

THE ATLANTIC UNION

DECEMBER 2007

# GLEANNER

## A Salute to Caregivers

### Powerful Reminders



Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Connections

Adventist Education

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

More than 50 million people in the United States provide care for a chronically ill, disabled, or aged family member or friend during any given year. They sacrifice their time, career, and their health and well-being to ensure that their loved ones receive adequate care. This month, we are taking time to say "thank you" to these caregivers who often go unnoticed. The article begins on page 4. Also in this issue are our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover design uses images 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.

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## DEADLINES

February 2008	December 14
March 2008	January 11
April 2008	February 8

The GLEANER deadline schedule is available online at [www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner4.htm](http://www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner4.htm).

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## Thank God for Caregivers

**T**oday I saw a short video about the Nglengo We Care group who are connected with Hope for Humanity, operating in Dawloop, South Africa. Their activity in caregiving is one that springs from a deep Christian love, dedication, and commitment, generated only by a connection to the love of Jesus. These individuals serve and care for the AIDS victims and AIDS orphans of Dawloop. At the time the video was produced, they were serving more than 750 lunches per day and expected to provide 1,000 lunches in the near future. The caregivers, many of them, walk as much as three to four hours daily to visit the AIDS victims in their homes. They provide basic supplies, but also plenty of human kindness and care. When one thinks about the sacrifice and level of devotion exhibited by so few for so many, we can only hope and pray that the coming of Jesus will take place very soon, for the tasks are increasing daily, particularly among orphan children whose parents prematurely die because of AIDS.

In Africa, America, the Caribbean, Asia, Bermuda, and around the world, a tremendous work is being carried on by people who care enough to get involved and lend a helping hand in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, and a host of care facilities. We cannot imagine what our world would be like without such “special people.” I’m sure Satan’s plans must be frustrated when he sees such acts of kindness and God-likeness, when he intended only misery, discouragement, human devastation, and suffering.

The caregivers of this world deserve our support, gratitude, encouragement, financial assistance, and yes, even our participation. Every act of kindness, every word of hope, every look of love, can be a counter-weight in this world of suffering, pain, disappointment, and hardship.

In many ways, the caregivers of our church, and our world, can model the work of those heavenly caregivers spoken of by Paul in Hebrews 1:14 (NIV) where he says, “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” Can you imagine the joys of angels who provide ministry for God’s children—those who love and obey Him—and who desire to be saved? We should never forget the great opportunity to be a part of God’s future plans for us. As we continue our journey of life why not choose to be a part of the caregivers of this world—knowing that each of us has a chance to have a heavenly caregiver, as well.

The work of our heavenly caregivers involves constant interaction with us. We must be mindful to recognize our daily need for them and the presence of God. Through the study of the Bible, through daily prayer, and sharing the good news of salvation, we can create a working environment for effective caregiving. When God’s power is permitted to unite with our human powers, a transformation takes place. We can become God’s hands and God’s heart. In so becoming, we then unite with the holy angels to accomplish God’s biddings. In spite of what we and our world are experiencing now, we can be a part of creating “an advance” to God’s future plan—a taste of heaven on earth. What a blessing and what a joy—caregivers for eternity! Ellen White says: “All who engage in ministry are God’s helping hands. They are co-workers with the angels: rather, they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through their voices and work by their hands”—*EDUCATION*, p. 271. Let us strive to be faithful caregivers for eternity.®

*Carlyle Simmons is the executive secretary for the Atlantic Union Conference.*



*Every act of kindness, every word of hope, every look of love, can be a counter-weight in this world of suffering, pain, disappointment, and hardship.*



# A Salute to Caregivers

*“So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith”—Galatians 6:9 (MSG).*

Wednesday, March 17, 1999, began as any other day of the week for the DeLeon family. Husband, Carveth, left early in the morning for his job in Newton, Massachusetts. Jennifer, his wife, headed to Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Boston, Massachusetts, to teach her second-grade students. Their two children, four-year-old Joel and two-year-old Abigail, rode with Jennifer to school where her mother, Neoris Gordon, picked them up to take care of them for the day. Everything was routine until approximately 11:30 a.m., when the school secretary called Jennifer out of her classroom to take a phone call that would change her family’s life forever.

On the other end of the phone was her mother calling to say that she had just been involved in a serious accident and she and the children were injured. Recognizing she was in no condition to drive, Jennifer rushed into the classroom of Convelle Morton, the fourth-grade teacher, grabbed him by the arm, gave him the keys to the van, and asked him to drive. Unaware

of the situation, but seeing Jennifer’s emotional state, he complied and rushed out with her and the principal, Evelyn Savory. Once in the van, she

► Seven days after the accident surgery was performed on Abigail to attach a halo traction unit which remained in place for several months.  
▼ Today, Abigail enjoys life with family and friends even though she still has medical challenges.



informed him that her mother and her children were involved in an accident and asked him to take her to the hospital. They first arrived at the Good Samaritan

Hospital emergency room in Brockton, Massachusetts, and could hear Joel crying loudly once they were inside. Jennifer found Joel, checked to see if he was injured, and realizing he appeared to be OK, she began asking

for Abigail. Having determined that Abigail was not at the Good Samaritan Hospital, the emergency room staff located Jennifer’s mother and Abigail at the Brockton Hospital. Ms. Savory stayed with Joel while Jennifer and Mr. Morton went to the other hospital. When she arrived, she was able to see her mother before she was airlifted to a Boston hospital. Abigail, who was conscious by the time Jennifer arrived, was still covered in blood from injuries to her mouth. Abigail was transported to Children’s Hospital in Boston.

Words can never express the range of emotions that Jennifer, her husband, and her family experienced during that time. Her mother’s injuries were severe enough to require surgery, hospital recovery time, many weeks in a rehabilitation facility, and then recovery time at home. Joel’s physical injuries were minor, but he suffered psychological trauma from the accident. Abigail spent approximately two weeks in the hospital and then the entire month of April 1999 in a rehabilitation facility before being released to go home wearing a halo traction unit that weighed almost as much as she did. The DeLeons could not have imagined what would be ahead of them for years to come.

By Ednor A. P. Davison



Jennifer is not alone; she is one of more than 50 million<sup>1</sup> people in the United States who provide care for a chronically ill, disabled, or aged family member or friend during any given year. Family caregivers, as they are called, are a diverse group of individuals of all ages and from all walks of life who sacrifice their time, their career, and their health and well-being to provide essential, unpaid services for these loved ones. The value of the services family caregivers provide for “free” is estimated to be \$306 billion a year.<sup>2</sup>

Family caregiving is a responsibility that will touch nearly all American families. Caregivers at home are intricately connected to the caregivers in the healthcare system because these are individuals who continue to provide care when the services of other professional caregivers end.

Jennifer has experienced many ups and downs in her life since the accident occurred. She, like many others, often carries her stresses and challenges in silence. Unfortunately, the services of these caregivers too often go unnoticed. However, they deserve to be recognized for their love, support, and commitment.

In an effort to express our appreciation to all caregivers who work untiringly for the good of others, we take time to publicly say “thank you” for all they continue to do. It is appropriate to say, “Thank you for the sacrifices you make so that the lives of others may be improved. May God bless you as you continue to reach out and touch others to make a significant difference in their lives.”

Jennifer DeLeon is now a stay-at-home mom. Abigail, who is ten years old and in the fourth grade in an integrated classroom, continues to need constant medical care even though

at [www.atlantic-union.org](http://www.atlantic-union.org)

you would not know it just by looking at her. Thirteen-year-old Joel is in the eighth grade and doing well. The DeLeons have since added to their family with



▲ The DeLeons give God thanks daily for His many blessings. From left, Abigail, Jennifer, Carveth holding Jason, and Joel.  
◀ When Abigail is unable to go to school, her mother, Jennifer, works with her at home.

the birth of one-year-old Jason. If you were to ask Jennifer how she does it, she would be quick to tell you that, in addition to having the support of family and friends, it is her faith in God that keeps her going.

Do you know someone who, like Jennifer, is a family caregiver? If you

do, I would encourage you to take a moment and find some random act of kindness to share with that individual to brighten their day.☺

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

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Informal Caregiving: Compassion in Action*.

<sup>2</sup> Arno, Peter S. “Economic Value of Informal Caregiving,” presented at the Care Coordination and the Caregiving Forum, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, NIH, Bethesda, Md., January 25-27, 2006.

## Ways to Show Appreciation

We all have the opportunity to play a part in recognizing the caregivers around us. Saying “thank you” is great, but there is so much more that can be done to let them know they are loved and appreciated. We can add a ray of sunshine to their lives in many ways. Here are a few suggestions on what you can do to make a difference in a caregiver’s life.

- Send a card or note of appreciation.
- Give them an occasional call to let them know how much you appreciate them.
- Offer to spend a few hours with the individual for whom they are caring so they can have some time to themselves.
- Give them a bouquet of flowers, a gift certificate for a massage, a gift card for dinner at their favorite restaurant, or a gift card to go shopping at one of their favorite stores.
- Offer to help them clean the home or yard, or to go shopping for them.
- Offer to prepare dinner for them.
- Visit with them and have a time of prayer and praise.

**The possibilities are endless!**

## “From the Heart” A Special Communion Service Live Across North America

On Friday, December 28, a special communion service will link Adventists across North America in a service of joyful dedication. Don Schneider and some of your favorite musicians will celebrate a New Year’s Communion Service, “From the Heart.”

The live broadcast service time for members in the Atlantic Union is 8:00 p.m. EST on December 28. The communion service will be officiated by NAD president Don Schneider. It will be broadcast live on Hope TV.

Churches wishing to participate in this division-wide service must complete the ordinance of humility before the program begins at 8:00 p.m. The hope is to have churches across the North American Division participate in the emblems of Christ’s sacrifice together. That means churches need to make sure that distribution of the emblems is completed at least 15 minutes prior to the end of the 60-minute broadcast.

Rebroadcast dates and times (EST) for Hope TV are as follows:

- December 28 10:00 p.m.
- December 29 6:00 p.m.
- December 30 11:00 a.m.
- December 31 8:00 p.m.
- December 31 10:00 p.m.

Broadcast and rebroadcast times and fliers advertising the event are available at the NAD Web site: [www.nadadventist.org](http://www.nadadventist.org). Click on Special Live Broadcasts Across North America.

For a list of churches in the Atlantic Union that are participating in this special service, visit: [www.atlantic-union.org](http://www.atlantic-union.org).

For information about securing a satellite dish for your church see the ad in the Bulletin Board section on page 28 of this issue.

By  
Don C.  
Schneider

# Powerful

Every country has memorials to its heroes. In the heart of Washington, D.C., stands that colossal stone monument pointing 555 feet into the air. Just inside its base are stories of George Washington, the president who was “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

Not far away is a glistening white marble shrine. Under its canopy is a gigantic statue of a thoughtful figure seated in a great stone chair. It’s the statue of Abraham Lincoln, a president greatly loved by Americans.

Standing in the middle of all of these reminders, you get the feeling that the human mind needs a lot of prodding. Our tendency to forget drives us to jog our memories with monuments, anniversaries, and celebrations.



Jesus knew we would need powerful reminders of what happened in Gethsemane and on Golgotha as the decades and centuries passed. Though He never seemed to enjoy ritual or ceremony, He is the One who said, “Do this in remembrance of me”—Luke 22:19.

In the upper room He urged His followers to love one another. He said that by their love they would be recognized as His disciples. Then He showed them what He meant with an ongoing memorial.

Those disciples could hardly believe what He did. I, too, am filled with amazement every time I think about it. Picture Jesus picking up a towel, filling a basin with water, then kneeling in front of each disciple and washing his dirty feet. As He completed His menial task He commanded them—and us—to do what He did in humility and love.

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site



# Reminders

So each time someone kneels in front of me to wash my feet in preparation for Communion, I see Jesus in my mind. I remember His command to love one another.

But it wasn't over. At the Passover Supper, this pivotal moment in history, Jesus and His disciples ate in order to remember. They remembered God's delivery of the Israelite slaves from Egyptian bondage. They also looked forward to their future delivery from sin, to the Messiah's death. Then Jesus, the actual Messiah, just hours before His death, set up a memorial for us using two items that were on the menu that evening. He was saying, It's so easy to forget! Please remember! And I do.

As I take that unleavened bread I remember Jesus, His sinless body, bruised, beaten, and bloody. I see Him trying to drag that cross, my cross. I see the King of the universe hanging on that cross in my place. As I eat the bread my heart says, Jesus, I cannot fathom the pain you must have felt for me. Thank You!

The grape juice, too, makes me think of Jesus; His flowing blood brought from His body by the lashes, the thorns, the nails. He died that Friday, so I could live eternally with Him.

And as I sip the juice, my heart cries out, Thank You for taking my death. I want to live for you today!

Yes, it's easy to forget. I want to remember and believe.

So as the water trickles across my feet, as the crusty bread brushes past my lips and I crunch it, as the sweet juice delights my taste, I remember Jesus. I think about Him. I receive Him into my life again.

*Dear Jesus, my servant King and suffering Savior, my powerful, risen Deliverer, I praise You for Your sacrifice today. I rest completely in Your mercy and grace. ①*

*Don C. Schneider is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.*

Jesus knew we would need powerful reminders of what happened in Gethsemane and on Golgotha as the decades and centuries passed.

*From the Heart* **A North American Division Main Event**

Join Don Schneider and some of your favorite musicians – as they celebrate a New Year's Communion.

Share the evening with your entire NAD church family **LIVE** at your local church on **Friday, December 28, 2007 at 8:00 PM EST**

**Hope CHANNEL**  
– Rebroadcast Times EST

- Dec 28 – 10:00 PM
- Dec 29 – 6:00 PM
- Dec 30 – 11:00 AM
- Dec 31 – 8:00 PM
- Dec 31 – 10:00 PM

Don Schneider, Roscoe Howard, Fred Kinsey, Marc & Andrea Judd, Gale Jones Murphy, Scott Reed, Adrian Pressley, Del Delker, Sandy Wyman Johnson, Max Mace & the Heritage Quartet, Stephanie Kinsey, Tim Davis

# SNEC Teachers and Kids in Action

## Adventist Education



Teachers in classrooms make a significant impact in the lives of many students.

### Teachers Who Make a Difference

Many qualities distinguish “teachers who make a difference,” but one quality is the spirit of self-sacrifice, the willingness to give of one’s self for the betterment of others. I am happy to say that this quality is evident in the Southern New England Conference teachers.

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to interact with one such teacher while visiting one of our schools. I noticed a little boy in one of the classrooms who seemed to be having some difficulty settling down. As I addressed the students, I was also able to speak to him quietly and get him to settle down. While speaking with the teacher later, my heart sparked within me as she said words to this effect, “You know, I have been thinking, after looking at you interact with that little boy, perhaps he is not the one that needs to change as much as I need to change my methods to reach him.” I thought to myself later that

day, what a privilege it would have been to have such a teacher for my own two sons, a teacher willing to change in order to meet the needs of her students.

Teachers who make a difference are affecting the lives of students all across the world. I am thrilled that right here in the Southern New England Conference, the lives of our students are being impacted by teachers such as these, and not only for this life, but also for eternity.

—Del Métellus is the Southern New England Conference education evangelist.

### Harper is National Merit Semi-Finalist

James Harper, a 17-year-old student at Greater Boston Academy (GBA) has been named a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Harper received the 14<sup>th</sup> highest score on fall 2006 PSAT/NMSQT test.



James Harper

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the test, which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.4 million entrants each year—and by meeting pub-

lished program entry/participation requirements.



—Rondi Aastrup is the Greater Boston Academy principal.

### Christian Education Day

To regularly promote and communicate the strengths of Seventh-day Adventist education to the constituency, as Southern New England Conference’s education evangelist, I visit and speak at churches all over the conference. I am often accompanied by students from our various schools.

**Braintree Church**—Recently, at an Education Day held at the Braintree church, I was joined by several of the students of the South Shore Seventh-day Adventist School who gave a wonderful musical selection. Testimonies from both students and parents were equally inspiring.

**Taunton Church**—Another Education Day held at the Taunton church was made special by the participation of Jaqueline Hebert, Raquel Hebert, and Veronica Hebert, students of Cedar Brook School. They sang a musical piece that coincided perfectly with the theme of the message. This we all felt was inspired.

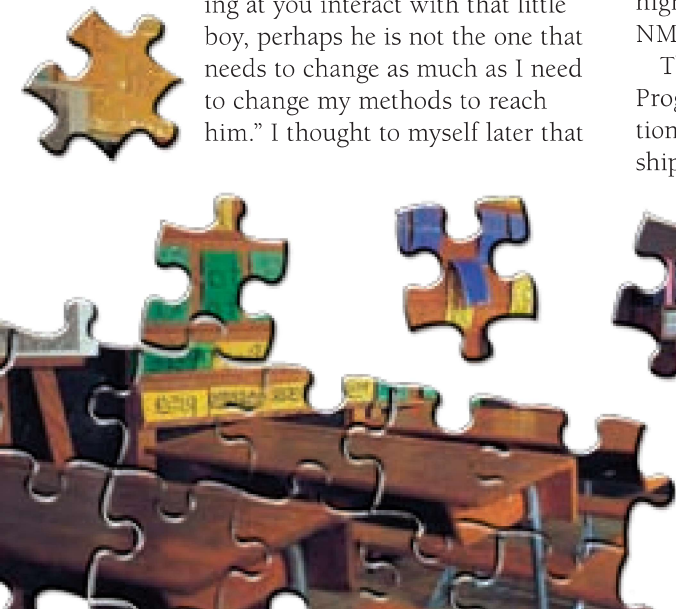
**Seekonk Portuguese Church**—The Cedar Brook students also performed at the Seekonk Portuguese church for their Education Day.

What a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of our young people, as we should be doing on a regular basis to encourage their involvement in their church.☺



—Del Métellus is the Southern New England Conference education evangelist.

*Putting the Pieces Together*





# It's Time to Tell it to the World

**W**ere you aware that 2007 has been a significant year in the history of Seventh-day Adventist youth ministry? For the past several months many conferences throughout the world have been celebrating 100 years of youth ministry. In 1907, at the Sabbath School and young people's convention in Mount Vernon, Ohio, the name "Seventh-day Adventist Young People's Society of Missionary Volunteers" was chosen for the new General Conference Youth Department. At that meeting Luther Warren, one of the first pioneers in youth ministry, laid down a challenge that is still relevant today. "Three things are absolutely necessary to have a spiritual life: one is daily prayer; the second is the daily study of God's Word; and the third is daily work for others." Today we would summarize that view by our key words in youth ministry, "Salvation and Service"—THE AY STORY, p. 12.

Certainly those early pioneers in youth ministry did not envision that we would still be on this earth 100 years later. Does this mean we haven't done our job? No, but I think it means that we should all continue to give careful study, make plans, and execute youth ministry in such a way that we can harness the energy of the youth that we have, mold them into a great army, and go out and finish God's work so we won't have to be here another 100 years.

The year 2007 has been a year of "renewing" in Seventh-day Adventist youth ministry. The General Conference Youth Department has designated 2008 as the "Year of Sacrificing." The objective is to understand not only what true sacrifice is but to experience it with a heart full of God's compassion.

As we think of the awesome responsibility that we have, consider these statistics: Seventy-five percent of the membership of the Adventist church is under 30 years of age. There are more than 1.5 million Pathfinders around the world! The worldwide membership of Adventurers is approximately 950,000 and there are just about 29,000 Adventurer clubs!\* Wow, just think what would happen if we harnessed efficiently this "great army of youth."

Five strategic themes have been developed to give youth ministry a focus throughout the world.

**Reaching**—Local churches, conferences, and unions are encouraged to involve youth in presenting full-scale, Christ-centered, doctrinal evangelistic series such as

the Elijah Project. Youth will be trained to form evangelistic teams to carry out this mission.

**Connecting**—Prayer is one of the most powerful communication bonds with God that exists in the life of a Christian and it must be reinforced, motivated, and done more often.

**Reclaiming**—Churches should plan ways in which to reclaim those youth who have slipped away from the church. Help returning young people to become involved in the life of the church.

**Training**—We must provide opportunities for training and equipping our pastors, youth pastors, youth leaders, Sabbath School leaders, and others with knowledge and skills that will help them reach the youth of the church.

**Retaining**—We will make it a priority to keep the youth engaged and spiritually alive.

**Involving**—All ministry areas of the church will promote youth involvement in all aspects of church life.

**Serving**—Young people of

the church will be encouraged to embrace a theology of service.

Each local church youth organization should have three major objectives:

- To work for the salvation of young people, helping them to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially.
- To provide fellowship and organize them to work for the salvation of other young people.
- To train the youth for leadership roles within the church and harness their energies for involvement in all branches of church activity.

Throughout the coming year I challenge each youth leader to make an intentional effort to accomplish the vision that has been given to us to reach and save the youth of our church.①



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

\* Statistics from the General Conference Youth Ministries Department

# The Poet Lover Finds Christ

The inspiring story of José Porras reminds us that God has a specially designed plan to bring each of his children unto Himself.

José was born in Guatemala in 1978 into a Catholic family, which is not surprising as 90 percent of the families in his country are Catholics. Unfortunately, José's parents divorced when he was eleven years old. Three years after his parents separated, José was sent abroad to a Catholic school run by monks in the United States. When José finished high school, he was glad to go to college where the pressure of adhering to religious teachings was lifted and church attendance was not regulated. Given

this freedom, he rarely attended church and soon forgot about his religious teachings.

José obtained a B.S. degree in management with honors from Bentley College in Massachusetts, and secured employment with the prestigious investment firm of Merrill Lynch. Later he worked with Brown Brothers Harriman, and Co., ("BBH") a private bank in Boston. The association with BBH afforded him the opportunity to work in the company's offices in Dublin, Ireland, where he worked by day, and studied by night, acquiring a master's degree in business studies.

With his solid educational background and experience working in

investments and banking, José accepted a position with Citi Hedge Fund Services, a banking institution in Bermuda.

Once he had settled on the island, he quickly found that Bermudians are a warm and friendly people. José enjoyed spending much of his free time engaged in his passion of literature, especially poetry.

## Discovering God's Word

In late 2006, while reviewing the then current list of the 10 Best Works of Poetry, José was doing a mental check of the works that he either owned and/or had read. He was amazed to discover that one of the books on the list, The Book of Job, was a work he had not read, nor owned. His curiosity was piqued and José went searching for the Book of Job; his search led him to the Bible. Finally, José purchased a Bible to thoroughly study the book of Job, which he recognized as a poem of human experience.

José found the book of Job so fascinating that he also read, studied, and analyzed other stories in

the Bible and was equally impressed with the drama, romance, and love of these stories. In his continued study of the Bible, José came upon the references relating to the Sabbath, its keeping, and the rite of baptism. These items caused him to study, analyze, and compare his Catholic teachings

Excitement stirred in him as he heard the word of God preached and he realized how the Lord had led him.

with what he was discovering in the Bible.

In 1 Peter 2:6 it says, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded." José was convicted by what he had read and sought out a church that was keeping the Sabbath.

He found the Seventh-day Adventist churches listed in the yellow pages of the local phone directory. And, one Sabbath last May, he found himself on King Street. And then, to his own surprise, he was inside the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church foyer, nervously planning to turn around and leave that empty area. Suddenly out of nowhere, Bisengi Gatere, an elder,

## Wilson Accepts Position at Oakwood College Church

Dwayne Wilson, pastor of the Somerset Seventh-day Adventist Church, has accepted an invitation from the South Central Conference to be the associate pastor of the Oakwood College Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. His new position is effective December 1. The Bermuda Conference wishes him God's richest blessings as he begins service in another part of God's vineyard.



Sheila Holder, communication director  
Bermuda Conference





Betty Anne Lowe and Pastor Kenneth Manders, center, stand with José Porras who shared the story of how he found Christ.

appeared and greeted José with not only a welcoming handshake, but a warm personally-directed greeting. Gatare ushered him into the sanctuary, as the worship service was already in progress. José relates that he was immediately captivated by Pastor Kenneth Manders' preaching, whose reference was, he believes, from the Gospel of St. John. This scripture reference was familiar to José, as he had read it for himself in the Bible, though it was now being amplified in a different and more compelling way.

Excitement stirred in him as he heard the word of God preached and he realized how the Lord had led him. Each Sabbath from then on, José attended the Hamilton church and on June 2, 2007, he went a step further and was baptized.

#### Sharing the Word

Not long after being baptized, José had the opportunity to return to Guatemala for a visit and was able to share his newfound faith with his mother, sister,

grandmother, and also his father. José's mother and sister were fairly receptive to his testimony of discovering the Sabbath and his baptism, but his grandmother, who is in her mid-eighties, was not at all happy with her grandson's new religion and neither was his father. José prayed that his family would come to understand what he had learned, and prior to returning to Bermuda, he gave his sister a Bible, all the while praying that she would read it.

The Lord answered José's prayer and a few weeks after his return to the island, his sister called regarding

several passages of scripture on prayer, including Luke 18:1-8, Matthew 15:22-28, and 2 Peter 3:3-4 that she wanted to discuss with him. It would be difficult to imagine the happiness he felt as he was able to discuss these scriptures and others with his sister.

Presently, his sister and mother are both examining his beliefs with an open mind and José has directed them to a Seventh-day Adventist church in Guatemala. He is continuing to pray for his family's enlightenment.

#### Called to Serve

"He which hath begun a good work in José is working to complete it in him" (Philippians 1:6, paraphrased)." Soon dissatisfaction began to affect José regarding his career path and his future. José began to consider an alternative to the business world of money, power, prestige, and social honor. The idea of working in the field of humanitarian aid became increasingly appealing to him

José had the opportunity to return to Guatemala for a visit and was able to share his newfound faith with his mother, sister, grandmother, and also his father.

ian aid became increasingly appealing to him

and by mid-July, José was convinced that he should disengage from his current job and pursue a master's degree in this field. God confirmed this to José by providing the opportunity for him to speak with an Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA) official about the agency's work during Bermuda Conference's annual camp meeting which took place during July. Also, José believes his seamless admission to the program is another confirmation to him of the Lord's leading.

God's promptings are his enablings, and on October 1, 2007, José commenced his studies in the advanced master's program in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution at the European University Centre for Peace Studies located in Stadschlaining, Austria. José reports that he is thrilled to be in a program that allows him to interact with others who aim to be of service to God by aiding mankind. José affirms his thanks to God and desires that all praise go to God for what He has already done in his life.

Who knows whether José will return to Bermuda, or whether we, his Hamilton church family will again have the privilege of his association? Perhaps it will only be in heaven that we will learn the rest of José's story—the story of a young man whom God has brought to Himself through the love of poetry. ☺

*Betty Anne Lowe is a member of the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church. Written with permission from José Porras.*

## Assumption College and Atlantic Union College Partner on MBAs

Atlantic Union College officials signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Assumption College on October 1, 2007, allowing eligible AUC undergraduates to enroll in graduate level courses in Assumption College's BS/MBA program.

This is the first time the Worcester, Massachusetts, Assumption College has allowed students from another campus to benefit from their unique BS/MBA, a five-year accelerated program.

Both colleges are members of the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Inc. This 39-year-old alliance of 13

area colleges works cooperatively both to further the missions of the member institutions individually and to advance higher education regionally.

AUC seniors can take two graduate-level courses at Assumption which will simultaneously fulfill AUC undergraduate requirements and reduce the course requirements for Assumption's MBA program.

Parents and students with resolve will begin to realize quick returns on their educational investment when the student can graduate in four years, obtain professional certification(s), and obtain an MBA

in accounting, finance, or marketing in their fifth year. And, at the end of their fifth year, students would have all the credit-hour requirements to enable them to sit for the national certifying exams of the American Institute of Professional Accountants to become CPAs.

The business program at AUC prepares students professionally, equips them to sit for certification in their chosen fields and specializations, and adequately readies them for employment in the business world at large, and service to the church in its denominational institutions spanning the globe.



Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., left, and Mary Lou Anderson, Ed.D., sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Spence is senior vice president for academic affairs at Atlantic Union College. Anderson is dean of the college and dean of the graduate school at Assumption College.



Assumption College president Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D., left, and Atlantic Union College president Norman Wendth, Ph.D., also sign the document, creating the business-to-business partnership. Both men have taken on their roles as president since the summer.

Photos: Cindy Kurtzhals

## Professional Business Certifications—the Road to Jobs



Accounting majors George Asante, left, and Stephanie Henry-Saturné recently sat for six exams with the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers, the national certification body for those embarking on the accounting profession. These students earned professional certifications in bookkeeping.

Cindy Kurtzhals

Because of the demand for graduates possessing business savvy in every profession, competition is keen for top-paying jobs. Top employers choose from the pool of certified professionals.

With certification putting graduates at an advantage, the Atlantic Union College School of Business prepares and equips students for national certifications in their chosen fields and specializations. Professors want students to excel, stand out from the crowd, and get the top jobs.

Recently, Stephanie Henry-Saturné and George Asante suc-

cessfully passed national exams for those embarking on the accounting profession. Having bachelor of science degrees and certified bookkeeper designations will give Henry-Saturné and Asante a definite advantage. They are currently working to earn additional qualifications under the direction of AUC professors.

New certification classes begin January 23 for the spring semester.

*Jacob Nortey, Ed.D., chair  
Atlantic Union College School of Business  
and Professional Development  
Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director*



## Degree Opportunities for Working Adults; Teacher Licensure Offered—It All Starts January 6

Individuals from around the Atlantic Union Conference, the nation, and the world have earned or are in the process of earning a degree through Atlantic Union College's Adult Degree Program. This opportunity is available to those ages 25 and older, and it has changed lives. Read below what current students have to say.

Atlantic Union College is also one of only three colleges nationwide that offers entry-level teacher licensure through distance education. Unlike many teacher licensure programs, AUC's Adult Degree Program makes it possible for individuals to complete their licensure requirements as full-time students while continuing their

full-time employment.

This unique program combines the best of distance education with stimulating on-campus face-to-face experience during 10-day intensive seminars each semester.

For information, contact [adp@auc.edu](mailto:adp@auc.edu) or call 1-800-282-2030 or 978-368-2300.



Rachel Gilbert with Roger, her husband, at ADP's annual graduation, July 15, 2007. "With the flexibility that the ADP provides, I was able to keep the job I enjoyed while enhancing my skills. Learning in this manner also opened the door for me to begin thinking 'outside the box,' and that has encouraged me to become more creative and purposeful in my endeavors."

—Rachel Gilbert, '07, Bachelor of Science in Psychology



Kendra Bisson-Rivera

"ADP has been a good challenge and also quite flexible. I have a young son, and ADP allows me to study and take care of him as well. With God's grace, I will graduate from ADP in 2008."

—Kendra Bisson-Rivera, education major



Eloise Symonds

"The Bible says that God has blessed all those who have committed themselves to Him with a spiritual gift, and that He has expectations of them to grow in ministry. As a Bible instructor for the Bermuda Conference, the Adult Degree Program at Atlantic Union College affords me the opportunity to do just that, grow in ministry, as I reach out to the community in service for the Lord."

—Eloise Symonds, personal ministries major

"ADP at Atlantic Union College allows me to earn a degree I have always wanted and to complete the program from anywhere in the country. I have received the support of, and interaction with, highly qualified Christ-centered faculty. ADP provides me a great deal of flexibility in designing my own studies in psychology and religion. This means that I'm able to have family responsibilities and continue working full-time while studying. I owe a wealth of gratitude to Atlantic Union College for having this type of program to help people like me achieve my educational goals, which would not be possible any other way."

—Farzad Nourian, psychology/religion major



Farzad Nourian



Greg Carey

"One of my greatest discoveries in recent years is Atlantic Union College's Adult Degree Program. It's nothing like your typical long-distance learning degree programs offered by many schools. The creative latitude offered by ADP permitted me to go way beyond learning about my subjects... I experienced them! So can you! Discover ADP."

—Greg Carey, religion major

**Degrees offered—  
see page 27.**





## Parkview Junior Academy Hosts Prayer Breakfast

On Sabbath, August 18, Parkview Junior

Academy hosted a prayer breakfast during Sabbath



New York Conference education superintendent Kim Kaiser attended the prayer breakfast and participated in the prayer walk at Parkview Junior Academy.

School at the church school. Approximately 20 adults and several children attended.

Breakfast was served buffet-style followed by a prayer walk to each classroom. Participants met in small groups, asking God's blessing on the teacher and students in that classroom as well as the activities that would be conducted in other parts of the building and on the grounds.

During the worship hour, Pastor Bill Hrovat based his sermon on Philippians 1, encouraging the church to partner spiritually with

Parkview in four ways: becoming partners in prayer, forming a partnership in grace, developing a partnership to share the gospel with others, and becoming partners in tribulation.

Those who attended the prayer breakfast and walk indicated that they found it a meaningful experience. Another similar event is being planned before the start of next semester. We feel every church school could benefit from such an event.

*Joan Payne, communication secretary  
Westvale church*



Participants provided the food and enjoyed the buffet-style breakfast followed by a prayer walk to each classroom.



Participants met in small groups asking God's blessing on the teacher and the students in the classroom as well as the activities that would be conducted in other parts of the building and on the grounds.

## Westvale Church Highlights

### Nash Presents Healthy Heart Seminar

Cardiologist Stephen Nash conducted a Healthy Heart Seminar at the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist

Church on September 8. Participants learned about the risk factors for heart disease and indicated that they appreciated the humor he added to this serious topic.

Nash has a private practice in addition to being on the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York.

### Westvale Holds CHIP Meetings

Every Sunday, Monday, and

Thursday evening for five weeks ten participants plus helpers met at the Westvale church for the CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) program under the leadership of Sally Hafner, R.N. This CHIP program officially began on September 4 and participants met early at the church to have fasting lab work drawn by a local lab. They also had their blood pressure and pulses checked by a nurse from St. Joseph's Hospital. After filling out a health assessment form and being weighed, they were treated



Robert Castellanos M.D., from the Cortland church, reviews Jean Sutton's lab results with her during the CHIP program at the Westvale church.

to breakfast that was prepared by Marion Lake, a church member. The CHIP program is geared to helping participants to enjoy the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

*Joan Payne, communication secretary  
Westvale church*



Stephen Nash, M.D., left, with Joan Payne R.N., N.P., health ministries leader, Sally Hafner R.N., assistant health ministries leader, and Pastor Bill Hrovat following the Healthy Heart Seminar at the Westvale church.

## Kingsbury Church Shows Appreciation to its Elders

Kingsbury church is blessed to have five elders who are appreciated for their expertise in leadership, and on September 16 they held an appreciation dinner in their honor. The dinner theme was Mexican Fiesta and was catered by my wife, Kathy. This occasion gave me an opportunity to personally and publicly give a specific compliment to each elder. I know there is no way I could thank them enough for all they do, but I shared

one particular thing I value about each of them.

After the compliments, I shared a story of how failing stores in the McCrory chain turned around their situation and then drew parallels to my elders' situations. I then shared the Joe Bravo story. Joe was an artist who chose to paint on tortillas because he didn't have money for canvas. Today his tortilla art is feeding him quite well. After this story, the elders were instructed to paint an image on tor-

tillas that they believe would reflect their vision for their particular ministry area. Upon completion of their assigned task, they shared their

artistic vision with the group and many expressed that they were blessed. The event ended with a word of



Chris and Carol Kober work on painting an image on their tortillas to reflect their vision for their ministry.

thanks for the way God has worked through each elder.

*David Harriss, pastor  
Kingsbury church*

## Native American Camp Meeting an Uplifting Event

Chambers Camp in Beaver Dams, New York, was the location of the New York Conference Native American Camp Meeting. More than 75 people came from distant regions to uplift the Creator in nature, word, fellowship, and song. Some comments reflecting the refreshing weekend were:

- "Native camp meeting was so enjoyable because of the relaxed atmosphere and schedule."
- "The facilities and food are so accommodating in the wooded setting."
- "The mile walk through the forest with spiritual nuggets was great. I wish it was longer."
- "The Sabbath vespers sacred concert by the Bernard children was awesome."

Many individuals indicated that the two presentations by David DeRose, M.D. were inspiring and in harmony with this year's camp meeting theme, "Pathway to the Creator." Jesus was lifted high, as personal methods for following the many pathways to the Creator unfolded from Scripture. Plans are already being made for next years Native American Camp Meeting where more attendees are anticipated.

*Bruce W. Wilkinson, pastor and Native Ministries coordinator  
New York Conference*



Backpacks and other school supplies were donated by Elmira church members to a local elementary school.

## Backpack Project Provides Supplies for School Children

During the month of August our personal ministries project for the Elmira church was to buy backpacks and school supplies for needy students in our community. A large box with a suggested list of items was placed in the fellowship hall for everyone's donations.

We had a very good response as pencils, crayons, erasers, notebooks, markers, and many other items were placed in the box. Financial contributions were also given and used in purchasing more educational supplies.

The week before school began, everything was delivered to the local elementary school where materials will be given to the students as needed.

*Sharon Reynolds, personal ministries co-leader, Elmira church*



# Keeping the Vision Alive

*Back in 1844 there was a great movement in the United States in which more than 100,000 people participated. The movement was led by William Miller who preached about Jesus' second coming, but on October 22 Jesus didn't come as predicted, and many people left the movement.*

A group of people remained together praying and studying about what had happened. Among those people were Ellen and James White. In 1848 in Dorchester, Massachusetts, Ellen White received a vision that James must establish a periodical and disseminate it.

Mrs. White said to her husband, "I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that clear round the world"—LIFE SKETCHES, p. 125.

The first paper named THE PRESENT TRUTH was printed in July 1849 in Middletown, Connecticut. When the first printing was done, James, Ellen, and a few others from Rock Hill, Connecticut, knelt down and prayed to God to multiply the publications. One thousand copies were printed and sent out.

In a short time the publications multiplied, and in 1852, Pastor White bought one manual printer that was used to print the message of salvation. In addition, the first Seventh-day Adventist publishing house was built in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1855, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church/General Conference was organized in 1863.

In April 3, 1882, Jorge King the first literature evangelist from the Adventist Church, started canvassing with the book DANIEL AND REVELATION, and in a few months he sold 500 books. Through Jorge King working, many people joined this ministry and the Seventh-day Adventist Church recognized this work as a very important ministry. Since this small beginning in 1882 thousands and thousands of people have dedicated their lives to this ministry. Men and women go door to door selling books, finding people interested in studying the Bible, and spreading the message of salvation. Some of them dedicate years, decades, and even their life to this ministry as regular part-time and full-time literature evangelists. Others, during school vacations, join the student programs to be a part of this opportunity of planting seeds of salvation through the printed page.

Today, all around the world, we have laborers taking part in the work. The General Conference has set a goal of one literature evangelist for every church for a total of 55,000 by the end of 2010. Here in the Atlantic Union Conference we have been blessed. Among students and regular literature evangelists we have more than 200 literature evangelists. Thousands of books are distributed every year, hundreds of Bible studies given, and

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site

About 50 students attended a program last summer sponsored by the Southern New England Conference and the Review & Herald.





dozens of people are baptized.

A good example is 24-year-old Fernanda, who graduated with a B.A. in English. She worked as a literature evangelist for six summers consecutively. While canvassing in Lawrence, Massachusetts, last summer at the Light America Mission Program ([www.lightamericamission.com](http://www.lightamericamission.com)), she had the opportunity to meet to a lady who was very desperate. After the presentation, the lady bought the books and she told Fernanda, "God sent you here today."

These humble LEs have worked faithfully, and it's impossible to measure the fruits of their silent seeding. Bible studies, baptisms, prayers, and scholarships are only some of the results that we can see here through the efforts of the literature evangelists, but the greatest is reserved for eternity.

The Colporteur's Reward: "The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Savior. What blessed converse they have with these souls! 'I was a sin-

ner;' it will be said, 'without God and without hope in the world, and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Savior as my only hope . . .' What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet and greet those who have had a burden in their behalf!"—TESTIMONIES, vol. 6, pp. 310, 311.①



Luis Biazotto is the associate publishing director for the Review and Herald and the Southern New England Conference.

## The Voice of a Longtime LE Goes Silent

Justin S. King • 1908-2007

Justin Saisi King was born February 6, 1908, in Coopers Hill, Portland, Jamaica. He was the last of four children. His education began and ended at the Coopers Hill Elementary School and he became involved in farming as a teenager. One day, a man carrying a bag of books visited his family's farm home. As the man spoke to Justin's father of the life-changing stories about Jesus and hope for lost humanity, Justin listened intently from the next room. His heart thrilled to the canvasser's words, and this led to his becoming the first in his family to embrace the Seventh-day Adventist message. He became a baptized member, and his parents followed later. Justin decided to follow the profession of the man who had sold his father those wonderful books and became a literature evangelist in 1930.

In the mid-forties King met and married Winnie F. Shakes from Springfield, Saint Elizabeth. To that union two children were born, Gloris, a principal and school teacher in the Southern New England Conference and Donald, president of the Atlantic Union Conference.

He and his family served in various places where Justin's literature evangelism

work had taken them: the Bahamas, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Long Island, New York, and Jamaica, his homeland.

In 1961 the family returned to Jamaica. King remained at the top of his profession chalking up top colporteur sales while in the West Jamaica Conference. He worked in every parish in Jamaica. He led the field in sales almost every year of his canvassing service. He also served as a conference associate publishing director in the Central Jamaica Conference.



Justin King with his son, Donald G. King.

He and his family were strong supporters of Christian education and they made significant contributions to the East Jamaica Conference for small Adventist church schools and evangelism.

He formally retired in the early 70s, but

continued as a colporteur on a part-time basis for approximately 20 years more. His total commitment to the literature evangelist ministry spans approximately 60 years. Among his awards are the Centennial Award for Faithful Service from the West Indies Union Conference and the Certificate of Service from the Central Jamaica Conference.

Justin King quietly and peacefully faded away in his sleep on August 10, 2007. He was 99 years old. Some of his last words were, "I have seen a glimpse of heaven and pray that you will all meet me on the sea of glass."

He leaves to mourn his passing a daughter and son-in-law, Gloris and Whitford Shaw of Lincoln, R.I.; a son and daughter-in-law Donald and Lois King of Leominster, Mass.; grandchildren, Laverne Bailey (David); Martin Shaw (Camille); Louie King (Elisa); Marvin King (Shanthi); Kalina Shaw; one great-grandson, Kaleel Shaw, and many nephews, nieces, and other relatives.①

For a more detailed article on Justin King's experience as a literature evangelist visit: [http://publishing.gc.adventist.org/le\\_mag.html](http://publishing.gc.adventist.org/le_mag.html) and select Issue 680.



Justin King with his daughter, Gloris Shaw.

By Debbie Michel

# A Ministry Grows at Brooklyn Church

Marva Peterson was window-shopping in her East Flatbush neighborhood when she bumped into a group of people handing out fresh fruits and vegetables for free, no strings attached. As she accepted the gift one of them invited her to join their Bible class that would be meeting that very evening. This providential encounter turned into a journey of much spiritual awakening.

She would later discover that this was an outreach program that distributes 400 pounds of food to people within the surrounding community each week. Even before the door opens at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings, there is a line of people waiting outside the bustling Church Avenue storefront. Carrots, potatoes, string beans, plantains, onions, and bananas are some of the staples distributed to more than 100 families each week. But this food program is only a small part of a growing ministry that is not only feeding families but also changing people's lives.

This ministry began in 2004 when Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist church's community services leader, Albert Hutchinson, read an ADVENTIST REVIEW article written by North American Division president Don Schneider. The article challenged church members and leaders to invite one billion people from around the world to study the Bible. "As I was reading," Hutchinson says, "I was asking myself, 'What can I do to make this plan a success?'" Before long he felt impressed to start a Web site that could potentially reach millions worldwide and help sow the seeds of God's love and His soon return. After the Web site was in place, personal ministries leader, Anston Roberts, joined Hutchinson in the ministry and a plan soon followed to start distributing literature on a regular basis. They contacted various publishers for materials, and to date, have distributed some 15,000 books and magazines.

Then in March 2006 they met community leader Bernice Parris. "God has a way of using individuals for His ministry," says Hutchinson. It was a pivotal meeting that launched the ministry into a larger arena as she introduced

them to one of the partner agencies for the international Christian organization, Feed the Children. She also put them in touch with a partner agency for the city's food bank and they became a major source of fruits and vegetables.

Then, as that food program took root, God opened up another avenue for further expansion of their territory. Each Friday morning when most are enjoying a deep sleep,

Hutchinson and Roberts are already up at 3:00 a.m., heading to a warehouse some 40 miles away in Long Island to collect donated bread. After loading dozens of loaves of bread into their van, they drive back to Brooklyn as the workday for many is just beginning. The bread is then distributed at four Brooklyn locations.

Apart from delivering the physical bread, these two missionaries are sharing last-day messages and bringing deliverance to many in this lost and dying world. Today, Roberts conducts a vibrant Bible class using the Amazing Facts lessons as a guide. Each week, almost two dozen individuals pack into the space that once housed a travel business. Many are regulars who have been coming for many months like Marva Peterson. Marva's life has changed radically since her encounter last summer. The Bible class opened up her eyes to truths she didn't know, one of them being God's holy Sabbath. "The days of the week start on Sunday, so if you count it you see that the seventh day is Saturday,"

says the 57-year-old certified nursing assistant. She is attending the Brooklyn church and plans to join the nine other people who were baptized as a result of this ministry.

Little did Hutchinson and Roberts know that the church initiative, "Sow One Billion" would continue to ripple and reap tremendous blessings in their own community three years later. "Many individuals are gaining knowledge of the love of God and about His true church, the remnant church," says Hutchinson.®

Debbie Michel is the Brooklyn church communication director.

Albert Hutchinson and Anston Roberts in front of the building where Bible classes are held.



Anston Roberts teaching a Bible class.



## Hope Church Celebrates Mortgage Burning

On Sabbath, September 22, Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bloomfield, Connecticut, celebrated a milestone when it burned its mortgage. Praise and thanksgiving filled four days of festivities which began on Wednesday evening with the theme “Hitherto Hath the Lord Led Us.” Three of four former pastors returned to give messages of inspiration: Allen Martin, Horatious Gittens, and Richard Calhoun, Sr. Attending the event and bringing greetings and congratulations were Trevor H. C. Baker and Larry Bailey, Northeastern Conference’s president and executive secretary. The

weekend also drew former members who have relocated and it ended with a social on Saturday evening that highlighted music and cuisine from the cultures represented.

Hope church began as a mission in 1980 after a series of meetings held by the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hartford with Evangelist Raymond Saunders. For 13 years the company wandered from location to location before finally finding a 2.5-acre lot in the neighboring town of Bloomfield and beginning construction on a permanent home. Many members assisted with the work, under the watch-



The construction of Hope church took place during the winter and spring of 1993. The octagonal sanctuary is flanked by a fellowship hall on one side and classrooms on the other.

ful eyes of an all-member management team, which included individuals with engineering, building, and legal expertise. The cost of the 350-seat edifice was approximately \$800,000.

The congregation now looks forward to the future.

During the mortgage burning ceremony current pastor Maxwell Ferguson shared plans for a community/youth center, which will complete Phase II of the original building project.

*Desiree Dowdell,  
communication director, Hope church*

## School—a Place to Learn and Grow

When I first decided to attend Northeastern Academy I have to admit I wasn’t sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised, though, to find on my first day of school students I already knew from elementary school. People I didn’t even know approached me, introduced themselves, and welcomed me to their school. They treated me as though I was part of their big family.

It didn’t take me long to realize that signing was one of my talents when I joined Northeastern Academy’s sign language group, “Hands of Praise.” As a result, I formed one of the first sign language groups in my church.

I finished the year fully satisfied with my accomplishments, happy that I made so many new friends, and grateful to God that I had the privilege to attend a school such as Northeastern Academy.

I am now a sophomore, no longer at the bottom of the chain, but not

fully at the top. There have been new teachers, new freshmen, and new expectations.

Before school started I had the privilege of talking to some of the incoming freshmen. I wanted them to feel comfortable. I told them the basics about what to expect and what would be expected of them. I told them that they should never hesitate to do something worthwhile at Northeastern because the students are very supportive.

The school year started with a week of revival. The title “Get it together—Now or Never” caught my attention. The speaker, a Northeastern Academy graduate, Mr. Powell, is a new teacher at the school. He is gifted in music and religion. He involved us in his conversation, instead of just talking and having us listen. He talked about having a good foundation. He stated that good foundational trees do not always produce good fruits

and bad foundational trees do not always produce bad fruit. Instead, in some instances, bad trees can produce good fruit with God’s help and some good trees are just for show while they produce bad fruit.

He reminded us of the rich young ruler who thought he was all good, but when it came time to give up all his belongings and follow Jesus, he couldn’t. Why? Because he was a tree that appeared good to outside viewers, but deep on the inside he produced bad fruit. Mr. Powell reminded us that we are never too messed up for God to change.

I learned a lot from that revival. It was like Sabbath every day. I was so proud when some of my friends accepted the call to baptism.

Even though school can be challenging I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

*Serena Morris, sophomore  
Northeastern Academy*

## NNEC Membership Crosses the 5,000 Mark

With a \$5,000 smile, Rita Smith, assistant to Merlin Knowles, conference executive secretary, recently came radiantly into my office and excitedly shared, "We now have 5,007 members!" A flood of appreciative emotions filled my heart. Together we praised and thanked God in prayer.

That is exciting and wonderful news. Even though numbers are just identifiers, these numbers represent people—people who have chosen to be ambassadors for Christ; people who are Adventists with the very spirit of Christ making a difference in their lives and communities; people who are responding to God's love and preparing for Jesus' second coming; and people who are brothers and sisters of our Adventist family.

It's interesting to note the growth in Northern New England Conference:

- 1945: Membership 2,182
- 1968: Membership 3,000
- 1987: Membership more than 4,000
- 2007: Membership 5,007

Beginning with a small, but God-ordained company of believers in 1844 to the establishment of our conference in 1910, to this present day, our conference has slowly, yet steadily, increased in numbers.



Mike Ortel

Global Adventist evangelism is growing at the rate of one million annually. Our worldwide membership currently is more than 15 million and this number is expected to reach 16 million in 2008.

Would you like to join me in allowing God to help us to evangelize our friends, neighbors, and relatives? He longs to help us. He longs to do great things through us.

If the passion for Christ is not vibrant in our hearts, minds, and lives, let's find out why. What is preventing us from sharing the greatest love story ever told? The only way the message of love is passed along is through

word of mouth, kindness of deed, and thoughtfulness of heart. Think for a moment: How am I letting God love me today? How am I passing that love along?

We have grown in numbers. I praise God. I praise each one who has shared God's purpose and plan. I praise each one who has prayed, preached, taught, written, and donated food, funds, energy, and expertise. "Evange-living" is exciting living.

Yet, there are unsatisfied and unconverted people all around us. God can make a difference in their lives. Let's go to them in God's ways. Let's be a part of growing the numbers with the next 1,000 people.

*Mike Ortel, president  
Northern New England Conference*

### Baptism at Auburn Church

Patricia Saucier was baptized on September 15 after attending the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maine for four years. Gloria Caron faithfully picked up Patricia each week and took her to church. Patricia, a former Pentecostal, listened intently each week, attending seminars, and taking in all that she heard. It was a glorious revelation to her when she recognized the true meaning of keeping the Sabbath, and it was her greatest desire to "keep the Sabbath holy." The head elder, Steven Wallace, was privileged to officiate at the service of baptism for Patricia. It was truly a high Sabbath as many of her family members and friends attended and witnessed her commitment as she took the dip signifying dying to sin and coming up reborn to live for Jesus. We are blessed to have Patricia as part of our church family.

*Joyce A. Leonard, communication secretary  
Auburn church*

Northern New England Conference Presents

## MUSIC CLINIC 2008

# Amazing Grace

April 3-5, 2008

Applications due  
December 1, 2007  
for early registration  
~ \$10 Savings

For applications  
or further information,  
please contact the  
NNEC Education Department  
at (207)797-3760, ext. 13  
or visit us at [www.nnec.org](http://www.nnec.org)

Hosted by Pine Tree Academy, 67 Pownal Road, Freeport, Maine  
Final piano application deadline February 1, 2008  
Final application deadline for all others March 1, 2008



## Searsmont Members Hold Meetings in the Philippines

Four members of the Searsmont Seventh-day Adventist Church in Searsmont, Maine, recently traveled to Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines to conduct a three-week evangelism/medical mission trip. The Northeastern Mindanao Mission, located in Butuan City, hosted the mission team. Although the Searsmont church had only recently been reorganized, members wasted no time in planning and sponsoring a mission project. The church family raised money to rent the facility and purchase projection and electronic equipment, evangelism program materials, and materials for children's ministries.

Bible workers were commissioned by the church in advance to lay the groundwork, resulting in over 40 baptisms. During the

final Sabbath service 111 candidates demonstrated their commitment to Jesus through public baptism. Each of the baptism participants (approximately one quarter of them under 16 years old) were presented a Bible appropriate for their age and language needs. At the end of the service the presiding pastor gave very pointed instructions to the church family concerning their responsibility in nurturing the new members.

The medical portion of the mission trip included the procurement of enough medicine to establish a temporary pharmacy, providing funds for additional doctors and dentists, as well as coordinating volunteer health workers. Medical field services included health screening, pharma-



During the final Sabbath service 111 individuals were baptized as a result of the evangelistic meetings.

ceutical administration, dental extractions, circumcision, and vision testing.

Through donations from members and supporters, funds were made available to the local conference to finish construction work on one church, and help with the rebuilding and remodeling of a local mission church. The Searsmont church continues to work with the Northeastern Mindanao Mission concern-

ing the critical medical needs of a young girl. She visited the medical mission, attended the nightly meetings, and dedicated her life to Jesus through baptism.

Each of the team participants received such a blessing that all have expressed an eagerness to return to the mission field soon and encourage others to experience what the Potter can do with the clay.

Mark Witham, member  
Searsmont church

Northern New England Conference Presents

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## Four Baptized at Conway Church

This year there has been rejoicing at the Conway Seventh-day Adventist Church as four individuals have publicly shared their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. The baptisms of Suzie and Graham Selby, Stacy Bolduc, and Danielle Kunz took place with their new church family happily watching. Their life-changing testimonies, along with tears of joy and songs of praise, were all part of a beautiful day. Al Cyr is the pastor of the Conway church and was the tool the Lord used to perform the baptisms. He and Darlene, his wife, have been a wonderful addition in the Conway church for the past two years.

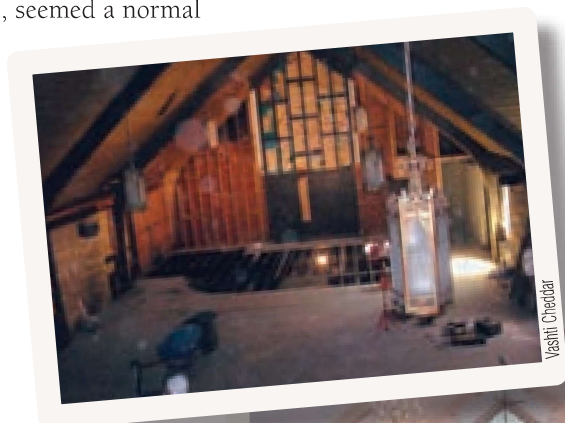
The Lord has done great works in our little country church and continues to bless us with His everlasting presence. All are welcome to come and fellowship.

Claudia Leonard, communication secretary  
Conway church

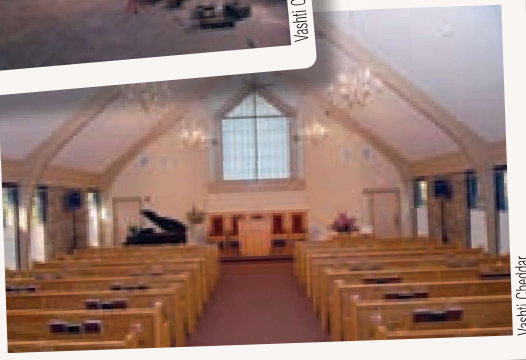
## FRAMINGHAM CENTRE REOPENS ITS DOORS AFTER DEVASTATING FIRE

January 28, 2006, seemed a normal Sabbath at the Framingham Centre Seventh-day Adventist Church. Following Sabbath services and a stewardship workshop everyone had gone home. Around 5:45 p.m. someone passing by noticed flames coming out of a basement window. By 11:00 p.m. the firemen had finished their work and were packing to leave. All that was left was a burned-out shell. The fire had consumed most of the church building and destroyed all of its contents. The fire chief later determined the fire started in the kitchen.

Members gathered that evening to sing, pray, cry, and share memories. As we walked through the building that night, we did not comprehend the extent of the damage or know that it would be 20 months until we would walk through those doors again.



The fire consumed most of the church building, leaving a burned-out shell, but 20 months later it's now a beautiful place of worship.



Building committee chair, Vasthi Cheddar, fourth from the left, and Pastor Dan Sierra, right, publicly recognized the building committee members: Reggie Simons, Endy Sustache, Jennifer Vazquez, Ursula Mejia, Thomas Giampa, Silvia Barnes, Jim Barnes, Daniel Cheddar (not pictured), and Gilberto Sustache (not pictured), who worked arduously for months, occasionally meeting weekly, during the rebuilding phase.



On September 15, 2007, the doors did open again to celebrate the grand reopening of the Framingham Centre church. Pastor Dan Sierra, joined by the Southern New England Conference president, Frank Tochterman, local elders Ursula Mejia, Joe Giampa, Bert Mathieson, and Jim Barnes, as well as charter member Tom Giampa, cut a ribbon as a symbol of a new beginning.

Plaques, gifts, and commemorations were given to the many people and organizations that assisted the church through the building and reopening process.

The Unitarian Universalist congregation and the Crossroads Community Church congregation were presented with appreciation

plaques and symbolic keys for their generosity and hospitality in giving the Framingham Centre church a place to worship when they did not have one.

When members left the service their hearts were filled with joy and their spirits renewed as they looked forward to returning the next week.

Vasthi Cheddar, building committee chairperson  
Framingham Centre church



Pastor Dan Sierra presented the Unitarian Universalist congregation and the Crossroads Community Church congregation with appreciation plaques and symbolic keys for their generosity and hospitality in giving the Framingham Centre church a place to worship when they did not have one.



Pastor Dan Sierra, joined by Southern New England Conference president, Frank Tochterman, local elders Ursula Mejia, Joe Giampa, Bert Mathieson, and Jim Barnes, as well as charter member Tom Giampa, cut a ribbon as a symbol of a new beginning.



## New England Ghanaian Church Adds 17 Through Baptism

The New England Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, had 17 people join the church on September 8, following an evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Kwabena Twum, East Ghana Conference president, and Pastor John K. Amoah, New England Ghanaian church pastor.

One main event preceding the 2007 public evangelistic series was Community and Cultural Day held on June 2. Approximately 50 visitors attended that event and were then contacted by phone and in their homes twice a week preparing them for the series. More than 40 people out of the 50 attended the meetings with 73 visitors total during the two-week series.

One person attending, Abigail Akosua Bekoe Boateng, was born and



The 17 people baptized were presented with flowers to commemorate this special occasion.

raised in an Adventist home, but had never taken a stand for the Lord. In fact, she mentioned to her parents, "I will need at least four pastors in order for me to be baptized." Whatever it meant, God heard it well. On the last day of the series when the baptisms took place, the family was visiting from New York to accompany an uncle who was coming to church for the first time after a short illness. When the final appeal was made for those who would like

to give their lives to the Lord, Abigail came forward in tears, determined to be baptized. It so happened that there were four pastors in the church that day.

Ahmid Seidu, reared in an Adventist home, had not responded to any of the appeals during the two weeks. When the baptisms began, he could not sit back any longer and asked an elder if he could be baptized.

In the church's history, which spans a period of nine years, this is the second public evangelistic cam-

paign held. The first one was conducted in 2000 and resulted in seven baptisms.

Throughout the years, the church has had small groups meetings, weekend events, such as a family enrichment series, a financial management series, and a weekend prayer emphasis, and has spent much time and money helping non-members who have just arrived from Ghana.

*John K Amoah, pastor  
New England Ghanaian church*

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## La iglesia presenta el índice más elevado de crecimiento desde la revisión de 2002

Cada adventista—desde Azerbaiyán a Nueva Zelandia— se encuentra acompañado en la actualidad por otros 15,433,470 miembros de esta denominación protestante, informó Matthew A. Bediako, secretario de la iglesia mundial, ante alrededor de 300 delegados al Concilio Anual reunidos en la sede central de la iglesia el pasado 14 de octubre.

Más de un millón de esos miembros se unieron a la iglesia adventista entre julio de 2006 y junio de 2007, lo que convirtió este año en el quinto consecutivo

en el año 2000 que se realizara una revisión de los listados de miembros en cada una de las 13 regiones mundiales, la pérdida consiguiente de más de un millón de miembros ha atemperado el crecimiento de la iglesia, ya que en 2006, de cada 100 nuevos miembros la iglesia perdió 45, informó Bediako.

Pero esa desalentadora tendencia de cinco años de la retención de miembros se revirtió, y la tasa de retención actual se encuentra en un “saludable” 76 por ciento, dijo Bediako. De cada 100 miembros que se unieron a la iglesia el año pasado, sólo 24, en lugar de 45,

decidieron dejarla, lo que representa “un cambio destacado,” dijo. Una vez que se tomó en cuenta la relación entre miembros ganados y perdidos, se puede ver que la iglesia recibió 681,448 miembros nuevos este año.

Esa cifra es muy seria, dijo Bert Haloviak, director de la Secretaría de Archivos y Estadísticas de la iglesia mundial. Haloviak agregó que el índice de crecimiento de la feligresía de este año (4.62 por ciento) es el más elevado desde el año 2002/2003 cuando la iglesia comenzó a efectuar una revisión de sus registros de miembros.

A pesar del crecimiento sostenido y de las noticias alentadores de la retención de miembros, Bediako recomendó ser cautelosos. “No podemos festejar hasta que logremos

eliminar de nuestros registros de miembros la columna de “miembros perdidos y ausentes,” dijo a los delegados.

Los informes detallados sobre la membresía pueden ser fastidiosos pero son necesarios si la iglesia desea mantener su integridad, dijo Bediako, que felicitó a las regiones mundiales por su ardua labor en la revisión de los informes de feligresía e instó a las regiones que todavía deben entregar sus informes a que lo hagan durante 2008. “Se espera que seamos honestos al informar de nuestra feligresía,” dijo.

Si bien algunos feligreses temen que la revisión de los libros pueda sabotear el crecimiento de la iglesia, Haloviak señaló que las tendencias de crecimiento “aparentemente positivas” prueban lo contrario: Las revisiones de membresía en realidad estimulan las ganancias de miembros y en general fortalecen a la iglesia.

Entre los diversos programas e iniciativas presentadas durante el informe del secretario estuvo Sus Manos (His Hands). Bajo este programa misionero de intercambio, las iglesias participantes eligen un proyecto misionero y seleccionan a un miembro que sirva en el lugar como misionero. Como contrapartida, reciben voluntarios de “His Hands” de tiempo completo para colaborar en sus congregaciones. Desde su lanzamiento en el Concilio Anual del año pasado, el programa ha producido un número significativo de bautismos, dijo Vernon Parmenter, director del Centro de Voluntarios Adventistas.

*Elizabeth Lechleitner, asistente editorial  
Adventist News Network  
14 de Octubre del 2007  
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi*

*English translation available at:  
[http://news.adventist.org/  
data/2007/09/1192400552/index.html.en](http://news.adventist.org/data/2007/09/1192400552/index.html.en)*



**Durante su informe anual, Matthew A. Bediako, secretario de la iglesia mundial dijo el crecimiento positivo de la iglesia no debería llevar a la complacencia. “Este es el tiempo de estar más alerta y activos que nunca,” dijo a los delegados al Concilio Anual el pasado 14 de octubre. (fotografías: Rajmund Dabrowski/ANN)**

en obtener semejante respuesta al mensaje adventista, dijo Bediako.

Los dirigenetes de la iglesia estiman que cada día se unen a la iglesia casi 3,000 personas, lo que quiere decir que en la actualidad, hay en el mundo un adventista por cada 429 personas.

La Iglesia Adventista, dijo Bediako, “jamás ha estado en una posición tan favorable de compartir la verdad” Pero, añadió, “esto no debería llevarnos a la complacencia y a sentirnos satisfechos. Este es el tiempo de estar más alerta y activos que nunca.”

Desde que los dirigenetes pidieron



## L'Église affiche le taux de croissance le plus haut, en termes de membres, depuis l'audit de 2002

Chaque adventiste, qu'il se réunisse en Azerbaïdjan ou en Nouvelle Zélande, se trouve désormais en compagnie de 15,435,470 membres de la dénomination mondiale protestante, a dit le secrétaire de la Conférence Générale, Matthew A. Bediako, aux 300 délégués du Conseil Annuel qui étaient réunis à la Conférence Générale en ce 14 Octobre.

Plus d'un million de membres ont rejoint l'église adventiste entre Juillet

conduire à avoir une attitude de suffisance et de contentement. Il est temps d'être plus vigilant et actif que jamais."

Depuis que les officiels de l'église ont appelé à des audits approfondis des membres dans les 13 divisions de l'église en 2000, la perte de plus d'un million de membres qui s'ensuivit a tempéré la croissance de l'église. Pour 100 nouveaux membres en 2006, l'église a perdu 45 membres.

L'inversion de la tendance démoralisante des

cinq dernières années dans le maintien des membres se manifeste dans le taux de maintien de cette année. Il est de 76 %. Pour 100 membres qui ont rejoint l'église cette année, 24 ont choisi de partir au lieu de 45. Pour M. Bediako, c'est un changement

"remarquable." Une fois ce rapport gain-perte pris en compte, l'église adventiste a gagné 681,448 membres cette année.

Bert Haloviak, directeur du bureau des archives et des statistiques, dit que ce chiffre "n'est pas mauvais." B. Haloviak fait remarquer que le taux de croissance en membres de cette année (4,62 %) est le taux le plus haut depuis l'année 2002-2003, lorsque les résultats des audits de membres ont fait leur apparition dans les livres.

Malgré la nouvelle d'une croissance régulière et d'un maintien des membres encourageant, M. Bediako recommande la prudence.

Il dit que des rapports approfondis sur les membres sont nécessaires si l'église a l'intention de conserver son intégrité. Il félicite les divisions pour leur travail assidu en la matière et leur recommande de continuer sur la même lancée en 2008. "On attend de vous que vous soyez honnêtes dans les rapports sur les membres."

Alors que certains membres d'église craignent que le fait de réexaminer les livres puisse saper la croissance de l'église, B. Haloviak fait remarquer que les tendances de croissance "qui semblent optimistes" prouvent le contraire. Les audits stimulent en fait le gain de membres et fortifient l'église en général.

Parmi un certain nombre de projets et initiatives présentés dans le rapport du secrétaire se trouve le programme "His Hands" (en français Ses Mains). Dans ce projet d'échange missionnaire, les églises participantes construisent un projet missionnaire et choisissent un membre d'église pour servir dans ce projet en tant que missionnaire. En retour, ils accueillent à plein temps des bénévoles de "His Hands" qui viennent aider les congrégations. Depuis son lancement lors du Conseil Annuel de l'an dernier, "His Hands" a suscité un nombre important de baptêmes, dit Vernon Parmenter, directeur du Centre de Bénévolat Adventiste.

*Elizabeth Lechleitner, asistente editorial  
Adventist News Network  
14 October, 2007  
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer*

*English translation available at: <http://news.adventist.org/data/2007/09/1192400552/index.html>*



**Bert Haloviak dirige le bureau des archives et des statistiques. Il dit que le taux de croissance des membres de cette année (4,62 %) est le taux de croissance le plus élevé depuis qu'il a été recueilli en 2002-2003 lorsque l'église a commencé à enregistrer le nombre de membres. (Photo: Rajmund Dabrowski/ANN)**

2006 et Juillet 2007, faisant de l'année 2006-2007 la cinquième année consécutive que le message adventiste provoque une telle réaction.

Les officiels de l'église estiment à presque 3,000 le nombre de personnes qui rejoignent l'église par jour. Ce qui signifie qu'on compte maintenant un adventiste pour 429 personnes.

M. Bediako déclare que l'église adventiste ne "s'est jamais trouvée dans une situation aussi favorable pour parler de la vérité." Mais il ajoute que "cela ne devrait pas nous



## A Statement on Religious Freedom

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).

### A Statement on Religious Freedom

For more than a century Seventh-day Adventists have been active promoters of religious freedom. We recognize the need to champion freedom of conscience and religion as a fundamental human right, in harmony with the instruments of the United Nations.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a presence in 209 countries. With some exceptions, however, Adventists constitute a religious minority, and have at times been subject to restrictions and discrimination. Consequently, they have felt it necessary to stand up for human rights.

As loyal citizens, Adventists believe they have the right to freedom of religion, subject to the equal rights of others. This implies the freedom to meet for instruction and worship, to worship on the seventh day of the week (Saturday), and to disseminate religious views by public preaching, or through the media. This freedom further includes the right to change one's religion, as well as to respectfully invite others to do so. Every person has a right to demand consideration whenever conscience does not allow the performance of certain public duties, such as requiring the bearing of arms. Whenever churches are given access to public media,

Adventists should in all fairness be included.

We will continue to cooperate and network with others to defend the religious liberty of all people, including those with whom we may disagree.①

*This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995.*

### 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.

### Religious Liberty Web sites

NAD Public Affairs & Religious Liberty:  
[www.nadfreedom.org](http://www.nadfreedom.org)

Liberty magazine: [www.libertymagazine.org](http://www.libertymagazine.org)

GC Public Affairs & Religious Liberty:  
[parl.gc.adventist.org](http://parl.gc.adventist.org)

North American Religious Liberty Association:  
[religiousliberty.info](http://religiousliberty.info)

### Web sites

Official Statements voted since 1980: [www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html)

Guidelines: [www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html)

Fundamental Beliefs: [www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html)

Church Manual: [www.adventist.org/beliefs/church\\_manual/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/church_manual/index.html)

Other Documents: [www.adventist.org/beliefs/other\\_documents/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/other_documents/index.html)

### Books

Available online at AdventSource ([www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) ([www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com))

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

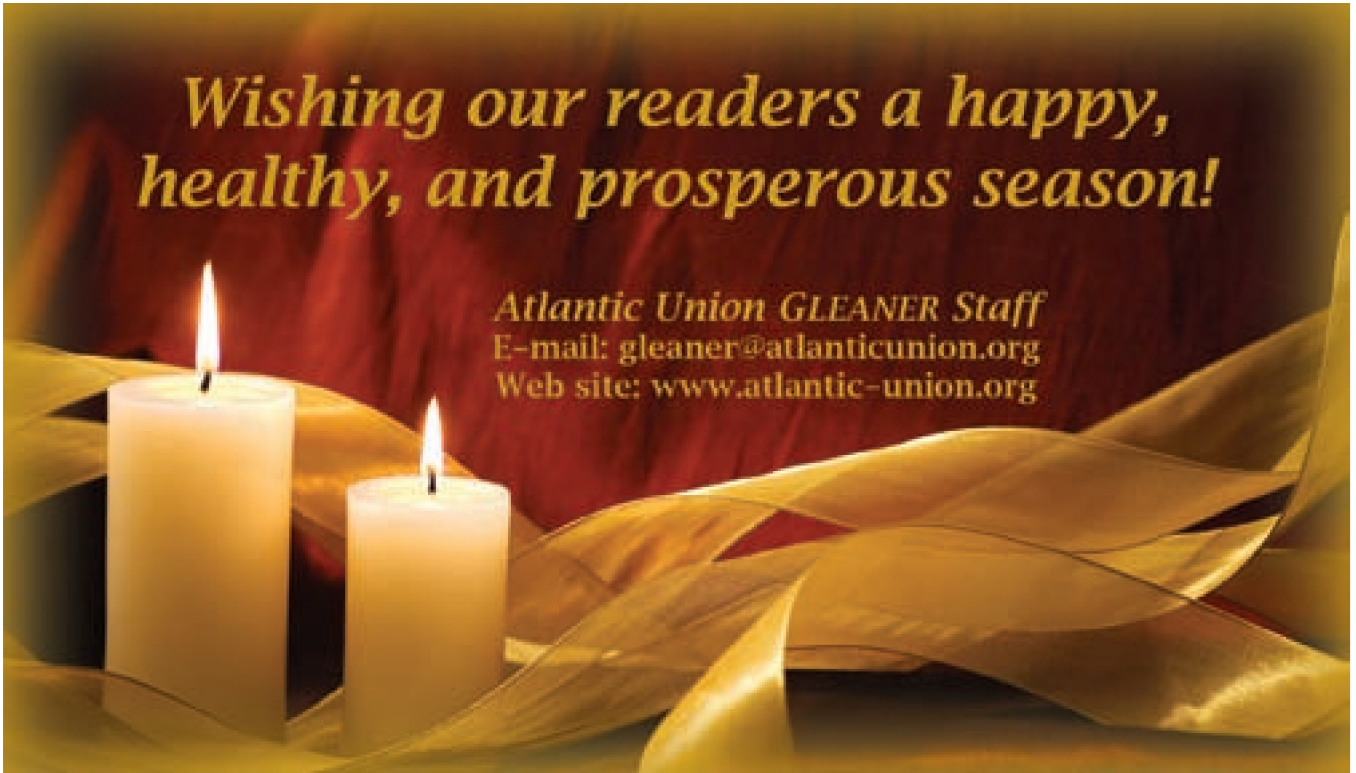
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL

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*Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff  
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<b>Teacher Licensure: baccalaureate &amp; post baccalaureate</b>	Early Childhood English	Elementary History
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# Bulletin Board



## Sunset Table

January 2008	4	11	18	25
Bangor, ME	4:08	4:16	4:24	4:34
Portland, ME	4:18	4:25	4:34	4:43
Boston, MA	4:25	4:33	4:41	4:50
So. Lancaster, MA	4:27	4:35	4:43	4:52
Pittsfield, MA	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58
Hartford, CT	4:33	4:41	4:49	4:57
New York, NY	4:42	4:49	4:57	5:05
Albany, NY	4:33	4:41	4:49	4:58
Utica, NY	4:39	4:47	4:55	5:04
Syracuse, NY	4:43	4:51	4:59	5:08
Rochester, NY	4:49	4:56	5:05	5:14
Buffalo, NY	4:55	5:02	5:10	5:19
Hamilton, Bda.	5:26	5:32	5:38	5:45

Eastern Standard Time

## ATLANTIC UNION

### ATLANTIC UNION

**Union-wide Women's Ministries Prayer Conference**—On August 15-17, 2008, in Albany, New York, the Atlantic Union Women's Ministries Department will celebrate the first union-wide prayer conference since 1995 (see [www.atlantic-union.org/womens.html](http://www.atlantic-union.org/womens.html)). We expect 2008 to be another historic year for women's ministries. We are anticipating the arrival of approximately 2,000 women to minister in the city of Albany as they are being ministered to.

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### SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

**South Lancaster Academy (SLA) Alumni Cruise**, October 20-27, 2008. You are invited to join us as we set sail for

our next alumni cruise on October 20, 2008. We will be setting sail from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on the Carnival Miracle, the very same ship we sailed on for our 1st alumni cruise. Our eight-day itinerary will take us to the beautiful Southern Caribbean where we will visit St Maarten, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts. You don't have to be an alumnus of SLA to join us. All are welcome. For more information please contact our travel agent, Gene Farrell, at Twin City Travel. His phone number is 1-800-698-6015. You can also contact me with additional questions at (978) 368-1667. Space is limited so make your reservations early. June Hilbert Harris, SLA '65

## OUT-OF-UNION

**Music at the 2010 GC Session in Atlanta**, June 23-July 3. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit [www.gcsession.org](http://www.gcsession.org) for details and application. Send all requested materials to NAD Music Coordinator, Attn: Ron Christman, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Deadline for application: January 31, 2009.

## OBITUARIES

**LOCKERY, Jacqueline Ann (Hjalmeer)**—b. Sept. 28, 1943, in Hartford, Conn.; d. Oct. 11, 2007, in Glastonbury, Conn. She was a member of the Norwich Seventh-day Adventist Church in Conn. Survivors include: her mother, Lorraine (Wegner) Salters, a sister, Gail (Hjalmeer) Mitrowski; a brother, Robert C. Hjalmeer; a son, Michael Lockery; a daughter, Tracy Smith; six grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth Lockery.

**LUTHER, Richard "Rich" A.**—b. July 31, 1943, in Collins, N.Y.; d. October 5, 2007, in Baltimore, Md. He was an active member of the Norridgewock church. He graduated from Union Springs Academy. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Bette Farley Luther; two daughters, Tammy Luther Moody and her husband, Christopher Moody, of Norridgewock, Maine, Deborah Luther Howell and her husband, Christopher D. Howell, of Clarksville, Md.; and a son, Rick Luther and his wife, Victoria M. Luther, of Silver Spring, Md. Additionally, he leaves three grandsons, Allen and Cody Moody, and Kyle Luther, and three granddaughters, Jasmine and Camilia Howell, and Krista Luther. He is also survived by two brothers, Kenneth of Collins, N.Y., and Calvin, of East Concord, N.Y.; and two sisters, Darlene Luther Parsell, of Collins, N.Y. and Diane Luther DeNoon, of Bradenton, Fla. He was predeceased by his sister, Betty Luther Stefl, and his parents, Eugene and Myrtle Luther.

**PRATT, Benjamin**—63, b. May 12, 1944, in Brunswick, Maine; d. Sept. 13, 2007,

in Portland, Maine. He was the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church Food Pantry director for more than 10 years. Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Carolyn Pratt, his daughter and her husband, Jennifer and Shawn Kerwin of Monmouth, Main, his son and his wife, Dennis and Susan Pratt of Durham, Maine; three grandchildren, Laura, James, and Allison.

## CHRISTMAS AT CADILLAC JACK'S

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# We Remember

## Leon H. Davis

### Conference and Union Director

DAVIS, Leon H.—87, b. May 8, 1920, in East St. Louis, Ill.; d. Sept. 23, 2007, in Brooksville, Fla. He graduated from Oakwood Junior College in 1943 and attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University). He was ordained by the Lake Region Conference July 2, 1949. He served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 42 years. He served as a pastor in Muncie, Richmond, and Marion Ind., and Springfield, Peoria, and Decatur, Ill. He was involved in departmental work in the Lake Region Conference as youth leader and education department secretary; Northeastern Conference as youth, publications, temperance director and the education superintendent; and the Atlantic Union Conference as director in various capacities: public relations, religious liberty, youth, communication, and as editor of the GLEANER from October 1, 1967, until his retirement on June 30, 1986.

He leaves to mourn, his wife of 62 years, Althea Davis, three brothers, Roy Davis of Bronx, NY. Charles Davis (Gwendolyn) of Harvey, Ill., Frank Davis (Elma) of Chicago, Ill.; four sisters Lorraine Henri of Jonesboro, Ga., Lovey Verdun of Huntsville, Ala., Doris Joyner of E. St. Louis, Ill, and Grace Phipps (Edward) of Bronx, New York; four granddaughters, Crystle, Christina, Cassandra, and Caroline; one brother-in-law Werner (Grace), and nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Leon Jr.

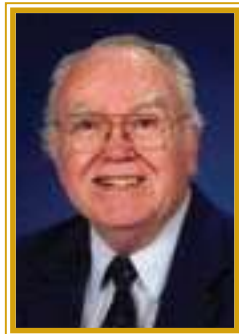


## Walter E. Kloss

### Hospital Chaplain

KLOSS, Walter E.—79, b. Jul. 4, 1927, in Wilkes Barre, Penn.; d. June 22, 2007, in Lecanto, Fla. He was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor/chaplain for 49 years and was the chaplain for New England Memorial Hospital in Stoneham, Mass., for 25 years. He served as pastor in the Pennsylvania and Southern New England conferences. He graduated from South Lancaster Academy in 1944, then entered the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1946. He graduated from the New England Aircraft School (1948) and became a master mechanic in 1949. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in 1956, Potomac University in Washington, D.C., in 1958, and Newport University in 1983. He was a licensed social worker, addiction counselor, and pastoral psychologist. He was a member of the College of Chaplains from 1966 to 1992 and received the National Distinguished Award in 1991. He authored numerous publications and articles on healthy living. He was a member of the American Lung Association of Massachusetts and the national level from 1966 to 1992, and national president of the American Lung Association from 1976 to 1978.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Virginia; one daughter, Pamela Jane Dawson of Stoneham, Mass.; one son, Walter Eric of Georgetown, Mass.; and three grandchildren.



## Doctor J. Smith

### Evangelist and Pastor

SMITH, Doctor J.—72, b. Feb. 24, 1935, in Rose Hill, N. C.; d. June 15, 2007, in Boston, Mass., while concluding the second week of a three-week evangelistic tent effort. He graduated from Oakwood College in 1976, then pursued pastoral counseling and graduate studies at the New York Theological Seminary. He was ordained by the Northeastern Conference in 1980. He was the pastor of the following congregations: Mount Sinai and Solid Rock in Queens, N.Y.; Mount Vernon in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Newburgh Tabernacle and Ellenville in Hudson Valley, N.Y.; Trinity Temple in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Shiloh in Springfield, Mass., and Berea in Nyack, N.Y. He officially retired on Dec. 17, 2006, after 30 years of ministry.

He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, Queen E. Smith of Springfield Gardens, N.Y.; one son, Ron Smith (Yolanda) of Atlanta, Ga.; one daughter, Cheryl of Baltimore, Md.; three grandchildren, Nevilon II, Ron II, and Dawn; three sisters, Kate Smith of N.Y., Dixie Powell of N.Y., and Eva Brunson of N.C.; nephews, Perry Lee, Royal Jr., Michael and Freddie; nieces, Aljean, Marie, Jackie, Sheila, Yolanda, Alicia, Angela, Sherry, and Pardice; many great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Patricia, and three siblings, Pernel, Royal, and Fred.



# THE ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

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