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Across the Atlantic Union Conference at various times, in different places, and in a variety of ways, prayers are ascending to heaven. Individuals in churches, schools, and other institutions have established groups that are meeting on a regular basis to petition God on behalf of others and themselves. Read more about what some of these groups are doing, beginning on page 4. Also in this issue are our regular features Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. 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.

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- May 2011  March 11
- June 2011  April 8
- July 2011  May 13

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

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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
God does not respect the arithmetic of our prayers—how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers—how eloquent they are; nor the music of our prayers—how melodious they are; but the sincerity of our prayers—how earnest from the heart they are.

I believe David understood the earnestness of prayer well. He is recorded in 2 Samuel 7 as praying a prayer from the heart. David prayed to build a house for the Lord. Instead, the Lord built him a house. God does answer prayers from the heart.

How did David come by such a prayer? He “found it in his heart.” The fact that he found it in his heart is a sign that he searched for it. In Psalm 51:10 David again writes, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

David’s prayer did not come from a book, nor from memory, nor from his imagination, nor did it merely flow off his tongue—it came from his heart, a believing heart; not a flippant, cold, or indifferent heart. David didn’t merely say prayers, he prayed.

I, therefore, ask of you, my friends, where do your prayers come from?

A young lady was asked the question: “Did you pray before your conversion experience?” She responded, “Yea, somewhat . . . sort-of.” Then again she was asked: “What is the difference between your current prayers and those before your conversion?”

She answered: “Back then I said my prayers, but now I mean them. Back then I said the prayers other people taught me, but now I find them in my heart.”

In the words of Ellen G. White: “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him”—Prayer, p. 8.

“The heart must be open to the Spirit’s influence, or God’s blessing cannot be received”—A Call to Stand Apart, p. 27.

“With the consecrated worker for God, in whatever place he may be, the Holy Spirit abides. The words spoken to the disciples are spoken also to us. The Comforter is ours as well as theirs. The Spirit furnishes the strength that sustains striving, wrestling souls in every emergency, amidst the hatred of the world, and the realization of their own failures and mistakes. In sorrow and affliction, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone,—these are the times when, in answer to the prayer of faith, the Holy Spirit brings comfort to the heart”—Acts of the Apostles, p. 51.

I encourage you today, let your prayers spring from the heart and you will be blessed over and over again. ☩

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
Across the Atlantic Union Conference at various times, in different places, and in a variety of ways, prayers are ascending to heaven. In Matthew 18:19, 20 Jesus says, “If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Participating in a prayer group can be an exciting, vibrant time of working with God and the team to see Jesus move in the world, the nation, the community, the congregation, the school, and at home.

Each day of the week, staff members and guests who are in the Northeastern Conference building at noon are reminded through a general announcement that it is time to pause for prayer. Wherever workers and guests are, they stop what they are doing and pray. “We pause at noon every day to pray for our workers in the office, our pastors and members in the field, and for any special requests that are brought to our attention,” says Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president. “This practice has been in place in the conference office for about eight years.”

Kim Kaiser, New York Conference superintendent of schools and communication director, says, “I meet with three other lay persons by phone on Sunday mornings, mostly to pray for Adventist education needs.”

Believing in the power of prayer, the Greater New York Conference Women’s Ministries Department sponsors prayer lines in several languages:

- **English:** (712) 775-7000; Access Code: 865223
  Available: 5:00 a.m. every day (except Sabbath) and 9:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays

- **Spanish:** (712) 432-0075; Access Code: 168250
  Available: 5:00 a.m. Monday to Friday

- **French:** (218) 486-7200; Access Code: 840598
  Available: Saturdays 7:00-8:00 a.m.

- **Igbo:** (616) 597-8000; Access Code: 951645
  Available: 6:00 a.m. every day (except Sabbath) and 9:00 p.m. every day (except Sabbath)

“I saw that if we do not feel immediate answers to our prayers, we should hold fast our faith, not allowing distrust to come in, for that will separate us from God. If our faith wavers, we shall receive nothing from Him. Our confidence in God should be strong; and when we need it most, the blessing will fall upon us like a shower of rain”—**Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 121.**
On the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m., the Bermuda Conference Men’s Ministries, under the direction of Pete Saunders, holds a meeting called “When Men Pray.” And, on the first Sunday of each month, when the conference’s prayer warriors meet to discuss monthly activities within the conference, they always end the meeting with a season of prayer.

The Morning Prayer Line, sponsored by the Northern New England Conference prayer team, under the direction of Kelly Veilleux, meets on the phone from 6:00-7:00 a.m., at (712) 451-6100; Pin: 3687072. The conference’s prayer ministries Web site also contains helpful information: www.nnecprayerministries.com.

In October 2010, the Men’s Ministries at the Providence Hispanic and Central Falls Hispanic churches, with Gabriel Ruiz as pastor, formed a group called Soldados de Jesús (Soldiers of Jesus). They meet every other Sunday at the church to pray and to provide information to the men about being better husbands and fathers.

The world church’s Revival and Reformation committee has asked Adventist members worldwide to join together each morning at 7:00 a.m. and each evening at 7:00 p.m., to pray for an outpouring of God’s spirit. In conjunction with that initiative, the committee also released “InPrayer,” a mobile application designed to facilitate a global prayer chain (news.adventist.org/2011/01/two-organizations-at.html).

Ellen White, in Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, p. 85, says, “The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness. By maintaining a connection with God, we shall be enabled to diffuse to others, through our association with them, the light, the peace, the serenity, that rule in our hearts. The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with persevering effort in training the mind in thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances.

“If we draw near to God, He will put a word in our mouth to speak for Him, even praise unto His name. He will teach us a strain from the song of the angels, even thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. In every act of life, the light and love of an indwelling Saviour will be revealed. Outward troubles cannot reach the life that is lived by faith in the Son of God.”

Prayer makes a difference and brings about change. If you are not a part of a prayer group, but would like to be, check and see what your church, school, or institution is doing. If nothing is in place, volunteer to help get a prayer group started. Join with Adventist Christians around the world who make it a priority to pause for prayer.

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

Share with us what your prayer group is doing by filling out the form at www.atlantic-union.org/prayer.html. The information will be included on the Atlantic Union Conference Web site.
Revival, reformation, and a renewed emphasis on uniting in love to reclaim missing members and to reach our communities with the gospel was a significant theme during the General Conference Autumn Council and the North American Division Year-end Meeting in late 2010. Presidents Ted N. C. Wilson, General Conference, and Dan Jackson, North American Division, introduced documents that were read and voted and that are intended to impact church life and its mission during the next five years.

President Dan Jackson shares his vision for the North American Division: “I believe we are living in that segment of time that the Bible writers describe as ‘the end of the age.’ For Seventh-day Adventists of all generations the resounding message of the Scriptures is that Jesus is coming soon! However, as I consider the scope of the task God has given us, it is not difficult to see that the mission is far more extensive than can be accomplished through human energy and means. As never before, you and I must have the power of God’s Spirit to take control of us personally and corporately. It is not acceptable for us to think that we can continue to carry out God’s work as we’re doing now, or have in the past. We are in desperate need of spiritual renewal. As individuals and as a division-wide family, we must appeal to God to gift us with His Spirit to such an extent that our hearts will continuously focus on His will and His plan for us and for the world around us.”

At the autumn meetings, members of both sessions voted overwhelmingly to endorse the following statements:

- The challenge of taking the gospel to the world is not new. The disciples faced this challenge in the first century. We face it in the twenty-first century. The New Testament church was seemingly confronted with an impossible task. But empowered by the Holy Spirit, the church exploded in growth (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31).

- Christ’s Great Commission was accompanied by His great promise. The Savior commanded His disciples “not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4). The Savior promised, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

- The love of Christ controlled every aspect of the lives of the disciples and moved them to a passionate commitment to His service. They sought God for the promised power of the Holy Spirit and knelt before Him in heartfelt confession and earnest repentance.

- Too often God’s mission of saving a lost world has not taken first place in our hearts. At times, in our busyness, although doing good things, we have neglected the most important thing—knowing Him. There is nothing more important than knowing Jesus, studying His Word, understanding His truth, and seeking His promise for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power for the fulfilling of the gospel commission. God’s last-day prophet to the remnant wrote in words too plain to be misunderstood, “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work” (SELECTED MESSAGES, book 1, p. 121).

If a genuine spiritual revival is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs, should we not place priority on seeking heaven’s promised blessing with all our hearts?
Jackson continues, “As president of the North American Division, I want to appeal to each layperson and to every employee to take this matter personally and seriously. This kind of commitment alone will move the church into the kind of future that God has in mind for our division.”

Prior to the 2010 Year-end Meeting, the NAD leadership team met in an exercise of strategic planning for the next five years. “We resolve that by 2015, the church in North America will have become transformed by the Holy Spirit and moved to action in the following five ways,” says Jackson.

The “REACH North America” initiative was adopted as a guideline and measuring device both for personal revival and for corporate nurturing and outreach.

The aim of this initiative is for the church in North America to reach the following goals by 2015:

REACH UP
(Revival and Reformation)
1. Churches experience a revival and reformation that results in life-changing transformations.
2. Members enjoy a vibrant and joyful relationship with Christ.

REACH ACROSS
(Unity in Diversity)
1. New members’ love for Christ is a catalyst to reinvigorate their congregations. New members are oriented to and inspired by the life-affirming culture of Adventism and are integrated into the fabric of the church.
2. Each member is actively involved in church life and ministry. Discipleship training and compelling leadership opportunities are provided to children, youth, young adults, students in public education, seniors, and members with disabilities.
3. Adventists disengaged from church life are recognized as valued members of our family. Congregations implement ways to actively reconnect with them.
4. Congregations embrace and practice the concept of “unity in diversity” in such matters as age, gender, race, and socio-economic status; congregations are intentional in planning ways to educate members.

REACH OUT
(Evangelism, Community, Discipleship)
1. North American Division organizations of every type combine their efforts in communicating Adventism’s distinctive message of hope and wholeness to every person within the NAD territory, with a focus on big cities.

REACH IN
(Growing Disciples/Adventist Education)
1. Because Adventist education is a core value of the church, the local church is an education center for members of all ages—combining with the school to serve and to evangelize children and youth within the church and the community.
2. Through NAD resources, the church makes distinctively Adventist education available to every Adventist child.
3. The church finds a way to help strengthen and build a system of Adventist higher education.

REACH FORWARD
(A Focus on Leadership)
1. The NAD, unions, local conferences, and institutions collaborate to support mission and strategy through responsible stewardship and a culture of inclusive participation.
2. Organizations and institutions have in place a well-designed and active program to cultivate and develop leaders.
3. The NAD significantly increases member donations.
4. The NAD and at least four unions implement Assessment for Excellence programs that promote and document levels of financial integrity, operational efficiency, program quality, and staff effectiveness.

Jackson challenges every pastor, lay member, church administrator, departmental leader, institutional worker, health worker, literature evangelist, chaplain, and educator to make revival, reformation, discipleship, and evangelism the most important and urgent priorities of our personal lives and our areas of ministry. “As we seek Him together, God will pour out His Holy Spirit in abundant measure, the work of God on earth will be finished, and Jesus will come,” said Jackson, in his concluding remarks at the 2010 NAD Year-end Meeting. Please join the North American Division family in experiencing God’s blessing and direction in the final moments prior to His return.

Information compiled by Bernadine Delafield the North American Division NET Evangelism coordinator. This article is comprised of excerpts from God’s Promised Gift, a report of the actions voted at the Annual Council on October 11, 2010. The complete document is available at www.nadadventist.org.
The Providence of God

The 2011 Northern New England Art Clinic in Barre, Vermont, focused on the leadership of William Bradford, a Separatist, who separated from the Church of England. The Church of England had shed popery, but had not shed many of the church’s ways. The Puritans tried to reform the Church of England and, failing to do so, many fled to the religious safety of the Netherlands and the New World. The main tenets of the Separatists were that they would follow Scripture and were only perfect in Jesus: “That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”—Colossians 1:8.

Over and over again the Pilgrims referred to the providence of God. That led me to want to know more about this providence. Some definitions of providence include: God’s divine guidance, protection, control, and care in the universe; God’s power that sustains and guides human destiny.

Ellen White has some interesting things to say about providence:
• “Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best”—MINISTRY OF HEALING, p. 417.

• “Every living creature, from the smallest insect up to man, is daily dependent upon His providential care”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 115.

• “Whatever position in life we may occupy, whatever our business, we must be humble enough to feel our need of help, we must lean implicitly on the teachings of God’s word, acknowledge His providence in all things, and be faithful in pouring out our souls in prayer”—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 5, p. 427.

This year I have seen the providence of God working in the Northern New England Seventh-day Adventist schools through the answered prayers of His people. Included among the answered prayers are:

1. The Seventh-day Adventist school in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, moved mid-year to a rented facility because the building they were in was not approved by the fire marshal for occupancy. Another miracle occurred for that school this year. The church purchased a new building for the church and school.

2. The sum of $75,000 was donated to reopen Kellogg Christian School in Manchester, New Hampshire, to help get the school in operating condition. The school reopened for the 2010-2011 school year with three classrooms.

3. The Dixfield Seventh-day Adventist School in Dixfield, Maine, purchased a new building at auction. It is a two-and-a-half story building consisting of 15,468 sq. ft. of professional space. It was purchased for $55,000 plus some back taxes.

4. The Caledonia Christian School in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, was given a building on Main Street, which is currently being renovated.

5. The Florence Lombard School reopened in Saco, Maine, after being closed for about 10 years.

6. Riverview Memorial School in Norridgewock, Maine, has added an extension program for grades 11 and 12 through Pine Tree Academy.

7. Capital Christian School in Concord, New Hampshire, enlarged the classroom to accommodate its growing enrollment and added a kindergarten.

8. At the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year Northern New England Conference schools saw a 20 percent increase in enrollment and it has been growing throughout the year.

Many miracles have transpired, and my heart is full of gratitude to the One who controls the universe and who will one day reclaim this whole earth.
Warwick Church Hosts “All Power” Seminar

“Be the head and not the tail” was Leo Schreven’s theme during his weekend presentation on Bible principles for success at the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Warwick, Bermuda.

Throughout the “All Power” seminars in mid-January, the 49-year-old self-made millionaire preacher spoke in rapid-fire style, compressing weeks of material into a 15-hour presentation focusing on eternal life as the great goal.

Schreven said some hard things along the way, but laced his homilies with jokes to take the edge off as he moved constantly around the small rostrum, using numerous visuals and an encyclopedia of Bible verses to illustrate his points.

Recounting personal experiences and calling for personal responsibility in our health, emotions, spirituality, and finance, he advised listeners to, “Decide what you want out of life and take specific steps to achieve your purposes and goals.”

He also covered such topics as decision-making in major areas, health as wealth, and the critical need to overcome paralyzing life fears.

Schreven also urged his listeners to make the gift of victory from God the route to change, saying, “You can’t change your outward actions permanently until your subconscious mind has been renewed, which is done by feeding the conscious mind good pictures, words, emotions, and thoughts.”

His audience was thrilled when Schreven touched on his final theme: personal wealth and fortune. The bad news for the devotee of ease? Achieving wealth requires rules, risks, and lots of discipline (get rid of the television and other mind-sapping distractions; devote a few hours a day over a few years, and you’ll get there).

“I had a good time,” says visitor Precious Stafford. “I learned a lot and I’m going to buy at least five of his books. I learned things I could do better.”

Church member Eardley Richardson exclaimed, “Fantastic! I was rejuvenated and reconnected.”

—Coggie Gibbons, communication director, Warwick church

Tell Us What’s Happening in Your Church . . .

We are looking for news and other inspiring stories from your church to share with our readers. E-mail your stories with the photos attached as separate files to the Bermuda Conference communication director. Be sure and include a caption with each photo and the name of the photographer.

For information on what types of stories to submit, visit: www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner.html and click on “Guidelines for Submitting Articles.”

We would love to hear from you!

Sheila Holder
Communication Director
Bermuda Conference
E-mail: sholder@bermudaconference.bm
At the seventeenth annual Adventist Association of Camp Professionals Convention held in December 2010 at the Indian Creek Youth Camp in Tennessee, Camp Berkshire received the prestigious Norm Middag Award of Excellence from the North American Division. Camp Berkshire was awarded for its improvement in development and operations. Hector Perez, managing director of Camp Berkshire says, “Our buildings and facilities have gone through some extensive renovation. We have improved the year-round lodging capacity to 152 persons per year. This does not include an additional 80 persons year-round that will be added when the Montana lodge is completed in 2011.” Camp Berkshire has the capacity to host 375 persons in cabins and lodges during the summer and close to 2,000 on its campgrounds. Camp Berkshire has improved its operations and services and is the place you will want to be this summer. Perez highlights that they have added some fun activities, including horseback riding, go karts, rock climbing, mountain bikes and BMX, canoeing, kayaks, and paddle boats.

This is the second time that Camp Berkshire has received this award—the first award was received in December 2008.

To learn more about Camp Berkshire or to register for summer camp 2011, visit: www.campberkshire.org or www.gnyc.org.

—Rohann D. Wellington, communication director, Greater New York Conference
Communicators Get Hands-on Training

More than 100 participants from various church communication committees in the Greater New York Conference (GYNC) assembled on Sunday, January 30 for a hands-on communication workshop. The workshop, held at the North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York, assembled a high-level team of facilitators, covering seven areas: Proven Guidelines for Media Pitching, Graphic Design, Photography, Archiving and Streaming Your Worship Service on the Web, Sound Engineering, Writing Skills, and Web Design.

After a devotional thought by Donnieval Walker, pastor of the Dunamis Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, Rohann Wellington, GNYC communication director, outlined his vision, goals, and objectives for the next four years, focused on the incorporation of new technologies and social media, and explained that the conference communication department would be taken to the next level.

George Johnson, North American Division communication director, was the featured speaker. He focused on two areas: “I’m my Church’s Communication Leader, Now What?” and “Proven Guidelines for Media Pitching.” The participants were exposed to the communication director’s job description, which is to ensure that members are kept informed and the church is properly represented to the public. Everyone was asked to set a bold, almost daring goal that energizes all the members of their church’s communication team to accomplish something noteworthy and unprecedented.

In the breakout sessions that followed, Ramon Severino brought creativity and savvy to the graphic design group and Dawin Rodriguez provided insights into photography. Gary Saunders was the facilitator of the Archiving and Streaming Your Worship Service for the Web session, while Dale Reynolds and Franklin Mota shared their technical expertise in the form of a hands-on sound engineering course, in both English and Spanish, respectively. I gave a writing skills seminar, while Wellington’s mastery of the Web design session was evident.

The workshop ended with many participants calling for an annual event, while others, impacted by time constraints, wanted some of the sessions to be repeated again later in the year. Those sentiments were expressed before the announcement by Wellington of an entire day dedicated to Web training scheduled for April 17.

The communication directors were given a communication manual, journal, handouts, and contact details for the facilitators and/or communication professionals who were present.

“This hands-on training was exactly what I needed. I will go back to my church better equipped to perform my duties and to make sure the communication department in my church plays its integral role in the Great Commission to go and preach the good news of God’s love to the whole world” says one director. Most of the participants expressed that the training was practical, informative, and will add tremendous value to communication departments of the local churches.

—Chelston Lee, Communication Advisory Committee member, Greater New York Conference

Church Dedication Celebration

April 8-10, 2011
Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church
909 East 233 St., Bronx, NY 10466

Friday, April 8
Consecration Service 7:00 p.m.

Sabbath, April 9
Sabbath School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Drum Corps March 3:30 p.m.
Ribbon Cutting 4:00 p.m.
Act of Dedication 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 10
Formal Banquet 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
E. Black (347) 346-0757
philadelphia22.adventistchurchconnect.org

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, March 2011
The Women’s Soccer Champions and their coaches, Fall 2010.

The Quartet Festival on Parents Weekend featured groups including Ordainne that sang “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand.” Pictured from left: Ricky Pierre, Jean Thibaud, Akeem Brecc, and Jean Remilu.

Reporters are often on campus for stories. SENTINEL AND ENTERPRISE reporter Kevin Doherty, left, talks with Coach Sandy Smith, left, Addison Degina, and Fernando Sosa about their spring mission trip to Rwanda, Africa. Religion professor, Francy Duran, organizes yearly spring ShareHim evangelism trips for 10 students and two faculty.

Parents Weekend. Parents get quality time with their students at college. Pictured: seated from left are Stephanie Harlow and Julia Harlow. Standing is Stephanie’s fiancé Michael Mergenthaler ‘10, Michael Harlow, and Professor Rick Trott, chair of the religion department. All students take religion classes at AUC. Son Andrew Harlow graduated in the spring of 2010.

Preparing for Winter. Some sidewalks were removed and replaced to make a smooth surface for snow removal and walking.

Recruiters. Recruiters across the nation present employment opportunities to AUC students.
Hyujin Chung, left, from Korea, and Yumika Tsuda, from Japan, pose for candid photos.
Chung is a biology major and Tsuda is a nursing major.

Psychology Class. Listening carefully and taking notes.

Campus Clean Up. Started in conjunction with national Earth Day, the AUC family spruces up the campus each year prior to Alumni Homecoming. Pictured is Kate Kilbourn ’10 and Romeo, her parrot, along for the ride.

Church Visitations. Students, faculty, administrators, and musical groups visit churches across the Atlantic Union Conference. They participate in worship services and students share how God is using Atlantic Union College to change and benefit their lives. Pictured: Philadelphie church, Malden, Massachusetts.

Natalie (Ford) Apodaka ’09, a senior painting major, completes one of her senior year paintings in her campus atelier (studio). Art majors have individual studios in the AUC Art department.

Week of Prayer. Students packed the Village church for the February 7-12 Week of Prayer.

Chaplain Danny Sierra ’97, left, prepares to baptize Jamar Wright, one of four students baptized April 28, 2010. About 20 students were baptized last year. Senior theology student, Steve Welch, looks on.

at www.atlantic-union.org  Atlantic Union GLEANER, March 2011
Myanmar Church Leaders Encourage Karen Refugees

About 70 members from two Seventh-day Adventist churches gathered at a special worship service for Karen refugees at the Utica International Seventh-day Adventist Church in Utica, New York. Muller Kyaw, president of the Myanmar Union Mission, was the featured speaker.

People from the Karen tribe of Myanmar have relocated all across the United States, including in major cities in New York. Their flight has brought them to Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, and other cities, after spending years in refugee camps in Thailand. Recently, the Karen refugees in Utica were visited by Muller Kyaw, president of the Myanmar Union Mission. He spoke to about 70 members of two Seventh-day Adventist churches at a special worship service conducted at the Utica International Seventh-day Adventist Church in Utica, New York. The service was organized to encourage the members in their walk with Christ and their ministry in their new country.

Local leaders of the Karen tribe assisted Kyaw. Pastors Elijah Bwint and San Day Dee have cooperated in the development of the Karen church in New York.

—Gary Wagner, pastor, Utica International church

New York Conference Hosts First Elders Retreat

Forty-two church elders from around the New York Conference gathered at the Holiday Inn in Auburn, New York, on December 3 and 4 for the area’s first elders retreat. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the systematic training of lay members, which has been ongoing for the past five years, and specifically to support and encourage elders in their leadership role.

Presenters included conference administrators, Stan Rouse, president; Angel Rodriguez, secretary and ministerial director; Elias Zabala, treasurer.

Topics covered included the roles of pastors, elders, and members in the mission of the church, and the importance of worship, fellowship, training, nurturing, and evangelism. There was also a period of open dialogue on conference initiatives. Elders received identification cards that enable them to more easily access hospitals and prisons for visitation. Those who attended remarked that they were blessed, and commented that it was the first time they had experienced training designed specifically for elders.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference
In upstate New York a group of young people called ThisGeneration is making a significant evangelistic impact. Last summer a group of 42 young people generated 304 Bible study leads in Syracuse, sold several thousand books, touched many lives in the community, and grew personally. They came to Syracuse believing that God would honor His promise in Joshua 1:6 to bless their efforts.

The students participated in mission trips. They received evangelism training from experienced teachers, went door-to-door with surveys to find people interested in studying the Bible, and conducted two concerts in city parks each weekend. Over the course of each trip students went from being nervous about outreach to being excited and amazed about how God was working through them right in front of their eyes. In addition, ThisGeneration also ran a seven-week canvassing program in Syracuse with students who were mostly from Union Springs Academy. Evening worships were an amazing time each day when young people shared how they were able to see God work through them.

One of the participants, Jessica Vatne, from Tenino, Washington, says, “I’ve seen that when you surrender your will to God and say ‘use me,’ He does!” Elijah Hardy from the Wayland church adds, “It’s amazing how close I’ve gotten with God this trip, and I hope this closeness can continue when I go home.”

All 304 leads generated from the ThisGeneration program were funneled to four Bible workers hired by ThisGeneration. The Bible workers are presently following up the leads and bringing their contacts to the prophecy series held at the Westvale church in Syracuse. The follow-up continued through the end of November.

ThisGeneration began in 2008 at the New York Conference camp meeting as a group of young people seeking revival. The group believes that humble, earnest work will accomplish a revival of the youth, and do powerful work for the Lord. In the summer of 2009, ThisGeneration produced roughly 375 leads in Niagara Falls, New York. The young people have the support of the New York Conference in the work they are doing.

—Tom Albrecht ThisGeneration vice president, and Jessica Flores, student and member of the Vestal Hills church

Students from the group ThisGeneration conducted two concerts in Syracuse city parks each the weekend.

Students from the group ThisGeneration went door-to-door with surveys to find people interested in studying the Bible.

“His Sheep Am I”
Second Annual North Country Women’s Retreat
June 10-12, 2011
Camp Cherokee, Saranac Lake, New York

Guest Speaker
Lynn Ortel
Women’s Ministries Director, Northern New England Conference

Fee: $65.00 (includes room & meals)

For More Information Contact:
Sharon King at 315-463-4175 or e-mail sharonk108@yahoo.com
Christian Wright, a member of the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southampton, Bermuda, says that when he decided to try his hand at track and field in October 2009, little did he know how much of an impact he would have on the sport and what impact it would eventually have on him. After receiving world class instruction from his coach and mentor, Bill Euler, in his very first track meet, Wright qualified to represent Bermuda in the Carifta Games, the top junior athletics event for all of the Caribbean. Wright traveled to the Cayman Islands to compete in the under 17 boy’s long jump in April 2010. Still only 15 years old, he faced fierce competition, especially from such countries as Trinidad & Tobago, Bahamas, Barbados, and Jamaica, that dominated in all areas throughout the three-day event. After the first stage of jumps he finished in the top eight to qualify for the finals. He eventually came in third, winning the bronze medal.

A month later, Wright was in New York state competing in the Louck’s Games, a northeast region high school championship. He finished third out of 40 competitors—most of them 17 years old. Wright’s longest jump was 21’ 11.5” (6.69 meters), three centimeters longer than his medal-winning jump at the Carifta Games and just under his personal best of 6.76 meters.

Then, one month later, he was crowned Bermuda National U 17 Long Jump Champion. He not only won his age division but also out-jumped competitors in the under 20 and open men’s division at the Bermuda National Track and Field Championships held at the Bermuda National Stadium on June 17, 2010. Wright jumped a personal best of 6.99 meters! With this performance, he also qualified to go to the Central American and Caribbean Championships in Santo Domingo to compete in the boys under 17 long jump and triple jump as well as the 4 x 100 relay. However, keeping his commitment to God and to his faith, Wright opted out of the competition because the events would have conflicted with the Sabbath.

Refusing to be classed as one-dimensional, Wright, during all of the distractions of local and overseas track and field competitions and training, also buckled down to his studies and successfully passed all nine of his University of Cambridge IGCSE examinations. In his spare time he also finds time to play the piano.

Christian is completing his high school education at Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Florida.

—Adapted from the Bermuda Conference newsletter, STREAMS OF LIGHT, September 2010
A Statement on Drugs

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 Seventh-day Adventist Church urges every individual and every nation to cooperate in stamping out the worldwide drug epidemic that undermines the social structure of nations and on the individual level often kills its victims or leads them into lives of crime.

Seventh-day Adventists believe the Bible teaches that each human body is a “temple of the living God,” which should be cared for intelligently (2 Corinthians 6:15-17).

The church’s Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 22 states, “Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible. . . . Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them. . . . Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness.”

For vibrant living, Seventh-day Adventists urge everyone to follow a lifestyle that avoids tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs.

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, June 1985, at the General Conference Session in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Resources
Listed are some resources that will help you learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s beliefs, positions on specific topics, and established guidelines.

Web sites
Official Statements voted since 1980: www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html

Guidelines: www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html

Fundamental Beliefs: www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html


Other Documents: www.adventist.org/beliefs/other_documents/index.html

Books
Available online at AdventSource (www.adventsource.org) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) (www.adventistbookcenter.com)

Studies, Guidelines and Other Documents
Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual
Faith Church Holds Leadership Development Workshops

It has often been said that God doesn’t always call the equipped, but He always equips the called. In recognition of God’s call to service, the leaders, officers, and members of the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hartford, Connecticut, began the new year with a series of leadership development workshops on January 8 and 9, presented by Raymond Edwards, an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor, organizational psychologist, and church development specialist.

“We are delighted to have started the new year with this leadership development emphasis,” says Jude Francis, senior pastor at Faith church. “This year, one of our primary goals is to equip our leaders and members with new skills and increased awareness through professional training programs such as this. We intend to accelerate the effectiveness of all our ministries and surpass our previous successes.”

Some 150 individuals attending the workshop studied the fundamentals of good departmental leadership. To reinforce the learning experience, the participants worked in smaller breakout groups to brainstorm strategic solutions for their assigned departments using the newly-learned principles. Resources were also made available to participants to facilitate ongoing self-discovery and development.

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Eleven Baptized at the Brockton Portuguese Church

With the understanding that furnishing the growth of the kingdom of God is the uppermost privilege ever given to any person, members of the Brockton Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brockton, Massachusetts, embraced the task with enthusiasm and vibrancy. “The Lord is at work, and so must we be,” says Marcos Seifert, the church’s pastor. By applying methods and techniques for soul-winning that are in harmony with the Bible and the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy, the Brockton church experiences a richly-blessed harvest every year. The motto adopted by the pastor is: “Don’t resist, do your part, and leave the results of the harvest with God.” On December 25, 2010, in an inspiring ceremony, 11 people gave their highest gift to God—their own hearts. At the conclusion of the baptismal ceremony, several others also responded to the call for baptism in the near future.

—Henrique Barbosa, communication director, Brockton Portuguese church
Northeastern Conference Ministerial Department Hosts Pastors Retreat

The General Conference Family Ministries director and associate director, Willie and Elaine Oliver, were presenters at a retreat for pastors sponsored by the Northeastern Conference Ministerial Department under the direction of Walton Rose. Sixty pastors and their spouses attended the event held on Lake George in Bolton, New York, last November. The Olivers explored in their Journey to Intimacy seminar such topics as commitment, becoming intimate, problem-solving, friendship in marriage, nurturing fun, sensitivity, and sexuality.

“I have never been to a marriage seminar that was so real, and down to earth,” shared one couple. “They were just so transparent in sharing their own experiences,” remarked another. Other comments, such as “I learned so much,” and “the Northeastern Conference needs to do this more often,” were echoed as the Olivers challenged the group to be intentional about seeking to build strong pastoral families.

In addition to attending the seminars, and the good food provided by the hotel, the couples enjoyed moments of laughter presented by a comedian named Sabu.

Administrators participating in the event included Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president, Donald and Lois King, Atlantic Union Conference president and Shepherdess director, respectively. The Kings were the worship presenters. Lois King shared some of the concerns and struggles they face in their attempt to stand by and support their husbands in their call to the ministry.

The weekend closed with a marriage covenant service in which each couple pledged to their respective spouses “to exalt the sacred nature and permanence of the marriage covenant.”

—Stephen Williams, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Jackson Celebrates 100 Years

In 1910, the average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years, 14 percent of homes had a bathtub, and only 8 percent had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars, and there were 144 miles of paved roads, with a maximum speed limit of 10 mph. The tallest structure, the Woolworth Building, in New York City, had 57 stories, and the average wage was 22¢ per hour.

In the U.S., 95 percent of all births took place at home, and Hilda Jackson’s birth was no different.

Hilda Jackson, born November 17, 1910, celebrated 100 years of life on November 17, 2010, and she celebrated this special day with her family and friends. She is a member of the Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton, New York. Jackson has been a shut-in member for several years and listens regularly to the church services on the Internet. Jackson, affectionately known as “Aunty,” has been blind for 60 years, but her eyes are very bright spiritually. She enjoys singing the old-time hymns and listening to the Word of God. She also enjoys having visitors on Sabbath. Her mind is sharp and though her frame appears frail, she is strong. Jackson is enjoying life under the love and nurture of her nieces, Faye and Valda. Jackson has a great sense of humor and enjoys being teased by the young people of her family who surround her constantly.

When asked how it feels to be 100 years old, she doesn’t hesitate to say “Great.” She believes that trust in God and His love for her are the reasons she made it to 100.

—Olivia Williams, member, Linden church
Seeds are Planted in Southern Maine

The Lord opened a place last October, right in the middle of the York Wild Animal Kingdom park, for the South Berwick Fellowship members to distribute DVDs along with Hope Channel material.

Mission impossible seems to fit when it comes to York Beach, Maine, because it has been a very hard area to reach with the gospel. Whenever the South Berwick Fellowship tried to place a booth in this Maine town, the way was blocked.

At the October-fest last year, the Lord opened a place right in the middle of the York Wild Animal Kingdom park. That is where they took their position and started to distribute DVDs along with Hope Channel material. With the help of the Holy Spirit and only a two-hour window of time, they were able to plant more than 500 “seeds” (equal to 1,500 Bible studies).

Because of the success that day, they returned the next day. This time they set up right on the street where they were able to distribute another 700 DVDs in a two-hour time-frame. The Lord has a thousand ways to reach the people who need to know Jesus. By following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and by faith, going forward, mission impossible became mission accomplished!

The members also saw the Christmas lighting of the Nubble Lighthouse as another opportunity to plant seeds by distributing 150 Christmas DVDs. Because this was their first time trying this method of evangelism, they wanted to talk with someone who knew the program. They ended up talking to the chairman of the event, and presented him with a DVD. The remaining DVDs were distributed within 30 minutes!

—John Hersom, communication secretary, South Berwick Fellowship

Baptisms at Portsmouth Church

The Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, welcomed nine members into the church as a result of an evangelistic series held in October and November 2010 with Rick Kuntz, Northern New England Conference evangelist. The members prepared for the series by holding such community events as:

- An organic gardening workshop with Dr. Tomato in June 2010.
- An evening with Chef Mark Anthony in August 2010.
- A week-long series of health-related meetings with Dr. John Clark in late August and early September 2010.

They held the meeting with Clark at the Portsmouth Public Library, and on any given night had about 30 people attending (10 or so from the community).

After much preparation and a day of prayer and fasting in October, they were ready to hold the evangelistic meetings at the Frank Jones Center in Portsmouth. The first two weeks of meetings were held there. An average of 60 people (church members and visitors) attended each night, sometimes as many as 90.

Sylvia Loring and I welcomed and signed in the visitors each night. The meetings were moved to the church for the last two weeks of the program. While the adults were in the seminar upstairs, the children were downstairs participating in crafts and other activities organized by Kathy Felch and her team.

On December 4, five people were baptized: Michael Benetiz and Donna Drown (grandson and grandmother), Danielle Welch, and Mary and Dick Munroe (who were rebaptized). The amazing story from this group is that Benetiz received the flyer in the mail about the series in October. He lives in Portsmouth and invited his grandmother, who lives in Rochester, to the series. He had to transport his grandmother so she could attend the series. Michael’s mom, Tonja Spann, who lives in East Rochester, also came and was baptized on January 8 with three other people: Randy Eaton, Inge Houck, and Judy Graham. Each of these people has amazing stories to share.

Eaton was faithful and arrived early almost every night of the series. Graham recommitted herself to the Lord after she was able to change her hours at work to have Sabbaths off, and Houck also made a recommitment. Danielle Welch discovered the Sabbath by studying her Bible and visiting other churches. She made a chart of all the denominations she visited and what they believe. She liked the fact that so many truths from the Bible fell under the Seventh-day Adventist column. She visited the Portsmouth church a few weeks before the series began, received a flyer, and attended the meetings.

As a follow-up to the series, a Sabbath School
Twins, Born Together . . . Again!

Members of the Concord Seventh-day Adventist Church in Concord, New Hampshire, are very excited to share a double blessing to start out the new year. Twins, Jordan and Grant Milano, were born together eight years ago and “born again” together when they were baptized on January 1 by Cliff Gleason, the church’s pastor. When the Lord said “Let there be light,” the light had no choice but to appear just the way the Lord commanded. However, when a person decides to give their heart to the Lord and makes their decision public by going down into the watery grave of baptism, it is a greater miracle because they have the ability to say “No.” The Lord Jesus said “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved”—Mark 16:16.

After attending the “Amazing Adventures” series by Doug Batchelor, the twins expressed their desire to be baptized. On their own, they started to have “meetings” with Jesus each morning where they would sing praises, pray, and read Scripture together. They furthered their studies with their parents and then went through a baptismal preparation course with Gleason. Friends and family gathered to witness their life-changing decision.

—Cheryl Johnson, communication correspondent, Concord church
Students Commit Their Lives to Jesus

About 100 family members and friends witnessed the baptism of DeAnna Brown, Edyn-Mae Stevenson, and Joey Terry, all seventh-graders at South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, on Friday evening, December 31, 2010. The baptisms were held prior to a Communion service conducted by Don Pate, senior pastor of the College Church of Seventh-day Adventists in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Gillian Stevenson, Edyn-Mae Stevenson’s sister and DeAnna Brown’s cousin, and James Terry, Joey Terry’s brother, read Bible verses in between each baptism. Heather Cook, College Church associate pastor, baptized Brown and Stevenson, while Josué Feliciano, Southern New England Conference youth director, baptized Terry.

The baptismal portion of the service closed with Jonathan Terry, Joey Terry’s other brother, playing “Jesus Loves Me” on the guitar and Kristie Stevenson, Edyn-Mae Stevenson’s mother and DeAnna Brown’s aunt, singing an original version accompanied by Ted Dunker, a family friend.

Almost 100 family and friends witnessed the historic moment in the lives of these young people, with Don Pate, senior pastor of the College Church, leading the group in song and prayer followed by a special Communion service.

—Tamara Michalenko Terry, former assistant communication director, Southern New England Conference

Berkshire Hills Church Adds Two

The Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, recently welcomed Keith and Bernice Burdick of Adams, Massachusetts, into its fellowship through baptism, after nearly one year of Bible study. Jon Clayburn, the church’s pastor, used the 32-lesson study “Unto a Perfect Man” by Carl Coffman, a former professor at Pacific Union College. The Burdicks were first introduced to Clayburn by another individual taking Bible studies. The Burdicks, who were not married at the time they began Bible studies, had a double ceremony of a wedding and a baptism performed by Clayburn.

—Stuart Dixon, communication director, Berkshire Hills church

Clinton Spanish Church Steeple Grounded

Between Clinton City Hall and the Clinton Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Clinton, Massachusetts, now sits the steeple of the church. The roof and belfry were in need of major repair, so on December 22, 2010, two giant cranes were used to remove the steeple from the church built in 1852. Leonardo Caines, local elder; Jeff Linthwaite, Southern New England Conference property manager; and Tom Murray, Southern New England Conference association secretary; were present for the occasion. The steeple will remain “grounded” until necessary repairs are completed.

—Frank Tochterman, president, Southern New England Conference
West Lynn Spanish Congregation Organized

The West Lynn Spanish congregation held a two-fold celebration on Sabbath afternoon, January 8—the organizational service for becoming an official church in the Southern New England Conference and the inaugural service in its new church facility at 569 Western Avenue in Lynn, Massachusetts. The congregation, an intentional church plant of the Lynn Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, has grown beyond church company status to more than 50 members in just one year. The congregation, with the help of its mother church, also purchased and renovated its own church building. Elim Lopez is the church’s pastor and Eliberto Maldonado is the head elder.

Representatives at the service from the Southern New England Conference include Frank Tochterman, president; Juan Borges, secretary; Whitford Shaw, ministerial director, and Tom Murray, trust services director.

— Frank Tochterman, communication director, Southern New England Conference

Massachusetts Adventist Youth and Young Adult Federation Hosts Benefit Concert

A benefit concert for the “Blessing AUC Fund,” and for the South Lancaster Academy Athletic Department in memory of Gui Sobral, was held January 8 at Machlan Auditorium on the campus of Atlantic Union College. The “Love in Any Language” concert was also held to recognize the talent of young adults in the Southern New England Conference. The event was sponsored by the Massachusetts Adventist Youth and Young Adults Federation (MAYYA).

More than 100 people attended, and the concert was streamed live. There were many challenges in preparation for and during the concert, but God was always in control. The participants represented almost all the ethnic groups in the conference, including people from Africa, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Brazil.

The evening began with praise and worship time. The praise team, Kirosha Huggans, Youngcy Desormes, Sheila Santana, and Marjorie Frias, united their voices to praise the Lord, accompanied by band members Alex Caines, Pedro Gregorio, Tyrone Monmirail, and Elizer Martinez. They encouraged the attendees to always praise the Lord no matter what is going on in their lives.

Among the participants were Nikiwe Bugingo from the All Nations church; Joel Noboa and Steven De Leon from the Clinton Spanish church, Meyre Andrew from the Brazilian church; Silent Praise from the Worcester Pleasant Street church. Leighton Kennedy played the saxophone and God’s Little Helpers, the youngest participants, praised the Lord with their voices. God’s Design, a sign language group from Berea church in Boston, Massachusetts, performed to “Lord, I Believe in You.” Their mission is to spread the Word of God to hearing and deaf communities. Restored, special guests from Stanford, Connecticut, performed with Maribel Soto, a Hispanic Christian singer.

The grand finale was the song “Love in Any Language,” sung by the groups Restored, God’s Design, and the praise team united in the grand finale singing the song “Love in Any Language.”

—Evelyn Santana, president, Massachusetts Adventist Youth and Young Adults Federation

It was standing room only at the organization and inaugural service for the members of the West Lynn Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Selon la tradition, les deux plus grands composants du budget mondial de l’Église Adventiste du Septième Jour de cette année subventionneront des appropriations pour la mission et le travail administratif à l’extérieur de l’Amérique du Nord, ainsi que les fonds de fonctionnement du bâtiment du siège principal mondial.

Le budget de l’année 2011 qui s’élève à 159,4 millions de dollars (soit environ 116,4 millions d’euros) continue de soutenir le travail missionnaire: 37,5 millions de dollars (soit environ 27,4 millions d’euros) sont affectés aux champs mondiaux, avec 26 millions de dollars (soit environ 19 millions d’euros) supplémentaires de financement pour les missionnaires et employés dans les autres Divisions.

J.R. Prestol a dit que la tendance en Amérique Latine est de reconnaître la “maturité” de l’église là-bas, tout comme la “croissance et les ressources financières.” “On reconnaît aussi qu’il y a des besoins dans d’autres endroits et qu’un différent taux de répartition est nécessaire en ce moment,” il a dit.”

Les affectations réduites de ces Divisions seront plutôt destinées dans l’intervalle 10/40, zone située entre le 10ème parallèle nord et le 40ème parallèle nord qui va de l’Afrique du Nord à l’Asie de l’Est, où seulement 1 % environ de la population est chrétienne.

Les autres affectations importantes du budget mondial de 2011 se présentent de la manière suivante:

• 9.8 millions de dollars pour l’université de Loma Linda
• 5.5 millions de dollars pour le magazine Adventist World
• 4.3 millions de dollars pour l’université d’Andrews
• 3.5 millions de dollars pour le fonctionnement de Hope Channel
• 2.2 millions de dollars pour le White Estate
• 2.1 millions de dollars pour Adventist World Radio
• 1.4 millions de dollars consacrés à la session de la Conférence Générale de 2015 (le même montant est économisé chaque année pendant les cinq ans qui précèdent la session)


Source: Adventist News Network
En la Iglesia Mundial

El Presupuesto 2011 Enfatiza la Misión y el Apoyo Administrativo

D e conformidad con la tradición, las dos cuentas más grandes del presupuesto mundial de la Iglesia Adventista este año son las asignaciones para obra misionera y administrativa fuera de Norteamérica y para financiar la operación de la sede central de la iglesia.

El presupuesto 2011, de 159.4 millones de dólares, sigue apoyando la obra misionera: unos 37.5 millones en asignaciones a los campos mundiales y otros 26 millones para los misioneros en otras regiones del mundo.

Los costos operativos de la sede central de la iglesia están limitados al dos por ciento de los diezmos mundiales, este año, unos 38 millones de dólares. Por lo general, se suelen usar entre uno o dos millones menos de esa marca.

“Estamos contemplando una economía que nos da menos que lo que necesitamos, pero es un presupuesto equilibrado,” dijo Juan R. Prestol, subtesorero de la iglesia mundial.

Dos de las divisiones mundiales recibirán menos asignaciones en comparación con el año pasado. La División Interamericana recibirá un trece por ciento menos, y la División Sudamericana, un siete por ciento menos. La mayoría de las divisiones recibe entre uno y cuatro millones de dólares.

Prestol dijo que la tendencia en Latinoamérica reconoce la “madurez” de la iglesia allí, y “la fuerza y el crecimiento financiero.”

“Reconoce también las necesidades de otros lugares,” agregó.

Estas reducciones serán enviadas a la Ventana 10/40, una región donde solo alrededor del uno por ciento de la población es cristiana.

Otras asignaciones de importancia para el presupuesto 2011 incluyen:
- $9.8 millones para la Universidad de Loma Linda
- $5.5 millones para la revista Adventist World
- $4.3 millones para la Universidad Andrews
- $3.5 millones para Hope Channel
- $2.2 millones para el Patrimonio White
- $2.1 millones para Radio Mundial Adventista
- $1.4 millones para el Congreso de la Asociación General 2015 (se reserva el mismo monto cada año)

Si desea ver una copia completa del presupuesto mundial 2011, envíe por favor la solicitud al editor de ANN, a la dirección AdventistNews@gc.adventist.org.

Source: Adventist News Network

En Azerbaiyán, Los Adventistas Son Acusados De Actividades Ilegales

Las tensiones entre los adventistas y el gobierno de Azerbaiyán se incrementaron el mes pasado cuando funcionarios interrumpieron un culto en Sumgait para interrogar a los feligreses.

Las autoridades revisaron el lugar, confiscaron cientos de libros y DVD, y acusaron a los miembros de reunirse en forma illegal. No es la primera vez que esto sucede.

Los defensores de la libertad religiosa dicen que el incidente es resultado de un voto parlamentario reciente, que incrementa las multas por reuniones y evangelismo autorizado en el país. Las autoridades dijeron que la congregación no tenía el permiso que se requiere para reunirse.

La constitución del país contempla la libertad religiosa, pero solo para los grupos religiosos que cuentan con el permiso oficial. Los adventistas han buscado registrar la congregación de Sumgait desde 2003, pero el proceso está plagado de retrasos y negativas.

A pesar de reunirse en reiteradas ocasiones con las autoridades, las solicitudes siempre son devueltas o reciben el silencio de las autoridades, dijeron.

Los líderes de la iglesia planean reunirse con el Ministro de Asuntos Religiosos del país, con la esperanza de hallar una solución.

“Esperamos que las autoridades reconozcan el derecho de una comunidad de creyentes que no representa una amenaza a la seguridad del estado, de existir y reunirse según sus tradiciones”, dijo John Graz, director del departamento de Relaciones Públicas y Libertad Religiosa de la Iglesia Adventista mundial. ¶

Source: Adventist News Network
Union del Atlántico Retiro-Entrenamiento de Ancianos Latinos y Portugueses

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at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar
service. Contact the GLAA Alumni Office
South Lancaster, Massachusetts, can pro-
be available. E-mail: chaplaincy@auc.edu
in Camden, Maine; d. Dec. 1, 2010,
GLEANER,
She served at Atlantic Union College (1948). She served
in her church as Home and School
leader, Sabbath School superintendent and teacher. She was a strong supporter of Adventist education. In her teaching career she taught at several Adventist schools including Portland Adventist Academy in Portland, Ore., the church school in Middletown, N.Y. and Bay Knoll in Rochester, N.Y. She is survived by her husband, Norman, of 57 years, two sons, Mark Tickner, and Paul Tickner (Darla), grandson, Brendan, sister, Dorts Hart (Richard); three brothers, Granley Beisiegel, Raymond Beisiegel (Mary), and Bertram Beisiegel; brother-in-law, Fred Nudd, and many nieces and nephews.

TYLER, JR., Merle Alfred—61, b Feb. 20, 1949, in Stoneham, Mass., d. Dec. 7, 2010, in Arizona. He was a member of the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, Maine. He was a strong supporter of Christian education. He is survived by his wife, Betty Weaver Tyler, of 37 years, a son, Daniel Tyler of Va.; three daughters, Susan LeBlond (Brian) of Auburn, Maine, Lynette Tyler of Oakfield, Maine, and Amy Tyler of Auburn, Maine; his parents, Merle Tyler and Marion Vincent of Fla; two sisters, Lynnette Harriman and Linda Araugo, four brothers, Mark, Russell, Daniel, and Richard Tyler; grandchildren, David Grace, Morgan and Adam Tyler, Zack LeBlond, Becky Picard, and Lily LeBlond, Felicia and Kyle Howard, and Brei Cole.

WARHAN, Blair H.—85, b. May 24, 1925, in Cahoes, N.Y.; d. Sept. 18, 2010, in Newport, Vt. He was the director of Central Service for the New England Memorial Hospital in Stoneham, Mass., from 1969 until his retirement in 1986. He served as an elder at the Newport Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was an active board member for Voice in the Kingdom Radio, Inc. WJSY-LP, 96.1 FM, the low power radio station owned by the church. He is survived by a son, James Warman (Michelle) of Newport Center, Vt.; a daughter, Donna Luna (Jose) of Milford, N.H.; two brothers, Gordon Warman (Joanne) of Bradenton, Fla., Alvin Warman of Burnt River, Ontario; three brothers-in-law, Al Overbye of Elk River, Minn., Alfred (Bud) Roberts (Edna) of South Lancaster, Mass.; and Pastor William Dugdugon of Buchanan, Mich.; and five grandchildren: Nathan and Karlynn Warman, and Lindsey, Jose, and Isabel Luna.

Announcements

Atlantic Union College
Christian Leadership and Community Service Engagement Grants—With Atlantic Union College’s focus on Christian leadership and community engagement, matching scholarships are available to AUC students from all Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Atlantic Union Conference. Each church is eligible to sponsor up to two students per year. Atlantic Union College’s subsidy received from conferences, will match up to a maximum of $3,000 per semester or $6,000 per academic year. Details www.auc.edu, click future students.

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Out-of-Union

“Ye Olde” Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place Jun. 9-12 for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 61 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes ’31, ’41, ’51, ’61. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Contact the GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181, or visit: www.GLAA.net for further information.

Obituaries

JAMIESON, Lee F.—78, b. Apr. 14, 1932, in Camden, Maine; d. Dec. 1, 2010, in Walpole, N.H. He attended Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, N.Y. He was in the United States Air Force and served during the Korean Conflict. He worked in sales for Worthington Foods Company, retiring after 32 years. He is survived by his wife, Anne Vesper Jamieson, four daughters, Carol L. Jamieson (Donald O’Malley) of Townsend, N.H., Leah Jamieson (Donald O’Malley) of Townsend, Mass., two sons, Michael R. Jamieson (Deborah) of Sykesville, Md., and Everett A. Jamieson (Julie) of Grayling, Mich., Rick Piepauer of Ashburnham, Mass., Charles Miemiec of Leicester, Mass., a sister, Mildred Swan (Arnold) of Mich.; two brothers, John Donnelly (Donna) of Fla., and Judson Jamieson (Donna) of Tenn., 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Olive (Farley) Jamieson (1997), two brothers, Carroll and Lloyd Jamieson, and his stepmother, Margaret Jamieson.

STAHL, Lucia D.—92, b Aug. 23, 1918, in Flinchburgh, Germany; d. Nov. 28, 2010, in Lewiston, Maine. She has a twin who predeceased her in 1921. She was a member of the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, Maine. She was active in Adventist Community Services. She was predeceased by her husband, Ernest Stahl, in 1986, and later, her daughter, Rotraud, and son, Gerhart Stahl. She is survived by two grandsons, Charles and David Kohler; a granddaughter, Linda Kohler; a great-grandson, Kyle Kohler.

TICKNER, Eunice R.—89, b. Jun. 22, 1921, in Rochester, N.Y.; d. Jan. 8, 2011, in Victor, N.Y. She was a member of the Bay Knoll Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rochester, N.Y. She is a graduate of Atlantic Union College (1948). She served in her church as Home and School
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Steve Varro - Illustrations of God’s love,
Giant honor midway, Pinewood Derby, Master Guide
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