out in worship, AY, and song service. They believe that their mission is to turn the school’s focus toward God and to set an example as leaders. Campus Ministries, headed by campus chaplain Timothy Raymond, is also working toward the same goal.

The Student Association (SA) sponsored the school’s annual Y-Owasco campout. It was a great bonding and spiritual experience for the students. During the vespers a group performed a skit, a student shared her testimony, and the SA president, Hannah Leonard, was the speaker. Many students indicated that their hearts were touched that night. It helped to put us into a Christ-focused year.

I believe the Holy Spirit is working at USA and that great things can be accomplished this year.

—Sarah Bailey, junior, Union Springs Academy
Personnel Change at It Is Written

Shawn Boonstra, who served since 2004 as speaker/director for the international It Is Written ministry, announced in early December 2010 that he would be relinquishing his duties because of health concerns. Boonstra says he does not have a “life-threatening disease,” but that he was dealing with a health challenge that has gotten to a point where he “must take a sabbatical to give my body time to rest.”

Before moving to the It Is Written international headquarters in 2004, Boonstra served as associate speaker for the It Is Written telecast in Canada from 1998-2001, then as speaker from 2001-2004. He has written more than 15 books. He, and his wife Jean, have two daughters.

The Boonstras have expressed their “profound thanks for the many kind messages, thoughts and prayers” that have been received. He says, “It means the world to us that you continue to pray for our family as I have made the difficult decision to relinquish my role as speaker/director and make time for much-needed rest to recover from illness.”

John Bradshaw is the fourth speaker/director named to the international It Is Written ministry. He follows in the footsteps of ministry founder George Vandeman, Mark Finley, and Shawn Boonstra.

Bradshaw, a New Zealand native, who began his ministry at It Is Written on January 1, has held more than 80 evangelistic series. His previous experience includes serving for 12 years as an evangelist for Amazing Facts, a supporting ministry of the Adventist Church, and 15 years in pastoral ministry. His most recent pastoral assignment was at the Village Church near Walla Walla University in Washington. He and his wife, Melissa, have two children.

“It Is Written is already doing the work that God has asked it to do, and I can’t wait to do my part in continuing its mission,” said Bradshaw. “I believe the Lord has plans for this ministry that we can’t yet comprehend!”

It Is Written is a donor-supported ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more than 54 years, it has shared the Good News of Christ’s soon return through avenues such as television, the Internet, live evangelistic events, and spiritual resources. The ministry is headquartered in Simi Valley, California, and the weekly program may be viewed around the world in 12 languages. Learn more at www.itiswritten.com.

—Adapted from information provided by Michele Stotz, It Is Written public relations director, and the It Is Written Web site.

Pollard Assumes Presidency of Oakwood University

Leslie N. Pollard, who served as Loma Linda University’s vice president for community partnerships and diversity, became the 13th president of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, effective January 3. Pollard succeeds Delbert W. Baker, who served as the college’s president for more than 13 years and who, in June 2010, was elected a general vice president of the General Conference.

Pollard’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakwood University and a Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching and Worship from Claremont School of Theology, a Master of Business Administration degree in Organizational Management from the La Sierra University School of Business, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in New Testament Language and Literature, with specialization in apocalyptic literature from Andrews University.

Pollard’s 32 years of leadership reflect local, national, and international service. He has served as senior pastor, a youth pastor, a university chaplain, a health-care
SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

program administrator, and an educational administrator at LLU. As a clergyman, Pollard has functioned as an evangelist, professor, ministerial educator, and leadership development facilitator for the General Conference family. He regularly conducts denominational and non-denominational leadership and mission conferences all over the world.

Pollard is a prolific writer, speaker, and engaged scholar, on the subjects of leadership, cultural competence, and mission. He and his wife, Prudence, have two daughters, who are both graduates of Oakwood University.

—Information provided by Michele Solomon, Oakwood University public relations director.

Neal C. Wilson, Retired Adventist Church President, Dies at 90

N

eal C. Wilson, 90, a past president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, known widely for his administrative skill, jovial spirit, and phenomenal memory of people he’d met, died December 14, 2010, in Dayton, Maryland. He was the son of a Seventh-day Adventist leader and the father of another, Ted N.C. Wilson, who is the current world president of the denomination, active in 203 countries.

During 24 years in leadership of the church’s North American Division and later the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, Wilson led the denomination through a period of dynamic growth. World church membership doubled from three million to six million in the eleven and one-half years (1979-1990) of his presidency.

As world church president, Wilson was responsible for the creation of the Adventist World Radio shortwave service, the adoption of a revised statement of the church’s “Fundamental Beliefs” by delegates to the denomination’s world session in 1980, and the relocation of the church’s world headquarters from Takoma Park, Maryland, where it had been for 85 years, to its current location on a main highway in Silver Spring.

Perhaps the greatest evangelistic accomplishment of the Neal Wilson presidency was in creating a stronger presence for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in what is now the former Soviet Union. In 1987, two years before the fall of Communism, Wilson obtained permission to establish an Adventist seminary and church headquarters in Zaoski, approximately 70 miles southeast of Moscow. In March of 1990, permission was granted to start a religious publishing house there, as well.

Neal Clayton Wilson was born on July 5, 1920, in Lodi, California. In 1942, after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree at church-owned Pacific Union College, he married Elinor Esther Neumann, who survives. The couple had two children, Ted N.C. Wilson and Shirley Wilson-Anderson, a professor of health at Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington, both of whom also survive, as do four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A man of many interests, Neal Wilson particularly savored mountain climbing. One of his dreams for over 50 years became reality when he and several other church leaders reached the 19,341-foot summit of Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro in 1988. At 68 years of age, he was noted as one of the oldest persons to have reached the top.

After retirement as General Conference president in 1990, Wilson remained a valued guest at church leadership events, taking to a microphone on the floor to offer comments and guidance based on his experiences.

—Adapted from article in the Adventist Review, December 16, 2010.

Pacific Press® Launches Adventist-eBooks.com

P

acific Press® has announced the launch of a new website www.Adventist-eBooks.com. It was developed by the marketing department with the aim of making it easier for customers to find all Pacific Press® e-books in one place. Adventist-eBooks.com currently features 33 titles. Additional releases will be added continually and will ultimately include all best sellers and many backlisted books.

Vice president for marketing and sales, Doug Church observed, “From its earliest days, publishing has played a fundamental role in the life of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Now, through Adventist-eBooks.com, ChapelMusic.com and AdventistBookCenter.com, it is exciting to see how technology is helping us to adapt to our changing world, finding new ways to fulfill our mission to the world church, while at the same time reaching an increasingly tech-savvy population.”


—Adapted from information provided by Karen Pearson, Pacific Press Publishing Association publicity director.
The Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Department sponsored an Adolescent Awareness Weekend at the Stamford Hilton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut, September 24-26, 2010. The goal was to bring Northeastern Conference youth together, to train them about subjects pertaining to their sexual and spiritual development. The theme for the weekend was “Protect God’s Property.”

Experienced medical professionals conducted group sessions and panel discussions. Using audio and visual presentations, the presenters highlighted the importance of sexual and moral purity.

The youth who attended were from churches around the conference, including Sharon, First White Plains, Bronx, Belah, New Hope, Bethanie French, Christian Fellowship, Ebenezer, East New York, Emmaus, Jamaica, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Trinity Temple, and Solid Rock. Also in attendance was a youth group from the Huntington church in the Greater New York Conference.

Many of the parents, sponsors, and chaperones indicated that they felt it was a necessary and vital workshop for their young people to attend. Naomi Cooke, a member of the Christian Fellowship church and chaperone for the weekend, noted that, although many of the youth may have heard the information previously, these specific seminars helped to reinforce for them the importance of keeping their bodies pure for God and for their future.

The weekend culminated with a banquet, now better known as the Purity Ball. For the past three years, the Purity Ball has served not only as a time when young people, ranging in ages from 12 to 18, gather together for a good time but also as an opportunity to take a stand and make a pledge for purity. The Purity Ball also gives parents and guardians an opportunity to join with their children to do all they can to inform, encourage, and support them as they continue to mature and grow in Christ.

Sheena Lyn, member, Queensboro church

Hebron Church Welcomes New Pastor

Members packed the Hebron Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, to celebrate the installation of their new pastor, Yrvain Jean-Philippe. Excitement filled the air on Sabbath, August 7, 2010, as Jean-Philippe and his wife, Marlaine, formerly of the Temple Salem Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, were introduced to the congregation early Sabbath afternoon.

Northeastern Conference representatives, Trevor Baker, president, and Pierre Omeler, Franco-Haitian Ministries coordinator, presided over the hour-long ceremony to install Jean-Philippe as the new leader of Hebron.

Guests from the Haitian community, including the members of Temple Salem church, watched as he accepted the charge given to him to lead the church in preparation for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The members and elders of the church made a public vow to work together with Jean-Philippe to share the good news and win souls for the kingdom. The elders of Hebron later joined the new pastor on the pulpit for a prayer of consecration.

Jean-Philippe’s inaugural sermon entitled, “Hebron, au nom de Jesus nous traverserons” (“In the Name of Jesus, Hebron Will Cross”), served as a reminder that we must work together for the kingdom of God. Division does not exist in God’s work. If we are united, we will cross the Jordan River as the Israelites did.

Kristia M. Beaubrun, communication director, Hebron church

The members and elders of the church made a public vow to work together with Jean-Philippe to share the good news and win souls for the kingdom.
Pilgrim Tabernacle Church Recognizes Community Leaders

The Sabbath School department of the Pilgrim Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hempstead, New York, celebrated Community Guest Day on Sabbath, September 25, 2010. Individuals from the community were recognized for their contributions to the community and for assisting the church in becoming visible in the community. The honorees included Mayor Wayne Hall, Councilwoman Dorothy L. Goosby, Police Sergeant Mark Matthews, and Special Assistant for Community Affairs Jean Blenman Ives. These individuals were presented with plaques that expressed the church’s appreciation for their contributions.

Stephen Williams, communication director for the Northeastern Conference, was the speaker. His sermon was entitled “When Jesus Comes,” and his focal Scripture was John 14:14. He reminded the congregation that although Jesus knew He was going to be crucified and would leave the responsibility of building the church and preaching the gospel to His disciples, He encouraged them to “let not your heart be troubled.”

The celebration continued in the afternoon with a presentation by Mary Cameron, executive director of Uniondale Early Childhood Centre (UECC). The title of her presentation was “Taking Back Your Community – Vision Casting” and was done in collaboration with Oswald Euell, director of the Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Department. Cameron gave the participants foolproof steps on how to grow the church through participation in the community by building long-lasting relationships with the movers and shakers and other members of the community.

Certificates were presented to all participants and a special presentation was made to Samuel Livingstone, Pilgrim Tabernacle church’s first elder, for his more than 30 years of service to UECC and the communities of Uniondale and Hempstead.

—Jackie Livingstone, communication leader, Pilgrim Tabernacle church

Emmanuel Temple Church Member Celebrates 100 Years

Family, friends, and members of the Emmanuel Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Buffalo, New York, joined in the centennial celebration of Ruth Ward on Sabbath, September 4, 2010. The celebration included a floral presentation by Kenneth L. Green, Sr., the church’s pastor, dinner, and a vesper service presented by Jesse Bevel, family ministries director for the Northeastern Conference.

Ward was born on September 2, 1910, in Jacksonville, Florida. She became a member of Emmanuel Temple church in 1958. She is a retired literature evangelist who has led many individuals to Christ. Ward has seen and experienced much in her lifetime, but her love for God keeps her strong. When asked what is the reason for her longevity she said, “having faith and trusting in God.” Church members extended well wishes to Ward and pray that God will continue to keep her.

—Shontelle Lee, member, Emmanuel Temple church
Prayer Chapel Built at Camp Lawroweld

Prayer has always been an important part of the atmosphere at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine. The serenity of the setting lends itself to prayerful moments with our Creator. Now, more than ever, we will be able to enjoy a spot that has been set aside as “holy ground”—a place to go deeper in our relationship with Jesus through prayer.

Several years ago the Lord laid a dream on our hearts to build a place of prayer on the campground at Camp Lawroweld. When God gives a plan, He also provides the resources! And, that He did! As Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference youth ministries director, and I shared the dream at the 2009 Spring Prayer Retreat, the Lord was already moving on the heart of Alex Cochran, who later that weekend volunteered to build the chapel. Alex is a very talented carpenter who has a passion to share his talents to the glory of God.

It was clear that God was moving this project forward when, in less than two months, all the money was raised to complete the building. Alex and his brother, Jared, cleared the spot and took the trees to his mill where, over the winter months, he peeled the bark and made the trees into beams to be used in the post-and-beam-style construction. Many of the finishing touches in the interior to the chapel reads as follows:

“Our power and influence here on earth begin and end with the amount of prayer we cover our journeys with, thus we have named this chapel . . .

The Alpha and Omega Prayer Chapel
Dedicated to the Youth of Camp Lawroweld and the Northern New England Conference.
In loving memory of Nathan Stoll (1988-2010) and Jayde Cochran (1993-2001) and all our children who are asleep in Christ.

“Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven”—Matthew 18:5.

“The very children will be moved upon by the Spirit of God, and will go forth proclaiming the truth for this time”—The Southern Work, p. 66.

In God’s forgiveness and grace and with His power, every day is a new beginning. Every day we have the opportunity to begin anew, grow in our relationship with God, and impact the world around us for Him and His coming Kingdom. As we remember Nathan and Jayde, we realize that any day could be the last earthly day for any one of us, our family members, friends, or neighbors. Each day is an opportunity to make sure that we do not let anyone reach the end without knowing “The Beginning.”

Looking across the campground to the new prayer chapel you will see three crosses. Although not part of the construction plan, it was clearly part of God’s plan to be a constant reminder of His love and gift to us. Be sure to visit the prayer chapel on every trip to Camp Lawroweld. You will be truly blessed.

—Kelly Veilleux, prayer ministries leader, Northern New England Conference

Kellogg Christian School Reopens

The Kellogg Christian School, located in Bedford, New Hampshire, officially reopened its doors to the local community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 14, 2010. The Seventh-day Adventist school closed five years ago following a series of disappointing financial problems. Thanks to the generosity of some Manchester Seventh-day Church attendees, the school received large financial donations that were used to completely refurbish the school, inside and out. With a new operating budget in place, we were excited to open for 2010-2011 school year.

The Kellogg Christian School offers a Christian education program to children from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.
Members Celebrate Bordoville Church’s 146 Years

Keeping with an annual tradition, the 146th Homecoming for the Bordoville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bordoville, Vermont, was held on Sabbath, September 18, 2010. The anniversary celebration events for this historic church in the Northern New England Conference were coordinated by Ginnie and Erwin Eckson and Esther Knutsen, with the support of Vermont and Canadian church friends. More than 100 people attended. “There’s just something special here where our church has history. I look forward to this day all year,” says Emilie Bouthillette, who has been going to Bordoville since she was a little girl.

Nikolaus Satelmajer and his wife, Ruth, spoke at both the church service and the afternoon meeting. Because of the witness of Bible worker Brian Schimp, many friends from the community attended. God is richly blessing.

—Emilie Bouthillette, member, St. Albans company

More than 100 people attended the 146th anniversary celebration for the Bordoville Seventh-day Adventist Church, the first church built as a Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1864.
Youth Ministries Corner
The Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries Department has chosen eight areas of emphasis as we work together with our church youth departments to prepare young people to be disciples.

Youth Are Workers, Not Spectators
We need to involve them so they are ready to deploy to various outreach ministries.

Pass on the Legacy
Mentor someone who can replace you as a leader; give him or her a taste of what it is like to lead so they are ready when their time comes.

Young Adult Churches
Let this special age group of people create a federation of believers.

Public Campus Ministries
Let’s establish vibrant public campus ministries to encourage the Seventh-day Adventist students on these campuses.

Spiritual Growth Measurements
As each activity takes place, we can measure our growth by how many attended, what activities were accomplished, and how many youth were involved in the organization process.

Mission Trip to Dominican Republic
This yearly mission trip impacts youth and adults as they travel together to complete projects for various organizations.

Impact Projects
We’d love to see more involvement with these projects and we encourage each federation to lead out in a project in their area.

Youth Evangelism
We would like to create something that makes youth evangelism easy to duplicate for any church or school youth group.

—Josué Feliciano, youth director, Southern New England Conference

Athol Welcomes New Member
Warren Ruf, former Athol Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, had the privilege of baptizing Darla Breault on August 21, 2010, just before he left the Athol district in Athol, Massachusetts. Breault wrote the following testimony. It was read during her baptism.

“I felt the spirit of God as a young child. Through the years I have weaved in and out of religion. I have been studying the Bible for about three years now, and I have prayed hard for God’s guidance.

“God really touched my heart recently as I was reading STEPS TO CHRIST. I was at a very desperate place and needed God’s Word. I was reading a chapter on consecration. How do I make the surrender of myself to God? I had the desire, but was weak.

“I read on to the section on faith and acceptance, where it talked about my longing to be forgiven, and cleansed, and set free. Well, I sure did want that. I cried out in despair. I had been praying for so long for God to set me free. ‘Why do you not answer,’ I cried?

“ ‘Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’ (Isaiah 1:18) ‘A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.’ (Ezekiel 36:26)

“As I read these beautiful words, I physically felt the precious hand of God reach in and touch my heart! It blew my mind! My tears of anguish turned to tears of indescribable joy and thanksgiving.

“The Spirit of the Lord came on me and again invited me to be baptized in Christ. My heartfelt desire is to leave my sinful self at the foot of the cross each day in remembrance of this gracious gift, given by my sweet Lord and Savior, Jesus.

“I thank the Lord for bringing me to Hazel [at the Community Service Center] who has gently and patiently sowed her seeds for the Lord.

“I want to thank the church for the warm and friendly welcome I received, and the continued warm and spiritually-uplifting fellowship.

“Most of all, I want to thank God for His continuous nudges and for the precious blessing of His Son, Jesus. Praise be to God. Amen.”

—Violet Bidwell, church clerk, Athol church

Warren Ruf, former Athol Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, baptized Darla Breault on August 21, 2010, just before he left the Athol district in Athol, Massachusetts.

Revive Us Again
Southern New England Conference Church Officer’s Training

✔ Clerk’s Training
✔ Children’s Ministries
✔ Deaconesses/Deacons
✔ Elders
✔ Health Ministries
✔ Personal Ministries
✔ Sabbath School - Adult
✔ Women’s Ministries

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>January 23, 2011</td>
<td>English- and Portuguese-speaking sessions</td>
<td>English only sessions in Haitian, Spanish, Portuguese, and English at the AUCM Haitian Auditorium, 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30, 2011</td>
<td>CI Valley Church (So. Windsor)</td>
<td>354 Foster Rd, So. Windsor, CT 06074</td>
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Please note: Haitian, Hispanic, and Youth Ministries training will be held at a different time.

Pick your date and register online: www.sneconline.org

Register by Jan. 7 and receive a free lunch. For more information, call (978) 365-4551

Atlantic Union GLEANER, January 2011
Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
SNEC Welcomes New Treasurer

Joel Tompkins, Jr., who served as treasurer of the Egypt Field, accepted the call to be the new Southern New England Conference treasurer, effective March 1. He replaces Randall Terry, who became the treasurer for the Upper Columbia Conference in November 2010. Tompkins and his wife, Kellie, have two adult sons, Daniel and Andrew.

The Tompkins have ministered in the Egypt Field for the past four years. Prior to that, they worked in the Washington Conference, Michigan Conference, and Kansas-Nebraska Conference. He started his accounting career working for Adventist Health Systems in Nebraska and Colorado.

“As treasurer, it is my job to look ahead,” says Tompkins. “It is also my job to present financial information in such a way that everyone can understand it. This allows church leaders and lay people to make informed choices as we all work together to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus.”

The Southern New England Conference, located in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, has nearly 16,000 members worshiping in 129 churches or small groups in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. We worship in nine languages—Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Chinese, English, French, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Twi.

Pastor Helps Reignite Couples at Quinebaug Church

John K. Amoah


Amoah covered problems many marriages encounter, such as lack of communication, stress, overwork, unresolved conflicts, anger, power conflicts, unmet emotional needs, and many others. He shared numerous secrets on how to overcome these problems, such as praising each other daily, working together, saying “I am sorry” and “I forgive you,” and supporting each other during difficult times.

Bible texts were given to support each principle presented, showing what God has to say on the subject. The last presentation on Saturday night was an emotional film called Fireproof showing how real Christian love was used to save a troubled marriage.

Amoah is a gifted, but humble, minister with a passion for preserving, restoring, and enriching relationships with a biblical approach.

—Kenneth A. Maynard, communication director, Quinebaug church

Vacation Bible School

The Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dracut, Massachusetts, had an amazing Vacation Bible School program in 2010, with their largest attendance so far—72. It was amazing to see how much fun the kids and volunteers (including 15 teen crew leaders) had. The teens are so excited to help and look forward to VBS all year. We utilized the High Seas Vacation Bible School theme and held our program on July 26 to 30, 2010.

—Veronica Iria, VBS director, Merrimack Valley church

Southern New England

www.sneconline.org

Submit articles/photos to: 34 Sawyer Street - P.O. Box 1169
Frank Tochterman  South Lancaster, MA 01561
Communication Director Phone: (978) 365-4551
E-mail: ftochterman@sneconline.org Fax: (978) 365-3838
Le programme de Michelle Obama contre l’obésité infantile reçoit le soutien de la communauté et des croyants

Le 29 novembre, l’église adventiste du septième jour a rejoint une cinquantaine d’associations religieuses et communautaires pour soutenir un plan national de lutte contre l’épidémie d’obésité infantile lancé par la première dame des États-Unis Michelle Obama.

Le programme ‘Let’s Move: foi et communauté’ recherche l’engagement d’associations pour promouvoir l’exercice, la plantation de jardins communautaires pour la culture d’aliments frais et d’autres activités qui favorisent une vie saine.

M. Obama a déclaré devant les leaders religieux et communautaires rassemblés à la Maison Blanche qu’environ un tiers des enfants américains environ sont en surpoids ou obèses.

Il est clair que lorsqu’il s’agit de garantir la santé et le bien-être de nos enfants ou de s’attaquer à l’obésité infantile, nos associations communautaires et religieuses ont un rôle vraiment décisif à jouer” a dit M. Obama.

Elle a ajouté que cette nouvelle phase de l’initiative Let’s Move précédemment lancée irait dans le sens de soutenir les programmes existants.

“Vous êtes nombreux à avoir commencé depuis bien longtemps le travail” a fait remarquer M. Obama, faisant allusion aux ministères de la santé dans les églises, aux clubs de sport et à l’éducation dispensée dans “les écoles du samedi et du dimanche.”

Ce nouveau programme comprend quatre objectifs pour l’année prochaine:

• mettre en place 1,000 nouveaux sites d’alimentation d’été au niveau national
• plusieurs dirigeants de groupes religieux notables ont exprimé leur soutien envers ces objectifs, notamment Ted N. C. Wilson, président de l’église adventiste mondiale, qui a dit que cette question “fait personnellement écho chez lui.” En effet, Ted N.C. Wilson est titulaire d’une maîtrise en santé publique de l’université adventiste de Loma Linda.

“Le programme ‘Let’s Move’ est cohérent avec l’approche de notre église qui est d’exercer un ministère auprès d’autrui sur le plan physique, mental, social et spirituel” a dit Wilson. “Il a été démontré que les adeptes de la septième mort vivent plus longtemps et que la raison invoquée à cela, c’est un mode de vie sain.”

“Les adeptes du septième jour détiennent de vastes systèmes de santé et d’éducation dans le monde entier dans lesquels nous promouvons une meilleure santé au travers des modes de vie concrets et sains comme: avoir une alimentation équilibrée, faire de l’exercice, boire suffisamment d’eau, profiter des bienfaits du soleil de manière adéquate, s’abstenir de l’alcool, du tabac et des drogues illicites, respirer de l’air pur, se reposer suffisamment et avoir confiance en la puissance divine.”

“Dans nos écoles et écoles bibliques de vacances, des camps d’été et initiatiques d’évangélisation au service de la communauté “Plus que jamais je crois que le moment est venu de proclamer le message de guérison et de rétablissement de Dieu” a dit Reinert. “C’est une merveilleuse opportunité qui nous est donnée d’engager nos églises et écoles à avoir un impact positif pour le Christ dans notre communauté à un niveau national.”

Pour obtenir de plus amples informations, des ressources et la mallette du programme, consultez www.letsmove.gov.

Source: Adventist News Network

Primera Institución Divina Permanece

El 9 de Octubre del 2010 Diecinueve parejas de casados nos dimos cita en el Holiday Inn en Lawrence MA para renovar nuestros votos matrimoniales. Una interesante variedad de edades y tiempo de casados entre las parejas fue un aspecto muy notable de la actividad. La ceremonia tuvo lugar al final de una semana de enriquecimiento familiar organizada por la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día Española de Lawrence, Massachusetts diseñada para fortalecer la relación y el compromiso matrimonial de las parejas.

Me tocó ser el orador de la semana y presidir la renovación de votos con mi esposa María a mi lado. Las parejas se comprometieron a amarse más y a mantener sus relaciones matrimoniales vibrantes.

Dios creo el matrimonio formado por un hombre y una mujer. Ambos fueron creados a Su propia imagen, y fue Su plan que ambos lo glorificaran y honrar a Él como su creador a través de su unión matrimonial. Fue una relación monógama entre un hombre y una mujer y Dios pretendía mantener la base de la sociedad (matrimonio) basada en este arreglo.

Pero Satanás tenía otras intenciones y desde el principio ha conspirado contra el matrimonio. A través de Lamec, introdujo la poligamia (Génesis 4: 19). Esta práctica fue directamente contra la estructura del matrimonio que Dios estableció. Poligamia sigue siendo un reto para la institución del matrimonio que Dios creó, porque es una costumbre social en algunas partes del mundo y entre algunas culturas y grupos religiosos.

1. Recordemos que al hacer nuestro matrimonio mejor y trabajar por la felicidad de nuestro cónyuge, estamos trabajando para nuestra propia felicidad.

Otra disposición contraria al plan de Dios son las uniones de mismo sexo, en cualquier capacidad en que se unan—sea a través de la unión civil, vida común o matrimonio. Hemos visto claramente que cuando Dios creó el matrimonio, lo hizo entre un hombre y una mujer nada más; por lo tanto, cualquier otra variación está en contra del propósito de Dios.

Ahora; vemos que las parejas participan en actividades con la intención de hacer que su relación de matrimonio sea más fuerte. La pregunta es, ¿Cómo lo hacen? ¿Cómo puede sobrevivir el matrimonio? ¿Por qué deberíamos trabajar para que nuestro matrimonio mejore?

Aquí están algunas sugerencias generales:

1. Otras actitudes que tenemos que tomar en cuenta si queremos que nuestro matrimonio sea más fuerte, deben incluir pero no estar limitadas a:
   a. Compromiso firme: El vivir cumpliendo este compromiso alienta a las parejas a procurar lo mejor el uno para el otro.
   b. Mostrar mutuo respeto.
   c. Ser responsable en todos los aspectos del matrimonio.
   d. Estar dispuestos a sacrificar.
   e. Protegernos el uno al otro.

Practicar estas pequeñas cosas en nuestro matrimonio, ayudará a desalentar la separación o el divorcio. Los matrimonios definitivamente serán más fuertes y nos traerán sentimiento de felicidad mutua.

Dionisio Olivo es el vice presidente de los ministerios hispanos y portugueses en la Unión del Atlántico y asociado director ministerial, y director del ministerio de familia y escuela sabática.

Al hacer nuestro matrimonio mejor y trabajar por la felicidad de nuestro cónyuge, estamos trabajando para nuestra propia felicidad.

A pesar de los ataques de Satanás contra el matrimonio y la familia como institución, ésta, aun es la relación por excelencia para que hombres y mujeres puedan experimentar la felicidad y la familia continúe siendo la base para una sociedad sólida y sana.

El enemigo de la raza humana ha intentado destruir el matrimonio desde todos los ángulos posibles:

1. El enemigo ha atacado el matrimonio enfocando su fundación y estructura. Tenemos el establecimiento del matrimonio y la familia desde el inicio de la existencia del mundo. La palabra de Dios dice que cuando Dios creó el mundo y todo lo que hay en él, también creó el matrimonio (Génesis 1: 26-28).

2. Otras actitudes que tenemos que tomar en cuenta si queremos que nuestro matrimonio sea más fuerte, deben incluir pero no estar limitadas a:
   a. Compromiso firme: El vivir cumpliendo este compromiso alienta a las parejas a procurar lo mejor el uno para el otro.
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Practicar estas pequeñas cosas en nuestro matrimonio, ayudará a desalentar la separación o el divorcio. Los matrimonios definitivamente serán más fuertes y nos traerán sentimiento de felicidad mutua.

Dionisio Olivo es el vice presidente de los ministerios hispanos y portugueses en la Unión del Atlántico y asociado director ministerial, y director del ministerio de familia y escuela sabática.
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).

One of the great political and ethical issues of our day is the question of war and peace. It is both complicated and convoluted. Despair hovers around hearts and minds, for millions expect a nuclear holocaust without the basic hope of afterlife or eternal life.

Today there is a new situation, unparalleled in history. Human beings have developed the means of humanity’s own destruction, means that are becoming more and more “effective” and “perfected”—although these are hardly the right words. Since World War II, civilians are no longer just occasionally or incidentally harmed; they have become the target.

Christians believe that war is the result of sin. Since the fall of man, strife has been a perennial fact of human existence. “Satan delights in war. . . . It is his object to incite nations to war against one another”—THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, p. 589. It is a diversionary tactic to interfere with the gospel task. While global conflict has been prevented during the past 40 years, there have been perhaps 150 wars between nations and within nations, with millions perishing in these conflicts.

Today virtually every government claims it is working for disarmament and peace. Often the known facts appear to point in a different direction. Nations spend a huge portion of their financial resources to stockpile nuclear and other war materials, sufficient to destroy civilization as it is known today. News reports focus on the millions of men and women and children who suffer and die in wars and civil unrest and have to live in squalor and poverty.

The arms race, with its colossal waste of human funds and resources, is one of the most obvious obscenities of our day.

It is therefore right and proper for Christians to promote peace. The Seventh-day Adventist Church urges every nation to beat its swords into plowshares” and its “spears into pruning-hooks” (Isaiah 2:4). The church’s Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 7 states that men and women were “created for the glory of God” and were “called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment,” not to destroy or hurt one another. Christ Himself said, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

While peace cannot be found in official church pronouncements, the authentic Christian church is to work for peace between the first and second advents of Christ. However, hope in the Second Coming must not live in a social vacuum. The Adventist hope must manifest and translate itself into deep concern for the well-being of every member of the human family. True, Christian action today and tomorrow will not of itself usher in the coming kingdom of peace; God alone brings this kingdom by the return of His son.

In a world filled with hate and struggle, a world of ideological strife and of military conflicts, Seventh-day Adventists desire to be known as peacemakers and work for worldwide justice and peace under Christ as the head of a new humanity.

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on June 27, 1985, at the General Conference Session in New Orleans, Louisiana.
2011 GODencounters
Collegiate Young Adult Retreat
Living the Deliverance - God's Riches At Christ's Expense
January 28 - 30, 2011

Opening Night
Friday, January 28, 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker
Roy Ice - campus chaplain, Pacific Union College

Music
Aaron Roche

Worship Leader
Scott Campbell

Location
Camp Winnakeag, Ashburnham, MA

Registration
Ages 18-35
4 to 10 p.m. January 28
- $75.00 per person (bring your own linens)
- $40.00 per person, package only (includes Sabbath lunch and supper)

Contact:
Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries
Phone: 978-368-8333 ext. 1016
Email: youthministries@atlanticunion.org
Website: www.atlantic-union.org/godencounters2011.html
Website: www.atlantic-union.org/camporees2011.html
Atlantic Union College Alumni Homecoming Weekend — Plan now to attend Atlantic Union College’s Alumni Homecoming Weekend, April 14-17. We look forward to welcoming Honor Classes with the year ending in a 1 and 6 (2001, 2006, etc.). Our 50-year class this year is 1961. Contact the Alumni Office at (978) 368-2340 for more information.

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Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education and Atlantic Union College

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Union College Homecoming April 7-10. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited. Honor classes are ’41, ’51, ’56, ’61, ’71, ’81, ’86, ’91, and ’01. For more information contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

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ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS Reader Services librarian. The successful applicant is required to possess an earned M.S.L.I.S. or equivalent by an A.L.A.; a minimum of 5-years of experience in libraries or related field is required. Must have excellent knowledge of computer applications for library. The applicant must fully support Atlantic Union College’s global Community Engagement Mission and the teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, a description of teaching history, copy of transcript, and three letters of references to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu; www.auc.edu.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS nurse practitioner faculty member to join our progressive, mission-focused, graduate team. Candidate must hold current family or adult N.P. certification, and have current clinical experience. Successful candidate must be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good standing. Educational requirements include earned doctorate; M.S.N. may be considered. Immediate opening (winter 2011). Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, Graduate Program Coordinator, hgadd@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor for ‘11-12 school year to teach creative writing and freshman composition. A terminal degree in writing is preferred. Candidate must have a record of creative publication and excellent teaching, demonstrate commitment to integrating faith and learning, and be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good standing. Send CV and statement of how he/she integrates this subject with the Advent message. Send to Jan Haluska, English Department Chair, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or haluska@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY’s SCHOOL OF VISUAL ART AND DESIGN seeks professor to teach web and print design. Successful candidate will possess an MFA and comprehensive understanding of contemporary design culture in both interactive and print media. Candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send letter of application, curriculum vita (including a statement of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples, and three references to Randy Craven, at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, January 2011
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a dean for School of Education and Psychology. Successful candidate will hold a doctoral degree in a field of education or psychology. Candidate must also be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send cover letter, curriculum vita, and statement of leadership and teaching philosophy, including the integration of faith and learning to Dr. Robert Young, Academic Administration, e-mail ryoung@southern.edu, phone at (423) 236-2804 or (423) 260-0597. The position becomes available on Jun. 1, 2011.

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