It’s Time to Make a NewStart
God has a plan for healthier living
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Don’t Dip Them and **Neglect Them**

During 2013 and beyond there will be an unusual increase of new members into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is as result of the NY13 evangelistic initiative in the New York Metropolitan area. We rejoice for the approximately 2,000 souls already baptized since the beginning of the year and the many more who will join soon. The campaigns continue and souls are being born for the heavenly kingdom.

As these new believers join the Advent Movement, we must nurture them and care for them. To put it another way, don’t dip them and then neglect them. Instead, having taught them, we immerse them and then continue to instruct them. The pen of inspiration declares: “When men and women accept the truth, we are not to go away and leave them and have no further burden for them. They are to be looked after”—Evangelism, p. 345.

Our love for Jesus and passion for the lost will lead us to have a deep concern for the spiritual growth of the newly baptized. As these precious individuals (whether new to Christianity or not) develop their own personal devotional life through Bible study and prayer, and become actively involved in the life of the local church and in witnessing, they will grow spiritually. In fact, one of the best ways of helping new believers grow in Christ is to teach them how to share their faith by writing out and sharing their own personal testimony.

We’re told in the book Evangelism by Ellen G. White: “these newly converted ones need nursing, watchful attention, help and encouragement. These should not be left alone, a prey to Satan’s most powerful temptation; they need to be educated in regard to their duties, to be kindly dealt with to be led along, and to be visited and prayed with...”—Evangelism, p. 351 and Gospel Workers, p. 322.

As we develop and design an effective follow-up nurturing plan, it is important that the local church understand that this work is largely the responsibility of each individual member. It is not just the work of the visiting evangelist and the pastor.

Think of it this way. The evangelist and the pastor are like “obstetricians.” They help to “deliver” the newborn babies. The church members are like “pediatricians,” whereas the local church serves as the “nursery,” where the new babes receive watchful attention and tender loving care!

As part of the NY13 initiative, the Atlantic Union Conference Women’s Ministries Department, in coordination with the General Conference, North American Division, Columbia Union Conference, and the five conferences involved in NY13, have chosen to contribute to the nurturing “nursing” process by offering training seminars that teach how to follow up with the newly baptized.

Nurturing and discipling new believers is a rewarding first step to launching them on their lifelong process of becoming spiritually mature.

So what does God want you to do with this information that you’ve just read? Do you know how you would like to use this in your sphere of influence and interest? If you do, my prayer is that God will enable you to fulfill your plan of action.

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Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees.
One day I glanced at an advertisement that came in the mail and saw on the back of it a notice for a missing child. One picture showed the child as an infant, and the other was an age progression as she would look at approximately age 5. The pretty little girl had beautiful bronze skin, bright, dazzling eyes, and two cute short braids. That’s amazing! I thought, wondering how they could so accurately depict her, based only on a photograph taken years earlier. Then a scary thought hit me. What if someone were to do an age progression on me? How would I look, say, 10 years from now? 

After giving it some thought, I was a bit relieved. I remembered that while I can’t control the fact that I am getting older—as we all are—I do have some control over how quickly I age. I was also relieved that, after taking the Real Age Test (on Oprah’s Web site), my real age is considerably lower than my chronological age. (OK. In case you’re wondering about my age, we’ll just keep that a secret!) 

So what’s all this business about real age versus chronological age? And what does religion and the Bible have to do with it? Actually, God’s plan for healthy living is found right in His Word. His original plan was for us to live forever with no sickness, old age, or death—not even to get the tiniest scratch or feel pain. One day that plan will be restored, but for now, by following a few simple principles, we can enjoy a longer and healthier life on this earth.

In a brochure entitled “Five Diets of the Bible,” author Henry C. Martin shows, from a biblical perspective, how humanity’s lifespan has shortened over time, as a direct result of diet. The book of Genesis tells us that God’s original diet for humanity was fruit, nuts, and grains (Genesis 1:29; 3:2). After sin, God permitted people to eat green plants (Genesis 3:17-19), which were originally reserved for the animals. Interestingly, people lived much longer when they ate only fruit, nuts, grains, and vegetables. Look at Adam; he lived to the ripe old age of 930 years (Genesis 5:5), and Methuselah outlived them all—969 years (Genesis 5:27).

But what’s really revealing is what happened after the Flood, when meat was introduced into the diet. The life expectancy dropped dramatically. Read through Genesis 11 and you’ll find the genealogies of several people including Salah, Serug, Nahor, and Terah—quite a contrast to Methuselah’s 969 years.

Do you get the connection? Lifestyle and longevity are closely related.

We not only have biblical evidence for this, but scientific research confirms it as well. In 1990 two researchers conducted a study on the leading causes of death in Americans and published their findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association. They discovered that the nine leading causes of death in the United States are related to our lifestyle choices: what we put into our bodies and what we do with our bodies (Proof Positive, by Neil Nedley, M.D., p. 2).

The good news is: God has a plan for healthier living and it’s based on the principles you’ll find below. These principles are best described in an acronym coined by Weimar Institute of Health and Education, a California-based lifestyle education program. It’s called NEWSTART®, or what I like to refer to as God’s eight natural doctors, They are:

**NUTRITION**

Here are some quick pointers for improving your diet. First, try cutting back on fat and cholesterol. Avoid, like the plague, hydrogenated oil. Next, decrease your meat consumption. If you’re not ready to go totally vegetarian, the ideal start with meatless days weekly. Also, reduce your salt and sugar intake. If you’re thinking, So what can I eat? here’s the answer: eat lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and whole grains in as close to their natural state as possible. I could share more, but you can “chew on” this for starters.

**EXERCISE**

Most of us tend to rust out rather than wear out. Our bodies were
designed for movement. Exercise has a beneficial effect on the heart, joints, bones, muscles, blood sugar, immune system, and much more. The easiest approach is to simply walk, but most important, do something you enjoy (check with your doctor first, if you have a medical condition).

**WATER**
Did you know that your body is about 70 percent water? We’ve all heard that we need at least eight glasses of water per day. But what you might not know is that water is like medicine for the heart. A study at the Loma Linda School of Public Health found that men who drank the most water had a 50 percent lower risk of fatal heart attack than those who drank the least. So drink up!

**SUNLIGHT**
Sunlight has gotten a bad “rap” lately. But the truth is, most of us aren’t getting enough. Here are just a few things sunlight can do for you: increase your circulation, lower your blood pressure, enhance your immune system, lower your cholesterol and triglycerides, increase your metabolism, and help you beat depression. Pretty good medicine, isn’t it?

**TEMPERANCE**
This is a word we don’t hear much anymore. It’s just another way of saying that we should use the good things in moderation and avoid all the bad stuff, such as drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

**AIR**
OK, now just relax. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly. How did you feel? Better, right? That’s because deep breathing and a healthy dose of fresh air help soothe the nerves and give us more oxygen to vitalize our tissues. Remember to practice good posture, take deep breaths regularly, and spend some time outdoors in the fresh air every day.

**REST**
Recently I wrote an article entitled “The Rest of the Story,” which was the cover story in the March/April 2007 issue of VIBRANT LIFE magazine. As I was writing, I discovered some astonishing facts. First, most of us are sleep deprived. But what’s really alarming are the effects of sleep deprivation. Researchers have found that heart disease, elevated blood pressure, and increased blood sugar—even weight problems—can all be associated with lack of sleep.

**TRUST IN GOD**
Last, the most important factor in maintaining good health is to put your trust in God to give you lasting peace, restful sleep, and His soothing balm for every sickness, pain, or discomfort. He will give you the strength to follow His plan for healthy living because He wants you to prosper and be in health (see 3 John 2).

Does leading a healthy lifestyle sound hard? On your own, it definitely is. But with God’s help, you can do it. Here’s a little exercise: Put your name in the following text: “_____________ can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). And remember, whatever you do, and whatever you eat or drink, do it all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). 

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**Pat Humphrey,**
communication, health, and ASI director for the Southwestern Union and editor of the Southwestern Union RECORD, is an avid health enthusiast whose passion is to help others achieve a healthier lifestyle. This article originally appeared in the July/August 2008 issue of MESSAGE magazine. Used with permission.
Seven Baptized at Flatbush School

One Sabbath each year the staff, students, and parents of the Flatbush Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Brooklyn, New York, get together at the school for a Sabbath celebration. Sabbath services are conducted on the school premises for the students, parents, and community. In an effort to fully engage in the NY13 evangelistic thrust, the staff decided to host a two-week evangelistic effort June 2 to June 15. The two-week evangelistic series was an outgrowth of the annual Flatbush Family Sabbath Day celebration.

The speaker for the meetings was Raymond Alcock, pastor of the River of Life church. Two other pastors, Andrew Philbert, pastor of the Elmont Temple church, and Charles McNeil, pastor of the Coney Island church, willingly accepted the challenge and worked as Bible workers throughout the series. McNeil also blessed the congregation with a health feature every night.

Children of Faith and Company assisted by leading the praise team throughout the duration of the meetings. The students provided the special music each night and served as ushers.

The Flatbush school has consistently reached out to the community for the last three years. Every Wednesday students distributed literature in the community. In recent months the community was faced with a natural disaster, Hurricane Sandy, and several unfortunate shootings. The school wanted to reach the community with a message of peace in the midst of the storm, and hence the series, “Peace in the Midst of the Storm,” was born.

The Northeastern Conference Education Department, under the direction of Viola Chapman, superintendent of schools, approved the effort. Northeastern Conference contributed $4,000.00 and supplied a tent and chairs for the effort, and staff members sacrificially donated additional funds to support the meetings. When the series ended, seven people were baptized and five signed up for Bible study, which is expected to lead to baptism.

Marcia M. Daniel is the principal of the Flatbush Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School.
New teachers to Atlantic Union Conference schools participated in an orientation at the union office August 5 and 6. The inservice focused on available resources from the North American Division (NAD) and Atlantic Union Conference that will assist them in their lesson planning and instruction. Personnel in the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education partnered with conference superintendents David Cadavero (Greater New York Conference), Patricia Giese (Southern New England Conference), and Trudy Wright (Northern New England Conference) to present worship and such topics as how teachers should relate to the entities and personnel involved in the operation of their school, how teachers should protect themselves and students against blood borne pathogens, how to incorporate NAD standards, and the goals of Adventist education in their lesson plans.

Teachers were coached in the use of the REACH manual that identifies learning challenges and provides strategies to assist students. In addition, two master teachers were invited to share. Theresa Robidoux reviewed the elements of Pathways, the Language Arts/Reading program used at the elementary level. Jeffrey Lambert modeled Differentiated Instruction.

On the inservice evaluations, teachers expressed their gratitude for the information and resources made available. They also acknowledged that they felt more confident and prepared to enter their classrooms this fall.

Astrid Thomassian, education director, Atlantic Union Conference

Hope Channel Affirms its Relationship With AUAM

Brad Thorp, president of Hope Channel, affirmed his commitment to working with AUAM (Atlantic Union Adventist Media) on television projects. AUAM and Hope Channel collaborated on the taping of the Revelation of Hope evangelistic meetings with Ted Wilson, Seventh-day Adventist World Church president, in Manhattan this past June.

Thorp and Rohann Wellington, managing director of AUAM, also collaborated on the live broadcast of the Joint Camp Meeting on June 29 at the Nassau Coliseum. AUAM is an official production affiliate of the Hope Channel and 3ABN.

Wellington announced on 3ABN’s Night Light Live that the redesigned AUAM Web site has been launched. To learn more about AUAM, check out the Web site at www.auam.tv.

—Editor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor
The Bermuda Conference’s memorable Breath of Life Summer Revival Campaign began on July 14 and continued through July 27. As the opening night commenced with Breath of Life speaker Carlton P. Byrd, excitement and energy burst on the Bermudian community.

On Sabbath, July 27, the last day of the campaign, 51 people were baptized, accepting Christ as their Savior, some for the first time and others in an act of recommitment.

The embodiment of the conference’s mission statement, “To reach every person, family, and group in Bermuda with the distinctive Christ-centered, global, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness” was evident as hundreds of people streamed in to the Bermuda Institute auditorium to worship, praise, hear the Word of God and learn of His plan for their lives. One of the opening night attractions was world-renowned singer Larnelle Harris, who drew many people from diverse walks of life.

Leading up to the meetings, the conference administration strategically planned many events. Evangelism coordinator Kenneth Manders inspired fellow pastors and members to commit to serve Christ. Six Bible workers arrived from the United States to begin the work of giving Bible studies. The local Bible workers joined them as they knocked on doors. Rallies were held in the central, west, and eastern districts, with overseas pastors all presenting the same message—time is winding up and members must share the message of Christ’s soon return.

Tract attacks (literature distribution) led to Bible studies before the actual meetings were conducted. Fifty days of prayer, planned by prayer ministries director Michelle Hill, they needed to be committed to giving support in reaching all of Bermuda. Returning just before the start of the campaign, he proclaimed that it was “power time”—time to get together to pray for power, to implore the Holy Spirit, and prepare for the great harvest. Members were asked to sign commitment cards for at least one area of emphasis.

• Pray daily
• Participate in the tract attacks
• Invite family friends and others to attend
• Attend the meetings nightly

As the meetings were held nightly, the Holy Spirit convicted visitors as they eagerly listened to God’s Word. Members were also impacted as they heard God’s message preached with vitality and conviction. The baptism of 51 people on the last Sabbath of the meetings is not the end. At least 20 more people have made plans to be baptized.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference
Spotlight on Medical Missionary Training at Yonkers Church

On June 12 the Yonkers church celebrated the graduation of 18 people who attended a medical missionary training program at the church. The medical missionary training began in March and ended in May, with members from the Co-op City, Eastside, Hartsdale, Morris Park, Yonkers, First White Plains, and Pearl River churches participating.

The seminar trainers were Dale Baker and Debbedo Brown. The topics covered included the health laws, healthy cooking, and fasting and prayer. This journey began back in 2012 when Rose Bascon, Yonkers church Health Ministries director, first introduced a health seminar and cooking class facilitated by Baker.

Several members signed up for the cooking class and members became excited and interested in learning more about healthy cooking and healthful lifestyle principles. This was the catalyst for the medical missionary training.

By popular demand, Bascon invited members to sign up for the medical missionary training and the rest, they say, is history. The training program was a success. Participants continue to share testimonies of what God has done for them through the training and the changes they have made in their lives.

The graduates include Hope Howson, Co-op City church; Veronique Ntamach, Eastside church; Shaunika Britton, Patrick Brown, and Paul Pitterson-Punch, First White Plains church; Barry Nembhard, Hartsdale church; Leonor Espenorio, Morris Park church; Colette Sandiford, Pearl River church; Viris Adejimi, Cornelio Ando, Lourdes Panes-Ando, Katherine Blount, Angelina Carter, Delbert Carter, Alexis Johnson, Elvira Registe-King, Chidinma Matthew, Nnanna Matthew, and Myrna Suarez, Yonkers church. The next step is that members who participated in the medical missionary training program plan to partner with sister churches to hold health seminars and conduct training, sharing what they have learned.

—Communication staff, Yonkers church

98 Students Receive Bible Worker Certificates

After seven months of intense study, reading, and research, 98 lay people received Bible worker certificates. Ricardo Norton, associate professor of church growth and director of the Institute of Hispanic Ministry at Andrews University, presided over the graduation ceremony on July 13 during the Hispanic Camp Meeting at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York. The graduates, dressed in their caps and gowns, received their certificates amidst the applause and cheers of the crowd that witnessed the event.

With the support of Andrews University, Norton, and several other highly qualified teachers, the Adventist School of Evangelism was established in New York City as part of the NY13 Revelation of Hope initiative. The project began with 150 students, and the most enthusiastic and steadfast students reached the goal.

Each one of the graduates made commitments to preach for small groups and in churches during lay emphasis month in September. This program sets the scene for the final part of the NY13 initiative when a campaign will be broadcast via satellite October 19-26 with Omar Grieve, speaker/director of La Voz de la Esperanza.

There were many who supported the program, including the teachers, pastors, the Mott Haven church and its pastor, Samuel Peguero, the Greater New York Conference administrators, and Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference Personal Ministries director. The conference provided financial and organizational support and timely advice. God, through the Holy Spirit, guided throughout the process.

—Dilcia Gonzalez, assistant, Greater New York conference Hispanic Ministries Department
**Union Springs Academy Greenhouse Officially Opens**

New York Conference camp meeting participants, as well as members of the community, gathered on June 28 for a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Union Springs Academy (USA) greenhouse, La Casa Verde.

This event was the culmination of years of envisioning just such an accomplishment that will allow the academy to provide nutritious food to the students while offering work opportunities that will help some with tuition expenses. In addition, the greenhouse is selling produce to the community that helps to generate additional income while increasing the school’s outreach.

The greenhouse was originally the brainchild of John Baker, former USA principal. Lack of funding prevented the fulfillment of the dream until the current principal, Wayne Edwards, connected with Rachna Vas, CEO of Quench and Nourish, Inc., a non-profit organization that seeks to mitigate hunger and lack of access to clean water through innovative techniques in the production of food, clean water, and biofuel, as well as by empowering communities to be self-sufficient.

Vas is particularly interested in engaging youth in growing their own food, so Union Springs Academy provided a good match. She secured a grant through the Allyn Foundation, and this enabled the work on the greenhouse to move forward. Once funding was secured, the other critical need was to find a skilled manager to take charge of the greenhouse program that will grow produce year-round, using both hydroponic and traditional methods. Joya Garlock filled this need and has been tirelessly volunteering to ensure the success of the project. She has expanded the agriculture program to include raising chickens for the production of healthy eggs and reclaiming the long-neglected orchard that previously served the school. Much gratitude is owed to Garlock, as well as the many others who have made this dream a reality.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

**Fourteen Baptized at Camp Meeting**

Members and guests at the New York Conference 2013 Camp Meeting witnessed the baptism of 14 people during a spiritually high service on Sabbath, June 29. The individuals who committed their lives to Christ spanned a wide range of ages and backgrounds, all being united to the body of Christ.

Among them were Elizabeth Livergood, baptized by her father, John Livergood, pastor of the Plattsburgh church. Becky Welsh was received into the Oneonta church after being baptized by Gary Wagner, the church’s pastor. Lori Habalou was received into the Master’s Vineyard church in Niagara Falls after being baptized by Roger Curtis, the church’s pastor. Leroy Sewell, pastor of the Rochester Bay Knoll church, baptized Pascal and Tamara Dorval. James Wiggins, was welcomed into the Cornerstone church in Horseheads, New York, and Vanessa Clark into the Ithaca church, after being baptized by Dustin Hall, pastor of both churches.

LeAnne Weber was baptized by her uncle, Jeremy
Garlock, an elder in the Union Springs church, while Julie Moore was received into fellowship there, as well, subject to her baptism by Tim Bailey, the church’s pastor. William Cole who will attend the Wellsville church, was baptized by Bill McNeil, the church’s pastor. Utica Hispanic church pastor Jorge Baez baptized Minerva Ortiz, Manuel Arcadio Falcon, and Joyce Ramos.

Weekend guest speaker Jose Rojas graciously consented to go into the baptismal tank in his church suit to baptize Will Remigio. Remigio was moving to Illinois the next day, but has been attending both the Canton and Westvale churches.

The members praise God for the work of His Spirit on the hearts and minds of these individuals and pray that they will be empowered for faithful service until His return.

Karen Church Plant Suffers Setback, Keeps Looking Up

Recent arrivals of the Karen tribe of Myanmar (formerly Burma) have proven that they love the Lord, and that they are a resourceful and hard-working people. Even major setbacks haven’t been able to prevent them from worshiping together and keeping their faith strong.

Specifically, in late May, an old city sewer line that ran far beneath an annex of their church building in Utica, New York, succumbed to its age and crumbled. A sinkhole opened to the surface, and began to swallow parts of the church building. The city took responsibility for the damage. It was decided that in order to repair the sewer line, a portion of the church building would have to be torn down.

The part of the building that had to come down was the most recently built portion. It had been constructed decades ago by a previous owner, and included the classrooms, restrooms, a youth chapel, storage, and access stairways to the sanctuary and basement of the church.

As repairs to the deep sewer line began, it was determined that the walls of what had formerly been a basketball court might be in danger of falling onto the construction workers. That part of the building had to come down, too.

The repairs were completed and the sanctuary was re-inspected by the city engineer who reported that the sanctuary is now unsafe. Some factors in this determination pre-date the sewer mishap. No decision has been finalized as to whether the city will undertake the demolition, or whether it will be the responsibility of the congregation. If the congregation must do it, the cost may be more than the compensation from the city for the portions they demolished.

Insurance is not a factor because the damage was caused by water, and so, is not covered. This all means that the dedicated congregation is now meeting in a rented gymnasium, and praying about how the Lord will lead them to afford another home where their church plant of 70 members, plus children and young people, can worship.

None of this has dampened the group’s spiritual activity. Since the trial began, they have participated in the New York Conference camp meeting, have hosted a youth group from North Carolina, and have sent their own youth choir to a national Adventist Karen youth gathering in Florida.

God has a plan for the Utica Karen church plant. Even this setback was foreseen by Him. He will reveal each step of His plan to renew the Karen church, and open the windows of heaven to shower them with the funds needed to rebuild.

—Gary Wagner, pastor, Utica Karen church plant

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In an effort to reach many people for Christ during the NY13 evangelistic meetings, the Northeastern Conference sponsored about 100 students from Oakwood University, Andrews University, Washington Adventist University, and other colleges and universities to do literature ministry in Metro New York City. Career literature evangelists are also working day and night to win people for Christ. These professional evangelistic canvassers work with their local churches and also make a decent living through the publishing ministry.

As a result of the canvassing work, in partnership with local Adventist churches, many people have been led to Christ, and every day more people enroll in Bible studies. The students have distributed more than 50,000 copies of the Great Hope, Steps to Christ, children's books, health books, and other Bible study materials.

As of July 6, 449,800 homes have been visited and 4,900 individuals have requested Bible studies. Students are working together with local churches, preaching in local churches, sharing testimonies, participating in AYS programs, and also helping to nurture the newly-baptized.

Many people are praying that the Lord will use these students to reach more people for Christ during this Holy Spirit-inspired NY13. According to Ellen G. White, “When school closes, there will be opportunity for many to go out into the field as evangelistic canvassers. The faithful colporteur finds his way into many homes, where he leaves precious reading matter containing the truth for this time”—Colporteur Ministry, p. 31.

For more information or to join the students for 2014 or be trained to become a professional literature evangelist, contact William Koomson, Northeastern Conference Publishing Ministries/FHES director, (216) 659-9564 or e-mail: wkk109@yahoo.com.

—William Koomson, Publishing Ministries/FHES director, Northeastern Conference

Sharon Church Hosts Annual Family Ministries Retreat

The Sharon church in Bronx, New York, hosted their annual Family Ministries Church Retreat at Eddy’s Farm and Convention Center in Sparrow Bush, New York. Seventy-one people attended the event, including four from the Cayman Islands.

Members were able to disconnect from their usual routine in order to reconnect with God. The Sharon church in Bronx, New York, hosted their annual Family Ministries Church Retreat at Eddy’s Farm and Convention Center in Sparrow Bush, New York. Seventy-one people attended the event, including four from the Cayman Islands.

Members were able to disconnect from their usual routine in order to reconnect with God. The group focused on “The Family that Prays Together Stays Together.” Presenters included Shian O’Connor, president and speaker and founder of He Leadeth Me Ministries. Anthony and Laurene Usher hosted the program, and Joan Hay-Haughton, Family Ministries director, coordinated the event.

Members were able to disconnect from their usual routine in order to reconnect with God. The weekend activities began on Friday evening with the keynote address “Differences — Foundations for Good Relationships” by O’Connor, who reminded the group it is the differences that attract them to each other. The Sabbath-morning session, “Lover of My Soul,” was presented by Frampton, who reminded the group that the greatest lover and husband is the one who can supply all their needs and who never fails in doing so. Some of the other sessions included “Sex and the..."
The Bethesda church in Amityville, New York, celebrated Religious Liberty Emphasis Day on May 4. The focus of the day was on religious discrimination in the workplace and how it can and will affect workers, especially Adventist Christians, in spite of many years spent on the job.

The speaker, Lincoln Steed, associate director for the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) at the North American Division and editor of Liberty magazine, encouraged the members to stand firm in their faith and their God-given rights to worship the Creator. He also shared that the time has come in which Adventists are facing persecution and imprisonment for their faith. Charles Eusey, Esq., PARL director for the Atlantic Union Conference, was also present for the event.

Marilyn Nelson, Bethesda church PARL director, spoke about several Christians in the United States and the United Kingdom who suffered religious discrimination. She shared about a student evangelist who was canvassing door to door in his Louisiana community, pulled over by the police, briefly questioned, then arrested and taken to jail for violating city ordinances. The PARL legal team was contacted and represented him free of cost. The police mentioned that violating city ordinances was unconstitutional. After several months in court the charges were dropped.

She also mentioned a 31-year-old nursing student in Michigan who placed a notice in her local church bulletin looking for a Christian roommate. Someone filed an anonymous complaint citing the Fair Housing Act, stating that she discriminated against people of other religions. She was represented by a Christian legal team that indicated that the Fair Housing Act cannot intrude on the private choice of an individual, within her own living space. After many months in court the case was dropped but not after suffering anguish, not to mention the cost.

She spoke about a street preacher in London, England, who was arrested in his home town after he mentioned that homosexuality was one of the sins listed in the Bible. His comments were not made in his sermon, but in response to a question asked by a passerby. He was arrested for a racially aggravated offense and charged with using threatening, abusing, and insulting words to cause harassment and distress. The charges was later dropped, but the arrest sparked fear concerning freedom of speech among Christians.

These types of discrimination are happening in the United States and around the world. However, children of God should not get weary, but stay faithful, even through adversity. The Lord is coming soon to redeem His people.

—Communication staff, Bethesda church
I admit that I approached our first week-long trip to the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Camp Meeting from a consumer’s point of view. My decision to attend began with general research for summer camps for my two older children. There were sheep-shearing camps, water camps, hiking camps, art camps, acting camps, gardening camps, and swimming camps. As I priced them out and weighed the options, none of them seemed to fit our entire family’s needs. I heard about camp meeting at church, so I checked the NNEC Web site and asked some seasoned camp meeting veterans for their reviews. They provided positive feedback, and after pricing it out, camp meeting was by far the best value.

The pros list got longer for camp meeting and how it fit our family’s needs. Here’s how the list went:

- Spiritual benefit for all three children and myself
- Daily music and singing
- Arts and crafts
- Outdoor activities and local hiking
- Close to the beach
- Playground
- Outdoor camping experience in a large tent that came pre-installed with cots and mattresses and was within sprinting distance of a toilet and shower.
- Located in the famous vacation town of Freeport
- Safe environment for the children
- Families like mine with similar values
- Dining hall with daily meals (So I didn’t have to cook!)
- Reasonable price. Our budget for the entire week for a family of five to stay seven nights in Freeport with three meals a day totaled $500.00.

And so we pushed the “Buy” button and went. When we arrived, we easily found our tent with my name on a tag, unpacked within minutes, and I found the dining hall and purchased our meal vouchers for the week. As I navigated my way around the campus, I was surprised at the level of organization in every department. The setup well exceeded my expectations. Bathrooms were cleaned regularly, food was served with a smile, classes were run by excellent teachers, and signs were well-placed around the camp. Even though this was my first full-week camp meeting experience, the lack of kinks proved that it wasn’t theirs.

Security people in golf carts zoomed around the paths, giving rides or just generally ensuring a successful experience for all. Behind the scenes, the conference leaders were ever present, checking on how everything was running and greeting people. Many times different employees stopped to ask me how my vacation was going and if they could be of any help. I became aware of just how much the leaders at the conference level contributed to camp meeting. They were busy all week ensuring that the programs ran smoothly down to the smallest details.

For me, the two main highlights of the week were: (1) Entering the dining hall three times a day and receiving absolutely delicious meals that I didn’t have to prepare. I’m sure the staff thought I was over-effusive as I thanked them at every mealtime, but I was really thankful not have to do any grocery shopping, meal planning, or cooking for an entire week. It was obvious every meal was prepared with care and the ingredients were fresh, and every meal had a mouth-watering menu. I felt pampered at each meal. (2) Being in an

Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries director Harry Sabnani shares information about the mission trip to India.

Northern New England Conference Pathfinders honor veterans during a program on Sabbath afternoon.
northern new england conference

Conference Presents Teacher of the Year Award

Temple Bragg was presented with the Teacher of the Year award at the Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting on June 22. Bragg has been teaching at Brownell Mountain School in Williston, Vermont, for the past two years. Bragg graduated from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, with certifications in Elementary Education and Junior Academy: English, history, religion, and science. She has won the hearts of her students, their parents, and the constituents of the Brownell Mountain School and supporting churches. Many members were present to share the joy as she, with surprise, received this award.

Bragg's relationship with and love of Jesus shines through in all she does. She has a way of bringing out the best in her pupils.

—Trudy Wright, superintendent of schools, Northern New England Conference

Prayer Retreat Helps Participants Get Closer to Christ

The theme song for the Northern New England Conference Spring Prayer Retreat was “Deeper Yet.” The participants were drawn deeper and closer to the Lord during their time together at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine. They sang, prayed, fellowshipped together, and listened to messages that gave them a spiritual experience with Jesus!

The featured speakers were brothers, John and Frank Fournier. John is currently president of the Maritime Conference in New Brunswick, Canada. Frank is president of Eden Valley Institute in Loveland, Colorado, and he also serves as president of ASI (Adventist Laymen’s Services and Industries).

Participants explored the subject of sanctification in light of the message, “Christ our Righteousness!” They learned that they must take the sanctification journey, but never alone. The journey begins and ends in the loving arms of Jesus. They also learned that “Our sanctification is God’s object in all His dealing with us”—SELECTED MESSAGES, vol. 3, p. 202.

A highlight of the event was the agape Communion service on Sabbath afternoon. Participants were asked to get out of their comfort zones and wash the feet of someone they didn’t know. By doing this, they got to know someone with whom they otherwise might not have talked. An agape meal and testimonies from the participants followed the Communion service.

The availability of children’s programming makes the prayer retreat appropriate for the whole family! The Fall Prayer Retreat is scheduled for October 10-13 at Camp Lawroweld.

—Dwight Sommers, member, and Kelly Veilleux, Prayer Ministries coordinator, Northern New England Conference

at www.atlantic-union.org Atlantic Union GLEANER, September 2013
Seven Baptized at Johnston Church

The Johnston church in Rhode Island recently had seven baptisms resulting from evangelistic meetings and the efforts of the members. Here are some of the stories!

Gisela never felt satisfied with what she was being taught at her church, although she enjoyed the fellowship. She attended some of the evangelistic meetings at the Johnston church during the past few years and even attended church a couple of times. But it wasn’t until the Pathfinder director and his wife, Jonathan and Teresa Gonzalez, stopped at her home and gave a special appeal for her sons to join the Pathfinder club, that she began attending church regularly.

Since the teen Sabbath School class was taught by another member of the Pathfinder staff, Cruzmaria Knight, and since her husband, Bruce Knight, was also a Pathfinder leader, they took Gisela and her two teenage sons through the baptismal manual and took the family into their home for fellowship. Gisela found the truth she was looking for. One of her sons expects to enroll as a freshman at Blue Mountain Academy this year.

The Nolan family attended an evangelistic series a few years ago. Lay evangelist David Baron knocked on their door during the series and offered to study the Bible with them. They said they already were involved in a Bible study group. So David asked, “Can I come?” So they invited him. After a few years of Bible studies, after attending a few more evangelistic series, after connecting with Betty Williamson and other church members, and after outings to pick fruit in various orchards and other social events, the Nolans became more regular in church attendance.

The family, Dan, Marianna, and daughter, Jessica, were trying to adjust to keeping the Sabbath. Finally, the Lord brought them under conviction that it was time to make a full commitment.

During the baptism, four people renewed commitments to be in the next baptism: a cousin of the Nolans, a couple that just completed premarital counseling, and a young man who just started attending church after learning Bible truths by studying with Amazing Facts for some time.

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The combined efforts of public and personal evangelism and the application of God’s method for soul winning—“the Savior mingled with people”—results in true success! (The Ministry of Healing, p. 143)

—Bill Warcholik, pastor, Burrillville, Johnston, and Wickford churches

South Lancaster Academy Alumni Weekend

October 11–13, 2013

Registration begins at South Lancaster Academy (SLA) Friday, October 11, at 3:00 p.m., followed by a Spaghetti Supper, sponsored by the SLA senior class. The Friday night program at 7:30 p.m. will be a musical event by the SLA choir and the New England Youth Orchestra.

The keynote speaker for worship service on Sabbath is Roberta Sprague Fish ’63. Sabbath luncheon tickets are available in advance or at the door. Please contact Jon Nosek, director of development, at (978) 365-5225 or at jnosek@sla-browning.org for tickets or more information.

After lunch at 3:00 p.m., honor classes will have the opportunity to visit and update each other, or, alternatively, a tour of the area will be available with the new SLA bus, including local and historical narrative, and a stop at Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in West Boylston.

After Vespers, the Saturday evening activities include a pizza supper, or a basketball game of students vs. alumni for women, followed by the same for men.

Honor classes are years ending with 3 and 8. We look forward to seeing you there and catching up with all our classmates.
Clothing Center Meets Community Needs

In the small town of Orange, Massachusetts, is a place called Community Clothing Center, operated by Hazel Lackey, a member of the Athol church. This is a place that focuses on finding clothing, shoes, toys, books, and household items for people who need them because financial times are difficult. It also provides a place where people can donate their things and/or give of themselves in service by mending, washing, and sorting clothes, and more.

Lackey has been deeply involved in community service since the 1960s, and finds comfort in the fact that she is serving her Lord and Savior in this way. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recognized the benefit of this community center by giving Lackey an award for her dedicated and faithful service to her town and the surrounding area.

Years ago, in the town where I lived, I overheard two moms talking about finding clothes for their children. One mom was telling the other one that there was a place in Orange called the Community Clothing Center, where they practically give away clothes, charging such a small fee to cover operating expenses. The mom was relieved to know about the place, since times were difficult for her. I remember thinking What a blessing it is to have this in the community.

All of the community service centers in the Southern New England Conference, as well as the food banks and food pantries, are lights to those who need help or need a venue where they can give what they have to the glory of God.

—Anita Murray, member, Athol church"

Tandis que ces nouveaux croyants se joignent au Mouvement Adventiste, nous devons les nourrir et les soigner. Au contraire, après leur avoir enseigné, nous devons les immerger et continuer à les instruire. La plume d’inspiration déclare: “Une fois que des hommes et des femmes ont accepté la vérité, nous ne devons pas nous en aller ailleurs, en les abandonnant à eux-mêmes sans plus nous intéresser à eux. Car ils ont besoin qu’on s’occupe d’eux”—Évangeliser, p. 312.

Notre amour pour Jésus et notre passion pour les perdus nous conduiront à avoir une profonde préoccupation pour la croissance spirituelle des nouveaux baptisés. Ces précieux gens (nouveaux au Christianisme ou non) vont grandir spirituellement tandis qu’ils développent une vie de dévotion personnelle à travers l’étude de la Bible et la prière, et en s’impliquant activement dans la vie de l’Église locale et dans l’évangélisation. En fait, l’une des meilleures façons d’aider les nouveaux croyants à grandir en Christ est de leur apprendre à professer leur foi en écrivant et partageant leur témoignage personnel.

Nous lisons dans le livre Évangeliser par Ellen G. White: “ces nouveaux convertis ont besoin qu’on s’occupe d’eux avec sollicitude, qu’on les aide, qu’on les encourage. Il ne faut pas les abandonner à eux-mêmes, en proie aux tentations les plus puissantes de Satan. On doit les instruire concernant les devoirs qui leur incombent, les traiter avec bonté, les accompagner le long du chemin, leur rendre visite et prier avec eux. .”—Évangeliser, p. 317, 318.

Tandis que nous développons et concevons un plan de suivi efficace, il est important que l’église locale sache que ce travail est en grande partie la responsabilité de chaque membre individuel. Ce n’est pas seulement l’œuvre de l’évangéliste ou celle du pasteur.

Pensez-y de cette façon! L’évangéliste et le pasteur sont comme “des obstétriciens.” Ils aident à “délivrer” les nouveau-nés. Les membres de l’église sont comme “des pédiatres,” alors que l’église locale sert de “pépinière,” où les nouveaux bébés reçoivent une attention vigilante et des soins affectueux!

Dans le cadre de l’initiative NY13, le Département des Ministères des Femmes de la Conférence de l’Union Atlantique, en coordination avec la Conférence Générale, la Division Nord-Américaine, la Conférence de l’Union de Columbia, et les cinq conférences impliquées dans NY13 ont choisi de contribuer au processus de “soins infirmiers” en offrant des séminaires de formation qui enseignent comment assurer le suivi aux nouveaux baptisés.

Entretenir et faire des disciples des nouveaux croyants sont deux premières étapes enrichissantes de leur lancement sur le processus continu de devenir spirituellement mature.

Alors, qu’est-ce que Dieu veut que vous fassiez avec cette information que vous venez de lire? Savez-vous comment vous souhaitez l’utiliser dans votre sphère d’influence et d’intérêt? Si vous le faites, ma prière est que Dieu vous permette d’accomplir votre plan d’action.

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

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

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

No los Bauticemos y Luego los Olvidemos

Durante el 2013 y en adelante habrá un aumento inusual de nuevos miembros a la iglesia adventista del séptimo día. Esto es un resultado de la iniciativa evangelística NY13 en el área metropolitana de Nueva York. Nos regocijamos por las aproximadamente 2000 almas que se han bautizado desde el comienzo de este año y los muchos más que se unirán pronto. Las campañas continúan y nuevas almas están renaciendo para el reino celestial.

Mientras estos nuevos creyentes se unen al movimiento adventista es muy importante que los apoyemos y los cuidemos. Dicho de otra manera, no solo debemos bautizarlos y luego olvidarnos de ellos. Sino que después de haberles sumergido, debemos continuar instruyéndolos.

No es solo el trabajo del evangelista o el pastor. ¡Pensemos de esta manera! El evangelista y el pastor son como los “obstetras.” Ellos ayudan a traer las nuevas criaturas al mundo. Los miembros de iglesia son como los “pediatras,” y la iglesia local es como la “guardería,” en donde los nuevos bebés reciben vigilante atención y tierno cuidado.

Como parte de la iniciativa de NY13, el Departamento de Mujeres de la Unión del Atlántico en coordinación con la Conferencia General, la División Norteamericana, la Unión de Columbia y las cinco Asociaciones envueltas en NY13 han decidido participar del proceso de apoyo ofreciendo seminarios de adiestramiento que enseñarán a los miembros a cómo cuidar de estas personas recién bautizadas.

El apoyar y disciplinar a los nuevos conversos es el primer paso en el lanzamiento del proceso para que ellos puedan madurar espiritualmente.

Ahora, ¿qué quiere Dios que tú hagas con esta información que has leído? ¿Quieres saber cómo tú puedes usar esta información para ser de influencia a aquellos que te rodean? Si tu respuesta es positiva, es mi oración que Dios te habilite para que puedas satisfacer tu plan de acción.

Dicho de otra manera, no solo debemos bautizarlos y luego olvidarnos de ellos. Sino que después de haberles sumergido, debemos continuar instruyéndolos. La pluma inspirada declara lo siguiente: “Cuando los hombres y mujeres aceptan la verdad, no hemos de alejarnos y abandonarlos, para no sentir ninguna preocupación futura por ellos. Han de ser atendidos”—EVANGELISMO, pág. 254 y MANUSCRITO 13, 1888.

Nuestro amor por Jesús y pasión por las almas perdidas debe llevarnos a tener una preocupación profunda por cuidados, atención vigilante, ayuda y estímulo. No se los debe dejar solos, a merced de las más poderosas tentaciones de Satanás; necesitan ser educados con respecto a sus deberes; hay que tratarlos bondadosamente, conducirlos, visitarlos y orar con ellos”—EVANGELISMO, pág. 258.

Mientras desarrollamos y diseñamos un plan efectivo para nutrir a estas nuevas almas, es importante que la iglesia local entienda que este trabajo es mayormente la responsabilidad individual de cada miembro.
“I am thankful to AWR for broadcasting such wonderful programs. These programs give comfort and peace to perishing souls like me. I had decided to commit suicide, but after listening to your programs I have decided to accept Christian faith and take baptism and live for Jesus. I want to serve Jesus by witnessing among my village people.”

- Listener in Asia

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATLANTIC UNION**


**Oregon Milo Alumi Weekend, October 11-12.** Honor classes ’58, ’63, ’68, ’73, ’78, ’83, ’88, ’93, ’98, ’03, ’08, and ’13. All Alumni are encouraged to come back for a warm Milo Academy alumni welcome. Contact MaryKay Fletcher at mkfletcher@charter.net.

For information on placing an obituary in the GLEANER, visit atlantic-union.org/obituaries.

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**OUT-OF-UNION**


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**THE BORDOVILLE**

149th HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY 6941 Chester A. Arthur Road West Enosburg, VT

September 21, 2013

Speaker: Daniel Battin, NNEC Treasurer

Sabbath School starts at 9:50 a.m.

A musical is planned for the afternoon.

Bring a dish and enjoy the fellowship dinner

Please come and enjoy a blessing from the Lord.

**NOTE for travel:**

Do not try to come up the Bordoville Road. It’s very rough and washed out in some places.

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**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Atlantic Union College Corporation

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that a special session of the Atlantic Union College Corporation is called to convene Sunday, September 29, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in Machlan Auditorium, Main Street, South Lancaster, Massachusetts 01561.

The purpose of this meeting is to give an update on Atlantic Union College, share its vision, seek constituency support, consider revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of Atlantic Union College, and any other business which may be properly be brought before the body.

According to the Atlantic Union College Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws IV, Constituency; the members of this corporation shall be composed of:

a. The members of the Board of Trustees of Atlantic Union College.

b. Representatives of the College who shall be regular, full-time employees elected by the college officers and academic and auxiliary department heads not to exceed one-third of the total number of constituents excluding General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists representation.

c. Three (3) local conference educational superintendents, four (4) senior academy principals, either the secretary or treasurer of each local conference of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

d. The members of the executive committee of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

e. The members of the North American Division and or General Conference Committee of Seventh-day Adventists in attendance at any meeting of this corporation. The North American Division and or General Conference delegates shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total number of delegates.

f. Up to eight (8) Atlantic Union College alumni who are not included in the other categories, selected by the AUC alumni executive committee.

Duane Cady, Interim President

Carlyle Simmons, Secretary

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a mathematics professor to begin August 1, 2013 or January 1, 2014. Master’s degree in pure or applied mathematics required; doctorate degree preferred. Contact Dr. Amy Rosenthal at (817) 202-6212 or arosenthal@swau.edu.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking physicians in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Urology, Pediatrics, ENT, Optometry, and Dermatology. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling (671) 648-2992, ext. 116; e-mailing hr@guamsda.com; or visiting our Web site at www.adventistclinic.com.

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There is always something for which to be thankful.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.—1 Thessalonians 5:18

Tell us in 40 words or less, what makes you thankful. We will print as many of your responses as possible in an upcoming issue of the Gleaner. Send your responses to us by September 30, 2013 by Facebook, Twitter, or by E-mail.

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