

THE ATLANTIC UNION

AUGUST 2007

GLEANER



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You're Single

Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Connections

Adventist Education

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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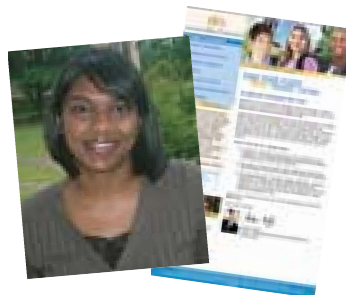


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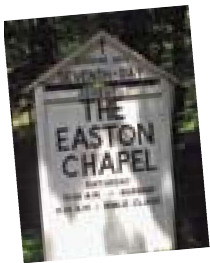
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MISSION STATEMENT

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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October 2007	August 10
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IN THIS ISSUE...

Did you know that 28% of the United States population are considered singles? Want to learn more? Turn to page 4 for the cover story featuring singles. Also included are our regular features: Youth Connections, Positions of Our Faith, and Adventist Education. The cover design uses a photo from iStockphoto.

Speaking the Truth in Love

We know that in the last days (maybe right now) “false Christs and false prophets will appear... to deceive even the elect—if that were possible”—Matthew 24:24. We know that in the last days there will be terrible times. “People will be lovers of themselves... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power”—2 Timothy 3:2-5. And we are urged to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints”—Jude 3.

Yet scripture says, “Don’t grumble against each other... or you will be judged”—James 5:9. We are warned to “avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless”—Titus 3:9. Paul says that we should all “agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among [us]... and that [we]... may be perfectly united in mind and thought”—1 Corinthians 1:10.

What are we to do when we believe another is doing wrong?

Scripture says that we are to speak “the truth in love”—Ephesians 4:15. Exactly what does that mean? Does it mean we should never stand up against sin? Does it mean we should never deal with issues that may make someone else uncomfortable? Our best safeguard is to follow Christ’s example.

Jesus “fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes”—THE DESIRE OF AGES, p. 353. From a human perspective, a voice full of tears does not fit with giving scathing rebukes. If we expect to follow His exam-

ple we will be driven to our knees to plead for the right attitude before presuming to confront. We will seek for ways to show our love for that individual before attempting to correct.

The words of Jesus reverberate down through time—as true now as when first spoken—“A new command I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you**, so you must love one another”—John 13:34 (emphasis added). We are to love the erring as Jesus loves us! Ellen White gives this explanation: “Said Jesus: ‘Love one another, as I have loved you.’ Do you feel, when a brother errs, that you could give your life to save him? If you feel thus, you can approach him and affect his heart; you are just the one to visit that brother”—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 1, p. 166. When Jesus controls our hearts to this extent, I know He will empower us to “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [And, instead, to] be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”—Ephesians 4:31, 32.

Yes, this too “calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus”—Revelations 14:12. For, they will know we are His disciples if it is obvious that we love one another (John 13:35).¹

Stan Rouse is the New York Conference President.

Scripture references from the New International Version.



The words of Jesus reverberate down through time—as true now as when first spoken—“A new command I give you: Love one another.



So...You're Single

Resolve to the Single Question

Let's consider the Christian single man, the Christian single woman. Healthy. Strong. Vivacious. Educated. He knows what he wants. She knows what she wants. They meet through a Christian social event or are introduced by a mutual friend. They get to know each other. They fall madly in love. They get married in a dream wedding, escape on a romantic honeymoon trip to the Bahamas, and live happily ever after. End of story.

Isn't there something wrong with this picture? Certainly, most Christian

singles who have "come into their own" are looking for their life partner. And there are Christian singles who have gone through most of the steps toward marriage and are now living in wholesome marriage relationships with a fair and balanced approach to life, trusting in God for grace and guidance every step of the way. We should praise God for those who have found their ministry partner as a result of their faithful journey toward this all-important life goal.

The reality of the single life in today's culture couldn't be

further from this fairy tale. Millions of Christian singles have found this area of their lives challenging. Many have gone in search of happiness only to find frustration in the end. Many have looked tirelessly within the church and have come up empty, bearing little or nothing in return as a result of their search. And for other significant reasons, many Christian singles have not been able to walk down the aisle and say "I do." It would seem that in every passing season the date for the wedding is pushed forward into the unknown future.

The Stats

To put singles in perspective, a study by the Barna Research Group, a Christian research firm, was performed and documented on singles in the United States. The qualified team of researchers discovered that in the 2000 U.S. Census, 28% of the United States population are considered singles—those who have never been married before—with 32 million being men and 28 million being women.¹ This percentage is up approximately 5% from figures reported in the 1950s.

The study also includes figures on the differences in the median age of singles who do get married. George Barna said: “In the past, there was a social stigma associated with reaching your 20s and not being married. Today, however, the median age of a first marriage has risen to 25 among women and 27 among men.”² And by the way, for women who articulate that there are no single men out there, you would be delighted to know that Barna discovered that there are four million more males who have never been married than there are single females!³ Why are there so many available singles?

The Reasons

There are numerous reasons why young adult singles have not taken this sacred step; several of them are observable. For one thing, singles have experienced pressures that delay their commitment to a relationship of this manner. Singles are pressured to be competitive in their educational pursuits. Constantly bombarded with society’s quest for excellence, singles who desire to live full, prosperous and productive lives have no choice but to be competitive in their interests and goals. Society frowns on individuals who cannot make up their minds

because they are too busy “weighing their options.”

Singles then graduate from the pressures of education to the pressures of profession. This creates a two-fold sense of anxiety and demands as singles move from the classroom to the boardroom. Always driven to meet deadlines, to succeed above and beyond co-workers, to set goals and reach them, ultimately to be promoted to higher positions and given substantial rewards, singles are forever conscious of the need to succeed in their field of interest. After all, singles want to succeed and do well in their profession. While educational, vocational, and other life pursuits are positive and

to have some company. The average single who is looking for his or her life partner already knows that time is of the essence. A rush to marriage because of the ticking clock is not a wise choice. And with the divorce rate skyrocketing, not only within this pluralistic secular society at large, but even in the Christian church community, a rush down the aisle with the wrong person is neither a healthy move nor a spiritually wise decision to embrace.

There is also a sense that if one is single his or her wholeness is in question, and it is almost suggested that if one is not married then the end of the world is in sight! Thus, instead of feeling content in one’s station in life, feelings of inadequacy and sometimes, self-pity set in. Yet, how can singles make wise choices for their future when these attitudes surround them?

Finally, Christian singles debate what God’s ultimate purpose for their lives is. There are some singles who debate God’s timing and choosing as to when and whom they should marry. There are quite a few singles who are simply “wait-

ing on the Lord.” Others are hoping that Mr. Right or Ms. Right will somehow fall from the sky with little or no effort. There are those who have made this issue a matter of prayer, placing the top ten qualities of someone they can envision themselves living with on a sheet of paper, and every day communing with God according to their heart’s desire.

Yet, it would seem that some singles have waited on the Lord in vain and they have also come to that dreaded realization that the perfect Mr. or Ms. Right will never fall from the sky. Furthermore, it would appear that the individuals they meet from time to time score high on the least of the ten quali-

Singleness is a powerful place to be. Accept your singleness; accept each stage in your life and live it holistically.

important goals to attain, could they be contributing factors as to why singles have not taken the marriage step?

Singles are also sounding boards for attitudes toward themselves and their station in life. Although friendly introductions, prayerful considerations, and creative environments suited for multiple set-ups are welcome, such comments as “Eligible bachelor man and you’re not married!” or “Lady like you and you’re not snatched yet?” and “Don’t you know that your clock is ticking?” are “turn-off” comments.

I have often wondered to myself if the individuals making such comments to me have my best interests at heart or if they want their misery



Seek God's guidance as you contemplate marriage. Don't make decisions without God in the lead.

ties they look for in a life partner, and have the lowest score in the greatest of the qualities they have outlined. And is God so cruel as to not answer prayers and provide the desires of the heart?

The Resolve

For Christian singles who have been waiting faithfully on God, I encourage you. Do not be discouraged and overwhelmed by the pressures of life or the whimsical attitudes of people. And I ask this of you: Do not be locked into a debate with God. Stop for a moment. Consider some valuable ideas out there that can answer the single question. What can I do?

First, you need to find your purpose in life. God's purpose is that all would take this sacred step toward marriage and be faithful in it. He says in the book of Genesis that "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."⁴ Thus, God set about creating an opportunity for the first single individuals to have a marriage relationship. God created us for that purpose, and if this is your desire, stay faithful toward that goal. However, there are singles who believe that they were called to remain

single for a specific purpose. If that is your calling, then you, too, stay faithful to God in all aspects.

Be clear of your purpose as a child of God. Whatever goal you have set for your life, and if and when your state changes, live it to the fullest in relationship to Him. Don't think that something is wrong with you because you are single. Singleness is a powerful place to be. Accept your singleness; accept each stage in your life and live it holistically.

Secondly, purpose also involves ministry. Search for opportunities to avail yourself to Him in service. Whether marriage is for you or not, be cognizant of the fact that as a Christian single God has blessed you with the gift of time. Be mindful that this gift must be used wisely. Some of us spend most of God's valuable time whining and complaining instead of utilizing it creatively. I like the way Holly Virden and Michelle McKinney Hammond, singles ministry gurus, put it. They said: "We have so much potential with our time but often carelessly let the days slip through our fingers waiting, pining, hoping—anything but acting."⁵

Our valuable time should be used actively in ministry. That is our God-ordained task as stewards of the gospel and our time. Even Paul hoped that some in the Corinthian church were single just like him so they could dedicate their free time to the work of the gospel.⁶ Because of this gift, we should find every opportunity to turn this world upside-down for Jesus Christ. Find a ministry that embraces your talents, and if there aren't any and people's needs are still outstanding, then create one. Your life will, in turn, develop and have more meaning than you initially realized.

Thirdly, create a vision and mission statement for your life. Vision and mission statements aren't only reserved for big corporations, organizations, and mega-churches. Every human being should have personal statements that drive what they do and hope to accomplish in their future. If your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit,⁷ albeit a human church, then with His help, you need to create your own vision and mission statements that serve as fundamental guides to your existence. You may have some dreams. You may have some desires.

Chart the most important goals you wish to achieve. List those goals next to some timelines. Make sure they are reasonable, measurable, and achievable. The proverb expressed by the wise man Solomon is true: "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."⁸ Where there is no personal vision for your life, you will sit around feeling sorry for yourself and invite unneeded, inquisitive sympathizers to your pity-party.

Fourthly, utilize all the options available to form and preserve enduring friendships. Do not be afraid to join other Christian singles at bowling nights, concerts, socials, small groups, and retreats to meet new people and to form new ties and networks. Not

every friendship will lead to marriage. However, every true friendship would have the potential to teach you something new about yourself. Every true friendship will open your eyes to what you want in life, what you need to develop as a person, what you need to nurture, and what you need to remove out of your present reality. Who knows, perhaps one of those friendships could be the impetus to an introduction, a referral, or a meet-up—only in God’s timing.

Finally, seek God’s guidance as you contemplate marriage. Don’t make decisions without God in the lead. It’s careless and even tragic. You don’t want to live the rest of your life in an unhappy position. Put your desires in an envelope and mail them to the Lord in prayer. Even more than that, because God knows your desires, and because God is your father, you could go boldly, with confidence, to Him on this challenging issue. Outline the top ten qualities or the top 20 qualities you wish for in a life partner. Write them down on paper. You know what you want. God knows what you want. During your devotional moments, provide ample time to allow for quality communion with God on this matter.

I have come to realize the significance of communing with God in my own single life. My prayer life has gone to another level simply because I have come to consider this journey a critical part of my life. I cannot afford to be haphazard or lazy when it comes to this sacred decision. Prayer is so critical an issue that Ellen G. White urges doubled efforts in prayer. She very passionately counsels: “If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated.”⁹ She goes on to suggest that “Marriage is something that will influence and affect

your life, both in this world and in the world to come.”¹⁰ Doubled prayer is critical to this decision.

Therefore, Christian singles, put the pressures of life into perspective. Put the attitudes of others into reality, and put your debating sessions with God in check. When you have put these five points of resolve into action, you would have no need to be overcome by any of the negatives. Stay within God’s purpose. Live within God’s will. You are guaranteed happiness if you do.¹¹

John Scott is pastor of Kanisa Fellowship and the Toronto North Company in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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jmarvinscott@hotmail.com

1. George Barna, SINGLE FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING SINGLE ADULTS, pp. 13, 14.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid, p. 7.
4. NKJV (New King James Version), Genesis 2:18.
5. Holly Virden and Michelle McKinney Hammond, IF SINGLENESS IS A GIFT, WHAT’S THE RETURN POLICY?, p. 106.
6. NKJV, 1 Corinthians 7:6-8.
7. Ibid, 3:16, 6:19.
8. KJV (King James Version), Proverbs 29:18.
9. Ellen G. White, MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, p. 460.
10. Ibid.

New North American Division Single Adult Ministries (NAD ASAM) Coordinator Appointed

Andrea D. Hicks, a member of the Mount Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church in Queens, New York (Northeastern Conference), was recently appointed the new Adventist Single Adult Ministries coordinator for the North American Division. In this position Hicks will interact with the NAD ASAM network to share information on new resources and initiatives for the ministry, assist the webmaster in the management of the ASAM Web site, serve as the vice chair of the NAD ASAM committee, work with the NAD Family Ministries director to manage ministry initiatives, and represent NAD ASAM at various engagements deemed to enhance the effectiveness of NAD ASAM.



Hicks has been involved with singles ministries since 2001. She founded F.O.C.U.S. Ministries (Fellowship of Christians Unique and Single) in February 2001. F.O.C.U.S. Ministries is now a team of dedicated singles who plan exciting functions such as retreats, cruises, picnics, lunches, bowling, and mixers with singles ministries groups from other Adventist churches throughout the New York tri-state area and abroad.

Hicks is also active in other areas, including serving as a member of the Atlantic Union Adventist Media Operations Committee in New York City, assisting the Northeastern Conference Singles Ministries director, managing the a capella recording group, Men of Israel, and she is very active in her home church.

Visit the Adventist Single Adult Ministries Web site at www.adventistsingleadultministries.org.

What All Parents Should Appreciate about Christian Education

Adventist Education

There are many people who compare Adventist church schools with public schools and tend to evaluate the differences in terms of **external** factors. There is a view of Christian education that many Adventist parents put their children in our K-12 system of education because they are fed up with the problems of the public schools: drug abuse, alcohol abuse, violence, sexual permissiveness, evolution treated as a scientific fact, unwholesome social activities, worldly friendships, and so forth. Although this is all true—it is negative thinking. Adventist parents need to be less concerned with what is wrong with public schools than with what is right with our Adventist system of education—so right that it makes thousands of dollars of difference.

Christian education must exist for its own reasons, not as an escape from secular education. To enter an Adventist school as an escape from the modern, secular world is essentially to betray the unique reason for the operation of our Adventist schools, which is to study the world from a biblical point of view. There are only two types of educational programs—man-centered and God-centered. There are no alternatives.

The one distinguishing mark that separates our Christian schools from **any** public school (as well as private schools) in our nation relates to that one unique reason for Christian education: To gain a

knowledge of the world from **God's** point of view (rather than man's) through the application of biblical principles in every area of the curriculum and in each school activity. "The primary aim of the Adventist educational system is to provide opportunities for students to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, to allow the Holy Spirit to transform their lives, and to fulfill the commission of preaching the gospel to all the world"—(www.nadeducation.org/dynamic.html?wspID=477).

Former North American Division associate director of education,

To enter an Adventist school as an escape from the modern, secular world is essentially to betray the unique reason for the operation of our Adventist schools...

Marim Hartlein, observed that one of the goals of Adventist education "is to place children and young people in a school in which that influence works with the home and church to shape the child's life. There are many competent, kind, and concerned teachers in the public schools. They cannot, however, pray with their students, teach them about our loving heavenly Father, or invite the Holy Spirit's presence into their classroom."

Former U.S. secretary

of education, William J. Bennett, declared, "Next to the family, the elementary school is the single most important influence in shaping children's lives." If we take Bennett's observation **seriously**, then Adventist parents must acknowledge that the school atmosphere to which your children are exposed daily has an indelible effect upon character formation, attitudes, habits, and values.

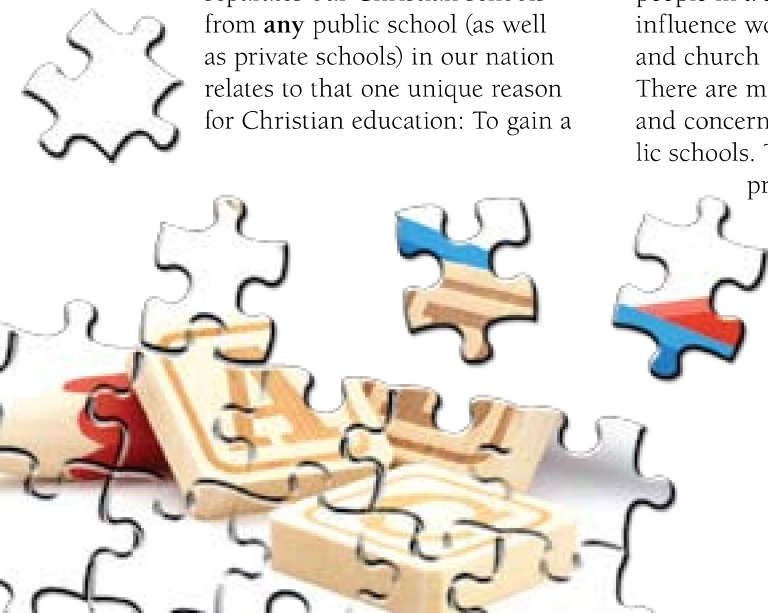
We have been counseled that "Our children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for the management of His property"—CHRIST OBJECT LESSONS, p. 195. If we honestly believe this, then Adventist parents should place their children in schools where God's name is glorified, where there is spiritual nurturing, as well as a focus on educational excellence.

What all parents need to appreciate is that the importance of Christian education has nothing to do with the negative aspects of public schools. It has everything to do with the salvation of our children and whether we did all we could to expose our children to God's blueprint for true education, as identified in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. When God asks each of us "Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" (Jeremiah 13:20), may we be able to claim each of our children for their immortal inheritance. **Praise God for Christian education!**⁰



David A. Cadavero is superintendent of schools for the Greater New York Conference.

Putting the Pieces Together



Youth Culture 101

I don't have children at home anymore. It has been several years since our two boys left home. We had a good time while they were at home. We praise God constantly that we really never had any serious "teenage" issues with our sons other than the norm—whatever that is. Because of this I have had to develop other means to "stay in touch" with teen culture. Even though I put into practice "the ministry of presence" by attending as many youth activities as I can and hanging out with the young people, I still feel a cultural gap when it comes to understanding teenagers today. There is a new resource hot off the press that I would like to recommend—YOUTH CULTURE 101 by Walt Mueller of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. I would recommend this book for parents, pastors, youth leaders, and anyone who is involved with youth in any activity. The information shared in this article is taken from this new youth resource material, pages 49–52.

What outside influences are shaping the lives of teenagers today? (And, yes the same influences are shaping the lives of Seventh-day Adventist youth)

☛ **Music, advertising, and other media.** Today's teenagers are the most media-saturated and media-savvy generation of all time. The media has become a source of information on everything from sexuality to politics to alternative lifestyles to issues of right and wrong. Experts believe that the media, not parents, is parenting kids and teenagers today.

☛ **The digital revolution.** I was the bus driver for a field trip for Browning Elementary school recently. Many of the students had ear buds in their ears connected to an Ipod or they were text messaging their friends with a cell phone. Young people are using music devices, computers, cell phones, and numerous other digital technologies. The world is at their fingertips.

☛ **Peer group.** This is not new. Peer pressure has always been there but the peer pressure of today is different, according to Walt Mueller. Now, more

often than not, the pressure takes the form of an unspoken expectation to participate in behavior that is generally accepted as normal and right by one's teenage peers and even many adults.

☛ **Globalization.** We who live and work in the Atlantic Union can certainly relate to this as our young people are growing up with a multicultural and multiethnic flavor that reflects the world they live in. Because of this, young people reflect this world and it plays a powerful role in shaping the spirituality, ideas, and lifestyles of today's emerging generations. We see this in various types of worship and music styles throughout the northeast territory.

☛ **The postmodern worldview.** We older folk grew up in a world where there was a general consensus that right and wrong were absolute, and objective truth could be known. This was even more pronounced in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Unfortunately in the last 15 to 20 years we have seen a change in thinking.

The postmodern way of thinking and living allows people to discover and invent truth for themselves. The final court of appeal on religious and moral decision is personal desire and opinion. I believe in some areas this way of thinking has trickled down into our church as well.

Let us all be intentional about making sure we are doing what we can to stay in touch with the youth culture so we can guide adolescents through the maze of growing up. ①



Bill Wood is the youth, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director for the Atlantic Union Conference.

YOUTH CULTURE 101 can be ordered through AdventSource by visiting the Web site adventsource.org or calling 1-800-328-0525.

Chemical Use, Abuse, and Dependency

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).

Chemical Use, Abuse, and Dependency

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, officially organized in 1863, early in its history addressed the use of beverage alcohol and tobacco. The church condemned the use of both as destructive to life, family, and spirituality. She adopted, in practice, a definition of temperance which urged "total abstinence from that which is injurious, and the careful and judicious use of that which is good."

The position of the church with respect to the use of alcohol and tobacco has not changed. In recent decades the church has actively promoted anti-alcohol and anti-drug education within the church, and united with other agencies to educate the wider community in the prevention of alcoholism and drug dependency. The church created a "Stop-smoking Program" in the early 1960's which has had a worldwide outreach and helped tens of thousands of smokers to quit. Originally known as the "Five-day Plan" to stop smoking, it may well be the most successful of all cessation programs.

The creation of hundreds of new drugs in laboratories, and the rediscovery and popularization of age-old natural chemicals, such as marijuana and cocaine, have now gravely complicated a once comparatively simple problem and pose an ever-increasing challenge to both the church and society. In a society that tolerates and even promotes drug use, addiction is a growing menace.

Redoubling its efforts in the field of the prevention of dependency, the church is developing

new curricula for its schools and support programs to assist youth to remain abstinent.

The church is also seeking to be an influential voice in calling the attention of the media, public officials, and legislators to the damage society is suffering through continued promotion and distribution of alcohol and tobacco.

The church continues to believe that Paul's instruction in 1 Corinthians 19:20 is applicable today, that "Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Ghost" and we "should glorify God" in our bodies. We belong to God, we are witnesses to His Grace. We must endeavor to be at our best, physically and mentally, in order that we may enjoy His fellowship and glorify His name.①

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church¹, on July 5, 1990, at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Resources

Listed are some resources that will help you learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's beliefs, positions on specific topics, and established guidelines.

Web sites

Official Statements voted since 1980: www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html

Guidelines: www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html

Fundamental Beliefs: www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html

Church Manual: www.adventist.org/beliefs/church_manual/index.html

Other Documents: www.adventist.org/beliefs/other_documents/index.html

Books

Available online at AdventSource (www.adventsource.org) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) (www.adventistbookcenter.com)

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL

Haitian Adventists in North America

50th Anniversary Celebration: 1956–2006

On the weekend of May 4-5, approximately 2,700 people gathered in the majestic Calvary Cathedral of Praise in Brooklyn, New York, for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Haitian work in the North American Division (NAD). The event offered an opportunity to assess the work that has been accomplished thus far and was a time for serious reflection as well. It was a weekend of praise and thanksgiving to God for His divine guidance, mercy, and outpouring of material and spiritual blessings. The theme for the weekend was “Thus Far the Lord Has Helped Us.”

Representatives from the North American Division, Atlantic Union, and the Northeastern, Greater New York, Southeastern, Southern New England, Lake Region, and South Atlantic conferences gathered to celebrate and appreciate the accomplishments of this ethnic group through the years.

Maitland DiPinto from Hope For Humanity presented a report of his work in Haiti. Roscoe J. Howard, III, NAD executive secretary, delivered the message during the Saturday morning worship service. Alvin M. Kibble, NAD vice president, presented the closing message of dedication and consecration.

On Friday night, at the opening of this special weekend, Louis B. Metellus, Atlantic Union Haitian Ministries vice president, extended a warm welcome to the attendees. The keynote message was delivered by Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president.

Several individuals were recognized by the Haitian Advisory during the weekend, including Luc Appolon, the sole survivor of the ten-member nucleus from 1956 who is now in his 90s and still serves as an elder at the Gethsemane church in Brooklyn, New York. He received a plaque as a distinctive honor bestowed upon a veteran. Gold-plated plaques were presented to some administrators, pastors, and the wives of three deceased pioneers of the Haitian work in the NAD: Paulette Bermingham, Celia Honoré, and Naomi Prosper. Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, presented the President's Award to Alvin M. Kibble. All the pastors who were present were decorated with a tri-colored ribbon insignia.

From a modest beginning to such a momentous achievement, the only

explanation to victory is found in God's miraculous intervention. From a ten-member Sabbath School in a living room in Brooklyn, New York, to approximately 34,000 believers in North America worshipping in 160 churches, and from one pastor to 87, it is fitting to praise the Lord.

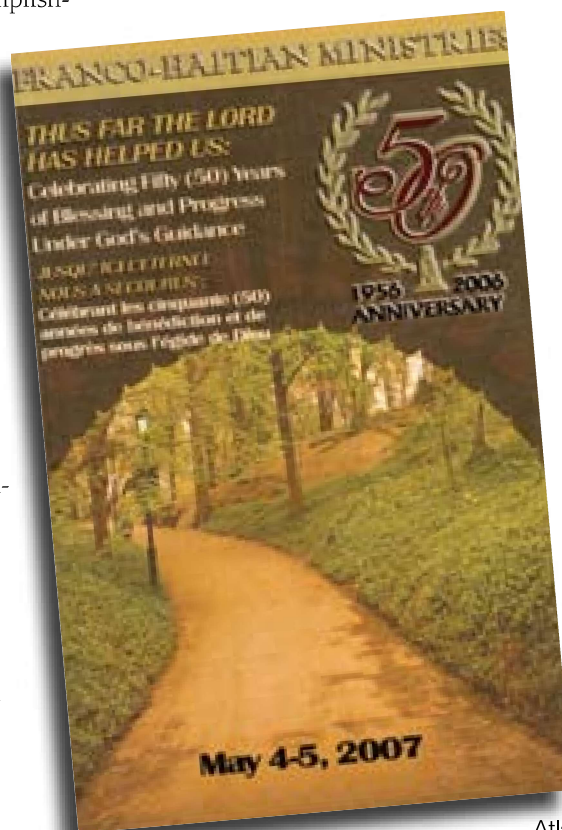
The success of this weekend was attributed not only to great staging, memorable speeches, spiritually uplifting sermons, but also to the participation of several singing groups and church choirs in the community—Gethsemane, Hebron, Bethanie, and Philadelphie choirs, as well as the Youth Mass Choir. Translators for the weekend included: Pierre Eddy Laguerre, Daniel Beauzil, and Jo-Hans Joseph.

During the challenge presented by Kibble, those present held hands in prayer and vowed to remain united and to erect a spiritual monument to the Lord. In their final “au revoir” they all bid farewell, hoping to meet again in the next 50 years to celebrate the 100th anniversary, if Jesus has not yet returned. It was a glorious weekend, one to treasure for years to come.①

Daniel Beauzil is the communication director for the Gethsemane Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York.



Elder Luc Appolon is the only survivor from the ten-member nucleus from 1956. He is now in his 90s and is still an active church member.



Conference Walk-Run a Smashing Success



Pastor Kenneth Manders, conference executive secretary, sprints across the finish line.

Promptly at 7:00 a.m. on April 15, Marea Caisey, the Major

of the Parish of St. George in Bermuda, officially commenced the Walk-Run Relay from the St. Georges Seventh-day Adventist Church to Somerset Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Lord answered Pastor Randolph Wilson's prayer for safety at the start as no mishaps occurred from start to finish.

The Adventist Book Center joined in by providing Penta water as well as juice and fruit that refreshed the participants. The official water stops were staffed by Pathfinders and other church volunteers who offered encouragement along the way. There was even a Pathfinder team that walked the entire route and parents joined about mid-way.

The first four team winners were Walter Harris, 1st place winner representing Somerset church, Paul Simons, Jr., 2nd place winner representing St. George's church, Paula Tuzo, 3rd place winner from Hamilton church, and Zaire Burgess Robinson, 4th place winner representing Hamilton church.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the walk-run was the prayers that were offered as participants traveled through each community. Dr. Sydney Gibbons offered prayer for the requests that had come in all week. What a fun, rewarding, and inspiring day.

*Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference*

Bermuda Institute Teacher Receives Award of Excellence

Sonia Faith Dawes, an alumna of Bermuda Institute, was recently awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award hosted by the Alumni Achievement Foundation in Scottsdale, Arizona.

This award is given yearly to outstanding teachers in the North American Division. It exists to inspire and reward the Adventist K-12 schools, educators, and alumni.

During the weekend \$145,000 in grants was awarded to Seventh-day Adventist schools throughout the United States and Canada.

Eleven other teachers across the division were presented the Excellence in Teaching Award. The weekend event brought together friends and supporters to recognize quality and excellence in Adventist education.

Mrs. Dawes was the only recipient from the Atlantic Union to receive this prestigious award. The conference and the Bermuda Institute proudly salute her for this fine achieve-

ment. She is fondly known as a master teacher among her peers.

Two other teachers from Bermuda Institute previously received this prestigious award, Mason West and Arnaldo Mercado.

*Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference*

OFFICIAL NOTICE Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE is hereby given that the 8th Triennial Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Complex, Hamilton, Bermuda, on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m., and the Nominating Committee will meet on Thursday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, executive and trustees committees, and departmental directors for the ensuing term, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. Additional delegates are members of the executive, the constitution and by-laws committee, the board of trustees of the Bermuda Conference; members of the executive committee of the Atlantic Union Conference; all employees holding credentials and licenses issued by the Bermuda Conference; departmental directors, associate or assistant departmental directors, and members of the General Conference/North American Division (NAD) Executive Committee who may be present. The number of General Conference/NAD delegates shall not exceed 10% of the total number of regular delegates.

Jeffrey O. Brown, President
Kenneth Manders, Executive Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE The Trustees of the Seventh- day Adventist Church of Bermuda

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the Trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda, a legal corporation, will be held in connection with the Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Complex, Hamilton, Bermuda, Sunday, September 30, 2007. The first meeting of the legal corporation will be held at 11:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board of trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference Legal Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

Jeffrey O. Brown, President
Kenneth Manders, Executive Secretary



Sonia Dawes, seen here with her husband, Everton, was the only recipient from the Atlantic Union to receive the Excellence in Teaching award.



Mike Shellong

REVERBERATIONS

Meet some enthusiastic members of the great Atlantic Union College family. This month, we invite you to hear the reflections of members who came to Atlantic Union College from the Greater New York Conference.

It is a powerful thing to have teachers talk about God in the classroom. It puts a different light on education. AUC has prepared me for the next step I will take in life through intense intellectual discipline. I have never worked so hard in my life.

“Thank God I see Jesus working through the teachers and through my

boss, Dean [Jack] Mentges. I have learned a lot in the classroom and at my job as a student worker.

“I will never forget this place, ever! Support Christian education today!”

—Mike Shellong, '07
evangelism and religion major



Luis Peguero

It has been one of the greatest experiences for me to be at Atlantic Union College. This college has helped me to grow socially, mentally, physically, and most important of all, spiritually. I would not say that I chose to be at Atlantic Union College, but that I chose to be where God wanted me to be.

“I have always believed that God really has a special plan for me here at Atlantic Union College. While I was in my senior year of high school, I had so many colleges to choose from and yet I was not sure where to go. I decided to fast and pray more particularly for making the right school choice.

“There was one night that I felt the voice of God talking through the preacher, and exactly what I was going through was mentioned in the message. God revealed to me that night that He wanted me in His ministry and I accepted His call. I still had my doubts until I came for an open house at Atlantic Union

College and the last day [here] I asked God for a literal sign. As a confirmation that God wanted me at Atlantic Union College to be a ministerial student, I won \$500 dollars that applied for my school cost. I am so grateful that I accepted God’s call.

“I love this school and God continually encourages me to keep trusting Him. At Atlantic Union College, being a friend is just not enough, we are brothers and sisters praising the same God and sharing our differences.

“Being in this school, I have had a lot of great opportunities to serve the community and even around the world. I have been to Venezuela on

a mission trip to build an auditorium and restrooms for the Adventist school in Nirgua. I have been to Mexico conducting an evangelistic series for three weeks in which ten [people] gave their lives to God. I have served during campus clean-ups, with the van drive ministry, and currently work at the Student Services office. I have been involved with in-reach and outreach programs, such as literature distribution, prison ministry, nursing homes, volunteer Bible work, the Be Fit to Play Summer Program, and more.

“I graduated in May 2007 with a major in theology and minors in psychology and biblical languages. On May 16, I attended a training seminar to receive a pre- and marital counseling certificate. On May 25, I went to the Dominican Republic to conduct another three-week evangelistic series.”

—Luis Peguero, '07
religion and theology major

This feature is presented by the office of the assistant to the president for administration, Bordes Henry Saturné, assisted by Emmanuella Gibson.



MANY COLLEGES, WORKING TOGETHER

Atlantic Union College collaborates with Adventist Colleges in North America to broaden awareness of Adventist programs

The 14 accredited Adventist colleges in North America, including Atlantic Union College, are working together to create a broader awareness of Adventist college programs and majors among Seventh-day Adventist students. A new Web portal, www.adventistcolleges.org, offers students and parents a central place to find answers about Adventist college options.

“We want to make sure our young people are aware of what we offer as a system of Adventist colleges,” says Norman Wendth, president of Atlantic Union College.

To better reach students and to understand what Adventist students are looking for, the colleges conducted focus groups on both sides of the country as well as a nationwide telephone survey. In those conversations, the colleges discovered that many students and parents, especially those who aren't currently enrolled in Adventist academies, were unaware of the Adventist college options. “We found that when Adventist young people attend an academy, they know a lot more about Adventist college options because of our annual College Fair tour and frequent visits to those schools,” says William Navalon, enrollment counselor at Atlantic Union College. “But often those who are in public high schools have little formal contact with any of our Adventist colleges. We want to help these students

understand all of the Adventist educational options available.”

Striving For a Goal

To achieve this goal, the colleges sent more than 40,000 pieces of direct mail in a coordinated effort to reach Adventist young people attending public high schools, home schools, or other private high schools. The letters invited the young people to visit the Web site and receive an eBrochure

church pastors and church clerks around the country.

“Together we are creating new opportunities to talk with young people that we haven't reached before, and who don't know much, if anything, about us,” says Wayne Dunbar, vice president of enrollment management at Atlantic Union College. “We're working collaboratively as a team of Adventist colleges to change that.”

In addition to the college focus groups and phone surveys, several other research projects conducted among Adventist young people, including Valuegenesis and Avance (a study of Hispanic Adventist youth), discovered that as many as three out of four college-bound Seventh-day Adventist students do not attend Adventist colleges. The ratios are the same at the high school level, with up to 75 percent of Adventist young people attending public high schools, home schools, or other private high schools.

The college research shows that Adventist colleges have unique values and opportunities that aren't found elsewhere. One of the main things that Adventist students told the researchers was that Adventist colleges offer the faith factor—the ability to find friends, peers, mentors, and teachers who believe and reinforce a common faith. These students, whether they attended an Adventist high school or not, also felt Adventist colleges offered the chance to provide personal attention and



More than 40,000 letters were sent to Adventist young people attending public high schools, home schools, or other private high schools.

outlining Adventist college options. In addition to the letters, the colleges also sent e-mails and made personal phone calls. Nearly 2,000 young people responded to these contacts and asked for more information.

This same effort is being repeated this year with updated materials and with new names of sophomores, juniors, and seniors provided by



The Adventist college Web site offers a comprehensive listing of majors and programs, both undergraduate and graduate, in all 14 Adventist colleges and universities in North America. Information about campus visits, financial aid, and special events is also provided.

meaningful interaction with professors that can't be found at a public college or university. Additionally, all groups of Adventist students viewed Adventist colleges as having excellent academics.

Sheeba's Story

One such example is Sheeba Alberta. Sheeba was raised in a conservative Indian home in Yonkers, New



Sheeba Alberta

York. She attended public schools where many times she says, "my religion conflicted with the everyday life of attending public school and I had limited resources for spiritual guidance. My parents, knowing my frustration and wanting me in a Christian environment, strongly suggested Atlantic Union College."

"I had taken a few college classes through my high school," says Albert,

but when she arrived at AUC she noticed something different. "I had never felt as much dedication and commitment from any other professors as here at AUC. I can't tell you how much I have grown to appreciate the simple prayers before class or the spiritual devotionals they provide which nourish the soul throughout the day. It is amazing what a difference it makes in the classroom. I felt more encouraged to learn because I realized I was serving a higher purpose, a purpose that extended beyond the classroom walls and into the hearts of many yearning for the search of hope and truth. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who noticed the difference in the AUC students. Every time we entered clinicals at Memorial or one of the UMASS hospitals, AUC student nurses were always applauded for their excellent and meticulous care. Granted, it was our instructors who should really be given credit, for they taught us many things, among which was how excellence can be obtained when you trust God and let Him lead in your life."

but when she arrived at AUC she noticed something different. "I had never felt as much dedication and commitment from any other professors as here at AUC. I can't tell you how much I have grown to appreciate the simple prayers before class or the spiritual devotionals they provide which nourish the soul throughout the day. It is amazing what a difference it makes in the classroom. I felt more encouraged to learn because I realized I was

"Growing up in the public school system we learned many different ways to excel in the academic world, but I believe a Christian education prepares you for balancing your career with your faith and provides you different ways to grow spiritually; the ultimate fuel for excellence and success."

Sheeba graduated this year with an associate degree in nursing. "Our Adventist colleges and universities have options for most of our Adventist young people," says Dunbar, "and this new approach gives us some improved and expanded ways to introduce these options to our Adventist students in high schools everywhere."

Funding for this collaborative communication project is provided by the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities, a consortium of the North American Division colleges and universities. Coordination and leadership for the project is provided by that group's Adventist Enrollment Association, made up of the enrollment professionals at these colleges.

To find out more, visit www.adventistcolleges.org or e-mail enrollment@auc.edu.

A collaborative effort of the Adventist Enrollment Association.

Participating Adventist Colleges

- Andrews University, Michigan
- Atlantic Union College, Massachusetts
- Canadian University College, Alberta, Canada
- Columbia Union College, Maryland
- Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Florida
- Kettering College of Medical Arts, Ohio
- La Sierra University, California
- Loma Linda University, California
- Oakwood College, Alabama
- Pacific Union College, California
- Southern Adventist University, Tennessee
- Southwestern Adventist University, Texas
- Union College, Nebraska
- Walla Walla University, Washington

www.adventistcolleges.org

2007 Caring Heart Award Recipients

The Caring Heart Award for Christian service recognizes students attending Adventist academies who are actively involved in service and witnessing. The award is presented during graduation weekend at the school. It consists of a special scholarship award of \$500 and an award plaque.

Asha Galloway is known for her positive and compassionate attitude. A student at Bermuda Institute since kindergarten she is now a junior. As an aspiring interior designer and entrepreneur, Asha has been active in her community in various after-school programs and youth groups. Her main focus is a program called Senior to Senior where she visits the house of a senior citizen each week to assist them with computer usage.

Asha has clearly recognized God's call on her life and responded accordingly. She maintained a spiritually mature, caring, and humble spirit.

Jacob LeBlanc moved with his family to the Barre, Vermont, area

so he could attend Central Vermont Academy (CVA) where he spent the last four years and recently graduated.

Jacob is always giving a caring hand to any new student, going out of his way to be friendly and helpful. He is also very involved in helping people in his church. He does this with a willing and pleasant attitude. He has been involved in a mission trip every year with CVA and the year Hurricane Katrina hit he was part of a team that volunteered to go down and help with relief work.

Rebeca Valenti was senior class president at Greater Boston Academy. She attended Edgewood /Greater Boston Academy since kindergarten. She sang in the choir and wrote for the school yearbook. A member of the Boston Spanish church, Rebeca was on the church's Bible Bowl team, is involved with Pathfinders, and is on the Pathfinder Drill Team.

Rebeca is a caring, hard-working young woman who has helped with a variety of projects in her church and at school.

Allyster J. Poblador (AJ) graduated from Greater New York Academy (GNYA). He held several leadership positions, mostly recently serving as president of GNYA's chapter of the National Honor Society.

He was a member of the school's basketball team, the Adventist Youth for Better Living Club, a community service arm of GNYA, and participated in the New York Chapter of the Bible Society.

AJ said that "Greater New York Academy has done wonders for me. It strengthened the foundation upon which my spiritual life is based. It helped me become a better person, improving my character and moral framework. I am able to credit much of who I am today to Christian education."

Alphena George feels that community service assisted in her development at Northeastern Academy. During her four years at Northeastern, she participated in the sign language performance group "Hands of Praise." In 2006 they performed in Atlanta for a youth convention. She is active in her Pathfinder club as a counselor. She was a teacher at the Shiloh church Vacation Bible School and also assisted her church's community services to pack and distribute food.

Currently, she is volunteering at the Long Island College Hospital in the emergency room transporting patients, restocking cabinets, making charts or making up beds.

Bradley Sica, junior and National Honor Society member at Pine Tree Academy, is a student with a mission. As a young man who is devoutly Christian and highly interested in politics, he is out to change the world in a positive way. His service

includes assisting as a reading buddy to students learning how to read, volunteering at the Central Maine Medical Center laboratory, and helping out at his local church food pantry (Woodstock, Maine).

He also volunteered in a political campaign in Queens, New York, and volunteered locally in the office of U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe. Over the last two years, Bradley has delivered sermons at churches in the Northern New England Conference.

Kaitlynn Ban, avid reader and horse lover, is a student dedicated to doing her best. She has been a class officer since her freshman year at South Lancaster Academy—serving the last two years as class president. She has been active in community service for the past several years. She has participated in two mission trips.

Kaitlynn was responsible for advertising the “From Our Hearts” student evangelistic series the school conducted in May of this year. As a member of the New England Youth Ensemble she gave concerts to help raise money for AIDS orphans.

Emily Sirbu is a junior from Gloversville, New York. She has a very positive, spiritual influence since coming to Union Springs Academy in the fall of 2005. She is committed to Christ and the principles He exemplifies. Emily has made an impact on several lives because of her right priorities and spiritual leadership. A number of these contacts have chosen to be baptized.

She is involved in the athletic program at Union Springs Academy and is a leader on the court and field. Her sportsmanship and humility have been an inspiration to both students and faculty alike.☺

Information for the article was provided by the academies.



Asha Galloway



Alpha George



Jacob LeBlanc



Bradley Sica



Rebeca Valenti



Kaitlynn Ban



Allyster J. Poblador



Emily Sirbu

Little is Much

By Janet Hurd

“Wow! God is really here!” stated one of the Easton Chapel members. A new sanctuary was needed to house the enthusiastic little country church congregation. However, since Easton Chapel has never been in debt, and refuses to go into debt, a mortgage was out of the question. Instead the members kept hope and faith alive as they waited to see how the Lord would take care of their needs.

One weekday, a long, white stretch limousine pulled into the church yard. Out climbed a man who had seen the chapel sign at the side of the road and was curious why Pastor Ray Felt had now become one of those Seventh-day Adventists. When he had last seen Felt, he was the pas-

tor of two Baptist churches in nearby communities.

After becoming reacquainted with the pastor, the limo chauffeur, also a professional contractor, offered his services, free of charge to erect a new sanctuary. He and his workers donated doors, beams, windows, insulation, lights, and other expensive items.

A Jewish synagogue in New Jersey donated solid oak pews to fill the sanctuary. Floor specialists and other Easton Chapel friends

in Greenwich donated rugs. An American flag that had flown over the White House was donated to the chapel.

Children and adults spilled out of that white limousine each Sabbath to attend the Easton Chapel services. During the week, teenagers helped push wheelbarrows of concrete and hoist beams into place. The limo driver and his family began taking Bible studies and making plans to be baptized.

A nephew of the limo driver, 11-year-old Mike Van Etten, of nearby Schylerville, New York, was a guest speaker at the Easton Chapel on

March 31. His powerful message expounded on Psalm 115:1-8.

The Easton Chapel is an Adventist Jewish Outreach congregation associ-

ated with the North American Division that participates with nearby synagogues in their feast days. At this year's Seder meal, representatives of the chapel were asked to share the symbolism of our Messiah Jesus. Following the meal, two of the women present turned to their husbands and said, “Now, the

“The members kept hope and faith alive as they waited to see how the Lord would take care of their needs.”

Adventists make sense!”

The Easton community has great respect for the chapel, calling it their own community chapel. Weddings, funerals, counseling, women's discussions, Bible studies, food pantry, and other community service activities are scheduled at Easton Chapel. They've also been asked to sponsor a community hymn sing at the town hall this year.

Several of the older shut-ins from Easton save coins for the chapel's new building project. They call it their own church, even though they have never been able to sit in one of those solid oak pews.

Janet Hurd is a member of Easton Chapel.



Inmate Finds Light in Prison

When I came to the Auburn Correctional Facility the first individual I saw was Brother Manny. We talked about attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church and turning my life around. I started to attend church and loved it so much. It turned my faith around, causing me to become a "brother" in my heart. I was tired of hurting others, of fights, gangs, drugs, and lies. The more I attended church, the more I wanted to hear the words of the Lord. I needed a change in my life and I found it through the Adventist Church. The other churches I have gone to

could not give me what my heart was looking for. The people were so nice and the words they shared touched me deeply. I told Brother Manny I wanted to get baptized so I could change my ways, walk with the Lord, and keep the Sabbath in my heart forever.

For four months I kept asking about baptism and went to church every week except when my cell didn't open because of problems with the call-outs in my block. When I was told I would be getting baptized, I was so happy. Finally the day came. I went into the water and, I must say, it was very cold.

I could not hold still in the water and my facial expressions made the others laugh. As I went into the water, a beautiful light came on in my heart. The cold water was to remind me of how I used to be. I see the light, and never, ever want it to go out of me. Now I am a warm person looking to help others. I love my Lord with all my heart and want to let my light shine as Pastor Bailey encourages me to do through his messages.

*Robert Rodriguez, inmate
Auburn Correctional Facility*

Parkview Raises Money for Capitol Improvement

On March 25, Parkview Junior Academy held its 7th annual Pinewood Car Derby as a capitol improvement fundraiser. The project for this year is to replace the forty-year-old soffits and fascia that are deteriorating in several places.

Fifty-three cars were entered and a little more than \$5,000 was raised toward the project. Dan Whitlow, conference youth director, acted as master of

ceremonies. The craftsmanship judges were Helene Belt, Nathan Hamm, Kelsey Hayes, Jason Kunai, and Jamie Lewis. Creativity and attention to detail were the features of winners in this category with awards going to Ruben Alvarez, Rilla Garlock, Shaina Ahles, and Victoria Ahles. Kim Kaiser won the adult division.

Speed is the name of the game for the races and the three fastest cars among young people belonged to Rilla Garlock, Joanna Pitcher, and Kathe Burghardt. In the adult division, Donna Gilmore, Cassie Johnson, and Brian Pitcher led the way.

Special thanks to George Silver for providing the track and all the support equipment and for moderating the event. Heartfelt gratitude is expressed to everyone who sponsored students and to all the volunteers who worked hard

to make this event another roaring success.

*Margaret Ahles, event coordinator
Pinewood Car Derby*

"Passionate Prayer"

A Prayer Retreat with Brenda Walsh, author of *PASSIONATE PRAYER*, *BATTERED TO BLESSED*, *BETWEEN HELL AND HIGH WATER: SURVIVOR STORIES FROM HURRICANE KATRINA*, *COOKING WITH THE MICHEFF SISTERS* and *COOKING ENTREES WITH THE MICHEFF SISTERS*. Brenda is the Producer and Host of *Kids Time*, a children's program on Three Angels Broadcasting Network.

September 21-23, 2007

Camp Cherokee
433 Gilpin Bay Road
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Registration:
\$100 by
September 13
\$110 after
September 13

Prayer is not just words in a one-way conversation, it's a transforming relationship with our God and Savior. Brenda invites you to a prayer life that goes beyond prayer as a duty or a habit to something effective - passionate prayer that brings life-changing results.

To register, call Donna or Priscilla at the New York Conference Office (315) 469-6921



The Pinewood car derby winners included, back row, Shaina Ahles, Victoria Ahles, Kathe Burghardt; front row, Joanna Pitcher, Rilla Garlock, and Ruben Alvarez.

Berea, Nyack, Welcomes New Pastor



Larry Bailey, Northeastern Conference executive secretary (background) introduced Pastor Ucall G. Harris, his wife, Geneva, and daughter, Ucalene, to the members of the Berea church in Nyack, New York.

The members of Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nyack, New York, welcomed their new pastor, Ucall G. Harris, first lady, Geneva Delores Valentine Harris, and daughter, Ucalene Harris, on Saturday, April 14. Harris continues in ministry at Berea following the retirement of Pastor Doctor J. Smith.

Members and visitors from other churches were in attendance to wish Harris and his family God's grace and guidance for his ministry at Berea. Larry J. Bailey, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, shared a biographical sketch on Pastor Harris and stated that Harris brings impressive credentials both in academics and in the Word. He then gave a charge to Pastor Harris as he begins his ministry at Berea.

The title of Harris' inaugural message was "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." He was clear in his message that when we translate our Christian ideals into practice we will never be divided.

The entire church community looks forward to uniting with him in the work of the Lord.

*Frances E. Pratt, communication secretary
Berea church, Nyack, New York*

Hartford Area School Receives Accreditation

Hartford Area Seventh-day Adventist School was accredited by The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA) and North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI).

"To achieve accreditation, the school successfully completed the candidacy period, which included a self-study," stated Randy Sinisi, Ph.D., executive director of The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation in a letter congratulating the school. "A site evaluation by a team of experienced educators verified that it

met the CITA quality standards. To maintain accreditation, the school will demonstrate that it continues to meet the quality standards and engage in an improvement process that enhances student performance."

According to Mark Elgart, president/CEO of the North Central Association, the NCA CASI accreditation now connects [Hartford Area] with an even larger network of schools as the NCA CASI board of trustees and the board of directors of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) voted

to bring together NCA CASI, SACS CASI, and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) into one strong unified organization known as AdvancED.

"This accreditation is due to Principal Daniel Amfo's persistence in pursuing academic excellence," says Astrid Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference education director. "The dedicated teachers diligently work with students daily to provide the tools students need to excel academically and spiritually."

*Information submitted by Hartford Area
Seventh-day Adventist School administration.*

Springfield Fellowship Group Increases through Baptisms

Springfield, Vermont, is a scenic little town with a population of approximately 5,000. It is located just ten minutes from the New Hampshire border. About two years ago a fellowship group was started under the leadership of Ken Brummel, a former ordained minister who is now a middle school science teacher. This approximately eight-member group, known as the Springfield Fellowship Group, meets on Saturdays at a community room in a local bank. From May 12 through June 2 this remarkable little group met united in their efforts and held a series of evangelistic meetings.

When we step up for God He promises that He will always reward our efforts, and this time was no different. Here are just some of the fantastic testimonies that resulted from this program.

Cherie Rutan was raised in an Adventist family, but

never took a stand for the Lord. After attending the Springfield Fellowship Group evangelistic series she made the decision to be baptized.

Samuel Colby was invited to the meetings by a friend and was impressed by the truth. Even though he is a baptized and involved member of his local non-denominational church, he decided to be re-baptized and was delighted to be accepted as a member of the Springfield Fellowship Group.

Patricia Elias is my sister-in-law. My wife, Jeannette, prayed with her and we studied the Bible with her for 15 years. Patricia, with a willing spirit and unwavering determination, was baptized.

Cynthia Alford was beaming with joy as she stood in the baptismal font. She was baptized a long time ago but left the church. She moved to Springfield about a year ago.



Patricia Elias



Cherie Rutan with fiancé, Seth Harris.



Cynthia Alford with husband, Greg, and son, Shawn.



Samuel Colby

When a flier came in the mail about the meetings, she decided to attend with her family and was re-baptized. She was thrilled to also witness the

baptism of her husband, Greg, and her son, Shawn.

*Carl Behrmann, pastor
Osborne Memorial and
West Lebanon churches*

Saco Church Members Create “Bags of Love”

The Saco church started a community outreach program called “It’s My Very Own—Bags of Love.” Originally created by Barbara Nehr of Cadiz, Kentucky, this program helps children who have been placed in foster care. There are 45 chapters of “IMVO” in the United States and two in Australia. The Saco church group is the only chapter in Maine.

“When a child is removed from a home by the local child protective service, it is often in the middle of the night,” Barbara Nehr explains. “Usually, they can take nothing with them but the clothes on their back.

They are frightened and very alone. Their parents may have just been arrested and taken away in handcuffs, or worse.”

“A child orphaned by a parent’s drug addiction or perhaps by abuse or neglect, often loses everything: their toys, clothes, personal items, even family pictures. These children are in need—not because of anything they have done, but because of the poor choices of others. All children removed from their homes are victims.”

The women at the Saco church, as well as others from the community, make large duffel bags in which

they place a new handmade quilt along with two new toys and some personal items. Four times a month, volunteers bring their sewing machines to the church and the fellowship hall becomes a place of sewing and fellowship. Others assist by supplying the toys and personal items.

Eight bags have been delivered to the Department of Human Services (DHS) in Biddeford, Maine. Letters, cards, and calls of appreciation from the case workers have been received. Some case workers have even asked if they can help make the quilts and bags.

The goal is to keep DHS supplied with bags and to encourage individuals in the community to join in this endeavor. We hope others will want to start an IMVO chapter in their church and county. This is a great outreach tool. It is amazing to see how the Lord is leading us in this endeavor.

If you or your church are interested, you may contact Claudia Dustin at (207) 646-4973 or e-mail knitstitch63@yahoo.com. Let’s blanket the northeast with “bags of love.”

*Winona K. Aastrup
communication correspondent
Saco church*

Multi-Cultural, Multi-Ethnic Blessings at Edgewood/ Greater Boston Academy

Edgewood Elementary/ Greater Boston Academy is a small school. Anyone coming into the school at an assembly or lunchtime could see that. But what a visitor would also see is that an extraordinary number of cultures and ethnicities are represented, not only in the student body, but the staff. For example, only two sets of staff members are from the same national background (and one pair is sisters!). Within a student population of more than 100, there are more than 45 nationalities in the students' immediate heritage (parents or grandparents). While the diverse student make-up is becoming increasingly more common, it is not so common to have such a diverse staff.

"You are very lucky," a parent from another school commented recently. "Your students are getting an education about life that they couldn't get elsewhere." By many accounts, there is no better education than the one you get while traveling. You can learn so much about the world and humanity as a result of visiting a variety of countries and seeing their cultures. The next best thing to being there is the oppor-

tunity to sit side-by-side in your own environment with people from other countries, sharing and learning together about each other and the countries represented.

Especially in the elementary classrooms, teachers are constantly finding ways to educate their students in each other's cultural heritage. They get a taste of the food, the music, the language, and the lifestyle when parents come in for a morning visit. They dig deeper into the culture when they go on-line in the computer lab to research the geography and politics of the various countries. They appreciate the variety of worship styles when they visit their friends in their home churches or travel with the choir to present the divine service in churches other than their own.

Yes, dozens of different heritages are evident in a cursory glance at EW/GBA. The important thing about this, though, is that these differences do not drive the students and staff apart. Instead, they bring them together, out of curiosity, out of respect, out of the realization that it really doesn't matter, in the long run, where they come from, what they look like, how they make their food. The truth is the school is one in purpose, one in practice, one in promise. Unity in diversity. One under the blood of Christ.

*Rondi S. Aastrup
principal
Edgewood/GBA*



The Edgewood Elementary and Greater Boston Academy multi-cultural staff of 2006-2007.

Greater Boston Academy Alumni Weekend

September 28 & 29

FRIDAY EVENING EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE/RECEPTION

September 28 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

GBA /Edgewood Auditorium 108 Pond St., Stoneham

Visit with your classmates - Light refreshments

SABBATH MORNING PROGRAM

September 29 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Stoneham Memorial Church 28 Maple St., Stoneham

Guest speaker – Matthew Lombard

ALUMNI FRIENDSHIP DINNER

GBA/Edgewood Auditorium 1:00 p.m.

Alumni & friends welcome

FRIENDSHIP CALLS

2:00 p.m – 5:00 p.m.

Share your cell phone number with a friend

Paul Asgeirsson has the phone numbers

VESPERS

Stoneham Memorial Church 5:00 p.m.

Laurie Redmer Mass Choir Reunion

SATURDAY EVENING

Individual class reunion time

For information contact:

Arthur Barnaby, Alumni President
afbarnaby@juno.com, (951) 359-4344



This shows about half of the 45 flags that hang from the rafters in the Edgewood Elementary and Greater Boston Academy gym. Parents donated money to purchase the flag(s) of their heritage.



On May 26 Pastor David D. W. Steede II completed a four-week Youth Prophecy Bible Conference in cooperation with the Southern New England Conference East Youth Federation. Young people assisted in delivering the messages each evening. God richly blessed their efforts with 15 people being baptized. One of those baptized, Josenie Colagene, is pictured with Pastor Steede.

Pastor J. M. Miranda Celebrates 80th Birthday

Born in Portugal on March 6, 1927, Joe Miranda tried to complete his educational studies in Portugal, but exam schedules made keeping the Sabbath an impossible challenge. Then Portuguese Union president Dias Gomes along with W. R. Beach, Southern European Division president at that time, spoke with the family

about Miranda going to the United States to complete his studies where Sabbath issues wouldn't be a problem.

Arriving on the Atlantic Union College campus, Miranda made friends with a French student, Fernand Fisel, who helped him get acclimated with college life. It was going well and then he met Molly Kowalczyk from Brooklyn, New York,



Joe Miranda and his wife, Molly, at his 80th birthday celebration.

South Lancaster Academy Alumni Weekend Commemorating 125 Years

October 5-7, 2007

October 5

Registration - 3:00 p.m.
Fund-raiser Car Wash and Supper - 4:00 p.m.
South Lancaster Academy

Vespers 7:30 p.m.
College Church

October 6

Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m.
Church - 11:00 a.m.
College Church

Annual Luncheon
Chan Shun Dining Commons

Sabbath Vespers - 5:00 p.m.
Village Church

Business Meeting and Supper
Following Vespers

Saturday Night Program

October 7

Full day of programs honoring the 125th anniversary

For information contact:

Jon Nosek: jnosek@sla-browning.org
Alumni Office: (978) 365-5225

the girl of his dreams. Shortly after his graduation with a B.A. in science they were married on September 10, 1950, with William Fagal, *Faith For Today* founder officiating.

Not knowing what to do regarding employment, they accepted Gomes' offer to return to Portugal. After a year of teaching at the Portuguese Seminary, Gomes advised Miranda to enrich his ministry with a missionary experience in Africa. They remained there for 20 years until

their move to the United States where they have lived since 1970.

Miranda has worked in the New Jersey, New York, and Southern New England conferences. He retired in December 1994 after 44 years of service. He currently preaches once a month at the Billerica church.

*Information supplied by Marlene Miranda, daughter
Submitted by Linda Johnson, member
Billerica church*

Un pasteur adventiste dit que le divorce ne peut pas être toujours évité mais que la prévention est possible

C'est l'argent, l'infidélité affective et un manque de communication qui ont mis fin au mariage d'une durée de quinze ans d'une femme adventiste d'Afrique du Sud.

Cette personne, qui a demandé que son nom ne soit pas donné, dit qu'elle voulait que les choses s'arrangent, mais que son mari, lui, était catégorique. Il voulait passer à autre chose.

Alors que nous n'avons pas de statistiques sur le nombre de membres qui sont divorcés, Willie Oliver, directeur des ministères de la famille pour l'église adventiste en Amérique du Nord, estime qu'un membre d'église sur quatre passe par le divorce. Il dit qu'il suppose que le chiffre est même plus élevé dans la réalité.

Comme l'église adventiste prône le mariage, W. Oliver dit qu'elle doit être responsable, par conséquent, d'aider les couples à maintenir leur mariage par des programmes d'aide et des séminaires.

W. Oliver dit que bien que le divorce est quelquefois inévitable, la prévention reste possible. Il désigne les conférences sur le mariage qu'il donne avec sa femme Elaine, pour à la fois enseigner les couples et former les pasteurs à mener le séminaire dans leur propre église. La conférence intitulée 'A partir d'aujourd'hui' donne aux couples des outils pour améliorer leur mariage.

Alors que la conférence est particulièrement utile à ceux qui ont de sérieux problèmes conjugaux, W. Oliver dit qu'elle est aussi intéressante pour ceux qui

n'ont pas de problèmes à l'horizon. Pour certains, la conférence est comme la révision d'une voiture.

"Vous n'attendez pas que la voiture tombe en panne pour l'amener au garage."

W. Oliver déclare que la conférence 'A partir d'aujourd'hui' traite de certains des problèmes rencontrés par cette femme dans son propre mariage. Les adventistes ne sont pas à l'abri de ce type de problèmes.

"Les couples adventistes font partie de cette société et y vivent, ce qui les rend vulnérables aux mêmes problèmes rencontrés par les autres couples."

Bien que cela puisse sembler évident, W. Oliver dit qu'une façon de sauvegarder son mariage est d'être engagé. Une autre façon, c'est de se rendre compte que le mariage est quelque chose de difficile.

Il dit: "Dans le couple, deux êtres humains différents coexistent. Ils sont tous les deux imparfaits et ont des notions de perfection qui peuvent être problématiques. Ils doivent être réalistes et savoir qu'il y aura des soucis. Ils doivent aussi savoir gérer leurs différences."

C'est ensuite que les aptitudes en communication présentées lors de la conférence deviennent cruciales. "Beaucoup arrivent avec l'idée du divorce mais changent d'avis parce qu'ils ont désormais des outils et qu'ils se sentent qualifiés pour faire quelque chose pour sauver leur mariage." Comme les

séminaires conduits par les adventistes comme 'A partir d'aujourd'hui' ne sont pas proposés partout dans le monde, W. Oliver encourage les églises à organiser leurs propres séminaires d'enrichissement. Il fait allusion à un programme sur DVD que les églises peuvent utiliser pour créer leurs propres séminaires.

La femme d'Afrique du Sud dit qu'un programme comme celui-là l'aurait aidé, elle et son mari, car ils gardaient leur lutte personnelle pour eux-mêmes.

Elle dit: "Nous n'avions pas de lien réel avec les pasteurs, anciens ou dirigeants de l'église, pour les impliquer dans nos problèmes personnels. Lorsque des sentiments de culpabilité nous ont submergés, l'église était le dernier endroit où nous étions à l'aise. Dieu était là mais les critiques étaient plus évidentes que la présence de Dieu."

Dans certains pays, le divorce n'est pas aussi acceptable culturellement. Marianne Aune, directrice des ministères de la famille pour la Division du Moyen-Orient de l'église, dit que les femmes divorcées sont souvent sans logement et sans revenus, puisqu'il n'y a pas de système social de protection partout.

"Certaines épouses malheureuses essaient probablement de supporter leur condition plutôt que de risquer un isolement social, le rejet et un avenir dans la pauvreté."

Octofien N. Sumendap, directeur des ministères de la famille pour la Division

du Pacifique et de l'Asie du Sud de l'église, ajoute un autre exemple: "Dans une certaine tribu, les maris ne divorceront jamais de leurs femmes à cause de la culture et de la coutume. Lorsque le mari divorce de la femme, personne ne veut se marier avec leurs enfants."

Raisa Ostrovskaya, directrice des ministères de la famille pour la Division eurasiennne de l'église, a constaté qu'il y avait une forte corrélation entre l'aide conjugale et les taux de divorce.

Elle dit que l'année dernière à Kiev (Ukraine), "cinquante couples étaient venus voir un spécialiste pour avoir de l'aide. A peu près la moitié de ces couples étaient sur le point de divorcer. Après l'entretien, quatre couples décidèrent de divorcer. Les autres couples restèrent ensemble."

W. Oliver est d'accord que la préparation au mariage est essentielle parce "qu'un couple qui ne fonctionne pas, c'est déjà trop."

Les Oliver organisent en moyenne quatre conférences par an. Le prochain séminaire aura lieu le 22 septembre à Denver (Colorado). Pour plus d'informations, visitez le site Web suivant: www.adventistfamilyministries.com.

Taashi Rowe
coordinatrice de la rédaction
Adventist News Network (ANN)
5 June, 2007

English translation available
at: <http://news.adventist.org/data/2007/05/1181050610/index.html>

El divorcio no siempre es inevitable; puede prevenirse, dice pastor adventista

El dinero, la infidelidad emocional y la falta de comunicación dieron por terminado el matrimonio de 15 años de una mujer sudáfricana.

La mujer, que pidió que no se utilizara su nombre, dice que quería resolver los problemas pero que su esposo se mostró inflexible.

Si bien no hay estadísticas acerca de los adventistas que se divorcian, Willie Oliver, director de ministerios de familia de la Iglesia Adventista en Norteamérica, estima que uno de cada cuatro matrimonios adventistas termina en divorcio. Y dice que intuye que la cifra podía ser aún mayor.

Dado que la Iglesia Adventista enfatiza el matrimonio, Oliver dice que la iglesia es responsable de ayudar a los matrimonios mediante programas y seminarios de aconsejamiento.

Oliver dice que si bien el divorcio a veces es inevitable, es posible prevenirlo. Y menciona las conferencias que él y su esposa Elaine ofrecen a las parejas y también para preparar a los pastores para que den el seminario en sus iglesias. El seminario, denominado "A partir de este día," otorga herramientas a las parejas para que puedan mejorar sus matrimonios.

Si bien la conferencia es de particular ayuda a los que tienen serios problemas maritales, Oliver dice que también es buena para los que no están pasando

por situaciones difíciles. Para algunos matrimonios, explica, es como el mantenimiento del automóvil.

"Uno no espera hasta que el automóvil se rompa para llevarlo al taller."

Oliver dice que la conferencia "A partir de este día" trata de algunos de los mismos temas que la mujer mencionada al comienzo halló en su propio matrimonio. Los adventistas no se encuentran inmunes a los problemas maritales, dice.

"Los matrimonios adventistas son parte de la sociedad y el vivir en esta sociedad los hace vulnerables a los mismos problemas que tienen los demás."

Aunque podría parecer obvio, Oliver dice que una manera de proteger el matrimonio es estar comprometido. Otra manera es comprender que el matrimonio es algo difícil.

"En el matrimonio, hay dos seres humanos diferentes, ambos imperfectos y que cuentan con nociones de perfección que podrían ser problemáticas", dice Oliver. Necesitan ser realistas y saber que surgirán problemas y que tendrán que saber cómo manejar las diferencias."

Es por eso que las habilidades comunicativas que se enseñan en la conferencia se tornan cruciales. "Muchos vienen con la idea de divorciarse pero cambian de parecer porque reciben herramientas y se sienten capacitados de hacer algo

para salvar su matrimonio," dice.

Si bien seminarios como éste no siempre están disponibles en muchas partes del mundo, Oliver anima a las iglesias a llevar a cabo sus propios seminarios de enriquecimiento, y menciona un DVD del programa que las iglesias podrían utilizar para llevar a cabo sus propios seminarios.

La mujer de Sudáfrica dice que un programa como este los podría haber ayudado, cuando en su lugar, ambos se guardaron sus luchas personales para sí.

"No sentimos una conexión real con los pastores, ancianos o líderes de iglesia como para involucrarlos en nuestros asuntos privados. Cuando nos abrumaban los sentimientos de culpa, a menudo la iglesia era el último lugar donde nos hubiera gustado estar. Dios estaba allí, pero era más fácil ver a los críticos," dice.

En algunos países el divorcio no es tan aceptable culturalmente. Marianne Aune, directora de ministerios de familia de la región eclesiástica de Medio Oriente, dice que las mujeres divorciadas a menudo quedan sin casa e ingresos, ya que el sistema de beneficios sociales no las acepta.

"Es probable que existan entonces esposas infelices que prefieren soportar su situación antes que arriesgarse a la soledad, el rechazo y la pobreza."

Octofien N. Sumendap,

director de ministerios de familia de la región eclesiástica de Asia-Pacífico Sur brinda otro ejemplo: "En una de las tribus, los maridos nunca se divorcian por razones culturales. Cuando alguien se divorcia de su esposa, nadie quiere casarse con sus hijos."

Raisa Ostrovskaya, directora de ministerios de familia de la iglesia en la región Euroasiática ha visto una fuerte correlación entre la consejería prematrimonial y los índices de divorcio.

Ostrovskaya dice que en Kiev, Ucrania, el último año "hubo 50 parejas que fueron a ver a un especialista para pedir ayuda. Alrededor de la mitad de esas parejas estaba cerca del divorcio. Después de las consultas, sólo cuatro parejas decidieron divorciarse. Pero el resto cambió de parecer."

Oliver está de acuerdo en que la consejería prematrimonial es esencial porque "una pareja que no lo haga ya es demasiado."

El matrimonio Oliver coordina un promedio de cuatro conferencias al año. El próximo seminario se llevará a cabo en Denver, Colorado. Si desea más información, visite el sitio web www.adventistfamilyministries.com.

Taashi Rowe, coordinadora editorial
Adventist News Network (ANN)
5 de Junio del 2007
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

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September 2007	Eastern Daylight Saving Time			
	8	15	22	29
Bangor, ME	6:59	6:46	6:33	6:19
Portland, ME	7:04	6:51	6:39	6:26
Boston, MA	7:06	6:54	6:42	6:29
South Lancaster, MA	7:09	6:56	6:44	6:32
Pittsfield, MA	7:15	7:03	6:50	6:38
Hartford, CT	7:12	7:00	6:48	6:36
New York, NY	7:17	7:05	6:53	6:41
Albany, NY	7:16	7:03	6:51	6:38
Utica, NY	7:24	7:11	6:58	6:46
Syracuse, NY	7:27	7:15	7:02	6:49
Rochester, NY	7:33	7:21	7:08	6:55
Buffalo, NY	7:38	7:25	7:13	7:00
Hamilton, Bda	7:33	7:24	7:14	7:05

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NORTHEASTERN

The Linden Church of Seventh-day Adventists, Laurelton, New York

will be celebrating its 80th anniversary during the week of Aug. 25–Sept. 2. Theme: “To the Next Level... Heaven Next.” All former members and friends are encouraged to join us. For more information call (718) 527-1950 or visit our Web site: www.lindensdachurch.org.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Bordoville Sabbath. The 143rd Annual Homecoming, September 15. Sabbath School 9:50 a.m., worship service 11:00 a.m. The speaker is Mike Ortel. Location is in West Enosburg, Vermont, on Chester A. Arthur Road off Route 108. Don't take the Bordoville Road as it gets impassable in the middle of the road.

OUT-OF-UNION

Come and reminisce with old school friends

from DAA/PVA/SRA at the alumni gathering at Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck, ND, Oct. 5-7. Honor classes: '03, '98, '88, '83, '78, '68, '58, '53, '48. Contact Robin Weisz, alumni president, at (701) 962-3799, or e-mail at rweisz@state.nd.us, if you have any questions.

OakPark Alumni Reunion. Oct. 5-6 at Gates Memorial Hall in Nevada, Iowa. The 2007 Honor classes are: '37, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82. For more information go to www.opainiowa.com.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend

—October 4-7. Honor classes are: '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, 2002. Activities start with the Silver Showcase Banquet on Thursday evening, Oct. 4. For additional information call (573) 682-2164, e-mail: alumni@sunnydale.org, or visit: www.sunnydale.org.

Grand Reopening

Framingham Centre Church
252 Edgell Rd.
Framingham, MA 01701

September 15, 2007

9:15 a.m. Sabbath School
10:30 a.m. Rededication Ceremony

September 16, 2007

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For more information call
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Web site: framinghamsda.com

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Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff
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Editor Ednor A. P. Davison
Assistant Editor Tamara Michalenko Terry
Copy Editor Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design Haziel Olivera

Correspondents

Bermuda Sheila Holder, sholder@bermudaconference.bm
Greater New York Alanzo Smith, alune77@aol.com
New York Kim Kaiser, kim@nyconf.com
Northeastern Trevor Baker, tbaker@northeastern.org
Northern New England Lynn Ortel, lortel@nnec.org
Southern New England Frank Tochtermann, ftochterman@sneconline.org
Atlantic Union College Cindy Kurtzhals, cindy.kurtzhals@auc.edu
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