Adventist Christian Education WORKS

Quoi de Neuf? Adventist Education The Big Picture ¿Qué Está Pasando?
In recognition of the Year of Adventist Education, the August issue of the Atlantic Union Gleaner is dedicated to Adventist education. The cover story features a compilation of articles about students and others in the Atlantic Union who have been impacted by Adventist Christian education. Also included are the regular features, Adventist Education and The Big Picture. The cover photo is from iStockphoto.
During the week of June 22-30, my wife, Marilyn, and I had the opportunity to visit three different camp meetings. What a blessing and inspiration we received!

The first visit was to the New York Conference campgrounds at Union Springs Academy. This camp meeting was unique in that they were celebrating the 150th anniversary of the conference. Their theme “Watch and Be Ready” was very appropriate, as the setting reflected the spirit of the pioneers of the Adventist Church. That week many of the pioneer-look-a-likes visited the encampment and shared some of the counsel and inspiration of the founding leaders of our church. The theme “Watch and Be Ready” was very much a practice in the 1840s. Our pioneers were seriously watching and making preparation for the return of Jesus. In Matthew 24:42 (NIV) it says, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” I suggest that this information motivated them then, and it should motivate us now, with the understanding that watching and preparing for the coming of Jesus go together.

Our next visit was to the Southern New England Conference campgrounds with the theme “2013 by 2013, A Bold Initiative.” The emphasis in that theme was evangelism. We know that the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19, 20 is about sharing the good news of Jesus, His life, His death, His resurrection, His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary, and His promised return. The pioneers of the Adventist Church embraced the good news of Jesus and the messages of Revelation 14 as the mandate to be carried to every conference territory and the world. Can we do less in 2012, 2013, and until Jesus comes? I say no, we cannot do less; we must plan and do more to accomplish this Great Commission of Matthew 28 and Revelation 14.

Our third camp meeting visit was to the Northern New England Conference. Their theme was one word, “Hope.” We were truly blessed, informed, and inspired with the Sabbath message by Elizabeth Talbot, Jesus 101 Ministries director, who shared with the adult encampment the glorious work of Jesus, our Kinsman-Redeemer. His willingness to stand in the place of fallen humanity and therefore redeem us, engenders every day the reality and the power of “hope” as emphasized throughout the Bible. Hebrews 6:19 (NIV) speaks about “hope” as an anchor for the soul. In these uncertain times, it is so encouraging to know that we can have hope in Jesus, hope in His Word, and hope in His promises. This hope can keep us focused, settled, and calm. The song written for one of our General Conference sessions correctly states, “We have this hope that burns within our hearts, hope in the coming of the Lord.”

My prayer for everyone is that the hope of Jesus’ soon return will motivate us to surrender daily and rely on the Holy Spirit so that we will watch and be ready, evangelize our church and community, and one day enjoy a glorious “camp meeting” with Jesus in heaven.

Carlyle C. Simmons is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and director of the Health Ministries, Human Relations, and Prayer Ministries departments.
Adventist Christian Education Works

As faculty and staff prepare schools to reopen for another year, and parents shop for uniforms and school supplies, there might still be the lingering, nagging thought, Which school would be best for my child? I would unequivocally recommend you choose a school, that will instill in your child a deep and lasting relationship with God. If there's any advice we can depend on, it is guidance from the Bible. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”—Psalm 111:10.

Last March I met one of my former students at the Atlantic Union Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference. He and his brother sat in my first and second multi-grade classroom. They are both graduates of Harvard University and employed in law firms in Manhattan. He's an active member in his local church.

Making the Sacrifices for Their Children's Adventist Education

As a mother of three daughters, I always wanted to make sure they were raised in the Adventist Church. This was not easy, since my husband's job required us to move frequently. When we lived in Canada, the Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church was almost an hour away, which was a huge challenge. Then my husband received news that he was being relocated to Ayer, Massachusetts. When we called a realtor to find a house close to his job, we were told that the only house available in our price range was in a town called Lancaster. I had never heard of Lancaster, so my husband went to check out the town. When he came back, he asked, “Did you know this town is Adventist?” There are signs everywhere on Main Street that say ‘Adventist!’ Adventist church, Adventist school, Adventist college, Adventist Book Center!” I had no idea, but I praised the Lord because He had answered my prayers to live near an Adventist church and school.

We lived in Lancaster for 10 years, until we had to move to New Hampshire, again, because of my husband’s work. I enrolled my daughters in the Kellogg Seventh-day Adventist School. They loved their little school and became involved in many church and school activities, such as Adventures, Pathfinders, and Sabbath School.

The time came when we had to enroll them in a high school, and since Kellogg only went up to eighth grade, we decided to put them in public school so we could start saving for college. God had others plans, however. After we went to check out the school, my daughter, Helen, said,
“No way! I will work and pay for my school, and help to pay for Ingrid’s school too! We want to go to South Lancaster Academy (SLA).”

For the next four years, my husband would drive one hour to take the girls to school and then commute another 20 minutes to work. On the days that I took them to school, I would drive after working the night shift, sleep for approximately four hours, and then drive back to pick them up. On Saturdays we would sometimes make two trips, for basketball games and other activities. At one point we set up our camper in a friend’s driveway on George Hill Road so that our girls would have a place to stay until we could pick them up after school. Winters were a disaster, as our street in rural New Hampshire was always the last to be plowed. It was hectic not being able to get to school on time, or sometimes not even being able to pick them up at all. We experienced our fair share of accidents and getting stuck in snow banks.

When I look back, sending my kids to SLA was definitely not easy, and maybe the biggest sacrifice I have ever made. Today, my two oldest daughters are studying at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS), and my youngest, Linda, graduated in May from SLA and will also be attending FHCHS.

I see my daughters singing in the praise team at church, working in the homeless ministry, getting involved in mission trips. I see my little one, Linda, preaching, singing, and wanting to study theology in combination with nursing. When I asked her why, she says that that is her passion. She wants to continue to learn about the Bible, after being inspired by Heather Cook, an associate pastor at the College Church, and her teachers at SLA.

Worship in the home is extremely important, but sending my kids to an Adventist school has been the biggest blessing to me. I am so grateful that God gave us the strength to manage, and if I could go back, I would do it all over again! I tell parents that the school needs support through prayer and involvement. I know that God wants us to come together in prayer for our kids, for our teenagers, and for our schools. I know that God has a plan for Atlantic Union Conference and our little town of Lancaster, and we can be a part of that. $  

As told to Millie Felt by Elidia (Olga) Olsson

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**A Defining Moment in My Life**

It was my eighth-grade graduation. I was graduating from a local junior high school in my home town. I still remember being in the bathroom making sure my hair was combed and that my clothes looked good, when one student began to pass out speed. Speed is an illegal amphetamine and it was big back in the days of my youth.

My mother had given “the talk” to me about staying away from drugs many years before. I had listened to her up to that point, but on that day . . . I decided I wanted to try it out. I don’t know why, but I was the only one in the bathroom that hadn’t gotten in line, so I decided to join everyone and give it a try. As I got closer to the front of the line, I stirred with anticipation at what it would feel like, but when I got up to the guy with the bag of drugs, he told me he had given the last one to the person before me.

That summer a friend told me he was going to a Christian boarding school. I was so intrigued by his description that I asked my parents to send me there, as well. Oh, what a change my life took, following that one request. I went to Union Springs Academy.

Today, I am a pastor serving in the same conference of which the academy is a part. Sometimes I wonder, What if I had taken that drug? What if the next year I had continued in public school? Where would I be today? Praise the Lord for Christian education! $  

Miquel Crespo is a pastor in the New York Conference.
Adventist Education Is the Difference

The Greater New York school system (and all Adventist schools) is designed to put Jesus Christ at the center of the school program. Jesus Christ is the lifeblood of each of our schools. On a personal level, when students are confronted with personal challenges, teachers pray with students, and students feel the presence of Jesus during morning worships, Weeks of Prayer, and in all school activities. Three noteworthy areas where spiritual victories took place are the following:

- In one church school, a student took money from a teacher’s desk. After the students in the classroom and the

My “Ah Ha” Moment With Jesus

It is impossible to look back and know what Seventh-day Christian education meant to me as a child without the many years in between coloring those memories. I do know that my enrollment at our local church school was a given, not an option. The commitment by my parents to send us children (all five of us) to Adventist schools formed part of the bedrock of my faith as I grew.

I knew the value they placed on Christian education, and that they believed the best place for us, both spiritually and academically, was in our schools. The quality of my education sustained me through my years at Union Springs Academy, prepared me for an honors chemistry major at Andrews University, and helped form the basis for my successful graduation (cum laude) from the State University of New York with a Doctor of Medicine degree.

But the most important thing that ever happened to me as a student in an Adventist school was when I committed my life to Jesus during a Week of Prayer at my elementary school. I don’t remember exactly how old I was, but I’ll never forget the feeling when I recognized that my relationship with Christ is a personal experience between Him and me, and no longer an extension of my parents’ relationship with Him.

As a parent, I want to do everything I can to make sure that my children are in the right place at the right time to experience that same “ah ha!” moment with Him. For me, that means immersing them in the daily life of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school.

Beth Burghardt is a medical doctor.
teacher prayed about it, the Holy Spirit helped convict the student of his misdeed, and he felt genuinely sorry for his action (a wonderful victory in the student’s character development).

• In one church school, 14 students were baptized, the majority from non-Adventist homes. One non-Adventist student, as she came out of the baptismal tank, declared, “Mommy and Daddy, thank you so much for putting me in this school. It changed my life!”

• A girl in pre-kindergarten was listening to a series of lectures during a Health Emphasis Week focusing on the fact that God does not want His children to take drugs, alcohol, or tobacco because our bodies are the temple of God. This girl went home and told her mother that Jesus doesn’t want her to drink beer anymore and if she prays to Jesus, He will give her strength to overcome this bad habit. The mother made a commitment to her daughter (and to the Lord) that she would make an honest effort to give up her drinking habit.

These are just three victories among hundreds that take place in our Seventh-day Adventist school system every year. Praise God for Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. ¶

David Cadavero is the Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools.

Students Heaven Bound

Each year Bermuda Institute (BI) conducts a baptismal class with two Bible workers supplied by the Bermuda Conference. Loretta Gibbons and Eloise Symonds commit time each week to teach boys and girls about the love of God and prepare them for baptism. Here is a powerful story of Brianna Roach’s spiritual journey: “As I entered the tenth grade, my brothers, Nikholas a sixth-grader, and Adrian, a third-grader, and I took Bible studies with Mrs. Loretta Gibbons, along with peers in our age group. Bible study class was held every Friday morning, with six other students in my age group. As a result of these Bible studies, I was baptized, along with my two brothers, eight other students, and a parent.

Initially, I did not want to attend BI. In fact, I cried as I put on my uniform that first day of school. As the year progressed, I realized that there is no place like Bermuda Institute. No other school on the island starts the day off with homeroom worship, or stops everything they’re doing for school-wide prayer over the intercom. Starting every class with a prayer could be considered offensive in other schools around the island, but not at BI.

“I feel privileged to have teachers who have a burning desire to go way above and beyond their duty as teachers. They don’t get paid to care, but they do anyway. They don’t get paid to pray for us, but they do anyway. They don’t get paid to love us, but again, they do anyway.” ¶

Sheila Holder is the Bermuda Conference communication director.

Gateway to Heaven Walk-A-Thon Benefits Worthy Students

The first annual Gateway to Heaven Walk-A-Thon was held on June 24, the first Sunday of the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) camp meeting. Forty-two people participated in the walk-a-thon that will benefit the Worthy Student Fund for the 15 NNEC schools across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Janice Grant, a former NNEC teacher, was in charge of registration and handling out maps to direct walkers along the creek-side trail created on PTA’s campus by Jamie Trott, Wayne Harlow, Ike Kilbourne, and Pine Tree Academy (PTA) students. The team built wooden bridges, chipped and spread gravel, and even built and placed several wooden benches to create a park-like trail.

Trudy Wright, NNEC superintendent of schools, shared some words regarding the walk-a-thon and Nancy Cutler, vice chair of the Central Vermont Academy board, prayed before the group started walking. More than $1,500 has been turned in so far from the event.

The trail is built to accommodate all ages and abilities, including the
opportunity to hold individual or group walk-a-thons in one’s own area. Some of the goals of this event were to spotlight the 15 mission fields (schools) in the Northern New England Conference and to help children to be able to attend the schools through the use of the Worthy Student Fund. The walk-a-thon is sponsored by the NNEC Office of Education and the Health Ministries department and held in memory of two NNEC students, Nathan Stoll (1988-2010) and Jayde Cochran (1993-2001). Born from the grateful hearts of the parents of Nathan and Jayde, whose children had a strong love for the Lord in large part because of the schools, this event allows the families to share the eternal impact the schools had on their children and families.

With approximately 359 students enrolled in NNEC’s 15 schools for the 2011-2012 school year, this is an incredible ministry and mission field. Throughout the school year, the teachers pray with the students and teach them about God as the foundation for all academics and life. It was this atmosphere that nurtured Nathan and Jayde’s strong love of God and was truly a large part of His light on their path to the gateway to heaven.

Next year, the second annual Gateway to Heaven Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for the first Sunday of camp meeting.

Karena Cochran is Jayde Cochran’s mother.
Creating a Support Network for Students With Learning Difficulties

Education is one of the most important and valuable experiences in the life of a child. For most students, learning is a normal, natural process which does not require significant effort. However, for some, this is a tedious process because they face a variety of learning difficulties that may place them at risk for failure.

Students with learning difficulties need a supportive environment to function successfully in school. This type of environment enables them to capitalize on their strength and cope effectively with their weaknesses. The use of a support program as a teaching strategy to address the needs of students with learning difficulties is supported by many educational theorists. According to Lev Vygotsky’s theory, children can do more with the help and guidance of an adult or a more experienced person than they can do by themselves and like Howard Gardner, he stresses the importance of looking at each child as an individual who learns distinctively.

The Northeastern Conference Office of Education has been building on the initiative to provide support services to students who are experiencing learning difficulties and also to provide teachers with the know-how to address these learning difficulties. This support network is implemented through:

- **REACH RESOURCE MANUAL:** “Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven” is a unique approach recommended by the North American Division Office of Education with guidelines to assist teachers in addressing learning challenges.

- **College Internship Program:** Through this program graduate students from Long Island University are able to do their internship in schools by providing academic advice and psychosocial counseling.

- **Math and Reading Resource Room:** Provided by the U.S. Department of Education through title programs, math and reading specialists offer individualized assistance to students who are performing below proficiency level.

- **CSE Evaluation:** Where necessary, students receive professional evaluation through a committee on special education (CSE). Eligible students then receive related services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, tutoring, and counseling.

This support network helps students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. It fosters collaboration between educators, parents, and other professionals to create a supportive learning environment that strengthens connections between home, school, and the community for all students.

Children learn at a different pace and on varying days, but given the right environment and the right tools, they can succeed. As Christian educators, our goal is to provide these opportunities that will facilitate learning.

Lileth Coke is the Student Support Services director for the Northeastern Conference Office of Education.
Honoree Ruth Hetsberger, the English teacher at Bermuda Institute, was presented with a national award on June 10. Hetsberger is among 10 teachers selected this spring by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) to receive a 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award.

The award ceremony was held at Bermuda Institute in Southampton, Bermuda. The award includes a medallion and $2,000 gift sponsored by Andrews University.

Hetsberger “is the kind of teacher that students respect, parents praise, and colleagues admire,” said Lois Tucker, principal at Bermuda Institute. After nine years of teaching, Hetsberger has had quite the impact.

Hetsberger gets creative with her English, literary analysis, and creative writing classes. She hosts tea parties for her elective classes and has her students read their creative writing pieces for an audience. She arranges for her students to do a research paper with an oral defense in front of a panel of judges. Her students have also had their work published in books of student poetry.

“When you want something done well, ask Ruth,” Tucker said. Teachers at Bermuda Institute are required to stay late once a week, but Hetsberger stays late every day, offering extra tutorial time to students. She also stays connected with parents so that they can be active in their children’s learning.

She also provides weekend activity options at the school, such as Saturday night “student cook-offs.”

Hetsberger got her students involved in creating ads and videos about the value of Adventists education. The videos have been viewed at local churches and on the Adventist cable channel.

Hetsberger finds the greatest joy when students invite her into their world and allow her to take part in their spiritual growth.

“My reward is being able to speak freely about Christ in the classroom, listen to my students share their spiritual enlightenments, then wake up and do it again.”

Hetsberger serves as Campus Ministries chair, organizes groups of students to lead out in local church services, make nursing home visits, and collect Christmas gifts for children in orphanages.

Nominated by principals, superintendents, colleagues, and former students, 10 teachers will be celebrated across the nation for the impact they have had in their local Seventh-day Adventist schools.

AAF is a nonprofit organization working to improve Adventist K-12 education. It has awarded grants totaling more than $2 million to Adventist schools and educators. Since its establishment in 1995, the organization has recognized 106 exceptional teachers with an Excellence in Teaching Award.

In 2011, AAF refocused and created the Renaissance Network, an initiative that improves the level of excellence in Adventist schools by providing leadership expertise, vision, resources, and training. AAF (AlumniAwards.org) aims to awaken the Adventist community to the full potential of Adventist education.

—Kaleigh Benge, communication and donor relations coordinator, Alumni Awards Foundation
Pastors attend Prepare Enrich Seminar

Pastors from Greater New York and Northeastern conferences met on June 5 for a one-day certification in the Prepare Enrich pre-marital and marital counseling program. A total of 73 individuals were certified. Claudio Consuegra, family ministries director for the North American Division, describes Prepare Enrich as an inventory that couples take to better assess the positive areas as well as the areas of their relationships where growth is needed.

Consuegra, led the seven-hour certification program that has been endorsed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Prepare Enrich has an inventory customized for the Adventist Church. Prepare Enrich helps the counselor to quickly assess the relationship from vitalized to de-vitalized and puts them on track for effective counseling.

Pastors, their wives, and the office staff all had the opportunity to be certified. “Prepare Enrich not only helps to prepare couples for marriage, but it gives them good skill sets that prepare them for the inevitable; when conflicts arise, they already have the tools to deal with the conflict,” says Steve Cassimy, family ministries director for the Greater New York Conference.

Cassimy adds that the other element is the enrichment. All couples need enrichment. Prepare Enrich helps couples to find ways of revitalizing and enriching their marriages, not just for themselves, but also as a way of helping other couples who do not have the opportunity to attend enrich seminars.

If you are considering getting married or want to enrich your marriage, find out about doing a Prepare Enrich inventory.

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

A Big Game, A Great Opportunity

Soccer is one of the greatest passions of the Brazilian people. And on June 9 the MetLife Stadium hosted one of the most important games of international soccer: Argentina versus Brazil. More than 80,000 people went to the stadium to watch the match, and many from the Brazilian community in New York were there to support the national team. The Luso Brazilian churches in New York were also at the stadium to spread the message of the kingdom of God.

With the large concentration of Brazilians at the game, it was a great opportunity for the church members to connect with them. While the match was in progress, a group from the church worked in the stadium’s parking lot, giving away The Great Hope to people as they left the stadium.

In less than one hour, 4,000 books were given away, along with bags that contained a bottle of water and a small newspaper prepared by the church that included messages about hope, health, and family. Many people showed interest in the book’s message. As leaves spread in the fall, so were the books to the community in New York.

—Denison Moura, pastor, Greater New York Conference Luso Brazilian churches

Members from the Luso Brazilian churches in New York met at the MetLife Stadium to distribute the book The Great Hope and other items to those attending the international soccer match.
Corning Church Sponsors Health Series

John Clark, M.D., who lectures on a wide variety of lifestyle-related diseases and conditions, presented a six-night health series on May 5-10, at the Ramada Inn in Painted Post, New York. The event was sponsored by the Corning church in Corning, New York. A different topic on modern-day health problems was presented each night. Included were such topics as cholesterol, ideal weight and obesity, osteoporosis, arthritis, hypertension, and diabetes. Those who attended received information to help them achieve and maintain good health.

Clark, his wife, Julie, and their young son, Connor, travel as medical missionaries around the country presenting the health message and are committed to helping and teaching people how to take charge of their own health and turn life into wellness! Their Web site, www.NorthernLightsHealthEducation.com, can be accessed for information, including their presentations.

Clark received his education at Loma Linda University and his health talks are up-to-date and in keeping with the Spirit of Prophecy. “When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart. When the third angel’s message is received in its fullness, health reform will be given its place in the councils of the conference, in the work of the church, in the home, at the table, and in all the household arrangements”—Testimonies, vol. 6, p 327.

—Marjorie Plumley, communication secretary, Corning church

Herkimer Church Honors Veterans

Fifteen veterans were recently honored for service to their country by members of the Herkimer church in Herkimer, New York, in the first annual celebration for that purpose. The occasion was to commemorate Flag Day.

Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea, and other fields of deployment were honored in the ceremony. The main speaker for the service was Mario Ceballos, retired commander of the U.S. Navy Reserves, who also presented a plaque of appreciation designed for the occasion. Each honoree also received a copy of For God and Country, a journal published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Chaplaincy Ministries for service men and women, veterans, and first responders. Ceballos presently is an associate director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the church’s world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Corps League opened the service with the presentation of the colors (U.S. and Marine flags) and were numbered among the honorees. Also honored was a recent enlistee.

The attendance at this service doubled the usual attendance, with many from the community becoming aware of the presence of the church. Several veterans responded that they will return to the church for regular services.

—Gary Wagner, pastor, Mohawk Valley district
Pathfinder Parade and Fair Held in New Bedford, Massachusetts

About 1,500 Pathfinders, Master Guides, and Adventurers converged in New Bedford, Massachusetts, on Sunday, April 21, for Northeastern Conference’s annual Pathfinder/Adventurer Parade and Fair. The attendance made a rainy day come alive as bus loads of standard-bearing “soldiers of the cross” dressed in Class A uniforms paraded down Brownell Avenue with drums echoing and Color Guards lifting flags. The Northeastern youth from five states marched under the banner of Prince Immanuel.

Gordon Jones, president of the Northeastern Conference Pathfinder Federation, says the parade was the largest in recent history for the conference. In an address to those assembled in Buttonwood Park, Nigel Lewis, former conference youth ministries director, likened the sight of thousands marching to the innumerable company of saints that will enter the pearly gates of heaven one day with palm branches in their hands. “We march for truth, we march for justice, and we march for purity and morality. We march for every youth who needs direction and every person who needs to know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,” said Lewis.

Deval Patrick, governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, wrote in a letter addressed to parade participants, “The Pathfinder/Adventurer Parade and Fair is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs’ commitment to service and community leadership.”

After the parade, wreaths were laid by Lewis and Jones at the sites of the African American Service Memorial, Portuguese-American Veterans Memorial, New Bedford Firemen’s Memorial, Italian American Service Memorial, and the New Bedford Municipal Employees Memorial in Buttonwood Park.

—Stephen Williams, former communication director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Holds Medical Missionary Training

More than 149 students from seven states in the United States, Canada, and as far away as England and Grand Cayman Island, attended the fourth Medical Missionary Training, sponsored by the Northeastern Conference (NEC) last March. “The level one training is meant as an introduction and overview of medical missionary work. It is 55 hours of intensive training. We pour as much information as we can into our students within those 10 days,” says Leroy Daley, Northeastern Conference health ministries director. Presenters included Erwin Davis, Sharon Robles, Andrew Silas, Robert Terrelonge, Fitzgerald Kerr, and Michelle Mason. Anstey Small led a health expo and Sherolyn Daley and the culinary staff prepared plant-based meals from all-natural ingredients every day.

“The folks leading out in the training are not only academically qualified, each holding at least a bachelor’s degree, but they also have practical experience in their field and are committed to the work of finishing the gospel,” said Daley. “So whether you are hearing a lecture on conducting health expos by Anstey Small, small business by Ann Marie Frazier, or exercise by Maureen Kellman, you are benefitting from knowledge not only gained in the lecture hall but also through experience. And that is true for all of our instructors.

“When trained, every graduate is placed into medical missionary evangelistic units. These units meet once a month in person or via conference calls to strategize and put into action what they learned and to give reports. Once a year they meet at our Medical Missionary Convention for fellowship, to give progress reports, and to take continuing education classes. It is not simply a matter of receiving the training, but using it to lead men and women to the Great Medical Missionary—Jesus, here in New York and around the world.”

Information on the Medical Missionary Training course should be directed to the Northeastern Conference Health Ministries Department at (718) 291-8006, ext. 2240 or visit nechealth.org.

—Peggy Ann Caesar, student, Northeastern Conference Prayer Ministries Department School of Prayer
Central Vermont Academy Teacher Receives National Award

Diana Tunnell, the math and science teacher at Central Vermont Academy (CVA), was presented with the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award on May 31. She is among 10 teachers selected this spring by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) to receive the award. The award ceremony was held at Central Vermont Academy in Barre, Vermont. The award includes a medallion and a $2,000 gift.

Upon her baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Tunnell left a successful career in engineering to follow God’s calling. After receiving her second master’s degree in education for middle school mathematics, she accepted a position at CVA, where she has played a key role for five years.

Tunnell carries a lot of responsibility and brings a variety of skills to CVA. She teaches the high school math and science courses, seventh and eighth grade math, and serves as registrar and vice principal. She also sponsors the National Honor Society and senior class, and she even drives the school bus.

As graduation counselor, Tunnell holds workshops to prepare students and parents for the college application and financial process. “Ms. Tunnell is goal-oriented and expects great things from herself and her students,” said Robert Smith, CVA principal. In science class, Tunnell incorporates faith into the curriculum by assigning memory verses that correspond with the lessons. Each year she leads a group for outdoor school and organizes environmental field study projects as part of Vermont’s Winooski waterway studies. Before school and at lunch she meets with her homework club to lend extra help with tough assignments.

In the community, Tunnell gets her students involved in outreach projects, including a housing rehabilitation project for an elderly neighbor and the “Socks for Zimbabwe” clothing drive. Most importantly, Tunnell connects with her students and empowers them. “She saw more in me than I saw in myself, and she helped me not to give up,” said former student Juliette Young. Donald LeBlanc, a former school board chair, shared about the impact Tunnell has had at CVA. “She has a gift for pulling the positives in people up to the surface and leading kids to effect positive changes in their lives.”

AAF (AlumniAwards.org) is a nonprofit organization working to improve Adventist K-12 education. It has awarded grants totaling more than $2 million to Adventist schools and educators. Since its establishment in 1995, the organization has recognized 106 exceptional teachers with an Excellence in Teaching Award. AAF aims to awaken the Adventist community to the full potential of Adventist education.

—Kaleigh Benge, communication and donor relations coordinator, Alumni Awards Foundation

Bangor Church Reaches into the City

The Bangor church in Hermon, Maine, is well outside of the twin cities of Bangor and Brewer. For almost two years the church has reached into the city from its country setting with ministry to the Hope House Shelter. Bangor church members have participated in kitchen ministry by preparing and serving meals on a regular basis.

Many of the shelter visitors have come to know the Bangor team and some have even attended Sabbath services. Often those being served ask about who they are. Many have come to recognize the Adventist team and occasionally will share how they are familiar with the Adventist faith.

Team leader Debbie Verrill carefully plans and prepares the large meals in advance. Upwards of 100 guests are served at each visit. She often finishes the evening by walking through the cafeteria, handing out ice cream bars. She plans special meals in consideration of the weather, paying close attention to what the guests would appreciate.

The number of guests varies, but God is always faithful to provide ample food with hearty leftovers, too! Material concerns are forgotten when serving begins, and the gratitude flows overwhelmingly back over the counter.

—Mark Witham, communication correspondent, Bangor church
Adventist Christian Education is front and center in the New Haven church in New Haven, Connecticut. Several initiatives have highlighted the Laurel Oaks Adventist School in Hamden, Connecticut, demonstrating the strong focus the church places on its young people.

In early spring, an anonymous donor offered up to $10,000 for Laurel Oaks Christian education, challenging the church to match these funds. Subsequently, another New Haven church member made a similar offer, this time for $5,000 of matching funds. The church members rallied, matching these two offers. Yes, Christian education in the New Haven church is alive and well.

The annual Spring Concert benefitting Laurel Oaks took place on March 31 and netted a profit of $2,829.51. The attendees, who overflowed the sanctuary, arrived to hear the cello music of Paulette Clinton. Under the orchestration of Millicent Corbett, the concert featured several local vocalists and instrumentalists, among whom were Ed Bolan, Klemens Gowin, Janevette O’Garro, Yza Roque, and Julia Viniczay. Other performances included the Centabile Vocal Quartet from an area Congregational church, and an a capella group of students from a New Haven prep school. Highlighting the evening were the voices of the Laurel Oaks students, under the direction of Danielle Storey-Carsen.

On May 15, Laurel Oaks was the scene of budding scientists as the school held its annual Science Fair. The three judges, Ed Bolan, Ben Tucker, and Sandra Viniczay, spent the day at the school assessing the scientific exhibitions. Based on a rubric, the judges awarded the following first- and second-place prizes: Grades 5-8: first place: Julia Viniczay, Grade 8, and second place: Alex Steyer, Grade 6; Grades 1-4: first place: Joshua Curameng, Grade 4, and Kyla Tucker, Grade 1. Students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten were awarded ribbons for participation.

An important milestone for Laurel Oaks was the first kindergarten graduation and pre-kindergarten promotion. Students in all grade levels at Laurel Oaks school participated in the annual Science Fair.

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Through God’s grace and the generosity of the New Haven members, the program has been supported and sustained by a fundraiser that garnered a total of $13,225.00 for the school. For many years, Laurel Oaks Adventist School has stood as a sole beacon of Adventist Christian education in Connecticut as it strives to prepare young people for life in this world, and in the world to come.

—Eileen O. Brown, correspondent and chair of the Laurel Oaks School Committee
Au cours de la semaine du 22 au 30 juin, ma femme, Marilyn, et moi avons eu l’occasion de visiter trois différents camps de rencontre. Quelle bénéfice et quelle inspiration, nous avons reçues!


Ma prière pour chacun est que l’espérance du retour de Jésus nous pousse à nous soumettre quotidiennement et nous appuyer sur le Saint-Esprit afin que nous veillions et soyons prêts, que nous évangélisions notre église et la communauté, et un jour profitions d’un “camp de rencontre” glorieux avec Jésus dans le ciel.

Carlyle C. Simmons est le secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence de l’Union Atlantique et directeur des départements des Ministères de la Santé, Relations Humaines, et les Ministères de la Prière.

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

English translation on page 3 of this issue.
Durante la semana de junio de 22-30, mi esposa Marilyn y yo, tuvimos la oportunidad de visitar tres diferentes campesteres. ¡Qué gran bendición e inspiración recibimos!

La primera visita fue al campesitre de la Asociacion de Nueva York en los terrenos de la Academia de Union Springs. Este campesitre fue especial debido a que la asociacion celebro su 150 aniversario. Su lema “Estad Listo y Velad” fue muy apropiado, el ambiente reflejaba el espíritu de los pioneros de la Iglesia Adventista. Durante esta semana, muchos de los pioneros (imitadores) visitaron el campamento y compartieron algunos de los consejos e inspiraciones de los líderes fundadores de nuestra iglesia. El lema “Estad Listo y Velad” fue muy practicado durante los 1840. Nuestros pioneros estaban seriamente velando y haciendo preparativos para el regreso de Jesús. En Mateo 24: 42 (NVI) dice, “Por lo tanto, manténganse despiertos, porque no saben qué día vendrá su Señor.” Esta información les motivó en aquel entonces, y debe motivarnos ahora, entendiendo que el velar y prepararnos para la segunda venida de Jesús van juntos.

Nuestra tercera visita fue al campesitre de la Asociacion del Norte de Nueva Inglaterra. Su lema en una palabra es, “Esperanza.” Realmente fuimos bendecidos, informados e inspirados con el mensaje del sábado por Elizabeth Talbot, directora de Jesus 101 Ministries, quien presento a los adultos durante el campestre la obra gloriosa de Jesús, nuestro amado Redentor. Su interés de representar a la humanidad caida para podernos redimir, engendra en nosotros cada día la realidad y el poder de “esperanza,” como se enfatiza por toda la Biblia. Hebreos 6: 19 (NVI) habla de “esperanza” como un ancla para el alma. En estos tiempos de incertidumbre, es tan alentador saber que podemos tener esperanza en Jesús, esperanza en su palabra y esperanza en sus promesas. Esperanza puede mantenernos enfocados, resueltos y calmandos. El himno escrito para una de nuestras sesiones de la Asociación General correctamente dice, “Tenemos una esperanza que arde dentro de nuestro ser. Esperanza en la venida del Señor.”

Mi oración para todos es que la esperanza del pronto regreso de Jesús nos motive a entregarnos diariamente a El y confiar en el Espíritu Santo para estar listos, evangelizar a nuestra iglesia y comunidad, y así un día disfrutar de un glorioso “campestre” con Jesús en el cielo.

Carlyle C. Simmons es el Secretario Ejecutivo de la Unión del Atlántico y Director del Ministerio de Salud, Relaciones Humanas y Ministerio de Oración.

Traducción: Dalia Castellanso

English translation available on page 3 of this issue
[364x662]mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit”—The Ministry of Healing, pp. 143, 144.

Together with our team of Adventist youth ministries directors from all six conferences in the Atlantic Union, we have decided that it is time to facilitate and lead a movement of compassion that grows through the Northeast United States and Bermuda and expands to the whole world, just like the Adventist movement did after 1844. We envision youth and young adults, who, just like the ones who started the Adventist movement, will take to the streets of our communities, touching people with love and sympathy, ministering to their needs, and winning their confidence. Youth and young adults must preach with their hearts, hands, and feet, and other compassionate actions on a regular basis. This is a paradigm shift for Adventist youth ministries across the Atlantic Union. Youth and young adults who live a life of compassion 24/7, because actions speak louder than words.

José Cortés, Jr., is the director of Adventist Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union.

To be continued in the October issue of the Gleaner. For more information on compassion, visit the Adventist Youth Ministries Web site: www.auyouth.com.
LET’S MOVE! DAY
Sunday, September 23, 2012

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Let’s Move Day is an event of Adventists InStep for Life. It is sponsored by the North American Division Health Ministries Department in partnership with Adventist Community Services, Children’s, Disabilities, Education, Family, Women’s, Youth, and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, and the Ministerial Department.

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12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Omega Church, New Haven, Conn.
2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Waterbury Spanish Church, Waterbury, Conn.

September 7-9 – Orders due August 31
NNEC Women's Retreat, Camp Lawroweld, Weld, Maine

September 30 – Orders due September 24
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Calais, Maine
12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Presque Isle, Maine
2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Oakfield, Maine
4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Lincoln, Maine

October 5-7 – Orders due October 1
SNEC English Women’s Retreat, Devens, Mass.

October 14 – Orders due October 8
9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Bennington, Vt.
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Rutland, Vt.
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Morrisville, Vt.
4:30 – 5:00 p.m. St. Johnsbury, Vt.
5:30 – 6:00 p.m. South Newbury, Vt.

October 21 – Orders due October 15
12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Danbury-Bethel Church, Bethel, Conn.
2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Waterbury Spanish Church, Waterbury, Conn.
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