Lending a Helping Hand
Atlantic Union Teams Continue to Assist in Haiti
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More than two years after the devastating earthquake in Haiti left many homeless, the relief efforts continue. In this issue, read a report about what the Atlantic Union and its local conferences have been doing to assist the people in Haiti. On the cover, Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference Haitian and African ministries vice president, right, assists with moving cement blocks to the site of another house. Photo taken by Nahum Omeler.

Mission Statement

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

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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
“Busy activity is not enough. Satan is as active and earnest as any good angel.”

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees.
Atlantic Union Teams Continue to Assist in Haiti

The Atlantic Union Conference had a very compassionate response to the earthquake that shook Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in January 2010. Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, said early on that the union would help “our Haitian brothers and sisters who are victims of the earthquake.” The first stage of assistance was to provide immediate emergency relief, including food and medicine, to the wounded. The second phase was to provide emergency shelters. The Atlantic Union Conference paid for and provided 100 family tents. The third stage was to move the victims from tents to transitional housing.

This past summer, 35 medical doctors, along with nurses, builders, carpenters, pastors, teachers, and young adults from all walks of life, flew to Port-au-Prince on a special mission to provide free medical care, medications, eyeglasses, children’s toys, and to build houses for victims of the earthquake. More than 4,000 people were cared for and 3,000 eyeglasses were distributed. There were long lines of people who wanted to be seen by the doctors and nurses. While the people were waiting in line, Jesula Orneas, a registered nurse, completed patient health education. She taught basic hygiene and shared with the people practical ways to prevent disease and infection.

The Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries Department led the mission and was joined by José Joseph, Northeastern Conference Haitian Ministries coordinator, and others from the Greater New York and Ontario conferences. Volunteers came from Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Ontario, Canada.

The Atlantic Union Conference provided funds to build 10 cement block houses.

An assembly line of workers move cement blocks and other material to the location where another house is being built.

José Joseph, Northeastern Conference Haitian Ministries coordinator, left, with Pherold Richardson, senior pastor of the Auditorium de la Bible church, and Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference Haitian and African ministries vice president.
Union—Northeastern and Greater New York—have separate ongoing disaster response programs directed by Fitzgerald Kerr and Ruben Merino, both Adventist Community Services directors for their respective conferences. During the mission trip, the team also worked on a transitional house for a woman who lost two family members in the earthquake. Her daughter, Debora, survived her injuries, but her left leg had to be amputated.

The Atlantic Union has completed two water purification systems that were installed in two of the largest Adventist churches in the capital—the Auditorium de la Bible and Morija. Church members and many families in the neighborhood go to these two churches daily for supplies of clean water. Aaron Kennedy of CampWater, the Florida based company hired to install the water purification systems, says, “People and the pastors at both locations were very excited and grateful to get such a gift as this. Without a doubt they have competent and capable men to handle this equipment well.”

Most of the transitional houses are built with plywood. However, the Atlantic Union administrators decided to build 10 units using cement blocks for greater durability. These transitional houses are able to accommodate families of five. The average cost per house is $8,000.00. Josue Pierre, president of the Adventist University in Haiti, says, “By using local blocks and local hire to build these houses, the Atlantic Union Conference accomplishes two important goals: providing shelter for the people and supporting the local economy.” This also supports the local church where the workers return their tithes and offerings. The houses are given to Adventist and non-Adventist families. The recipients were very excited to be able to move from tents to the houses. The names of the people who receive the units were recommended by the Haitian Union and the administrators of the Adventist University in Haiti.

The Atlantic Union also contributed to the repair of the main boulevard leading to the Adventist University in Haiti (UNAH) that was severely damaged by the earthquake.

Requests for more than 63 houses were received, but finances were available for 10 houses. To date, seven of these houses have been completed and the other three are under construction. People in the Haitian community have indicated that they are appreciative and thankful for the sacrifice and generosity of the Atlantic Union Conference family. Those who gave can be sure that their gifts helped the earthquake victims in a significant way. However, many are still without shelter more than two and a half years after the earthquake. Please keep them in your prayers. You can help build a house by contributing to the Atlantic Union Conference Haiti Earthquake Relief Housing Project.

Pierre Omeler is the Atlantic Union Conference Haitian and African Ministries vice president and the Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries director.
NY13 Evangelism and Prayer Rally Highlights

The weekend of September 21-23 was packed with activities surrounding the Satellite Evangelism and Prayer Rally at the North Bronx church. The events began on Friday afternoon when a group visited the mayor’s senior advisor to share information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's health message, the events planned for New York City, and to show support for the mayor’s initiative to cut back on sugary drinks in his fight against obesity.

The speakers for the weekend included Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life Ministries speaker/director; Ted Wilson, Seventh-day Adventist Church president; Robert Costa, General Conference Ministerial Association associate secretary, who presented in Spanish; and Abraham Jules, Mount Vernon church pastor. The program included segments of prayer and interviews about NY13.

The programs were broadcast live on Hope Channel, Hope Church Channel, Esperanza TV, and were streamed on the Internet on auam.tv and praizevision.com. 3ABN carried a delayed broadcast of the programs. The online audience was engaged using social media on the NY13.org Facebook page.

Rallying the crowd with the Friday-night message, Byrd said, “The work of God cannot be stopped. The gospel will go forth. Souls will be saved with or without you. . . . Let’s take New York by storm!”

On Sabbath morning, Wilson, who wants to reach 650 cities around the world, New York being the first, said, “Much work has been done in the cities and yet there's so much more to be done.”

Following the morning service, a team, including Wilson, Donald King, Atlantic Union president; G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president; Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president; and Whitford Shaw, Southern New England Conference executive secretary; went door to door in the neighborhood distributing The Great Hope and praying with people in the community.

In the closing program on Sabbath evening, Jules said, “We will not know what is going on in the community if we go to church once a week. We must meet people at their point of need, not at our point of need. . . . We must be a ‘going’ church if we are to be a growing church.”

At the final event for the weekend, nearly 1,000 participants and volunteers gathered on Sunday morning in Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, New York, for the annual Let’s Move Day, to promote physical activity for people of all ages. Among the walkers was 103-year-old Mary Richards, a member of the Corona church, who walked to the finish line and praised God for His gift of life and health.

There is much more to come regarding NY13. To stay up-to-date, visit ny13.org and sign up to receive the NY13 Update newsletter. Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor

Update Report Regarding the Mass DHE Site Visit — September 30–October 2, 2012

The site visit by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (Mass DHE) team to conduct an assessment for the reestablishment of degree granting authority at Atlantic Union College was completed on October 2. The team took a tour of the campus and expressed appreciation for the hospitality and warm reception they received from the time they arrived on Sunday evening, September 30, all day Monday, and on Tuesday.

During the exit interview on October 2, there were several general and specific commendations. These included reception hospitality, responsiveness in providing information, and past faculty and students who demonstrated their skill and passion for teaching and learning. Specific commendation was given for the level of commitment and care that the staff and faculty took to manage the teach-out process of the students. Also cited was the leadership role of Lloyd Brown in the downsizing of the institution and managing the deferred maintenance of the campus.
The team shared the 10 standards of the Mass DHE with us in the exit interview, with several recommendations—all of which we believe to be “doables” and will be responded to as soon as the official report is received from the team. One of the standards pertaining to the library received no recommendations at all. The team was obviously impressed with both the appearance and organization of the library (thanks to all the staff and volunteers who worked vigorously and enthusiastically to prepare the library and other buildings for the visit).

The team shared the 10 recommendations—all of which the team came several months after the first introduction of the training program earlier this year. At that time, a request for a business/marketing plan to be presented at the meeting in September 2012 was made and voted upon. The approval comes with support from the General Conference and the North American Division to start such a school for the training of church members and pastors in evangelism and community health missionary work. It is anticipated that with the emphasis on soul-winning and teaching basic health principles, students of NETS will be trained to minister to their communities like never before as we await the soon coming of our Lord to this earth again.

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Eric Flickinger has been appointed as the NETS director. Brown, the entire campus staff, former faculty, former students, some board of trustee members, and some AUC Strategic Planning Committee members—all of whom met with the visiting team.

The next steps include responding to the team’s report on each of the recommendations before it goes to the DHE board for final approval. We thank God for all your prayers and what appears to have been a very positive outcome for this initial step in the process. If all goes well, the approval process could be completed by January 2013.

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

Atlantic Union Governing Committee Approves Inauguration of New Evangelism School

On September 19, 2012, the executive committee of the Atlantic Union approved the inauguration of NETS (Northeast Evangelism Training School). The school will provide non-accredited certification for lay members (four-month training) as well as intensives for pastors in the art of evangelism and community health missionary work. It is anticipated that with the emphasis on soul-winning and teaching basic health principles, students of NETS will be trained to minister to their communities like never before as we await the soon coming of our Lord to this earth again.

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A director for NETS has been appointed by the NETS Governing Board. His name is Eric Flickinger, a seasoned trainer who formerly served as an assistant director of AFCOE (Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism) in Weimar, California. A veteran of more than 50 evangelistic campaigns as an Amazing Facts evangelist, Flickinger brings a wealth of experience to the NETS Atlantic Union team to train aspiring students in the skill and fervor of soul-winning. His passion for evangelism has been experienced by thousands across the United States, Canada, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Students will learn how to prepare for, execute, and follow-up a very successful evangelistic campaign. Flickinger is a graduate of the University of Florida, Santa Fe Community College, and AFCOE. His wife, Hildelisa, is a certified clinical nutrition specialist with degrees in Food Science and Dietetics from the University of Florida at Gainsville. Together, they have two children, Noelani, age six, and Justin, age three.

Although located on the campus of Atlantic Union College, NETS will operate independently of the college and under the governing umbrella of the Atlantic Union Conference. One of NETS’ first training classes will be conducted in New York City in collaboration with NY13, the evangelistic initiative to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ in Metro New York City in 2013 and beyond.

—Donald G. King, president, Atlantic Union Conference Members, Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee

Atlantic Union Gleaner, November 2012

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NY13 Initiatives

It is a unanimous belief among Seventh-day Adventist educators that our schools are evangelistic centers. For 180 days teachers place God at the center of instruction and discipline. As pastors and church members plan evangelistic meetings in every borough of New York City, our schools are also actively planning to respond to God’s call to “enter the cities. Give the inhabitants of these cities the call to prepare..."

As pastors and church members plan evangelistic meetings in every borough of New York City, our schools are also actively planning to respond to God’s call... for the coming of the Lord”—Evangelism, p. 96.

How does the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education plan to do this? By actively empowering each student to be an evangelist in five Christian-operated clinics conducted in four of our city schools—Brooklyn school, Greater New York Academy, Hanson Place school, and Northeastern Academy. The clinics will be in the subject areas of music, fitness/wellness, art, and math and language arts and will be conducted over a period of four to five days each.

The intent is to follow the counsel of Ellen G. White; “Young men and women should be educated to become workers in their own neighborhoods and in other places. Let all set their hearts and minds to become intelligent in regard to the work for this time, qualifying themselves to do that for which they are best adapted”—Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 118, 119.

The objective for each of these events is to have our students actively recruit non-Adventist young people to participate in each event. Every Adventist student will be challenged to be an evangelist/Bible worker to a non-Adventist person in the clinic. Students will be called upon to witness, not only by leading worships each morning but also by establishing a positive Christian relationship with non-Adventist students. Each event will culminate with an exhibition of what the students learned during the clinic. Invitations will be sent to parents and the surrounding community to attend. This will provide an opportunity for the clinician(s) to share, with the adult audience, a testimony of their life as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in the subject area in which they are instructing.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!”—Education, p. 27.

Adventist students in the Atlantic Union Conference can be the voice through whom the Lord calls “young men and women, who will press to the front, and who, after a short time spent in school, will go forth prepared to give the message to the world”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 549.

Astrid Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference education and children’s ministries director.
Young Adventists, Then and Now

Young Adventist Then: Uriah Smith

Uriah Smith was born on May 3, 1832, in West Wilton, New Hampshire. He was 12 in 1844 when, together with his family and many others, he experienced the Great Disappointment. At that early age, one of his legs had to be amputated above the knee, but rather than becoming discouraged, this negative event in his life helped him to become more creative. Later, he invented and patented an artificial leg with a flexible knee and ankle joints. He also patented a school desk with an improved folding seat.

In 1852, when he was 20 years old, he became a Sabbath-keeping Adventist and very soon joined James and Ellen White in Rochester, New York, where he began to assist them in the publishing work. At age 23, Smith became the editor of the Review, the magazine of the newly-born church, known today as the Adventist Review.

For much of the next 50 years, he served either as editor or on the editorial staff of the Review.

In addition to his editorial duties, he had just turned 31 when he became the first secretary of the General Conference on May 20, 1863. He held this leadership role five different times throughout his life. Smith, through his writings, became the pastor of many who could not attend church regularly. He also blessed thousands with his public speaking. Before his death he wrote to the delegates meeting in the 1903 General Conference Session: “I am with you in the endeavor to send forth in this generation this gospel of the kingdom, for a witness to all nations. And when this is completed, it will be the signal for the coronation of our coming King.”

Young Adventist Now: Mark Shand

The Ebenezer Falcons Pathfinder Club from Freeport, New York, was on its way to the Intrepid Museum when they saw a man, disheveled, cold, and sitting among a pile of what seemed to be all he owned, with no sign stating “I am hungry,” or “Help me, please.” His head was bowed in a seeming state of slumber.

As they drew closer, each person passed by like the Pharisee, but a 10-year-old turned back to give him a dollar. Mark Shand, is a Good Samaritan and a Pathfinder in the Friend class.

Shand was so concerned about the man’s well-being that he wanted to turn back to give him more money. So great was his distress that he stood there greatly agitated, even after the rest had gone, about the fact that he had so much and this man only had the dollar, and he knew it would never be sufficient. Shand was touched by the reality of this man’s plight.

At Ebenezer church’s Pathfinder Day on September 15, Shand was recognized for his selflessness and concern for another less fortunate person. It was a surprise to Shand (who can be a handful at club meetings) and his family.

It’s exciting to know just how one person can make a difference. Youth service is a proven strategy that helps young people navigate childhood and transition to adulthood—building connections to their communities.

Natalie Noble is the Long Island Youth Federation president.
Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda Conference president and Family Ministries director, and his wife, Pattiejean, Bermuda Conference Ministerial Spouses Association director and Family Ministries assistant, were presented with the North American Division Family Ministries Distinguished Service Award on July 21 during the annual Family Celebration Sabbath at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The event was jointly organized by the North American Division, the General Conference, and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

The speakers for the event were Delbert Baker, General Conference vice president, and his wife, Susan, director of doctoral studies for the University of Maryland Physical Therapy Department. The Bakers were featured guests at the recent Great Hope launch in the Bermuda Conference.

The award presented to the Browns contained inukshuk figures. An inukshuk is a stone, manlike figure, traditionally used by the Inuit and other people from the arctic region of North America. The figures were constructed along the Canadian shores to point wayward travelers back home. The design of the award includes three figures that mirror the North American Division Family Ministries Department logo.

Claudio Consuegra, North American Division Family Ministries director, and his wife, Pamela, associate director, say that “Dr. and Mrs. Brown have faithfully served in the North American Division, making a positive impact upon families by pointing them toward home. Therefore, it is with pleasure that we present them with this Family Ministries Distinguished Service Award.”

Among those present for the event, including people from Bermuda and England, were Willie and Elaine Oliver, General Conference Family Ministries directors; Miranda Lister, Bermuda Innsitute history teacher; Jewell Jones, wife of Clifford Jones, a professor and associate dean at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and her mother, Elva Jones; Dwayne Burgess and Stanley James, students at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary; Errol McLean, North American Division Evangelism Institute associate director, and his wife, Melzetta; and Dionisio Olivo, Atlantic Union Conference Family Ministries director.

The Browns and the Bermuda Conference Family Ministries Department are conducting training leading to Adventist Family Ministries Curriculum Certification and Adventist Single Adult Ministries Curriculum Certification.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

“Dr. and Mrs. Brown have faithfully served in the North American Division, making a positive impact upon families by pointing them toward home.”
Ruth Taylor was born on April 23, 1915, making her 97 years old. Her age, of course, doesn’t stop her from being an active piano player for the members at the Central Dutchess company. “I’ve been playing the piano for 87 years,” says Taylor, who started playing when her father bought her a piano when she was 10.

Taylor was born in New Jersey into an Adventist home. She shared how they started in the faith. “My grandmother, who lived in Brooklyn, researched many religions. One day, while she and my mother were walking, they saw a big tent. They went to see what was going on and discovered it to be a Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic meeting. After hearing the message, they became Seventh-day Adventists.”

The family moved to Albany and for a time her mother stopped going to church. When Taylor was 10 she was baptized, along with her two sisters and brother. Her mother was rebaptized with them.

In the 1930s, Taylor trained to be an opera singer. During that time, she met a young man named Raymond Taylor, whom she later married. She stopped training for the opera and worked at Park Electronics for 15 years as a supervisor. She also served as an activity director at a nursing home for more than seven years, was the federation president of Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services, and the president of the Hudson Valley Activity Directors Association for a couple of years before moving to Tennessee and later back to New York.

Keeping herself active professionally, Taylor also kept faithful to God and stayed in shape physically. In earlier years, she played on a basketball team, would ski, roller skate, and ran track. She boasts when she says, “I even beat a bunch of farm boys once in the 100-yard-dash.”

What keeps her going now is getting up at 4:00 a.m. to exercise, doing her own laundry, and cooking.

Throughout her life, Taylor’s best moments were playing the organ and the piano for churches. She continues to play for the Central Dutchess company and has done so since 2009. “Everything about playing the piano is a challenge,” Taylor says, “but I love it because it’s good for the brain.”

—Kimi-Roux James, communication assistant, Greater New York Conference

GNYC Churches Participate in Coat Distribution

Every year, several churches in the Greater New York Conference partner with New York Cares Coat Drive to distribute thousands of coats to people in the community. The churches begin applying online in October, since the coats are distributed to the churches in the order in which their applications are received.

When coats are ready for distribution, the churches are contacted by the New York Cares Coat Drive personnel and an appointment is scheduled for them to pick up the coats. The coat distribution begins in early December.

The donated coats are shared with men, women, children, and infants in need, including homeless families, senior citizens, and struggling immigrants.

The Adventist Community Services, Adventist Youth Ministries, Women’s Ministries departments, and Pathfinder clubs are encouraged to work together in order to distribute coats to thousands of men, women, and children in New York City who would otherwise do without this winter season.

—Ruben Merino, Adventist Community Services director, Greater New York Conference
August 2012 was a time of outreach, spiritual growth, and a test of faith for members of the Curriers church in Arcade, New York. After two years of planning and praying, the Messiah’s Mansion arrived on the afternoon of August 7. God blessed the endeavor in ways that could not have been imagined ahead of time. With fewer volunteers than the church or the Messiah’s Mansion team had hoped for, the setup was finished more than one day early. God provided a much-needed day for the Messiah’s Mansion team to catch up, and it was a sense of relief for Curriers church members.

The nine days of tours went by quickly. Of the 825 people who went through the display, many were pastors of other denominations, some were organizers for non-Adventist Christian camps, and others were Seventh-day Adventists. People came from Canada, Michigan, Alabama, Rochester, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and other places. Many expressed their heartfelt appreciation for this life-size display of the Mosaic Sanctuary. In all, 174 people requested Bible studies.

Many seeds were planted and some misunderstandings were corrected. For example, some visitors thought that Seventh-day Adventists didn’t believe in Jesus. Thankfully, they were shown that Adventists not only believe in Jesus, but are willing to follow Him as He leads them through the plan of salvation, as is evident in the layout of the sanctuary. As for the many Adventists who took the time to go through the display, over and over many shared that they now have a better understanding of the sanctuary and the plan of salvation.

The team of young people who traveled with Clayton Leinweber, director of Messiah’s Mansion, were an incredible group. Camp Duffield was a big part of what made the event a success. They provided food and shelter for much of the time that the Messiah’s Mansion team was in town. Many members took time out of their busy schedules to help make the event a success. Some have formed close friendships that will last for eternity.

—Melissa Conrad, member, Curriers church

28 Attend Vacation Bible School at Gouverneur Church

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) community outreach program at the Gouverneur church has been an ongoing ministry for the past six years. Each year they have experienced a steady increase of children. This year 28 children from the community attended; only two were members of the Adventist Church.

The theme for the VBS program was “Fruits of the Spirit” (“Let’s Get Tootie Fruity”). This year some of the mothers also volunteered wherever help was needed. While volunteering, they received a taste of the Bible lessons taught to their children. Reaching the parents for Jesus by way of their children is a real possibility.

Twenty-eight children attended Vacation Bible School at Gouverneur church this year, only two were members of the Adventist Church.

The Sabbath closing program was an opportunity for family and friends of the children to see and hear about all that the children learned through the week. The children showed off their talent in music, poems, and scripture memorization. There was also a slideshow presentation.

The church was full during the program with no empty pews! A potluck meal was provided following the program that allowed the children to show all their crafts, including windsocks, birdfeeders, and oil lamps made out of canning jars, potpourri, and pine cones. Church members are praying that the impact on those who attended VBS will help them make their decisions to be in heaven.

—Milton L. Armstrong, elder, Gouverneur church
Brooklyn Youth Host First-ever Block Party

Raymond Alcock, the River of Life church pastor, jumps rope during the Brooklyn South/Staten Island Adventist Youth Federation first-ever block party that included church members as well as residents from the community.

The Brooklyn South/ Staten Island Adventist Youth Federation (BSSI) held their first-ever block party on August 26. It took place at the River of Life church in Brooklyn, New York. Each youth department in the federation was asked to submit a video stating why their block should be the one to host this event. Even though it was a close call, the River of Life Adventist Youth Society won the vote. The events of the day were a mixture of evangelism and fun. Everyone who attended was given pieces of literature. Games played included dominoes, board games, volleyball, and double-dutch. There was food for everyone and, to the surprise of many, the food was free!

The young people in the community fully participated in the events. While they were having fun, the youth from the church were also able to share their faith with the guests. Some community residents preferred to stay on their steps and watch, so the youth brought them their share of literature and food.

During the afternoon, Raymond Alcock, pastor of River of Life church and spiritual adviser to the federation, shared a brief message. He reminded them that no matter what they might be going through during these tough times, God will always be there for them. Lisa Burke, event organizer and BSSI sports director, said, “The youth, older adults, and the community had a great day. Everyone had a wonderful time and that’s all we could have asked for.” The BSSI federation is planning to do this event again next year, even bigger and better, as a part of NY13.

—Jason Dryden, president, Brooklyn South/Staten Island Adventist Youth Federation

At the block party, Jason Dryden, Brooklyn South/Staten Island Youth Federation president, left, talks with Limrod Andrews, the federation vice president.
A bout three years ago we began to experience a burden for the Auburn/Lewiston, Maine, area. Then last March, a year and a half later, God actually opened the door for us to work there. We have been awakened to the urgency to work the cities. Lewiston especially has been neglected.

Last fall we held an evangelistic series in Auburn and God sent us more than 25 new people, many of whom are from Lewiston. We have been studying God’s prophetic counsels on how to work the cities, and were impressed with the need of a center of influence in Lewiston. As we searched, God miraculously opened the door to purchase a Pizza Hut right on Lisbon Street, with 18,000 cars passing by each day. The price to purchase this building was $400,000.00, but at the time we heard about it, the price had dropped to $160,000.00! There were two other offers, yet within hours of putting in our offer, God secured it for His work!

Our vision is to have a small vegan lunch buffet by day, led by Matt and Jessica Blake and their daughters, who have a passion to share their talent, and also to offer classes four evenings a week. We will also have a Sabbath meeting house. Our program will include the ministry of a medical missionary, emphasizing healing and the gospel hand-in-hand. We are planning cooking schools, seminars, and lifestyle counseling led by local physicians Tim Howe, Stephen Boyd, and nurse practitioner, Mary Penner, who have offered their services once a week. Don Ball, local Bible worker and associate pastor, and the church members are leading an effort to survey the people of Lewiston to assess their needs.

—Brian Bilbrey, pastor, Barre-Montpelier and Randolph churches

16-year-old Leads Vacation Bible School

The Barre church conducted a Vacation Bible School (VBS) in August in the Barre-Montpelier, Vermont, area. What made this VBS so special was the fact that Ashley Paige, a 16-year-old Central Vermont Academy student and member of the Barre church who has a heart for children, was the leader and motivating power behind it.

The theme for this year was “Blast Off With Jesus.” From the general program to the games, Paige’s creative power was all part of a successful VBS. The enrollment began with 21 and increased to 32 children. Paige wasn’t alone; there were at least eight individuals who were inspired by her and moved by the Holy Spirit to reach out and connect with the children of Barre. The Lord is using our youth to make a difference.

—Brian Bilbrey, pastor, Barre-Montpelier and Randolph churches

Adventist Restoration Center Impacts Lewiston Community

Come to Adventist Restoration Center, the Pizza Hut church, for a slice of real life; have your life rebuilt brick by brick; come for healthy food, spiritual food; have your dry, crusty heart changed to a soft new heart. . . . Come!

—Rick Kuntz, conference evangelist and pastor, and his wife, Jane, Auburn church
Randee Reynolds, secretary/treasurer of Northern New England Conference (NNEC) and interim president of Parkview Adventist Medical Center (Parkview), has accepted the invitation of the Parkview Adventist Medical Center Board and Membership Committee and the Central Maine Medical Center of Lewiston, Maine, to become president of the Adventist owned and operated 55-bed hospital in Brunswick, Maine. He has held the position on an interim basis for the past seven months.

“The conference at large, the office staff, and I will greatly miss the expertise and enthusiasm that Randee brought into leadership here in NNEC,” said Mike Ortel, NNEC president. “We have experienced many joys, accomplishments, and challenges together that have put us on our knees many, many times. God has been our refuge and strength. I believe that God sent Randee to this conference when we needed his particular leadership the most. Now his talents will be shared with Parkview.”

Since 2008, Reynolds has been employed by the Northern New England Conference, most recently holding the position of secretary/treasurer. While serving the constituents, he was instrumental in acquiring many new church and school properties. The Cedar Haven Campground, located in Freeport, Maine, now in its second year, was purchased under his leadership. He secured the new conference office at 479 Main Street, Westbrook, Maine, in 2011 at below market value and has overseen the renovation process, taking it from a library facility to a corporate office.

“I want to thank the Northern New England Conference constituents for the opportunity to serve this conference for the last four years. I also want to thank the office staff for their support! The Lord has blessed this conference in so many ways. I am so thankful that God still uses humble men and women to do His work,” Reynolds said.

Included in a release from Parkview was the statement, “With over 25 years experience in leadership positions, both in the private sector and in the Adventist system, Reynolds brings a great depth of understanding of the complex issues facing service-oriented institutions. Before moving to Maine he was the vice president of business development for the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Reynolds has served as a member of the board and the finance committee for Florida Hospital, a 10-hospital system based in Orlando, Florida, and recognized as one of the top health care systems in the southeastern United States.”

May God continue to bless Reynolds with wisdom as he leads Parkview Adventist Medical Center.

—Lynn Ortel, communication director, Northern New England Conference
First Springfield’s ACS Disaster Response Team Get to Know Their Neighbors

The goal of the First Springfield church’s Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Team is to get to know their neighbors before the next disaster. The newly-trained team has been operating for about a year.

Pictured on the top row, from left, are Mihail Baciu, the church’s pastor; Viorica Baciu, Judy Hayes, and Carol Elliot. On the bottom row, from left, are Brenda St. George, team leader; Melody Tapia, Myrna Leiper, Rosie Perez, Tomas Perez, and Dan Hayes. Not pictured are team members Don and Gabi Moore, and Annette Bazelak.

They are currently working on completing 250 personal care kits. The team meets monthly and provides a free pasta dinner on the last Wednesday of each month. They also provide emergency preparedness and health information at these dinners.

Last year, during the October 29 snow storm, they provided hot meals, going door to door to reach individuals and families affected by the storm.

—Brenda St. George, ACS Disaster Response Team leader, Springfield church

CAYYA Holds Back to School Bash

The Connecticut Adventist Youth/Young Adults Federation (CAYYA) held its second annual Back to School Bash in New Haven, Connecticut. About 100 people attended and many traveled from New York, Worcester and Clinton in Massachusetts, and from South Windsor, Willimantic, and Bridgeport in Connecticut. The guest speaker, José Cortés, Jr., Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries director, delivered a message about compassion to the young people. As the youth returned to school, they were equipped with the knowledge that going back to school is an opportunity for them to reach out to others and introduce them to Jesus.

The Willimantic church youth performed a skit teaching the young people to have faith in God, and to listen to His voice for guidance. The praise and worship portion of the service was done by Y4P (Youth 4 Praise) from the Connecticut Valley church in South Windsor.

Fernanda Lopez from the Hartford Portuguese church presented special music. The Medical Cadets provided assistance during the street prayer, distributed information about their ministry, and assisted with guest parking.

The youth were challenged to take prayers to the community. CAYYA provided prayer signs to attract the community and to let them know that they were praying for them. Many of the young people and adults had the chance to pray for a stranger. Some as young as 10 years old were praying in the community. There were groups in front of the church, walking along the sidewalks and on the corner of Orange and Humphrey Street in New Haven. The Medical Cadets provided security and some had a chance to pray for others.

In addition to praying for the community, the youth also prayed for the college students returning to school.

—Eric Fraticelli, president, Connecticut Adventist Youth/Young Adults Federation

Photos: Glorimar Teixeira
Summer Ministries Feed Other Programs

Making an eternal difference in the lives of kids in the community is the goal of summer ministries for the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. “VBS and Sonrise are a large commitment of resources and manpower for our congregation, but we see them as a vital component of our mission in our area,” says Don Pate, the church’s senior pastor. “We constantly work at keeping our eyes focused on a broader horizon than our own needs and these two programs are just one component of that effort.”

Throughout the school year the church has many activities for young families. Pathfinders, Adventurers, Bell Choirs, Homeschoolers’ Weeks of Prayer, voice choirs, a weekly drop-in “play group,” the Friday evening Youth Ministry 360, and other programs are all offered while school is in session. But the summer months provide an opportunity to shift gears and create two programs that can serve as pathways for the winter children’s ministries.

Heather Cook, associate pastor for Children’s Ministries, oversees all activities targeted from “birth to youth” at the College Church. She has assembled a large team of volunteers who assist her. She also has a passion to engage the youth in “buying in” to service. As a result, with each passing summer two extensive outreach programs of the church continue to be increasingly creative and effective.

“VBS this year was just huge,” says Cook. “We honestly don’t know that we can allow it to get any bigger or it might just become mass production. We can’t let it be just that. VBS 2012 had a daily attendance of between 90-100 children and, as a result, our theme of the loyal Daniel in Babylon was absolutely stretched to the limit for supplies.”

“One of top of that,” says Cook, “we had unique challenges this year in that many of my normal staff kids were on the orchestra tour to England, Scotland, and Iceland while we were running our program. [With] more kids, fewer people to draw upon as staff, we were scrambling!”

As one might expect, the children were engaged in all the usual activities of a Vacation Bible School, but this year’s had the added curiosity of a petting zoo right in the basement of the church. “We are quite sure that the kids will never forget the day a full-grown llama came to church riding in the back seat of a small car! That’s a mental imprint for our VBS that will not be forgotten,” says Cook.

Extending the VBS program, Camp Sonrise is a three-week drop-in day camp for the community. Overseen by church member Joyce Malin, 2012 represented the fifth summer of its existence. “Every day for three weeks the kids get to participate in learning, games, activities, field trips, service projects, swimming, worship, all things that are great building blocks for a positive life,” says Cook. “We cannot thank Joyce Malin and her team enough for what they do for us in this remarkably well-organized activity!”

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“There are four things that I most appreciate about our summer ministries,” says Pate. “The first is the passion our congregation has to support them. Number two would be the fact that both VBS and Sonrise are predominantly attended by children who normally do not attend our church and a large portion are not Adventists. I’d say that only 10 percent of attendees at each of the programs are actually from our own church family, so this is excellent outreach.

“The third factor of our summer ministries that I value so highly is the fact that we actually do see, from year to year, that these serve as feeders to the various winter activities and even to our Sabbath School and worship events. We hope and dream for some to actually end up at Browning elementary and SLA because of our efforts.

“Lastly, I hope our congregation never forgets that one of the most significant benefits to continuing these ministries extends beyond the simple census of how many kids come to participate. These are excellent service and learning tools for leadership for many of our own academy and college-age youth. Pastor Heather and Joyce Malin both engage large numbers of our teens in leadership, and that’s invaluable as we look to the future of the church,” Pate says.

“Sure, our church is larger than most and we may have more ‘bells and whistles’ than other congregations, but we’d hope that we take our position in the sisterhood of churches seriously,” says Cook. “We are thrilled when other churches see what we do and they are inspired to do some of the same things. It comes with the privilege that we have. We honestly hope that other churches get inspired and even improve upon what we do.”

—Daihyana Vargas-Wood, clerk, College Church
Ne Vous-Lassez pas de Faire le Bien

Quand les choses sont faites avec un sens du devoir, avec la dépendance de Dieu, la foi en Sa Parole, et avec amour et bienveillance envers tous, les actes ordinaires deviennent saints pour le Seigneur. Pourtant, l’Ecriture nous avertit que nous pouvons nous lasser de faire le bien. L’apôtre Paul nous exhorte dans 2 Thessaloniciens 3 de nous méfier des gens déraisonnables (verset 2), méchants, et pervers ayant beaucoup de temps improductif dans leurs mains (verset 11).

“Mais pour vous, frères, ne vous-lassez pas de faire le bien”—2 Thessaloniciens 3:13 (LSG). Ne perdez pas ce que vous avez déjà créé pour l’honneur de Dieu. Tous les efforts mis de l’avant pour la cause glorieuse du Christ, que ce soit dans la communauté, à la maison, dans l’église locale, ou à n’importe quel niveau de l’organisation de l’église, si ceux-là se font par la foi en Dieu, avec des motifs purs, et un esprit patient, seront bénis et couronnés de succès. Rappelez-vous que l’œil de Dieu est sur vous, Sa main est avec vous, il vous sourit, et vous êtes sous son ordre.

Etre actif n’est pas suffisant. Satan est aussi actif et sévère comme tout bon ange. Mais l’un est brutal, et l’autre un séraphin protecteur. Il vaudrait mieux tomber dans la catégorie de matière inanimée, comme une pierre ou un morceau de bois sec, que d’être occupé comme un reptile de picotement ou un animal sauvage qui dévore. Ici, donc, réside la différence dans le travail que nous faisons. Nous sommes transformés d’être simplement hommes d’action ravissant du dernier séisme qui a causé tant de destruction dans une grande partie de cette nation fragile.

Au nom de l’Union Atlantique et mon collègue, Pierre Omeler, vice-président des Ministères Haitiens et Africains et directeur des Services Communautaires Adventistes, je tiens à remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué à ce projet humanitaire à travers leurs offrandes et leurs dons. Je vous encourage: “Ne vous-lassez pas de faire le bien.”

Pour ceux qui travaillent fidèlement à l’initiative évangélique de New York 2013 (NY13), qui ont fidèlement contribué à cette aventure d’époque pour la conquête des âmes, qui ont aidé à répandre la Bonne Nouvelle de Jésus-Christ à New York par l’achat et la distribution du livre de la fin des temps Le Grand Espoir, je dis: “Ne vous-lassez pas de faire le bien.”

À cause de votre service sincère dans ces domaines et bien d’autres façons, un jour, très bientôt, votre bien-faire rencontrera un divin bienfait!

Donald G. King est président de la Conférence de l’Union Atlantique et président du Conseil Administratif de l’Atlantic Union College.

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

English translation on page 3 of this issue.
¿Qué Está Pasando?
En la Iglesia Mundial

No os Canséis de Hacer Bien

Cuando las cosas son hechas con un sentido de deber, dependiendo de Dios, con fe en su Palabra y con amor y buena voluntad a todos, los actos comunes se convierten en santos ante el Señor. Pero la Escritura nos advierte que podemos cansarnos de hacer el bien. El apóstol Pablo nos ruega en 2 Tesalonicenses 3 que tengamos cuidado de hombres perversos (versículo 2), desordenados, no trabajadores en nada, sino entremetiéndose en lo ajeno (versículo 11).

“Y vosotros, hermanos, no os canséis de hacer bien”—2 Tesalonicenses 3:13 (RV1960). No pierdas lo que has creado para el honor de Dios. Cada esfuerzo puesto hacia adelante para la causa gloriosa de Cristo, ya sea en la comunidad, en la iglesia local o en cualquier nivel organizacional de la iglesia, si es hecho con fe en Dios, con motivos puros y un espíritu paciente, será bendecido y coronado con éxito. Recuerda que la mirada de Dios está puesta en ti, su mano está contigo, él te sonríe y su dominio está sobre ti.

Estar ocupado en actividades no es suficiente. Satanás está tan fervientemente activo como cualquier buen ángel. Cuando nuestros motivos y esfuerzos son puros y están anclados en Cristo, entonces llegamos a ser buenos hacedores en vez de solo hacedores.

En esta publicación del Gleaner, encontrarán un reporte de los esfuerzos continuos de algunos miembros de nuestra Unión del Atlántico en favor del trabajo en Haití. Les pedimos que mantengan en sus oraciones estos hacedores por las personas de Haití quienes todavía están bajo el azote recibido por el terremoto que destruyó la mayoría de esta nación tan frágil. De parte de la Unión del Atlántico y mi colega, Pierre Omeler, vicepresidente del ministerio haitiano y africano y director de servicios comunitarios, quisiera agradecerles a todos los que han contribuido y siguen contribuyendo a este proyecto humanitario mediante sus fieles ofrendas y donaciones. Les animo a que “no os canséis de hacer el bien.”

A aquellos que están trabajando fielmente en la iniciativa evangelística Nueva York 2013 (NY13), que fielmente han donado a esta empresa ganadora de almas, que están ayudando a llevar el mensaje de las buenas nuevas de salvación en Cristo Jesús mediante la compra y distribución del libro La Ultima Esperanza, les digo, “no os canséis de hacer el bien.”

Debido a su sincero servicio en esta y muchas otras maneras, algún día muy pronto, su hacer el bien se reunirá con el divino hacedor.

Donald G. King es el presidente de la Unión del Atlántico y director de la Junta Directiva del Colegio de la Unión del Atlántico.

Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 3 of this issue

“Estar ocupado en actividades no es suficiente. Satanás está tan fervientemente activo como cualquier buen ángel.”
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Sunset Table
December 2012

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
Grand Concourse celebrates Its 40th anniversary on Nov. 16-18. The Grand Concourse church gives praise and thanksgiving to God for 40 years of existence at 1275 Grand Concourse, Bronx NY. The program includes the dedication of the newly-renovated sanctuary and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the independence of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. The celebration includes a consecration service on Friday night, a rededication program on Sabbath, a cultural play Saturday night, and a grand gala banquet on Sunday evening. Guest speakers include Sir Patrick Allen, governor general of Jamaica, Donald King president of the Atlantic Union; Inskip Alsop, pastor in the Chesapeake NOrTHEErN  CONfErENCE  conference, and Everett Brown, president of Jamaica Union. For additional information, contact the church’s office, (718) 681-2232 or (718) 617-6202.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
Learn How to Minister Behind Bars. A 2-day seminar at the Worcester church, 2 Airport Dr., Worcester, MA, on Dec. 8, 2:00-5:00 p.m. and Dec 9, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., led by prison chaplain, Daniel McManus, Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates growth and development vice president, Lunch will be provided. The free seminar is designed for persons who want to get involved in evangelism behind bars, experienced volunteers who want to sharpen their skills, and those that are thinking about getting involved. For more information, call Lydia Simoneau at (508) 869-3180.

OBITUARIES

CARRUTHERS, Roderick James (M.D.)—100; b. Dec. 3, 1911, in Onondaga, N.Y.; d. Feb. 20, 2012, in Stoneham, Mass. He graduated from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., and earned his medical degree at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, Calif. He served as captain field physician for four and a half years in the Army during WWII. He opened a medical practice in McGraw, N.Y., before joining the staff at the New England San and Hospital (Boston Regional Medical Center) in Stoneham, Mass. He opened his practice in family medicine in 1950 and cared for patients until he retired at the age of 76. He served as church elder and on the boards of Greater Boston Academy and the Stoneham church for more than three decades. In 1965, he was the recipient of “This is Your Life” at the Stoneham Town Hall. In 1985, the Town of Stoneham honored him with the Outstanding Service Award. He is survived by two sons, Robert Carruthers (Rosanne) of Stoneham, Mass., and Douglas Carruthers (Sharon) of Shawnee, Kan.; a daughter, Jean Mabley (Lonnie) of Madisonville, Tenn., six grandchildren, Jill and Neil Carruthers, Patricia Wooten, Dawn Horning, and Michael and Jonathan Carruthers, eight great-grandchildren, Dean, Luke, Kate, Noah, Seth, Ethan, Keaton and Kaitlyn; and a niece, Kay Christensen Meager of Camarillo, Calif.

CHENEY, Reginal L.—83; b. Oct. 20, 1928, in Dover Foxcroft, Maine; d. Apr. 13, 2012. He attended Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass. He pastored in districts in Portland, Maine (1955), Rutland, Vermont, (1956), and Bangor, Maine, and in the Maritime Conference in Canada, then in Pennsylvania. He returned to Northern New England and served in the Norridgewock, Maine, area where a new ten-grade school was built, as well as a new church in Waterville. He also served the four churches of the Keene-Brattleboro district where he started a radio station called The Wonderful Life. The May 10, 1983, issue of the GLEANER featured Cheney and the radio ministry in a cover story titled, “A Receiver of God’s Grace Witnesses to its Power.” In total, he had 10 districts with about 30 churches. He retired in 1993. In 2004, he published a poetry book, WALKING WITH JESUS. He is survived by his wife, Thelma Longyear Cheney of Rutland, VT., daughter, Carol Cork of Houston, TX.; son, Gerald Cheney of Santa Fe, N.M.; sister, Regina of Gilford, N.H.; and two grandchildren, Andrew and Aimee Joy Cork.

FOOTE, Joseph Harrison Benjamin (M.D.)—79; b. Jul. 20, 1932; d. Dec 19, 2011. He graduated from Atlantic Union College (1953) in South Lancaster, Mass., and he earned his medical degree at Loma Linda University (1958) Loma Linda, Calif. From 1959 he practiced medicine in Indian Lake, N.Y., for six years. In 1965, he moved his practice to Fort Ann, N.Y., where he practiced 37 years. He also served as a physician for the New York State Department of Corrections for 28 years. He retired in Aug. 2003 at the age of 71. He is survived by Deloris (Zachary) of Fort Ann, N.Y., his wife of 46 years; 10 children, William D. Foote (Janice) of Castle Valley, Utah, David Foote (Debra) of Fort Ann, N.Y., Ronald Foote (Diane) of Warrensburg, N.Y., Kevin Foote (Lynnette) of Mountaintop, Pa., Jeffrey Foote (Laura) of Longwood, Fl., William E. Foote (Corey) of Norman, Okla., John Foote (Bonnie) of Fort Ann, N.Y., Robert Foote (Nancy) of Gansevoort, N.Y., Joseph Foote II (Jennifer) of Cheney, Wash., and Jodi Boyd (Michael) of Collegegedale, Tenn.; 23 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and brother, Edward Foote of Canton, N.Y.

FORD, Jennifer L.—55; b. Nov. 10, 1956, in New Castle, Ind.; d. Mar. 5, 2012, in Bennington, Vt. She is a graduate of Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn., and Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University in Collegegedale, Tenn.). Survivors include, her husband, Dale Ford; two daughters, Jessica Ford and Heather Ford, both of Hoosick Falls, N.Y.; her parents, John and Martha (Shaw) Criss of Vestal, N.Y.

PACK, Martha ‘Marty’ May (Coleman)—76; b. Mar. 2, 1935, in the Elmir/Horseheads, N.Y., d. Feb. 12, 2002, in Dayton, Md. She was a long time member of the Elmir church in Elmir, N.Y. She is survived by John Pack, her husband of 37 years; seven children: Barbara, John Jr., Joseph, Jerry, Jim, Marty, Ann and their spouses; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; five brothers; one sister; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

SKINNER, Jeannie Arapage—64; b. Apr. 8, 1947, in Manchester, N.H.; d. Feb 22, 2012, in Dallas, Ga. She is a graduate of Atlantic Union College. She was an accomplished educator well known for both her creative and musical talents. Her teaching career included Twin Tiers Adventist Junior Academy, Cedar Brook School, Sandia View Academy, Greater Houston Adventist Academy, Enterprise Academy, and Atlanta Adventist Academy. She is survived by Ron Skinner, her husband of 45 years; two sons and daughters-in-law; four grandchildren; a sister.

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