That All May Know Him: REACHING THE DEAF
MISSON 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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The nations of the world have been looking to their idols for centuries, but all in vain. Many have looked to their boastful philosophies of humanism and secularism, also in vain. False religions, politicians, and unholy alliances—all will be in vain to save the nations and their inhabitants. They must look to God, declares Isaiah, the gospel prophet.

So what does it mean to look with reference to God? First we must admit that He is the ONLY true God among the multiple gods of this world, and from whom only can salvation come. Looking to God involves spending time with Him in prayer. That’s why we’re encouraged by our Lord Jesus to address Him as our Father (Matthew 6:9). One author says, “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend”—Ellen G. White, Prayer, p. 8. As such, He is the morning star of our every day.

Looking to God also involves every part of our salvation, including pardon for our sins. “As the penitent sinner, contrite before God, discerns Christ’s atonement in his behalf and accepts this atonement as his only hope in this life and the future life, his sins are pardoned. This is justification by faith. Every believing soul is to conform his will entirely to God’s will and keep in a state of repentance and contrition, exercising faith in the atoning merits of the Redeemer and advancing from strength to strength, from glory to glory”—Faith and Works, p. 103.

What motivates us to look? At least three factors: His invitation—He bids us look, therefore we should. His promise—He says, “Look, and be saved.” His providential divinity—“For I am God,” all things are possible to Him, our Sovereign Ruler.

What is the best time in which to look? Now, at this very moment. His invitation is in the present tense: “Look unto Me.” He promises in the same tense: “and be ye saved.” It’s like the fiat of creation: Let there be light. It is instantaneous. “Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin. The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, and he is no more to doubt God’s forgiving grace”—The Faith I Live By, p. 107.

The world’s need of salvation is urgent because mankind is not looking and is already lost. Time is running out. Time may soon end. Death comes suddenly. Age creeps up on us. The longest life is short indeed. Now is the time of our salvation and for the people of the world.

This is why NY13 (see www.ny13.org)—the initiative of “reaching people in the metropolitan area of New York City in 2013 and beyond with the gospel of Jesus Christ” is so urgent. Please pray for NY13 as we continue to keep “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2), a motto that is good for the penitent and preacher, sinner and saint.

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

Just Look

“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else”—Isaiah 45:22 (ASV).
Despite many challenges, great things are happening in Deaf ministry. There’s been a worldwide awakening among the Deaf and increasing church awareness of Deaf needs. When Jesus said to go into all the world and preach to every people and language (Matthew 28:19, 20 and Revelation 14:6), that commission included Deaf people and sign languages.

The needs are daunting. Of six million Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people in North America and 250 million worldwide, only two percent are Christian, making the Deaf community the largest unreached people group. The Adventist Church in North America has just one full-time, conference-paid Deaf pastor. There is an incredible shortage of Deaf pastors, Deaf Bible workers, interpreters, and resources, but not all Deaf ministry news is dire.

Recently, Larry Evans, associate director of the General Conference Stewardship Department, was appointed General Conference liaison for International Deaf Ministries. Gospel Outreach supports some global Deaf outreach, Three Angels Deaf Ministry (3ADM) administers Deaf outreach in North America, and work is being done in the Atlantic Union.

You cannot tell a Deaf person by looking at them. Deaf people are all around us. They have their own distinct culture and language (American Sign Language [ASL] in North America). Some label the Deaf “disabled” or “hearing impaired,” but culturally Deaf people prefer to be called Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. They do not feel disabled or impaired, any more than you or I feel disabled because we have blue or brown eyes. Irving King Jordan, Gallaudet University’s first Deaf president, says, “Deaf people can do anything anyone else can—except hear.” Indeed, most Deaf people are proud of their deafness and culture. How are we sharing the gospel with them?

Some Deaf people are hungry for spiritual food. They attend churches with no interpreters where they do not understand the services. Others drive for hours to churches that have interpreters or Deaf members. They show true faith, but are we meeting their needs? The majority have no interest in church and won’t, unless we reach out to them.

One goal is to officially establish Deaf Ministries in each conference and union. Every conference has a large unreached Deaf population. Many have no access to Deaf pastors or interpreters. It can be discouraging. Establishing an official Deaf Ministries shows that the church welcomes and includes Deaf people.

We need more Deaf pastors, Deaf Bible workers, and churches willing to welcome Deaf people into their congregations. Deaf people should be trained as lay evangelists and pastors. There are not enough interpreters. Often, they are unavailable or perceived as too expensive. Other challenges include distance (the Deaf are geographically spread out), finances (funds are needed for Deaf pastors and Deaf outreach events), and language barriers (ASL is not English—some Deaf people struggle to understand English Bibles, lessons, and materials in their second language).
Although there is no one-size-fits-all solution, everyone can take part in Deaf ministry. If you have a Deaf member, create a local Deaf ministry and provide funds to support interpreters, Deaf events, and to purchase outreach materials. Involve Deaf members. Deaf people have the same skills as hearing people. Being involved helps them feel a part of the congregation, rather than just being spectators. If your church has no interpreters, offer to write notes so the Deaf can follow along. When possible, speakers should give sermon notes to Deaf members and use PowerPoint slides throughout the service. If you know any Deaf people, e-mail snecdeaf@gmail.com.

Deaf people want to feel that the church welcomes and accepts them. When a Deaf person visits, smile and say “Hi.” A smile is understood in any language, as is a greeter’s handshake or hug. Deaf people often report feeling isolated. They see what is happening, but cannot participate due to language barriers. If you don’t know sign language, engage them through writing, lipreading, and gestures—being friendly and attempting to communicate goes a long way. Reaching out and showing friendship is the most effective way to win someone to Christ in any language.

If you would like more information about Deaf Ministries, visit: www.snecdeaf.com or e-mail snecdeaf@gmail.com.

Pray for Deaf people and Deaf Ministries. Jesus said when the gospel is preached to all, then He will come (Matthew 24:14). All includes Deaf people. All Deaf people should have the opportunity to know Jesus. ¶

Jessica McGowan is the Southern New England Conference DEAF coordinator.

* The term “Deaf” (written with an upper case D), in a cultural context, refers to cultural membership within a group that is composed mainly, but not exclusively, of people who are clinically deaf and who form a social community with an identity that revolves around deafness and the use of sign languages to communicate.

Deaf Resources:

Three Angels Deaf Ministries (3ADM) – www.3angelsdeafministries.com
A resource ministry by and for Deaf people that focuses on sharing Jesus with Deaf people and educates those who hear about Deaf ministry and culture so that they can better reach out to Deaf people.

Canadian Deaf Ministries International – www.deafhope.org
A ministry that works closely with Gospel Outreach and international Deaf ministry, ministering to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals and families in Canada and other countries.

Southern Deaf Fellowship – deafchurchonline.org
An Internet-based ministry developed to reach Deaf people who desire to receive God’s Word in their native language, American Sign language (ASL). Services in ASL are streamed live every Sabbath at 11:30 a.m.

Deaf Bible School Online – www.deafbibleschool.com
A ministry run by and for Deaf people that offers Bible study courses online or by mail for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.

DEAF – www.snecdeaf.com
Southern New England Conference DEAF (Deaf Everywhere Are Family) Ministry Web site that provides information on Adventist DEAF events in the Northeast.

If you know of any additional resources that should be included on this list, e-mail the Atlantic Union Conference Communication Department at communication@atlanticunion.org.
New Officers Elected at Northeastern Conference Session

By Ednor A. P. Davison

The Northeastern Conference convened its twenty-sixth regular constituency session on Sunday, June 10, at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. For the first time in the history of the conference, voting was conducted with the use of electronic devices. It was not without its challenges, but when all was said and done, new officers elected to serve the more than 50,800 members in the conference for the next four years are Daniel Honoré, president; Oswald Euell, executive secretary; and Edson Bovell, treasurer.

Departmental directors elected to serve the next four years are: Lawrence Brown, Stewardship, Trust Services, and Religious Liberty; Pollyanna Prosper-Barnes, Family Ministries and Children’s Ministries; Viola Chapman, Education; Leroy Daley, Personal Ministries and Health Ministries; Stacy Gordon, Adventist Book Center; Fitzgerald Kerr, Community Services and Sabbath School; JeNean Johnson, Communication; Ainsworth Joseph, Ministerial; and Roger Wade, Youth Ministries. The language coordinators are: Jose Joseph, Franco-Haitian Ministries; and Josué Burroughs, Hispanic Ministries. The Women’s Ministries position was referred to the executive committee.

Fourteen new churches were voted into the sisterhood of churches at this session: Community Tabernacle of Praise (New York), Elim French (New York), Everett Hispanic (Massachusetts), Heritage (New York), Le Phare (Massachusetts), Mid-Hudson French (New York), Mitspa French (New York), New Bedford Hispanic (Massachusetts), Real Truth (Massachusetts), Shekinah French (Massachusetts), Shelter Rock (New York), Taunton Portuguese (Massachusetts, Three angels Hispanic (Massachusetts), and Westbury Hispanic (New York).

Churches formed as a result of the unification/merging of existent churches were also seated at this session. They are: The River of Life (formerly Patmos and Immanuel Tabernacle), Brooklyn, New York; and New Jerusalem (formerly Pilgrim Tabernacle and Uniondale), Hempstead, New York; and Oasis de Amor (formerly Hill and Oasis de amor Hispanic) New Haven, Connecticut.

Thanks and appreciation were extended to Trevor Baker, Larry Baity, and Ebenezer Agboka, and the departmental directors for their leadership and service during the past four years.

Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference who attended: Donald King, president; Carlyle Simmons, secretary; and Leon Thomassian, treasurer; Pierre Omele, vice president for Haitian and African ministries vice president; Leon Thomassian, treasurer; Carlyle Simmons, secretary; and Donald King, president. Directors not pictured are Fitzgerald Kerr and Roger Wade.

More than 900 delegates attended the Northeastern Conference Constituency Session on June 10 at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park New York.
The old man sat at his desk, gazing thoughtfully out the window, pencil in hand. As he started the letter to his great-granddaughter, he thought back on his experiences as a laborer for Christ. Frederick Wheeler was a young pastor in his early 30s when a parishioner confronted him with a question about why he kept Sunday as the Sabbath.

"What a blessed privilege to be permitted to be a co-laborer with [Christ] in this work—the work of saving perishing sinners, the work for which He gave His precious life. A love for sinners is begotten in the heart of every true child of God, breathed by the Spirit of God. We cannot be otherwise, for if Christ dwells in us by His Holy Spirit, we shall have the mind of Christ and we shall be interested in the same work that He is interested in, and that work is the salvation of the perishing that was the object of His labors while here on earth; the object for which He gave His life. . . ."¹

It sounds as if Wheeler was writing to an evangelist—and he was! Adventist education is one of the most effective evangelistic tools our church has. All of our children need to meet Jesus for themselves and establish their own personal relationship with Him.

Parents can provide a foundation that guides a child toward a relationship with Christ. However, as children reach school age, they spend a large portion of their days at school, away from their parents. Teams of dedicated Adventist teachers and parents, working as co-laborers with Christ, can continue to provide that firm foundation and consistent guidance all through a child’s school years.

Wheeler’s great-granddaughter, Bessie Rice, was one of those team members. She was one of the first teachers in a new church school in Syracuse—forerunner of the school where I currently teach. We, as Seventh-day Adventist teachers, parents, and church members, are part of that same team today. With Christ as our leader, we can continue the legacy begun by our pioneers.

As Frederick Wheeler wrote to Bessie Rice years ago, “May we each of us find the place God has assigned in His work and fill that place to His acceptance and at last share in the final victory.”²

Sue Hayford is a teacher at Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York.

¹. An unpublished letter from Frederick Wheeler to Bessie Rice dated November 21, 1901.
². Ibid.
Update Regarding Atlantic Union College as of May 14, 2012

Atlantic Union College (AUC) submitted in December 2011 a completed application to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education for the purpose of reestablishing degree-granting authority. Over the past several months, AUC has continued to submit additional documents to the state as well as a complete audited financial statement. Additional documents were submitted as requested.

Most recently, Atlantic Union College has been notified by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education that a site visit is pending for late summer 2012, to evaluate the reestablishment of degree-granting authority. Additional documents and financial statements were submitted as requested.

This site visit will be done by a complete academic team and will evaluate AUC’s ability to obtain future academic programs, as well as the reestablishment of its prior degree-granting authority.

In other related matters, AUC has embarked on a new strategic planning process, garnering input from some of the strongest academic and strategic planning authorities within the Adventist Church to help design (shape) the future of the college. AUC has completed the placement of each of its conference-sponsored and non-sponsored M.Ed. students, as well as the placement of the Adult Degree Program (ADP) students to top-rated universities committed to the timely completion of the learner’s educational goals.

Six AUC ADP graduates recently completed their degrees at Southwestern Adventist University on May 6, 2012, and six other (additional) students are scheduled to complete their academic studies within the next semester. Please continue to pray for the growth and development of AUC, as we continue to move forward and upward.

—Donald G. King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference, and chairman of the Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees

Gina Brown, administrative educational consultant, Atlantic Union College, Inc.

Atlantic Union Conference Statement on Women in Ministry

At its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on May 10 the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee voted the following statement regarding women in ministry:

Recognizing the current discussions and the value of women in ministry within the North American Division, the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee voted the following statement:

WHEREAS the Atlantic Union Conference and its member conferences and organizations have benefited from the faithful service and commitment of women in ministry, including evangelistic, pastoral, educational, and other roles at all levels of the church and school system, and

WHEREAS the Atlantic Union Conference recognizes itself as a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and will act in harmony with its decisions taken during the General Conference in business session, it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the Atlantic Union Conference, in harmony with the scriptural mandates of the priesthood of all believers, is committed to supporting, empowering, and celebrating women in ministry.

In a subsequent action after the above statement was adopted, the executive committee voted to have a proposal brought back at a future meeting that would involve ways in which church members and employees may be educated and become more informed about the role of women in leadership ministry in the church.

Atlantic Union Conference Statement on Women in Ministry

Atlantic Union College (AUC), in its teach-out agreement last year with Mount Wachusett Community College (WMCC), continued to assist the last AUC nursing class in completing their life-long goal of becoming nurses. On May 17, 2012, 28 AUC students graduated with their associate degree in nursing from WMCC. The pinning ceremony was held on Friday evening, May 18, before sunset, where approximately 140 students were pinned.

In the process of working with WMCC, all 28 AUC students were able to stay in the same cohort, thus aligning themselves together as a team and being able to share the Lord’s blessings with each other and with others within WMCC on a daily basis. Additionally, through the agreement between AUC and WMCC, AUC professors and instructors were used for classroom and clinical experiences with the AUC students.

These 28 students are now eligible to sit for state board exams anywhere in the United States, as well as work in all types of healthcare settings. The Lord continues to bless Atlantic Union College, Inc., in spite of its difficulties and challenges.

—Donald G. King, president, Atlantic Union Conference and chairman, Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees

Sally Tochterman, assistant professor, Atlantic Union College at Mount Wachusett Community College
Eighth Annual ACF Summit and First Division-wide Campus Ministries Conference

Students, friends of students, and young alums gathered on April 13-15 for the eighth annual Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Summit on the campus of Columbia University in New York City. This was a notable event since the North American Division, for the first time, held a division-wide campus ministries conference, in conjunction with the summit. In addition to the local ACF sponsors, supporting organizations include the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries Department, North American Division Youth Ministries Department, and the General Conference Chaplaincy.

The theme for the weekend was “Breaking Bad—The Promise and Possibility of Change.” The event kicked off at the Church of the Advent Hope with a “Cafe Night” program, where those attending gathered around tables in a low-light setting for a dialogue with Zane Yi, pastor of the Canton church and professor of Philosophy at Kennesaw State College in Marietta, Georgia. The discussion centered on how God’s kingdom has already begun in their lives. Advent Hope’s associate pastor, Nick Zork, led the group in praise and song.

On Sabbath morning, some 250 Adventist Christian Fellowship participants convened at Columbia University’s Earl Hall for breakfast and a series of workshops on such subjects as relationships, spirituality, communicating the gospel, and approaches they can take to reach out to students on their campuses. Guest speakers included Annette Santiago-España, a psychologist at Columbia University’s Counseling and Psychological Services; Angelo Grasso, the ACF Chaplain at Harvard University; and Christina Jobe, a recent Barnard College graduate and USC film student. After the workshops, Zane and Nick led out in the Sabbath worship service, and the Columbia University Gospel Choir, led by Sean Peters, Columbia University graduate student and former ACF Columbia University chapter president, presented two musical numbers.

In the afternoon, a group of student leaders and campus chaplains met to discuss how the North American Division can help further their goals in campus ministry, while a group of other students gave away vegetarian food to university students who were passing by.

That evening, it was back to the Church of the Advent Hope for the conclusion of the summit, with a final talk by Zane Yi that emphasized the importance of everyone returning to their campuses and sharing “what great things God has done for us.” The group also attended a short concert by the Ohio Spring Valley Academy Choir. And then, one final treat, what is arguably the very best thing the Big Apple has to offer, authentic New York pizza, provided a fitting end to a wonderful weekend in New York City.

—Alex España, assistant dean and director of community outreach, Columbia University, and Brooke Pierce, freelance writer, New York City
The Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries Department, which includes the directors from the 11 churches on the island, sponsored a MESSAGE Magazine Rally during the first week in May. Samuel Thomas, Jr., marketing director of MESSAGE magazine, was the guest speaker. Thomas has 30 years of ministry experience, and his leadership approaches and evangelism methods have been recognized by the General Conference Ministerial Department. He was accompanied by his wife, Deedra.

During his Bermuda visit, Thomas made three presentations to an island-wide audience. The first was “Four Biblical Principles for Spiritual Success,” based on the story of feeding the five thousand in John 6:5-13. Thomas says, everything in life requires a plan, a principle that comes from God, who has an objective for our lives, and only asks mankind to humbly submit to His authority, be of service for Him, and reap the success. This focused life is one that requires order (as indicated in 1 Corinthians 14:40), and is one that God loves to bless.

Thomas’s second presentation was titled “The Law of the Minimum” (based on Judges 7:2-9) that underscored God’s value system as opposed to that of the world. God’s method challenges, proves, and establishes character.

The third topic was “Characteristics of an Evangelism-centered Church” that includes developing community relationships at the right time, creating outreach strategies to expand contacts, and using multi-culturally effective literature, such as MESSAGE and VIBRANT LIFE, in witnessing. An evangelistic-centered church is one that expands their reach by multiplication in outreach processes.

With these presentations, the Holy Spirit has expanded the vision of the personal ministries leaders and all who attended the Bermuda Conference MESSAGE Magazine Rally, and also affirmed the current worldwide Great Controversy/Great Hope initiative.

—Eloise Symonds, Personal Ministries director, Bermuda Conference

The Church in Walking Shoes

Youth and young adults from several churches in the Bermuda Conference conducted “church on the streets” on Sabbath, March 17, as they ministered to the community in deed and in action. Food items and clothing were donated by church members and businesses and distributed to those who were in need. Other youth, along with medical personnel, were stationed at the mall to give medical advice and conduct free blood pressure screenings.

An activity called Flash Prayers was very successful. At specified times designated youth and pray for those around them and for people in general. Jan, a Bermuda Conference youth, says, “I’d love to do this again. I want to hear Jesus say to me, ’I was hungry and you fed Me, naked and you clothed Me.’”

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Bermuda Conference youth and young adults took time to go out on the streets to help meet the needs of residents in the community.
Eight Baptized at Spanish Evangelistic Meetings

Eight people were baptized as a result of a series of evangelistic meetings held at the Spanish Dyckman church on March 31 to April 7. Rubén Bullón, Spanish evangelist for the Texas Conference, was the guest speaker for the spiritual event, titled “Restored.” His message of hope brought inspiration to the those present.

The Spanish churches involved in the evangelistic meetings were: Dyckman, Washington Heights, Convent, and Bailey. Nixon Thomas, Ephrain Pena, and Abel Rosario were the pastors in charge of organizing and promoting the meetings. The pastors and members worked and supported this spiritual project.

This evangelistic series will be broadcast on Esperanza TV, the official Hispanic channel of the North American Division. To view the broadcast schedule, visit www.esperanzatv.org.

—Nixon Thomas, pastor, Spanish Dyckman and Washington Heights churches

Youth Display Creativeness at Recent Pathfinder Camporee

It’s not the kind of story you report on, but this one deserves your attention. “Connected!” is the theme for 2012 for the Greater New York Conference youth and adults combined. “These young people were bored and decided, “Hey, why not let’s go get connected,” says Andres Peralta, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries director.

With their creative hats on, they decided to form a human sign of the theme connected in a silhouette. They got to work, bending, forming themselves into letters against this bright light—a symbol that they want to be connected to each other in the Light of Jesus while living in the midst of the sinful darkness of this world.

The creativity continued with the youth expressing themselves in the form of graphite artwork. The theme “Connected—Christ, Church, Community” no doubt served as the source of their inspiration.

So powerful were the visual images created by these young people at the recent Pathfinder camporee that it has been shared and used as cover photos on many Facebook pages.

Amid the creative expressions of being connected, there was also the spiritual expression. Fifteen Pathfinders decided to connect with Christ by being baptized. “Our young people expressed themselves in different ways, showing their connectedness to Christ and the church, and we believe they will express their connectedness to the community from their local homes and churches,” says Peralta.

There were 1,600 Pathfinders attending the 2012 Pathfinder camporee, which ended with an unusual highlight—fireworks! Let the excitement continue.

—Rohann Wellington, communication director, Greater New York Conference

▲ Fifteen Pathfinders connect with Christ through baptism.

▲ Graphite artwork of the theme “Connected done by the youth.”
Young Adventists Then and Now

Young Adventist Then: Rachel (Harris) Oakes Preston

Rachel Harris, later to become Rachel Oakes Preston, was born in Vernon, Vermont, on March 2, 1809, where she first heard about God and joined the Methodist Church. During her young adult years she married Amory Oakes and moved to Verona, New York. Soon afterward he died. In 1837, she joined the Verona Seventh-day Baptist Church. At age 34, she and her daughter, Rachel Delight Oakes, moved to Washington, New Hampshire, where they attended the Christian Brethren Church. This is where Rachel began to present the Sabbath to the members of the church, but they were so involved with the Millerite movement and the prediction of the Second Coming of Jesus in 1844, they did not have time for the Sabbath.

Rachel continued to talk about and spread the belief of the Sabbath, as God’s special day of rest since Creation, and finally was able to influence an ordained Methodist Episcopal minister, Frederick Wheeler, who preached his first sermon about the Sabbath to the Christian Brethren Church in March 16, 1844. After his sermon, many more believed and the Washington church became known as the birthplace of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, thanks to the testimony and perseverance of a young adult.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church owes part of its name to Rachel Oakes; she is also referred to by many as the first Seventh-day Adventist.

Later, in her life, she married Nathan T. Preston. This is why she is known as Rachel Oakes Preston.

Young Adventist Now: Norys Rodriguez

Norys Rodriguez was born in the Bronx, New York, in December 1991. Today, she is one of the many committed Adventist youth in the Southern New England Conference.

She accepted Jesus at a very early age and was baptized on September 18, 1998. At the age of 19, she serves with distinction as the Pathfinder director of the Marlboro Spanish church. She is also a leader with her church’s Adventist Youth department. For some time now, she has been actively involved with the Bread Ministry in her church. In the Bread Ministry the youth give out bread to the community every Saturday and share the “good news” at the homes in the community, as well. Several families have been attending the Marlboro church as a result of this ministry. There is one family in particular that used to be Adventist and somehow through God’s providence, the ministry encountered the family and gave them bread. The family was so touched that they decided to start attending the church. It’s been more than a month, and they are always there. Rodriguez and the those on the Bread Ministry team thank God for this blessing.

During the recent evangelistic series held by the Marlboro church, the Pathfinders have been going out to the streets to give personal invitations to the residents. Rodriguez says that it’s amazing to see how confident the Pathfinders get when they speak to people! Some people are interested in Bible studies as a result of their work.

Rodriguez is thankful to the Lord because all the youth in the Marlboro Spanish church are active and love working for God. With God using young leaders like Norys Rodriguez, the present is bright and the future assured.

Josue Feliciano is the Southern New England Conference Adventist Youth Ministries director.
193 Graduate from Elders Training Program

The Northeastern Conference Ministerial Department, under the leadership of Walton Rose, held its third annual Elders Consortium on Sabbath, April 14, at the Flatbush church in Brooklyn, New York.

The consortium weekend serves as the apex of the ministerial department’s Elders Training Program. The purpose of the program is to equip and empower the local elders of the church to function effectively and cohesively in ministry with their pastors.

Rose says he felt the need for this type of program because he saw firsthand how much the pastor/elder relationship can affect not only their respective offices and how they function, but influence the entire church, as well. “It was made evident to me that if the elders are empowered and are given ownership of their role and responsibilities as partners in the spiritual nourishment of their church, not only would their personal lives be enriched and spiritual growth experienced, but their churches would also experience spiritual renewal and in turn, significant numerical growth, says Rose.

The basic curriculum includes such topics as Leadership and Administration, Church Organization and Policy, Pastoral Ministry, Church Growth and Outreach, Music and Worship, Preaching and Homiletics, and Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs and Lifestyles.

Rose was the Sabbath speaker, followed by an afternoon concert with Divine Praise of Lebanon church. The day culminated with a graduation ceremony officiated by Rose and the area facilitators, pastors Ainsworth Joseph, Sednak Yankson, Warner Richards, Ainsworth Morris, Ucal Harris, Bernard Penn, Willie Wright, and James Yansen. The facilitators trained and equipped the elders in the eight-month course work.

Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, and his wife, Lois King, Atlantic Union Conference Women’s Ministries director and Ministerial Spouses Association leader, gave the charge for the evening.

Donald King urged the graduates to stay true to their calling as church leaders and continue to always seek God for spiritual guidance.

There were 193 persons in the graduating class of 2012, representing areas and pastors from around the conference: Bronx-Manhattan, Brooklyn-Staten Island, Hudson Valley, New England North, New England South, Queens/Long Island, Rockland-Westchester, and Western New York.

—JeNean Johnson, communication director, Northeastern Conference
Westvale Church Recognizes Nurses

Members of the Westvale church celebrated Nurses Sabbath on April 28 in recognition of Nurses Week. More than 25 nurses, including nursing students, were part of the special dedication.

Sandra Collins, R.N., M.S., C.N.S., a nursing instructor at the Syracuse City Schools’ LPN Program in Syracuse, New York, spoke to the nurses for the dedication and led out in a litany. Joan Payne, R.N., M.S.N., N.P., was the speaker for the worship service, Connie Six, and Steven and Ellen Dethloff, N.P., from the Circle of Friends, a musical group from St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Syracuse, led out in the music for the service.

Nurses week is always on May 6-12 in honor of Florence Nightingale’s May 12 birthday. In 1860, Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school in London.

—Information provided by Joan Payne, health ministries leader and communication secretary, Westvale church

Some of the more than 25 nurses, including nursing students, who were recognized at a special dedication service at the Westvale church.

Four Members Honored by Albany County

Four individuals from churches in the Capital District were honored on May 7 by Albany County for their volunteer work with prison ministries. Marlene Barton, Hugh Langley, Ron Vincent, and Ken Walker were presented with Volunteer of the Year awards for their selfless and faithful work with inmates at the Albany County jail.

Albany County executive Dan McCoy talked about the importance of volunteerism and the effects that continue to resonate long afterward through the selfless work done by people such as those who were honored. For four years now this team has been faithfully going to the Albany County jail, dispensing hope, establishing friendships, and sharing the love of Jesus through Bible studies and counsel to inmates. What makes this award so special is that it was not sought after. The ministry of visiting and counseling inmates is entirely a ministry of love. The award was a recognition of their commitment and faithfulness.

Jesus said that His followers would be distinguished by the love they display. Twice a week inmates who are interested get to see the love of Jesus in both words and actions by this committed team.

—Miguel Crespo, pastor, New York Conference

From left are Dan McCoy, Albany County executive, with Volunteer of the Year award recipients Marlene Barton (Greater Albany church), Ron Vincent (Greater Albany church), Hugh Langley (Joy of Troy church), and Ken Walker (Greater Albany church).
A portion of the fellowship hall of the Saratoga Springs church was turned into an ancient treasure room from April 13 through May 12. It was complete with pillars, an ancient treasure chest, pool with bubbling fountain, and an 8-foot by 8-foot screen. This would be the setting for the spring Bible study series for children, entitled Amazing Adventure.

Amazing Adventure is a program designed just for children by Doug Batchelor and Amazing Facts. The series was presented on Friday evenings and Sabbath afternoons and lasted five weeks. The first night, April 13, the children who attended were surprised by a treasure hunter who was looking for the lost treasure room and who would be the host for the 10 nights of the series. Each night the children learned a new point of Bible truth and received a study guide and small gift to take home. The number of children who attended each part of the series ranged from four at one point to 13 by the completion of the program. On May 12 those who had attended the program received their very own New King James Version study Bible. This was followed by an ice cream social.

Five of the young people gave their hearts to Christ and made decisions to be baptized! One parent who attended also expressed interest in baptism. Even though the Amazing Adventure series is over, the real adventure for these children has just begun!

—Paul Virtue, Jr., head deacon and Amazing Adventure host, Saratoga Springs church

Skills Week at Union Springs Academy
This is a unique week for teens ages 12-17 at Union Springs Academy, an Adventist boarding academy located near the shores of Cayuga Lake in beautiful Central New York State. Experience dorm life while you participate in fun classroom workshops, engage in exciting outdoor activities, meet potential classmates, and experience the spiritual warmth that fills our campus.

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1614 County Route 11, Whitehall, NY 12887

July 28, 2012

Speaker
James Nix
Director
Ellen G. White Estate

Sabbath School ......................... 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service ......................... 11:15 a.m.
Afternoon Program ..................... 2:00 p.m.

Children’s program provided!

Come and join us for inspiring worship at the place where Adventism was born, sing early Adventist hymns, and take the Chapel History Tour.

For more information, call (318) 282-9617 or e-mail williammillerfarm@gmail.com

Sponsored by the New York Conference
The Label on the Bottle Helps Tell the Story

Every June, Springfield, Vermont, has an alumni parade where they close off the street in front of the Springfield Savings and Loan where the Springfield Christian Fellowship church meets for Sabbath worship. Several years ago, we made the decision that we could not keep to ourselves, ignore our community, and pretend they were not there. So, we put out a table of literature and handed out free, homemade cookies and bottled water to the crowds. We established the tradition in which our musicians gather on the lawn and play hymns to the crowd for 45 minutes preceding the parade. We have made a number of community contacts that way. Last year, we decided we wanted more people to recognize our church’s name, so we purchased pens, refrigerator magnets, and water bottles to hand out, as well. The items, including the reusable water bottles printed with our church’s name, were well-received.

We were able to get the water bottles on sale from a promotions distributor and ordered quite a few more than we handed out at the parade. We have given them to visitors, not only those from the local community, but also to the out-of-state tourists who come to Vermont in the fall.

This past tourist season, I accepted a part-time position on the interpretive staff at a Vermont attraction. I took my water bottle with me, because I needed to stay hydrated, especially on those hot days. Whether I was giving tours through the 1890 farmhouse, leading a craft activity or demonstration, or working at the ticket desk, I kept my water bottle nearby. As visitors came from all over the world, many would ask, “Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?” I was thrilled to meet fellow-believers, as well as friends who were familiar with some aspect of our church’s work. My water bottle started many interesting conversations.

As the school year rolled around, I accepted two new part-time positions. In the morning, I teach several sections of seventh grade math at a small public middle school. Then I drive to Springfield, the town where I worship, and teach math. In fact, one week I had some cramps in my legs. My physical therapist indicated that it was most likely from dehydration, so I grabbed a water bottle to leave on my desk in the morning classroom, resolving to do a better job of hydrating. The faithful aide, who works with me in my room, immediately saw the bottle and asked me, “Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?” When I replied in the affirmative, she then told me that she had been raised an Adventist and that her father is a church member. From that conversation I found out she and one other teacher on staff were from a town that was home to an Adventist hospital.

These water bottles are inexpensive and are not insulated. They are not nearly as trendy as the designer water bottles on the market today, but they have fulfilled several purposes for me. They have prevented the leg cramps that occurred just that one time, they have helped me quench my thirst on many days, and they have started conversations that I probably would not otherwise have had. They have been a tool that helps me share information, not only about my church, but also my Savior. And it was He who said, “If you come to Me, you will never thirst.”

—Marsha Brummel, communication correspondent, Springfield Christian Fellowship church

Annual Cliff Island Day Cancelled

Northern New England Conference announces the cancellation of the Annual Cliff Island Day Sabbath, traditionally scheduled for the second Sabbath of August. This event will resume the second Sabbath in August 2013.
Earlier this spring, Bel Canto from Blue Mountain Academy visited the Berkshire Hills church in Lanesboro, Massachusetts. The group from Pennsylvania consists of an orchestra and a choir. The visit was arranged by Jeff and Kim Beisiegel, whose daughter, Amy, attends the school and sings with the group. Two other Berkshire Hills students also attend the school: Anna Bugbee, daughter of Mark Bugbee, the school teacher at Berkshire Hills who sings with the group, and Lubia Martinez, a freshman this year. The 30-plus members were housed by nine host families. The group, under the direction of Lawrence Galera, presided over the entire church service that was well-attended. The day before performing at Berkshire Hills the group performed for the Buskirk church in New York. Kim Beisiegel, who works for a local hospital, mentioned to two women she works with that the group was coming and they arranged for the group to go to their churches. They performed at the Church of Christ in Pittsfield and the Congregational church in Richmond.

These young people were able to share their faith with the local community in a powerful way. Bel Canto also traveled to the Dominican Republic to assist in evangelism for a 40-church effort. The group has also traveled to Spain and Romania. Berkshire Hills church was privileged to have this group of young people witness to them.

—Stuart Dixon, communication leader, Berkshire Hills church

DEAF Ministry in Southern New England

God is blessing the DEAF (Deaf Everywhere Are Family) Ministry in Southern New England. It is growing through friendship evangelism and dedicated outreach. According to state Web sites, there are 896,119 Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people in the Southern New England* territory.

Last fall they prayed for new visitors for each DEAF meeting, and God has not failed yet. On average 20-25 Deaf people meet monthly for Christian fellowship, to enjoy worship services, and to study God’s Word.

The ministry’s main outreach method is friendship evangelism. DEAF members attend local Deaf events, make friends, and share flyers inviting the Deaf to upcoming activities. Members are encouraged to invite friends. This method works well to bring Deaf people to church.

At DEAF meetings the emphasis is on Jesus and fellowship, building bonds, and encouraging each other. Being Deaf can be isolating, so offering both spiritual and social activities are vital.

They have DEAF weekends and monthly DEAF Bible studies. They meet at Deaf members’ churches and interpret services into American Sign Language. After worship, they have lunch and Bible study. Most important is the annual DEAF Camp with Deaf pastors where people have been baptized. Last year the DEAF camp attendance doubled. This year they are planning more baptisms.

Southern New England’s DEAF ministry has had amazing support. Frank Tochterman, the conference president, has been supportive from the beginning. Amanda Colgan (herself Deaf) contacts members and gives Bible studies. We hope to see her become an official Deaf Bible worker. We thank the volunteer interpreters, some who are not Adventists, who interpret church services weekly. We appreciate churches that open their facilities and welcome us to hold meetings and those who have financially supported the group.

—Jessica McGowan, DEAF coordinator, Southern New England

* Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing in Southern New England: 546,022 (8.6%) in Massachusetts; 298,979 (6.01%) in Connecticut; and 51,118 (6.56%) in Rhode Island.

Le vieil homme, assis à son bureau, en regardant pensivement par la fenêtre, crayon à la main. Tandis qu’il a commencé la lettre à sa petite-fille, pensait-il revenir sur ses expériences en tant que travailleur pour le Christ. Frederick Wheeler était un jeune pasteur au début de sa trentaine quand un paroissien l’a confronté à une question de savoir pourquoi il a gardé le dimanche comme jour du sabbat.

Ce fut le début. Son zèle pour l’obéissance à tous les commandements de Dieu l’a conduit, et plusieurs de ses membres d’église à Washington, New Hampshire à devenir la première congrégation adventiste à observer le Sabbat. Plus tard, à l’instigation de James White, il a déménagé à New York et s’est installa sur une ferme à West Monroe, où il a continué à jouer un rôle actif dans le ministère.

A ce moment, âgé de 90 ans, d’autres personnes continuaient le travail. Sa propre arrière-petite-fille, qui se préparait à devenir enseignante, était l’une d’entre elles. Il ramassa son crayon et data sa lettre, 21 novembre 1901. Il a écrit:

“Quel privilège béní d’être autorisé à être un collaborateur de [Christ] dans ce travail—l’œuvre de sauver les pécheurs qui périsSENT, le travail pour lequel Il a donné sa précieuse vie. Un amour pour les pécheurs engendré dans le cœur de tout véritable enfant de Dieu, res- piré par l’Esprit de Dieu. Nous ne pouvons pas en être autrement, car

Des équipes d’enseignants Adventistes dévoués et les parents, qui travaillent comme des collaborateurs avec le Christ, peuvent continuer à fournir que des bases solides et d’orientation cohérente tout au long des années scolaires d’un enfant.

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Les parents peuvent fournir un fondement qui guide un enfant vers une relation avec le Christ. Toutefois, lorsque les enfants atteignent l’âge scolaire, ils passent une grande partie de leurs journées à l’école, loin de leurs parents. Des équipes d’enseignants Adventistes dévoués et les parents, qui travaillent comme des collaborateurs avec le Christ, peuvent continuer à fournir que des bases solides et d’orientation cohérente tout au long des années scolaires d’un enfant.


Comme Frederick Wheeler a écrit à Mme Bessie Rice plusieurs années de cela: “Puissions-nous tous trouver la place que Dieu a assigné à son œuvre et remplir cette place à son acceptation et enfin participer à la victoire finale.”

Sue Hayford, enseignante, Parkview Junior Academy

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

English translation on page 12 of this issue.
Colaboradores con Cristo

El anciano estaba sentado en su escritorio, mirando pensativamente por la ventana con un lápiz en la mano. Mientras comenzaba a escribir la carta a su biznieta, él pensaba en sus experiencias como trabajador para Cristo. Frederick Wheeler era un joven pastor como de 30 años cuando un feligrés lo confrontó con la pregunta de por qué él guardaba el domingo como el día de reposo. Ese fue el comienzo. Su celo por obedecer todos los mandamientos de estas personas. Tomo su lápiz y comenzó a escribir su carta, 21 de noviembre del 1901. El escribió:

“Que bienaventurado privilegio ha sido, el que se me haya permitido ser un colaborador con [Cristo] en su obra—la obra de salvar a pecadores, la obra por la cual él dio su vida. Un amor por los pecadores es engendrado en el corazón de cada hijo de Dios, inspirado por el Espíritu de Dios. No puede ser de otra manera, porque si Cristo vive en nosotros por medio de su Espíritu Santo, debemos tener la mente de Cristo y estaremos interesados en la misma obra en la cual él dio su vida…”

Suena como si Wheeler le estuviera escribiendo a un evangelista—¡y lo era! La educación adventista es una de las herramientas evangelísticas más poderosas que tiene nuestra iglesia. Todos nuestros niños deben conocer a Jesús por sí mismos y establecer una relación personal con él.

Los padres pueden proveer este fundamento que guiará a sus hijos hacia una relación con Jesús. Sin embargo, cuando los niños llegan a la edad escolar, ellos pasan la mayor parte de sus días en la escuela, alejados de sus padres. Equipos de padres y maestros dedicados a trabajar como colaboradores de Cristo, puede hacer que este fundamento sea firme y consistente durante los años escolares de los niños.

La biznieta de Wheeler, Bessie Rice, fue parte de uno de esos equipos. Ella fue una de las primeras maestras en una nueva escuela situada en Syracuse—precursor de la escuela en la cual hoy yo enseño. Nosotros, como maestros adventistas del séptimo-día, padres y miembros de iglesia, también somos parte de ese equipo hoy.

Con Cristo como nuestro líder, podemos continuar con el legado comenzado por estos pioneros.

Como Frederick Wheeler escribió una vez a Bessie Rice muchos años atrás, “Ojalá que cada uno de nosotros encuentre el lugar que Dios nos ha asignado en su obra y que podamos llenar ese lugar de una manera aceptable ante Dios para poder gozar de la victoria final.”

Sue Hayford, maestra, Parkview Junior Academy

Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 12 of this issue
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Sunset Table

August 2012       3 10 17 24 31
Bangor, ME        7:56 7:46 7:35 7:23 7:11
Portland, ME      7:59 7:49 7:39 7:27 7:15
Boston, MA        7:59 7:50 7:40 7:29 7:17
South Lancaster, MA 8:02 7:52 7:42 7:31 7:20
Pittsfield, MA    8:08 7:59 7:49 7:37 7:26
Hartford, CT      8:04 7:55 7:45 7:34 7:23
New York, NY      8:07 7:58 7:49 7:38 7:27
Albany, NY        8:09 8:00 7:49 7:38 7:26
Utica, NY         8:18 8:08 7:58 7:46 7:34
Syracuse, NY      8:21 8:12 8:01 7:50 7:38
Rochester, NY     8:27 8:18 8:07 7:56 7:44
Buffalo, NY       8:31 8:22 8:11 8:00 7:49
Hamilton, Bda     8:12 8:05 7:58 7:50 7:41

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC UNION

OUT-OF-UNION

100th Anniversary Celebration, Oct. 5-6, Frederick church, Frederick, Maryland. Friday, Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m. supper, fellowship, and communion with God. Sabbath, Oct. 6, 11:00 a.m. worship service. Guest speaker, Lonnie Melashenko, 3:30 p.m. Organ Concert, Van Knauss, D.M.A. For further information: e-mail: fredericksda@gmail.com. Web site: www.fredericksdachurch.org.

TPAC Director
The Thayer Performing Arts Center (Music Preparatory) seeks director. Part-time regular employment (non-exempt). The director of TPAC is responsible for the planning, directing, supervising, and operations of all activities related to the Thayer Performing Arts Center. Applicant should have at least a bachelor’s degree in music or related field. Two years of experience in the field is preferred. Submit cover letter, with e-mail address, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copies of transcripts, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu or to: Office of Human Resources, Atlantic Union College, P.O. Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561-1000.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is currently searching for a Center for Youth Evangelism Director. Qualified candidates must have experience as a Youth Professional and hold a master’s degree or higher. For additional information and to apply, please visit: www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is searching for a qualified candidate for the position of Assistant Herd Manager located at Indiana Academy in Cicero, Indiana. For additional information and to apply, please visit: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences is seeking a Curriculum Coordinator to work with both the academic departments and faculty on curriculum, mapping and course development in a blended learning environment. Qualifications: Ph.D in Curriculum Development preferred with 10 years of successful teaching in higher education. Send inquiries to Dr. Don Williams, Sr. VP Academic Admin., Florida Hospital College, 671 Wynah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, (407) 303-5019, don.williams@fhchs.edu.

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences is seeking applicants for the position of Program Director for a new Physician Assistant program. A master’s degree is required, doctoral degree is preferred. Florida Hospital College is a faith-based institution which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please e-mail CV to Dr. Len M. Archer, Associate Vice President for Academic Administration, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, 671 Wnyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, len.archer@fhchs.edu.

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Orlando, FL is seeking a Physical Therapist Program Director beginning 2013. The Program Director will provide overall academic leadership, developing this program and salary will be competitive. Qualifications: Minimum doctoral degree from regionally accredited school; Senior faculty status; Understanding of higher education and contemporary clinical, Eligible for FL, PT licensure; PT academic experience. Submit letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three references and/or letters of recommendation to Dr. Don Williams, don.williams@fhchs.edu or fax (407) 303-5671.

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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site

Atlantic Union GLEANER, July 2012

Atlantic Union GLEANER, July 2012
The Atlantic Union Conference has redesigned and converted its Web site from a static HTML site into a dynamic, content management-driven site. The site URL remains the same: www.atlantic-union.org.

The Atlantic Union Web site will continue to serve as a resource for its more than 107,000 members, its six local conferences, schools, and other institutions. Visitors will be able to share information found on the site and will, eventually, be able to share their comments on articles and other posts.

An added feature allows individuals to submit prayer requests so that others can join in them with prayer. Direct links are provided to the six local conferences and the schools in the Atlantic Union. In addition, visitors to the site will be able to view related videos and photos. Greater emphasis will be placed on the evangelistic component of the site, allowing people who are searching for information about God, the Sabbath, Jesus, the Second Coming, and more, to easily find information that, hopefully, will be useful to them.

A great deal of thought went into creating this site. If there are other features you would like to see included on the site, please take a moment to e-mail us at communication@atlanticunion.org and share your ideas.

We publicly extend thanks to Terrence Bowen, who designed the original site and put the Atlantic Union Conference on the Internet in 1999. He continues to be an invaluable resource to the Atlantic Union.

Donald G. King, Interim President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948. Web site: www.atlantic-union.org

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