

THE ATLANTIC UNION

MAY 2007

GLEANER



JUST CLAIM IT
2007

**Ne brisez pas les ponts,
mais construisez-les**

**The Only Thing
That Counts**

Camp Meeting Schedule 2007

Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Talk

Adventist Education

¿Qué Está Pasando?



inside **MAY** 2007

FEATURES

4 COVER STORY:
Just Claim It



8 Adventist Education: A Thorough Education

9 Positions of Our Faith: Statement on Child Sexual Abuse



10 Ne brisez pas les ponts, mais construisez-les

11 No Queme Puentes, ¡Constrúyalos!

14 2007 Camp Meeting Schedule

18 Students at Union Springs Academy Fast for World Famine



IN THIS ISSUE...

In this issue we share a pictorial report of the first-ever North American Division Youth Prayer Conference that was held in Dallas, Texas. Adventist education is a new monthly feature being introduced on page 8. Also included in this issue are Youth Talk on page 7, Positions of Our Faith on page 9, and the 2007 camp meeting schedule on pages 14–17. The cover design showing signs of spring uses an image from iStockphoto.

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.

DEPARTMENTS

Editorial	3
Youth Talk	7
Adventist Education	8
Positions of Our Faith	9
Quoi de Neuf?	10
¿Qué Está Pasando?	11

NEWS

Atlantic Union College	12
Bermuda	19
Greater New York	20
New York	21
Northeastern	22
Northern New England	23
Southern New England	24

INFORMATION

Bulletin Board	28
Classifieds	29

DEADLINES

July 2007	May 11
August 2007	June 8
September 2007	July 13

The GLEANER deadline schedule is available online at www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner4.htm.

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The Only Thing That Counts



In April, 96 years ago, people were rushing to book a reservation on one of the most magnificent cruise ships ever built. It was an engineering marvel. The Titanic was billed as the “unsinkable ship.” So goes the arrogance of man.

We know what happened. As the big ship was sinking, some survivors in the life boats heard John Astor crying out through the fog, “All my millions would I give for another chance at life!”

That brings us to five principles in life:

First, “only one lease of life is granted us.”¹ Every time we wake up in the morning, by God’s grace, we have another chance at life.

Second, “Our first duty toward God and man is that of self-development.”² God’s plan is for us to grow. Children grow and learn the ways of life. Christians born again of the Spirit should not remain “babes” (I Corinthians 3:1). We are to grow in Christ bearing fruit that automatically witnesses for Him.

Third, “every man has the opportunity, to a great extent, of making himself whatever he chooses to be.”³ That is true for whatever work we do in life as we put our mind to it. Likewise, everyone has the potential of becoming the greatest Christian the world has ever seen.

Fourth, the Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”—Galatians 6:7. One of the laws of creation is that we reap whatever we sow (Genesis 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25). God blesses us when we sow good seed. Life lets us suffer the consequences when we sow bad seed. “An hour

of thoughtlessness, once yielding to temptation, may turn the whole current of your life in the wrong direction.”⁴

Fifth, “By beholding we become changed.” Whatever we allow our mind to focus on influences what we become. Television violence, the kind of books or music, nature, wholesome food, exercise, spiritual things, the Word of God, or whatever we dwell on makes us what we are. Think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable (Philippians 4:8, NKJV). We become what we behold!

Life is too short. The apostle Paul wrote, “The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17). Beholding builds faith. “It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour’s matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary’s cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.”⁵

Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face; and the things of the world will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love”—Galatians 5:6 (NIV).⁶

Richard A. Marker is the Greater New York Conference president.

¹COUNSELS ON HEALTH, p. 107.

²CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 164.

³THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES, October 24, 1878.

⁴TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 4, p. 622–623.

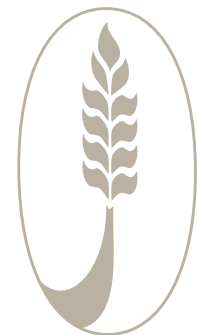
⁵THE DESIRE OF AGES, p. 480.

“By beholding we become changed.”

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JUST CLAIM IT 2007

Adventist Youth Meet in Dallas for first-ever
North American Division Prayer Conference

February 28 –
March 3, 2007
Dallas, Texas



Melina Flores' family owns the wall in front of the storage lot next to their home. The Flores family gave the Pleasant Grove Spanish church permission to paint a mural in November 2006 to promote the Just Claim It Prayer Conference. The storage lot faces a major thruway and the family received many inquiries about JCI. Photo: Rich Herard



Delegates ministered to the South Dallas Nursing Home residents.

A vision became reality February 28 through March 3, when more than 5,000 delegates registered for the Just Claim It (JCI) World Youth Prayer Conference held at the Dallas Convention Center in Texas.

More than just a prayer conference, youth from around the world worked together improving homes and spirits in the Dallas area. From painting to singing, clowning to street art, young people learned various ways to minister in 225 different workshops. They were then able to put that training into action by working and sharing their faith in various parts of the city. One group went door-to-door praying with residents, another group visited a Head Start program, another group helped a local homeless shelter and so on.

Attendance rose to more than 12,000 during the Sabbath program when youth directors from around the world were recognized as the Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated 100 years of youth ministries. The Bible Reading Marathon where participants read the Bible throughout the conference concluded with the reading of Revelation 22.

A bicycle-driven parade featuring floats representing Genesis to Revelation designed by Pathfinder clubs and academies drew quite the attention Sabbath afternoon as drum corps groups marched along with them.

The closing scenes of the conference celebrated the excitement and energy generated among prayer conference participants during the four-day event. A video recap brought warm memories of all that transpired—witnessing and outreach activities, prayer, Bible reading, music, drama, workshops, a parade, recreation, socializing, and much more. “There will be no closing prayer,” concluded James

Black, North American Division Youth Ministries director, “because JCI does not end here. We will pronounce God’s blessing, but this is just the beginning for what will take place in your city, your school, and your home.”^①

Melody Argueta, George Johnson Jr., Roxie Graham-Marski, Patricia Humphrey, and Diane Thurber contributed to this report.

The prayer wall provided an opportunity for delegates to make public prayer requests during the convention.

Ben Acre, from the Lockport church in Barker, New York, participated in the puppetry workshop.



Gerry Chudleigh

James Black, North American Division youth leader, accepted words of appreciation from World Church youth leader Baraka Muganda at the Just Claim It Prayer Conference.



Bill Wright



Rich Herard



Approximately 12,000 people attended the Sabbath service.

Rich Herard



Julia Sulu from the Allegheny East Conference, Elizabeth Hoskins from the Upper Columbia Conference, and Sharon Daniel from the Northeastern Conference were registration volunteers who reminded delegates to wear name tags.

Gary Burns



"I think the 'Just Make Overs' was a great vision that Elder James Black had from the Lord. I hope [the residents] saw that we are not just people [who] attend church on Sabbath, but are committed to the community"—Jasmin Hoyt, Brooklyn, New York.

Rich Herard



Kaad Jones of Brooklyn, New York, focused on making every shot while playing arcade style basketball during recreation time at the conference.

Allamar Young



Delegates enjoyed some physical activity in the exhibit hall provided by the Union College booth.

Rich Herard



Amélie Doyon and Ann-Claire Ballais of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, knocked on doors during the Door-to-Door ministry time.

Chris Drake

Ebony Skinner and Derryl Skinner from Lincoln, Nebraska, and Brianna McIntosh from Austin, Texas, began their clowning careers at the conference.



Chris Drake



Taking a moment for prayer are Elizabeth Boyd (left), from the Brunswick church in Brunswick, Maine; Melody Argueta, from the Keene Spanish church in Keene, Texas; Kelly Veilleux, Northern New England Conference's Prayer Ministries leader from Waterville, Maine; and Kristina Pascual from Keene, Texas.

Gerry Chudleigh

JUST CLAIM IT 2007



George Johnson Jr.

"I selected the nursing home practicum because I have done nursing home ministries before. It was a blessing."—Hannah Vaile, Portland church in Portland, Maine.

Sasia Doman, from Berea church in Massachusetts, was a featured presenter at the prayer conference. Here's one of her answered prayers: "At my school I got one of the major parts in a musical. But the first day of production I ended up with laryngitis. There was no understudy who could take my place, and I was really worried I would not be able to perform. I prayed to God to let me get my voice back. Two hours later, God answered my prayer. I had my voice for the remaining four days of performances."

Gerry Chudleigh



"This experience [attending JCI] ignited the flame of God in my heart, but you don't need something this big to start the flame in your heart. You just need to ask God to come in your heart every day"—Adam Boyd, Union Springs Academy.



Jacob Martinez, from the Spanish Fort Washington church in Manhattan, shared what Christ means to him.



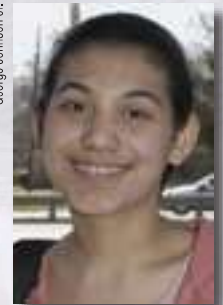
Gerry Chudleigh

"I am so happy that God gave me the chance to go and be a part of something like that. I hope now that I'm back I can share the things I learned with the people around me. This trip has affected my life in such a positive way, and all I can say is, praise God!"—Megan Wilkinson, Union Springs Academy.



"Their (nursing home residents) response and involvement let us know they appreciated our ministry. They invited us back and enjoyed singing with us"—Emily Vail, Portland church in Portland, Maine.

George Johnson Jr.



"When I got there [JCI] I felt God touch my life. So now I feel better and I've got joy in my heart"—Matt Stanton, Union Springs Academy.



"I was revived by the happiness and smiles, and encouraged by the faith of those of my peer group who clearly showed their Christian behavior and attitude. The most beautiful sight was the call on Friday night—hundreds of people coming to the front to dedicate their lives to Christ or to reestablish that commitment. I realized that I was right where I was meant to be"—Noelle Knight, Union Springs Academy.



JCI graphic designs used with permission from Robert Kauffman, founder/creative director for Visuplay Interactive.

Youth Talk

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

What is one thing you like or love about the worship service at your church?

These responses are from youth who attended the “Yes You Can!” January 2007 Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Convention in Stamford, Connecticut.



“The one thing I love about our worship service is that the worship is bilingual. As a Haitian church, it’s important to speak both languages (French and English) so that we can engage the youth and fully relate to the congregation.”—**Nahomi St. Fort**, 22, assistant

youth director and Pathfinder counselor, Sichem Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, Waltham, Massachusetts



“I love the welcome segment of the service best. When we do ‘love and link,’ where we get up and hug each other and our guests, I think it really shows the welcoming spirit of Christ’s love. Anywhere in the world that I’ve been, I’ve seen people transformed by the

love shown them during this portion of the service.”—**Yasmin Davidson**, 28, Adventist Youth Society leader, Mount Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church, Queens Village, New York

“The one thing I love about worship service is singing on the praise team. And hearing the words from my pastor, Kevin Bryan, is a blessing and a joy.”—**Shaunika Britton**, 22, Sabbath school secretary, Adventurer director, and Adventist Youth Society (AYS) assistant leader, Riverdale Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, Yonkers, New York



“There are an abundant [number] of things that I love about the worship services at my church. The one that I love the most is the fact that my church incorporates the younger people in [the service], whether it’s prayer, Scripture, welcome, [or other aspects]. I love that they are trying to keep the young people in the church. For example, I have done numerous things in church like call for the offering, the Scripture reading, prayer, and even the sermon. The love of God is great. He makes people feel so warm. To use children to transform their words into inspiration, that is deep.”—**Corey Young Francois**, 15, technician in the Audio Visual department, Pathfinder and Adventurer counselor, Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church, Brooklyn, New York



“I am a member of the young adult choir. We are scheduled to sing every fourth Sabbath. I, along with other members and the church congregation, truly enjoy the spiritual music and ‘singspiration’ during the worship service.”—**Wallaine Walters**, 23, Sabbath School superintendent and Pathfinder club

deputy director, New Rochelle Seventh-day Adventist Church, New Rochelle, New York

“Praise and worship is what moves me in the worship service. The songs uplift my spirit and at that time all my worries are gone and I feel closer to God.”—**Francia Charles**, 25, Children’s Ministries coordinator, Sinai French Seventh-day Adventist Church, Spring Valley, New York



If you are 30 years or younger, and would like to join these young people in sharing your opinions and ideas, e-mail the GLEANER editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org. Photos: Ednor A. P. Davison.

A Thorough Education

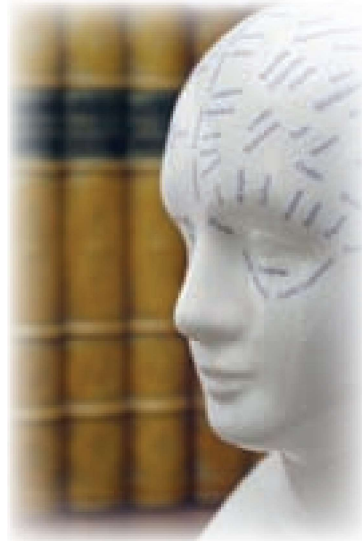
At his death Charlemagne, who had attempted to reunite the broken fragments of the Roman Empire, was placed upon a throne of ivory in a costly mausoleum. A crown was placed upon the head of the dead monarch. A scepter was placed in one hand as a symbol of power, and in the other hand a scroll of one of the books of the New Testament. Then the tomb was sealed.

After years had passed an enemy invaded the land and the tomb was opened. Upon the ivory throne sat the skeleton of the once proud and haughty king. The scepter had fallen from his lifeless grasp; the scroll lay upon the floor. One bony finger seemed to point toward the scroll, which lay open to the words, “What doth it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”

Students are our most prized possession. Today’s youth are immersed in media that glorifies lifestyle practices contrary to God’s teachings. Technology, a blessing at times, also provides easy access to corrupt influences. Children’s cartoons, once funny and entertaining, are now embedded with subliminal messages, which instill corrupt thought patterns in the minds of children.

Brain research shows that each time the mind receives a message it is ingrained in a path. If the same message is repeated, the path becomes deep-rooted and, while not impossible, it is difficult to retrain.

For this reason it is important to fill the minds of our students with Seventh-day Adventist Christian values.



istockphoto

The Spirit of Prophecy states, “Students must have opportunities to become conversant with the Bible. They need time for this. A student who makes God his strength, who is becoming intelligent in the knowledge of God as revealed in his word, is laying the foundation for a thorough education”—CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, p. 29.

A thorough education is not achieved by receiving it just one day of the week. The foundation of a thorough education is laid every minute of every day. Atlantic Union Conference is collaborating with local conferences and school administrators to ensure that our teachers:

- cultivate the mental and spiritual well-being of students,
- train leaders qualified to act in the fear of God,

- create a classroom environment that serves as a barrier against the growing corruption in this world,
- teach a knowledge of practical life,
- teach students the duty of prayer, and how to pray.

Recently, students attending our schools have been preaching from church pulpits in Boston, New York City, Syracuse, and South Lancaster. Students Tell *the* World is a practical opportunity for students to strengthen their faith as they share their knowledge of God with others.

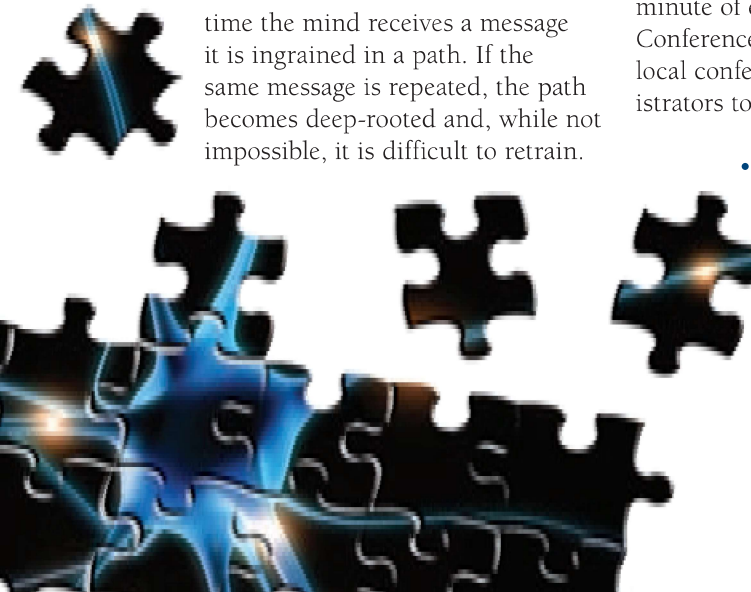
We’re on a battlefield fighting to save our young people. The union and conference offices of education need the support of every constituent church member in this battle. I plead with you to join us in our struggle to ensure that every youth receives a thorough education! Enroll your children in Adventist schools. Encourage the youth in your neighborhood to attend Adventist schools. Make Adventist schools your mission to ensure that a thorough education is provided. Remember, “What doth it profit students, if they shall gain the whole world and lose their souls?”

I invite you to visit our Web site: www.atlantic-union.org/education.htm. Let us know how to strengthen what is being done and whether you are willing to join us in promoting Adventist education in the Atlantic Union Conference. God will bless our team effort. ☺



Astrid Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference education and children’s ministries director.

Putting the Pieces Together



Statement on Child Sexual Abuse

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).

Statement on Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse occurs when a person older or stronger than the child uses his or her power, authority, or position of trust to involve a child in sexual behavior or activity. Incest, a specific form of child sexual abuse, is defined as any sexual activity between a child and a parent, a sibling, an extended family member, or a step/surrogate parent.

Sexual abusers may be men or women and may be of any age, nationality, or socio-economic background. They are often men who are married with children, have respectable jobs, and may be regular churchgoers. It is common for offenders to strongly deny their abusive behavior, to refuse to see their actions as a problem, and to rationalize their behavior or place blame on something or someone else. While it is true that many abusers exhibit deeply-rooted insecurities and low self-esteem, these problems should never be accepted as an excuse for sexually abusing a child. Most authorities agree that the real issue in child sexual abuse is more related to a desire for power and control than for sex.

When God created the human family, He began with a marriage between a man and a woman based on mutual love and trust. This relationship is still designed to provide the foundation for a stable, happy family in which the dignity, worth, and integrity of each family member is protected and upheld. Every child, whether male or female, is to be affirmed as a gift from God. Parents are given the privilege and responsibility of providing nurture, protection, and physical care for the children entrusted to them by God. Children should be able to honor, respect, and trust their parents and other family members without the risk of abuse.

The Bible condemns child sexual abuse in the strongest possible terms. It sees any attempt to confuse, blur, or denigrate personal, generational, or gender boundaries through sexually abusive behavior as an act of betrayal and a gross violation of personhood. It openly condemns abuses of power, authority, and responsibility because these strike at the very heart of the victims' deepest feelings about themselves, others, and God, and shatter their capacity to love and trust. Jesus used strong language to condemn the actions of anyone who, through word or deed, causes a child to stumble.

The Adventist Christian community is not immune from child sexual abuse. We believe that the tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist faith require us to be actively involved in its prevention. We are also com-

mitted to spiritually assisting abused and abusive individuals and their families in their healing and recovery process, and to holding church professionals and church lay leaders accountable for maintaining their personal behavior as is appropriate for persons in positions of spiritual leadership and trust.

As a Church we believe our faith calls us to:

1. Uphold the principles of Christ for family relationships in which the self-respect, dignity, and purity of children are recognized as divinely mandated rights.
2. Provide an atmosphere where children who have been abused can feel safe when reporting sexual abuse and can feel that someone will listen to them.
3. Become thoroughly informed about sexual abuse and its impact upon our own church community.
4. Help ministers and lay leaders to recognize the warning signs of child sexual abuse and know how to respond appropriately when abuse is suspected or a child reports being sexually abused.
5. Establish referral relationships with professional counselors and local sexual assault agencies who can, with their professional skills, assist abuse victims and their families.
6. Create guidelines/policies at the appropriate levels to assist church leaders in:
 1. Endeavoring to treat with fairness persons accused of sexually abusing children,
 2. Holding abusers accountable for their actions and administering appropriate discipline.
7. Support the education and enrichment of families and family members by:
 1. Dispelling commonly held religious and cultural beliefs which may be used to justify or cover up child sexual abuse.
 2. Building a healthy sense of personal worth in each child which enables him or her to respect self and others.
 3. Fostering Christ-like relationships between males and females in the home and in the church.
8. Provide caring support and a faith-based redemptive ministry within the church community for abuse survivors and abusers while enabling them to access the available network of professional resources in the community.
9. Encourage the training of more family professionals to facilitate the healing and recovery process of abuse victims and perpetrators.

(The above statement is informed by principles expressed in the following scriptural passages: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Leviticus 18:20; 2 Samuel 13:1-22; Matthew 18:6-9; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:5-8.)

This statement was voted during the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee on Tuesday, April 1, 1997, in Loma Linda, California.

Ne brisez pas les ponts, mais construisez-les

Dans le village où je grandissais, il y avait un pont reliant l'Est et le côté occidental de la localité scindée par une rivière. Une fois, le fleuve était en crue, les eaux quittaient les rives, et le pont était entièrement submergé pendant plusieurs jours. Alors, des membres de familles étaient séparés de leurs bien-aimés, et bloqués sur l'autre bord.

Le mot "pont" revêt de différentes nuances de signification. De façon simpliste, il est défini comme un ouvrage, une construction permettant de franchir une dépression, obstacle, notamment un cours d'eau, un bras de mer, une voie ferrée, une route. (LE PETIT LAROUSSE, 100ème édition, 2005)

En fait, les ponts établissent le rapport entre deux points isolés, créent une voie sur d'autres obstacles. Ils sont utilisés, au temps de guerre, par les alliés, pour faciliter le mouvement des troupes, l'approvisionnement alimentaire, le transport des munitions d'un point à l'autre. En même temps, les ponts peuvent être ciblés par les ennemis cherchant à perturber, frustrer les opérations et interrompre les contacts de leurs adversaires.

Comme l'absence d'un pont crée la séparation, ainsi en est-il du péché, de l'aliénation et de leurs dérivés. Le péché, non seulement, pollue mais sépare et cause un débranchement total entre Dieu et l'homme. Dans ce cas, il est écrit: "Non, la main de l'Éternel n'est pas trop courte pour sauver, ni son oreille trop dure pour entendre. Mais ce sont vos crimes qui mettent une séparation entre vous et votre Dieu; ce sont vos péchés qui vous cachent sa face et l'empêchent de vous écouter." Esaïe 59:1, 2.

Dans le cadre de l'aliénation du péché et de ses conséquences, E. G. White déclare: "Par le péché l'homme était séparé de Dieu. N'était-

ce pas le plan de la rédemption, cette séparation perpétuelle et les ténèbres de la nuit éternelle seraient son lot. Grâce au sacrifice du Sauveur, la communion avec Dieu est rendue possible." (EDUCATION, p.29)

La mission salvatrice de Jésus nous conduit vers la croix, le point capital de l'histoire de la rédemption où nous contemplons la manifestation suprême de l'amour de Dieu. A ce point, il est dit: Le péché a mis une séparation entre l'homme et Dieu, et le pont a été établi par le Christ qui a réconcilié, non seulement l'homme à Dieu mais aussi Dieu à l'homme." (SEVENTH-DAY BIBLE COMMENTARY, vol. 6, p. 869). La croix est notre pont nous permettant d'aller à Dieu. Jésus devient le maillon qui nous lie au ciel. Par Lui, nous avons accès à notre Père céleste. La réconciliation élimine l'hostilité et l'aliénation.

Elle est bi-dimensionnelle, comprenant une branche verticale, qui vient de Dieu à l'homme; et un bras horizontal, qui va de l'homme à son prochain. Ces deux dimensions sont également importantes.

La réconciliation change nos vies de l'égoïsme à l'altruisme. Cependant, il y existe une autre école de pensée qui met plus d'emphasis sur le rapport de l'homme avec Dieu tout en réduisant au minimum la relation du premier avec son frère. Toute attitude et toute tendance de nature à aliéner et à amoindrir un frère ou une sœur sont intenable et ont les 'pieds d'argile', comme il est dit dans l'Évangile de Jésus-Christ: "Si donc tu présentes ton offrande à l'autel, et que là tu te souviennes que ton frère a quelque chose contre toi, laisse là ton offrande devant l'autel, et va d'abord te réconcilier avec ton frère; puis, viens présenter ton offrande." Matthieu 5:23, 24. Ici, Jésus place une prime significative sur la dimension

horizontale. Il l'a même placée avant notre culte à Dieu.

Les ponts sont coupés quand la réconciliation devient impossible ou simplement inexistante. Les ponts sont rompus quand nous nous séparons de nos prochains. Ce faisant, nous interrompons la ligne d'ali-



mentation céleste et de la grâce de Dieu envers nous. Alors, nous nous sommes isolés sur l'autre bord loin du Sauveur. L'église est une communauté. Nous sommes membres de la même famille. Nous sommes appelés à la communion, la fraternité et la koinonia. Construisons, construisons, construisons et ne brisons pas!



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

English translation available at www.atlantic-union.org/news149.html.

No Queme Puentes, ¡Constrúyalos!

En el pueblo donde yo crecí, había un puente que conectaba el lado este al lado oeste del pueblo. En una ocasión, el río creció tanto que sus aguas sobrepasaron la ribera y todo el puente fue sumergido debajo del agua por varios días. En ese instante, era evidente que la ausencia de este



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puente causó la separación de familiares, muchos de los cuales quedaron atrapados en el otro lado del río.

La palabra “puente” puede tomar varios significados. Primeramente es definida como “una estructura que sobrelleva una carretera, un sendero, línea ferrocarril, o canal sobre un río, barranco, carretera u otro obstáculo.” Este nombre también es usado para designar “algo que reconcilia dos cosas.” (EL DICCIONARIO DEL COLEGIO AMERICANO DE OXFORD, Oxford Press, 2002)

De hecho, los puentes proveen una unión entre dos lugares y sobre otros

obstáculos. Son usados en el tiempo de guerra por las fuerzas aliadas para facilitar el movimiento de las tropas, alimentos, municiones y como medio de transportación de un punto a otro. A la misma vez, los puentes pueden ser blancos para el enemigo que busca deteriorar, frustrar las operaciones y cortar las relaciones de sus oponentes.

De la misma manera que la ausencia de un puente crea separación, así mismo es el pecado y sus consecuencias. El pecado no solo contamina, pero también separa y crea una desconexión total entre Dios y el ser humano. En este contexto, está escrito: “He aquí que no se ha acertado la mano de Jehová para salvar, ni se ha endurecido su oído para oír; pero vuestras iniquidades han hecho división entre vosotros y vuestro Dios y vuestros pecados han hecho que oculte de vosotros su rostro para no oírlos” Isaías 59:1,2 (Reina Valera 1995).

Hablando acerca de la separación del pecado y sus consecuencias, Elena de White declara: “Por el pecado el hombre fue aislado de Dios. Sino hubiera sido por el plan de redención, el fin del hombre hubiera sido la eterna separación de Dios, la oscuridad de la noche interminable. Por medio del sacrificio del Salvador, la comunión con Dios fue restablecida nuevamente”—EDUCACIÓN, p.28.

La misión de Cristo nos lleva al Calvario, el punto más alto de la historia de la redención donde supremamente se manifiesta el amor de Dios. Es en este punto donde se dice: “El pecado trajo la separación entre Dios y el hombre, y esta brecha fue restablecida por Cristo quien reconcilió no solo al hombre con Dios sino a Dios con el hombre”—COMENTARIO BÍBLICO ADVENTISTA, vol. 6, p. 869. La cruz es nuestro puente hacia Dios. Jesús pasa a ser ese lazo que nos conecta al cielo. Por medio de El, tenemos acceso a nuestro Padre celestial. La

reconciliación elimina la enemistad y el alejamiento.

Esta reconciliación está compuesta de dos dimensiones, el plano vertical, el cual fluye de Dios al hombre; y el plano horizontal que fluye del hombre a sus compañeros. Las dos dimensiones son igualmente importantes.

La reconciliación cambia nuestras vidas de ser unas centradas en nosotros mismos a una centrada en los demás. Otros pensamientos ponen más énfasis en la relación del hombre con Dios, minimizando así las relaciones con nuestros prójimos. Cualquier actitud o tendencia a alejar, o a menospreciar a nuestros hermanos o hermanas son insostenibles y como nos dice el evangelio de Jesucristo tienen “pies de barro,” “Por tanto, si traes tu ofrenda al altar y allí te acuerdas de que tu hermano tiene algo contra ti, deja allí tu ofrenda delante del altar y ve, reconcíliate primero con tu hermano, y entonces vuelve y presenta tu ofrenda”—Mateo 5:23, 24 (Reina Valera 1995). Aquí claramente Jesús pone un gran énfasis en la línea horizontal de nuestras relaciones. El aún la pone antes de nuestra adoración a Dios.

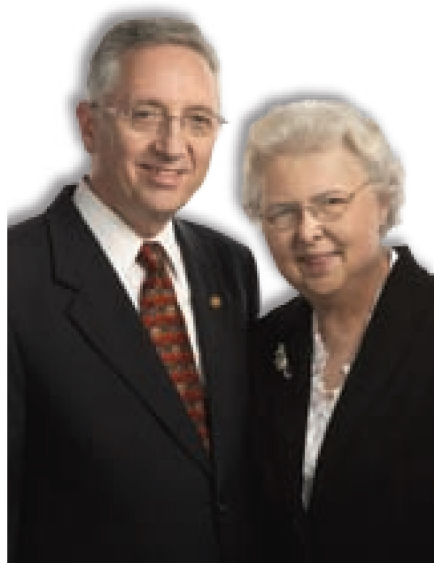
Los puentes se queman cuando la reconciliación se hace imposible o simplemente no existe. Cuando los puentes son quemados, nos aislamos de las personas y nos separamos de ellas. Al hacer esto, cortamos la línea de provisión del cielo y de la gracia de Dios para nosotros. Quedamos atrapados en el otro lado.

La iglesia de Dios es una comunidad. Somos parte de la misma familia. Hemos sido comisionados a edificar relaciones, compañerismo, koinonía y comunión. Esta es una misión en marcha. ¡Construyamos, construyamos, construyamos, y no quememos!

Louis B. Metellus, es el Vice presidente del Ministerio Haitiano y director de los Servicios a la Comunidad y Ministerio de las Prisiones de la Unión del Atlántico.

¿QUÉ ESTÁ PASANDO? EN LA UNIÓN DE ATLÁNTICO

AUC President Announces Retirement



George and Fern Babcock

Dave Sherwin

Dr. George Babcock, president of Atlantic Union College since 2003, announced his retirement effective May 31, 2007, at the end of the current academic school year.

It's actually his re-retirement. He retired from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, as senior vice president of Academic Administration. Previously he served as the associate director of education for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Babcock came to the South Lancaster, Massachusetts-based Seventh-day Adventist liberal arts college with the thought of being here for two years, yet he stayed on an additional two years. In these four years, he's accomplished

three of his four goals:

- 1) The college's accreditation was moved from a recommendation for termination to probationary status. It was removed from probationary status on November 3, 2005, and full accreditation was retained.
- 2) After years of improved financial performance, supported by clean audits in 2005 and 2006, the United States Federal Department of Education removed its reimbursement restrictions for student loans and grant funds.
- 3) Enrollment is increasing because of a multi-faceted marketing plan.
- 4) While fundraising results have doubled over last year, indebtedness remains.

"No one thought that I would be at the helm of the college for a long period of time," said Babcock. "I'm in my 48th year of educational administration and, for any administrator, this length of service is highly unusual. For health reasons, my doctors recommend a lifestyle change and my family insists on it, and I agree.

The Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees is in search mode directed by board chair Dr. Donald King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference.

"[I'm sure that] the board of trustees will give most serious thought and prayer to the hiring of the next president," says

Babcock, "a person, regardless of gender or race, who is completely dedicated to God and to His education ministry; one who is a master at finance; and one who will follow through with the master plans that have already been voted."

Today, while still working day and night, Babcock is looking forward to a less stressed life and spending time with his grandchildren!

A more detailed article is available at www.auc.edu.

AUC – A Family Tradition Since 1882

Fern Gibson Babcock, wife of President Babcock, was a faculty child at AUC in the 1940s when her father, Jesse O. Gibson served as business manager, 1941-1944.

Her great-grandfather Dores A. Robinson, then pastor of the Village Church, was one of the founders and principals of South Lancaster Academy, which became Atlantic Union College. His wife, Edna Dewey Robinson, also taught there.

Watch for the family story in the June 2007 Atlantic Union GLEANER.

Cindy Kurtzhals, director of public relations and publications
Atlantic Union College
www.auc.edu



Atlantic Union College and South Lancaster Academy are jointly celebrating their 125th anniversaries this year. The theme is *Share the Light!*

Among several distinguished speakers during the 125th celebration programs

are Benjamin Reaves, Angel Rodriguez, Bill Knott, and Mike Ortel. Ortel and Rodriguez met their wives-to-be at Atlantic Union College! Go to www.auc.edu.

Celebration presentations have already been held in February, March, and April at the following churches: Stoneham, Massachusetts; Brunswick, Maine; Union Springs and Flatbush, New York. Other events were joint chapels at the Village Church and Machlan Auditorium and alumni weekend.

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS:

- May 12, 7:00 p.m., Anniversary Concert, College Church, So. Lancaster.
- Join us at our 125th Anniversary presentations at your conference camp meeting.
- September 22, 11:00 a.m., Bill Knott, editor, ADVENTIST REVIEW, College Church; 8:00 p.m., historical lecture, David Knott, professor emeritus, Machlan Auditorium.
- October 5–7, South Lancaster Academy Alumni Weekend.

Hospital CEO Honored

AUC Grad

Sheila Daly, president and CEO of Clinton Hospital, a member of UMass Memorial Health Care, was recognized by Atlantic Union College during Women's Heritage Week, a part of Women's History Month being observed nationally. President George Babcock presented her with a plaque of appreciation during the February 27 student assembly.

Daly was named to the position in August 2001, but this is only her most recent role at Clinton Hospital. From serving as a teenage volunteer to RN; from vice president of Patient Care Services to president, Daly has grown with the hospital in a career that spans nearly four decades.

She graduated from the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, earned a B.S. in nursing from Atlantic Union College's Adult Degree Program in 1989, as well as a M.S. in human services management from Worcester State College. She is a certified professional in Healthcare Quality, a member of the Sigma Theta Tau

International Honor Society of Nursing—Iota Phi at-large chapter, a foundation board member for Mount Wachusett Community College, and a member of the Rotary Club of Clinton.

"Sheila is a tremendous leader in the community and has made wonderful improvements to the hospital as CEO," says Maegen McCaffrey, executive director, Wachusett Chamber of Commerce in Clinton, Massachusetts. "Clinton Hospital recently won the

coveted National Summit Award for outstanding patient satisfaction. The hospital earned the award for its outpatient services by being rated in the top five percent in patient satisfaction nationally for three consecutive years. The hospital was one of only 61 health care facilities out of 643 [that were] eligible to win for outpatient services."

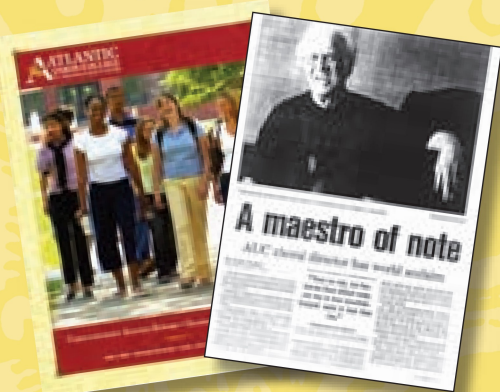
*Compiled by Cindy Kurtzhals, director of public relations and publications
Atlantic Union College*

"The Adult Degree Program at Atlantic Union College was a good fit for me. At the time, I was juggling family life and a full-time job. AUC's program offered me a great way to balance all of that and obtain the education I needed in order to realize the career I have today."—Sheila Daly, president and CEO, Clinton Hospital.



Cindy Kurtzhals

AUC Earns Award of Merit Nominations



Atlantic Union College earned two Award of Merit nominations at the Society of Adventist Communicators Convention. Nominees were presented at the convention's 2006 awards banquet in Baltimore, Maryland.

The entries were AUC's extensive media coverage and its Constituency

Report, both produced by the department of public relations.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to William Johnsson, recently retired editor of the ADVENTIST REVIEW.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS

For Professionals and Students

The organization was developed in 1989 by Southern Union Conference Director of Communication George Powell. Then called the Southern Society of Adventist Communicators (SSAC), it was designed for professionals in the varied communication industries: printing, graphic arts, film, videography, radio, television, public relations, photography, and church communication. Today, its people

groups are more extensive. (See About Us at www.adventistcommunicator.org.)

Its purpose continues to be for "the socialization, continuing education, recognition, and nurture of Seventh-day Adventists whose careers are in field of communication." College students have always been a vital part of the organization.

Today, the organization is international and meets in varied locations in North America each October. The next convention is October 11-14, 2007, in Nashville, Tennessee. For info and to receive the SCOOP newsletter, go to www.adventistcommunicator.org.

*Cindy Kurtzhals, director of public relations and publications
Atlantic Union College*





New York

My Life: My Witness

Union Springs Academy, Union Springs, New York

English Camp Meeting June 22-30

June 22-23
Ron Christman
Secretary/Treasurer
Adventist-laymen's Services
and Industries (ASI)

June 29-30
C. D. Brooks
Retired Director/Speaker
Breath of Life

Weekday Mornings
David Klinedinst
Personal Ministries Director
Christian Record Services

Weeknights (Sun.-Thurs.)
Marvin Moore
Editor
SIGNS Magazine

William Miller Camp Meeting
William Miller Farm
Whitehall, New York

July 28
Rick Kuntz
Evangelist
Northern New England
Conference

Hispanic Camp Meeting
June 23 and June 30
Union Springs Academy
Church
Union Springs, New York

June 23
Hector Torres
Hispanic Ministries Director
Greater New York Conference

June 30
Dionisio Olivio
Hispanic Ministries Vice President
Atlantic Union Conference

Native American Camp Meeting
Theme: Pathways to the Creator
August 10-12
Chambers Camp
Beavers Dam, New York
(607) 962-4292

David DeRose
President
CompassHealth, Inc.

Northern Adirondack Camp Meeting
August 17-18
West Bangor Church
West Bangor, New York

Greater New York

Discipleship: Enter to Learn - Depart to Serve

Camp Berkshire, Wingdale, New York

Luso-Brazilian Camp Meeting
May 25-28
Elias Brenha
Pastor
Sao Paulo Conference

English Camp Meeting
June 30-July 7
William Tucker
Speaker
The Quiet Hour

Abraham Jules
Pastor
Mount Vernon Church
Pathway of Hope Speaker

Hispanic Camp Meeting
July 15-22
Antonio Rosario
Pastor
Michigan Conference

Arnaldo González
Health Ministries Director
North Caribbean Conference

José Angel Fuentes
Psychologist
California Conference

Wilfrido Malav
Pastor
West Puerto Rico Conference

French Camp Meeting
July 21-29

Diversity Summit
United Camp Meeting
September 15



Abraham Jules



Antonio Rosario



Arnaldo González



William Tucker



Ron Christman



C.D. Brooks



David Klinedinst



Dionisio Olivo



Marvin Moore



Hector Torres



Rick Kuntz



David DeRose



José Angel Fuentes



Wilfrido Malav

Bermuda

Knowing the Times

**Bermuda Institute/Southampton Church Complex
July 6–14**

Speakers:

July 6–July 11

John Nixon
Senior Pastor
Collegedale Church
Collegedale, Tennessee



John Nixon

July 11–July 15

Henry Wright
Senior Pastor
Community Praise Center
Alexandria, Virginia



Henry Wright

Jeffrey Brown
President
Bermuda Conference

Kenneth Manders
Secretary
Bermuda Conference

Derek Furbert
Treasurer
Bermuda Conference



Gina Brown

Health Presenter

July 6–15

Gina Brown
Dean
School of Graduate and
Professional Studies
Columbia Union College



Kenneth Manders

Children Ministries

Frederica Tucker
Children's Ministries Director
Bermuda Conference



Frederica Tucker

Music Ministries

Gale Murphy
Adult Division



Gale Murphy



Jeffrey Brown



Derek Furbert



Northeastern

United in One Hope

Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York

Hispanic Camp Meeting
May 24–27

Theme: Dilo al Mundo

Jose Campos

Retired Publishing Director

General Conference

Emilio Marenko

University Registrar

Andrews University

English Camp Meeting
June 30

Richard Barron

Retired Associate Youth

Director

General Conference

Youth

Vandeon Griffin

Youth Director

South Central Conference

July 7

Alvin Kibble

Vice President

North American Division

Youth

Vincent Dehm

Pastor

South Atlantic Conference

Haitian Camp Meeting
August 23–26

**Theme: Unis dans une seule
esperance**

Carl Johnson

Pastor

Quebec Conference

Southern New England

More About Jesus

Southern New England Conference Campground (Adjacent to and on the campus of Atlantic Union College)

South Lancaster, Massachusetts

June 22–30

English

June 22

Frank Tochterman

President

Southern New England

Conference

June 23

Ernestine Finley

Hope Channel

Trevor H. C. Baker

President

Northeastern Conference

June 24–28

William Johnsson

Retired Editor

ADVENTIST REVIEW

June 25–29

Noelene Johnsson

Retired Director

NAD Children's Ministries

June 29–30

Lee Venden

Pastor

College Place Church,

Washington

Spanish Meetings

June 22–30

Cecilio Clayton

Director

International Bilingual School

Portuguese Meetings

June 22–30

Noel Jose Dias da Costa

Professor

Brazil Adventist University

Erenita Maria Silva da Costa

Professor

Brazil Adventist University

Haitian Meetings

June 22–30

Enock Saintil

Professor

Universite

Adventiste d'Haiti



William Johnsson



Ernestine Finley



Alvin Kibble



Vandeon Griffin



Emilio Marenko



Richard Barron



Vincent Dehm



The Spanish Heritage Singers



Nolene Johnsson



Frank Tochterman



Trevor Baker



Lee Venden



Cecilio Clayton

Northern New England

In His Presence

**Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine
June 29–July 7**

**First Weekend Speaker
Lonnie Melashenko**
*Speaker-Director
Voice of Prophecy*



Lonnie Melashenko

**Second Weekend Speaker
Mark Finley**
*Vice President for
Global Evangelism
General Conference*



Mark Finley

**Weekday Seminars
and Presenters**

John Earnhardt
*Pastor/Evangelist
Georgia Cumberland
Conference*



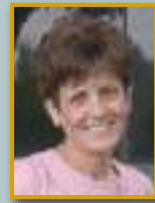
John Earnhardt

Debra Brill
*Vice President for Ministries
North American Division*



Debra Brill

Ernestine Finley
Hope Channel



Ernestine Finley

Merlin Burt
*Director
Center for Adventist Research
Andrews University*



Merlin Burt

STUDENTS AT UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY FAST FOR WORLD FAMINE



Sara Millahn and Carrie Mason learn what it's like to start a small tailoring business. Their team created a fashionable outfit using a small amount of fabric and a stapler.



Freshman Yharitza Miranda races to fill a cup with water siphoned from milk jugs in five minutes.



From left: sophomores Tim Moore (in burgundy), Alex Bickham (in red), Evan Kirkby (in black), and freshman Geoffrey Serem (in gray), along with their team, crowd into their balloon shelter. Students were challenged to build a shelter that was sturdy and could fit the whole team inside.

Union Springs Academy campus ministries coordinator, Tim Bishop, is helping his students become more compassionate. For the past seven years, Bishop has organized a 24-hour fast for world hunger, encouraging students to look beyond their comfortable lives to see the needs of others. A majority of the school's 60 students participate in the ADRA Famine each year, volunteering to give up their warm beds and hot meals in exchange for a night on the gymnasium floor.

On Friday evening, January 26, the students made their way across the snow-covered campus to gather in the gym to kick off this year's famine. After being divided into teams, they rotated through activity stations, learning about ADRA and how it changes lives around the world, and how poverty affects people worldwide. During the evening's vesper program, I told the group of my travels with ADRA, sharing firsthand stories of the teenagers I have met in Thailand, Zambia, and Namibia, and what life was like for them.

Each student received a photo of a child from a developing country. Throughout the weekend, students kept the photos tied on strings around their necks, serving as a constant reminder of how the world needs their help.

"I have kept the photo of the child I have gotten each year," shared four-time ADRA Famine participant Carrie Mason, a junior. This program has made me realize how privileged I am. Instead of asking for gifts for my

birthday and Christmas, I'll ask that my family give a gift to ADRA."

A candlelight service to raise awareness about infant mortality brought Friday's activities to a solemn close. During the service, some of the students' candles were blown out, representing the death of their child. Seeing the number of children who die every hour, many from preventable causes, affected the students deeply.

Saturday morning arrived. With no breakfast, real hunger set in. To keep their minds off their growling stomachs, students participated in team activities designed to teach them about poor living conditions, the uneven distribution of wealth among countries, and the difficulties faced by those without access to clean water, medical services, or proper nutrition.

"I never knew how hard it is for the people in other countries," commented sophomore Najee Rahman. "I have it so nice being able to eat when I want, a comfortable bed, and heat in my room."

When the famine ended, the students reflected on the experience while feasting on pizza. "I am now more passionate about helping," said sophomore Sara Millahn. This weekend opened my eyes to the world's needs."

"The needs of the world don't feel distant anymore," added Carrie Mason. "We might not be able to eliminate poverty, but we can help one person. I have learned how to make a difference."⁰

Emily Harding is a graphic designer at ADRA International.

Only at Bermuda Institute!



100 men on Campus Day is held annually at Bermuda Institute. It allows the students to interact with positive male role models.

“I have never seen anything like this anywhere!” This exclamation was spontaneously evoked from two guests at Bermuda Institute’s annual 100 Men on Campus Day held on February 25 in honor of the

100th day of the school year. The day began with a hearty breakfast prepared by students under the direction of Owen Simons and Janet King. Many fathers, uncles, and other significant male figures in the lives of our stu-

dents sat down and enjoyed the meal with their children. This set the stage for what turned out to be a day of delightful interaction between staff, parents, and students.

A highlight of this occasion is always the joint chapel. This year the audience was brought to its feet by the passionate recitation of the Bermudian version of Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech—a very fitting presentation as it reflected the theme for the event.

The chapel’s devotional thought was presented by Pastor Andre Anderson of Toronto, Canada. He held the audience’s attention as

he likened working with our youth to the tuning of a piano. By striking them with words of perseverance and tuning them with the hand of love through the investment of our time, we will hear the beautiful music they are capable of producing. If we continue to have dreams for our youth, through our tuning, they will become reality.

Following the chapel service, high school students participated in workshops presented by guests and males from our community. Some of the workshops covered topics such as jealousy, men can cook too, relationships, and female etiquette. They allowed the students to interact with positive male role models.

Whether it was in chapel, a workshop, or during the friendly football match at the end of the day, everyone received a blessing. There was something for males, females, students, staff members, and community members. Our 100 Men on Campus Day is just another way that Bermuda Institute has established itself as a lighthouse in the community, pointing others to Christ.

*Coleen Birkett, staff writer
Bermuda Institute*

Special Baptism at Devonshire Church

When Letesha Wellman arrived at the Devonshire Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, January 20, she had no idea what surprises lay in store. She was overjoyed because this was the day that she and her children were to be baptized. She had been attending church for about four months and had made a decision to accept Christ and to be baptized. Her husband had accompanied her and the children from time to time. But unbeknownst to Letesha, her husband was taking Bible studies privately with the Bible worker at the church. Imagine Letesha’s surprise and that of the church family, when the well-kept secret was revealed and Christopher joined his wife and children, Taizah and Tehrae, in baptism.

Letesha’s friend, Rickeesha Binns, treated the baptismal candidates with a song dedicated especially to them. Ironically, on the same day, Letesha’s sister gave birth to a baby. There was much joy in heaven at the birth of a newborn baby and the rebirth of the Wellman family.

*Patricia Pimental, communication director
Devonshire church*



The students participated in various activities throughout the day.



Newly baptized members Ashley Boyd and Ed Shelley join Pastor John Osborne (center) as members in the Poughkeepsie church family.

Rejoicing in Heaven

As Ed Shelley and Ashley Sara Boyd were baptized at the Poughkeepsie Seventh-day Adventist Church, family, friends, and church members gathered together to witness their outward acceptance of Christ. Ed's uncle, Tibor Shelley, gave a powerful message about the Holy Spirit and working together for Christ. It was followed by a luncheon where we all socialized and made friends with our visitors.

*Janet Boehm, communication director
Poughkeepsie church*

Women Gather at Poughkeepsie Church for Prayer Breakfast

Thirty-three women from the Poughkeepsie Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered together in the fellowship hall on March 3 for an 8:00 a.m. prayer breakfast. It was an unforgettable time of bonding as the group prayed together.

Sylvia Good, the church's Women's Ministries leader, organized and planned this elegant breakfast. The tables were beautifully decorated with pink linen tablecloths, matching napkins, flowers, crystal clear water goblets, and dishes.

The program began with an inspirational message entitled "Communication with God," by Andrea Malin. The group participated in several activities including the Five Finger Prayer. Lynn Cannon read GOD'S PROMISE

with responsive scriptural readings by everyone.

Each participant was given a prayer rock with a poem as a reminder to talk to our Heavenly Father daily. Several books were given as parting gifts. Included among them were, A LITTLE BOOK OF PRAISE FOR WOMEN by Mary Barrett, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOMEN PRAY by Evelyn Christenson, IF MY PEOPLE PRAY by Randy Maxwell, and a faith, hope, and love journal (for our written talks with God).

The prayer breakfast ended with the song, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." Where two or more are gathered in His name there He will be. What a blessing!

*Janet Boehm, communication director
Poughkeepsie church*

Bible Conference at Hempstead

The Hempstead church convened a Bible conference on March 10 under the theme: The Cultural Context of Worship: Afro Christian Worship and Social Transformation. Pedrito Maynard-Reid, vice president for spiritual life at Walla Walla College, was the presenter.

Sessions were held during

Sabbath School, worship service, and an evening service. Laying the foundation during Sabbath School, Maynard-Reid said, "Scripture does not prescribe one particular form of worship." His sermon "Give Me That Old Time Religion" was a classic invitation to worship. Following an exposition of Acts 16:16-26, he led the church in singing "His



Pedrito Maynard-Reid

Eye is on the Sparrow," "We Shall Overcome," and "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder." The evening was interactive. Many questions about specific worship styles and practices were dealt with.

In summarizing the Bible conference, Easton Marks, the church's pastor, said the challenge now is to ensure that worship at Hempstead is culturally relevant and life-transforming.

*Dale Edmeade, communication department
Hempstead church*

Oneida Nation Leader Honored for Vision and Commitment

Central New York Sales and Marketing Executives (SME) honored Oneida Nation Representative and CEO Ray Halbritter on March 7, naming him their 31st annual Crystal Ball recipient for his vision and commitment to improving the lives of his people and those in Central New York. Halbritter also was honored with a proclamation naming March 7, 2007, as “Ray Halbritter Community Recognition Day” in Onondaga County.

The proclamation described Halbritter as “a driving force in the Oneida Nation’s economic resurgence” that “benefits the Oneida people as well as all of Central New York.” The proclamation also cited the Oneida Nation’s efforts under his leadership to “reduce stereotypes and accurately portray American Indians and indigenous people” in various media.

“I’ve been honored in many ways before, but a day named after you is really special,” Halbritter said after Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll read the proclamation.

In presenting the Crystal Ball

award before a sold-out crowd of more than 320 at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and



Ray Halbritter was presented with the Crystal Ball award for his vision and commitment to improving the lives of his people and those in Central New York.

Conference Center, SME president Peter Belyea spoke of the Oneidas’ meteoric comeback from poverty and obscurity.

“Twenty years ago, probably no one would have predicted that the Oneidas would become the area’s third-largest employer, or that in just 15 years, a small group of impoverished people would transform and help to lead the region’s economy,” Belyea said. “Well, one person, Ray Halbritter, believed.”

“You are showing us that a great many of our neighbors understand what the Nation is trying to do for its people and for our collective futures here in Central New York,” Halbritter said. He later added, “What is next for the Oneidas and Central New York? The answer really is whatever we can dream. The challenge is in making the dream a reality.”

Halbritter is an alumnus of Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York, and a member of the Oneida Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oneida, New York.

*Kim Kiser, communication director
New York Conference*

Portions of this article have been reprinted with permission from Jim Heins at the ONEIDA NATION NEWS.

Maranatha Team Provides Construction Boost to Buskirk Church

On September 15, 2006, a Maranatha team arrived at the construction site of the Buskirk church. Within a few days the old Dutch Reform church was being transformed into a new church. With the

Buskirk Seventh-day Adventist Church under construction.



help of many seasoned Maranatha members, pews were pulled, scaffolding was erected, walls were painted, footing for two new classrooms were set, concrete steps and walkways were poured, and pews were

stripped and refinished.

God, knowing all and seeing all, anticipated an illness that prevented one of the Maranatha contractors from coming

and sent Eldon Ford’s brother, Glee, a week ahead of time to cut down and reshape the awkward platform.

Construction continues as Ford builds two classrooms and a handicapped-accessible bathroom. God has once again been so good to us in providing good weather for wall framing and roofing!

There is still much to be done, but as we worship in this wonderful old building and look around at tasks yet to be completed, we are reminded of the unfinished business in our own lives and that God is still at work in each of us.

In addition to the physical changes to the building, God has been using the process as a wonderful witness to the community. One of the neighbors assists Ford almost daily with the classrooms. An Adventist who has been away from the church for some time has recently started coming back and is also active in the construction. We praise God for His goodness and His promise to supply all our needs... for sending help, friendship, and new members!

*Sue Carpenter, member
Buskirk church*

A Call to Celebration and Consecration

The Northeastern Conference held its 25th annual Church Officers Convention on February 18–21. This event, held each year for the past 25 years at the Holiday Inn Turf in Albany, New York, was attended by more than 1000 church officers, members, and other guests. Also in attendance were representatives from the Atlantic Union and the North American Division.

Robert L. Lister, assistant to the president of the Central States Conference and former Personal Ministries director for the Northeastern Conference, was a special guest of honor. He was an integral part of the very first convention. Lister reviewed the history and the early days of the convention. Since its beginning, the convention has grown in mag-



▲ Representatives from Northeastern Academy were among several institutions with booths set up to provide information to the delegates.
▶ Members sang to the glory of God in the early morning praise session. Randolph Stafford, top right, delivered the morning devotional.

nitude, and draws attendees from places as far away as Bermuda, Africa, England, and the Caribbean.

In recognition of the historic milestone, Donald King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference, presented proclamations on behalf of the Atlantic Union

Conference and Atlantic Union College to Trevor Baker, president of the Northeastern Conference, and Oswald Euell, Sabbath School director and general coordinator of the event. Ron Smith, editor of MESSAGE magazine and a vice president at the Review

and Herald Publishing Association, recognized Northeastern Conference for having the highest MESSAGE magazine sales of all regional conferences in 2006.

The theme for this year's convention was "A Call to Celebration and Consecration." The daily devotional speaker, Pastor Randolph Stafford from the South Central Conference, delivered inspiring messages to a packed house each morning.

According to Euell, the attendance was one of the largest ever and the seminars were well attended. The next convention is scheduled for February 17-20, 2008. Pre-registration is possible by contacting the Sabbath School department at (718) 291-8006.

Compiled from information submitted by Trevor H. C. Baker, president and communication director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Conference Installs First Female Pastor

History was made in the Northeastern Conference when the conference president Trevor H. C. Baker installed the first female pastor in the conference's 62 years of existence. Donnett Blake was installed at the Kingsboro Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church as an assistant pastor on February 10.

Pastor Blake is a native of Jamaica, West Indies, and received her early education in the schools of Claredon in the Parish of St. Catherine. It was during her youthful years in Jamaica that Blake's parents heard and accepted the Advent message. That decision led to Blake's introduction to Adventism and her sub-

sequent baptism at the age of 17.

Blake migrated to the United States and pursued her college education at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. In 1999 she received a bachelor's degree in social work. It was in the midst of her preparation to undertake studies for her master's degree in social work at Columbia University that she felt God lead-



Donnett Blake

ing in a different direction. She subsequently entered Andrews University Theological Seminary in Michigan and received a Master of Divinity degree in 2001.

After completing her seminary studies, Blake worked briefly as a caseworker. In 2002, the

Northeastern Conference employed her to serve as chaplain for the conference's education department. Her responsibilities included counseling, preparing students for baptism, conducting Weeks of Prayer, and other preaching appointments.

She enjoys working with people and is dedicated to the work of transforming lives for the kingdom of God. Among the many texts that have empowered her to forge ahead in spite of obstacles is Isaiah 41:10: "Fear thou not; for I Am with thee: be not dismayed; for I Am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Adapted from information provided on the Northeastern Conference (www.northeastern.org) and Kingsboro church (www.kingsborosda.org) Web sites

Portsmouth Church Honors Dorothy Ramsay



Dorothy Ramsay

What began as a vesper program evolved as a special celebration to honor Dorothy Ramsay on her 70th birthday. Many church friends, her two sons, Mark and Leonard, and lots of grandchildren celebrated with special songs, including one by her son, Mark. A creative slide show of various lifetime memories helped celebrate her special evening.

Dorothy Ramsay is one of the original members who helped build and finish the original Portsmouth church, which was torn down on January 9

as part of the expansion program to accommodate more members. She was among the church women who were nicknamed "holy rollers" as they painted the church walls.

Dorothy is also the Investment leader for our church and has been for several years. Here are the amounts she has raised over the past few years:

2004: \$691.45

2005: \$800.00

2006: \$2,192.04

Lyle Amos, communication correspondent
Portsmouth church

Newly Baptized Member Shares Testimony

Bob Carroll, a newly baptized member of the Derry Seventh-day Adventist Church, shares a powerful testimony that can serve as a witness to the wondrous presence of the Lord to those searching for peace and comfort in these trying days. His baptism occurred on December 16, 2006.

"About 20 years ago I had a spiritual awakening. I had a drinking problem and I was about to lose my family. I was on the beach throwing up and something came over me. I thought, *What am I doing to myself?* From then on I felt like the Lord was with me. I have not had a drink since. From then on my wife and I started to go to different Bible classes and churches. I was not always a practicing Christian. When awful things happened, I thought, *Why Lord?*

"Two years ago my wife of 27 years was diagnosed with lung cancer. Six months later she passed away, and I felt my life was over. In the weeks after her death I start-

ed walking past the Seventh-day Adventist Church. One day I saw a man in the parking lot, and started to ask him questions about the church. The man turned out to be Phil Johnson, the pastor of the church. He invited me to come to church. Then he offered to come to my house for Bible classes. From there I started to go to the church on Saturday. I felt it was God showing me a sign that this is where I belong by putting Phil Johnson in the parking lot that day when I needed spiritual support more than ever at that time in my life.

"Thanks to the Lord and Pastor Phil, I was blessed. I would like to thank everyone at the Seventh-day Adventist Church for supporting me through these difficult past two years. And I would also thank the Lord for blessing me, and I accept him as my personal Lord and Savior."

Rhoda Watson, communication correspondent, Derry church

Northern New England Conference Adventist Individual Ministries Presents...

Annual Spring Retreat
May 25–29, 2007

Camp Lawroweld
Weld, Maine
Speaker: Dr. John Clark
Cost: \$85/person



A special weekend is in store for all who find themselves facing life alone. This is your opportunity to experience a relaxing weekend while being spiritually enriched and socially blessed.

During your free mementos you'll want to experience some of the most scenic hiking in the mountains of Maine. Beautiful Lake Webb provides tranquil canoeing. Of course, you wouldn't want to miss out on searching for "Bullwinkle." Looking for moose is a favorite activity.

You will enjoy meeting new friends and seeing old friends in a safe and relaxing setting while experiencing the Holy Spirit's presence. You will also have the pleasure of sharing your talent in our fun-filled talent show. Remember that we only offer vegan meals. Why not make this the year you receive the blessing?

Please bring your own bedding. Make checks payable to the Northern New England Conference. Mail application and check to NNEC, Attention: AIM Retreat, 91 Allen Ave., Portland, MA 04103.

ADVENTIST INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES RETREAT APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____

Mission to Ethiopia

My wife, Nathel, and I had the privilege of participating in a ShareHim campaign for three weeks in Ethiopia during January and February of this year. I preached in the city of Sodo, along with 18 other teams who were preaching throughout Ethiopia, including members of The Quiet Hour, one of ShareHim's partners in evangelism.

In Sodo, the attendance increased from 500 to about 900 people during the course of the meetings, with about 100 of whom were church members. Frequently, people would tell us how much they were impressed by the messages from the Bible.

Nathel was teaching hundreds of children every night. They

surrounded her like bees around a flower. They loved the stories, the games, and the gifts (crayons, balloons, etc.) from America. "Being surrounded by hundreds of children every



Nathel Worcholik worked with a children's choir as well as taught 100-300 children each day before the evening meetings.



During the meetings, a snake would occasionally cause people to scatter. It only took a few minutes for the local people to kill the snake so everyone could return to their seats. It gave a wonderful opportunity, though, for Pastor Bill Worcholik to point out that the serpent called the devil and Satan was trying to keep them from hearing the truths from the Bible that expose his lies.

night was rewarding," she said. "The children responded with such love and appreciation."

Following our meetings in Sodo, 68 people were baptized. The total baptized for all 19 meetings was 976. Tens of thousands of people were exposed to the Three Angels' Messages for the first time.

We would encourage everyone to prayerfully consider going on such a mission trip. The friendships formed will last for eternity. The character qualities developed help prepare one for heaven.

More photos and stories, along with information on registering for future evangelism trips, are available online at www.sharehim.org and www.thequiethour.org.

*Bill Worcholik, pastor
Johnston, Rhode Island, district and
SNEC health ministries coordinator*

FROM OUR HEARTS

Join us to be revived and revive our community

**Browning/
South Lancaster
Academy
Student Speakers**

- Bret Gustafson 8th
- Gerald Anthony Soares 9th
- Eric Morris 9th
- Priscilla Wilmet 9th
- Kayla Courtney 10th
- Chris Daum 11th
- Megan Jones 11th
- Laura Mercurio 11th
- Rebecca Barcello 12th
- Alexander Krollberg 12th
- Mariyan Montague 12th
- Heidi Munding 12th

THROUGH MAY 19
MON. WED. FRI. SAT.

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For more info:
<http://www.atlantic-union.org/upcomingevents.htm>

Original ad designed by South Lancaster Academy student Omar Reyes, grade 11.

Camp Meeting Registration:

For more information or to register for camp meeting, contact the Southern New England Conference at (978) 365-4551.

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**Northeastern Academy Alumni,
Friends, and Family Weekend**

June 2, 2007

Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church
101 West 123rd St.
New York, NY 10027

Keynote Speaker

Kendall Guy '79
Pastor
Market Street Adventist
Church

Featuring

Journey
Andrews University
"Stress the Silent
Killer" Healthy Living
and Lifestyle Seminar
4:30 p.m.
Leroy A. Reese
Associate Dean
School of Medicine
Director
M.I.T.H.S. Program
Loma Linda University

Evening Program

6:00 p.m.
Pamela Williams '76
S.W.A.T. (Souls With A
Testimony)

NEA³ Concert Series

7:00 p.m.
Journey
Lawrence Sumpter
Alanna Aurelian

Step Show Contest

June 3
1:00 p.m.
Northeastern Academy
532 W. 215th St.
New York, NY
(212) 569-4800
\$2 Admission

For more information contact

Barry C. Thomas, president NEA Alumni Association
E-mail: barryt@yahoo.com

Thank you in advance for
your prayerful gifts to the
Semi-Annual Offering for
Atlantic Union College on
May 12, 2007.

TEENS,
Want to learn new
skills for FREE and
have fun doing it?

Union Springs Academy is hosting its first annual Teen Skills Week this summer. The entire week (including room and board) is provided completely FREE OF CHARGE to anyone between the ages of 12 and 18. Learn a few new skills and grow closer to God in a spiritual atmosphere. SPACE IS LIMITED, so contact us soon to reserve your spot!

Learning Opportunities

(Subject to Change)

- Leadership
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- Sports
- Art
- Automotive
- ...and more!

Teen Skills Week @

Union Springs Academy

July 29 - Aug 5, 2007

For more information,

Contact Andrew Fish at
(866) USA-YOUTH, or visit

<http://www.unionsprings.org/skillsweek>



Bulletin Board

Sunset Table

June 2007	Eastern Daylight Saving Time				
	1	8	15	22	29
Bangor, ME	8:14	8:19	8:23	8:24	8:24
Portland, ME	8:16	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:26
Boston, MA	8:15	8:19	8:23	8:24	8:25
South Lancaster, MA	8:17	8:22	8:25	8:27	8:27
Pittsfield, MA	8:24	8:28	8:32	8:34	8:34
Hartford, CT	8:19	8:24	8:27	8:29	8:29
New York, NY	8:21	8:25	8:29	8:30	8:31
Albany, NY	8:25	8:29	8:33	8:35	8:35
Utica, NY	8:34	8:39	8:42	8:44	8:44
Syracuse, NY	8:37	8:42	8:45	8:47	8:47
Rochester, NY	8:44	8:48	8:52	8:54	8:54
Buffalo, NY	8:47	8:52	8:55	8:57	8:57
Hamilton, Bda	8:19	8:23	8:26	8:27	8:28

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May. A 3-year completion is possible and financial aid is available.

NORTHEASTERN

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

link, and then click on "WMCA 970 Live Stream."

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

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

tion go to the Adelpian Academy Web site: www.adelpianacademy.com or call Clarence Brummett at (909) 796-8593.

Ray and LeAnn Herbel will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2007. To help them celebrate, they would like to hear from former students telling them of their lives since leaving the Herbel's classroom. Some would have known Mrs. Herbel as Miss Rodie. They have been members of the Saginaw, Gobles, and Niles (Mich.) churches for 30 years. Miss Rodie was a member of the Shaffer, Hutchison, Wichita, Kans., churches. E-mail: theherbies@qtm.net or write 2484 Almaugus Dr., Niles, MI 49120

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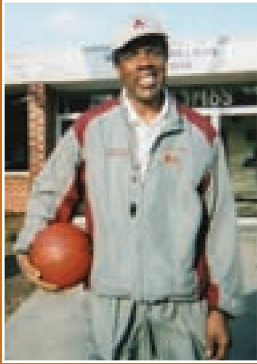
OUT-OF-UNION

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www.atlantic-union.org/basketball.htm

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FUNDAMENTALS OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, p. 359



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