Celebrating God’s Instrument of Hope
Mission Statement
To faithfully chronicle the work and progress of the church in the Atlantic Union territory and inform, instruct, and inspire our church members.

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In this Issue...
Members in the Atlantic Union have been sharing their stories through the pages of the Gleaner for 110 years. In this issue, we reflect on work of the church in the Atlantic Union chronicled in the Gleaner. Our regular features include, Adventist Education and Youth in Service. The cover photo is an image from iStockphoto.
Ten years ago, in 2002, the Atlantic Union GLEANER commemorated 100 years of service as a faithful chronicle of work and progress of the Adventist Church in the Atlantic Union territory. This month, we celebrate 110 years.

The following is an excerpt taken from the very first issue of the GLEANER, dated January 1, 1902, vol. 1, no. 1: “We come to you with sincere wishes that the year upon whose threshold you stand may prove to be the most joyful and prosperous of your existence; that its hours may be so filled with the love, joy, and peace of the Spirit, that there will be no time for the works of the flesh to flourish; and that, at its close, you can look back upon a year of constant soul-surrender to the Lord of the harvest.”

Yes, anniversaries are wonderful and are opportunities for reflections of the years gone by and positive reflections for the year ahead.

This past year has been a happy and successful year in many ways. It has been defined by a kaleidoscope of happy memories, supportive friendships, and enduring relationships. Of course, there have also been some paths that may have been slightly more difficult to travel together. Yet, in spite of the odd stumbling blocks along the way, we have traveled through another year—together, supportive, encouraging, and enduring.

And, as we take the time to express our gratitude for a past year of many blessings, we turn expectantly to the year that lies ahead, a time to build and strengthen forged relationships even further, a time to create and cherish even more shared memories, and a time filled with dreams that are brought ever closer, and milestones—whatever they may be—achieved.

This month, as we celebrate 110 years of GLEANER history, I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute and thanks to all who have made this union magazine so successful. We pay tribute to the editorial pioneers who have passed to their rest awaiting the triumphal return of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; and give thanks to all those who continue to labor tirelessly to produce a fine monthly magazine.

I especially wish to express thanks to the current editor and communication director, Ednor A. P. Davison, for her competent leadership of the publication. Of course, we extend kudos also to her supportive team who help to make a significant contribution, as well—conference communication directors Sheila Holder, Rohann Wellington, Kim Kaiser, Stephen Williams, Lynn Ortel, and Frank Tochterman; assistant directors, D. Randolph Wilson and Pete Saunders; Atlantic Union College director of publications Cindy Kurtzhals; designer Haziel Olivera; copy editor Pat Humphrey; and others who work behind the scenes.

In life, I have learned that it doesn’t matter where you go, what you achieve, or what you do. What matters most is who you have beside you along the way! Thank you—one and all—for being beside us this past year . . . and may you be ever near in the years ahead. But most of all, we thank the Lord for being beside us every step of the way, without whom we surely would stumble and fall.

May your New Year be the brightest ever as we await the soon coming of our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. $
Perhaps you are sitting in a comfortable chair at home, or traveling to work on the bus or train, or you might be on the Internet as you read this January 2012 issue of the Gleaner. Maybe you are a longtime member, a newly-baptized member, a friend, or a family member. No matter who you are or where you are, if you are reading this article, then you are reading the Gleaner issue that commemorates 110 years of chronicling the work and progress of the church in the Atlantic Union territory.

The Gleaner is the official publication or voice of the Atlantic Union and the conferences it serves. It is one of the primary tangible benefits members get from their church. It is the way we clasp hands with our members to provide a sense of belonging, to acknowledge the work they are doing in their churches and communities, to communicate news, to move the mission, and to transmit and reinforce Adventist values to new members, thus preserving the spirit and essence of the church. It allows the readers to hear, not only in regard to the progress of the work in their home conference, but also in all of the conferences in the union. Furthermore, it is free to every family.

Ten years ago at the 100-year milestone of the magazine, one page each of French (Quoi de Neuf?) and Spanish (¿Qué Está Pasando?) news and information was added and continues to be included today. Also at that time, the online version of the Gleaner was added on the union’s Web site (www.atlantic-union.org). Today, Gleaner issues going back five years are available on the Web site.

With the introduction of new technology and the ever-increasing need for up-to-date information, the magazine extends beyond the printed pages to accommodate those who choose to communicate using other methods. The following options are available:

- Atlantic Union Gleaner FYI is an electronic newsletter that is e-mailed to anyone who wishes to receive it. Watch for a new format in 2012.
- Facebook users can “Like” the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists by going to facebook.com/atlanticunionconference.
- If you use Twitter, you can “Follow” the Atlantic Union at twitter.com/GleanerFYI.
- A visit to www.auam.tv will give you information about Atlantic Union Adventist Media (AUAM), a self-supporting ministry of the Atlantic Union, that operates a media production truck.
There are also some recent additions on the Internet from the Atlantic Union Youth Ministries department:

- Youth Ministries Web site: www.AUYouth.com
- Youth Ministries on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AtlanticUnionAdventistYouthMinistries
- Youth Ministries on Twitter: www.twitter.com/AUYouth

With all these resources available, we must never forget that the purpose of all that we do is to glorify God, bring honor to His name, and share the message of hope and love through Jesus Christ with as many people as we can.

In the coming months, information will be shared regarding the plans and preparation for the 2013 evangelistic meetings in New York City. As the leaders of the General Conference, North American Division, Atlantic Union, the local conferences, and local churches join together for this unprecedented event, we invite every member to participate by making these meetings a matter of prayer.

While we continue to chronicle the work through the pages of the GLEANER and all avenues available to us, we hope to be able share more news and information about how you, our Atlantic Union members, are reaching as many people as possible while the opportunity still exists.

Time is short, the work is great, committed workers are few, but we must share the Word so that others will have the opportunity to choose wisely. “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!”—Isaiah 52:7

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

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**Remembering . . .**

**William (Bill) Tymeson**

*First layout artist on record in the GLEANER*

William Tymeson, 67, died on Saturday, April 16, 2011, in Keene, New Hampshire. Tymeson was born on July 19, 1943, in Worcester, Massachusetts. He graduated from South Lancaster Academy (1962) and Atlantic Union College (1967).

The first mention of layout artists and designers for the GLEANER was recorded in the October 28, 1966 issue. It was also around that time that the design was changed from newsletter format to magazine format. Tymeson was listed as the layout artist who worked for the GLEANER from October 1966 through August 1970.

He taught part-time for AUC’s Art Department. In May 1972 he started his own graphic design business.

By 1990 the economy began to affect his business and he found a graphic designer position at a company in Lancaster. In 1992 he took a position as the full-time graphic designer for AUC.

In 1996, he and his family moved to Hagerstown, Maryland, where he became a senior designer for the Review and Herald Publishing Association. He worked exclusively on the weekly magazine, ADVENTIST REVIEW, for more than 13 years.

He designed the GLEANER covers from April 2002 to December 2005. And, he also designed several of the Atlantic Union Conference Constituency Session books.

In March 2007 the Tymesons moved back to New England, settling in Richmond, New Hampshire, and he and his wife, Andrea, continued working remotely for the Review and Herald.

He leaves behind his wife, Andrea, and three sons, Matthew Moeckel of Wilmington, Mass.; Wesley (Lina) Moeckel of Leominster, Mass; and Jesse Tymeson of Winchendon, Mass.

In Tymeson’s honor, on June 12, 2011, and for several weeks following, the retrospective “A Gentleman’s Life” was presented at AUC’s Mabel Bartlett Gallery.
The Little School That Could

It was one of those defining moments in a school’s history as the question was asked, “Do we close the school?” Thus began the story of the faithfulness of “a little school that could” through God’s blessings and peoples’ trust! The Warren Seventh-day Adventist School was uncertain as to the direction in which God wanted the school to proceed, but believed that the school should not close.

Though the school board only had four confirmed students for the upcoming school year, (2006-2007), by faith they moved forward to recruit. It was during this time that God had prepared the way to answer the school board’s prayer by providing two individuals to help. The first was Del Métellus, SNECs then educational evangelist, who worked with the school board to develop a marketing plan that included a new brochure, poster, and other marketing materials. The second individual was Angela Walton, the new teacher for the 2006-2007 school year. By the time Walton arrived, a list of names was already prepared and the process began.

During the summer, the school board, Métellus, and Walton followed the leading of the Holy Spirit, calling and encouraging parents to give their children a Christian education. By the time school opened, there were 10 students walking through the door and by end of the year, a total of 16 students had enrolled! God’s faithfulness was demonstrated in a mighty way and the Warren school board, students, parents, and Walton thanked God for the miraculous blessings of keeping the school open and increasing enrollment! But the story doesn’t end there.

The Warren school board believed that God wasn’t finished yet! With increased enrollment, a dilemma developed. Should the school turn students away or hire another teacher? Again, with much prayer, the board, knowing that the budget would double, hired the second teacher—Luisa Cabana. Enrollment grew to the mid-twenties and Warren was a success story! But again, that’s not the end of the story!

In 2011, ninth grade was added and Brahiana Chingo was added to the staff, making the Warren school a three-teacher school! In the past five years, with the blessing of God, the faithfulness of a school board, churches and pastors that believe in Christian education, parents who follow God’s leading, and a conference that financially supports Christian education, the Warren school is an example of the little school that could!
God leads His people through a difficult process of altered status and into uncomfortable, even alien, places as He uses them for His glory. That was the underlying message during Sabbath School and worship at Fall Fest 2011 on the weekend of November 18-20, at the Bermuda Institute. The event was attended by several hundred people of many nationalities and various races.

The annual event, sponsored by the Bermuda Conference, used the theme “Christ Across Culture.” Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD), was the principal speaker, taking the flag-festooned podium at worship to tackle the intriguing question: “The State of (the) Division—Are Cultures United in Christ?”

In the course of his homily he suggested that Jesus leads us into difficult places, taking us out of our comfort zones, to dialogue with others about Him. “Difficult,” he said, because of discomfort with the introduction of new cultures and ways into the NAD.

“The 10/40 window just moved in next door,” Jackson said, observing the huge demographic changes in North America in recent years that have produced a mix of people in a church society that is no longer two-toned.

He used Jonah as his biblical symbol of the uncomfortable, reluctant Christian who suffers from “chosen race syndrome” and thinks that God is his alone. “The fish vomited Jonah onto dry land,” he said of the prophet in the uncomfortable test of his willingness to serve God by truly caring for the souls of others whom he despised and who didn’t look like him.

Citing John 12:24, the president issued his terse rallying cry to Christians facing Jesus’ imminent return: “Greatness is allowing yourself to be planted in the soil of human need.”

In the process, he observed, God releases us as slaves to indifference and bias.

Earlier in the day, the Sabbath School discussed the transformation of the multicultural Galatian believers from slaves to heirs of salvation through Jesus, and the hard human truth they had to learn that there are no distinctions among God’s people, “for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Led by DeJaun Tull, pastor, the panel explored the inclusiveness of the gospel and its freedom from the slavery of ethnic and social prejudice to equality before the cross—a freedom that lends itself to being planted in the soil of human need and that dies to itself in order to give life to another.

—Coggie Gibbons, communication director, Warwick church
Adventist Youth Volunteer at New York City Marathon

While the majority of the population was enjoying their extra hour of sleep on November 6, 2011, 365 brave youth from the Greater New York, Northeastern, and Southern New England conferences volunteered at the 2011 ING New York City Marathon. Under this year’s Greater New York Conference theme, “God’s City, My City,” the mission was to impact the neighborhoods through various community projects. The final conference community project was to participate in this race, described by many as one of the world’s major marathons.

Runners (professional athletes, professional wheelchair racers, hand-cyclists, and ambulatory athletes with disabilities) from all over the world traveled to New York City to compete in this marathon.

The New York Road Runners (the organizers of the marathon) assigned specific stations to the Adventist Youth Ministries. All three conferences joined forces to volunteer at 11 fluid stations, including the starting line station—stations that have previously had insufficient volunteers. The starting line station was in Staten Island. The starting line volunteers arrived at 5:00 a.m. to distribute hot drinks, bagels, water, and Gatorade. The 11 fluid stations were spread throughout four boroughs—Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx. Distributing water and Gatorade to the runners was not as easy a task as it may sound. They were required to set up tables, put up signs, make Gatorade, fill thousands of cups, and sweep up all the used cups. Some of the challenges the volunteers faced included the time change to Eastern Standard time, commuting to their fluid station with many closed roads and bridges, and standing outside in the cold for eight hours yelling “water” or “Gatorade.”

For many it was their first time volunteering in a marathon. After participating in this event, Marisol Galarza from the Southern New England Conference said, “Wow! What an awesome experience at the ING Marathon. We were there by 6:30 a.m., the first ones from Connecticut to help with the set-up. I was so moved to see the brave, strong [disabled] people in this race.” Johnny Cahanducas from the Northeastern Conference said, “It was a privilege to see many runners from all over the world pass by.” And, Roberta Santos from the Greater New York Conference said, “It was tiring but a lot of fun and extremely inspiring!”

They united with one purpose—to serve the community. In the end, the team assisted 47,438 runners from all over the world. None of this would have been possible without the help of local AY/Pathfinder coordinators, directors, and youth. The group looks forward to expanding their participation in the medical team as well, in the 2012 ING New York City Marathon.

—Cynthia Sandoval, Pathfinder leader, Spanish Queens Corona church
Members of the Mott Haven Spanish church in Bronx, New York, under the leadership of their three most recent pastors, Michael Guerrero, Gilberto Alvis, and Andres Peralta, have been active reaching out to the community, the youth, and members who have left the church. They have organized small groups, scheduled evangelistic meetings, and hold a special visitor’s day on the first Sabbath of every evangelistic meeting and Week of Prayer. The goal is to reach 100 visitors.

At the last Visitor’s Day, more than 85 visitors were present. The church has a room for prayer, with its doors open to all. Lerick Mutis, communication director, and a team of workers, Sandra Vasquez, Mayra Santana, Teofilo Duran, Gracielo Barrientos, Senen and Eucaris Mutis, Jose Colon, and others, with a lot of prayer, are marketing the church in the immediate area with great results.

The church has held several activities and workshops and invited the community to participate. The last activity was a very successful health fair on September 25, 2011. Some of the activities included Chef Julio Barrillas’ workshops and demonstrations on how to cook and prepare well-balanced and nutritious meals.

The Community Blood Services van from New Jersey, with its professional staff, under the leadership of Miriam Grippo, held a blood drive. The Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services Emergency Disaster Response (ACS-DR) van, coordinated by Millie and Walter Harris, was also at the health fair. The ACS-DR team educated church members and community residents on how to respond and prepare for emergencies and disasters.

—Samuel Lopez, Personal Ministries director, Mott Haven church

New York Families Cruise Together

The morning hours of October 2, 2011, slipped by quickly as 174 family members from the Greater New York Conference walked down the boardwalk to their destination, the dock of the Skyline Princess. In anticipation of boarding they greeted friends, met new friends, and enjoyed the picturesque view of Flushing Bay.

In the five-hour getaway, they enjoyed the bond of this multicultural, and multiethnic community. With so many families in crisis worldwide, Steve Cassimy, Greater New York Conference Family Ministries director; Lisa Gonzalez, administrative assistant; and the family ministries team recognized that families in the conference needed a forum to accommodate their diversity. This medium was an attempt to unite families of varied backgrounds, mingling and comingling, sharing pleasantries, and observing the talents of the various groups, breaking the barriers for a “greater cruise” in the future.

The hours went by swiftly with entertainment by Lovener Walcott, soloist; a Korean quartet; Praise in Motion; Edison Alvarez, saxophonist; and the soothing background music provided by Loris Laborde. Prizes and surprises interspersed the program highlighting anniversaries, birthdays, and other special events.

As the Skyline Princess approached the Statue of Liberty, with cameras ready for the view, suddenly there was a chorus of the song “Statue of Liberty.” The group, liberated from the hustle and bustle of the city, from the cares at home, there with friends, family, and acquaintances was ministered to.

Two cruisers reflected on how they felt. “This was beautiful. I am ready to go on the one-week cruise next time,” said one participant. “I enjoyed the fellowship with my brethren,” said another participant.

Prior to disembarking, the family ministries director announced an upcoming cruise, and everyone was invited.

—Sonia J. Rodney-Williams, cruise participant, Grand Concourse church

At the last Visitor’s Day, more than 85 visitors were present.
USA Students Are Starting Young

Leadership starts with the small things, but in many cases, underclassmen often wait until their senior year to start making a difference in their school. This year, however, the students at Union Springs Academy are working to change that. In morning worships, at vespers, and at church, students from every class are working hard to become leaders.

“I came to the school because I wanted to get closer to God,” says Alissa Innamorati, a freshman, “so when I was asked to give my testimony I thought it was a good idea.” Testimony time has become an important part of worship in the school because it is a time when students can be real with each other and share how God has worked in their lives. Many of the students give worship talks that focus on creating a stronger family atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to grow.

Other students who have been to Union Springs Academy before are just realizing the difference they can make in the school. “The fact that I have faced so many struggles made me realize the only thing that could save me was God, so I decided to stand up for myself and to show others,” Mairaly Rodriguez, a returning sophomore, said. God does work through the lives of students, whether they are upperclassmen or underclassmen, returning or new students. This year’s students are finding out early the real purpose of being in God’s school.

—Sarah Bailey, senior, Union Springs Academy

Adventist Heritage Celebrated at Hiram Edson Farm

More than 120 faithful history seekers braved cold weather and a bit of rain to spend three hours in a drafty barn at the site of the Hiram Edson Farm in Port Gibson, New York, outside of Rochester. This site is described by leaders of the Adventist Church as the “theological birthplace” of Adventism, where an annual commemoration is held to remember the historic events that occurred on October 22, 1844. For more than 16 years people have come from as far away as Massachusetts to be reminded of the past and to be inspired to keep the faith in the still-anticipated second coming of Christ.

Visitors came to hear William Fagal, associate director of the Ellen White Estate in Washington D.C. Fagal led out on Friday night at the Bay Knoll church, sharing early Adventist pioneer stories, songs, and a multimedia presentation. Sabbath School the following day was led by Mick Orsburn, a Bay Knoll member. The morning message was on the surety of Christ’s sacrifice, reminding those present that Christ forgives and cleanses from sin, while our job is to consecrate ourselves to Jesus daily as we live in the great day of atonement.

All visitors were welcomed for lunch before driving to the Edson Farm for the afternoon. Members of the Geneva church led out in singing, and Fagal shared the importance of what happened at the site so many years ago. He emphasized that the certainty and faith of the pioneers was what led them through the time of the disappointment.

Those who attended were treated to refreshments. Gratitude was expressed to Fred Nudd for his cooking and all the assistance offered by his helpers.

—Howard Krug, member, Bay Knoll church

The Union Springs Academy Choir sang during the worship service at the Bay Knoll church as part of the annual Adventist heritage commemoration.
Residents of Schoharie, New York, Still Cleaning Up

The Schoharie River became a raging torrent, washing through the quaint town of Schoharie, New York, on August 23, 2011, in the wake of Hurricane Irene. The strength of the river upended massive storage tanks, moved entire buildings, and devastated 185 homes. Many weeks later, many residents are still living without power, staying with neighbors and in hotels as they wait for settlements with insurance companies, unsure whether they will receive any help at all.

Retired pastor Jay Prest went into the town to investigate and found trash and furniture piled six to eight feet high in front of nearly every home. Upon inquiring about how he and his wife, Pat, could help, they were given a list of needed items and learned of the additional need to feed 150 volunteers each weekday and 300 on the weekend. The Prests began contacting businesses and Adventist churches to obtain such supplies as masks, goggles, shovels, window squeegees, commercial garbage bags, heaters, dehumidifiers, wheelbarrows, brooms, and more.

Funds were also solicited to buy food for volunteers, since food had run out. The needs continue and are likely to continue for at least six months to a year. Volunteers who can help repair basements, put in wallboard, or continue with general cleanup are needed.

Since Schoharie has no Adventist presence, this ongoing disaster offers the opportunity for Adventists to reach out to people in desperate need. Individuals interested in helping should contact Schoharie Recovery, Inc., Attn: Sarah Goodrich, P.O. Box 111, Schoharie, NY 12157; (518) 470-0014.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

Camden Church Explores Mysteries of the Sanctuary

The Camden church group hosted a five-week series titled “Mysteries of the Sanctuary” from September 9 through October 8, 2011. The presenter for the series was Antonio Cano, pastor of the Turlock church in California. Cano showed how the sanctuary is a complete representation of the gospel of salvation through Christ. He shared how the sanctuary portrays the gospel message and all the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church.

Along with Cano’s preaching, those in attendance were blessed with instrumental and vocal music from Cano and other local individuals. Recording artists “Christ Ties” also presented several songs on the final Sabbath.

This series of meetings is just beginning to bear fruit. On the last night of the meetings, two individuals were received into membership by profession of faith, one by baptism, and two were rebaptized. Others have made commitments for baptism or rebaptism.

The series was videotaped and 35 sets will be sent to individuals and churches across the U.S. The prayer is that these messages will bear fruit in every home or church where they are received.

Pastor Cano’s theme “That I May Dwell Among Them” is key for us today.

—Beth Fritz, member, Camden church

North Country Snow Weekend

February 17-19, 2012
Saranac Lake SDA Church
44 St. Bernard St., Saranac Lake NY 12983

Aaron Purkeypile, speaker

We invite all youth and young adults to come and share fellowship and fun times as we enjoy the last days of winter.
The New Jerusalem church, located at 181 Greenwich St., in Hempstead, New York, opened its doors on Sabbath, October 1, 2011. The newly-formed church in the Northeastern Conference was the result of combining the Uniodale and Pilgrim Tabernacle churches. The celebration began on Friday evening with a sermon from previous pastor Ferron Francis and ended on Sabbath evening with a gospel concert. The organization ceremony took place on Sabbath evening at 4:30. Northeastern Conference administrators Trevor Baker, president, and Larry Bailey, secretary, led in the organization service. Attendance for the weekend numbered in the hundreds. With every seat taken and standing-room only, the small building was full beyond capacity. “We may very well have to work on expanding this church immediately,” said Edward Sergeant, president of the Personal Ministries Federation, Queens/Long Island District, and member of the new church. Many members of the Personal Ministries Federation attended, including Godfrey Ansah, the federation president. Litchfield Howard is the pastor who will lead the members of the New Jerusalem church as they reach out to serve the Hempstead community and share the good news of Jesus’ soon return. —Stephen L. Williams, Sr., communication director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Conference Bible Bowl Teams Win Three Out of Five

The pre-junior, young adult, and adult Bible Bowl teams from the Northeastern Conference were winners in three out of five categories at the 2011 BAYDA (Black Adventist Youth Directors Association) Bible Bowl tournament in Detroit, Michigan. It was the first time that teams from across North America participated in a national tournament. The Greater New York and Northeastern conferences were two of many conferences present in the Motor City on the weekend of October 21-22 to showcase their knowledge of the Word of God.

The first round of games began on Friday night, after an inspirational message by Ralph Shelton, Lake Region Conference youth ministries director. During the tournament, teams could lose a game and still have...
The Mamre church in Brooklyn, New York, hosted its final Sabbath School Community Guest Day celebration for 2011 on October 8. The specially-planned service targeted friends, relatives, coworkers, and residents in and around the Brooklyn community.

Formal invitations were distributed in advance, and the event was also advertised on local radio station 88.9 FM. About 100 visitors came to the worship service on the day of the event.

The guest speaker, Evangelist David Thompson, spoke on the topic “The Price is Right.” Using the story of Hosea and Gomer in Hosea, chapter 3, he made the story come alive using a practical, modern-day perspective. In his illustration, he depicted God’s intense and unconditional love for the church and mankind, called for the restoration of forgiveness in the church, and declared that God is on a hunt for sinners.

Enhancing the day’s celebration were musical accompaniments. Addys Romero and Luis Morrobel, sang about God’s love. Allan Brown played the saxophone; the church’s youth choir, A Joyful Noise, sang, “Just Because He is God;” and the Chitans, young siblings who were visiting from Ontario, Canada, sang, “I’m Just a Sinner Saved by Grace,” as many visitors responded during the appeal.

The AY program featured a concert that aired live on VOPTV.NET/satellite. Wayne Johnson and Cora Williamson, president and vice president of VOPTV.NET/satellite, also performed at the concert. Mamre church was the first Seventh-day Adventist Church to be aired on VOPTV.NET. Host Farrell Jones, Mamre church’s pastor, and Nigel Lewis, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, were present to witness the occasion and brought greetings.
Woodstock church members came to a sobering realization a few years ago—their church, school, and fellowship hall/food-pantry buildings had reached the end of their service lives and needed to be replaced simultaneously.

The church building, used by the church since the late ‘50s, was moved to Woodstock from about 10 miles away, where it was previously used by another church for almost 90 years. Roof problems, mold in the basement, and dry-rot in some of the original hand-hewn beams, left the members with no choice but to build a new sanctuary.

Forestdale Christian School, the K-8 grade school, has been housed in its building since the school started in the 1930s. The building, previously used as a church for many years, also was becoming unfit for use as a school. Woodstock’s stand-alone fellowship hall faced its own series of challenges that were winding down its service life.

The congregation responded to the crisis first with prayer, and then by forming a building committee. The committee, comprised of experienced builders, developers, and engineers, went through a series of more than a dozen designs, trying to meet the competing and sometimes conflicting needs of a church, a school, and a fellowship hall/food-pantry with a one-building solution that was affordable. The church moved forward in faith and secured six acres of land adjacent to the land they currently own. Church members who owned heavy equipment cleared the land. Everyone joined in to help pay off the purchase.

Earlier this year, the building committee presented its final design—a one-story, 10,500 square foot building that would accommodate all of the activities and functions needed, and would do so at a price of about $650,000. The congregation voted to proceed and broke ground in April 2011. Now, the exterior of the church is entirely finished and work is commencing on the interior, with completion expected early in the spring of 2012. The Lord has blessed the effort tremendously. The construction project is currently about one month ahead of schedule, and more than $10,000 under budget.

Woodstock church borrowed $375,000 from the conference to fund the project, and members are working to raise the balance of the money as they go, placing a particular emphasis of their fundraising on prayer, sacrifice, and committed (monthly) giving. In raising money for the church, the congregation is committed to building not just a new church, but God’s kingdom as well.

The church plans a series of outreach and evangelistic efforts that, with the Lord’s blessing, will result in new members swelling the ranks of the church. The best outcome of these efforts would be to have so many new members that a new, larger church is needed!

—Scott Christiansen, elder, Woodstock church

Prayer Coordinators in Vermont Meet to Plan and Pray

The prayer coordinators in Vermont recently met to pray and plan for their members to experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit in each of their churches. “We had a blessed time as we shared and prayed together,” said Brian Bilbrey, the organizer and pastor of the Barre-Montpelier District.

Prayer coordinators pictured are, front row from left, John Summers (St. Johnsbury), Larry Farley (Mountain View), Crystal Holden (Mountain View ), Cynthia Craig (Barre), Joan Barber (Morrisville), and Pam Durant (Williston). On the back row, from left, are Jannine Williams (Bristol), Paula Roeloffs (Bristol), Gaylene Randall (Williston), and Lesley Moore (Newport).
Doing God’s Errands in the Community

Dressed in their Class A uniforms, the Central New Hampshire Flames Pathfinders spent several hours walking door-to-door in a large section of the Concord community in October 2011, giving out bags for the annual food drive. As they spoke with people, they had the opportunity to tell them about Pathfinders and the reason for their food drive—to provide food baskets for the needy in Concord and to offer those who were unable to contribute the opportunity to receive a food basket. The next day they went back and collected the donations. They collected enough food to almost fill the space in the back of four vehicles!

In November, the Pathfinders, dressed in Class A uniforms, created an assembly line and made more than 100 sack lunches, consisting of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, crackers and cookies, apples and oranges, and juice boxes. They did this for the Friendly Kitchen, a local food kitchen serving Concord residents. Earlier in the year the Pathfinders donated half the proceeds from their annual Memorial Day yard sale to the Friendly Kitchen that was extensively damaged during a fire the month before.

The Pathfinders bundled up and faced the chilling temperatures on “Black Friday” and held a yard sale. They successfully raised about $350 toward their mission trip to the Holbrook Indian School in Arizona.

On the first Sabbath of each month the Pathfinders participate in some form of community service.

—Darlene Atherton, communication correspondent

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Students from More than 30 Universities Attend Collegiate Summit

Students from more than 30 universities in the greater Boston area attended the second annual Collegiate Summit hosted by Campus Hope Fellowship, a ministry of the Boston Temple church.

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Students from more than 30 universities in the greater Boston area attended the second annual Collegiate Summit on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the first weekend in October 2011. The event began with Friday-night vespers, and concluded with an evening social at Boston Temple church on Saturday night.

On Friday night, Thando Malambo, a Harvard alumnus, spoke on our present identity crisis as Christians living in an increasingly secular world. She referenced John, chapters 14-17, in which Jesus spoke His last words prior to His crucifixion. Malambo stressed that we must be ambassadors for Christ in our homes, work places, and on college campuses. “We are called to be a unique people, much in the way Jesus was in the world but not of the world,” she said (John 17:14-16). She challenged the group to give thought to the question, Will we be able to, like Jesus, say, “I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do?” (John 17:4)

On Sabbath morning, the main message was delivered by Edward Hichez, a graduate student at Harvard University. He spoke on the responsibility of the Christian community to engage the community at large. He stressed the importance of knowing one’s identity, guarding and keeping it in the face of trials and temptation, and being a peculiar people. “God calls all Christians to be separate and sanctified, that He may receive us and work on our behalf,” said Hichez (quoting 2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Peter 2:9).

An afternoon workshop focused on strategies and techniques to effectively engage students’ interests and needs. Separated into small groups, students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn practical tips on how to witness to non-Christians on campus.

At the concluding event, the summit participants were invited to join the congregation at Boston Temple church for Saturday-night vespers, followed by a social. It was an interactive vespers and students had the opportunity to reflect on common misconceptions of Christianity and obstacles to effective ministry.

Campus HOPE Fellowship is a ministry of the Boston Temple church. For more information about events and activities for college students and young adults in the Boston area, visit www.campushopefellowship.org.

—Jason Sylvestre, Harvard student, and Angelo Grasso, ACF coordinator

Never Too Old Nor Too Cold

The Shelburne Falls church welcomes two new members.

Arthur Corarito

While onlookers shivered under umbrellas on October 1, 2011, Arthur Corarito entered the frigid waters of his pond in Rowe, Massachusetts, and Jon Clayburn, pastor of the Shelburne Falls church, baptized him.

It had been a long road to conversion for Corarito, who had attended Catholic schools and is now 69. After years of no church life and questioning the existence of God, Corarito, a design engineer with a scientific mind, was drawn to God “by technical means,” through the teachings of Gene Scott, Ph.D., who proposed that the Giza pyramid, engineered with such mathematical precision, could only have been designed by God.

Corarito says, “It was as if a curtain opened up, and I realized there must be a God. I saw the world and how sinful it was, and it
be baptized by Clayburn on November 19, 2011.

Rock, raised a Catholic on a dairy farm, has few happy memories of his dysfunctional home life.

At age 19 he entered the Marines, where in six years he found few he could trust. Then, after three semesters at the University of Massachusetts and brief stints back at the farm and at a factory, he became a trucker for eight years. After his truck was vandalized and robbed several times, his distrust of people increased. He also experienced a period of homelessness and he lived in his truck for several years.

Rock began his Christian walk after reading Christian literature found at truck stops and becoming associated with another Christian denomination where he learned to pray and accept the Sabbath. Then, an Adventist cousin introduced him to the health message and gave him Bible studies and Doug Batchelor’s Amazing Facts videos.

Almost four years ago, he arrived at the church in Shelburne Falls, where he says he “tested them for two years.”

—Dorie Mirucki, member, Shelburne Falls church

Roderick Carruthers Celebrates 100 Years

About 150 people attended a reception in honor of Roderick Carruthers, M.D., a longtime member of the Stoneham Memorial church, who turned 100 years old on December 3. Among those attending the December 4 event at Greater Boston Academy were church members; many people from the community, including former patients, colleagues, and neighbors; and his one-month-old great-granddaughter.

Carruthers’ love for his Lord was highlighted as tributes were shared, acknowledging his dedication and service to his family, community, and church.

Representative James Dwyer, right; 100-year-old Roderick Carruthers, M.D., center; and his son, Robert Carruthers, left, hold citations that were presented to Carruthers at his birthday celebration.

—Information supplied by Frank Tochterman and Robert Carruthers

More than 600 Attend Haitian Lay Symposium

More than 600 people attended the Haitian Lay Symposium hosted by the Dedham Temple church on Sabbath, December 3. The event has outgrown all of the church’s facilities. The Dedham Temple adult choir performed for the worship service. “We thank God for all his blessings,” says Emmanuel Joseph, Southern New England Conference’s Haitian Ministries coordinator.

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Sharp, firm, and standing up for God—these are three principles that describe us as Pathfinders.

The Warwick church held its Induction candle-lighting ceremony on Saturday evening, October 22, 2011, to officially acknowledge all of our new Pathfinders and Adventurers. This time, everyone showed up in their uniforms, even the little ones. One by one, 31 Pathfinders and Adventurers marched down the aisles with backs straight, heads high, and proud. This was just the start of the ceremony.

First, we said our pledge and motto and sang the song. Then all the little Adventurers lined up to receive their badges and scarves. Next, the Pathfinders explained the pledge and law and, in turn, their scarves were placed on them. They are all officially inducted into our Pathfinder Club. It is so great that we have all of these Pathfinders, but it shouldn't stop there.

As many people are saying, the youth are the church now as well as the future of the church. We need to get our youth more involved in church activities; otherwise, we will lose them. The world, unfortunately, has a lot of attractions to entice the younger generation.

Children are losing interest in the things of God and becoming absorbed in the age of technology. I recognize that we need to keep up with modern times, and I'm not saying this because I have to. But I see it happening all around me. My friends, my classmates—even some members of my church—seem to have already made their decisions and sealed their fate and have given up on God.

We need to have more events such as the candle-lighting ceremony, to which not only parents come out to support, but the church family comes out too. Unless we take our opportunity now, while some are still young, we will have no future. I might even be the one you see next heading out those church doors, never to return.

But there is still hope! One by one, and step by step, our Warwick Longtails Pathfinders and Adventurers will rise up and reach out. We hope that, by His grace, God will bless our efforts to recruit more for Him, and to forever have many more and counting.

Tatiana King, Pathfinder, Warwick Longtails Pathfinder Club

In all, 31 Pathfinders and Adventurers were inducted into their respective clubs during the candle-lighting ceremony at the Warwick church.
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Patricia Giese est le surintendant des écoles de la Southern New England Conference.

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

English translation on page 6 of this issue.
La escuela adventista de Warren estaba incierta acerca de la dirección que Dios quería para la escuela, pero creían que la escuela no debería cerrarse.

Aunque la junta directiva de la escuela solo tenía cuatro estudiantes confirmados para el siguiente año escolar (2006-2007), por fe ellos decidieron comenzar a reclutar nuevos estudiantes. Fue durante este tiempo que Dios había preparado la respuesta para la junta directiva de la escuela al proveerles a dos individuos para que los ayudaran. La primera fue Del Métellus, la evangelista educacional de la Asociación del Sur de Inglaterra, la cual trabajó con la junta directiva de la escuela para desarrollar un plan de promoción lo cual incluía un nuevo folleto, cartel y otros materiales para promocionar la escuela. La segunda persona fue Angela Walton, la nueva maestra para el año escolar 2006-2007. Para el momento cuando Walton llegó a la escuela, la lista de nombres ya había sido preparada y el proceso de reclutamiento comenzó.

Sra. Walton dieron gracias a Dios por el maravilloso milagro de mantener la escuela abierta y de aumentar la matrícula. Pero la historia no termina aquí. La junta directiva de la escuela creía que Dios no había terminado su obra. Con el aumento en la matrícula se desarrolló otro problema. ¿Debería la escuela decirle no a algunos niños interesados en asistir a la escuela o debería emplear a otra maestra? Nuevamente con mucha oración, la junta directiva, sabiendo que el presupuesto sería incrementado al doble, decidió emplear una nueva maestra – Luisa Cabana. La matrícula creció hasta sobrepasar los 20 alumnos y la escuela de Warren se convirtió en una historia de éxito. ¡Pero este no es el final de la historia!

En el 2011, la escuela añadió el noveno grado y Brahiana Chingo fue empleada, haciendo de la escuela de Warren una escuela con tres maestras. En los últimos cinco años, con las bendiciones de Dios, la fe de una junta directiva, la iglesia y los pastores que creyeron en la educación cristiana, padres que siguen el mandado de Dios, y una asociación que financiera y apoya la educación cristiana, la escuela de Warren es un ejemplo de una pequeña escuela que pudo.

Patricia Giese es la superintendente de escuelas de la Asociación del Sur de Inglaterra.

English translation available on page 6 of this issue

Traducción: Johanna Viteri
**Sunset Table**

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5-8: Honor classes are ’42, ’52, ’37, ’62, ’72, ’82, ’87, ’92, and ’02. Special Unionaires reunion—celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. For more information contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

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