Building Bridges in the Community

Making connections and meeting the needs of those around us
In this Issue...

In the cover story beginning on page 4, Katia Reinert, the North American Division Health Ministries director, says, “If we want to make an impact in people’s lives, we must start by meeting the needs around us.” The article deals with health, and several tips are shared that members can use to help improve their health and the health of those in their community. Our regular features include Adventist Education and Youth Talk. The cover photo is an image from iStockphoto.
“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones”— Proverbs 17:22, ESV.

In November 2005, National Geographic magazine published a landmark article by Dan Buettner on the topic of longevity. As he traveled the globe, he found groups of people who live long and happy lives in places such as Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; and Loma Linda, California. Buettner discovered that a higher percentage of people who lived to 100 years old lived more in these locations than in the rest of the world.

So, why is this? Why do some live longer and happier while others struggle each day to overcome endless aches and pains and depression, while at the same time succumbing to the side effects of powerful medications? First, let me say that there are no guarantees when it comes to health and longevity. However, if we take care of ourselves, risks notwithstanding, we increase the probability of having better health.

One area of research today that affects longevity is genetics. Studies suggest that bad habits can actually alter the DNA code that gives us the ability to fight disease and enjoy a long, happy life. Think about it! Could it be that our habits and choices of food and behavior can actually affect how our offspring fare in the future? The good news, however, is that if we make healthy choices, not only may we experience long and happy lives ourselves, but our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren could also be blessed!

For example, a person who craves alcohol—a weakness passed down to them from their fore-parents—has to labor harder to keep from falling prey to the drinking habit than one whose parents never indulged in the risks of drinking. The DNA code is there, but if never activated in one’s life by not practicing the alcoholic behavior, the DNA genetic disposition passed on to the person’s offspring will be less demanding in that particular area. Nevertheless, as pointed out earlier, let’s remember that just because your ancestors lived to a ripe old age doesn’t mean you’ll be shielded from inherited tendencies such as heart disease, diabetes, and mental illness. Genetics is only one part of the picture.

We can give ourselves the best chance for a healthy life by consistently following a NEWSTART lifestyle—Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in Divine Power. Not only has science substantiated this, but also Scripture (Genesis 5 and 11) has recorded that, as soon as humans began to consume the blood of animals by eating meat after the flood, longevity was profoundly and negatively affected.

Dan Buettner’s global research suggests that those who live the longest on planet Earth not only live happier but share a common menu of a plant-based diet, whole foods, fruits, and grains high in antioxidants, and a lifestyle of healthy choices that keep the immune system functioning effectively. The more well you are, the happier you become. And both will extend your longevity.

As we return to the optimal disease-fighting diet recorded in Genesis 1, we will be best served to enjoy a long and enjoyable life in the here and now even as we prepare for the hereafter.

And if you need tangible persuasion that healthy choices really work, such as a forgiving spirit, loving behaviors, and positive thoughts coupled with a NEWSTART lifestyle, I suggest you have a little talk with the joyful centenarians in Okinawa, Sardinia, and Loma Linda. You just may be convinced that health and happiness go hand in hand with long life.

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees.
Our role model is Christ and we are reminded that “His method alone will bring true success in reaching people.” What did He do? Inspiration and Scripture tell us that He “mingled” with people and ministered to their needs, before asking them to follow Him (The Ministry of Healing, p. 143). If we want to make an impact in people’s lives, we must start by meeting the needs around us. There are many needs to meet, but one in particular has been brought to our attention. Thirty-three percent of the population in the U.S. is obese and one in three children fit that description. A child that is obese at the ages of 10-13 has an 80 percent chance of being obese as an adult. Scientific evidence confirms the links between obesity and diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other major killers. There is a huge need for education and opportunities to help families prevent and reverse this scenario. What can Adventists do?

Many years ago Adventists took the tobacco “epidemic” and engaged with the community to make a difference teaching Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking programs, as well as partnering with community organizations and policymakers to change the course of smoking around the world. Years later we now see the prevalence of smoking being reduced in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Now we have the opportunity to do the same with the obesity epidemic. The key again is to make connections and build bridges in the community so we can have a similar positive impact in the health of families and communities today. This effort will take collaboration from Adventist ministries and institutions, as well as the creation of partnerships in our communities.

In April, the NAD launched Adventists InStep for Life, the Adventist response to the childhood and adult epidemic of obesity. Please join our ministries (health, youth, children’s, community services, schools, hospitals) in following Christ’s example of mingling, showing sympathy, and meeting this current need around us. I have no doubt that God can bring incredible success as we follow His method to reach out in love to individuals and families in our communities “telling the world to choose full life.”

Katia Reinert is the North American Division Health Ministries director.

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If we want to make an impact in people’s lives, we must start by meeting the needs around us.

September 25, 2011

The North American Division has set aside Sunday, September 25, 2011 as Let’s Move Day. The goal is to get as many people as possible involved in physical activity on that day. Consider what kind of event your church, school, university, or hospital can sponsor and/or promote—a group walk in the park, youth sports event, organized 5K run/walk, or any other event involving physical activity. Invite other community groups, like the local health department, a university, a church, or other agencies, to partner with you. Your event will create community awareness for childhood obesity and can also be used as a fundraiser for other projects. You can also join an existing community event. Whatever your organization plans, remember to invite your community to join you as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

For more information, visit: www.adventistsinstepforlife.org.
Facts With Hope

PUTTING OUR CHILDREN ON THE PATH TO A HEALTHIER FUTURE

**FACT:** The journal *Obesity Reviews* (July 14, 2008), reporting on a study of 367 children’s food products, revealed that nine out of 10 foods aimed at children had nutritional deficits due to high levels of sugar, fat, or salt. (Even though 62 percent of them made health claims!)

**HOPE:** Findings from a study published in the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* (August 2008) shows that children are more likely to select produce over other, less healthy options, when they are regularly exposed to fresh fruits and vegetables. And a five-year study published in the journal *Preventive Medicine* (July 2008) found that the amount of fruit and vegetables the children ate directly correlated with the amount their parents ate. So the next time your child asks for an unhealthy snack, put out a plate of apple slices—and sit down to enjoy them together.

**FACT:** The American Psychological Association reports that children who are overweight feel more stressed than their normal-weighted peers. Most of the children interviewed said they used sedentary activities, such as listening to music, playing video games, and watching TV, to manage their stress, and 48 percent reported disordered eating (either too much or too little) when stressed out, compared with only 16 percent of children at a healthy weight.

**HOPE:** Parents can make a lasting impact on the lifestyle behaviors that lead to weight gain by helping children recognize stressors and effective ways of coping. You can also be a role model for your children in handling your own stress in a healthy way. If your children see you talking to others about problems, taking time to relax, and living a healthy lifestyle, your example is likely to rub off.

**FACT:** Researchers have found that, at ages 9 and 11, more than 90 percent of children met the recommended levels of moderate to vigorous physical activity recommended for children. By age 15, however, only 31 percent met the recommended level on weekdays and 17 percent met the recommended level on weekends. The researchers estimated that physical activity declined by about 40 minutes per day each year. (JAMA, July 16, 2008)

**HOPE:** Even walking for as few as 15 minutes a day provides health benefits. If your children do not exercise often, encourage family activities, such as bike riding, hiking, playing ball, or swimming. Planning active family events keeps your entire family fit and healthy.

**FACT:** A study in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* (August 2008) finds that children who do not get enough sleep are more likely to be overweight than their well-rested peers. The researchers determined that a one-hour reduction in daily REM sleep nearly tripled a child’s odds for overweight and obesity.

**HOPE:** Bring back the bedtime story, prayers, and tuck-in time. Establishing a regular bedtime routine can ensure that your child gets adequate sleep and help to reduce their risk of obesity.

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Greater New York Academy: A Reflection

Greater New York Academy (GNYA) celebrated its 88th commencement service on June 19, 2011. The parents were reminded that they spent about $24,000 on tuition and expenses for their child’s education at GNYA over the past four years, compared to almost $70,000 over the same period spent by New York City on each of their students in regular education in 2008, according to the Census Bureau. Amazingly, the graduation rate in the public schools in 2008 and 2009 was 56 percent and 59 percent, respectively, while the graduation rate from GNYA was 100 percent in both years.

Students continue to be successful when taking the New York State Regents Examinations. Both juniors and seniors took advanced placement courses and advanced placement exams in English and/or Biology. The students began to participate in a SAT preparation course in August. The introduction of Greater New York Virtual Academy provided additional resources for the ninth-graders. The first Global Studies Fair held at GNYA was a huge success, thanks to the direction of teachers Sandra Ball and N’karlo Alexander and the enthusiasm and hard work by the students.

When they were sophomores in the 2008-2009 school year, the current graduates responded to a survey done through the University of Michigan. On the question relative to how many intended to graduate from high school, 100 percent responded affirmatively. Congratulations to the graduates — they kept their word. As of graduation on June 19, 100 percent of the students indicated they plan to go to college.

GNYA graduates continue to be successful after graduation. In 2007, 94 percent of the graduates went on to college and many of them graduated last year. In 2008, all the graduates went on to college and continue to hold high the standards of their alma mater. All the students from the class of 2009 went on to various colleges and universities. Of the class of 2010, about 90 percent went on to higher education.

On a social and physical level, the students participated in a boys’ lock-in and a girls’ lock-in during the month of October 2010. The annual “Battle of the Classes” provided opportunities to display school spirit.

In 2011, for the first time, the students participated in a volleyball league for private schools. They experienced successes and failures, however, the successes outweighed the failures. The boys’ basketball team again was the champion at the Atlantic Union College Basketball Camp in April on the campus of Atlantic Union College.

Weekly chapels continue to highlight the spiritual values expected on the campus. Classroom devotions and prayer are the norm. A safe spiritual environment is fostered, and the school continues to have weeks of spiritual emphasis conducted by pastors and students from GNYA.

In the area of service, the students continue to involve themselves in the immediate and wider community. In the spring, 32 pints of blood were donated as a result of the efforts of the students, spearheaded by the National Honor Society under the leadership of their sponsor, Walix Valcin, and president, Sherina King. Graduates Jessica Thervil and Xavier Kellman were also recognized for their service to the school in 2010 and 2011.

Greater New York Academy is one step closer to realizing its dream of a new building. The architectural drawings have been approved by the New York City Buildings Department, and for this we are grateful to God.

One member of the class of 2011 was unable to physically attend school for the 2010-2011 school year due to illness, but he completed all necessary assignments. He attended graduation in a wheelchair and everyone stood and applauded when he was wheeled in by his class sponsors.

The graduates were told: “The road to success is not straight. There is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Enemies, caution lights called Family. You will have Flats called Jobs, but if you have a spare called Determination, and an engine called Perseverance, insurance called Faith, a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success and you will definitely make it to the kingdom of heaven.”

Lillian Mitchell is the principal of the Greater New York Academy.
Thirty-four Baptized During Tent Effort

The launch of the “Let God Speak” prophecy campaign marked the first time in more than 10 years that any church in the Bermuda Conference has engaged in tent evangelism. As a matter of fact, many skeptics had long ago proclaimed that the days of tent evangelism in Bermuda were over forever. But the members of the Devonshire and Pembroke Seventh-day Adventist churches felt otherwise. Under the leadership of pastors Ryan Simpson of the Devonshire church, and Stefan Burton Schnull of the Pembroke church, the members of the two churches launched out in faith and held the meetings in April under a big tent on Perimeter Lane Field in Pembroke, Bermuda. The blessings of the Lord were made manifest from the beginning of the meetings until the end.

The first indication that God’s blessings rested on the members’ endeavors was when Perimeter Lane Field was offered for use free of charge. The venue proved to be ideal. Centrally located in the heart of the outreach target area, the field was also large enough to accommodate the huge tents, while those attending were able to park their cars comfortably on the expansive grounds. One fear that arose after the venue was chosen was about the possibility that excessive rain would cause the field to flood and hamper the progress of the meetings. Except for one brief shower, the entire three-week period during which the campaign was conducted was rain free. As a matter of fact, each day under the tent was a “Bermudaful” day.

The meetings were broadcast live on Bermuda Adventist Television, ATV Channel 80, and streamed live on the Internet at two locations: letgodspeak.info and praizevision.com. Feedback received indicates that people were watching the broadcasts from places in North America, the Caribbean, and Europe. In addition, meals were served every evening before the meetings and during the Sabbath celebrations.

The evangelist for the “Let God Speak” prophecy campaign was Guy Nembhard a pastor from Belize. His daughter, Genelle Nembhard, served as the singing evangelist. The sermons Nembhard preached were pointed, powerful, practical, and Bible-based. The evangelist challenged those who attended to follow a “thou said the Lord.” Two baptismal services were held during the series, resulting in a total of 34 people making commitments to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior.

—Lisa-Nichole Tucker, communication director, Devonshire church

General Conference Representatives Visit Bermuda

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a worldwide presence, with Bermuda being no exception. So it was an extraordinary honor when G. T. Ng, General Conference executive secretary, and Gary Krause, Office of Adventist Mission director, arrived on the shores of Bermuda for a 24-hour visit. To share the visit with as many as possible, an island-wide prayer service was held at the Southampton church. Ng’s message was in keeping with the worldwide emphasis on reformation and revival. He reminded those in attendance that while our greatest and most urgent need is reformation and revival, Satan and his entire host tremble at the sound of saints praying. Therefore, prayer should be a priority for the saints in these tumultuous times, Ng admonished.

Provocatively, a 10:30 a.m. courtesy appointment with the premier of Bermuda, the Honorable Paula Cox, JP, MP, turned into a Bible study conducted by Ng. Cox was directed to Daniel 2 and a personal Bible study unfolded. Ng delved into the Holy Scriptures, explaining the image and giving parallels to today’s economic and political situation. He drew Cox’s attention to Micah 6:8, where God admonishes leaders to follow three guidelines: (1) do justly, (2) love mercy, (3) and walk humbly with God.

At opportune times, God directs His messengers to speak an encouraging word for Him and to share the good news of His soon coming. All who were present will remember this event as one of those moments. At the end of the visit Ng presented the premier with a copy of THE GREAT CONTROVERSY.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference
A group of children’s ministries advocates met at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, for a Creative Arts Ministry Workshop sponsored by the Greater New York Conference. They learned how to tell stories, how to write and present puppet skits, new ways for praise and worship, and different approaches for prayer.

Three of the participants received certificates for completing the prayer ministries course, and one for completing the basic training course. VBS was on the agenda for Sunday morning. Candy Devore from the Review and Herald Publishing Association was one of the presenters. Using this year’s theme “Gone Fishin,” the group participated in the Bible lesson, sampled the snacks, played games, and made crafts. Music was a very important part of the program, as well. Prizes were given to those who had a number under their chair.

The Children’s Ministries Advisory shared the Five Cs of Christianity—Creation, Conflict, Commandments, Cross, and Coming—verbally and with hand signals. This is a good way to share Jesus and His love in under one minute. All of us have at least a minute each day that we can share.

—Barbara Hyde, director, Greater New York Conference Children’s Ministries Department

Some of the Children’s Ministries Advisory team who helped plan the weekend include, bending front, Delrita Canas; standing from left, Michelle Broomfield, Martha Peralta, Karen Perez Thomas, Barbara Hyde, and Ventrice Thomas.

Michelle Broomfield received a certificate of completion for Basic Level Certification.

Beulah Temple Honors Canarsie Park Workers

During its annual Community Guest Day the Beulah Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church Sabbath School Department presented an award to Lawrence Major, supervisor of the Canarsie Park in Brooklyn, New York, on behalf of his staff. On each Community Guest Day the church acknowledges an organization or individual who renders public service to the community.

This year the church decided to recognize the workers at the Canarsie Park for their tireless job in keeping the park attractive, accommodating, and litter-free. The Sabbath School department has been making use of the park for physical exercise, and recreational and evangelistic programs. Corben Crew, the church’s pastor, presented the award on behalf of the church.

—Gilliam Semple, communication director, Beulah church
The Wakefield Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York, held a three-week “Jesus is the Answer” Revival from May 21 to June 11 that was filled with power-packed preaching. G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference (GNYC) president, led the evangelistic series. Other speakers included Neylon S. Samuel, Wakefield church pastor, who delivered the Word of God on Saturday evening, June 4; and Rohann Wellington, GNYC communication director, who addressed the audience on Saturday, May 28. Also participating were Gerson Santos, GNYC secretary; Steve Cassimy, GNYC ministerial and family ministries director; Lincoln Smith, pastor of the Huntington and Antioch churches; and Hubert Wilke, Philadelphia church pastor, who shared in the series by offering prayer.

During the three-week series Dawn Samuels, Christine Sinclair, and Jean Brown were the singing evangelists. A lively gospel concert and music celebration was coordinated every Saturday evening by Claudine Galbraith, music coordinator, and her team. Among the line-up of artists were Simone Clarke, David Hayles, Billy Poyette, Mercy, Brothers In Christ, and many more.

In his May 24 sermon titled “Is the Bible Still Relevant?” Knight sequentially listed verses from each book of the Bible, declaring why the Word of God is still relevant today! And, in his May 27 message titled “Seven Steps to Eternal Life,” Knight shared that sometimes we make Christianity very complicated, but it is very simple. He referenced John 3:16, emphasizing how much God loves us. He suggested that we should begin our life’s journey right now, by living as if we are living eternal life and acting that way. According to Knight, eternal life calls for total commitment to God. It is a gift, not something that we earn.

Other topics Knight covered were “A New World Order,” “The Mark of the Beast,” and “God’s Final Call.” As a result of individual decisions to follow Jesus all the way in baptism, a total of 16 newly-baptized members were added to the Wakefield church and one by profession of faith. The work has just begun as the church continues to provide support for every new convert added.

—Kay-Ann E. Mitto, communication director, Wakefield 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 Greater New York 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!

Rohann Wellington
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Sixteen Baptized at “Jesus Is the Answer” Revival

As a result of individual decisions to follow Jesus all the way in baptism, a total of 16 newly-baptized members were added to the Wakefield church.
The Joy of Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church Family Ministries and Children’s Ministries departments in Lansingburgh, New York, teamed up to co-sponsor a car wash in late June. The proceeds of the event were used to subsidize the cost for 49 people to go on a family ministries trip and enable the children to go for free!

Armed with buckets, gloves, and hoses, and led by Pedro McKnight, a church elder, members converged on a donated M&T Bank parking lot at a busy intersection in Troy, New York. Children as young as four years old held signs and called out to motorists, “Come on people, turn in here!”

Bill Moody, a deacon, solicited donations from drivers who didn’t have time to wash their cars. “I told them that they were helping kids,” he explained. Several drivers spontaneously stopped him to empty their coin stashes when they saw his sign.

Drivers were given a flyer that detailed the purpose of the fund-raiser and listed information about the church. One driver was moved to tears. She explained that she had never seen such an event passing pedestrians and drivers wanted to know who they were and where they worship.

Church members soaped and polished their way to a profit of more than $200. The funds assisted in sending church and community members to the Sight and Sound Theatre, a faith-based organization in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Their 2011 production, Joseph, fits into Joy of Troy’s mission statement to bring the joy of the everlasting gospel to the surrounding areas in preparation for the soon return of Jesus. The members want people who haven’t heard the Bible stories to be able to experience God’s love in a way that is visually appealing and not pushy.

—Helen McKnight, member, Joy of Troy church

**Car Wash Fund-raiser Creates Opportunity to Witness**

The Joy of Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church Family Ministries and Children’s Ministries departments in Lansingburgh, New York, teamed up to co-sponsor a car wash in late June. The proceeds of the event were used to subsidize the cost for 49 people to go on a family ministries trip and enable the children to go for free!

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On Sundays, and most evenings during the week, you will find Bill Moody and other members of the Joy of Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Ministries Department at the Capital District Community Gardens in Lansingburgh, New York. “One of our goals this year is to help youth make healthier choices,” said Moody. “We want to help them to be more aware of how their eating and health habits affect their well-being. We decided that it would be a good idea to give our kids a hands-on experience with their nutrition.”

This growing garden is proof that God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called. Moody never planted anything in his life, but with enthusiasm, he has led a team of youth in preparing their plot, planting seeds, and going through the never-ending process of weeding. The team began in mid-May, a little late in the planting season. Their plot was a field of weeds, and it seemed silly to begin the venture. They were novices, planting seeds that had little chance of growth. Nevertheless, they pressed on. After three days of tireless tilling, the ground was ready to receive new seeds. The team planted peppers, yellow squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, watermelon, broccoli, onions, butternut squash, and red cabbage. In spite of a brief heat wave that killed a few of the plants, the rest are growing and the broccoli and peppers are beginning to emerge.

Participants in the garden effort will get the first pick of the harvest, but most of the vegetables will be shared with church and community members. To view pictures of the Joy of Troy garden, visit www.joyoftroy.org.

—Rachel Moody, member, Joy of Troy church

The Joy of Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Ministries Department started a garden at the Capital District Community Gardens in Lansingburgh, New York, where green peppers and basil are just two of many plants they are growing.

The New York Conference invites you to the 2011 Women’s Fall Retreat

You are a Child of Mine!

October 21-23, 2011
Watson Homestead Center
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Keynote Speaker
Cheri Gatton
Women’s Ministries Leader
Ohio Conference

Sabbath Afternoon Concert
with
Denny Shortslef

Contact Lynee Hamm for a registration brochure at (315) 391-6263, e-mail: abcshopgirl@yahoo.com, or contact the New York Conference at (315) 469-6921

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Union Springs Academy

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Union Springs Academy
Five Ordained at Northeastern Camp Meeting

Five pastors were ordained at the 2011 Northeastern Conference Camp Meeting on July 2 at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. Ordained were Samuel Blair, pastor of the Charity and Mt. Olive churches in Connecticut; Jaime Kowlessar, assistant/youth pastor of the Ephesus church in New York; Ferron Francis, pastor of the New Dimension church in Brooklyn, New York; Andrew Philbert, pastor of the Staten Island and New Brigton Community churches on Staten Island; and Jean-Flavio Monestime, pastor of the Eden French church in New Rochelle and Kerith church in St. Albans, New York.

The ceremony included a processional of administrators, departmental directors, licensed ministers, ordained ministers, Bible workers, the candidates for ordination, and their spouses. In his welcome, Walton H. Rose, Sr., Northeastern Conference ministerial secretary, reminded the candidates that “Ordination is not about position, but mission! It is not about fame, but faithfulness!”

Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, presented the message and emphasized that God takes our weaknesses and makes them into strengths in the work of ministry. Divine Praise from the Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton, New York, sang a rendition of the hymn “The Old Rugged Cross.”

—Renee Rose, member, First Seventh-day Adventist Church of White Plains

“Ordination is not about position, but mission. It is not about fame, but faithfulness.”

The five candidates for ordination seated with their spouses during the ordination service.

The group Divine Praise from the Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church sang during the ordination service.

The pavilion at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York, was filled to capacity for the afternoon ordination service.

Five pastors were ordained at the Northeastern Conference camp meeting. On the front row from the left are Jamie Kowlessar, Jean-Flavio Monestime, and Andrew Philbert. On the back row from the left are Samuel Blair and Ferron Francis.

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Forty Years of Storms, but His Anchor Still Holds!

A room full of well wishers gathered at Brownsville Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, to celebrate the 40-year milestone in the ministry of Willis Reed, the church’s pastor, on Sabbath afternoon, July 16.

Elders from Brownsville Temple and representatives from the Northeastern Conference—Trevor Baker, president; Ebenezer Agboka, treasurer; and Pat Langley, prayer ministries director—acknowledged Reed’s 53 years of Christian living, 44 years of marriage, and 40 years as an ordained pastor.

Reed listened intently as he was serenaded by soloists, duets, choruses, and choirs, including Brownsville’s Voices In the Temple and a male chorus, and presented with tributes by representatives from his former churches: Newburgh Tabernacle, Springfield Gardens, Bronx, Lebanon, and Mount Vernon. As the memories of Reed’s work were shared, a picture of a warm, caring pastor, whose willingness to visit the sick in hospital, as well as the able-bodied members in their homes, emerged.

Walton Rose, Northeastern Conference ministerial secretary, delivered a spirit-filled message titled “Keep Fishing,” and Baker presented the closing remarks and reconsecration prayer to end the program.

—Stephen Williams, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Conference Women’s Ministries presents
9th Biennial Women’s and GEMS Retreat 2011

November 4-6, 2011

“Moving In His Direction”

Honor's Haven Resort & Spa
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Gillen Molina
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Donnett Blake
Assistant Pastor
Kingsboro Temple

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Shawn Brace Ordained at Camp Meeting

Shawn Brace was ordained at the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Camp Meeting on Sabbath, July 2, in the Freeport Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maine. The church was filled to capacity, with standing room only, as Shawn and his wife, Camille, were surrounded by family, friends, church members, fellow pastors, and conference leaders. Present were their son, Camden, and daughter, Acadia.

Shawn has served as pastor in the Barre and West Lebanon, Vermont, districts, and is now serving in the Bangor, Maine, district. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology and a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in Old Testament studies at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference youth ministries director, and the Camp Lawroweld staff presented special music. Both Shawn and Camille have worked at Camp Lawroweld. Lael Caesar, Shawn’s professor and advisor at the Andrews University Theological Seminary, joined Mike Ortel, Northern New England Conference president, in presenting Shawn to the congregation. Lynn Ortel, NNEC communication director, and Collette Pekar, assistant pastor of the Brunswick church, made a special presentation to Camille. The highlight of the service was the ordination message presented by Shawn’s father, Bill Brace, who has been a pastor in the Southern New England Conference for more than 35 years. It was obvious that the group was moved when Bill spoke of the influence of Shawn’s mother, Melanie, in his early spiritual development. It was a message of appreciation, dedication, and commitment to the Lord.

Joel Tompkins, NNEC ministerial advisor, prayed the prayer of dedication, asking the Holy Spirit to fill Shawn for a lifetime of effective service for the glory of God. Tompkins was joined by all the ordained pastors present who laid hands on Shawn as he prayed. Darrel Muehlhauser, a pastor and a lifelong friend, gave Shawn the charge to be faithful in his walk with and labors for the Lord. Greg Carter, pastor of the White Memorial church, welcomed him into the fellowship of ministers. Arnold Schnell, NNEC secretary and Trust Services director, presented Shawn with his ordination certificate.

God is still calling, equipping, guiding, inspiring, and blessing young people for service to their Savior through the gospel ministry at this hour in earth’s history.

—Cliff Gleason, pastor, Concord and Laconia churches

Shawn Brace, newly-ordained pastor, and his wife, Camille, with their children, Camden and Acadia.

Joel Tompkins, was joined by other ordained pastors as he prayed a prayer of dedication for Shawn Brace.

Every Life Restored

Pre-register required.

FMI: www.n nec.org

Women’s Fall Retreat

September 9-11, 2011
Camp Lawroweld
Weld, Maine

Women’s Ministries

Celebrating life

Northern New England Conference, Inc.

Presenter: Cheri Peters

Atlantic Union Gleaner, September 2011
Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club Honored by VFW Post 790

The Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club was invited to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 790 in Barre, Vermont, by Ron Tallman, the post commander, to be recognized for their efforts during a troop supply drive last year. Tallman was the leader of the troop supply drive mission to send 1,700 care packages to deployed Vermont National Guard soldiers. The Pathfinders attended four troop supply events where local radio stations were broadcasting live. They encouraged residents in the community to drop off donations for the packages and to donate funds for the postage. Also, during the homecoming parade in Barre, members of the VFW walked along the parade route with the Pathfinders. They collected of the funds needed to mail the packages. They also helped to pack more than 700 boxes for shipment. The average box contained such items as socks, toiletries, sunflower seeds, snacks, sunscreen, soap, books, word games, pens, and playing cards. Anything that showed the deployed troops that they were cared for was placed in the box, including a letter written by the VFW acknowledging the Pathfinders’ efforts.

During the recognition event, every Pathfinder in attendance was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts, and they were treated to a pizza feed. Several of the deployed soldiers were present for the event and they, along with the staff of the VFW, were presented with yearbooks from the Pathfinder club. The soldiers asked all the Pathfinders to sign their yearbooks, too.

—Jim Brown, Pathfinder leader, Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club

God in Shoes Ministry Team Reaches Out to Those in Need

The God in Shoes ministry, under the direction of Lynn Ortel, Northern New England Conference support ministries and communication director, was a huge success this year for both volunteers and participants. Women from around Northern New England volunteered their services at two homeless shelters, a drop-in center for the homeless, and a senior housing facility. They pampered the women at the homeless shelters with facials, massages, and more. Each participant also received a bag of personal hygiene items. The laughter, stories shared, and expressions of friendship provided an atmosphere for God’s work to be done.

Residents at the senior housing facility were greeted by smiling faces, a warm handshake, and a loaf of homemade bread. A few residents asked for help moving furniture or some other light chores. Volunteers who visited a drop-in center handing out bags with snacks and personal items said they went away with a new understanding of the blessing received by helping others.

This was the second year that the God in Shoes ministry was active at the Northern New England Conference camp meeting. This activity was one of the highlights of the camp meeting experience, a reminder of how much we have to be thankful for. It gave a clearer understanding of the pain and misery that many people experience in their daily lives. It was also a reminder that Jesus began the work of tending to the sick, the poor, and the needy, and He passed these tasks on to us when He said: “Inasmuch as you did it for one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”—Matthew 25:40.

The spirit of the God in Shoes ministry needs to continue. The Lord’s work cannot be done by sitting at home or sitting in church. We need to get out there and become “God in shoes.”

—Pam Blake, coordinator, Hope Haven Project
Wickford Church Members Praise the Lord for the Flood

Back in March 2010, residents of Rhode Island experienced the worst flooding to hit the state in more than 100 years. Flood levels they experienced had not been seen in Rhode Island since record keeping began in the 1870s. The Wickford Seventh-day Adventist Church basement had more than 15 inches of water for a few days during the flood, despite all efforts to pump it dry. Fifteen months later, the members are praising the Lord for the flood!

The estimates to accomplish the work that needed to be done were between $145,000 and $160,000. The church had about $15,000 available. Insurance would help, but it wouldn’t cover the $15,000 to $30,000 expense of a new septic system (the flood had accelerated deterioration of the existing system). Neither did it cover the cost of preventing future flooding ($15,000 was one of the reasonable bids). The insurance also includes a $25,000 deductible. So the church needed to raise between $40,000 and $55,000—an impossible goal, it seemed.

Then, Bob Turner, a local church member who is a professional project manager, got involved. He began to contact local contractors, some of whom he had worked with before. He interacted with government officials for the many permits needed. Then he presented a plan to the church for reconstruction that fit within the church’s budget. It seemed too good to be true—but it wasn’t!

On July 9, members moved into the newly-reconstructed church basement. It is an incredible improvement—and the church is debt free!

—Bill Warcholik, pastor, Wickford church

Greater Boston Academy Alumni Weekend
October 14-15, 2011

Friday, October 14
Stoneham Memorial Church
29 Maple St., Stoneham MA

6:00 p.m. Light Supper
7:30 p.m. Vespers

Sabbath, October 15
Stoneham Memorial Church
29 Maple St., Stoneham MA

10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Guest Speaker from the Class of 1961
1:00 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon
(Greater Boston Academy, 108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA)

Saturday Night
Greater Boston Academy
108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA
Class Reunions and Alumni Basketball Game

For more information, call
Tom Giampa (508) 243-7458
For the third year in a row the Cape Cod Seventh-day Adventist Church in Osterville, Massachusetts, hosted Vacation Bible School. About 50 children attended the program that ran Monday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The attendance has consistently grown over the past three years. This year’s activities centered around the Vacation Bible School theme “God is Wild About You!”

Each day the children met their assigned crew leader for the opening activities and they learned a new Bible point. The exercises were invariably interrupted by Pandamania Pete, who reinforced a Bible point through his antics.

As the afternoon progressed, the groups rotated through four stations for crafts/missions, games, amazing Bible adventures, and Chadder’s Theater. Each night a vegetarian meal was served. The crafts allowed the children some hands-on time to make musical instruments. They also worked together to create backpacks for underprivileged children. Chadder’s Theater brought the crews to a makeshift movie house, where the children watched short movies that emphasized the daily Bible point.

God answered prayers for great weather (the Bible point for Day Two) allowing the children to go outside to play games, except on Thursday, when it was too hot and humid. The staff, determined to let the games go on, made some quick adjustments and all went well.

In Amazing Bible Adventures the groups learned about the days of creation. They also imagined how Jonah must have felt inside the belly of a big fish, how Hannah’s longing and prayers led to the birth of Samuel, and how heartbroken and forlorn Peter must have felt when he denied Jesus.

Everyone was invited back on Sabbath during the worship service for a closing recap of the Vacation Bible School program in lieu of the children’s story. The events of the week were presented in pictures, and the children and staff were invited up front to sing a couple of the favorite songs for the week.

—Gerard Zavaski, member, Cape Cod church

The children were involved in different types of activities to make the time interesting and fun.
Notre modèle est Christ, et nous devons nous rappeler que “la méthode du Christ pour sauver les âmes est la seule qui réussit.” Que faisait-il? L’Inspiration et la Révélation nous disent qu’il “se mêlait” aux gens pour leur faire du bien, puis il leur demandait de le suivre. (Le ministère de la guérison, page 118) Si nous désirons avoir un impact dans la vie des gens, nous devons commencer par répondre à leurs besoins. Il y a beaucoup de besoins à satisfaire, mais il y en a un qui retient particulièrement notre attention. La population américaine, ainsi qu’européenne et dans les Caraïbes et ailleurs dans le monde, est obèse: soit une personne sur trois, et cela s’applique autant aux enfants qu’aux adultes. Or, un enfant qui est obèse entre 10 et 13 ans a 80% de chance d’être un adulte obèse. L’évidence scientifique confirme les liens entre l’obésité et le diabète, les maladies cardiovasculaires, le cancer et d’autres tueurs importants. Le besoin d’éducation est immense, et les opportunités d’aider les familles à prévenir et renverser ce scénario sont infinies. Que peuvent faire les adventistes?

Il y a plusieurs années de cela, les adventistes ont pris à coeur l’épidémie du tabac et se sont engagés avec la communauté à changer les choses : ils ont donné des Plans de 5 jours pour cesser de fumer; ils ont fait équipe avec des organisations communautaires et les décideurs politiques pour faire changer le cours des choses dans le monde entier. Des années plus tard, nous voyons que la prévalence du tabagisme a diminué en Amérique et ailleurs dans le monde. Maintenant, nous avons l’opportunité d’agir de la même façon par rapport à l’épidémie d’obésité. Il est impératif de faire à nouveau des contacts et des efforts de rapprochement entre les églises locales et les communautés, afin d’avoir aujourd’hui un impact positif similaire sur la santé des familles. Cet effort exigera la collaboration des ministères et des institutions adventistes ainsi que la création de relations de partenariat dans nos communautés.

En avril, la NAD (Division Nord-Américaine) a lancé le programme Adventists Instep for Life, la réponse adventiste à l’épidémie d’obésité infantile, juvénile et adulte actuelle. Je vous en prie, joignez-vous à nos ministères (de santé, de jeunesse, des enfants, nos services communautaires, nos écoles et nos hôpitaux) pour suivre l’exemple de Christ qui se mêlait aux gens, leur témoignait sa sympathie, et les soulageait de leurs problèmes. Il faut répondre à ce besoin actuel d’obésité. Je suis convaincue que Dieu peut nous donner un succès incroyable si nous suivons sa méthode, et que nous nous tournons avec amour vers les individus et les familles dans nos communautés respectives pour les inviter à choisir de vivre pleinement.

Katia Reinert, directrice des Ministères de la santé de l’Église adventiste du septième jour de la division Nord-américaine

English translation available on page 4.

Si nous désirons avoir un impact dans la vie des gens, nous devons commencer par répondre à leurs besoins.

Efforts de Rapprochement Entre L’église Locale et la Communauté

Journée dénommée: “Déplaçons-nous”

25 septembre 2011

La division nord-américaine a mis de côté le dimanche, 25 Septembre 2011 comme Journée dénommée “Déplaçons-nous.” Le but est d’obtenir autant de personnes que possible à être impliqués dans l’activité physique ce jour-là. Pensez à quel genre d’événement votre église, école, université ou hôpital peut parrainer et/ou promouvoir—une marche en groupe dans un parc, un événement sportif pour les jeunes, une course 5K organisée / une marche, ou tout autre événement impliquant une activité physique. Invitez d’autres groupes communautaires, tels que: un service de santé local, une université, une église, ou d’autres organisations en partenariat avec vous. Votre événement sensibilisera la communauté pour l’obésité infantile et peut également être utilisé comme collecteur de fonds pour d’autres projets. Vous pouvez également joindre un événement existant dans votre communauté. Quels que soient vos plans d’organisation, n’oubliez pas d’inviter votre communauté à vous joindre, tandis que nous nous déplaçons ensemble pour promouvoir un mode de vie sain.

Pour plus d’informations, visitez: www.adventistsinstepforlife.org.

Quoi de Neuf? A Travers l’Eglise Mondiale

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site

Atlantic Union Gleaner, September 2011
Nuestro modelo es Cristo, y se nos recuerda que “sólo el método de Cristo será el que dará éxito para llegar a la gente”. ¿Qué hizo Cristo? Las Escrituras nos dicen que él se mezclaba entre las personas y atendía sus necesidades antes de invitarlas a seguirlo (Ministerio de Curación, p. 102). Si queremos ejercer un impacto en la vida de las personas, debemos comenzar con atender las necesidades de quienes nos rodean.

Hay varias necesidades que atender, pero hay una en particular que nos llama más la atención. Un treinta y tres por ciento de la población de EE.UU. sufre de obesidad y uno de cada tres niños caen en esa categoría. Un niño que es obeso entre las edades de 10 a 13 años, tiene un 80 por ciento de probabilidades de ser obeso en su edad adulta. La evidencia científica confirma que existe una relación entre la obesidad, la diabetes, las enfermedades del corazón, el cáncer y otras enfermedades mortales. Hay una gran necesidad de educación y oportunidades para ayudar a las familias a prevenir y revertir esta situación. ¿Qué pueden hacer los adventistas?

Hace muchos años, los adventistas enfrentaron el problema del consumo de tabaco al presentar los programas de cinco días para dejar de fumar y al unirse con las organizaciones comunitarias y los legisladores para cambiar el curso del consumo de tabaco en todo el mundo. Años más tarde, seguimos viendo una reducción del mismo en los Estados Unidos y otras partes del mundo. Ahora tenemos la oportunidad de hacer lo mismo con la epidemia de obesidad. La clave es volver a construir puentes y relaciones con las comunidades a fin de ejercer un impacto positivo similar en la salud de las familias y comunidades actuales. Este será un esfuerzo de colaboración entre ministerios e instituciones adventistas y de formación de consorcios en nuestras comunidades.

En Abril, la DNA lanzó Adventists InStep for Life, como la respuesta a la incidencia de obesidad en niños y adultos. Te invitamos a unirte a nuestros ministerios (de salud, jóvenes, niños, servicios comunitarios, escuelas y hospitales) siguiendo los pasos de Cristo al relacionarnos con la gente, mostrándole simpatía y atendiendo las necesidades actuales en derredor nuestro. No cabe duda de que Dios nos dará un gran éxito al seguir su método de acercarnos en amor a las personas y familias en nuestra comunidad. “Dilo al Mundo: Elije la Vida Plena.” — Katia Reinert, directora del Ministerio Adventista de Salud–División Norteamericana.

Vamos a Movernos

25 de Septiembre del 2011

La División Norte Americana ha designado el domingo, 25 de septiembre del 2011 como el día “Vamos a Movernos.” La meta es tratar de que la mayoría de personas se envuelvan en actividades físicas en ese día. Considere que clase de evento su iglesia, escuela, universidad u hospital pueden hacer para promover o promocionar ese día. Eventos como una caminata en grupo en el parque, un evento deportivo para los jóvenes, una caminata/carrera de 5 kilómetros o cualquier otra actividad que sea física. Invité a otros grupos de su comunidad, como su departamento de salud pública, una universidad en su comunidad, otras iglesias o agencias. Su actividad ayudará a crear conciencia de la obesidad infantil y usted puede usar esta actividad para recaudar fondos para otras actividades. También puedes unirte a alguna actividad ya organizada en tu comunidad. Cualquier plana sea tus planes, recuerda siempre de invitar a tu comunidad para que se una a moverse y promover un estilo de vida más saludable.

Para más información, visita: www.adventistsinstepforlife.org.
Aliana King, a young member of the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Warwick, Bermuda, has made it her summer project to assist the people of Haiti by raising funds to help build a school.

It all started when her teacher told her that she had to donate three hours of her time to someone in the community who needs her help.

She uses a catchy appeal that plays out in a four-minute video which operates on simple logic: if 1,000 people each give only $20, a half-acre plot of Haitian land can be purchased for the construction of a school at little cost to anyone.

King came up with the idea of “1000 give $20” after learning from her mom, Eileen, of this particular need in Haiti. “Twenty dollars is not difficult to come up with,” she wrote in an e-mail interview. “We spend more than that on things we don’t need every day.”

Phillip Rego’s Feed My Lambs Ministry has been working in Haiti for three years and has almost completed an orphanage in the Montrouis area on Haiti’s west coast. Now the ministry needs the money to buy the adjacent land on which to build the planned nine-classroom school for up to 300 students.

“In comparison to prices in Bermuda, $20,000 is a drop in the bucket, but when you have to raise funds, that is a monumental amount of money,” said Rego. He noted that the cost for comparable land in Bermuda is up to $500,000.

The school will replace the current inadequate facilities that are being used to give the children a basic education.

King spent six hours researching, writing, and recording to produce her own video that emotionally captures Haiti’s continuous pain and makes a compelling call to the conscience of the people of Bermuda. “I wanted people to realize that, although we moved on with our lives, the Haitian people are still homeless, naked, grieving, hungry, hurting, and still needing our help,” she said. “The video shows this.”

The Bermuda Institute eleven-year-old primary school student screened her video at her home church, raising more than $900. “I’m starting out with the churches, but I want to make sure as many people see it as possible. That’s the only way I will be able to reach my goal,” King said.

“Aliana’s vision for mission far surpasses any expectations that I could have ever imagined,” Rego says. “I am very proud and happy to know someone personally who has that kind of drive and passion for missions. May God bless her greatly.”

—Coggie Gibbons, communication director, Warwick church

To view the video Aliana King made for her “1000 give $20” project, visit 1000give20.org.
Sunset Table

October 2011

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Eastern Daylight Savings Time

FRANCIS, Desmond L. —68, b. Apr. 28, 1942, in Kingston, Jamaica; d. Feb. 27, 2011, in Atlanta, Ga. He was employed by the Northeastern Conference for 33 years and served as a pastor at the Bethany, Corona, Springfield Gardens, Mount Vernon, Brooklyn Temple, Mamre, and Lighthouse Tabernacle churches and as the conference health ministries director. He retired in 2008 and moved to Georgia. Survivors include Masie Francis, his wife of 43 years; two daughters, Melanie and Marsha; a son, Dwight; two sons-in-law, Lenny Williams and Michael Darville; a daughter-in-law, Andrea; three granddaughters, Maya, Mikayla, and Malissya Darville; four grandsons, Michael Darville, and Lloyd, Logan, and Lewis Williams; his mother, Christobel Francis; three sisters, Beverly, Andrea, and Andrene; three brothers, Philip, Horace, and Livingston; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.


OSSORIO, Flora C. —94; b. Oct. 28, 1916, in Palmer de Rio Grande, Puerto Rico; d. Mar. 23, 2011, in Leominster, Mass. She was a member of the Leominster Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Leominster, Mass. She was a teacher at the Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Santurce, Puerto Rico; a Spanish teacher at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., a teacher at the Bay Ridge school in N.Y. She was the first principal for the Bronx Manhattan school (1971), the principal for the Adventist Academy in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; and for the Bella Vista Academy in Mayaguay, Puerto Rico. She is survived by a son, Francisco (Paula) Ramos of Leominster, Mass.; two sisters, Norma (Max)Ossorio Touissaint of San Antonio, Texas, and Myrna Ossorio of New York, N.Y.; a brother Angel Roberto (Nastia) Ossorio of Fla.; two granddaughters, Michele Ramos of Fitchburg, Mass.; and Francine (Andrew) Ramos Winslow of Shirley, Mass.; two grandsons, Francisco R. (Sharleen) Ramos of Fitchburg, Mass., and Pedro F. Ramos of Leominster, Mass.

Out-of-Union

Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 14-16. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are ’37, ’42, ’47, ’52, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, ’02 and ’07. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office at (269) 471-6140, or e-mail: acadalum@andrews.edu.


OBITUARIES


Francis, Desmond L. —68, b. Apr. 28, 1942, in Kingston, Jamaica; d. Feb. 27, 2011, in Atlanta, Ga. He was employed by the Northeastern Conference for 33 years and served as a pastor at the Bethany, Corona, Springfield Gardens, Mount Vernon, Brooklyn Temple, Mamre, and Lighthouse Tabernacle churches and as the conference health ministries director. He retired in 2008 and moved to Georgia. Survivors include Masie Francis, his wife of 43 years; two daughters, Melanie and Marsha; a son, Dwight; two sons-in-law, Lenny Williams and Michael Darville; a daughter-in-law, Andrea; three granddaughters, Maya, Mikayla, and Malissya Darville; four grandsons, Michael Darville, and Lloyd, Logan, and Lewis Williams; his mother, Christobel Francis; three sisters, Beverly, Andrea, and Andrene; three brothers, Philip, Horace, and Livingston; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

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UNION COLLEGE seeks committed Adventist candidate for tenure track faculty position in voice/choral music beginning June 2012. Responsibilities include overseeing the voice program, directing vocal groups, advising undergraduates, and teaching undergraduate courses and voice lessons. Doctoral degree in music preferred. Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes, bforbes@ucollege.edu.

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