World Church Headquarters Serves as Corona Church’s Classroom for a Day
Features

4 Cover Story: World Church Headquarters Serves as Corona Church’s Classroom for a Day

5 Is There an Achan in the Camp?

6 Update on the Establishment of WAU Branch Campus at Atlantic Union College

18 College Student Learns What it Means to Be a Servant of God

In this Issue...
The cover story features a group of members from the Corona church in Queens, New York, who visited the General Conference world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Included in this issue are our regular features, Adventist Education and Youth Talk. In the group photo on the cover, taken by Ansel Oliver, are Corona church’s newest members, with four of the church’s Bible workers, two senior members, 102-year-old Mary Richards, front row, wearing the pink hat, and to her right, Letitia Patterson, an elder; Michael Coleman, the pastor, center back; and Ted Wilson, world church president, right. The cover photo, of the General Conference building was taken by Tanya Holland.

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

Departments
Editorial 3
Adventist Education 5
Youth Talk 18
Quoi de Neuf? 19
¿Qué Está Pasando? 20

News
Atlantic Union 6
Bermuda 7
Greater New York 8
New York 10
Northeastern 12
Northern New England 14
Southern New England 16

Information
Bulletin Board 21
Obituaries 21
Classifieds 22

Deadlines
January 2012 November 11
February 2012 December 9
March 2012 January 13

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“You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country (wherever you are). The fruit of your womb will be blessed (your children), and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks (your work). Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed (you’ll have plenty of food). You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out (when you come home at night and when you leave in the morning).”—Deuteronomy 28:3-6.

When we count our many blessings
It isn't hard to see,
That life's most valued treasures
Are the treasures that are free.

For it isn't what we own or buy
That signifies our wealth,
It's the special gifts that have no price
Our family, friends, and health.
(Emily Matthews)

Thanksgiving is a time for just that!
Giving thanks . . . to God!
Many of us have lost dear friends and loved ones this past year, and our country as a whole has suffered great losses, too. In times like these, it is well for us to stop and reflect about what is really important to us in life. It is important to consider just how precious and fragile life is, and to use wisely the time we are given with the special people in our lives.

For my wife and me, it is the gift of family and friends that provides the riches in our lives. Those precious moments we hold close to our hearts, and the memories and special times can never be replaced, neither by time nor all the wealth in the world.

Whether you have planned a grand Thanksgiving feast encircled by friends and family, an intimate candlelight dinner for two, or a simple meal, it is not really the delectable food, but rather who we share our meals with that matters most of all, and to me, this is the true value and meaning of Thanksgiving.

During this very special season in America (the most highly honored season of all) let us not forget our men and women who are serving as Adventist missionaries in various places around the world; also our men and women in uniform serving our country in foreign fields and who cannot be with their family and friends this year.

I will be thinking of each of you during this season and, even though we may be separated by many miles, you will be close to me in my heart because of God’s marvelous grace.

May God continue to enrich your life with His blessings from above.

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees.
World Church Headquarters Serves as Corona Church’s Classroom for a Day

When Michael G. Coleman assumed the responsibilities as the pastor of the Corona church about four years ago, he introduced a new style of spiritual leadership, which requires that each member identify his or her talents under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and find ways to collaborate with one another within the parameters of the church’s standards and values. With that in mind, 52 members of the Corona church left New York at 5:30 a.m., on Monday, September 19, on a bus trip to Silver Spring, Maryland, to visit the General Conference, headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist world church.

Coleman exposed them to a guided tour of the world church headquarters, where they had an opportunity to be reminded of the vision, mission, and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian faith. Members, ranging in age from nine to 102, had the opportunity to visit the room containing the archives of Ellen G. White’s writings and learn how the biblical standards that she highly regarded, adhered to, and taught have benefited the church for nearly two centuries.

Ted Wilson, president of the world church, greeted the Corona members and welcomed the new believers, and helped to motivate the group with his charge of revival and reformation.

After touring almost all the departments, in addition to receiving promotional material and purchasing souvenirs, the members ended their visit with lunch in the cafeteria. The tour continued to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial, where viewing his message of peace, equality, and justice for all inscribed on his mural concluded the educational tour for the day. The members walked away with a clearer understanding of what the power of godly unity can achieve.

On the way home, the group used the microphone on the bus to share their experience of the tour. It was an electrifying moment listening to the various testimonies and the decisions that were made by the members to return home and do their part to fulfill the charge of revival and reformation in order to build the kingdom of God.

“I am hoping that this interaction between a local church and the world church will facilitate mutual encouragement in the advancement of the call for revival and reformation and also in carrying forward the great gospel commission,” said Coleman. “In as much as the General Conference leadership, in partnership with the North American Division, the Atlantic Union Conference, and the local conferences, is planning a series of large-scale evangelistic meetings in New York City, we hope that the effervescent support of this endeavor by a local church in Queens, New York, will go a long way in expressing the readiness of local churches to collaborate with the leaders in finishing the work!”

Winnie Benjamin is a member of the Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church in Queens, New York.
Is There an Achan in the Camp?

Within the Seventh-day Adventist Church our educational system nationwide has dwindled, both in population and number of schools. Is it because Christ’s presence is not evident any longer in our schools? Is it because our teachers are not committed to pointing our children toward heaven and challenging them to use their talents to be of service to mankind? Is it because they will not receive a rigorous and competitive education? Or is it because our interaction with our students hasn’t convinced them of life’s purpose to serve their Creator and humanity?

No! Indeed not! Some, or all of the above, are challenges our schools face in varying degrees. But why is there really a dilemma?

Probably, the answer to this pressing dilemma is found in Joshua 7:19-21. Is there an Achan in the camp today? Achan may be identified as an attitude that is contrary to the intent of Christian education. Sometimes he shows up as self-sufficiency and pride; sometimes as placing higher values on status than on service; and sometimes as hiding talents by turning away from a sacrificial life.

The circumstances surrounding Hannah’s promise to God were predicated on her having a son whom she would dedicate to His service forever (1 Samuel 1:28). It is with this attitude in mind that Christian education was originally designed, to provide a safe haven for our children to receive a rigorous education while integrating faith and learning into every content area.

This holistic approach remains the foundation of preparing our children for service. Yet, somewhere along in our struggles and commitment to serve God, we seem to have lost that desire.

Instead, we look to the public schools, and sometimes other Christian schools, that are contrary to our church and school standards, to nurture and educate our children. We make excuses that we have worship in our homes and attend church on a regular basis. Part of the truth lies within the responses of our children. When asked if faith is discussed in the home, a recent report titled “Valuegenesis2 Church Next: A Study of Two Generations,” answers this question, suggesting that parents have exerted little influence on their children to grow spiritually or challenge their talents in service to the kingdom of heaven.

Where has our zeal gone that once urged us to provide and support Seventh-day Adventist education? Why do so many in our ranks embrace public education as a substitute for Christian education? Are we attracted by their larger facilities? Do their sports or extracurricular programs appeal to your interest? Will a more endowed campus secure your child’s conversion? Will substituting personal sacrifice for worldly possessions earn a star in your crown?

Will ignoring the crisis of our schools and not supporting every child in your church with means to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school ensure your entrance into heaven? Is your aim and ambition to be like secular institutions, setting aside “God’s plan of education . . . and His authority” (Education, p. 50)? Have you committed yourself and your resources to finishing the work in these last days? For the most part, these are challenging existential questions.

Will we dedicate our lives as disciples of Christ and say, “I am here, Lord,” or will we acknowledge that there is an Achan in the mirror? 😞

Gwen Wesley is the associate superintendent of schools in the Northeastern Conference.
Update on the Establishment of WAU Branch Campus at Atlantic Union College

After several months of talks with Washington Adventist University (WAU) to operate a branch campus at Atlantic Union College (AUC), the Board of Trustees for AUC in a meeting on Wednesday, October 5, voted to suspend any further negotiations at this time after the institutions were unable to reach an operating agreement.

The talks with WAU began when AUC was informed by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) that its accreditation would be discontinued for financial reasons.

AUC and its constituents will now look at other ways to maintain the mission of Adventist Christian higher education in the Atlantic Union Conference territory, which includes the New England states, New York, and the islands of Bermuda.

Washington Adventist University will continue to honor the arrangements in place that have facilitated the smooth transition of the former AUC students enrolled at the university. Both institutions remain committed to providing Adventist Christian higher education to their students.

WAU wishes AUC well in its efforts to continue to provide Adventist Christian higher education in the Atlantic Union Conference.

A full report regarding the current status of AUC and options for the future will be presented in an upcoming issue of the Gleaner.

Several recommendations for additional studies to be conducted in the Atlantic Union were shared by Donald King, Atlantic Union president. They include studies regarding gender, age, and ethnicity, along with information on schools in the Atlantic Union, to name a few.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor

World Church Archive and Statistics Director Visits Atlantic Union

David Trim, director of Archives and Statistics at the General Conference world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, visited with the Atlantic Union Conference staff on September 29. Trim shared statistical information pertaining to the work of the church in the Atlantic Union territory over the past 50 years. According to Trim, the information he presented has grown out of a “desire to better care for our members and to help grow the church and to be more accurate with the reporting process.” The church’s statistics are being reviewed to make sure they have integrity while building communities of faith.

New York City, First Focus of the Adventist Church’s Urban Outreach Initiative in 2013

Seventh-day Adventist world church leaders attending the Annual Council business meetings in Silver Spring, Maryland, endorsed a plan to evangelize the world’s cities, beginning in 2013 with New York City. The endorsement came one day following the world church president Ted N. C. Wilson’s, Sabbath worship message at the church’s headquarters on October 8.

“In 2013 we will launch a very specific, comprehensive, and sustained evangelistic approach for the world beginning in New York City,” Wilson said. “We want to start with New York City, since Ellen White indicated that it should be a symbol as to how the rest of the world should be worked. Since large cities are made up of many smaller communities and neighborhoods, we expect to have approximately 150 to 200 evangelistic meetings in the metropolitan New York area from June 7 to 29 in 2013.”

“Our humble goal will be to reach approximately 650 major cities of the world before the next General Conference Session in 2015, all based on the power of the Holy Spirit through revival and reformation,” he said.

“Efforts are already underway to plan for this evangelistic thrust,” says Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president. “We are encouraging all of our members in the Atlantic Union to pray earnestly that God will pour out his Holy Spirit as we engage in probably what will be the greatest and most expansive evangelistic campaign to date.”

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor
Hundreds of cars lined the road for several hundred yards in either direction of the Warwick TigerMarket in Warwick, Bermuda, where more than $5,000 of free gas was given away on September 11. As a result, about 200 cars and 50 cycles were served.

Ulric Hetsberger, pastor of Restoration Ministries church that meets in St. Annes Hall in Southampton, along with the church members, had no idea what to expect when the idea was introduced to give away free gas as a way of helping people in this depressed economy.

Scores of church members volunteered to operate the pumps and clean windshields while $25 of free gas was pumped into each car and $10 into each motorcycle.

The event was originally scheduled to take place for one hour, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the funds used to cover the cost of the gas were donated by Restoration Ministries church. When the time was up and the funds were depleted, the church members added their own money to the pot so that more of those who were in line for long periods of time would not be disappointed. In the end, not all who were in line were served, but some of those who received the gas were overwhelmed that the gas was free and there were no strings attached.

“People don’t really understand how many are in need,” Hetsberger shared with a reporter from the Royal Gazette, a Bermuda newspaper. “You may think you’re OK, but the lines showed how many are struggling. Food will be our next endeavor.”

Restoration Ministries was organized on January 22 as the eleventh church in the Bermuda Conference. The members believe that worship is a lifestyle—a continual, moment-by-moment deference to God’s will that cultivates one’s faith and allows one to focus on being a blessing to others—even if this means stepping outside of one’s personal comfort zone to do something a little unconventional.

The members were overwhelmed by the turnout and the reaction of the public toward their random act of kindness. Additional activities that will impact the community are being planned by the members and will take place over the next six months.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference
The Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Executive Committee, at its meeting on September 25, voted to appoint Andres Peralta as the youth ministries director for the conference. Peralta, a native of the Dominican Republic, currently serves as senior pastor of the Mott Haven and Emmanuel churches in Bronx, New York. Peralta says he has a burning desire to serve wherever God calls him to serve. A graduate of Andrews University with a Master of Divinity degree, Peralta is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in ministry outreach.

Peralta and Martha, his wife of nine years, joined the Greater New York Conference staff in 2006. Since then he has served the Queens Corona, Flushing, Astoria, and Woodside Spanish churches. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in February 2011. “It will be a privilege to work with the GNYC administrators, pastors, youth leaders, coordinators, and all those who are dedicated to saving young people,” said Peralta. “We love the youth, and we know God will bless us in the coming years. We ask you to keep us in your prayers. Our desire is that God will manifest Himself in the Greater New York youth ministries. We are at your service.”

Peralta succeeds José Cortés, Jr., who was elected youth ministries director for the Atlantic Union Conference in June. The administration congratulates and welcomes Peralta to his new responsibilities.

—Rohann D. Wellington, communication director, Greater New York Conference

Hispanic Evangelism at Lincoln Center draws Hundreds to Christ

Lincoln Center in New York was the venue for the culmination of a 10-month evangelistic series involving the Spanish churches in the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences. Sponsored by La Voz de la Esperanza (Voice of Hope) ministry, the speaker for the four-night, August 31-September 3, event was Frank González, speaker/director of La Voz de la Esperanza television program. González presented the eight-sermon series titled “Siete Palabras de Esperanza” (“Seven Words of Hope”). Each night one of seven key words, inspired by Christ as He was dying on the cross, was studied.

Beginning on December 4, 2010, with the official launch at the Spanish Dykman church, and continuing for 10 months, members of every Spanish church in the Greater New York Conference worked with 246 small groups, conducting Bible studies and witnessing to people in their communities. Michael Guerrero, Greater New York Conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator, encouraged each pastor to be engaged in the process as they prepared for the reaping event at Lincoln Center.

More than 2,500 people gathered nightly for the meetings. Greater New York Conference administrators G. Earl Knight, president; Gerson Santos, executive sec-
Ten Years Later, We Still Remember

Pathfinders from the Manor Road church in Staten Island, New York, visited four fire stations on Staten Island (Engines 156, 159, 161, and 163) in honor of the firefighters who sacrificed their lives on 9/11 in an effort to save others. The group expressed thanks and appreciation to the firefighters who continue to serve the local community and promised to continue to pray for them and their families. In addition, they were presented with a Bible on behalf of Andrew Dyman, the church’s pastor, Judey Austin, the youth ministries director, and the church members.

For the pastors and workers in the Greater New York Conference, September 11, 2001, was Camp Pitch day. The workers were making their way to Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, to prepare for United Camp Meeting, while members were heading to work, unaware that this beautiful day would become a dark day in America’s history. Everyone went about their business as usual.

Four Greater New York Conference members lost their lives that day: Michael Baksh, of the Church of the Advent Hope in Upper Manhattan; Lissy Martinez, of the Spanish Fort Washington church in Upper Manhattan; Maxima Jean-Pierre, of the Spanish Patchogue church in Long Island; Josue Velazquez, of the Spanish Intervale church in the Bronx. These four individuals may be gone, but they are not forgotten.

As the world stopped to remember the victims of that horrible tragedy 10 years ago, the Greater New York Conference continues to be comforted by these words in Scripture, “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus”—1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14, NKJV.

—Rohann D. Wellington, communication director, Greater New York Conference, and Judey Austin, youth ministries director, Manor Road church
**Vacation Bible School Highlights**

**VBS Children Learn About Fishing for Men**

The Corning church in Corning, New York, held Vacation Bible School (VBS) on August 22-27 using the theme “Going Fishing Adventure Camp.” The scene of a fishing camp and stream in a woodsy setting was where the young people learned about “fishing for men,” while also learning about Jesus and salvation and being kind to others. “I Will Make You Fishers of Men,” and “Go Fish,” the theme song, could be heard as the 35 young people sang with enthusiasm.

A very exciting incident occurred as Cady and Conable were shopping in Walmart for school supplies to give to the children. A man who looked like he had just come from a dirty job, and his wife, looking presentable, walked up behind them at checkout, and the husband said, “You must be teachers.” Cady replied, “No, we are doing this for our church.” Then the man handed her $20. As they were ready to pay for the items, he passed Cady and Conable, slid his credit card through the machine, and paid for the supplies. Shocked, they thanked him, and gave his $20 back. They asked his wife if she was OK with what he did and she said, “Yes, he loves children. He just didn’t have enough cash with him.”

In previous weeks, the congregation helped to prepare for the VBS program by donating fishing poles, tackle boxes, fishing nets and vests, rubber boots, along with real-looking stuffed animals, such as bears, skunks, dogs, and more, in addition to artificial Christmas trees and greenery for forest scenery.

—Marjorie L. Plumley, communications secretary, Corning church

**VBS Children Meet Joseph**

The Joy of Troy Community church held Vacation Bible School for all age groups using the theme, “Joseph: A Journey from Prison to Palace.” Preparation and assembly of the palace set began months in advance and was constructed by Tom Tilley, a deacon. Adults and children dressed up in costumes to replicate the attire worn by ancient Egyptians. The children wandered through a marketplace sampling various cultural foods. They also created beaded headbands and other crafts, played Egyptian games, assembled blankets for community service, and met “Joseph” each day while learning the characteristics of God.

The children had “family time” during which they met with their family leaders to learn about God and wrote “God sightings” on stones that they used to build a pyramid. These “God sightings” indicated how they saw God through their everyday lives during the week. VBS was directed by Annette Barnes, the Sabbath School superintendent. Twenty-one children attended every night and there were almost as many adults participating in the program. The older children practiced being leaders by operating one of the booths. This year’s attendance was the most consistent in the five years since the Joy of Troy began offering a VBS program, and it grows every year as God continues to bless abundantly.

—Annette Barnes, Sabbath School superintendent, Joy of Troy Community church

**Elmira VBS Children On Safari**

Elmira church in Elmira, New York, held its first Vacation Bible School in many years, beginning on July 25. With only a few weeks to prepare, the staff used their own unique talents to create a fun and engaging program for children of all ages.

—Marjorie L. Plumley, communications secretary, Corning church

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—Marjorie L. Plumley, communications secretary, Corning church
BLN-LP is a radio station ministry of the Kingsbury church in Hudson Falls, New York, and as such is a non-profit, listener-supported ministry. Some time back, the station networked with Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center, a ministry where radio director Gary Bombard’s wife, Priscilla, was a volunteer counselor. The station offered Open Arms free radio announcements and information on getting media coverage.

Recently a computer crash and the resulting repair expenses depleted much of WBLN’s reserves. At a subsequent board meeting Bombard listened as the treasurer’s report was given with the usual comments about a shortage of funds to cover future needs. What the rest of the board didn’t know was that Bombard had received a letter prior to the meeting from Open Arms explaining that the agency had completed a fundraising event which brought in $10,000. It is Open Arms’ custom to tithe the proceeds of such fundraisers to other ministries, and their board voted to send the tithe for this event to WBLN-LP. Bombard shared with the board the benefits of counting on God to provide, and that He has a thousand more ways to provide than we can possibly think or imagine.

Community Agency Sends Tithe to Adventist Radio Station

God has a thousand more ways to provide than we can possibly think or imagine.

BLN-LP, was ordained as a deacon by Kevin Dunn, the pastor of the Southern Tier district, on Sabbath, August 13, at the Elmira church in Elmira, New York. Church elders laid hands on Ducot as Dunn prayed, dedicating him to this important service in the church. Ducot began attending church a few years ago and was baptized in 2008.

—Sharon Reynolds, clerk, Elmira church

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—Sharon Reynolds, clerk, Elmira church
“You Don’t Have to Compromise to Be Recognized” was the title of the sermon presented by Vincent Wilson on Youth Day at Capital City church in Albany, New York. Wilson, a 2011 graduate of Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York, was the guest speaker for the weekend. The event, hosted by the church’s AYS department, emphasized building strong relationships through Christ.

Wilson based his message on 1 Samuel 3 and shared the story about a young boy named Samuel who worked for the Lord.

Sheleah Ford, the AYS director, says she believes in making an investment in the young people now. “Even though the devil is busy in his attacks, the Lord is calling on the youth of our church now,” Ford says. “We should be ready to respond to His call to use our talents and our gifts.”

The youth and young-at-heart listened attentively as the Holy Spirit spoke through Wilson, who is planning to study for the ministry one day.

—Ron Husband, member, Capital City church

Vincent Wilson was Capital City church’s Youth Day speaker.

Academy Student Speaks for Capital City Church Youth Day

The Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Department held its 43rd annual convention at the Mount Vernon church in Mount Vernon, New York, on September 2-4. The theme for the event was “Celebrating the Harvest,” and the guest speaker on Sabbath was Fredrick Russell, president of the Allegheny West Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

In his message titled “Radical Christianity,” Russell challenged the audience to be radical Christians—that is to do as Jesus did. He shared that people are getting disenfranchised with Christianity because Christians are not living what they preach and suggested that if Christians would live what they preach, they would be much more effective at winning others.

The Personal Ministries Federation was organized in the 1960s after George Earl, then president of Northeastern Conference, and the late Harvey W. Kibble, shared the idea that an organization should be formed that would encourage ministers and laymen to join hands to finish the work of the gospel. A decision was made by a group of laymen present at that meeting to organize the conference into six districts, and then later a seventh was added in the Hudson Valley area.

The Personal Ministries Federation has been responsible for planting churches in the Hudson Valley, Brooklyn, western New York, and New England areas. Its annual convention is designed to promote evangelism and laity involvement. This year’s convention was coordinated under the leadership of Oswald Euell, Northeastern Conference personal ministries director, and Godfred T. Ansah, Personal Ministries Federation president.

—Stephen L. Williams, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Fredrick Russell, president of the Allegheny West Conference, was the guest speaker for the 43rd annual Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Federation Convention.
Twenty people were baptized as a result of a series of evangelistic meetings held at the Charity church during the months of August and September. The church, under the direction of its pastor, Samuel Blair, hosted international evangelist Jeffrey Harriott from Portland, Jamaica.

The meetings followed the July grand opening of the church’s newly-acquired building on seven acres of land in East Hartford, Connecticut. The church is moving forward with the work of witnessing for Christ in the metropolitan Hartford community.

—Cecil Smith, communication director, Charity church

Haitian Camp Meeting Highlights

“Come Holy Spirit” was the theme for the Northeastern Conference Haitian Camp Meeting held at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. The main presenter was Agniel Sampson, head of the theology department at Oakwood University, in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jose Joseph, the newly-elected Haitian ministries coordinator for the conference, presided over the services. Along with the choir, music was presented by saxophonist Kosly Joseph and vocalist Nancy Toussaint.

Sampson shared a message about the paralytic who sat by the “gate beautiful,” begging until Peter came his way and changed his life. The pavilion was filled to capacity as thousands turned up to celebrate God’s Holy Sabbath day together. The Northeastern Conference administrators and departmental directors brought greetings to the those in attendance.

—Stephen Williams, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Agniel Sampson was the main speaker at the Northeastern Conference Haitian Camp Meeting.

Thousands filled the pavilion at Camp Victory Lake to celebrate the Sabbath together.
Conference Purchases New Office Building

At the recommendation of the executive committee, following a series of three town hall meetings held across the conference, the Northern New England Conference purchased the building at 479 Main Street, Westbrook, Maine, for use primarily as the new conference office and Adventist heritage center.

With an overall size of more than 14,000 square feet, the three-story structure not only provides adequate room for offices but also includes such amenities as a 41-space paved parking lot, an auditorium, and an elevator—which makes the facility fully ADA compliant (accessible for people with disabilities) throughout. Completed renovations in 2003, at a cost of $3.5 million, are a good indication of the building’s present-day value.

Funding for the building, purchased at the price of $900,000, came from sources such as the capital budget, which, in turn, received its funding through the sale of several parsonages across the conference over the past few years. Purchasing the property at such a discounted rate, along with the sales of the parsonages (which, in many cases, were at high market values) only adds to the impression that this is a clear blessing from the Lord.

Youth Encouraged to “Go, Show, and Tell”

More than 40 young adults from across New England met at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, for youth evangelism training over Labor Day weekend. Although the number was small, the focus was to worship and pray together.

Akeem Brett, the new Bible worker at the Portland church, presented the message on Friday evening. He preached about the “everlasting gospel” in Revelation 14. The message, which was echoed throughout the weekend, “Go, Show, and Tell,” encouraged the group that they must not only speak the message, but live the message.

The presentations, given by Trajan Braxton, a recent graduate of STRIDE (Student Training and Resource Institute for Discipleship Evangelism), were practical, and equipped the group to go out and witness using Christ’s method of evangelism.

There is a small army of dedicated young people in the Northern New England Conference who want to see Jesus return; who want to work alongside the conference leaders and learn from them; a group of young adults who want to help finish the work that was started in that region 160 years ago.

—Oliver Bragg, Bible worker, Limington and Rochester churches

Lukase Krzywon, foreground; Hannah So, and Rebekkah Reynolds attended the youth evangelism training with more than 40 others.
CVA Students Attend First Spiritual Retreat

Central Vermont Academy (CVA) students in grades 9-12 attended the first annual Spiritual Retreat on September 7-9.

The retreat began with a visit to the William Miller Farm in Whitehall, New York. Students were told about the dedication and devotion of Miller, an ordinary farmer used by God to do powerful things for Him. Their time at the Miller Farm concluded with a worship and communion service led by CVA’s Bible teacher, Janely Pierre. After a stop by the Miller gravesite, the group continued to Albany, New York.

In Albany, students spent time in worship, prayer, and team-building exercises for two days. CVA teachers, Jessica Marlier, Diana Tunnell, Robert Smith, and Pierre, led the worship services, sharing their own faith journeys and testimonies. It was amazing to watch students reading their Bibles, praying with each other, and discussing their Christian walk with others.

Students also visited the Pine Bush Discovery Center in Albany, and were able to experience God through nature. Jordan Harris, a freshman, explained, “It was an amazing trip. I definitely won’t miss it next year.”

—Rob Smith, principal, Central Vermont Academy
It was 1:30 p.m. on the Friday before our wedding when I received a call from, Roseangel, my sniffing bride-to-be. “The governor has declared a state of emergency,” she managed to say. We were just getting ready for our rehearsal dinner that would be at 6:30 that evening—now this.

It was Irene! The hurricane was scheduled to hit with her peak, right at the peak of our wedding day on Sunday. I rushed to my tear-filled fiancée. What would we do? We had invested so much in this day, then suddenly, Irene thinks nothing of raining on our parade. How often do we feel like this in life? We make big plans, expect things to go a certain way, and then a storm rolls in and ruins everything. What can you do? Where do you go when the storm winds blow? In the Bible we find comfort in the words of the Comforter, promising to bring peace amidst the winds of strife, calm within the storm, “stilling the storm to a whisper” (Psalm 107:29).

So what were we to do? So many thoughts were going through our minds. There was so much to lose if we were to go through with our original plans. So we prayed! Though I tried to say comforting words to my fiancée, nothing seemed to bring greater comfort than putting it in God’s hands.

Then came the idea: What if we get married tonight at the rehearsal dinner? In the few minutes that followed, we made the executive decision to get married that night, and it couldn’t have happened better!

We got married that Friday night, and how exciting it was! Our family was there, the pastor was there, violinists, soloists, the cake that my cousin just happened to be finishing up—everything just worked out. Well, I shouldn’t say that it just worked out. It was by the divine hand of God that things happened the way they did. And not just on our wedding day, but in our entire relationship. The way things happened is a testament to the power of God when you let Him work in your life. My fiancée and I were both coming out of difficult times before we began dating. For both of us, it was as if Hurricane Irene came and added her destruction to our plans. For a long time we struggled, each with our own situations. But we put things in God’s hands, relied on Him, and trusted that He was sure to deliver greater blessings than either of us had imagined. I recently read a quote that resonated with me: “Sometimes God says no to give you an even bigger yes.” How true I have found this to be, and I’m certain my wife feels the same.

When the storm comes, and it will, don’t panic. Go to the feet of Jesus, the same feet that walked on stormy seas, the same Jesus that hushed the troubled seas with the simple words “Peace, be still.” He has a plan for your future and He’ll work things out 10 times greater than you had planned. You’ll see!

—Eddie Somers is a member of the Foxboro church in Foxboro, Massachusetts
Seven Baptized at Springfield Church

Sabbath, September 24, was special for the church members when, after an intense Bible study, seven people made the most important decision of their lives and said yes to Jesus and committed their hearts to the Savior.

The baptism took place in the afternoon and seven people from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences stood in front of the church dressed in baptismal robes to express their love for Jesus and their strong desire to belong to God’s family. Of these seven, just two of them, Marcelo Melendez and Jeremiah Mitchel, were born and raised in Adventist families.

The Tampa family—Monalisa and Patrick—decided for Jesus after Bible study with Lorraine Davis, one of the lay members of the Springfield church. After Carisa Rehbein visited many Christian churches, she decided to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church because she believes that this church is closest to what the Bible teaches. For her, the doctrines of the Sabbath, the state of dead, and the second coming of Jesus Christ were not a problem, because she says “the Bible is very clear” on these topics. Suzan Craddock attended the Baptist church in Springfield for many years. When the Holy Spirit visited her, she realized that the Sabbath is the day of rest and worship for the children of God, so she decided to follow Jesus. Alvin Allen is a young man whose life was also touched by the Holy Spirit. When Jesus called him to be His child, he couldn’t resist and Alvin also said “Yes, Lord!”

By God’s grace, until the end of this year, the church plans to have one more baptism. More and more people, realizing the time we live in right now, and hearing the voice of God speaking to them, are making their decision to accept Jesus as their Savior.

—Mihail Baciu, pastor, Springfield church

Empowered To Serve

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ENGLISH CHURCH OFFICERS TRAINING

- Clerks Training
- Children’s Ministries
- Deaconesses/Deacons
- Elders
- Health Ministries
- Personal Ministries
- Sabbath School - Adult
- Women’s Ministries
- Youth-Pathfinders-Adventurers

**January 22, 2012**
Devotional Speaker: John Piroski
South Lancaster Village Church
75 Sawyer Street
South Lancaster, MA 01561

**January 29, 2012**
Devotional Speaker: Alexandru Breja
Connecticut Valley Church
354 Foster Road
South Windsor, CT 06074

Haitian, Hispanic, and Portuguese training will be held at a different time and venue. Please contact the conference office (978) 365-4551 for more information.

Lunch will be provided for those who register online by January 6, 2012

**PICK YOUR DATE and REGISTER ONLINE:** WWW.SNECONLINE.ORG

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
What scenes come to mind when thinking of Mexico? Picturesque white beaches, palm trees, pina coladas? This was a far cry from my experience with 20 other college students this past July. Instead of a plush resort in Cancun, we slept on concrete with mosquitoes whining in our ears in southern Mexico.

Our mission in Mexico was not soaking up the sun while enjoying ocean breezes; rather, our goal was to build a stable, quality church from the ground up in less than 14 days while simultaneously conducting Vacation Bible School, outreach activities, and a short dental clinic. Impossible for a group of college students? Maranatha Volunteers International’s new Collegiate Project has made it a possibility.

What is special about this project? Coming together with peers for God’s service creates a strong sense of camaraderie and facilitates a new understanding of what it means to be a servant of God.

This project allows me to serve without sacrificing an entire year. Throughout my six Maranatha mission trips I have grown into leadership positions that have prepared me for “real life” and remind me that my contribution is important. In college it seems easy to blend in, but on each trip I am strongly reminded that God has a huge plan for my life if I let Him into my heart.

If you are looking for a way to serve and don’t feel that long-term missions are the answer, this project could be God’s solution. Check out www.maranatha.org.

—Krista Tait, member, Stoneham church
Schilo Family Services, Inc. (SFS), une organisation de service social à but non lucratif, dédiée aux besoins des personnes à faible revenu, a été créée à la suite d’un vote par le conseil de l’Eglise Haitienne Schilo. SFS a ouvert ses portes le 5 mars pour servir la communauté de Stamford, Connecticut.

W. Fitzgerald Kerr, directeur des Services Communautaires Adventiste pour la conférence de Northeastern, fut le représentant de cette dite conférence lors de l’inauguration. A cause de l’ouverture de cet édifice, les membres, les résidents et la communauté haïtienne ont quelque chose à célébrer.

Prêcher l’Évangile n’est pas seulement fait de la chaire, mais aussi à travers les organisations de services sociaux. C’est la nouvelle approche. Les gens ont besoin de voir que vous êtes là pour les aider», a déclaré Fanel Merville, directeur exécutif de l’SFS et membre de l’église Haitienne Schilo.

SFS offrira des conseils d’immigration, y compris la préparation des formulaires, le classement, la représentation légale, l’anglais comme langue secondaire (ESL) et des classes de citoyenneté. SFS travaille en étroite collaboration avec les Services Communautaires Adventiste et est une filiale de CLINC, Inc, le plus grand réseau communautaire des programmes d’immigration aux États-Unis. SFS, situé au bâtiment de l’église, est ouverte les lundis, mardis, et jeudis 9:00-12:00 et fera des plans pour travailler le soir aussi. Pour en savoir plus sur l’SFS, e-mail familyservices@schi-loesda.org ou appelez (203) 388-8050.

Kristia-Beaubrun, directrice de communication, Eglise Hébron d’expression française

L’église d’Hébron Accueille Plus de 55 Nouveaux Membres Baptisés

Plus de 600 personnes ont assisté à des services ves- péraux parmi les six semaines d’évangélisation organisées par l’église d’Hébron d’expression française à Brooklyn, New York.

le 28 mai à Brooklyn, avec Audalus Estimé, un pasteur venant d’Haiti, en vue de partager les bonnes nouvelles et sauver les perdus. Chaque jour, à l’exception de jeudi, des centaines de personnes ont rempli les sièges

Leurs efforts se sont révélés être réussis avec l’ajout de 55 personnes à la famille des Églises Adventistes du Septième Jour, ce qui constitue le plus grand nombre de candidats au baptême au cours d’un événement unique dans l’histoire récente de cette église.

Le dernier jour de ces réunions, le 9 juillet, a été une célébration sans précédent – un service d’adoration animé, dans la matinée, une cérémonie de baptême et de communion qui a duré jusqu’à 6 :00 p.m., suivie d’une veillée de prière qui s’est terminée à minuit.

Kristia Beaubrun, directrice de communication, Eglise Hébron d’expression française

Quoi de Neuf?
Dans la Fédération de L’Union Atlantique

“Chaque jour des centaines de personnes ont rempli les sièges de l’église d’Hébron afin d’explorer la Parole de Dieu.”

Lincoln Center en Nueva York fue el lugar elegido para la culminación de una serie de evangelización de 10 meses con la participación de las iglesias hispanas de las conferencias de Greater New York y Northeastern. Patrocinado por el Ministerio de la Voz de La Esperanza, el orador por las cuatro noches, Agosto 31- Septiembre 3, fue Frank González, Presentador y Director del programa televisivo La Voz de la Esperanza. González presentó una serie de ocho sermones, titulada “Siete Palabras de Esperanza.” Cada noche se estudió una de siete palabras inspiradas por Cristo al El moría en la Cruz.

Comenzando desde el 4 de Diciembre del 2010, con la presentación oficial en la Iglesia Hispana de Dykman, y por los próximos 10 meses, los miembros de cada iglesia hispana de la Greater New York Conference trabajaron en 246 grupos pequeños, realizando estudios bíblicos y testificando a las personas en sus comunidades.

Michael Guerrero, Coordinador del Ministerio Hispano de la Greater New York Conference, animó a cada pastor a participar en el proceso mientras se preparaban para el evento de cosecha en el Lincoln Center.

Más de 2,500 personas se reunieron cada noche para las reuniones. Administradores de la Greater New York Conference Earl G. Knight, Presidente; Gerson Santos, Secretario Ejecutivo; y Carlos González, Tesorero; junto con los administradores de la Unión del Atlántico Carlyle Simmons, Secretario Ejecutivo; y Dionisio Olivo, Vicepresidente para Ministerios Hispanos y portugueses; y Dan Jackson, Presidente de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en Norte América; se encontraban entre los invitados especiales que asistieron al evento.

Dios fue honrado con presentaciones musicales de alta calidad del equipo de La Voz de la Esperanza y otros. Como resultado, los presentes alaban sus manos y voces en alabanza a Dios. Invitados musicales incluyeron a artistas como Marissa Martínez, Steve Green, Junior Marchena Kelly, Los Hearldos de Esperanza, Jamie Jorge y el Metropolitan Mass choir, un coro de 100 voces, formado por las iglesias hispanas de la Greater New York Conference.

“Estamos tan agradecidos a Dios por lo que ha hecho en el Lincoln Center y en las iglesias,” dijo Guerrero. “Hemos bautizado a más de 450 personas.” Los administradores de la Greater New York Conference se unieron a Guerrero en expresar su agradecimiento con una presentación especial para González.

Más de 400 bautismos fueron reportados por las iglesias hispanas de la Northeastern Conference, haciendo un gran total de más de 900 bautismos.
Sunset Table

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<th>9</th>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE
Atlantic Union Conference Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference, Mar. 30-Apr. 1, 2012. The Atlantic Union Conference Personal Ministries Department and its six local conferences are sponsoring a Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference at the Stamford Marriott Hotel and Spa, 243 Tresser Blvd., Stamford, CT 06901. The conference is for church members, leaders, and pastors, and will offer seminars in four languages: English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. To register at the hotel, call (800) 732-9689 (mention Atlantic Union Conference meeting). For hotel cost, registration fees, and additional information, visit: www.atlantic-union.org/seeds2012.html.

OBITUARIES

GROUT, John M.—80; b. Feb. 3, 1931; d. Aug. 23, 2011, in Clinton, Mass. He was a longtime member of the Village Church in South Lancaster, Mass. He attended South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Mass. In his early years he worked as a literature evangelist. He was the custodian and general guardian of the premises at the Village Church. He is the husband of the late Geraldine Grout (2008), who served for 22 years as Gleaner managing editor/editor. Survivors include a sister, Ellen Dapper of Virginia.


Dr. Roderick Carruthers will be 100 on Dec 3, 2011

All invited to help celebrate at an Open House

Sunday Dec 4, 2011, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Greater Boston Academy
108 Pond St. • Stoneham, MA

E-mails and cards can be sent to:
DRCarruthers100@yahoo.com
c/o Robert Carruthers
37 Albion Ave • Stoneham, MA 02180
(781) 438-0287

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COMING IN DECEMBER on most NBC stations.
For a list of stations and airdates, go to www.breathoflife.tv or call 805-955-7681 after November 1.

Union College in Lincoln, Neb., is receiving applications for filling the office of President. Qualifications required include an earned doctoral degree in a recognized academic discipline. Significant leadership experience in academic circles is greatly desired, and a demonstrated collaborative leadership style will also be expected. Applicants should submit a detailed résumé to Thomas Lemon, President, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, P.O. Box 6128, Lincoln, NE 68506.

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Atlantic Union GLEANER, November 2011
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All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is $35 for each insertion of 40 words or less, and 50 cents for each additional word. For all other advertisements the rate is $40 for each insertion of 40 words or less and 50 cents for each word over the 40. There is an 80-word maximum. Check or money order should be made payable to Atlantic Union Gleaner or Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved. Classified ads appearing in the Atlantic Union Gleaner are printed without endorsement or recommendation of the Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertisements, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or for typographical or categorical errors.

EMPLOYMENT

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions in Business, English, and History, and contract faculty in many areas. For more information and application process, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu. All positions will remain open until filled.

IT IS WRITTEN TELEVISION (Simi Valley, Calif.) seeks an associate producer for the production of English and Spanish broadcast programs. Requirements: broadcast level production experience, extensive video camera experience, ability to shoot and record on location as a single person crew. Frequent travel. Bilingual preferred. For a complete job description and application, e-mail: production@iw.org.

TRAVEL

2012 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR, Mar. 30–Apr. 12, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy, and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax (269) 471-5172, e-mail: gctours@mac.com.

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RV’s!! Adventist owned and operated RV dealership has been helping Adventists for over 35 years. Huge inventory of new and used trailers and motorhomes. Jayco, Newmar, and Hurricane. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Call toll-free (888) 933-9300. Lee’s RV, Oklahoma City. www.leesrv.com or e-mail: Lee Litchfield at Lee@leesrv.com.


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Jan. 22-29, 2012. Intense 7-day seminar focusing on practical hands-on hydrotherapy treatments and back massage. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Cost: $349 (Includes room, vegan meals). Contact: Darlene (931) 724-6706, www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org, E-mail: darleneleekith@gmail.com

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master’s degrees in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion, and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call (423) 236-2385 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees.


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Atlantic Union College:
Norman Wendth, President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-2000. Web site: www.aucc.edu

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

23

at www.atlantic-union.org
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Two Events to Experience Time in God’s Presence

Tune My Heart

NAD Day of Prayer • January 7, 2012

Plan now for a special, life-changing day of prayer for your church

Options:
- Begin on Friday evening, January 6
- Add the valuable discipline of some form of fasting

For the last 16 years Seventh-day Adventist churches across North America have joined hearts on the first Sabbath of each new year—praying for our countries, our communities, our churches, and our own needy hearts. Join with your family across the Division at this crucial time in our history. Let’s lay plans for a weekend of united and powerful prayer.

For more information and resources go to www.nadprayerministries.org.

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- Ask God to take away any mediocrity and to take you to a deeper level of faith and blessing.
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- Pavel Goia
- Jim Moon
- Gary Burns
- Karen Martell
- Kelly Veilleux
- Marion Parson

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