

THE ATLANTIC UNION

FEBRUARY 2007

GLEANER

**Steeple
Restored
on Ephesus
Church**

**Agents of
the Master
Mender**

Everyday People
on the Frontlines of
**Religious
Liberty**



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If you were challenged with Sabbath accommodation problems at your workplace, would you know what to do? The February cover story shares some information on that topic. In addition, you will find Positions of Our Faith on page 7, and Youth Connections on page 10. The cover photo of the 30-foot steeple being lifted into place on Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harlem, New York was taken by Phil Royal.—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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April 2007	February 9
May 2007	March 9
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Agents of the Master Mender

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in—Isaiah 58:12.

At one time or another we all have had at least one piece of clothing that was torn and needed mending. Some of us, lacking the skills to mend it ourselves, will find a seamstress or tailor who is qualified to do the repairs so the garment becomes almost like new. I recall when I was in the ninth grade I had a dress that was ripped close to the waist. I loved the dress and wanted to save it. My mother had a sewing machine, and one day I decided to try my hand at fixing it. After studying the damage, I realized that the rip in the top was not repairable; I would not be able to wear the dress again as it was. Determined to save it, I removed the damaged top portion and made a skirt with the bottom. When I was finished, I was proud to wear the “new” skirt I had sewn with my own hands.

Sewing is an art that takes time, skill, a good eye, and steady hands. A great seamstress or tailor can mend ripped articles of clothing and make them look very presentable.

Lately, it seems as though the very fabric of our society is being ripped to shreds at the seams. Early in January there were reports of snow falling in Southern California, while at the same time New Englanders were wondering if any snow would fall at all in the Northeast this winter. Other social and domestic events occurring around us seem to indicate that things are out of kilter and the “tear” is widening.

Recently, dolphins were discovered on the beach in Boston Harbor in what scientists are calling an “extremely rare mass stranding.” Passers-by were able to help several of the dolphins back in the water while others died. Workers at the New England Aquarium are trying to determine why they may have become stranded.

In our Adventist community the sudden accidental deaths of some students have traumatized the South Lancaster community and have left many of our youth asking serious questions about God, life, and death. The demise of these youth has come as a wake-up call.

Individuals in our churches, communities, and around the world are being torn by the challenges of life in ways that make it seem impossible to repair the damage and return them to wholeness. Many have been torn because of misunderstandings or family feuds; some have been abandoned or orphaned; others have been neglected or abused; and still others have been ripped away because of war or at the hands of violent assailants.

At times it seems as if there is no hope for this dying world, but the consolation in all of this is that God is the “Master Mender” and He will repair the breach that has been caused by the effects of sin in this world. That is why He has called us as his agents to be “repairers of the breach.”

We are one month into a new year and 2006 is just a dot on the radar. There is much work to be done, and as workers for Christ we should be busy helping to repair the damage by bringing the hope of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it.

Perhaps it is time to revisit the mission and vision of our churches and, in addition to assembling ourselves for Sabbath services, we should be intentional about finding ways to meet the dire needs of our communities, one project at a time. In doing so we will be known as a body of Christian believers who gave the hungry meat and the thirsty drink; who took the stranger in, clothed the naked, and visited the sick and imprisoned (see Matthew 26:42-45).

What are we as Seventh-day Adventist Christians doing to help repair the breach? Can we make a significant difference in 2007?[®]

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.



Individuals in our churches, communities, and around the world are being torn by the challenges of life in ways that make it seem impossible to repair the damage and return them to wholeness.



Everyday People on the Frontlines of Religious Liberty



When you are dealing with Sabbath accommodation problems, the picture is rarely pretty. If you are an individual who has experienced a Sabbath accommodation problem, you know what I mean. If you have never experienced a Sabbath accommodation problem, then imagine one day being secure in a well-paying job with benefits and all the bonuses—and then suddenly finding out that you are about to be fired because of your religious beliefs and practices. Imagine the anxiety church members facing these problems experience. I know church members who have not only lost their jobs, but their homes and families because of their commitment to God and His commandments.

Not all of these stories have a happy ending. The two individuals featured here have stories typical of the Sabbath accommodation problems found across the North American Division.

NO SECURITY

Deborah Fountain was a flight attendant who was suspended because she refused to do two things—she refused to lie when someone suggested she just call in sick, and she refused to allow her employer to force her to work on Sabbath.



Deborah Fountain

Deborah was suspended from work fairly quickly after those decisions were made. She remained suspended for months, even after she contacted her religious liberty department.

Through valiant efforts made on her behalf by the church, Deborah was eventually returned to her position at the airline, but without an accommodation for her Sabbath work schedule. Today, Deborah works like many church members—without an accommodation, and dependent solely upon her ability to bid on a schedule that allows her to be off on the Sabbath. She receives no assistance from her employer in getting this accommodation. Deborah lives with the possibility that she could find herself in the same predicament should she fail to successfully bid an accommodating schedule.

STILL FIGHTING

Miguel Hernandez is another committed Seventh-day Adventist who faced Sabbath problems. Miguel and

his family immigrated to the United States years ago. He came searching for the American dream—a job with benefits, a nice house, a good education for his children. Who would have thought he would be fired from his job because of his religious beliefs and practices? Miguel worked for more than ten years with a mining company, always getting Sabbath off. When the mining company changed manage-



*When Adventists
defend religious
freedom, we do
so as a result of this
insight into how
God treats citizens
of His kingdom.*



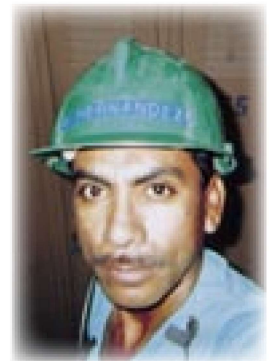
ment, his accommodation, job, and dreams were taken away almost overnight. Miguel's case is in litigation, but since the start of the case, the mining company [has gone into] bankruptcy, and the outcome is still uncertain.

Sabbath accommodation problems are not pretty, and every story may have a different ending. Deborah and

Miguel are “regular” church members, just like you. And Deborah and Miguel could never have imagined one day they would tell their story before members of Congress. In October 2005, both Deborah and Miguel traveled to Washington, D.C., to be ambassadors for the Sabbath and for church members throughout the United States who are facing or might face a similar Sabbath work problem. They presented their story during a press conference before members of Congress, in an effort to move the Workplace Religious Freedom Act forward. They are just everyday people who trust in God, keep his commandments, and who were compelled to act on faith. The third angel of Revelation tells of two kinds of people, those who worship the beast and his image, and “they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

We cannot treat Sabbath accommodation problems casually, because each time one of these cases arises, the authority of God is challenged. Adventists should use every opportunity available to show others the truth and share the “three angels’ messages.” But, while we should use these opportunities, we need to remember that everyone has the right to refuse to believe. That right is a God-given right to religious freedom.

Religious freedom is a fragile right. It requires a balance of thought and application. America's religious freedom is



Miguel Hernandez

closely tied to the Constitution and the First Amendment. For Seventh-day

Adventists, religious freedom is also closely tied to our understanding of prophecy and end-time events.

Just as it was in Jesus' day, there will always be religious people who refuse to understand the "three angels' messages." There will remain people who seek to have the government enforce religion because of those who refuse to believe what they believe, whether that belief is true or false.



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Of all the glimpses we have of heaven before the fall, we should realize that the one thing that was present in heaven was religious freedom. How else could Lucifer have been allowed to rebel? When Adventists defend religious freedom, we do so as a result of this insight into how God treats citizens of His kingdom. And, as Adventists, we have a unique perspective of worldly religious freedom

issues. We present to the world a balanced approach to the understanding of religious liberty that no other denominational organization presents. Understanding a balance lies in our ability to freely exercise our religious beliefs, without governmental legislation or interference of that right.

"But today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. Since Christ is not now here in person, they themselves will undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom. The establishment of such a kingdom is what the Jews desired in the days of Christ. They would have received Jesus, had He been willing to establish a temporal dominion, to enforce what they regarded as the laws of God"—DESIRE OF AGES, p. 509.

Presenting a balanced approach to religious freedom comes from a unique Adventist understanding of biblical truth, prophecy, and constitutional guarantees. It also requires that we share in the work God has ordained in order to develop a character like Christ's.

While there will always be people who refuse to obey God's commands, there will also be those who uphold His commandments. As a result there will always be Sabbath accommodation problems. But, as a church committed to religious liberty for everyone, we will continue to fight to preserve the heavenly rights of mankind.①



Amireh Al-Haddad is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Southern Union and writes from Decatur, Georgia.

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

Balanced Understanding and Application

Religious liberty within the Adventist church presents balance and understanding for the Christian's relationship with the state. Ellen White writes in *THE GREAT CONTROVERSY*, "To protect liberty of conscience is the duty of the state, and this is the limit of its authority in matters of religion" (p. 201). The state has an obligation to protect our right to freely exercise our religious beliefs. So at times we apply to the state to ensure this happens. At other times, the state forgets it has no authority over religious matters, and it oversteps its bounds. At these times, it falls to us to remind the state of its limits and make sure those boundaries are protected. It is this approach that dictates most actions taken by the religious liberty department of the church.

Seventh-day Adventist Response to Same-Sex Unions

A Reaffirmation of Christian 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).

Seventh-day Adventist Response to Same-Sex Unions

A Reaffirmation of Christian Marriage

Over the past several decades the Seventh-day Adventist Church has felt it necessary to clearly state in various ways its position [regarding] marriage, the family, and human sexuality. These subjects are at the heart of many pressing issues facing society. That which for centuries has been considered to be basic Christian morality in the marriage setting is now increasingly called into question, not only in secular society, but within Christian churches themselves.

The institutions of family and marriage are under attack and facing growing centrifugal forces that are tearing them apart. An increasing number of nations are now debating the topic of "same-sex unions," thus making it a world issue. The public discussion has engendered strong emotions. In light of these developments, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is clearly restating its position.

We reaffirm, without hesitation, our long-standing position. As expressed in the church's Fundamental Beliefs, "marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship."¹ Though "sin has perverted God's ideals for marriage and family," "the family tie is the closest, the most tender

and sacred of any human relationship," and thus "families need to experience renewal and reformation in their relationships" (AN AFFIRMATION OF FAMILY, 1990).² God instituted "marriage, a covenant-based union of two genders physically, emotionally, and spiritually, spoken of in Scripture as 'one flesh.'" "The monogamous union in marriage of a man and a woman is... the only morally appropriate locus of genital or related intimate sexual expression." "Any lowering of this high view is to that extent a lowering of the heavenly ideal" (AN AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE, 1996).³

Homosexuality is a manifestation of the disorder and brokenness in human inclinations and relations caused by sin coming into the world. While everyone is subject to fallen human nature, "we also believe that by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word" (SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST POSITION STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALITY, 1999).⁴

We hold that all people, no matter what their sexual orientation, are children of God. We do not condone singling out any group for scorn and derision, let alone abuse. However, it is very clear that God's Word does not countenance a homosexual lifestyle; neither has the Christian church throughout her 2000-year history. Seventh-day Adventists believe that the biblical teaching is still valid today, because it is anchored in the very nature of humanity and God's plan at creation for marriage.①

This document was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM), March 9, 2004.

¹SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE—A BIBLICAL EXPOSITION OF 27 FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES, Doctrine 22 on "Marriage and the Family."

²Public Statement, An Affirmation of Family, released July 5, 1990, at the General Conference Session, Indianapolis, Indiana.

³Statement voted by the General Conference Administrative Committee on April 23, 1996.

⁴Statement voted by the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee, October 3, 1999.

40 ans au service des missionnaires pour les former aux différents champs culturels

Pour parler avec succès du christianisme dans une culture hostile à sa propre culture, il faut plus qu'un amour passionné pour Dieu et un coup de pouce du Saint-Esprit. C'est ce qu'on appelle le travail missionnaire, pour lequel une préparation adéquate est bienvenue notamment pour l'apprentissage d'une langue inconnue.

Il y a quarante ans, les missionnaires adventistes envoyés à l'étranger n'avaient pas d'endroit où aller pour apprendre les nuances et pratiques culturelles primordiales qui aideraient ou annihileraient la présentation de l'Évangile aux locaux. Aujourd'hui, l'Institut de Mission Mondiale (IWM) situé à l'université d'Andrews à Berrien Springs dans le Michigan (Etats-Unis), propose un tel soutien à tous les missionnaires envoyés par la Conférence Générale.

Lester Merklin, missionnaire expérimenté nommé directeur de l'Institut en 2005, illustre comment de bonnes intentions peuvent facilement faire aller les choses de travers si un missionnaire n'est pas au courant de la culture locale.

“C'est tout naturel pour un américain d'utiliser une illustration d'un chiot dans une prédication” dit-il. Mais “au Pakistan, si un pasteur utilise une telle illustration, l'auditoire va être rapidement rebuté du fait que les chiens sont très mal vus dans la société musulmane.”

Pat Gustin, directrice de l'Institut jusqu'à l'année dernière, approuve: “Nous avons tous des oeillères culturelles et faisons des erreurs par inadvertance, surtout lorsque nous essayons de faire le travail de l'église.” Elle mentionne que “l'on ne peut pas communiquer correctement, lorsque l'on est missionnaire dans une culture étrangère, tant que l'on n'a pas une profonde compréhension des gens, de leur façon de penser et de raisonner et que l'on ne connaît pas d'où ils viennent.”

Au mois d'août dernier, c'était le quarantième anniversaire du tout premier institut des missions de l'université d'Andrews. IWM a été fondé parce que “l'Eglise a senti, à un certain moment, que l'envoi de missionnaires occidentaux vers l'Est ou du Nord vers le Sud demandait une meilleure préparation” selon Gottfried Oosterwal, premier directeur de l'Institut de Mission Mondiale. “Nous avons vu que l'Évangile avait besoin d'être ‘traduite’ dans la culture des autres peuples.”

Les sessions de formation ont lieu une fois, voire deux ou trois fois par an certaines années. Rapidement l'organisation est devenue indépendante, d'après G. Oosterwal qui a dirigé l'Institut pendant 25 ans. De nos jours, l'Institut donne à tous les missionnaires, une formation sur les différences culturelles, qu'ils soient

employés à plein temps, à temps partiel ou volontaires. Elle facilite aussi leur retour dans leur pays d'origine.

Jon Dybdahl vit à College Place à Washington, c'est un ancien missionnaire à la retraite qui donne des cours sur les missions à l'Institut. Il dit: “Lorsque j'ai terminé mes études au séminaire, il n'y avait pas de département des missions. Maintenant, il est demandé aux étudiants du séminaire de suivre quelques cours sur les missions. Beaucoup de personnes ne se rendent pas compte que la façon dont nous partageons l'Évangile n'est pas seulement biblique, elle est aussi culturelle.”

Deux sessions de formation aux missions ont lieu chaque année à l'université d'Andrews et trois sessions se déroulent aussi dans

d'autres lieux. Au mois d'août dernier, le 115^{ème} institut s'est tenu à Nairobi au Kenya. P. Gustin déclare: “Nous n'envoyons pas des individus en mission, nous envoyons des familles.” C'est pourquoi il y a aussi une formation pour les enfants de missionnaires.

L. Merklin conclut: “Cela ne veut pas dire que l'Institut peut, pour chaque culture, vous apprendre tout ce qu'il faut faire et ne pas faire et comment parler... mais heureusement nous pouvons réveiller la conscience au besoin d'observer, d'écouter et d'apprendre avant de parler. C'est une formation à deux volets: comment être un missionnaire efficace et comment survivre.”

*Taashi Rowe, coordinatrice de la rédaction
Adventist News Network
12 December, 2006*

ENVOYEZ-NOUS VOS HISTOIRES!

Les articles doivent être soumis au département des communications de l'église locale ou à une personne désignée à l'école ou autres entités. Elle envoie l'article au directeur des communications de la conférence qui le censure après l'avoir révisé et décide s'il faut l'expédier au bureau de GLEANER.

- Garder votre histoire concise.
- Limiter l'histoire à 300 mots.
- Répondre aux questions: Qui? Quoi? Quand? Comment? et Pourquoi? dans les deux premiers paragraphes.
- Identifier chaque personne dans l'histoire par son nom et prénom; identifier le rôle ou le titre de chaque personne que vous citez pour montrer leur connection dans l'histoire.
- Identifier l'auteur de l'histoire par son nom et son titre.
- Indiquer un # de téléphone ou email pour faciliter le contact au besoin.

40 años preparando misioneros para las culturas más diversas

Se necesita más que amor por Dios y un toque del Espíritu Santo para hablar con éxito del cristianismo a una cultura extraña. Se llama trabajo misionero y prepararse adecuadamente para la tarea es similar a aprender otra lengua.

Cuarenta años atrás, los misioneros adventistas no tenían donde ir para aprender las importantes prácticas culturales que significarían el éxito y el fracaso de su presentación del evangelio a los locales. Hoy en día, el Instituto de Misiones Mundiales (IWM), con sede en la Andrews University, en Berrien Springs, Michigan, Estados Unidos, brinda el apoyo vital para todos los misioneros enviados por la sede central de la iglesia.

Lester Merklin, un misionero experimentado que fue nombrado director del Instituto en 2005, ilustra cuán fácilmente las buenas intenciones pueden arruinarse si un misionero no está informado de la cultura local.

“Para un norteamericano es natural utilizar la ilustración de un perro mascota durante un sermón,” dice. Pero “en Pakistán eso produciría rechazo en la audiencia debido a cómo se consideran los perros en la sociedad musulmana.”

“Todos cometemos estos errores culturales sin darnos cuenta, especialmente cuando estamos tratando de trabajar por la iglesia,” dijo Pat Gustin, que hasta el año pasado era director del Instituto. Gustin señaló que como misioneros en

una cultura extraña, “uno no puede comunicarse bien a menos que tenga una comprensión profunda de otras personas y de cómo piensan, razonan y de dónde provienen.”

Este agosto pasado se cumplieron 40 años del primer Instituto de las Misiones llevado a cabo en la Andrews University. El IWM se hizo realidad porque “la iglesia sintió durante algún tiempo que el enviar misioneros de Occidente al Oriente o del Norte al Sur demandaba una mejor preparación,” dijo Gottfried Oosterwal, el primer director del Instituto. “Vimos que el evangelio necesitaba ser traducido a la cultura de los otros pueblos.”

Los institutos de preparación se llevaron a cabo una, dos o tres veces al año y pronto llegaron a ser una organización independiente, según Oosterwal, que dirigió el Instituto durante 25 años. Hoy en día el Instituto brinda un entrenamiento intercultural apropiado para todos los obreros de tiempo completo, para los contratados por un período determinado y para los voluntarios, y les facilita el reingreso a sus respectivos países.

Jon Dybdahl, que trabajó como misionero, dio clases de misión en el Instituto y ahora está retirado y vive en College Place, Washington, dice: “Cuando dejé el seminario no había departamento de

las misiones mundiales. Ahora se requiere que los estudiantes del seminario tomen un par de clases de misión. Muchos no se dan cuenta de que mucho de lo que comparten con los demás no es bíblico sino cultural.”

Cada año, en la Andrews University se llevan a cabo dos sesiones de preparación y otras tres se llevan a cabo en otros lugares del mundo. En agosto pasado, se llevó a cabo la 115ª sesión en Nairobi, Kenia. “No enviamos individuos al campo misionero, enviamos familias,” dijo Gustin, de manera que se prepara también a los niños.

“No estamos diciendo que en el Instituto podemos conocer todas las culturas y podemos enseñar todas las cosas que se deben hacer, y qué no hacer y cómo hablar ... pero es de esperar que podamos crear conciencia de la necesidad de observar, escuchar y aprender antes de hablar,” dijo Merklin. “Es una preparación en dos fases acerca de cómo ser un misionero eficaz y también acerca de cómo sobrevivir.”

*Taashi Rowe, asistente editorial
Adventist News Network
12 December, 2006
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi*

¿QUÉ ESTÁ SUCEDIENDO EN SU IGLESIA?

¿Tiene usted noticias o historias inspirantes de su iglesia que quisiera compartir con nuestros lectores?

Someta sus artículos y fotos al director de comunicaciones de su asociación.

Para más información sobre cómo y qué someter visite www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner.htm y click “Pautas Para Someter Artículos.”

¡Esperamos oír de usted!

Youth Ministry



YouthConnections

It's a new year. A new year offers us a chance to start all over again. It's a time when we set new goals and renew old ones. It's a time to focus on the coming months and set an agenda of what we want to accomplish in youth ministry. Have you taken the time to refocus your energy to make youth ministry in your church a productive ministry? Determining a mission and vision for your group provides direction and helps you stay on course. Having these is like having a Global Positioning System (GPS) that helps chart the course of your programs, calendar, budget, and everything else involved in youth ministry. Much of this article is based on information in the book *GETTING IT RIGHT* (page 201).

The authors of *7 PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH MINISTRY EXCELLENCE* offer some good advice on what we need to know or do to be a more effective leader and understand youth better. Here are some questions that Stuart Tyner suggests we answer:

What kind of God do you serve?

How does that God get in touch with us? Your answer will help you see the place of Bible study and devotional practices in your ministry.

How do youth learn?

What is ministry all about?

How do adolescents grow?

What do you hope will be the outcomes of your ministry? Spend some time visioning about where you want youth ministry to be in 2008 or five years from now.

How should other leaders be involved in your ministry?

What kinds of programs are consistent with your mission and understanding of youth ministry?

What does your church think of youth ministry?

How do you understand your own gifts for youth ministry?

After answering these questions, some essential skills are needed:

- **Counseling**—Know how to help youth with their issues.
- **Discipline**—Teach your young people how to take responsibility.
- **Facilitating groups**—Learn how to get your youth talking.
- **Programming ideas**—There is a wealth of material available that will help with your programming.
- **Understanding and teaching about spiritual gifts.**
- **Knowing youth culture**—You need to understand the world in which your youth live. Go where they go, attend their events, listen to them talk, hang out with them. You will begin to understand youth culture. This proactive skill is called “ministry of presence.” You don't have to be up front leading out all the time. Just your presence at an event will make a lasting impact on the lives of your young people.

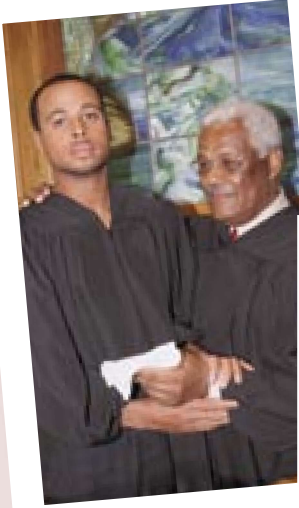
One of the best ways to work with youth is to give them ownership. Involve them in the decision making, give them meaningful responsibilities, and empower them to make decisions. If they mess up, you can use that as a learning tool to help them grow.

Resources—Make use of the best that's available in the world of youth ministry. There is a wealth of material available. Just “Google” youth ministry to find out what is out there. In the words of one youth leader, “Do more than plan a Sabbath School, plan to change lives.”¹⁰



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

Highlights at Hamilton Church on December 23, 2006



Carlyle Simmons, executive secretary for the Atlantic Union, participated in the services and had the opportunity to baptize his great-nephew, Sean Kelly.

Five individuals were baptized in the last baptism of 2006 held on December 23.



Hamilton church members helped Pastor Kenneth Manders and his wife, Claudette, celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary.

A God-blessed Vision

With the foresight and initiation of Jeffrey Brown, president of the Bermuda Conference, the strategic planning committee was spiritually charged on Sunday morning, November 19, when they were challenged by Stanley James to “seek a word from the Lord.” As James picked up the mantle from Alvin Kibble, he challenged the participants to keep the unique Adventist standards at the forefront of our witness to our people and to those for whom we labor. The poignant question was asked, “Are we willing to be different and stand apart from other Christian religions?”

After a soul-stirring spiritual feast we began the business of the day. The introductory activity to spur us on to action was facilitated by Richard Smith. Here the members had to decide

and defend their position about the condition of the Bermuda Conference. Is the conference growing, stagnant, diminishing, or are we just not sure? Not surprisingly, there were committee members who defended each of the positions.

In a presentation entitled Blue Ocean Strategy, Deborah Thomas-Gilkes asked the committee members to identify key factors in our in-reach and outreach ministries to the church and to the community. This process led us to take a serious look at how effectively, from the conference level, do we target, package, and deliver the services and ministries of the conference. The strategy, comprised of six principles, shows how to focus on the big picture, reach beyond existing demands, and overcome organizational hurdles.

This power-packed session left us wanting to get on with the business of the Bermuda Conference in charting a

focused action plan for the present and the long term.

*Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference*

The Gospel on Wheels

No one could have imagined that the Bermuda Conference health van would be used 49 times during 2006. The churches have welcomed this service that provides an entering wedge into the community with open arms. The van creates a setting where people’s needs can be met. Many times the health ministries and community services workers combine their efforts to assist those in need. Just parking in the neighborhood or in one of the parking lots of the various supermarkets is a witness that the church cares for the whole person.

Having received physical care as a result of visiting the van, many individuals have also benefitted spiritually attending evangelistic meetings at the western and eastern ends of the island. These people were first introduced to the church through the health services van.

*Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference*

Our Grads Are Prepared for Graduate School

The Natural Sciences graduates are moving on and on the move—



Jean Gervais, a 2005 graduate with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in biology, is completing a master's degree in interdisciplinary mathematics and science with a biology/physics emphasis at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is accepted into the Saint James School of Medicine in Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, in the Caribbean.



Michael McNicolls, a 2005 graduate with a B.S. in biology, is attending St. Georges Medical School in Grenada, in the Caribbean.

Kevin Anderson is a 2001 graduate with a B.S. in biology. He is working toward a doctorate in pharmaceutical science at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. (Not pictured).

Photos: Timothy Trott



Leslie Valbrun, a 2005 graduate with a B.S. in biology, is attending Loma Linda Medical Center School of Public Health in Loma Linda, California. He is majoring in health promotion and education and is employed as a lab technician in a gas chromatography and mass spectroscopy (GCMS) laboratory.



Marc Thevenin is a 2004 graduate with a B.S. in biology. He attends Loma Linda Medical Center School of Public Health and will receive a master's degree in Research Epidemiology. He is applying to dental school.

*Timothy Trott, assistant professor
department of natural sciences
Atlantic Union College*

Graduate Degree in Chaplaincy Offered—Master's in

Those of us who have had the ministry of a chaplain touch our lives know the tender, steadfast presence that impacts the life in a difficult situation and leaves positive, lasting memories and tools for living life.

Chaplains minister to the needs of individuals and families. They:

- Serve in hospitals, schools, hospices, nursing homes, prisons, industry, or in the military.
- Help families resolve relationship, marriage, and family crises.
- Provide care for the dying and bereaved.

- Offer crisis intervention.
- Work as part of a team that interacts with other professionals to bring comfort and hope to patients and their families.
- Teach religion on the high school and college levels.

Atlantic Union College began the process of developing this new, fully accredited, chaplaincy master's degree in the late 1990's and launched the program in May 2004. In a little more than two years, the first graduates emerged this past July 2006—Luis Gracia, AUC's campus chaplain; Michael Ulett from

Connecticut; and Cheryl Simmons from South Carolina who is an Adult Degree Program student.

The Master of Education with a concentration in clinical ministry (chaplaincy) is geared for the working adult and traditional student who want to specialize in chaplaincy ministries. The program includes twice yearly, two-week intensives in May and January with some summer classes. The next dates are May 13-25, 2007.

Endorsement and Partner

Atlantic Union College and Kettering Medical Center Network, based in Kettering, Ohio, outside of Dayton, are now partnering in this chaplaincy

New Associate Degrees Offered in Adult Degree Program

Atlantic Union College is now able to offer three new associate degrees: Para-education (teacher's aides, child care providers), Business, and Personal Ministries.

The Adult Degree Program at Atlantic Union College has been providing adults over age 25 with alterna-

tive education opportunities for baccalaureate and master's degrees, and teacher licensure for 35 years.

Individuals can earn a degree at home without having to sacrifice their professional life. They can continue working while pursuing educational goals. The flexibility of the Adult

Degree Program (ADP) allows students to design their studies around their interests, and students can earn prior learning credit for life experience.

ADP combines the convenience of distance learning with face-to-face interaction at two yearly seminars. Students from all over the world come to the campus for a 2-week seminar each January and July. Enrollment is now being conducted for students for the July 8-20, 2007, seminar.

The baccalaureate program is open to those 25 or older who have a high school diploma or equivalent (including five GCE passes or a GED certificate with no score below 50 in any subtest), and who can find time for a least 20 hours of study a week.

Info 1-800-282-2030, (978) 368-2300 or adp@auc.edu

*Dorothy Page, director
Adult Degree Program
Atlantic Union College*

Adult Student Testimonials



Photos: Dave Sherwin



“ADP ignited my curiosity, fostered my desire for learning and propelled me into a world of knowledge I never dreamed possible,” says Sandra Boucher, above. “Add to that a bachelor’s and master’s degree and life-long friends.”

“I took night course after night course until I found ADP; it was a perfect match. The staff was superior, and helped me achieve my goals,” reported Christopher Detsikas, above left.

Clinical Ministry

degree program. “This program is tailor-made with chaplaincy in mind and is ideal for anyone thinking about a career in Hospital Chaplaincy,” says Mario Ceballos, chief spiritual officer, Spiritual Services and Missions, Kettering Adventist Health Care, Dayton, Ohio.

Master’s Candidate Testimonials

“This program has adequately provided me with the necessary tools to be a great chaplain. I strongly recommend this program to anyone serious about chaplaincy.”—Chaplain Cheryl Simmons, trauma chaplain, Palmetto Health Richland Hospital, Columbia, South Carolina. Simmons graduated in July 2006 with a Master of Education with concentration in clinical ministry.

“I’m enjoying the curriculum for this degree. I love attending the school and look forward to each season of classes there.”—Chaplain Rick LaVenture, Kettering Medical Center Network

For an information packet, call: (978) 368-2430 or clinicalministry@auc.edu.

Rick Trott, coordinator, Master of Education clinical ministry program professor of religion and clinical ministry Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts.



Cheryl Simmons, left, a trauma chaplain from South Carolina, makes a chaplaincy visit with a patient.



Luzo Brazilian Church Celebrates its 35th Anniversary

The Portuguese-speaking church in New York City started in the early 1970s, when a group of young people from New York attended the services in Newark, New Jersey. As the group grew, they felt the need to start the work in New York City not only for their convenience, but also to reach out to the community.

Conrad Visser, an elder, and the members of the Spanish Broadway church, hearing of their need of a place to worship, invited this group to meet and organize in their church. The company was organized in Manhattan on October 23, 1971. At that time, there were ten other language groups presenting the Seventh-day Adventist message in the New York City area.

Pastor J. Miranda, who attended the organizing ceremony with all the members of the New Jersey church, was invited by the Greater New York Conference to support the new congregation. He would preach in New Jersey on Sabbath mornings and in New York in the afternoon. The meetings were held on the second floor of the Spanish Broadway church at 161 West 93rd Street in Manhattan. After a while, they moved to the Golden Room of the Hebrew Adventist Congregation at 410 West 45th Street in Manhattan.

The small group grew slowly, reaching about 50 members by the end of 1975. In 1976 an old two-story building was purchased close to LaGuardia Airport. In 1985 the church building

was sold and a new property was purchased in Long Island City.

During the 90s, as the church grew, the main challenge was to build a bigger temple for the community. According to J. Irajá Silva, who pastored the church from October 1990 to November 2004, they needed “a bigger building to hold the meetings and to have a better facility to attract new people.” Then the church purchased a lot in Jackson Heights where they are now building a beautiful temple.



Gerson Santos, Bonnie and Richard Marker, and Antonio and Emeri Vilela attended the 35th anniversary celebration of the Luzo-Brazilian church.

Since its beginning, the Luzo-Brazilian church in New York experienced considerable growth. Today, almost 350 members are worshiping in Queens, and two other congregations worship in Long Island and Westchester. The real growth of a church should not be evaluated by numbers alone. The church is to be built up in both character and numbers.

On October 27, on the occasion of 35th anniversary celebration, Richard Marker, Greater New York Conference

president, delivered the message challenging the church “to fulfill its mission to preach the gospel as an agency for salvation of men.”

During the past year, Claudio Vilela, the church’s pastor, developed a strong mobilization for evangelism. Supported by the Greater New York Conference Personal Ministries Department leadership, they developed a program of equipping and mobilizing the members. As a result, there is more membership involvement in the in-reach and outreach of the church. This program helped to foster active and positive participation in outreach efforts, and an increase in newcomers participating in church activities.

The equipping program created a positive image of a caring church in the neighborhood. It provided an avenue for the motivation, involvement, and training of young people, thus enhancing the retention of youth in the church. It also fostered the need for regular Bible studies and in-depth reading of the Spirit of Prophecy, strengthening the members of the church as they delve into the Word of God.

It is a fact that the work cannot be finished without the involvement of the laity. Therefore, more pastors should put stronger emphasis on the motivation and training of laity for service.

*Gerson Santos, Personal Ministries director
Greater New York Conference*

Middletown Christian School holds Dinner Concert



Christine Sinclair, international gospel recording artist, standing third from right, is surrounded by the Middletown Christian School students.

The Middletown Christian School (MCS) held a dinner concert on October 28, 2006. More than 125 guests listened to featured soloist and recording artist, Christine Sinclair of Stamford, Connecticut. Several selections featured Sinclair and the students of MCS.

The dinner concert was a fundraiser for the Middletown Christian School. During the dinner Devon Tugman, the school board chairman, was recognized

for his many years of leadership with the school board. Also recognized was Steve Lazaroff and his wife, Yvonne, who initiated the vision to begin a pre-school and kindergarten in 2000.

Maureen Morgan of the Save the Children committee was in charge of this event and is already planning a similar event to take place in October 2007.

*Richard Mills, communication leader
Middletown church*

Patchogue Celebrates Youth Day

Through a thought-provoking, soul-stirring sermon delivered on September 30, 2006, at the Patchogue Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Leacroft Green directed the attention of the youth, members, and visitors to their purpose in this world. Bringing fresh insight to the parable of the “wise and foolish virgins,” Green reminded us of our role in this world as lightbearers. We were instructed to hold up the light so that the Bridegroom may find His bride. Clive Goring from the Patchogue church and Steven Welch from the Bronx Washington Avenue

Seventh-day Adventist Church provided the special music during the worship service.

A lunch was prepared and served by the social committee, headed by Alicia Blakely. Immediately following lunch, the Adventist Youth Society, headed by Mark Armstrong, presented a musical concert of vocal and instrumental pieces to the packed church. The concert participants were Earl Huie, Carmen Whitfield, and Clive Goring from the Patchogue church; Anthony Mayers and Carol McClurkin from the Gordon Heights church; Heidi and Eddie Santiago from the

Babylon church; Marion Huie from Brooklyn; Steven Welch, and Pastor Green. Patchogue’s pastor, Daniel Zabaleta, gave the closing remarks and prayer. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt and a joy and peace pervaded over all. Among the non-Adventist visitors present was a high school student who came because



Participants at the Patchogue church included, from left to right, standing, Samantha Armstrong, Mary Tegone (clerk), Pastor Daniel Zabaleta, Nathaniel Desire, Pastor Leacroft Green and his wife, Sharon, and Steven Welch. Kneeling left to right are: Mark Armstrong, Christian Green and Vincent Giambone (head elder).

she was “seeking truth.” We give God all the glory and praise for allowing us to be co-laborers with Him.

*Mark Armstrong, A.Y.S. director
Patchogue church*

Wyandanch Spanish Church Holds Special Dedication Service

In a special worship service on October 14, 2006, the Wyandanch Spanish church dedicated their sanctuary, having canceled the mortgage with the Atlantic Union Revolving Fund.

The celebration began on Friday with a special service of thanksgiving, presented by Pastor Carlos Aragonès, who was in charge of the construction of the temple. On Sabbath morning many former pastors were present and they received trophies of recognition.

Richard Marker, president of the Greater New York Conference, delivered the sermon and offered the prayer of dedication for the sanctuary. It was a solemn occasion, especially when G. Earl Knight, executive secretary of the conference, burned the document as a symbol of canceling the debt. The mortgage was scheduled for cancellation in 2010, but thanks to the generosity of the members, the debt was canceled four years before the due date.

Pastor Marco A. Molina and the members of Wyandanch Spanish church organized the program which included a potluck lunch.

*Dilcia González, Hispanic Ministries secretary
Greater New York Conference*



Elder G. Earl Knight burning the mortgage as Richard Marker and Carlos Gonzalez, standing right, and members look on.

“Mr. Pathfinder” Reflects on More than 30 Years of Pathfinding

By Tamara Michalenko Terry

Al Keith was interviewed for this article on November 29, 2006. A little more than a month later, on December 19, he passed away. Only the Lord knows all the lives “Mr. Pathfinder” has touched. This is simply to honor Al Keith for his hard work and dedication to the Southern New England Conference Pathfinder program.

One has to appreciate the Lord’s sense of humor when Al Keith, known in the Southern New England Conference as “Mr. Pathfinder,” reflects back to his teen years. When he was a nineteen-year-old college student, his professor recommended that he obtain a teacher’s certification. Al replied, “I don’t want to sit in a room with someone else’s kids.” But for more than 38 years, he has done just that!

Al started his Pathfinder “career” in 1968 by simply helping a friend, Dave Johnston, with the Sterling Seventh-day Adventist Church Pathfinder Club. Some time later, Dave moved away and Al became the director.

Wanting it to be an active club, Al requested \$600 from the church for the Sterling Pathfinder club. Times were tough, so he received \$300. When the church decided not to sell fruit as a fundraiser, Al took up fruit selling as a personal project, using the proceeds to benefit the Pathfinder club. “I didn’t want the Pathfinder club to be a burden on the church,”

Al recalls, “but I wanted everyone to be able to participate.”

Al remembered a story from his college days at Atlantic Union College when he went on a field trip to the Boston area. The field trip ended early, so his classmates decided to attend a Boston Red

Sox game. Al did not have enough money to purchase a ticket, so an unhappy chaperone had to take Al back. He never forgot that experience and always wanted to make sure that it never happened to one of his Pathfinders. “I’m not about giving things for free,” Al says, “but where there is a need, I want to help.”

Camporees

With the exception of the latest camporee, Al has attended every North American Division camporee. The 1985 Camp Hale Camporee held in Colorado brings back the most memories. For one reason, it was the first division-wide camporee, and it brought with it many challenges. Many of Al’s Pathfinders had never before traveled across the country, so Al included sightseeing along the way. Al learned that these trips were opportunities to give his Pathfinders wonderful memories.

A favorite camporee for Al was a Southern New England Camporee where Al was requested to invest a group of Pathfinders as Master Guides.

Unknown to him, he was given the opportunity to invest his own son as a Master Guide.

When asked to recall some camping memories, Al remembers when a young non-Adventist boy joined his Pathfinders on a weekend camping trip. The boy seemed to enjoy



Pathfinder photo from the 1970s. Left to right: Carol (Wilbur) Edling, David Keith, Alfred Keith, Carmella (Keith) Davitt, and Jim Wilbur. Carol and Jim are the two of the kids that Al and his wife, Virginia, took care of for several years.

the weekend. Shortly after Al returned the boy to his home on Sunday evening, the boy’s mother called and asked, “What did you do to my son?” At first, Al didn’t know what the mother meant. He then learned that the parents often had difficulty getting the boy to sleep. On this particular evening, the boy was asleep before supper. Al replied to the mother, “Your son had a lot of outdoor activities with no sugar.”

Foster Children

Al Keith’s love for youth in the Pathfinder program was also revealed in his home life. The Keiths always had an “open door” policy at their home. “I don’t truly know how many foster brothers and sisters I have,” Al’s son, David, says. “If anyone needed a home, they knew they could come here. Some of them have even stayed in touch.”

Even with health challenges, Al is still active in the conference’s Pathfinder program. He now serves as an area coordinator and consultant. One of his specialties was creating obstacle courses.

“The Lord definitely has a sense of humor,” Al remarks. “It just goes to show that the Lord has everything in control.”

Tamara Michalenko Terry is a communication consultant for the Southern New England Conference.



Al Keith, still selling oranges and grapefruits in November 2006.

By Basil Daley

STEEPLE RESTORED ON EPHESUS CHURCH

The Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church holds a significant place in the history of the Adventist Church in North America and the world. For close to 40 years the members of this historic congregation faced a gripping reminder of the most tragic moment in their church's 100-year history. A 150-foot steeple tower, reduced to a quarter of its height, hovered as a shadow over an otherwise commanding structure that is their church home. The magnificent edifice, completed in 1886, is part of the late Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. Architect John Rochester Thomas popularized this style in New York during the late 1800s and used this style also in designing Calvary Baptist Church at 57th Street in Midtown Manhattan. The current congregation purchased the building from the Dutch Reformed Church in the 1930s and has maintained ownership.

Tragedy struck in 1969 when the interior of the church was completely destroyed by fire, except for three stained glass windows. Witnesses on the scene remarked that the fire

department took great care in causing minimal damage to the windows. The fire proved too devastating for the tower and a portion of it was removed to prevent it from collapsing. Located at 123rd Street and Lenox Avenue in Harlem, the building houses two sanctuaries, a multipurpose hall, classrooms, and a parsonage earmarked as an outreach center. The church has produced some of the post prolific preachers and leaders and is the birthplace of the world renowned Boys Choir of Harlem. Ephesus has contributed greatly to the rich history of Harlem and New York City.

An eight-year renovation was completed in 1977 at a cost of \$2 million, thanks to the dedication and faithfulness of this 1,500-member congregation. Although much work went into the interior of the building, the exterior received little attention, as it was determined that it was structurally sound. In 1998, however, during a survey, it was discovered that the building's exterior was in dire need of restoration and posed a risk to the public. The church voted to undertake the project which was

spearheaded by fellow church member Alan Price. As noted by Price, "It was important that the church act immediately to save our building."

Restoration was done in phases to minimize the disruption of the use of the building by parishioners and community groups. The services of Page Cowley Architects, Inc., were secured to oversee the project. Experts in cleaning Ohio limestone were brought in to tackle the delicate task while the stained glass windows were dismantled and brought to the Gil studio in Brooklyn, New York, for complete restoration. The scope of work done on the building is massive and includes: structural renovations, weatherproofing, an improved drainage system, aesthetic improvements (exterior door installations replicated from historic photos, two rose window restoration projects, lighting, site work improvements), and the crowning glory of the project, a copper replacement of the missing 30 feet of the steeple tower constructed by The Durable Slate Company in Columbus, Ohio.

The dedication of the church members in their giving to the capital campaign is nothing short of



Photos: Phil Royal

It took 11 minutes for the workers to lift the 7,000-pound steeple into place.

miraculous. The burden of the \$2 million restoration is being shouldered by the congregation, which has contributed over \$1 million and pledged another \$600,000 in loan repayment. Additional funding has been secured through the New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, New York Landmarks Conservancy, Northeastern Conference, and friends, such as the Abyssinian Development Corporation.

Today, the steeple tower stands at its original height, making it one of the tallest structures in central Harlem, and overlooks the grand boulevard of Lenox Avenue. The building stands as a silent witness of the power and majesty of God in today's world and rightfully takes its place as a constant testimony of a congregation determined to restore their place of worship.®

Basil Daley is the communication leader for Ephesus church in Harlem, New York.

These members of the Ephesus church were on hand for this historic occasion when the steeple was replaced on December 12, 2006.



Church Learns Simple Method for Church Growth



Joseph Kidder shares with the congregation at the Jamestown church.

The Jamestown church was privileged to have Dr. Joseph

Kidder for a seminar on Christian spirituality on the first weekend of December 2006. Kidder was born in the biblical city of Ninevah, Iraq, and immigrated to the United States in the early 1980s where he enrolled in the engineering program at Walla Walla College. Upon graduation he worked as a civil engineer for only a short period prior to being called to the ministry. After several years as a church pastor, he has taken a position as a professor at Andrews University, teaching Spirituality and Church Growth.

The congregation at Jamestown was blessed to hear the simplicity of the applied gospel presented by Kidder. Church growth, it seems, is not so much a matter of programs and plans as it is prayer and preparation. He told us of his first church

where the membership dropped from 60 to 30. He was about to resign when his wife suggested that he try once more. Kidder told of going to the church and praying for people who used to sit in specific places in the sanctuary but who no longer attended. After 13 weeks of prayer, results could be seen. The church of 30 had grown to 600 before his tenure closed. Kidder also told the story of his conversion and miraculous escape from Iraq prior to the civil war and the war with Iran.

God still cares and watches over those who will trust in Him and dedicate themselves to His service. We can expect the same miracles when we demonstrate this kind of commitment.

*Dan L. Kelly, head elder
Jamestown church*

Youth Lead in Buskirk Church

A group of young people from the Buskirk Seventh-day Adventist church recently prepared and led in the Sabbath School and worship service. Both services were entirely conducted by young people. Jessica Ford helped the group plan the Sabbath School while Heather Ford led the song service.

Douglas Ford gave the opening remarks followed by Samantha Ford who told the children's story. Shelby Ford called for the offering and Kerysa Ford, along with other young people, provided special music. Courtney Carpenter gave the call to worship and Scripture reading and Kathryn Carpenter prayed for the church. Jeff

Reed preached the sermon, and his brother Philip played the piano. It was special to see little William Reed do the benediction, praying after his older brother finished preaching. Johnathan Carpenter and Douglas Ford served as deacons that day.

It was a great blessing and encouragement to see young people glorifying the Lord and sharing their faith. After sharing with their own congregation, the group received an invitation to present a youth Sabbath for the Saratoga Springs church. Young people were warmly welcomed and took part in the fellowship lunch with the church.

As we look back at our history, many of our pioneers of faith were young people. What a delight to see modern-day youth following in this tradition.

*Roman Kozlov, pastor
Buskirk church*

The youth at Buskirk church who led out included, from left to right, back row, Douglas Ford, Jeff Reed, and Philip Reed; third row, Shelby Ford, Kerysa Ford, and Courtney Carpenter; 2nd row, Samantha Ford and Kathryn Carpenter; first row, William Reed and Jonathan Carpenter. Heather, left, and Jessica Ford (inset).



Young Adult Mission Trip

For ages 17 and up

Selowik, Alaska

July 23–August 6, 2007

The team will be conducting a Vacation Bible School (VBS), a teen evangelistic project and other work projects.

For more information

contact the
New York Conference
Youth Ministries
Department
(315) 469-6921

or

David Damon
(315) 644-4140

Kingsbury Church Presents Unique Christmas Program

If you attended the Christmas program at the Kingsbury church on December 8 and 9, 2006, you would have been fascinated by the creativity of their presentation. Since it is difficult for a small church with limited resources to draw the public to a program, a novel approach was needed. The Christmas story was told through the eyes of the Wise Men who were searching for clues as to what the special star meant. They found that, long ago, a Hebrew prophet called Isaiah had foretold of a coming King from the root of Jesse, and that another prophet, Micah, had been assured in vision that the One who was coming would break the oppression of ungodly rulers.

Following three skits, the guests were treated to carols played on the piano, violin, viola, hammered dulcimer, and recorder. They were then escorted to the gym to a live nativity scene and a petting zoo. (The biting duck did not seem to be in the Christmas spirit.) There were costumes available for the little guests, as well as a craft table where angel dolls and manger scenes could be made. And of course, Christmas cookies were available for all. Sixty-five members participated in the program and approximately 125 guests attended.

*Deb Foote, member
Kingsbury church*



Musicians, Carol Grimes at the piano, Janet Hurd, left, and Kathy Harriss.



Arlin Wells as Joseph and Ami Wells as Mary with the angels Emalee, Brittany, Courtney, and Joan Lee as the last angel.

More Than Just Racing Cars

Pathfinders and supporters from around the New York Conference met at Union Springs Academy on November 4, 2006, for the annual Pine Car Derby. Pathfinders from the Westvale and Frontenac churches led out in musical worship for Sabbath School followed by a lively round of Bible quizzing in which

teams from the various clubs competed. Bill Wood, Atlantic Union youth director, spoke for the worship service and the Bible quiz continued in the afternoon. For vespers the mission trip team from this past summer presented a slide show about their trip. They encouraged others to consider serving as missionaries next sum-



Pathfinders lead song service. From left to right are Tanya and Sheena Gerrans, Brittany Mertens, Victoria Ahles, Felix Alvarez, Anthony Whitlow, Solomaa and Ephriam Bernard.



The Pine Car Derby winners are, from left to right, Victoria Ahles, Faith Caster, Tanya Gerrans, Esmerelda Jiminez, Shaina Ahles, Elijah Hardy, and Joshua Bailey.

mer and announced that the mission team will be returning to Bimini, Bahamas. The evening ended with the derby in which 94 cars were entered. First-place craftsmanship winners included, in the teen category, Victoria Ahles from the Westvale church, and in the preteen category, there was a tie between Elijah Hardy from the Wayland church and

Brandon Vissar from the Dexterville church. Elijah Hardy's car was also the first-place winner for speed. Gilbert Hernandez won the staff competition for speed. These are the kinds of activities that will create long-lasting memories and bond our youth to our fellowship for life.

*Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference*

Northeastern Pastors Baptize over 300 in Peru



Following the successful meetings, the group toured the Incan ruins of Machu Pichu and the Museum of the Holy Inquisition in Lima before returning to New York.

On October 3, 2006, 16 Northeastern Conference pastors traveled to Peru to conduct evangelistic meetings. The mission trip was organized by the Hispanic/Portuguese Ministries and was led by Coordinator Isaias Rojas in response to an invitation from the North Pacific Mission in Trujillo, Peru.

According to Rojas the trip had a threefold purpose. First and foremost was winning souls to Christ. The second aim was to offer field training for pastors in small group ministry and the final goal was to plan the 2007 evangelism program for the Northeastern Conference Hispanic sector.

After an all night flight to Lima, the delegation visited Adventist

were surprised to find their host pastors, along with mission officials, welcoming them to the city.

From October 7 to 14 the Northeastern pastors conducted campaigns in sixteen congregations in Trujillo. The event was launched with a mass prayer vigil and rally as approximately 6,000 Adventists gathered at the city's coliseum until midnight on the campaign's eve.

Throughout the week the visiting pastors met with their local counterparts for training in the small group ministry approach to evangelism. The teams then used the afternoons to visit with contacts in their homes, seeking decisions for baptism. The days ended with the

institutions, including the Peru Union headquarters, ADRA, the Good Hope Hospital, and Peru Union University. Two days later the group traveled all night by coach, arriving in Trujillo at 6:00 a.m. As they exited the bus, the pastors

evening sermon and appeal at the host church. On the final Sabbath the visiting pastors conducted baptisms in each participating church. The final tally reveals that 320 persons were added to the church through baptism.

In addition to Pastor Rojas, 13 Hispanic and Portuguese pastors were accompanied by ministerial secretary Rupert Young, and me. Ligia Holmes, secretary for the Hispanic department, conducted Spanish translation for Pastor Young. Some of the pastors were also accompanied by their wives.

Following the successful campaign, the group toured the Incan ruins of Machu Pichu and the Museum of the Holy Inquisition in Lima before returning safely to New York. They returned with a renewed commitment to continue the evangelistic thrust in the Northeastern Conference territory. "This was a very beautiful experience" states Pastor Manuel Medina. Many expressed similar sentiments.

The Northeastern Conference is home to many Hispanic and Portuguese members in 45 churches and missions.

*Daniel L. Honore, stewardship director
Northeastern Conference*

NORTHEASTERN

STAR Health Center Dedicated at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Pastor Philip Wesley II, and State Assemblyman Karim Kamara at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Star Health Center.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on November 16, 2006, the

STAR Health Center officially opened its doors to serve the community in their new home. STAR staff, Health Science Center of Brooklyn administrators, and several community leaders joined in the celebration. Philip Wesley II, pastor of Friendship church in Elmira, New York, led the participants in prayer and dedication. The prayer of dedication addressed the

HIV epidemic in New York and asked for a blessing on the STAR Health Center, that it would not only be a light in the community, but that their efforts in clinical research would be fruitful.

The STAR Health Center and their staff completed HIV health education and testing at more than 20 churches in the Borough of Brooklyn in 2006. Of those 20, six

were Adventist churches: Bethel, Immanuel Temple, Brooklyn Temple, New Life, Rogers Avenue, and Flatbush. All have benefited from the information provided by the center. Pastor Wesley's efforts have been recognized by those at the health center. In spite of some obstacles in the community, Wesley was instrumental in getting the word out about

this disease to local clergy. Since their first effort in March 2006, the STAR Health Center has educated over 1,000 men and women about HIV and tested nearly 250 people. The ceremony attracted political figures such as Una Clarke and State Assemblymen Karim Kamara. Leading the celebration was Dr. Jack DeHovitz, who was the master of ceremonies.

DeHovitz, who has been instrumental in the fight against HIV/AIDS for more than 20 years,

mentioned the outreach efforts of the program and its goal to strengthen the work in central Brooklyn. It is paramount that this crusade not only stretch across the globe, but also makes an impact at home. State Assemblyman Karim Kamara spoke about STAR's presence in the community, while the legendary Una Clarke stopped by to represent her daughter, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke. The STAR Health Center is a designated AIDS center in central Brooklyn

where the incidence of HIV/AIDS is among the highest in New York City.

Garry Graham, Ephesus church member and outreach coordinator for the Star Health Center

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!

Northeastern Conference Highlights

President Participates in Inter-Clergy Business Conference

Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president, was a panelist at the Christian Times Business Men's Conference held at the Brooklyn Museum on December 12, 2006. The panel, which was comprised of clergy from around the New York City area, discussed the role of the church in economic development, and presented ways in which the church may empower its members and the community.

Administrators' Mission Trip

During the month of August, conference president Trevor Baker and secretary Larry Bailey and their wives accepted an invitation from the North American Division's Hope for Humanity Department to join other regional conference administrators on a humanitarian trip to South Africa. The purpose of the trip was to visit the Nhlengelo (pronounced engay-low) project, which has been adopted and supported by funding through Hope for Humanity (the new name for the Ingathering program). The trip helped them gain a sense of

the immensity of the challenges facing more than 12 million AIDS orphans in Africa.

The Nhlengelo project was started by a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister, Paul Mawela, and his wife, in a small township called Dwarsloop, situated about 200 miles northeast of Johannesburg, South Africa. The ministry of the Mawelas involves training caregivers who work without pay, and enter the homes of HIV-positive or AIDS victims to care for the sick, the dying, or the orphaned. The administrators on the trip had the opportunity to accompany the caregivers on their mission of mercy.

Pilgrim Tabernacle Acquires a Church Home

After several years of being without a church home, the Pilgrim Tabernacle church of Hempstead, New York, has acquired its own church building. John Talbert, the church's pastor, along with the members, is elated that the group now has a church home and they look forward with excitement to new ministries and growth in the Hempstead community.

Construction Resumes at Springfield Gardens

Clifford Manie, pastor of the Springfield Gardens church, reports that construction of the new church edifice has resumed. This construction, which was suspended for several years, is now well underway, and is slated for completion in 2007. The Springfield congregation has long outgrown the present building, and looks forward to having more spacious facilities.

Pastor Retires After 30 Years

A gala banquet was held in honor of Pastor Doctor Smith, who is retiring after 30 years of ministry. The banquet, which was held at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, New York, was hosted by the Berea church in Nyack, New York, where Smith has been the pastor for the past six years. The 400 attendees at the banquet included members from all of the churches where Pastor Smith served, as well as fellow workers, friends, and officials from the city and Nyack community.

Adapted from the conference newsletter, Envision, vol. 4, no. 3

Happy New Year from the Northern New England Conference Office Administrators and Staff



Christie Hodson

South Berwick Fellowship Group Celebrates Growth

The South Berwick Fellowship Group has been meeting for the past eight years. During that time 19 people have joined the church with 2006 being the most fruitful year in our history. Five individuals made their commitment to Jesus, four of them were as a result of the October 2005 Springvale, Maine, evangelistic meetings. These new members are Ted Goodwin, Scott Vreeland, Edith Johnstone, and Diana Walsh.

Ken Kimball was a resident at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris,

Maine, where a Seventh-day Adventist nurse, Ruth Howe, witnessed to him. When Ken transferred to a rest home in the Seacoast area, Ruth enrolled him in Discover Bible School. Ken said that Ruth would take residents of the Veterans Home to her lakeside cottage. Eventually Ken joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church by Profession of Faith.

The South Berwick Fellowship Group meets at 10:00 a.m. each week at 21 Dogwood Drive

*John Hersom, elder
South Berwick Fellowship Group*

Isn't it time for another baptism?

When I was a little girl I remember sitting in church one Sabbath and looking at the empty baptistry. In my childish understanding I thought that baptisms took place at regular intervals, like communion service and thirteenth Sabbath programs. It seemed it had been too long since I watched someone put on a robe and step down into the water. So I innocently asked my mother, "Mommy, isn't it time we had another baptism?"

Many years have passed and I now understand that baptisms are not on an automatic, regular schedule. But I still often wonder, "Father, isn't it time we had another baptism?" In February 2006, the Holy Spirit used the members of the Bangor church to present a series of prophecy lectures to the

community. The meetings resulted in four new Bangor members. Several individuals continued to study and, on the first Sabbath in September 2006, a second baptism was held and three individuals were baptized.

The Hussek family received a seminar invitation in the mail shortly after their mother's unexpected death. Recognizing that his family needed something, John Hussek told his three eldest children at home, Aaron, Jennifer, and Meagan, that they were going to check out the first meeting. Because of his work schedule, John missed some nights, but the siblings had perfect attendance. As they all continued studying and attending church regularly, Jennifer and Meagan made the decision to be baptized. (John

and Aaron continued to study.) Jennifer and Meagan both bring wonderful smiles and terrific hugs to our church!

Herschel Arnold began visiting Little Lads, a vegetarian restaurant in Bangor, several years ago and attended cooking classes with his wife. During this time he borrowed many books and DVDs of several different evangelistic series. The more he learned, the more he accepted. He began keeping the Sabbath in his home and continued his conversations with his friends at Little Lads. When the February 2006 series began in Bangor, those same friends invited him to attend. He came regularly, but held back from making a public commitment when the meetings ended. But when he heard there was to be another

baptism in September, he concluded that he needed to be a part of it! At the edge of the pond, he hesitated only long enough to make a special offer... anyone wanting to be baptized could use his dry robe and he'd don a wet one afterward! God's church is truly blessed by these additions to His family.

Several weeks have passed since that glorious day in September 2006 and I find myself returning to the old question, "Isn't it time for another baptism?" Seems the more we have the more I want. Is that greedy? I don't think so. I think our Savior feels the same way, which leads me to believe that the next question should be, "What am I doing to encourage another baptism?"

*Rachel Laird, correspondent
Bangor church*

Collecting for the Needs of Others

If anyone needs something, ask Joan. Joan Campbell collects “everything,” it seems. She could be called the frugal collector. Joan looks for ways to use little things to bring comfort or joy in any way possible whether it’s mailing old quarterlies overseas along with children’s pictures or sending literature of any sort to projects for children in hospitals or animal shelters. Before you throw it away ask Joan if there is a need for it somewhere.

Then, she involves the children’s Sabbath School division in her projects.

They are now saving their third container of aluminum can tabs. These tabs are given to the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Helma Court No. 64, and from there they are taken to be weighed. It takes 1300 tabs to equal one pound! The money collected from the weight of these tabs is placed in a “tab account” until there is enough money to purchase needed items for the Shriners Hospital and the Orthopedic Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts, as well as the Burns Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. To date,

more than 67 million tabs have been collected.

Her projects are ongoing. Joan collects stuffed teddy bears and animals that are in good condition from the community service building next door to the Auburn church where she leads out as Adventist Community Services leader, as well as from other sources, and takes these to the local hospitals for children who need tender loving care (TLC). It wasn’t long ago that she had a huge box set aside and decorated with dogs and cats as a reminder to those who came into the

room to donate towels, old leashes, animal dishes, paper towels, treats, and any other items pertaining to animal care for the local animal shelter. When it was full, she and the children took the items one Sabbath morning to the shelter.

You never know what project she will find to do next or why she saves what she does, but remember, some of us God made to be savers that can contribute to others in need. When you visit Auburn, ask Joan what project she needs help with in giving to others.

*Communicatin staff
Auburn church*

Northern New England Conference

Prayer Ministries

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visit us at www.nnec.org.

The Gospel's Tools

There are an infinite number of ways to get someone to listen to what others have to say, but there are only so many ways to someone's heart. Our senses are important for much more than the sheer fact that we use them everyday for our own benefit. Those senses are supposed to be used to absorb the Word of God and its influence and to spread it again.

Through his gift of speaking, Pedro Perez, Southern New England Conference youth director, was able to reach out to an entire school of young adults during Greater Boston Academy's Fall Week of Prayer. As he began, many were unsure of what to expect. He set in motion a series of topics that he would explain later in the week as time passed. He discussed hands, feet, mouths, minds, and even hearts. At first glance it seemed as if he was teaching a health class, telling everyone how to care for their mouth, hands, and feet, but as time progressed, it became more apparent what he was trying to accomplish.



Pedro Perez

Pastor Perez explained that the heart is the seat of all emotions and to take care of one's heart is an extremely important task. Feet are the tools that God gave everyone in order to take His news and gospel everywhere. The hands and the mouth should be treated as one. They are the gear that the Lord has given all to express and show others of His message. Next, he explained why it's imperative that we "wash our hands." Through the hands, God's miracles can become visible to others.

The mouth has an incredible amount of power, but greater than the mouth is the mind. With God in our minds, we can do all we set out to accomplish. When all these factors are taken into consideration, our challenge of spreading the gospel no longer remains a challenge, but becomes a heart-felt mission. With the help of our Savior, it becomes easier than anything one can think of, even washing your hands.

*Jonathan Arocho, junior
Greater Boston Academy*

South Lancaster Academy

Scott Fellows, South Lancaster Academy journalism professor, shares some of his students' writings below.

An Impacting Moment

Even though I've attended Christian school for many years, nothing impacted me more than an experience that happened with this year's girl's volleyball team. We always have prayer before the games, praying that each player will do her best, but it seemed that in one particular game we were still making a lot of mistakes. During a "time out" our assistant coach told us something that I don't think I will ever forget. "Ladies, you are playing too individually, not like a team; you have to remember that it's not about us but about God."



Anny Cunha

That really sunk in. What she said not only applied to a volleyball game, but to how we handle our lives. We lost that game, but I gained knowledge that will be helpful in doing everything with God in mind and help me testify about Him to everyone else.

*Anny Cunha, junior
South Lancaster Academy*

What a Difference a Year Makes

It's been almost a year since my life has taken a different course than I ever imagined. One rainy March day about five years ago, my mother told me that my grandmother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The first thing I thought was, How could such a loving and beautiful woman have such a horrible disease? I could picture the cancer eating away at my grandmother's body. My grandmother fought with all her might, longer and harder than anyone else I know. She would always tell us that her Jesus gave her the strength and endurance to fight her battle.

My grandparents always emphasized the importance of having a Christian education. My parents also shared that belief. I am forever grateful to my parents for sacrificing their own desires to send their children to a Christian school.

After my grandmother's death, my schoolmates and teachers showed me much love and support. My friends would let me know they were praying for me and my teachers would tell me they were always there for me.

One student, Victor Owusu, was particularly helpful during this hard time. He would always make me smile and give me encouragement.

I thought the worst was over in my life, but tragedy struck again. Two weeks after my grandmother's death, SLA suffered the loss of three students. Victor was one of them. Victor's words of encouragement echoed in my mind the days following the accident. It was amazing that his own words helped me during his death.

Christian education has given me the opportunity to know many wonderful people that have helped me through the hard times of life. It is my hope that Christian education continues throughout the end of time, enriching people's lives the way it has blessed mine.



Arielle Cady

*Arielle Cady, senior
South Lancaster Academy*

A Ministry of Smiles: Thanksgiving Baskets for the Stoneham Community

Last year's Thanksgiving basket distribution organized through the Stoneham Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church resulted in 125 baskets being distributed to individuals and families in need in Stoneham and adjoining communities. The annual event is a community-wide effort that enlists contributions of food from various schools, churches, and civic groups in Stoneham. As such, the Thanksgiving Basket project is truly an expression of an entire community's generosity.

Stoneham church office manager, Erika Bryan, has served as primary organizer of the event for the past two years. She contacts the churches, schools, and other groups who collect food and provide baskets and names in advance. This year five city schools, four churches of different denominations, the Tri-Cap Headstart program, the Kiwanas Club, the Century

21 real estate office, and the local Ford dealership all worked together on the project.

While significant food donations are generated by the community at large, the difference between these contributions and the actual need is made up by the Stoneham congregation. Pastor Farley and I purchased nearly \$1000 worth of groceries at a local bulk food outlet to ensure adequate and suitable contents for the baskets provided by the church. Afterward, church members, young and old, gathered to fill baskets with stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, carrots, apple juice, bread, brownie mix, and other items suitable for a fine family feast.

Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" (Matthew 25:35, NIV). The Stoneham Thanksgiving basket distribution is a practical means



Approximately 125 baskets were distributed to individuals in need.

of responding to Jesus' words. Whether people were contributing food, loading baskets, distributing baskets, or receiving a

basket, it seemed all had one thing in common—everyone was smiling!

*Skip Johnson, associate pastor
Stoneham Memorial church*

Church members, young and old, helped to fill the baskets.



SNEC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT

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The Southern New England Conference Women's Ministries Department is pleased to present a weekend of spiritual growth and emotional renewal featuring 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.

Carolyn is a wife, mother, cancer survivor and co-host of the television program, *Time Out*. She is also a retired educator, former missionary, previous *Guide* editor and author of six books.

To register, please contact Linda Tooley at the Southern New England Conference to request a Retreat Application. (978) 365-4551 ext. 28

REGISTER BY MARCH 5, 2007

RETREAT FEES (Hotel accommodations NOT INCLUDED):

\$ 99 per person for Full Weekend Retreat Seminars and ALL Meals

\$ 59 per person for Sabbath Day Retreat Seminars, Lunch and Dinner

PLEASE CONTACT SpringHill Suites by Marriott at (978) 772-3030 to book overnight accommodations. A block of rooms are reserved for attendees on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mention the SNEC Women's Retreat to get a special \$119 per room, per night rate for this event. Hotel rooms include 2-Queen beds to accommodate a maximum of 4 occupants.

Women's Ministries Director:
Lisa Paden: LisaKPaden@aol.com

A photograph of a young man with glasses and a flat cap, sitting on a tree branch. He is holding a silver laptop on his lap and looking at the screen. The background shows green foliage and a building. The photo is framed by a decorative red border with floral patterns.

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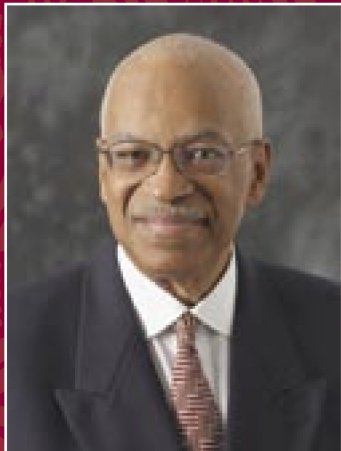
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- Sabbath—Guest Speaker, Dr. Benjamin Reaves
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- Former staff and faculty
- Area residents



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Sunset Table

March 2007	Eastern Standard Time/ Daylight Savings Time				
	2	9	16*	23*	30*
Bangor, ME	5:24	5:34	6:43	6:52	7:01
Portland, ME	5:31	5:40	6:49	6:57	7:06
Boston, MA	5:36	5:44	6:52	7:00	7:08
South Lancaster, MA	5:38	5:46	6:55	7:03	7:11
Pittsfield, MA	5:44	5:53	7:01	7:09	7:17
Hartford, CT	5:43	5:51	6:59	7:07	7:14
New York, NY	5:49	5:56	7:04	7:12	7:19
Albany, NY	5:45	5:53	7:01	7:09	7:18
Utica, NY	5:52	6:00	7:09	7:17	7:25
Syracuse, NY	5:55	6:04	7:12	7:21	7:29
Rochester, NY	6:01	6:10	7:18	7:27	7:35
Buffalo, NY	6:06	6:15	7:23	7:31	7:40
Hamilton, Bda.	6:16	6:22	7:27	7:31	7:36

*Daylight Saving Time begins March 16

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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

The Alumni Association of Harrison Memorial High School announces a grand reunion in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the weekend of May 25-27, 2007. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Schubert Palmer, cardiologist. Plan now to join us. For more details call Barbara Braham-Mitchell (718) 617-6202, Sonia Rodney-Williams (718) 515-8238.

OBITUARIES

BOSE, Gerda—b. Nov. 9, 1918, in Auxinnen, East Prussia, Germany; d.

Sept. 20, 2006, in East Longmeadow, Mass. Gerda was a third generation Adventist from Germany and came to the U.S. in 1948 and settled in the White Plains, N.Y. area. She was a member of the Mount Vernon church and later the Hartsdale church where she served as treasurer for 30 years. It was after the death of her husband, Henry, that she began her 20 years of denominational service with the Greater New York Conference where she worked as a secretary in the publishing, education, and treasury departments. After her retirement she moved to Wilbraham, Mass., and joined the Springfield church where she also served as church clerk. Survivors include her sons, Peter Bose (Elizabeth) of East Longmeadow, Mass., and Henry, Jr. of Wilbraham, Mass.; one granddaughter, Kelley Prenninger (Christof); and one great granddaughter, Emily Prenninger, all of Wels, Austria.

CHERY, Baker L.—12, b. Mar. 18, 1994, in Miami, Fla.; d. Oct. 29, 2006, in Oxford, Mass. He was a member of the Pleasant Street Seventh-day Adventist Church in Worcester, Mass. He was predeceased by his mother Beatrice (Merisme) Chery. He is survived by his father, Jean C. Chery of Oxford, Mass.; a brother, Samuel Chery, and a sister, Lea Chery, both of Lancaster, Mass.; his maternal grandmother, Yolene Faustin of Fla., two uncles, Woody Titarine and Kenny Maturin.

COUDEN, Raiford D.—76, b. Jul. 10, 1930, in Manlius, N.Y.; d. Oct. 25, 2006, in Auburn, N.Y. He served in the US Army from 1948 to 1952. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in 1957 with a bachelor's in music and taught music at Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio, Bass Memorial

Academy in Mississippi, and Union Springs Academy in New York. He was also a registered nurse employed by the Auburn Memorial Hospital and Upstate Medical Center until 1993. He was a member of the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, New York. He is survived by his wife, Elvira H. Ruberto Couden; their children, Barbara Couden and her husband Gilbert Hernandez of Loma Linda, Calif., Gerald and Beth Couden of High Point, N.C.; Donna Trimm of Harrisonburg, Va.; Ray and Denise Couden of Collegedale, Tenn.; and nine grandchildren.

LEBRUN, Valma Maria—b. Jan. 31, 1912, in Hanover, N.H.; d. Jan. 7, 2006, in Lebanon, N.H. She was an active member member of the West Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church. She faithfully participated in the church's annual Ingathering program, was a faithful volunteer in the Dorcas Society, and she held various offices in her local church. She enjoyed coordinating a blood pressure clinic each month at the Lebanon Senior Citizen Center. Her husband, Eugene Daniel LeBrun, predeceased her in October 1993. She also was active for many years as a volunteer with Meals-on-Wheels program in Lebanon. She is survived by five sons, 18 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

SILCOTT, Benjamin David—b. Mar. 29, 1931, on the island of Barbuda, British West Indies; d. Dec. 24, 2006, in Dorchester, Mass. He was a member of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dorchester, Mass.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Ledorine Daly, in Nov. 2000. He is survived by his wife Susanna (Dee) Silcott, a daughter Roselys Silcott White and her husband, David, of Mattapan, Mass.; seven grandchildren, Geoffrey White, Renee White, Sharon Daly, Roland Daly, Jeanette Maduro, Genero Maduro, and Evan Blake; five great-grandchildren, Saienn, Sephia, Genero, Jr., Geniah, and Rajan; two brothers, William Silcott of England and Edward Silcott of St. Croix, V.I.; seven sisters, Helen Gumbs, Ruth Drew, Elfreda Billingham, Sylvia Lindsay, all of England, Pauline Daly of Florida, Princess Silcott of North Carolina, and Clarita Blyden Richardson of St. Thomas, V.I.; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

WATSON, Kevin Delroy—30, b. Nov. 25, 1975, in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies; d. Nov. 3, 2006, in Clinton, Mass., after injuries sustained from being struck by an automobile. At the time of his death, he was enrolled at AUC as a junior. He was a member of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Mass. While at AUC, he attended the Village Church of Seventh-day Adventists in Lancaster, Mass. He was preceded in death by his father Delroy B. Watson in 1980. He is survived by his mother Sonia Smith and her husband, Herbert; a brother, Richard Smith; a sister, Rhondeen Smith, all of Fayetteville, Tenn.; his maternal grandmother, Dorothy Gray, of Jamaica, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

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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Greater New York: Richard Marker, President; G. Earl Knight Secretary; Benjamin Santana, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Web site: www.greaternewyork.org

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Northeastern: Trevor H. C. Baker, President; Larry Bailey, Secretary; Ebenezer Agboka, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434. (718) 291-8006. Web site: www.northeastern.org

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FUNDAMENTALS OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, p. 359



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Edgewood
Greater Boston Academy*

South Lancaster Academy*
South Shore
Springfield
Wachusett Hills Christian
Warren
Worcester

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Amesbury
Cady Memorial
Estabrook
Pioneer Junior Academy

NEW YORK

Bronx

Bronx-Manhattan
R. T. Hudson

Brooklyn

Bethel
Brooklyn
Brooklyn Temple
Central Brooklyn
Excelsior
Flatbush
Hanson Place

Hebron Bilingual

Long Island

Bethesda
South Bay Junior Academy
Whispering Pines

New York City

Northeastern Academy*

Queens

Greater New York Academy*
Jackson Heights
Jamaica
Linden

Eastern

Kingsbury
Livingston
Middletown
Pearl River
Poughkeepsie

Westchester

Oakview Preparatory
Westchester Area

Western

Arthur S. Maxwell
Bay Knoll
Buffalo Suburban
Dexterville
Frontenac
Jamestown
Mohawk Valley
Parkview Junior Academy
Rochester Junior Academy
Union Springs Academy*
Sandy Creek
Southern Tier

RHODE ISLAND

Lincoln

VERMONT

Brownell Mountain
Central Vermont Academy (1-12)
Green Mountain
St. Johnsbury

* Grades 9-12