

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JANUARY 2007

GLEANNER

Nurturing Growth
in the Hispanic and
Portuguese Communities

**Do You Know
What You Believe?**

Looking Forward to the Future

Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Talk

¿Qué Está Pasando?

inside **JANUARY** 2007

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"In order to increase awareness of the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on various subjects, the Atlantic Union GLEANER will publish monthly, beginning with this issue, one of the position statements or guidelines voted by church leadership since 1980 in a column entitled *Pillars of our Faith*. Also in this issue, the vice presidents of the Haitian and Hispanic ministries take time to share their goals and visions for these ministries for the next five years. The youth continue to share their

thoughts in Youth Talk on page 10. The cover design uses an image from iStockphoto." — Ednor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor.

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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March 2007	January 12
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Do You Know **What You Believe?**

One day a passerby approached a man (presumably the caretaker) sweeping the front steps of a large beautiful church. The passerby, hoping to learn about the church's beliefs, asked the man the question, "What do you believe?" The caretaker responded, "I believe what my church believes." So the passerby pressed again, "Well, what does your church believe?" To which the caretaker responded quite proudly, "My church believes what I believe." The frustrated passerby, trying to get a specific answer, asked once more, "Well, what do you and your church believe?" The caretaker answered, "We both believe the same things."

Are you prepared to know more about your church than the caretaker knew about his? Just because your church may be large and beautiful on the outside, do you know what it believes on the inside? The Apostle Paul exhorts us, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one"—Colossians 4:6 (ASV).

The cradle of the denomination's beginnings dates back to the 1860s when the Seventh-day Adventist Church was formally established. From the early years, and through its history, the Adventist Church has been recognized as a group of conscientious Christians who are vocal about its fundamental beliefs (see SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL) and prominent (especially since the 1980s) in taking a stand for many causes and issues. The list of issues is quite remarkable: religious liberty, prevention of alcoholism and drug depen-

dency, racism, anti-smoking and tobacco awareness, abuse and family violence, same-sex unions, homosexuality, women's issues, welfare, AIDS, and so forth.

Over the next twelve months, each issue of the GLEANER (see page 4 of this issue) will carry one official position or guideline statement or other document of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as issued by the General Conference in session, by the General Conference Executive Committee, by the administrative committee of the General Conference, or by the office of the General Conference president.

I believe it is imperative and indeed urgent that every Seventh-day Adventist believer knows where their church stands on the issues. Furthermore, where do you stand? This is no time to flutter our feathers of conscience in the breeze of mediocrity. A mere "caretaker" attitude is not sufficient for these times in which we live.

As we wind our way down the meandering boulevards of the 21st century awaiting the soon coming of our Lord and Savior, it is my hope and prayer that the statements published throughout this year will not only strengthen our resolve, but prepare our hearts individually to face the closing scenes of this world's history as predicted in Scripture.

My wife, Lois, and I wish you a most prosperous and spiritually satisfying experience in 2007.®

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



"I believe it is imperative and indeed urgent that every Seventh-day Adventist believer knows where their church stands on the issues. Furthermore, where do you stand?"



An Affirmation of Marriage

In order to increase awareness of the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on various subjects, the Atlantic Union Gleaner will publish monthly one of the position statements or guidelines voted by church leadership since 1980. These official statements were issued by the General Conference in session, the General Conference Executive Committee, the General Conference Administrative Committee, or the office of the General Conference president.

As the church continues to grow and make an influence, its role in the society will require that its views and what it holds true become known. Such will continue to be the demands of the society, and such will be the need to define Adventism's relevance, or present truth, to those who are asking questions and seeking answers to their dilemmas and problems.

The documents presented here are not an end in themselves, but a reflection of a movement sensitive to its calling and the people who "know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).

An Affirmation of Marriage

Issues related to marriage can be seen in their true light only as they are viewed against the background of the divine ideal for marriage. Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus Christ to be both monogamous and heterosexual, a lifelong union of loving companionship between a man and a woman. In the culmination of His creative activity, God fashioned humankind as male and female in His own image; and He instituted marriage, a covenant-based union of the two genders physically, emotionally, and spiritually, spoken of in Scripture as "one flesh."

Arising from the diversity of the two human genders, the oneness of marriage images in a singular way the unity within diversity of the Godhead. Throughout Scripture, the heterosexual union in marriage is elevated as a symbol of the bond between Deity and humanity. It is a human witness to God's self-giving love and covenant with His people. The harmonious affiliation of a man and a woman in marriage provides a microcosm of social unity that is time-honored as a core ingredient of stable societies. Further, the Creator intended

married sexuality not only to serve a unitive purpose, but to provide for the propagation and perpetuation of the human family. In the divine purpose, procreation springs from and is entwined with the same process whereby husband and wife may find joy, pleasure, and physical completeness. It is to a husband and wife whose love has enabled them to know each other in a deep sexual bond that a child may be entrusted. Their child is a living embodiment of their oneness. The growing child thrives in the atmosphere of married love and unity in which he or she was conceived and has the benefit of a relationship with each of the natural parents.

The monogamous union in marriage of a man and a woman is affirmed as the divinely ordained foundation of the family and social life and the only morally appropriate locus of genital or related intimate sexual expression. However, the estate of marriage is not God's only plan for the meeting of human relational needs or for knowing the experience of family. Singleness and the friendship of singles are within the divine design as well. The companionship and support of friends looms in importance in both biblical testaments. The fellowship of the church, the household of God, is available to all regardless of their married state. Scripture, however, places a solid demarcation socially and sexually between such friendship relations and marriage.

To this biblical view of marriage the Seventh-day Adventist Church adheres without reservation, believing that any lowering of this high view is to that extent a lowering of the heavenly ideal. Because marriage has been corrupted by sin, the purity and beauty of marriage as it was designed by God needs to be restored. Through an appreciation of the redemptive work of Christ and the work of His Spirit in human hearts, the original purpose of marriage may be recovered and the delightful and wholesome experience of marriage realized by a man and a woman who join their lives in the marriage covenant.①

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) on April 23, 1996.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

By Louis Métellus

The year 2006 is now history. The entrance of this new year and new quinquennium brings new challenges and presents new goals and objectives to be achieved. Thus, plans are being devised to meet these challenges and goals. God is the initiator and finisher of our faith. He always leads us where he sees fit because He knows what is best for His children.

Following the Lord's command, however, does not constitute a leap in the dark; but rather, it is a faith venture. "The promises of God are fulfilled and his blessings received only as His commands are obeyed"—SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY, vol. 1, p. 293. After serving in the Greater New York Conference for almost 20 years, I count it an immense privilege to have been called upon to provide leadership for the Haitian Ministries, along with Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries, as well as assisting in the Ministerial department of the Atlantic Union Conference. I am cognizant of the fact that the Lord is leading His church. He will never fail. We must follow His command. I am confident that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, He will help me cast the vision and formulate a multifaceted plan for the development of these departments.

For instance, in the Abrahamic covenant, God initiated the call and spelled out the clauses of the divine mandate. In this context, He is the personal, imminent, and condescending God, the one who bent down to the piece of clay to mold man. The binding terms of this covenant are articulated in these words: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"—Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV). Abraham obeyed and gladly followed the Lord's command. Note that the blessing was not restricted to Abraham and his immediate family, but rather, it was broad and cosmic in its scope. That is, the blessing flowed from God to Abraham who then had the responsibility to pass it on to the rest of mankind.

So the Lord places our feet on higher ground to perform greater services for Him. An awareness of His purpose for our lives must lead us to cast our lot with his children and pledge our allegiance and loyalty to Him. He lavishes so many blessings upon us and our family; in return, He wants us to be a blessing to humanity through our words and deeds. This will, in fact, constitute the badge of our gratitude to Him. In this setting,

Ellen White writes, "Trials patiently borne, blessings gratefully received, meekness, kindness, mercy and love, habitually exhibited, are the lights that shine forth in the character before the world, revealing the contrast with darkness that comes of the selfishness of the natural heart"—PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, p.134. Once God's vision is caught, his servants believe it and are ready to act upon it.

Here, in a nutshell, are some components of our quinquennial plan. The goals and objectives are to:

- Foster unity and harmony among the Haitian community within the Atlantic Union.
- Provide training for pastors and laity in various aspects of ministry.
- Empower and equip laity for evangelism.
- Be involved in church planting and church growth.
- Provide training in the areas of community services and prison ministries.
- Promote Christian education by providing opportunities for worthy and needy students.
- Foster stewardship education in the Haitian sector of the Atlantic Union.
- Provide ministries for Haitian senior citizens.

Since we have caught the vision from God, let us marshal all our resources and move toward finishing God's work. It is fitting to conclude with these assuring words from the prophet Isaiah, "[The Lord] gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"—Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV).⁰



Louis B. Métellus is the Haitian Ministries vice president and director for the Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.

Jetant un Regard

L'année 2006 est dans le passé tandis que l'année 2007 est entrée en scène.

L'arrivée de cette année de grâce et ce nouveau quinquennat jette de défis originaux et présente de objectifs nobles à atteindre. Ainsi donc, des plans appropriés sont élaborés pour relever ces défis et arriver aux buts. Dieu est l'Auteur et le Consommateur de notre foi. Il conduit toujours ses enfants dans le droit et le meilleur chemin.

Suivre l'ordre du Seigneur, cependant, ne constitue pas un bond dans l'obscurité; mais plutôt, c'est un acte de foi. "Les promesses de Dieu sont accomplies et ses bénédictions sont reçues, seulement lorsque nous obéissons à ses ordres"—SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY, vol. 1, p.293. Après avoir travaillé pendant vingt ans, environ, dans la Fédération Greater New York, c'est pour moi un immense privilège d'avoir été nommé au timon des Ministères Haïtiens y compris les Services Communautaires, le Ministère de la Prison et Assistant Directeur Ministériel au niveau de cette grande Atlantic Union Conference. Je suis conscient du fait que c'est le Seigneur qui dirige son Eglise. Il ne faillira jamais. Nous devons répondre à son appel. Je suis confiant, sous l'égide du Saint-Esprit, il m'aidera à mouler la vision et à formuler un plan à plusieurs facettes pour le développement des départements mentionnés ci-dessus.

Par exemple, dans l'alliance d'Abraham, Dieu lance l'appel et définit les clauses du mandat divin. Dans ce contexte, il est le Dieu personnel, immanent et condescendant qui s'est courbé sur la poussière de la terre pour former l'homme. Les limites obligatoires de cet engagement sont articulées en ces termes: "Vat-en de ton pays, de ta patrie, et de la maison de ton père, dans le pays que je te montrerai. Je ferai de toi

une grande nation, et je te bénirai; je rendrai ton nom grand, et tu seras une source de bénédiction. Je bénirai ceux qui te béniront, et je maudirai ceux qui te maudiront; et toutes les familles de la terre seront bénies en toi—"Genèse 12:1-3. Abram obéit et suivit joyeusement l'ordre du Seigneur. A ce point, il convient de souligner que la bénédiction n'était pas limitée à Abram et à sa famille immédiate, mais plutôt, elle avait une portée large et cosmique. C'est-à-dire, la bénédiction coulait de Dieu à Abram qui, en retour, avait eu la responsabilité de la transmettre au reste de l'humanité. Ainsi, le Seigneur nous place dans des positions plus élevées pour rendre de plus grands services pour lui. Une prise de conscience de son plan pour notre vie doit nous amener à jeter le sort avec les enfants de Dieu, et de mettre en gage notre allégeance et notre fidélité à Lui. Il déverse sur nous et sur notre famille tant de bénédictions; en retour, il veut que nous soyons une bénédiction à l'humanité par nos paroles et nos actions. Cela constitue, en fait, l'insigne de notre gratitude à Lui. Dans ce cas, la Sœur White écrit: "Des épreuves patiemment supportées, les bénédictions reçues avec reconnaissance, l'humilité, la bonté, la pitié et l'amour habituellement exhibés sont les lumières qui brillent à travers nos caractères devant le monde révélant le contraste aux ténèbres venant de l'égoïsme du cœur natu-

Vers L'avenir

rel”—PATRIARCHES ET PROPHÈTES, p. 134. Une fois que la vision de Dieu est reçue, ses serviteurs la croient et doivent être prêts à y agir.

Voici, en résumé, quelques composants de notre plan quinquennal. Les objectifs à atteindre sont les suivants:

- Encourager ou créer un climat d'unité d'harmonie au sein de la communauté haïtienne au niveau de l'Union Atlantique.
 - Contribuer à la formation suffisante pour les pasteurs, les laïcs et les jeunes dans des différents domaines du ministère.
 - Habilitier et équiper les laïcs (jeunes & adultes) pour l'évangélisation.
 - Créer un climat favorable à l'évolution et l'épanouissement des Jeunes Haïtiens.
 - Être impliqué dans l'établissement de nouvelles églises et dans la croissance de l'église.
 - Contribuer à la formation des officiers et membres dans les domaines des Services Communautaires et le Ministère de la Prison.
 - Favoriser l'éducation chrétienne en offrant des opportunités aux excellents étudiants qui ont besoin d'aide financière.
- Promouvoir l'éducation sur l'économat chrétien dans le milieu haïtien sur le territoire de l'Union.
 - Fournir des services pour les moins jeunes "senior citizens" des églises haïtiennes.

Puisque nous avons saisi la vision venant de Dieu, conjuguons tous nos efforts et toutes nos ressources et avançons-nous pour achever l'œuvre de Dieu. Il convient de conclure avec ses mots pleins d'assurance du prophète Esaïe: "Ne le sais-tu pas? Ne l'as-tu pas appris? C'est le Dieu d'éternité, l'Éternel, Qui a créé les extrémités de la terre; Il ne se fatigue point, il ne se lasse point; On ne peut sonder son intelligence. Il donne de la force à celui qui est fatigué, Et il augmente la vigueur de celui qui tombe en défaillance. Les adolescents se fatiguent et se lassent, Et les jeunes hommes chancellent; Mais ceux qui se confient en l'Éternel renouvellent leur force. Ils prennent le vol comme les aigles; Ils courent, et ne se lassent point, Ils marchent, et ne se fatiguent point"—Esaïe 40:28-31.①



Louis B. Métellus est le Vice-Président pour les Ministères Haïtiens et le Directeur des Services Communautaires et le Ministère de la Prison de l'Union Atlantique.

Quoi de Neuf?

Fomentando el Crecimiento de la Comunidad Hispana

La obra hispana y portuguesa en la Unión del Atlántico esta compuesta por 171 congregaciones (iglesias organizadas y compañías) y 16,685 miembros. Esto representa un crecimiento anual continuo de un 25%.

Un gran porcentaje de nuestra membresía esta involucrada en el evangelismo—personal, público y en grupos pequeños. La mayoría de las iglesias hispanas todavía están envueltas en las campañas de recolección y un gran número de colportores son hispanos y portugueses.

En el Departamento del Ministerio Hispano y Portugués de la Unión del Atlántico estaremos esforzándonos para alcanzar varios objetivos que incluyen, pero no se limitan a, fomentar una tendencia continua al crecimiento, fortalecer la dedicación de los miembros a nuestra iglesia adventista del séptimo día y sus enseñanzas, y a promover una comunidad de espiritualidad saludable entre los hispanos y portugueses. Para llevar a cabo estos objetivos estaremos implementando las siguientes iniciativas:

1. Comités de Asesoramiento Hispano y Portugués

Los Comités de Asesoramiento Hispano y Portugués han sido establecidos para asistir al Vicepresidente en el trabajo para esta comunidad. Compuesto por coordinadores, pastores y líderes laicos de las asociaciones locales, estos comités formularán e implementarán planes para el

avance y el crecimiento de la obra hispana y portuguesa en la Unión del Atlántico.

2. Una Iniciativa de Evangelismo Fuerte

La Unión del Atlántico se ha identificado con la iniciativa de la Asociación General “Dile al Mundo” y estará promoviendo “Dilo al Mundo... Dilo a la Unión del Atlántico.” Es el compromiso de cada pastor y miembro de nuestras iglesias hispanas y portuguesas el de alcanzar a cada persona en esta Unión para decirle a nuestra gente, a nuestro mundo que “el Rey ya viene.”

Evangelismo Público:

Estaremos instando a los pastores hispanos y portugueses, por medio del liderazgo de las asociaciones locales, a involucrarse en esfuerzos evangelísticos los cuales incluirán campañas de evangelismo público, campañas de cosecha y campañas por medios de comunicación, como lo es “La Red 2007.”

Evangelismo Personal:

Cada miembro debería ser un instrumento en las manos de Dios para traer almas a Cristo. Esto se

Crecimiento en la Española y Portuguesa

llevará a cabo por medio de entrenamiento y seminarios en donde los miembros aprendan a dar estudios bíblicos personales.

Grupos Pequeños de Discipulado:

Una de las iniciativas que serán fomentadas en las comunidades hispana y portuguesa de esta Unión son los Grupos Pequeños de Discipulado con la meta de aumentar significativamente la membresía para el final de este quinquenio. El propósito de los grupos pequeños son:

- Reducir la apostasía en las iglesias.
- Estimular el crecimiento de los participantes mientras comparten su fe y sus creencias en los grupos pequeños.
- Mantener a los miembros activos y la iglesia viva.

3. Retiro de Entrenamiento de Ancianos y Laicos

Cada año llevaremos a cabo un retiro de entrenamiento de ancianos y laicos a nivel de la unión que se enfocará en las diferentes funciones de la iglesia. El énfasis será el crecimiento de líderes con un

programa extenso de seminarios y predicaciones que cubrirán temas como administración de las iglesias, predicación, mayordomía personal y el cuidado de los miembros.

4. Retiro Familiar de Pastores Hispanos y Portugueses

Por muchos años los pastores hispanos y portugueses se han beneficiado del retiro familiar de pastores. Esta iniciativa será continuada, reconociendo que traerá crecimiento a nuestros pastores y a sus familias en todos los aspectos de su ministerio.

Nada podrá llevarse a cabo sin la dirección completa del Espíritu Santo. Necesitamos sus oraciones mientras dedicamos este trabajo al Señor porque El es el único que hace cosas maravillosas. 0



Dionisio Olivo es el Vicepresidente del Ministerio Hispano y Portugués y el Director de Vida Familiar y Escuela Sabática de la

Unión del Atlántico.

¿Que Esta Pasando?

Nurturing Growth in the Hispanic and Portuguese Communities

The Hispanic and Portuguese work in the Atlantic Union Conference is comprised of 171 congregations (organized churches and companies) and 16,685 members. This represents an annual steady growth of 25 percent.

A high percentage of the membership is involved in evangelism—personal, public, and small group.

The majority of the Hispanic and Portuguese churches are still involved in Ingathering Campaigns and a large number of the existing colporteurs are Hispanic and Portuguese.

In the Atlantic Union Hispanic and Portuguese Ministries departments we will endeavor to reach some objectives that encompass, but are not limited to, fostering a continued trend of growth, strengthening member commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its teachings, and promoting a spiritually healthy community among the Hispanics and Portuguese. To accomplish these objectives we will implement the following initiatives:

1. Advisory Committees

Hispanic and Portuguese Advisory committees will be established to assist the vice president in the work for these communities. Composed of conference coordinators, pastors, and lay leaders of the local conferences, the committees will formulate and implement plans for the advancement and growth of the Hispanic and Portuguese communities in the Atlantic Union.

2. Strong Evangelistic Initiative

The Atlantic Union Conference

has identified with the General Conference “Tell the World” initiative and is promoting “Tell the World... Tell Atlantic Union.” It is the commitment of every Hispanic and Portuguese church pastor and member to reach every person in this union to tell our people, our world, that “the King is coming.”

Public Evangelism:

- We will encourage Hispanic and Portuguese pastors, through the local conference leadership, to get involved in evangelistic efforts including full public campaigns, short reaping campaigns, and media campaigns, such as “La Red 2007.”

Personal Evangelism:

- Each member should be an instrument in God’s hands to bring someone to Christ. This will be accomplished through training and workshops where members learn to give personal Bible studies.

Small Groups of Disciples:

One of the initiatives that will be promoted in the Hispanic and Portuguese communities in the union is Small Groups of Disciples with the goal of significantly increasing the membership by the end of this quinquennium. The purpose of the small groups is to:

- Reduce apostasy in the churches.
- Encourage the growth of the participants as they share their faith and beliefs in small groups.

- Keep the members active and the church alive.

3. Elders and Lay Leaders Training Retreat

Every year we will conduct a union-wide church elders and lay leaders training retreat that will focus on different functions of the church. The focus will be on the growth of the leaders with a comprehensive program of workshops and preaching that will cover such topics as church administration, preaching, personal stewardship, and nurturing members.

4. Hispanic and Portuguese Pastors and Family Retreat

For many years the Hispanic and Portuguese pastors in the Atlantic Union Conference have benefitted from the pastors and family retreat. This initiative will be continued, recognizing that it can only bring growth to our pastors and their families in every aspect of their ministry.

Nothing will be accomplished without the complete guidance of the Holy Spirit. Your prayers are needed as we dedicate this work to the Lord because He is the only one that does marvelous things.🙏



Dionisio Olivo is the Hispanic and Portuguese Ministries vice president and director for Family Ministries and Sabbath School in the Atlantic

Union Conference.

Southampton Pastor Takes Time to Meet and Greet



Every Sabbath morning one can find Pastor Llewellyn Williams greeting the members and visitors of the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church. He arrives bright and early and takes time for meeting and greeting. He says, "It's a great way to get to know my members better and to share the blessing of the Sabbath." Here he is seen in the foyer of the church with greeter Cynthia Fishington.

Kids Time Host Speaks at Rockaway Church

Brenda Walsh gave testimonies of amazing answers to prayer and encouraged worshippers to trust in God every minute during a recent worship service at the Rockaway Seventh-day Adventist Church. Walsh is the producer and host of Kids Time, a children's program on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), and has worked in children's ministries for many years. She has been a frequent guest on the 3ABN Today cooking program along with her sisters and she travels to various churches and communities demonstrating vegan cooking. She is a dynamic speaker who gives messages of encouragement, direction,

and hope to those who truly want to be used by God. She has traveled around the U.S. and internationally, inspiring people of all ages.

She has also authored a book, *BATTERED TO BLESSED*, with Kay Rizzo based on her personal experience with domestic violence, as well as a book on Hurricane Katrina, that she co-authored with Kay Kuzma, entitled *BETWEEN HELL AND HIGH WATER*. Walsh is currently writing a new book entitled *WHEN PEOPLE PRAY... AMAZING ANSWERS TO PRAYER* with Kuzma that is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2007.

*Edwin Smith, communication director
Rockaway church*

Having the Heart of God

Devonshire Seventh-day Adventist Church of Love set aside ten days last November for prayer and fasting regarding the ministry and mission of the church in the community.

During that time messages and workshops were presented by Dr. Eduard Schmidt, an associate director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, who equips members for ministry and personal evangelism. He teaches classes for both the master's and doctoral degrees at the Adventist Theological Seminary. He is a minister at heart and finds great joy in helping members to become ministers of God's church in the community. Schmidt was accompanied by his wife, Sonia.

Presentations were made nightly and on Sabbath morning. In addition, he held workshops and practical training during the lunch hour on such topics as *The Passion and Purpose of God's Heart*, *Cultivating God's Values: The Heart of Transformation*, *Your Ministry: The Response to God's Compassionate Heart*, *Welcome Back to the Family: The Joy of God's Heart*, *Renewed Vision: Capturing the Heart of God*, *A Generation after God's Heart*, *Prayer and Personal Reflection - Reflection on the Heart of God*.

Errol McLean, pastor of Devonshire church, also made presentations during the ten days. His topics included *Seeking the Heart of God*, *Your Life and God's Purpose*, *Listening to the Heart of God*, *The Upper Room Experience*, and *Unity: The Prayer of God's Heart*.

After this time of renewal the members at Devonshire church will never be the same, and neither will Bermuda!

*Cheryl Kerr, member
Devonshire church*

? What's Happening in Your Church?

Do you have news or other inspiring stories from your church that you would like to share with our readers?

Submit all articles and photos to your conference communication director.

For information on how and what to submit visit www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner.htm and click on "Guidelines for Submitting Articles."

We would love to hear from you!

AUC Student Loses Life in Pedestrian Accident

Kevin Watson, 30, lost his life Friday evening November 3. He was crossing Main Street near the college when he was struck by a car. News media reported that the driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol.

Watson was a third-year social work student, a member of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, and was originally from Jamaica, West Indies.

"For the two-and-a-half years that Kevin was a student in the Sociology/Social Work department, he always exemplified a positive attitude, a will to excel, and a cooperative spirit in the development of programs," said his Social Work professor, Dr. Juliette Willoughby. "While Kevin's interests were caring for families in general, he wanted to focus on the elderly. While pursuing a bachelor of science in Social Work, he was also studying towards a certificate in Gerontology.

"On Friday, while talking to Dr. Susan Willoughby, chair of the Sociology/Social Work department,

he told her he wanted to work in hospitals doing discharge planning. He wanted to make sure that people would be able to succeed at home and



Kevin Watson
1975-2006

not have to return to the hospital or be placed in a nursing home because appropriate services were not put in place," said Juliette Willoughby.

At a Program of Remembrance, students shared memories. Some had given him haircuts. An avid walker, some had given him rides to the store when it was raining; some got to see his smile and big laugh; and some sat on the bench with him in front of the campus to watch people and contemplate spiritual matters. All who knew him, knew of his penetrating commitment to the Lord. "Kevin is sleeping now," concluded theology major Reuben Maldonado. "The enemy is not happy. This is a holy place [AUC]. When Jesus comes, we can see Kevin again. Now is the time to stay close to the Lord. We never know what will happen tomorrow."

Shiloh pastor, Bernard Penn, conducted the funeral, which was held at the Village church in South Lancaster where Kevin attended during college. Attending were his mother, Sonia Smith of Tennessee, about 30 members of the Shiloh congregation, and the AUC family. The college family mourns the loss of this student and extends sympathy to all families involved.

Special Scholarships for Mathematics, Computer Science and Pre-Engineering



Atlantic Union College announces the creation of a new scholarship to encourage talented young people to enroll in the mathematical disciplines at Atlantic Union College. A maximum of 10 scholarships of \$4,000 per year (\$2,000 per semester) will be available to qualified applicants. These scholarships are renewable for a maximum of four years as long as the student meets the requirements. These are competitive awards; applicants with higher-level math and more science courses are preferred. Women are encouraged to apply.

Qualifications:

- Be a freshman applicant to Atlantic Union College with the intent to

major in math, computer science, or engineering. Student must register as a day student (not in the Adult Degree Program) for at least 12 semester hours of classes per semester.

- Have at least three mathematics courses in high school with grades of B- or better.
- Have at least two science courses in high school with grades of B- or better.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better with a math/science GPA of at least 3.0.
- Have at least 900 on the SAT, with at least 450 in the math section (or ACT equivalences).
- Write an essay (approximately 500 words) "Why I want to study

Students and Parents—Get a Clear Picture of AUC Come for a Visit!

SNAPSHOTS will provide you with a quick and comprehensive look at all that Atlantic Union College has to offer. Each 24-hour on-campus session gives you and your family an opportunity to develop a clear picture of the possibilities that await you at Atlantic Union College. The special focus of the next two **S**NAPSHOTS will be: Art and Social Work/Sociology. So, if you have a particular interest in art, social work, criminal justice, gerontology, or sociology, please plan to attend! All students are welcome at any **S**NAPSHOTS program.

At each **S**NAPSHOTS, you will meet members of the college community who are available to answer your questions on everything from academics to worships. This is the place to find out about life on campus and learn about the programs and resources available to students—like the Honors Program, Student Support Services, Center for Academic Success, Student Activities, Summer Advantage in New England, and the exciting new



IGNITION summer program for first-year students.

You and your family will have the opportunity to meet with admissions and financial aid staff. **S**NAPSHOTS includes a video presentation about Atlantic Union College and a guided tour of the college that could be “home” for the next few years. You’ll see residence halls, classrooms, the dining commons, recreational areas, and much more. You’ll also meet other interested students—the students who could be your new classmates and friends when you enroll.

Next **S**NAPSHOTS: February 18-19, 2007, April 1-2, 2007. Check-in at 11:00 a.m. Sunday. Program begins at noon Sunday and concludes at 1:00 p.m. on Monday. *More info:* 1-800-282-2030, (978) 368-2250; and enroll@auc.edu. *Want the easiest way to register? Go to www.auc.edu/snapshot and register online.*

We’re looking forward to providing you with picture perfect **S**NAPSHOTS!

_____.” This must be prepared using a word processor and sent with the application.

- Have your principal or a science/math teacher who taught you fill out and mail the recommendation letter.
- Have an interview with the department chair (in person preferred, but may be by phone or Web Cam).

Deadline:

The department chair must receive your application with the essay and recommendation letter by May 1 for the 2007 academic year.

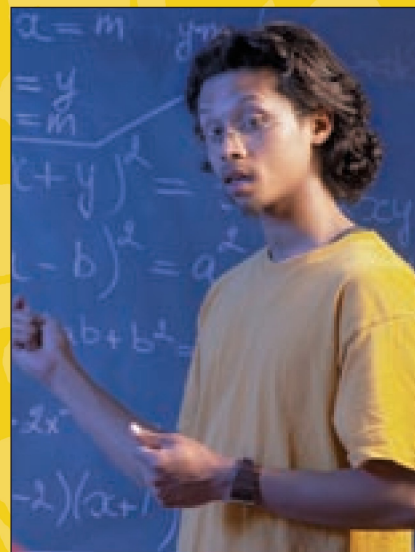
On-going Requirements:

To receive this scholarship you must register for at least 12 hours of classes per semester, maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.5, and a math/science GPA of at least 3.0. Failing to complete at least 12 hours or having a GPA below

the required level in any semester may forfeit the scholarship for the next semester. You must be in good and regular standing at Atlantic Union College. In no case will the total of scholarships funded by Atlantic Union College exceed 60% of your tuition cost.

Applications are available from the Admissions office at Atlantic Union College, (978) 368-2235, 1-800-282-2030. Mail all materials to: Math, Computer Science, and Engineering Department Chair, Atlantic Union College, PO Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561-1000.

—Bradley Hyde, chair, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering departments, Atlantic Union College
bradley.hyde@auc.edu



Photos: Dave Sherwin



Korean Newstart Long Island Group Holds Health Seminar



Helpers and organizers of the health seminar.

The Korean Newstart Long Island Group held a health seminar last October in the meeting hall at the Greater New York Conference. Health lecturer Dr. Sang Koo Lee, presented a series of combined health and Bible lectures before an audience packed with non-Seventh-day Adventists and Korean members.

Pastor Jang, leader of the Long Island Newstart Group, and his faithful helpers did their best to accommodate all as they fellowshiped and mingled with the participants during the cooking class and while mountain hiking.

In spite of the bad weather, many faithfully attended and heard the good news of the heavenly kingdom.

*Benjamin Soh, Korean Ministries director
Greater New York Conference*

Two Greater New York Conference Officers Achieve Academic Success

G. Earl Knight, executive secretary of the Greater New York Conference, graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree on June 11, 2006. His dissertation was on the topic, "Making Disciples in the 21st Century." Knight defines discipleship as the process by which one is led to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, fully committed to a lifelong learning relationship and growing toward maturity in Christ. This includes equipping disciples so that they can go and make disciples of others. He drew his research concept from Matthew 28:19, 20 and challenges the traditional way of

interpreting this gospel commission. Knight contends that the passage of Scripture must not be limited to an understanding of public evangelism and baptism, but that there needs to be a more holistic approach to interpretation and implementation of the text. "Discipleship" he says, "starts with meeting and accepting Christ and continues throughout the Christian's life. It also embraces the concept of making disciples." Based on his research Knight has concluded that: (1) evangelism needs to be a more comprehensive work that involves not just preaching and baptizing, but the continued process of making disciples, and (2) there is a need to establish small groups for new disciples, which will not only help to establish new members in the church, but will also facilitate the retention of members.

Knight's wife, Yvonne, is the Greater New York Conference Women's Ministries director. They have two children, Anthea, who is studying law at Touro Law School, and

Michael, a pre-med student completing his final year at Oakwood College.

Gerson Santos, the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the Greater New York Conference, successfully defended his dissertation on October 11, 2006. He studied at Andrews University and his graduation is set for August 2007. Santos completed his dissertation research on the topic, "Equipping and Motivating the Laity in New York." He used the Luzo-Brazilian church for his pilot study. As a result of this research, a LAY TRAINING HANDBOOK and a Bible Study series entitled "Pillars of Faith" was developed. It is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. So far the program has been utilized in the following ways:

- The research provides Sabbath School and Personal Ministry leaders of the local churches with some practical and easy-to-use training material.
- The church where the program was implemented is experiencing tremen-



Gerson Santos

dous involvement of the laity in outreach activities.

- Other churches in the Greater New York Conference are using the program.
- The North American Division is using this program as a model to be used around the division as a training tool for lay leaders.

At the General Conference session in 2005, Santos was invited to share this curriculum with some of the lay leaders around the world.

Santos is married to Leila and they have two children, Anne Elise and Jefferson, who are both studying at Southern Adventist University.

*Alanzo Smith, communication director
Greater New York Conference*



G. Earl Knight

Portuguese-speaking Churches Hold Evangelistic Camp Meeting in Manhattan

There are 64 Portuguese-speaking congregations in North America totaling more than 6,000. Under the leadership of 46 pastors, more than 500 individuals were baptized last year. These churches are comprised of immigrants coming mainly from Brazil, the Cape Verde Islands, and Portugal. Last year alone, the Portuguese-speaking congregations returned almost seven million dollars in tithe.

Church-building and church-planting projects are developed each year to meet the great number of opportunities to preach the gospel. New properties have been purchased and built all over the United States and Canada. Training seminars and evangelistic meetings are part of the daily life of these congregations. Recently, a series of evangelistic meetings were held in several churches around the United States. Hundreds of individuals attended these meetings and dozens were baptized.

Pastor Edemilson Cardoso, right, introduced new leaders of the Portuguese Ministry. From left to right are Denison Moura, secretary, Gerson Santos coordinator, Edemar Lamarques ministerial secretary.



In New York City, the evangelistic meetings were held at the Queens Luzo-Brazilian church. At the end of these meetings, a general camp meeting was organized which ran October 19-21, 2006. The theme of the camp meeting was "United to Save," describing the mission of the church and its leaders. The guest speaker was evangelist Roberto Motta, from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Nearly 2,000 people from all over North America



The Portuguese camp meeting in October 2006 was held in an auditorium at Hunter College in New York.

choir of over 300 performers concluded the event.



A youth choir from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, participated along with the platform personnel during the worship service.

attended. Eleven choirs participated, and a mass

The event also involved the participation of Pastor Nilton D. Amorim, Canadian Union executive secretary, and presenters from Portugal, France, Germany, England, and Brazil.

According to Richard Marker, president of the Greater New York Conference, "We have noticed the growth of the Portuguese-speaking churches and see a great potential for church growth in that community." Representatives from the

Atlantic Union attending the event were Dionisio Olivo, vice president for Hispanic Ministries, and Leon Thomassian, treasurer.

At the camp meeting, the former Portuguese coordinator, Pastor Edemilson Cardoso, introduced the new leadership of the Portuguese Ministry for the North American Division; Gerson Santos, coordinator; Samuel Ramos, vice-coordinator; Edemar Lamarques, ministerial secretary; and Denison Moura, treasurer/secretary.

God's work will continue to grow in the Luzo-Brazilian community as we all support each other to fulfill our mission, and soon Jesus will come in His glory and majesty.

*Gerson Santos, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director
Greater New York Conference*

Leadership 101

One hundred twenty-five Atlantic Union Conference academy leaders met at Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York, in November 2006 to learn how to be Christian leaders on their school campuses and in their church and community. The Atlantic Union Conference Academy Leadership Conference is conducted once every three years and is sponsored and coordinated by the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department.

The book, LEADERSHIP 101, an interactive leadership development guide for students, which was especially written to reach young Christian leaders, was used as a basis for the weekend. Dwain

Esmond, editor of INSIGHT magazine, and his assistant, Michelle Bergman, were the chief facilitators. Conference youth directors also participated in the weekend by presenting the leadership topics featured in the book. Each student was given a copy of the book to use throughout the weekend.

Topics discussed were: What is Leadership? The Praying Leader, The Serving Leader, and The Communicating Leader. After each general session the students formed small groups by schools to discuss the topic that was presented. Leadership principles were also highlighted in fun and interesting “icebreakers” that took place throughout the weekend.

Pedro Perez, youth director for the Southern New England Conference, facilitated these activities.

A lasting memory of the weekend was the anointing service held for those young people who responded to the call to be Christ-like leaders. Conference youth directors and academy chaplains all participated in the special service. The challenge to the young people was to run the race, and to run to the finish line for the One who will be standing there, waiting to greet you with: “Well done, good and faithful servant”—Matthew 25:21, 23 (NIV).⁰

Bill Wood is the Atlantic Union Conference Youth and Pathfinder ministries director.



Photos: Bill Wood

Youth Talk

Atlantic Union youth share their opinions and ideas on various topics.

What is the most amazing or powerful thing God has done for you?



"I feel the power of God most when I feel like my faith is tested. In everyday life I often feel confused and clueless as what to say or do. But whenever I feel like somebody is testing my faith, confusion is the only thing that doesn't come to my mind. And after the situation is over and everything is done, I look back and am amazed at how God has helped me through it. I would like to thank Him for giving the simple answer to every complicated problem every day."—**Ben Vigneault**, 18, Haverhill, Massachusetts

"Many people go through trials and tribulations. I have heard amazing stories about life-and-death-situations. How people come out of comas, car accidents that happen, and how God saved their lives, how people stopped doing drugs and drinking. I have not been through anything like that, but it's just amazing to see how God works in other people. For me, that's a blessing. Testimonies that people give really touch many hearts. I am just thankful that I have God in my life. I am thankful for family and friends. All of these things God has given to me are amazing. A lot of people don't even have food. Although nothing like getting out of a coma has happened to me, I strongly believe that God loves us and has a plan for our lives. Now that's amazing!"—**Raquel Valentin**, 15, Malden, Massachusetts



"The most amazing or powerful thing the Lord has done for me is that He helped me by paying most of my tuition through another person. I thought that I wouldn't be in school for long, but God made a way. I would pray with my mother that we would find a way to pay for school. He found a way. So I thank God for that. Now I know that miracles can happen no matter who you are."—**Anthony William**, 15, Malden, Massachusetts



"Just a year ago, my cousin, Brandon, was diagnosed with cancer and we thought that he would never be cured. We did many fund-raisers to help with the many doctor bills and we also started little prayer groups. Slowly, but surely, our prayers were answered. My cousin's [surgery went well], the fund-raisers helped with the bills. I thank God so much for this amazing thing that He did for my family."—**Ashley Martinese**, 15, Haverhill, Massachusetts

The first thing God ever did for me was send His only beloved Son Jesus Christ to die for all of us on the cross. The second thing was to keep me alive until this very day, still healthy and still strong by His grace. He put a family in my life, not just any family, but a [family both at school and at home].



He kept us all safe and has been there for us when we actually thought there was no hope. The third thing He did was to give my family and me wisdom, and that wisdom helped me make the most important decision—to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior."—**Ivan Delacruz**, 15, Roslindale, Massachusetts. Ivan was baptized on December 9, 2006.



"It was during my freshman year that something amazing happened to me. I had left school early because I had finished all my semester exams. It had been a very cold winter and it was 20 below zero that day. The weatherman said that you could get frostbite in under 20 minutes in those temperatures. I got home and found that I was locked out. I had nowhere to go, so I had to wait outside. I felt sleepy, but I couldn't go to sleep. When I finally got inside, after three hours, I was perfectly fine with nothing wrong, which was very surprising for everybody."—**Jason Martin**, 17, Malden, Massachusetts

If you are 25 years or younger, and would like to join these young people from Greater Boston Academy in sharing your opinions and ideas, e-mail the GLEANER editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org.



Learning the Joy of Service

Students at the Sandy Creek Christian School in Holley, New York, discovered that working is fun especially when we do it for Jesus. In fulfillment of the Christian service requirement in their school curriculum, these nine children in grades 1-4, along with a home-schooled family, gleaned in a field of butternut squash. They later delivered the sizeable amount of produce to the Open Door Rescue Mission in Rochester and the Holley Community Center, where at least some of it was incorporated into holiday food baskets. Teacher Paul Moore is making plans for additional activities in the community so that students may learn the joy of service.

*Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference*

Women's Home Bible Fellowship Continues to Grow

Eighty-five year young Marie Scott, a member of the Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church, has started a women's home fellowship, which meets in her home once a month. Members are encouraged to invite and bring an inactive member or non-Adventist friend, neighbor, or family member. The women meet together for a social time to build friendships and to study about women in the Bible, relating their stories to present-day situations. A dessert is served and a craft planned for each meeting. The fellowship started with eight women and continues to grow. An old friendship was rekindled between one of Scott's neighbors and a newly baptized member of the Roosevelt church, who both attended the fellowship. The women were friends for many years and attended a Sunday church together, but because of circumstances and moves lost contact with each other. They were surprised to meet again and enjoyed catching up on their lives and activities.

Scott is so thankful that the Lord has blessed her with this new ministry and grateful for the women who are reaching out to others.

*Cecelia Hess, office secretary
New York Conference*

Miracles at 2006 Women's Retreat

The annual New York Conference Women's Retreat was held on the first weekend in November 2006. Nearly 100 women from around the state descended on Watson Homestead near Corning, New York. The staff welcomed us like family with hugs, smiles, and food. Many of those who returned this year brought with them new church members

Women's Ministries director. Ginger reminded us that God created us with talents to be used in ministry for Him. She challenged us to get out of our comfort zone and let God lead us past our excuses of fear, lack of time or money, and lack of a plan, or feeling that we're not good enough. She encouraged us to return home and spend the first

minutes listening to and not criticizing our family and loved ones. Charlotte led us closer to God as we discovered the Miracle of Eden—being cre-



Attendees to the 2006 New York Conference Women's Retreat take time to greet one another and meet new people.

and non-Adventist friends or family members. What a joy it was to praise and worship our Father together.

The theme was "Ask for a Miracle."

The chapel area and dining room were donned with Christmas decorations to remind us that the greatest miracle of all is the gift of Jesus. Each gift the women received was created to remind them of the many names given to Jesus.

Our speakers were Ginger Church, marketing director for WOMEN OF SPIRIT magazine, and Charlotte Thoms, Atlantic Union Conference



Those who attended the retreat benefitted from the presentations, fellowship, and food.

ated in God's image, the Miracle of the Olive Tree—being grafted into God's family, and the Miracle of the Diamond—conversion of the human heart. On Saturday night we had an old-fashioned Christmas party with caroling, a white elephant gift exchange, cookies, hot drinks, and lots of laughter.

*Marie Putnam and Doreen Gray
Retreat attendees*

Ithaca Church Conducts Health Seminar

Donovan Kurtz, associate treasurer for the New York Conference and his wife, Jane, who is a nurse, dietician, and holds a master's degree in public health, spoke at a community health day this past October. The event was held at the Women's Community Center where the couple gave a very interesting and informative presentation entitled "What the Bible Says About Health." This was followed by a talk from Colin Campbell, on "Nutrition, Diet and Disease." Campbell is professor emeritus of nutritional biochemistry at Cornell University. He is the author of the China Study, which is one of the most comprehensive studies on diet and health. Not an Adventist, Campbell believes that Ellen White and the Adventist Church are correct in their health message. Following his presentation, the Ithaca church had a fellowship luncheon for those attending the program.

*Joan Payne, communication secretary
Westvale church*

Small Church Springs to Life

The Lincklaen Center Seventh-day Adventist Church dates back many years. It is located in a beautiful valley surrounded by rolling hills covered with a variety of delightful trees and foliage. The church was founded by the Coon family approximately 130 years ago. At one time there was a thriving school with Glenn Coon as teacher and principal.

Many changes have taken place in the community and the church with the passing of time. John Portney and his wife, Avis, were called to pastor Lincklaen Center and other churches in 1979, and at that time there were as many as 65 youth from the local community attending the young people's meetings. Even though Pastor Portney retired officially in 1996, he has since picked up the reins again and is meeting the challenge at both the Norwich and Lincklaen Center churches. Recently there have been exciting signs of new life at these churches. Many recent baptisms have resulted from "cottage meetings" held in the Portney home. Most of those attending were from the little Methodist church about a half mile away. They were warned against these meetings by their pastor, but this did not deter them. To date, three people have been baptized in addition to six others from the local community. Those attending are convinced that cottage meetings provide an ideal setting for sharing the joy of a life committed to Christ and to discipling new believers. Pastor Portney hastens to add, "And God gets all the glory!"

*Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference*

Activities at Southern Tier School

Raking Leaves for Good

The students of Southern Tier Seventh-day Adventist School in Vestal, New York, spent time last October raking leaves for people in the community. School board members wanted to encourage the students to do community service and raise money for the church school, and the idea of raking leaves for donations was shared. Flyers were designed and distributed in the local area the week before, asking people to call the school if they were interested in having their leaves raked.

The students, armed with rakes, tarp, and lunch boxes, set out to rake leaves. The Lord provided a beautiful sunny day for the venture. The first hour was fun, but as the day progressed, the raking became real work. Yet the students pressed on, using the light skills of effort, perseverance, and cooperation to get the job done. Five-and-a-half hours later, sore and very weary, the students had earned the pleasure and respect of people in the community and \$110 for their school.

Working Hard to Make Our Mummies Proud

On the first Thursday last November, the students of Southern Tier school presented a night of Egyptian history and culture. Students had been studying the history of Egypt for social studies and decided to share their knowledge with parents and friends. Egyptian costumes, food, and music were displayed, along with the presentation of projects such as mummies (made from apples and oranges), maps of Egypt, and reports on several Pharaohs in history. The program was enriched further by the presence of an Egyptian friend of the school who shared her knowledge of modern Egypt. The event was well attended.

*Wendy-Lynn Dunn, teacher
Southern Tier Seventh-day Adventist School*

Corona's Radio Ministry Awarded Church of the Week



Pastor Warner A. Richards receives Church of the Week award on behalf of the Corona church's radio ministry, Voice of Hope, from WMCA's executives Nellin McIntosh, right, and George Flores, left.

On November 2, 2005, at 12:30 p.m., the Corona church, under the leadership of Pastor Warner A. Richards and project manager Brenda Jones, launched its first-ever radio program, *Voice of Hope*, on WMCA 970AM. Now in its second year, and solely supported by the members of the Corona church, the program is a successful evangelistic vehicle. *Voice of Hope* airs weekly on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m., and is truly far-reaching.

Individuals from across the country have made contact with Pastor Richards as a result of listening to the program's inspirational messages on WMCA Radio and on the Web at wmca.com.

The program has influenced the lives of New York's listening community and has left an indelible mark on the management of WMCA. In October, WMCA bestowed on Corona's radio ministry program, *Voice of Hope*, its coveted Church of the Week

award. The ministry was highlighted October 9-20, 2006, on both WMCA stations, 570AM and 970AM, as well as on the WMCA Web site under the banner, Church of the Week.

The award is presented to ministries that are effecting change in the community. The Corona church's recent summer evangelistic series, its involvement in civic action to make Corona a cleaner community, the church's youth program, and its annual health fair and expo were just some of the programs for which WMCA recognized the church for sharing God and truly making a difference.

On October 20, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. WMCA's George Flores conducted an on-air interview with Pastor Richards on the WMCA station's People with a Purpose program. This interview afforded Richards the opportunity to further share with the listening public

the direction of the Corona church and Voice of Hope and the overall mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

A surprise was in store for the Corona members and visitors during its Community Guest Day on October 21, 2006. WMCA's Nellin McIntosh presented Pastor Richards and the members of the Corona church with an honorary certificate, proclaiming Corona's status as a WMCA's Church of the Week. That same afternoon, the WMCA van visited the church, giving away balloons for the children and Christian books for the adults.

WMCA applauded the Corona Radio Ministry for its efforts, heart, vision, and passion, encouraging the church to continue its quest in reaching out to the community as ambassadors of Christ.

Noris Pindling, communication leader Corona church

A Woman with "A Purpose-Driven Life"

Omega Johnson, a strong determined woman, walks by faith. She is a mother, grandmother, and foster parent, who is devoted to her life's mission—serving those she loves: her God, family, church, and community. At Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, she serves as assistant church treasurer, Women's Ministries treasurer, gospel choir and AYS staff member, Sabbath School teacher, and chairperson for the newly formed program, the Golden Age Fund. She is outstanding in her community as the president of the Old Hill Neighborhood Council,

servicing on the board of directors at Springfield College, Massachusetts Career Development Institution, the Council of Churches, The Weed and Seed Coalition, Hap Inc., the region's housing partnership for Hampden and Hampshire Counties in Western Massachusetts, and Humanity for Housing. Working with these agencies for more than five years, Omega was recognized for

her leadership in the community by Western New College receiving a citation for her outstanding and untiring work. She has received numerous plaques and citations over the years, and was recently honored by Hap Inc., at the Mass Mutual Center and by East Hampden Mentor Care



Omega Johnson

Program for serving seven years with foster care. You can find her some days at the Springfield Partners office

helping clients fill out applications for Mass Health, food stamps, fuel assistance, and weather stripping for their homes. She also assists with community surveillance. As a coordinator for the Annual Old Hill Neighborhood Block Party she was instrumental in getting Veggie BBQ served on the free menu. Living her "purpose-driven life" Omega Johnson says, "I thank God for allowing me to serve in my church and my community, helping to give others a better quality of life. After all, that is what He has given to me."

Janet E. Lee, communication secretary Shiloh church

Lawrence Hispanic Church Baptized 17

Last September the Lawrence Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church was overjoyed when 17 individuals were baptized with five more preparing for the next baptism, and nine who decided that morning to take the first steps toward that goal. That same evening, 29 couples renewed their vows at a marriage ceremony.

For two weeks, the church was filled each night. More than 130 visitors heard the presentation of the gospel message through evangelists Adly and José L. Campos. The theme for the evangelistic series

was “Construyendo un Hogar Feliz” (Building a Happy Home), which presents the 28 fundamental beliefs from the perspective of family life.

Many church families expressed that they were blessed and strengthened in their faith and spiritual walk. There were a number of radio interviews presenting the gospel and showing the Lawrence community how the Seventh-day Adventist Church cares for the well-being and stability of all families in the community.

Adly and José L. Campos also met with and addressed the

local Community Association of Evangelical Pastors. The members of the association indicated how impressed they were by the work of these individuals and requested further contact with the Adventist Church and our evangelists in the near future.

This was the fourth baptism to be celebrated at the Lawrence church in 2006, totaling 35 who have made this important decision.

*Adapted by Maria E. Infante, Personal Ministries director
Lawrence church*

Bethany Church Holds Eighth Annual Police Adoption Program

Police officers from various precincts in Nassau County and firemen from Uniondale Fire District filled the auditorium of the Bethany church for the eighth Annual Police Adoption Program celebration. Many officials and community members came to join with us as we said “thank you” to the men and women who serve their communities.

Guest speaker Dr. Leacroft Green delivered a powerful and thought-provoking message. Honored guests included Assemblyman Charles Lavine; Nassau County Legislator Roger Corbin; Nassau County Legislator Kevan Abrahams; John Moye, executive director, Nassau Minority Affairs; Nassau Police Commissioner James Lawrence; Deputy Inspector Albert Jaskot of the Nassau County Third Precinct; Judge Darlene Harris; Councilwoman Dorothy

Goosby; and Uniondale Fire Commissioner Campbell.

Kay Frey, Edwin Anthony, and Christina Spence presented vocal and instrumental music. Certificates of recognition were presented to the honorees by Senator Hillary Clinton, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi, Nassau County Legislators, and the Bethany church.

Councilwoman Goosby Honored

Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby was honored for her loyal support of the Bethany church. She has never missed one of the annual Police Adoption programs or other programs she has been invited to by our church. In fact, Goosby is the first woman of color to serve in this capacity in town government.

Councilwoman Goosby is a lover of children and always likes to be in their



Haydn Smith, Bethany church elder, stands with honorees, left to right, Detective Curt Beaudry, Officer John Galowski, Police Commissioner James Lawrence, Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, Chief Anthony Rocco, Officer Vincenzo Vacchiano, and Sergeant John Gieschen. Honorees not pictured: Jackie Caines, Joe Scimone, Robert Cooper, and Gordon Jones.

company. A presentation of exquisite flowers was made by MacKenzie Baker who brought both Goosby and the audience to tears and smiles. Goosby stated, “I love Bethany; I find love and friendship when I come here.” Bethany salutes a wonderful lady!

Many thanks to those who worked hard in planning the program. The co-coordinators of the program were Vinneth Barnes-Baker,

Jo-Anne Carryl, Angie Matthews, Angie Pierre, Shirley Hilaire, Haydn Smith, and April Cummings. Tiffany West Indian Bakery catered the reception.

Many have called indicating that this program was a blessing to our police officers, elected officials, and the community. These men and women need our continued prayers and support.

*Mary Cameron, communication leader
Bethany church*

Arms Outstretched Awaiting New Challenges

As a young woman, Margery Moore went to New Jersey, and later Ohio, to spend time with some of her relatives who were Seventh-day Adventists. In Akron, she enjoyed attending church and, especially, Friday night meetings for young people (of all ages). Margery studied and embraced the truth. She was baptized in 1939 at a special event in Zanesville, Ohio. Margery then became a very successful colporteur and delighted in sharing her love of the Lord with others. After the war ended she moved back to Vermont and began to meet with a few

other believers at a house-church in Orleans. Later this company rented churches in Coventry and Newport. In the mid-1980s, with a nest egg of money from a 13th Sabbath offering, land was bought and later sold in order to purchase, in 1990, the present Newport church and the home of the WJSY-LP radio station.

Margery grew up during the depression. Serving, helping, sharing, and caring are watchwords of Matthew 25:35-40, and they have been her lifestyle. Margery has been a problem solver by nature and wherever she

lived she made provision in her pantry or trunk for anyone who needed food, clothing, or a ready room or trailer for those who were “down on their luck.” Having been, at times, away from home, alone, cold, hungry, or in need, she opens her arms and heart with love and mercy, willing ears to listen, and strong arms to uphold tender ones. Her willing hands are ready to take action to see that needs are met and plans are carried out. Here in Vermont countless people call her Mother Moore.

One Sabbath the church

clerk asked her if she had ever considered becoming a member of their church family. When asked why she did not officially join earlier, she simply replied, “No one ever asked me!” What a wonderful experience it was having Margery join the Newport church family on November 4, 2006. Though always willing to help, she now has accepted official church offices for 2007 and with arms outstretched she awaits new challenges as the Lord’s ambassador.

*Lesley Moore, communication correspondent
Newport church*



Conference treasurer Robert Sundin and church treasurer James Howe, Sr., burn the mortgage.



Worshippers included long-time member Sadie Sweet, left, with her daughter-in-law Cherie Sweet.

Bennington Church Burns Mortgage

The Bennington church family will long be remember November 4, 2006. Our church was filled with family and friends from sister churches. The mighty power of the Holy Spirit moved as the mortgage was burned and the church was dedicated to the glory of God. The service began with a poetic history chronicling events at the church from 1923 to the present. The history was written by R. L. Cheney, an elder at the church, and read by his wife, Thelma. “Until Then,” sung by Noel Colon, pointed us to our future hope.

Merlin Knowles and Robert Sundin, Northern New England Conference secretary and treasurer, respectively, and their wives celebrated with us. Knowles reminded us in his sermon about Zacchaeus “a wee little man,” and how, when we are little in our own eyes, Jesus comes to be with

us. Bob Sundin and James Howe, Sr., church treasurer, burned the mortgage. A special prayer followed, dedicating the church and the members.

Following a delicious meal, we enjoyed a walk down memory lane and a musical program featuring our church family. Two charter members were present: Sadie Sweet whose husband used his team of horses to dig the basement of the first church, and Jean (Charlestream) Howe. Another surviving charter member is Lois (Charlestream) Holton. The Glee Charlestream family, part of our extended church family, dedicated a song in memory of the third Charlestream sister, Alice Hoffmeister. Gail Howe, church clerk, read inspiring minutes of significant events. Arnet Mathers, an elder at the church, interviewed Jean Howe; Marge Coulter read the



Reginald Lenbert Cheney, an elder at the church, and his wife, Thelma, presented a special poem written for the occasion.

1990 GLEANER article of our church's grand opening.

Many worked together to make this day special—thank you. We know that “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh

down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”—James 1:17 (NIV).

A collaborative effort by Jane Colter, Jim Everhart, and Arnet Mathers Bennington church

Northern New England Conference
presents

In A Cloud

Application deadline is January 12, 2007

For applications contact the
NNEC Education Department
at 207-797-3760, ext. 13
or visit us at www.nnec.org



Forrest Ward Memorial School Reopens

The Bennington, Vermont, church now has their much-prayed-for school back. The original church school was founded in 1947. Linda Everhart has returned to teach for this enthusiastic and dedicated church family. The school and new nature trail are named after a Vietnam War hero and former student. There are openings for more students in grades K-8. Call (802) 442-4579 for help in relocating to this beautiful Green Mountain village.

*Lynn Ortel, communication director
Northern New England Conference*

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presents

**MUSIC CLINIC
2007**

A Sabbath Rest

MARCH 29-31, 2007

- ★ Applications due December 1, 2006 for early registration ~ \$10 savings!
- ★ Final Piano application deadline February 1, 2007
- ★ Final application deadline for all others March 1, 2007

For applications or further information, please contact the
NNEC Education Department
at 207-797-3760, ext. 13 or
visit us at www.nnec.org.

Browning and SLA Sponsor Walk-a-Thon

The walk-a-thon at Browning elementary school and South Lancaster Academy (SLA) is a tradition that involves grades K-8 in raising funds to help meet the needs of the school. It has been sponsored for more than ten years and is held every other year. On the day of the walk-a-thon, students get to take a break from their schoolwork and have a good time outside the school building.

Funds raised this year are being used to buy air conditioners for the preschool and kindergarten rooms, music materials and supplies for grades K-4, and new Nathan Green pictures of Jesus for the SLA building. More electronics devices are being purchased to assist teachers in their schoolwork. Supplies such as laptops, LCD's and many others items, will be presented to Browning staff members. The walk-a-

thon consists of elementary students running a circuit near the Southern New England Conference headquarters. Students solicit parents, aunts, neighbors, grandparents and all who are willing to support the little ones and sponsor them. The most fun part of the walk-a-thon is that "you get to walk," according to one kindergarten student. Another responded, "We ate a lot of apples, they were delicious!"

Students, teachers, and staff members enjoy the walk. Some teachers walked with students, others refilled the kids' food supply, and still others encouraged students to keep going. The walk-a-thon is a great way to have fun, support our school, and most important, praise God. Why don't you join us for our next walk-a-thon two years from now? Come, it will be fun.

*Vanderlei Cunha, freshman
South Lancaster Academy*



Students get to take a break from their schoolwork and participate in the walk-a-thon to raise funds to help meet the needs of the school.



Southern New England Conference Church Officers Workshop

January 28, 2007
9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Machlan Auditorium
Atlantic Union College
338 Main Street
Lancaster, MA 01561



Main Presenter:
Pastor Dennis Smith

Who Should Attend?

Elders
Sabbath School Superintendents and Teachers
Personal Ministry Leaders
Deacons
Deaconesses
Clerks
Men's Ministries Leaders

Register by January 19, 2007
Free Materials and Lunch
(\$12.00 AFTER January 19, 2007)

To Register contact
April Montoya
(978) 365-4551 Ext. 21
E-mail: apmontoya@sneconline.org

Sponsored by the
Southern New England Conference
Personal Ministries Department
Dr. Whitford A. Shaw, Director

Croutons, Cucumbers, and Christ

Have you ever been compared to a tomato, a piece of lettuce, or a cucumber? If you had had the privilege of listening to the Week of Prayer messages by Pastor John Nixon, II at South Lancaster Academy (SLA), you would have definitely learned something about fruits and veggies.

SLA has three Week of Prayer sessions each year. The Fall Week of Prayer is the most important Week of Prayer throughout the entire year. Starting the year off on a positive spiritual note is imperative for having a good academic year.

SLA's Student Association pastor

Mariyan Montaque invited Nixon, a graduate of SLA, to speak for the Week of Prayer. "I thought he would be an uplifting speaker. Pastor Nixon helped our school come closer to God, and the lasting experience is amazing," says Montaque.

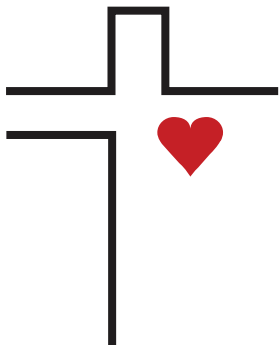
Not only did Nixon recount what the Bible says about our Savior, he also gave his own testimony and experience. He shared stories about his wife, son, and family, and how God has touched their lives. The Bible-based stories and stories from Nixon's own experience lit SLA on fire for God.

Pastor Nixon came to SLA at the

right time. It has been a hard road for the school to travel since the tragic death of three students in January 2006. He talked about his own car accident, which happened a few years ago. After he shared his story, some students were able to look at their own grief in a new light.

Throughout the entire week, Nixon blessed the students, faculty, and many parents with messages from Jesus Christ. Lives were changed and hearts were given to God after a wonderful Fall Week of Prayer at South Lancaster Academy.

*Arielle Enid Cady, senior
South Lancaster Academy*



Southern New England Conference Women's Ministries Retreat April 13–15, 2007

SpringHill Suites by Marriott
Ayer, Massachusetts

Staying Vertical...In A Horizontal World

The Women's Ministries group of the Southern New England Conference is pleased to present a weekend of spiritual growth and emotional renewal, along with our keynote speaker, Carolyn Sutton.

Carolyn's focus—drawing freely from her own personal losses and recovery—is to help others cope purposefully with life's often painful challenges. She is a retired educator, former missionary, previous editor of *GUIDE* magazine, and has authored six books and approximately 10 stories. She is a wife, mother, cancer survivor, and co-host of the television program, *Time Out*.

REGISTER BY MARCH 5, 2007

Contact Linda Tooley at the Southern New England office to request a Retreat Application.

Office: (978) 365-4551 x28, Linda Tooley

Fax: (978) 365-3838

Southern New England Conference Women's Ministries Director: Lisa Paden: LisaKPaden@aol.com

Retreat Fees (Hotel accommodations NOT INCLUDED):

\$99.00/person for Full Weekend Retreat Seminars and ALL Meals

\$59.00/person for Sabbath Only Retreat Seminars, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging

Contact SpringHill Suites by Marriott: (978) 772-3030 to book overnight accommodations. A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please mention that you are attending SNEC Women's Retreat to get the special \$119.00/room/night rate for this event. Hotel rooms include 2-queen beds to accommodate a maximum of four occupants.

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Picture an education where learning extends far beyond the classroom—

As the cornerstone of Adventist education, there is no better place than Atlantic Union College to study Evangelism and Clinical Ministry (Chaplaincy). Atlantic Union College's new Bachelor of Science degree in Evangelism and Master of Education degree with emphasis in Clinical Ministry, gives you a foundation of theoretical knowledge combined with the application of Bible-based Christianity.

As you begin to think about where it is you want to spend your college years or continue your education, consider Atlantic Union College for the time of your life.

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Sunset Table

February 2007	2	9	16	23	Eastern Standard Time
Bangor, ME	4:45	4:55	5:05	5:15	
Portland, ME	4:54	5:04	5:13	5:22	
Boston, MA	5:00	5:09	5:18	5:27	
So. Lancaster, MA	5:02	5:11	5:21	5:29	
Pittsfield, MA	5:09	5:18	5:27	5:36	
Hartford, CT	5:08	5:17	5:26	5:34	
New York, NY	5:15	5:24	5:32	5:41	
Albany, NY	5:09	5:18	5:27	5:36	
Utica, NY	5:15	5:25	5:34	5:43	
Syracuse, NY	5:19	5:28	5:38	5:47	
Rochester, NY	5:25	5:34	5:43	5:52	
Buffalo, NY	5:30	5:39	5:49	5:58	
Hamilton, Bda.	5:53	5:59	6:05	6:11	

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Earn the degree you've always wanted without sacrificing your professional or personal life. The Adult Degree Program at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., is a flexible program designed so you can continue to work while pursuing your

education goals. Design studies around personal interests and earn prior learning credit for life experience. There are two mandatory 2-week seminars in January and July. The next seminar is January 7-18, 2007. Info: 1-800-282-2030, (978) 368-2300, adp@atlanticuc.edu.

Degree in Chaplaincy—If you are a working adult who wants to specialize in

chaplaincy ministries, a new master's degree in education with a concentration in clinical ministry (chaplaincy) is now being offered. There are twice yearly intensives—two weeks each on campus—January and May. A 3-year completion is possible and financial aid is available.

NORTHEASTERN

Tune in to Voice of Hope every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., on WMCA 970 AM. Warner A. Richards, pastor of the Corona church in Queens, N.Y., hosts the program. Listen live on the Internet on the WMCA Web site, www.wmca.com, click the "Live on the Internet" link, and then click on "WMCA 970 Live Stream."

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

South Lancaster Academy Alumni Cruise to Alaska, July 9-20, 2007. This time we are heading for Alaska. Two options are being offered. A 7 day cruise only from Vancouver, BC to Anchorage (Whittier) or a 12 day Sea and Land tour which continues on to Denali via glass domed train where we spend 2 nights, then to Fairbanks for 2 additional nights. For more information contact our travel agent: Kathy Rice at (215) 412-8367, e-mail: krice@aaaeastpenn.com. Also contact June Harris, at (978)368-1667, e-mail: ronald.harris3@comcast.net. Space is limited, please call soon.

OUT-OF-UNION

La Sierra University Homecoming 2007

"A Time to Remember," March 9-11. Special invitation to the honor classes: '27, '37, '47, '57, '67, '77, '82. Sabbath church guest speaker: Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Pre-reg-

ister for all of the Homecoming weekend activities at www.lasierraconnect.net/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?&pid=198&srcid=225.

Union College Homecoming. Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Meet Me at the Rock Pile April 5-8, 2007. Honor classes are '37, '47, '52, '57, '67, '77, '82, '87, and '97. For more information contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

WIN! Wellness Seminar at Orlando Health Summit. A new total wellness approach will make its debut Jan. 28-Feb. 3 in Orlando. Drs. John, Millie and Wes Youngberg will present WIN! Wellness integrating instruction on body, mind/spirit and family relationships within a gospel setting. WIN! gives a gentle introduction to Adventist doctrines and is evangelistic. WIN! is recommended for health educators, evangelists, family ministry leaders, women's ministries, community service, and qualified lay persons. For further information contact www.plusline.org/events or call 1-800-732-7587.



Atlantic Union Office of Education & Atlantic Union College announce

Choral Music Clinic February 14-17, 2007

on the campus of
Atlantic Union College

More than 100 academy and high school students have been invited to attend Choral Music Clinic 2007. Dr. Erick Parris will be the clinician who will give instruction. Students will be auditioning for the privilege to participate. There will be a Friday evening Vespers, Sabbath worship service, and Saturday evening concert open to the public.

For more information contact the
Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education
E-mail: education@atlanticunion.org • Call: (978) 368-8333

Co-sponsored by the
Atlantic Union College and the
Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education

Religious Liberty — Important Web Sites

- Adventist Public Affairs & Religious Liberty North American Division <http://www.nadfreedom.org>
- Liberty Magazine <http://www.libertymagazine.org>
- Office of Legislative Affairs <http://ola.adventist.org>
- Other Religious Liberty Links <http://ola.adventist.org/Links.htm>
- Public Affairs & Religious Liberty General Conference <http://parl.gc.adventist.org>

The Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL) director in the local conference is also available if information is needed (see page 31 for the conference office numbers).

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Annual Atlantic Union Conference Collegiate/Young Adult Retreat
Ages 18-35

Theme: "Sacred Space — Learning the Rhythms of Grace"

Date: February 2-4, 2007

Place: Camp Winnekeag
Ashburnham, Massachusetts



Featured Speaker
Pastor Jonathan Henderson



Praise and Worship
Scott Campbell



Musical Artist
Courtney Fadlin

Registration
4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Opening Session
Friday, February 2, 8:00 p.m.

Cost \$70.00 per person lodging assigned on a first come, first serve basis (bring your own linens)

Sabbath Only: \$35.00 includes Sabbath lunch

Registration Deadline: January 22, 2007

Sponsored by the
Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department
(978) 368-8333 • Email: youthministries@atlanticunion.org
www.atlantic-union.org/godencounters2007.html

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Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff
E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor: Ednor A. P. Davison
Layout & Design: Haziel Olivera

Correspondents

Bermuda: Sheila Holder, sholder@bermudaconference.bm
Greater New York: Alanzo Smith, aljune77@aol.com
New York: Kim Kaiser, kim@nyconf.com
Northeastern: Trevor Baker, tbaker@northeastern.org
Northern New England: Lynn Ortel, lortel@nnec.org
Southern New England: Frank Tochterman, ftochterman@sneconline.org
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