

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JANUARY 2008

GLEANNER

Atlantic Union Exceeds
100,000 Members

**New Direction for
Atlantic Union College**

Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Talk

Adventist Education

¿Qué Está Pasando?

inside **JANUARY** 2008

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The Atlantic Union realized a significant milestone in its 106-year history—its membership surpassed 100,000. Read more about that in this month's cover story beginning on page 4. In addition, our regular features include: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. The cover photo of Donald G. King, Atlantic Union president, baptizing Natalie Simms, symbolizing the 100,000th member to be baptized in the Atlantic Union, was taken by Karlon Cromwell, C-Well Productions Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

To faithfully chronicle the work and progress of the church in the Atlantic Union territory and inform, instruct, and inspire our church members.

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

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

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Who's Looking Out for Our Kids?

Our children must be the Seventh-day Adventist Church's primary and most urgent imperative if they are to become spiritual leaders and upright citizens. George Barna, in his 2003 book, *TRANSFORMING CHILDREN INTO SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS*, states that what a child believes by the age of 13 is what he/she will die believing! Thank God for His transforming grace on those who believed and practiced the "grossest error," but are now living in accordance with the principles of heaven.

If our children are going to grow to be spiritually strong, we must focus our financial and human resources on them now and, hopefully, catch them early enough to make a difference for their future. But who's looking out for them?

I believe the time has come for the full arsenal of home, church ministries, and church school ministries to be combined to impact our kids in a powerful and meaningful way for their spiritual future. It means that every home, every church, and every school must focus, to the very best of their ability, on making sure that every young child who comes within the sphere of our influence receives the chance to become a biblical follower of Jesus before becoming a teenager.

Barna continues to point out his research showing that the majority of Christian spiritual leaders today are those who were impacted with church life and spiritual training before becoming a teenager. Proverbs 22:6 is pertinent here: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Parents, pastors, and teachers are profoundly and vitally important in the training up of a child. In fact, it takes the whole community to do so. Unfortunately, many parents and families have abandoned and abdicated the responsibility of spiritual development to the local church and/or the church school. This ought not be. And I speak now to you, parents, as you begin this new year. Do you know where your children are? Do you know what they're watching on TV? Are you aware of the evil, sinister, insidious spiritualism that pervades the so-called kiddie programs on TV? Do you know who their friends are? Parents, guard

well those first ten to twelve years of life. Those years set a clear tone for the future!

Pastors, you are the guardian of the flock, not just for the adults, but the little ones who come under your influence, even as they came to Jesus during His life on earth. Suffer (allow) the little children to come to you. Among other things, take the opportunity to tell the children's story on Sabbath morning. Church work includes nurturing the elderly/young adults, and also molding the very young to become spiritual champions for God.

Teachers, what a winning opportunity you have to engage your kids on a daily basis at school and to transmit spiritual values. This strikes at the very heart of the purpose of Adventist Christian education. What a high calling it is to be a Christian teacher. In the highest sense, and in your sphere, you are a minister of the gospel to the world's future through our kids. I commend you, teachers, for your commitment to such a high and holy cause.

In the Atlantic Union, our schools have taken on the task of an initiative called "Students Tell the World." As a result of these students actually preaching in evangelistic meetings, many of their peers have accepted the Lord and have been baptized. This is big! This is awesome!

I know what it feels like to see an individual come to the Lord and decide to be baptized. I know the joy and sense of spiritual ecstasy that comes with seeing someone surrender to the claims of Jesus. I felt that late last year when I personally baptized the 100,000th person into the Adventist church in the Atlantic Union (see page 4).

As we embark upon another year on planet Earth, may 2008 be special in your lives. May a difference be made in the lives of our children before that critical turning point—essentially the same age that Jesus was when He expressed His convictions to the lawyers and doctors on His visit to Jerusalem.

My wife, Lois, and I wish you all a very successful and spiritually prosperous New Year! The entire staff at the Atlantic Union office does the same. May His peace never cease in your hearts!

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



“Church work includes nurturing the elderly/young adults, and also molding the very young to become spiritual champions for God.”



Atlantic Union Exceeds 100,000 Members

During the fourth quarter 2007, the Atlantic Union Conference realized a significant milestone in its 106-year history—its membership surpassed 100,000. This was made possible as a result of the combined efforts of the six conferences that comprise the Atlantic Union—Bermuda, Greater New York, New York, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England. Conference leaders, church leaders, and church members have taken to heart the gospel commission to “tell the world” and have been sharing the hope of Christ’s soon return resulting in many new members.

In recognition of this important achievement, on September 8, 2007, during a series of evangelistic meetings at the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Bronx, New York, Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, baptized Natalie Simms, symbolizing the 100,000th member to be baptized in the Atlantic Union. The weekend meetings at the Sharon church were part of a series of meetings conducted under

the direction of Courtney Goulding, the church’s pastor. Approximately 300 people were present at the service, which was streamed live to the attendees of the “Brooklyn for Jesus” evangelistic meetings that were being held in New York City. “This was a memorable and historical occasion for the Adventist Church in the Atlantic Union territory,” said King. “It was a symbolic moment that characterized the growth of the work in the north-east region of the United States.

We thank God for His leading and pray for His continued blessings.”

In a world where, at any given moment, somewhere someone is dying, someone is grieving, someone has received the news that they are terminally ill, someone has just lost a job, someone is contemplating suicide, and the sorrow, sadness, and loss of hope repeats in a cycle over and over again, the good news is that members in the Atlantic Union are “planting seeds of hope” everywhere.

The conference administrators are to be commended for their leadership and for implementing programs that help foster growth in their respective fields. The Bermuda Conference, under the leadership of Jeffrey Brown, the recently reelected president, has more than 3,942 mem-



Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, baptized Natalie Simms, symbolizing the 100,000th member to be baptized in the Atlantic Union.

bers and 10 churches. Greater New York Conference led by Richard A. Marker has a membership of more than 23,554 and 145 churches. In the New York Conference, where Stan Rouse is president, the membership now exceeds 5,045 with 63 churches. Trevor H. C. Baker provides leadership in the Northeastern Conference with its more than 47,303 members and 164 churches. In the Northern New England Conference, President Mike Ortel and the entire office staff are giving God praise for the fact that the conference membership has grown beyond 5,000 members who are worshipping in 59 churches. And the Southern New England Conference, with Frank Tochtermann at the helm, is reporting more than 15,000 members and 103 churches.

An added component beginning in 2006 was the "Students Tell the World" initiative sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education

with the support of the principals of the elementary schools and academies. Students were given the opportunity to present evangelistic meetings, which resulted in several baptisms. In fact, it was exciting to be given the opportunity to hear such students as, Chris Daum, Heidi Munding, Eric Morris, Robert Drexler, Jessica Malcolm, and Rebecca Barcelo give their testimonies about their participation in the "Students Tell the World" meetings at a special worship at the Atlantic Union Conference office last year. They, too, expressed their excitement about sharing this message of hope.

By surpassing 100,000 members, the Atlantic Union has just begun to scratch the surface in this multicultural, multi-ethnic field with the message of salvation and the hope of a soon-coming King. This is "prime time" for the members of the more than 544 churches in the Atlantic Union to become beacons of light in their surrounding communities and bring messages of hope to the hopeless.

This achievement is not just about reporting numbers or meeting goals. It is about realizing that more and more people in the history of the Atlantic Union are connecting to a wonderful Savior and friend. More than ever before, people are developing relationships with God because of their interactions with Seventh-day Adventists. As has been reported throughout 2007 in the GLEANER, people are learning about a wonderful Savior through church services, health fairs, Bible studies, tent meetings,

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Internet evangelism, Internet television and radio, community events and programs sponsored by the churches, door-to-door witnessing, one-to-one evangelism, and the list goes on.

The Atlantic Union Conference's mission is clear, and that is "to lead all people, through the power of the everlasting gospel, into a growing, balanced, mature Christian experience; to develop the church family; to serve the local community; and to prepare every person for the soon coming of Jesus Christ." If every member participates in the ongoing initiative "Tell the World... Tell Atlantic Union," many more individuals will hear about Jesus Christ.

So, the invitation is extended to each of us to bring at least one person into fellowship with God and His family in 2008. Imagine what a blessing that will be for them and for us!🙏



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



It was at the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 8, 2007, during a weekend evangelistic meeting under the direction of Courtney Goulding, the church's pastor, that the baptism symbolizing the 100,000th member in the Atlantic Union took place.

When World Views COLLIDE

A few years ago I was attending a friend's Christmas open house when I found myself engaged in a very nice, religion-neutral conversation with a Jewish neighbor. Suddenly sensing that we were speaking about Judaism, another party guest came over and waited patiently for a break in the conversation before she intervened with her much-awaited opening line, "The only reason God is blessing the United States is because we support Israel!" She said it with such gusto and authority in her voice, it implied that she dared anyone to deny that statement.

I, on the other hand, felt like a deer caught in the headlights. If you haven't already guessed, I'm an Arab-American. Being an Arab-American engaged in pleasant small talk with a Jew, in some circles of my extended family, would cause eyebrows to raise. Talk about that awk-

ward moment of silence that sometimes happens in a conversation! I'm sure it was only seconds, but it felt like years. If there was one thing my Mamma told me, it was that "politics and religion do not good party-mixers make." Did this woman really want to start that conversation between an Arab and a Jew? Luckily, I'll never know how that conversation would have proceeded, because the

hostess of the party, from across the room, hurried over to intervene.

I'm sure stranger things have been said at Christmas parties, but this Christian woman thought she was in good company. The majority of Christian evangelical writers, preachers, and adherents in general, share an eschatological misunderstanding of the book of Revelation. Their end goal is reflective of an interpretation of



Revelation 20:3-6, which they believe will take place on earth with Jesus' thousand-year reign.

If you understand the deception that such books as *LEFT BEHIND* perpetrate, you understand the danger of Christians who deceive themselves just as blindly as Judas himself did. It's an interpretation that is reflected not only in their religion, but also in their politics. Politically, they are supportive of policies that support and preserve the nation-state of Israel. They do this because their prophetic interpretation of Revelation is based on an understanding that Christ's return to earth will not and cannot happen until Jerusalem has been fully restored. These evangelicals believe that only the nations who align themselves with this task will receive a blessing from God and that nations that do not set this as a priority or who oppose this world view will be cursed by God.

Since my father is Muslim, some may be tempted to say I am biased against Israel because of my upbringing. But I see the issue much differently. A few years ago when Cliff Goldstein was editor of *LIBERTY* magazine, we traveled together for the religious liberty offering campaign. In the first church we went to, Cliff stood up and pointed out that we were quite the odd pair to be on the platform together—a Jew from Miami and an Arab with ties to Baghdad. But as he continued his introduction, he pointed out that only in the Seventh-day Adventist faith could you find such camaraderie between people connected to nations torn apart by an age-old conflict. It is true that both Jews and Muslims share one thing in common—besides all being sons of Abraham—they all fail to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, and Savior of the world. How can we, as Adventists, take sides with those who ignore this all-important truth? Just as important, how can we take sides with people who are prepared to accept a counterfeit Jesus (the Anti-Christ)?

Additionally, how can we as Adventists stand by and ignore what is slowly but surely happening in America today? Today prophecy is being fulfilled as Protestants (evangelicals) unite with Catholics for what they consider the good of society. Protestants are now willing to lay aside the doctrinal differences (those biblical issues that have distinguished denominations from one another) in favor of the social and moral agendas they have established today.

Most evangelicals have the same goal that Adventists have—to work toward the day when all will worship Christ.

“Religious liberty advocates are concerned when the line between politics and religion becomes so blurred that you cannot distinguish between the two.”

Evangelical interpretation of Revelation 20 reveals that they believe the 1,000 years of prophetic time occurs here on earth instead of in heaven. If what they believe is true, then they must also be practical in realizing that in order for Christ's kingdom to be established (not only on earth, but in Jerusalem), the use of force to achieve compliance fits into God's plan. So in preparing for Christ to reign supreme, they must implement political and legislative initiatives in order to fulfill those prophecies found in Revelation. How different their world view is from that of Adventism. Increasingly leaders of

the evangelical community are preaching “right by might.” Increasingly, the evangelical community is engaging in bending Washington's might for their own purposes.

Claims by evangelicals after the 2004 election, that it was their influence that won the presidency for the Republicans have been noticed—not only by the news media but even by the Democrats. Starting as early as 2006, Democratic hopefuls started releasing stories about their own faith experiences. In September 2007 during the New Hampshire Democratic debate, Tim Russert's final question was one directed at challenging them to share their faith by asking each to share their favorite Bible verse. Presidential hopefuls like Mitt Romney, John McCain, and even Rudy Guilani have made strong statements in the past few weeks on their own religious views, in an attempt to persuade voters that they are the right men for the job. There is more news on their religion than their politics. Now here we are in January 2008. The first primary race in South Carolina is only days away. History is in the making this campaign year. Candidates from all sides, not just the Republicans, are preparing to appeal, not only to your politics, but to your religion, as well.

Religious liberty advocates are concerned when the line between politics and religion becomes so blurred that you cannot distinguish between the two. I meet more and more Christians today who cannot make that distinction. And while the political party you personally vote for may be as sacred to you as your faith, I would remind Adventists that God is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. In a year when the election issues are going to permeate all aspects of society, my best advice is to leave politics at home. Adventists, in general, have no problem leaving politics on the church step. Can we say the same of evangelicals whose ties are so close to

I pray that Adventists recognize that we claim not only a different worldview, but a work for Christ that lies not with earthly powers, but with spiritual truths found in the Bible

their religious beliefs and this misunderstanding that Christians must take back America for God (in preparation for Jesus's earthly reign), that it means doing so by force?

I pray that Adventists recognize that we claim not only a different worldview, but a work for Christ that lies not with earthly powers, but with spiritual truths found in the Bible.

Now a few years later I'm still debating whether I'm glad my friend intervened at that Christmas party, or whether I missed an opportunity to set the lady straight on Revelation. But I came away from that party with the certainty that, even a seemingly innocent statement like this forces us to understand how important it is to have a correct application of prophecy and interpretation of Revelation in these critical times. As Adventists, we cannot ignore religious liberty because it is closely tied to our defense of spiritual and constitutional truths. It behooves us all to defend and support such a cause.®



Amireh Al-Haddad is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Southern Union Conference.

Election Year Prohibition on Political Campaigns Within Churches

In a campaign year that looks to be as heavily “religious” as it does political, it is every members duty to be cautious and protect the church’s tax-exempt status.

- Under IRS code all 501(c)(3) organizations (churches) are prohibited in a very strict manner from participating either directly or indirectly with any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for elective public office. This includes any official running in local, state, or federal elections.
- The prohibition goes beyond candidate endorsement. It includes contributions to campaign funds, and public statements of position (either written or verbal).
- Allowing a candidate to use the church’s assets or property (facilities) is also prohibited.
- Church leaders cannot make partisan statements in publications (including Web sites) or functions.
- In an election year, always check the IRS rules for specific issues involving candidate appearances in your church. The IRS rules detail what is permissible and what is prohibited.
- Voter guides gained popularity in the mid- and late 90s. New rules have been issued on voter guides. The best advice is to refrain from passing out voter guides in church or on church property. When in doubt, check the IRS rules and be sure to be in compliance. Voter guides are the trickiest campaign issues to deal with, especially when well-meaning church members distribute them at church.

This is not an exhaustive list of prohibitions. It is important to remember that when you violate any one of these rules, you risk jeopardizing the church’s tax-exempt status. If you have questions, you can always contact the Public Affairs department or check the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov.

The Best Advice: *Concentrate on the spiritual realm rather than the political realm when at church.*

Bermuda Institute Receives Generous Grant

The Bermuda Institute administration was pleased and thankful to receive \$115,200 from the Bank of Bermuda Foundation. The gift was given in response to a proposal from Frigga Simmons, Bermuda Institute's director of development, for assistance in upgrading technology throughout the school. This grant will enable the school to purchase 72 computers

for the classrooms from grades K-12. The students and teachers are especially appreciative and excited, as this grant will greatly enhance student learning in the classroom and make students more accountable for their own learning. An order to Dell Corporation was immediately placed and the computers arrived before school closed for the Christmas break. What a Christmas present!



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The Bank of Bermuda Foundation has assisted Bermuda Institute with projects in the past. Two of the most outstanding are the granting of \$100,000 toward the building of our science lab and the partnership with Bermuda Institute of \$60,000 when we acquired the Family Studies Lab. The school is indeed grateful to the foundation

for the confidence it has shown in our school.

The Bermuda Institute has again been assured that all of their needs shall be supplied and that the cattle on a thousand hills belong to our God. Praise be to His name for His bountiful blessings.

*Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference*

? What's Happening in Your Church?

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

Submit all articles and photos to your conference communication director.

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

We would love to hear from you!

New ABC Manager

With an engaging smile, a bundle of energy, and a pocketful of new ideas, Carolyn James entered the Adventist Book Center on October 22, 2007, ready to accept her new challenge as Adventist Book Center manager. By the end of the first week, her personal touch was evident throughout the store. Some of the immediate changes were physical changes: fresh produce, homemade cookies, and an abundance of new products.

Carolyn, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is a graduate of Oakwood College and brings nine years of experience to this position. In 2005, she married Shannon James and moved to the island. While employed with the Bermuda Government, Carolyn was asked to work for the church. Her vision for the Adventist Book Center is "to become the island's complete source for healthy living and spiritual completeness with Jesus Christ."



Carolyn James is the new manager for the Adventist Book Center in Bermuda.

We welcome her as the Bermuda conference's newest employee.

*Sheila Holder, communication director
Bermuda Conference*

United Korean Group Celebrates 29th Camp Meeting

From August 4-11, 2007, more than 60 Korean church leaders, lay members, their neighbors, guests, and young people of all ages came from as far as the east side of the Mississippi River to gather together at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the United Korean Camp Meeting. More than 900 individuals attended the event.

On the opening night, Richard A. Marker, Greater

New York Conference president, surprised the group with a welcome address.

There were several presenters, including Sang Lae Kim, Jong Keun Lee, a Sahmyook Korean University professor, Chul Wan Kim, Joo Young Kim, Kyung Hwa, and Sang Ki Ahn. They shared with us an abundance of spiritual and mental food.

The youth section of the camp meeting was truly blessed. According to many

who attended, this was not only the best youth camp meeting we've ever had, but also the best attended since the inception of the United Korean Camp Meeting 29 years ago.

On the closing Sabbath, the New York Central Korean Choir performed a Cantata, "The Confession of the Witnesses." This was the highlight of the camp this year.

During the final hours of that Sabbath afternoon, two

adults and several youth were baptized in the university swimming pool by Benjamin Soh, Greater New York Conference Korean Ministries director, and youth pastor M. C. Shin.

We praise the Lord for the blessings received during the 29th United Korean Camp Meeting.

*Benjamin Soh, pastor and Korean Camp Meeting Committee chairman
New York Central Korean church*



Photos: Sang Nam Shin



According to many who attended, the youth section of the camp meeting was not only the best youth camp meeting we've ever had, but also the best attended since the inception of the United Korean camp meeting 29 years ago.

More than 900 individuals attended the 29th annual United Korean Camp Meeting held at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Victory Church Launches Live Streaming and Annual "Preach Out" Service

The Victory church launched live streaming during its first annual "Preach Out" service on Sabbath, October 20, 2007. They will continue to stream all Sabbath services on Praizevision.com.

The successful launch and well-attended "Preach Out" service was presented under the theme "Tell the World," with an emphasis on the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The service was truly a festival of preaching and praise with a

roster that included Easton Marks, Victory church's senior pastor, Gregory Carrol, Victory church's associate pastor, Hubert Wilkie, Philadelphia church's senior pastor, James Yansen, Jr., Berea (Boston) church's associate pastor, Conrad White, Ebenezer church's senior pastor, and G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference executive secretary.

The service was a tremendous blessing and was well received by the congregation. The unusual

worship format included all regular worship program features, but was interspersed with six 30-minute sermons with a charge from each speaker to stir the congregation into active service for the Lord. The first sermon was presented at 10:00 a.m. by Pastor Carrol and left many latecomers scrambling for seats. The concluding sermon, with a still packed church, was given by Pastor Marks.

*Pamela Beckford, communication director
Victory church*

Greater New York Conference Shepherdess Prayer Breakfast

A group of pastors' wives enjoyed fellowship along with a delicious brunch when they gathered for the first Shepherdess Ministries meeting sponsored by Bonnie Marker, the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) president's wife.

The keynote speaker was Lois King, Shepherdess Ministries coordinator for the Atlantic Union. We were blessed and challenged by her dynamic presentation, "On Being a Pastor's Wife." She spoke about having a

positive attitude, developing self-efficacy, which she explained is a judgment of one's own capability to perform a task or engage in an activity, and being confident, which makes you feel capable and enables you to accept challenges.

The brunch, held at the Old Westbury church, was prepared by, Marlene Romeo, a pastor's wife. Music was presented by Helene and Catherine Mattenson, members of a pastor's family. "Words with God" prayer time was

presented by several pastors' wives: Lillian Mitchell, English; Chilene Barthelemy, French; Lois Soh, Korean; Elena Siciliano, Multi-ethnic; and Mery Monroy Spanish. The pastor's wives surrounded me as King prayed a special prayer of commitment and dedication.

At the end of the meeting the Shepherdess group enjoyed a surprise visit from Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference, president.

*Bonnie Marker, Shepherdess Ministries sponsor
Greater New York Conference*



Lois King, Atlantic Union Conference Shepherdess Ministries coordinator, was the keynote speaker for the Greater New York Conference pastors' wives during their first Shepherdess Ministries meeting sponsored by Bonnie Marker, the GNYC president's wife.

Building with Love

"Building with Love" and "My Church, the House of God" were the themes that motivated the members of the New York Luso-Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Church for the past 10 years to build a sanctuary to the Lord.

The story began 36 years ago when a small group of people in Manhattan decided to begin holding worship services in Portuguese. Since then, God has blessed their efforts in a powerful way. Amazing conversions have taken place, such as that of Gastón Valenzuela, a native of Chile who recently moved to New York. Last year Gastón noticed a billboard in a restaurant advertising seminars on prophecies. He had had some previous contact with the Adventist Church and now having the opportunity to be introduced to the Adventist message again, he said, "I came back home." He was baptized last year, 25 years after his first contact with the church. Gastón worked as

one of the painters in the church, along with many other construction workers and members who were guided and motivated by Pastor Cláudio Vilela to finish the project.

The speaker at the consecration service held on Friday, October 26, was Pastor Alejandro Bullón. Members of two other Brazilian churches in New York and many visitors attended the meetings. Three people were baptized during the weekend.

Sabbath morning, after the inauguration ribbon was cut, about 500 children and adults entered to start the Sabbath School in the new sanctuary. A mass choir, formed by members of all ages accompanied by other singing groups and instrumentalists, sang "To God Be the Glory!" In the evening The King's Heralds presented a concert closing the Sabbath activities. Former pastors presented the Word of God each evening during the entire week. They helped to strengthen

the church and recall God's blessings. The evening meetings closed with a Communion service.

On Sunday, November 4, the Luso-Brazilian church celebrated its 36th anniversary with a music concert. It was more than a week of spiritual celebration to thank God for the privilege of building Him a temple.

Etiene and Ruth Santos said, "Among the pioneers, we imagined that the small group would grow, but we never thought it would be so amazing!" In the city that "never sleeps," made famous by its majestic buildings, this church building will keep shining the light that will guide the path of thousands of peregrines.

The doors of the Brazilian church in New York will be opened to fulfill the purpose for which it was built—to finish the work of God in earth.

*Kenia Kopitar, Bible worker
New York Luso-Brazilian church
www.nybrazilianchurch.com*



Atlantic Union College and South Lanca

New Direction for Atlantic Union College

The Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees voted on December 10, 2007, to move the college in a new direction. Its curricula will be rewritten to focus the entire school on preparing students for community service and contemporary Christian leadership.

"This is blazing new ground in Adventist education," said Norman Wendth, who has been AUC's president since June 2007. Unlike some of its sister colleges that have established departments or internal agencies devoted to community building, AUC wants that mission to permeate every corner of its South Lancaster campus. For example, if you are a business major, not only are you learning business skills, but also learning business in a way that will help you contribute to the community. Some majors that aren't identified with "helping professions" may be eliminated. In the end, the college wants "a narrower focus on what we do, to do it extremely well, and be very profitable."

Donald G. King, board chairman, said that the change would fit in well with the school's 125-year history of service. "This more specific and specialized emphases will develop student contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the world in a more energetic, proactive, and broader way. Contemporary Christian leadership will help men and women become good citizens of this earth and also the kingdom of God."

More detailed information will be presented in a subsequent issue of the *GLEANER* or visit the college's Web site at www.auc.edu.

"This has been a very exciting year at Atlantic Union College," says Bordes Henry Saturné, chair of the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee. "South Lancaster Academy and Atlantic Union College joined their energies to celebrate this 125th anniversary. We are grateful for the presence of the Holy Spirit, who spoke meaningfully throughout the various ceremonies on our theme 'Share the Light.'"

"One-hundred-twenty-five years is a major landmark," states Atlantic Union College president Norman Wendth.

"We are the cornerstone of Adventist education and we call ourselves that because we are the oldest continuously operated Adventist institution of higher education. It's a very important role we play for the church, especially in the northeast. This 125th anniversary is an opportunity to stop and reflect on that role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to remind others of what our contributions have been."

125th anniversary celebration presentations began last spring in February, March, and April at the Stoneham, Massachusetts; Brunswick, Maine; Union Springs, New York; and Flatbush, New York churches.

Donald King, chair of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees, shared the opening message to the first joint chapel of the college, academy, and elementary school on March 27, 2007, at the historic Village Church in South Lancaster. Coverage of this event was shared with Central Massachusetts at large with a pictorial spread covering the B section of the *WORCESTER TELEGRAM AND GAZETTE*. Additional newspapers carried various photos and articles throughout the year.

Joint programs were also held in Machlan Auditorium and at the AUC alumni weekend. South Lancaster Academy's alumni weekend was October 5-7.

"We have been inspired at every anniversary event," says Saturné. "Vibrant messages have been brought through our Sabbath speakers—all former Atlantic Union College students: Angel Rodriguez,



Bill Knott was guest speaker for the joint Atlantic Union College and South Lancaster Academy 125th anniversary worship service on September 22, 2007, in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Heidi Munding



ster Academy Celebrate 125th Anniversary



Bordes Henry-Saturné

Atlantic Union College students performed at the Stoneham Memorial church in Stoneham, Massachusetts, on February 10, 2007. This was one of the first 125th anniversary celebrations.

New York Conference executive secretary; Benjamin Reaves, a previous Oakwood College president; and Bill Knott, *ADVENTIST REVIEW* and *ADVENTIST WORLD* editor.”

Saturné stated that the objectives of the celebrations were:

- To give thanks to the Lord for His rich blessings on these “schools of the prophets” during the past 125 years;
- To praise His name for the astonishing success of thousands of alumni and their contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and their communities;
- To pass on to the new generation the precious legacy of dedication,

spirit of sacrifice, and trust in the Lord so courageously modeled by our pioneers;

- To “*Share the Light*” with the community and the constituency;
- To provide additional information about the mission and the services of these institutions; and

- To reaffirm our faith and our hope for a bright future.

Faculty and staff also made 125th anniversary presentations at every conference camp meeting in the Atlantic Union Conference. This includes Bermuda; the Luso-Brazilian, English, two Hispanic, Haitian, and United camp meetings in the Greater New York Conference; two weekends at the New York Conference; Hispanic, English, and Haitian camp meetings in Northeastern Conference; two camp meeting weekends in Northern New England Conference; and two camp meeting weekends in Southern New England Conference—English, Hispanic, Haitian, and Portuguese.

“Because of the vision of our forefathers in 1882 establishing ‘that New England School,’ we have leaders who went to Browning, who graduated from South Lancaster Academy and AUC,” said Jon Nosek, director of development at South Lancaster Academy. “These are three solid institutions that have gone through the Great Depression, wars, and all kinds of storms.

“The schools have been fortresses of quality Seventh-day Adventist education for 125 years—strong institutions who have produced leaders. Leaders including doctors, missionaries, teachers, engineers, lawyers, farmers, people from all walks of life making a contribution all over the world. And, the schools have produced lay people who, because of their solid Christian background, have raised other generations who have attended these three schools and have become leaders in their fields.”

Today, regardless of their major, students are challenged to find creative ways in their area of study to share the gospel. They travel the local community and the world for missions. After 125 years of “*Sharing the Light*,” we’re still doing it—“*Sharing the Light*.”

—Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director
Atlantic Union College



Bordes Henry-Saturné

Angel Rodriguez, New York Conference executive secretary, was guest speaker for a joint chapel for AUC and SLA at the Village Church on April 28, 2007.



Ademir Soares

Benjamin Reaves was guest speaker for the Atlantic Union College Alumni Weekend worship service, April 14, 2007.



Hope for Rochester

It was five minutes before we were to begin on opening night. We had spent the past two weekends passing out flyers and going door to door inviting people to the meetings. We even had the Pathfinders personally inviting people to the meetings. The big event, Hope for Rochester, would begin at last. We arrived an hour early to make sure everything was set up, go over any last-minute plans, and have time to pray. My prayer was not for everybody to come, but that God would bring the specific people that He wanted to hear the message at this time.

It was now seven o'clock and no one showed up. A couple of us went back into the church and began to pray. Shortly after our prayer, Cesar, Louise, Vickie, and Carla walked in. They had come because of a flyer mailed to their house. Three of them came faithfully every night.

When I complained to my wife about only four people coming, she reminded me that we prayed for those people to come to the meeting whom God saw fit to bring. Two days after the first meeting, one of the Bible workers, Charles, told me about a lady and her

daughter that he invited, but they didn't show up. On Sunday, we drove to several of the homes where Bible workers were giving studies, and I introduced myself to the people and invited them. The last place we stopped was at the home of Teresa and her daughter, Tishara. We invited them to the seminar. She was hesitant at first, but we promised we would only take one hour of their time, so they agreed they would come. Teresa and Tishara now want to be baptized and become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Currently they attend church each week.

Right now, Cesar, Louise, Vicki, Teresa, and Tishara attend a Bible



Seminar leader Howard Krug prayed that God would bring those specific people He wanted to hear the message at this time to the Hope for Rochester meetings. That prayer was answered as five people meet with a weekly Bible study group as a result of the meeting.

study on Thursday nights along with a man who was baptized at one of the meetings held in Rochester. We also have made some new friends and it is wonderful to the study the Bible with new believers who came from a series in which we had a part. God truly did bless our efforts and brought us the people He wanted to bring for His kingdom.

*Howard Krug, seminar leader
Bay Knoll church*

Paradigm Progress Update

The New York Conference has been under a paradigm shift for about a year and a half now. Progress across the conference varies from district to district, but change is becoming visible. Most recently, members became responsible for managing their churches for about three weeks while

the pastors converged on Rochester for collaborative work with lay members on an intensive series of evangelistic meetings. This will be repeated once each year in various locations throughout the conference with Albany targeted in 2008, Buffalo in 2009, Syracuse in 2010, and Binghamton in 2011.

Another aspect of the paradigm shift requires pastors to assume the role of training members for ministry. In many districts pastors are no longer running from one church to another each Sabbath, but instead are spending the entire day once each month in one church so that, following the worship service,

they can conduct training designed to empower members to greater involvement in ministry.

In other districts members are providing training and involving peers in ministry. The Roosevelt church leads a women's Bible study and has ongoing cooking schools. Lay members in the Westvale



Pastors and lay members unite in preparing for a series of evangelistic meetings in Rochester, New York.

church conducted the recent Shawn Boonstra series and a CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Program). The Cornerstone church has involved itself deeply in health and community service ministries. Lay members in several churches are holding evangelistic meet-

ings. The North Central District has held two training sessions for lay members, the most recent being on Sabbath, October 27, 2007. Much of this training was organized and provided by lay members.

Angel Rodriquez, New York Conference executive

secretary and ministerial director, reports that six of the nine "super districts" are taking significant steps toward full implementation of the new ministry model, which in reality is a return to the original model employed by the New Testament church. Those lay

members who have accepted leadership responsibilities are finding satisfaction and a sense of purpose as they partner with the Holy Spirit to spread the Word.

*Kim Kaiser, communication director
New York Conference*

Elections and Blood Drive Make for a Busy Community Day at the Elmira Church

It was a busy day at the Elmira church on Tuesday, September 18. Not only was it our scheduled bi-monthly blood drive, it was also primary Election Day.

We received a request to hold the elections at our facilities because it



Red Cross personnel set up operations in the fellowship hall and in two of the Sabbath School rooms for our scheduled bi-monthly Blood Drive.

is handicap accessible. Red Cross personnel set up operations in the fellowship hall and in two of the Sabbath School rooms. Two voting machines were placed in the Primary room where eight board of elections inspectors were prepared for the voters. The church provided a literature table and rack with various magazines, booklets, and Bible studies for those who were in the waiting area.

At a time when blood supplies are extremely low, a total of 38 units of blood were collected.

With many voters and donors passing through our doors, we hope that the people in our area are becoming better acquainted with our church. We want to be known



Photos: Sharon Reynolds

We received a request to hold the elections at our facilities because it is handicap accessible, so two voting machines were placed in the Primary room where eight board of elections inspectors were prepared for the voters.

for serving our community and hope people will be open to attending our evangelism outreach events.

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



Another New Year's Resolution

By Astrid Thomassian

January is typically a month for making resolutions. Diet plans are fervently sought. Gyms are sought to begin a regular plan of exercise. Bible reading schedules are copied and placed on the cover of a new version of the Bible as a reminder to make time for private devotion, and the list goes on. I would like to submit another resolution to be considered—our children!

At the last North American Division (NAD) year-end meeting, I squirmed in my seat during Sabbath School. The leaders, in an attempt to demonstrate how Satan was unleashing an all-out attempt to snatch away our children, presented a series of clips from current children's television programs and movies. Each clip was riddled with overtones of the occult and spiritualism.

In addition, we were given the results of a survey, which sadly indicated that our children—even those in our church schools and Sabbath Schools—do view and enjoy these TV shows and movies. Their vulnerable minds are too innocent to discern each subtle insinuation projected onto the screen. Not to mention the messages that blare from the most popular children's books.

My heart ached for today's children who are surrounded by multimedia sounds and images that entice them with more than one hook to steal them from their Savior. Is one and a half hours one day a week sufficient to undo the cerebral messages input into



Television programs and movies today are riddled with overtones of the occult and spiritualism. Our children—even those in our church schools and Sabbath Schools—are viewing these TV shows and movies.

the minds of children? Adam and Eve met every day with God and yet they succumbed.

“The foolish virgins are represented as begging for oil and failing to receive it at their request. This is symbolic of those who have not prepared themselves by developing a character to stand in a time of crisis. It is as if they should go to their neighbors and say, ‘Give me your character, or I shall be lost.’ Those that were wise could not impart their oil to the flickering lamps of the foolish virgins. Character is not transferable. It is not to be bought or sold; it is to be acquired”—THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR, January 16, 1896.

I would like to propose that we add to our list of resolutions this year a commitment to ensure that every

child in our homes and Sabbath Schools is enrolled in a Seventh-day Adventist church school. There, each day for eight hours, they will be given the tools to enable them to build their character, identify the enemy, and fortify themselves to withstand inevitable crucibles. Last night's news reported that a fireman climbed to the third story of a burning tenement house and gave his supply of oxygen to a two-year-old to save her life. What are you willing to sacrifice in order to save our children?①



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



Atlantic Union Conference — Office of Education

Youth Talk

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

The following young people in the Atlantic Union were asked to list at least two things God did for them during 2007 for which they are thankful.



“I thank God for giving my mother strength to put me through school. I also thank God for my loving family and friends. I thank God for my life.”—**Myriam Personna, 16, Roslindale, Massachusetts**

asked Him to help me carry my burdens and I know He will always be happy to do so because He loves me.”—**Emelie Pla, 17, Stoneham, Massachusetts**



“God has pulled me out of everything that the world used to keep me down. I thank him for turning me around, for how He’s done it, and the way He plans to use me. I thank Him for His plan for me.”—**Jonathan Arocho, 17, Brockton, Massachusetts**

“What hasn’t God done? Over the past year, God has richly blessed me, and the Adventist community as a whole. But, if I had to limit my thanks to two, I would like to thank God for the birth of my new baby sister, Amelia Diane. And though it may sound cliché, I’d like to thank God for the church and the privilege that I have to witness for Him daily.”—**Brett Gustafson, 15, Lancaster, Massachusetts**



“It’s hard to just say two things that God has blessed me with this year, but if I had to pick, it would have to be for my family and life.”—**Rachel Slocum, 16, Lynn, Massachusetts**



“I am very thankful that God has been with me since the start of life. I haven’t always realized it, but I first noticed it when I started my junior year. I was very scared to start the new year, and I started out with a lot of problems, but He has helped me through it the whole way. I don’t have anything to fear anymore because He will never leave me or forsake me, and He has a plan and a future for me so I don’t have to worry about it. I



“God has blessed me with setting the idea in my mind to become better at following Him and maturing greatly during 2007”—**Kyle Shelton, 11, Lancaster, Massachusetts**

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

Thank You

A special “thank you” to all the young people who participated in the Atlantic Union GLEANER Youth Talk column during 2007. If you have not yet participated, we look forward to hearing from you in 2008.

Bethany Celebrates 9th Annual Police Community Adoption Program



Bethany church honored many officials during its 9th Annual Police Community Adoption Program.

On October 27, 2007, the Bethany church in Westbury, New York, celebrated its 9th Annual Police Community Adoption Program.

Barry Black, United States Senate chaplain, was the guest speaker. Others in attendance included New York State assemblyman Charles Lavine, Nassau

Police commissioner Larry Malvey, Town of North Hempstead superior Jon Kaiman, Judge Norman St. George, legislators Roger Corbin and Kevan Abrahams, New York City marshal Jerold Shapiro, members of the United States Army led by Major Foster, and Larry Bailey, Northeastern Conference

executive secretary.

The service was well attended, as police officers had to block the streets and three churches had to open their parking facilities to assist with traffic.

The church received numerous calls and letters commending them for the great work and the excellent manner in which the

program was planned. One police officer stated that he was in charge of planning the police affair, however, Bethany “out-did” him.

Many thanks to Pastor James LaMar, April Cummings, Kari-lee Ricketts, board of elders, board of deacons, Wisly Augustin, Stephen Carryl, Vinneth Baker, Angela Matthews, Adonica Mullings, Sherily Hilaire, Bethany Children’s Choir, the Nassau County Police Department, the Westbury Baptist Church, the Westbury Gospel Tabernacle, and the Salvation Army.

*Mary Cameron, Sydni Baker, and Leigha Carryl
Bethany church*

Northeastern Conference Organizes First Ghanaian Church

The Northeastern Conference administrators officiated at the organization of the newest addition to the family of churches in the conference, the North Bronx Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church, on November 17, 2007.

The church which was organized with 98 charter members is the first Ghanaian congregation in the Northeastern Conference. The Lord has blessed the church to realize growth in membership as well as to acquire its own house

of worship located on Castle Hill Avenue in the Bronx, New York. It is currently pastored by Pastor Dwayne Turner.

*Trevor Baker,
communication director
Northeastern Conference*



Ninety-eight charter members were present at the organization service for the North Bronx Ghana church.



Larry Bailey, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, standing at the podium, officiated at the organization of the North Ghana church.

Five Brooklyn Churches Unite in Evangelism

Four pastors and their congregations united in a five-week evangelistic campaign in Brooklyn, New York. The meetings, which were conducted under the banner "Brooklyn For Jesus," began August 11, 2007, and continued through September 15, 2007. The following churches and their pastors participated in the meetings: Christian Fellowship,

Pastor Anthony Usher; New Life and Voice of Hope, Pastor Fitzroy Jackson; Community Tabernacle, Pastor Roody Auguste; and Cornerstone, Pastor Philip Wesley, Sr.

Hundreds from several communities in and around Brooklyn gathered each night under the big tent to hear the powerful and pointed gospel messages presented by Evangelist

Abraham J. Jules, pastor of the Mount Vernon church in Mount Vernon, New York. As result of these meetings 83 individuals were baptized, and a new congregation, called Brooklyn for Jesus Mission, was planted.

*Trevor Baker, communication director
Northeastern Conference*

Northeastern Conference Pastors Receive Awards

The Northeastern Conference administrators sponsored the third annual Pastoral Award Banquet on Wednesday, October 23, 2007, during the Fall Workers' Meeting held at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York.

This event, which has been ongoing since 2005, gives recognition to pastors and other workers for outstanding service during the year. Among the various awards, the two most coveted are the "Evangelist of the Year" and the "Pastor of the Year."

The 2007 "Evangelist of the Year" recipient was Pastor Winston Stephenson of the Jamaica church in Queens, New York. He led the

conference in baptisms.

Pastor Joshua Deonarine of the Agape church in Richmond Hill, Queens, New York, and Pastor A. Keith Morris of the Calvary church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, were named co-pastors of the year for the outstanding leadership given to their respective congregations throughout the year. The "Pastor of the Year" award is granted to the pastor who leads

his church in attaining all of the goals set by the conference and has provided a well-rounded ministry to the church.

*Trevor Baker, communication director
Northeastern Conference*



From left to right are Larry Baily, conference secretary; Pastor A. Keith Morris, Pastor Joshua Deonarine, Ebenezer Agboka, conference treasurer; Pastor Winston Stephenson, and Trevor H. C. Baker, conference president.



Pastors Robert Yee and Kevin Bryan were among those present at Northeastern Conference's third annual Pastors Award Banquet.



Larry Bailey, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, with Pastor Cornelius Wesley, who sang at the banquet.

Miracle of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Maine

On a hill in the middle of Lubec, Maine, sat a church known as “The Seventh-day Adventist Church.” The church, which was founded in 1928, was built by the founding members and Pastor William Rice in 1958. It was a good little church in its day—a small building of 50' x 50', humble, quaint, and nothing fancy, but it contained a lot of love. Over the years it grew into a thriving active membership of more than 50 members.

As time passed, the building aged, as all things do on this earth, and required a lot of upkeep to keep it intact, until one fateful day someone noticed that the roof in the high ceiling on the right hand side had a beam that was starting to lean in. This wasn't a good sign. So a contractor was called in to take a look at it. He told the members that the beams in the ceiling were letting go and there had been so much damage to the rafters that it was going to cost a lot of money to fix.

The members of the church were beside themselves because there was very little money coming into the church at this time since the 50 members had diminished to only 10. As the members waited to come up with a solution to fix the roof, it began leaning in more after a few bad windstorms. The ceiling leaned in so much that the town building inspector had to come in to inspect. The building inspector told us to close the doors because he was going to condemn the church. This humble little church that was built with the love and sweat of the members was now faced

with destruction. It was a very sad day, because as far as everyone knew, the church could not afford to rebuild. But, God had other plans.

A representative from Adventist Risk Management, Inc., came to estimate the replacement value of the church. As we all know, property values have skyrocketed. This was a good thing for the church. By the time the paperwork was done, that little church in the middle of Lubec was valued at a lot more than anyone had ever imagined.

God worked through Adventist Risk Management, Inc., and gave those few remaining members a new start. They moved the church a few miles down the road and built a new 7500-square foot building centrally located between three small towns and changed the name to Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is a miracle in itself, as no one ever dreamed that something like this would happen. There are two classrooms, a mother's room, a nice kitchen with a large fellowship hall, and a library. The church has a full basement, which now houses the Whiting Community Food Pantry on one side and also has a lot of room for storage.

The most unforgettable miracle though, is that now



The Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church is a miracle to the Lubec church members who were told they had to close the doors of the original church when ceiling beams starting caving in.

more than 50 members attend every Sabbath, compared to only 10 who were attending three years ago. God works in mysterious

ways; all we have to do is have faith and believe.

*Patti Duenas,
communication correspondent
Three Angels church*

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE INVITES YOU TO THE
4th Annual Women's Ministries Spring Retreat



April 25-27, 2008

GRAND SUMMIT RESORT HOTEL
MOUNT SNOW, VERMONT

*“Lemons to
Lemonade”*

RATES PER PERSON:

Double, Triple, and Quadruple (4)
\$195.00 if received by March 17

Single Occupancy
\$295.00 if received by March 17

No onsite registrations.

Must pre-register!

*No registrations accepted
after April 8, 2008*

For more information or questions
call (207) 797-3760 ext. 27 or go
to our Web site: www.nnec.org.



Sylvia Matiko
PRESENTER



Audience of One
MUSICIANS

South Berwick Fellowship Group Uses Sunroom for Worship

The South Berwick Fellowship group from South Berwick, Maine, is growing. So much so the lay pastor's cellar was no longer large enough for the group to meet in anymore. They couldn't afford to build a church so they had to come up with a better idea. Having met a handyman, Chris Walker, at the Acton



Construction on a sun/worship room for the members of the South Berwick Fellowship group was recently completed.

Fair two years prior, they contacted him about transforming the front porch into a sunroom. Nine months later con-


struction on the sunroom/worship room was completed.

In addition to being blessed with a larger place in which to worship, the group now has a mini-van that they can use in their outreach programs. God has been blessing us in so many ways.



The sunset views that can be seen from the sunroom are breathtaking.

*John Hersom, lay pastor
South Berwick Fellowship*



**Art Clinic
2008**
**Our Bible
Heroes**

January 31-February 2, 2008

Program Schedule
 Vespers~February 1, 6:30pm
 Sabbath School~February 2, 10:00am
 Church Service~February 2, 11:30 am
 Visual Presentation of *Joseph*~February 2, 2:30pm
 Worship~February 2, 3:00 pm
 Art Gallery open during Sabbath

Located on the campus of Central Vermont Academy, 317 Vine Street, Barre, Vermont
 Sponsored by Northern New England Conference

Final application deadline is January 11, 2008
 To receive more information regarding Art Clinic or other educational events,
 call 207-797-3760, or visit www.nnec.org/education

Northern New England Conference Presents

MUSIC CLINIC 2008
Amazing Grace
 April 3-5, 2008



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

Churches Provide Helpful Seminars

The three district churches of Burrillville, Johnston, and Wickford utilized their prayer meetings each Wednesday night

starting in September for a “LifeStyle Matters—Coping with Stress” seminar. With the stress of returning to school and work after

summer vacations, church members felt it was an appropriate time to conduct the seminars.

More than 63 visitors attended the four-week series, enjoying delicious and nutritious food and wonderful fellowship. Several came after hearing about the event from the news media that had published the church’s news release. Richard Lawson, the church’s Bible worker, invited people he was working with in his visitation ministry to attend the seminars.

Many participants reported experiencing dramatic changes following the program that was held at the Johnston church in October and were eager to join the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP).

LifeStyle Matters is one of the programs ShareHim recommends for sowing the seed! “Sow the seed, reap a harvest!”

*Bill Warcholik, pastor
Burrillville, Johnston,
and Wickford churches*



More than 63 visitors attended the “LifeStyle Matters—Coping with Stress” four-week series sponsored by the Burrillville, Johnston, and Wickford churches. They enjoyed delicious and nutritious food and wonderful fellowship.

GBA’s Musical Alumni Homecoming Benefits Alma Mater

Some twenty Greater Boston Academy graduates from the 90s, along with a few friends from South Lancaster Academy, pooled their vocal talents to present music for both the church service at GBA’s 63rd Alumni Homecoming Weekend and a benefit concert on Sabbath afternoon for GBA’s current music program. Former music teacher, Laurie Redmer Minner, was the conductor. The offering brought in \$800 with a matching pledge of \$800.

Former Bible teacher and chaplain Matt Lombard was the speaker for church. His message was about the power of prayer, saying that if God’s people pray together, there is little they can’t do, with His help. He closed his sermon by asking the congregation to pair off by twos and pray together. Returning alumni found their alma mater in a good place and contributed another \$850 in the morning’s offering.

A potluck after church was well attended. Familiar faces—Carol Smith, Cheryl Wilkins, Becky Wilkins—set out dozens of deli-

cious dishes for the crowd that gathered in the Edgewood/Greater Boston Academy gymnasium. There was plenty of time for conversation both with those present and via telephone with those unable to attend the reunion.

The vespers concert included the Redmer Reunion Choir singing ten “old favorites” for their enthusiastic listeners. The songs were ones the group had sung all over New England and twice in Russia and England in the 90s. Singers were surprised at how easily the pieces came back

to them. Some had not sung them since they graduated from academy!

President Art Barnaby was pleased with the turnout. Plans are already being made for next year’s reunion. Alumni won’t want to miss it.

*Rondi Aastrup, principal
Greater Boston Academy*



Greater Boston Academy Alumni had a fun time at their alma mater during the 63rd Alumni Homecoming Weekend in September 2007.

Cherie Asgerisson

Impact Lancaster

Taking the Initiative to Reach Our Community

We are Christians, children of God, and as such, are called to be witnesses to the world. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house"—Matthew 5:14, 15.

On October 21 and 28, 2007, more than 20 South Lancaster Academy students and faculty, along with many Atlantic Union College students and faculty sponsors, gathered at the Atlantic Union College dining commons, ready to "Impact Lancaster." Our tasks were to distribute more than 1,000 brown paper bags to the homes of South Lancaster, urg-

ing residents to fill them with canned goods and other non-perishables for a special holiday dinner to be prepared for the needy and then [on the second Sunday] to pick up the filled paper bags and sort the collected goods.

Enthusiastic, energized,

and beautifully clad in our bright green Impact Lancaster T-shirts, we dispersed in all directions according to the assigned streets of our respective groups. One week later, we again dispersed, this time to collect the expressions of kindness sitting on the

front doorsteps of peoples' homes.

In the end, we were able to collect more than \$2,000 worth of food for those in dire need during the Thanksgiving season. God be praised!

Joy Norman, junior
South Lancaster Academy



South Lancaster Academy students participated in Impact Lancaster, collecting more than \$2,000 worth of food for Thanksgiving baskets.

Marriage Retreat 2008

Grace and Marriage

Janice Long

February, 8-10
Rising Wednesday
Resign by January 25
\$200 per couple

Alto and Lynn Ortel

Contact: SNEC Family Ministries Office (978) 365-4551 ext. 20

Hudson Church Helps Seniors Buy Medications

The Hudson Seventh-day Adventist Church on Marlboro Street has been part of the Hudson community for more than 80 years. Always looking for ways to help their neighbors, their latest campaign is to purchase gift cards for local pharmacies and distribute them to Hudson seniors in an effort to help offset the cost of prescription medications.

They will achieve this goal by working with the Hudson Senior Center. Established in 1978, the Hudson Senior Center has served thousands of meals through the Meals on Wheels program and provides a good environment where seniors can

come together and build friendships. The center will help determine who has the greatest need.

Janice Long, Hudson Senior Center director, attended Sabbath services and expressed her gratitude for the work the church has done with the senior center in the past. She shared her excitement about the gift card program and its positive impact as many seniors struggle to make their co-payments with numerous prescriptions and a fixed income. The church hopes the gift cards will help those who need it most and plans to continue the program for as long as possible.

David Beall, member
Hudson church

Une Récapitulation

“**N**ous te louons, ô Dieu! Nous te louons; ton nom est dans nos bouches; nous publions tes merveilles.” Psaume 75:1, Louis Segond Revue et Corrigée.

Ce psaume est utilisé pour célébrer la manifestation de la puissance de Dieu, assurant la victoire et la délivrance des enfants d’Israël sur leurs ennemis. L’emploi de la première personne du pluriel du pronom personnel suggère que le Psaume ait été prévu pour le culte public. 2 SDA BC 808. La victoire remportée par le peuple de Dieu ne peut pas et ne devrait pas être l’apanage d’un homme mais de toute la communauté. Et la répétition du membre de phrase “Nous te louons, ô Dieu! met l’accent sur le fait qu’il faut rendre gloire à Dieu souvent. Ainsi, il est bon de récapituler les hauts faits de l’Eternel. Donc, la récapitulation dénote que Jésus a rencontré tous les échecs de l’homme et Il est sorti vainqueur là où nous avons failli.

Tandis que nous réfléchissons sur l’année 2007, une évaluation sérieuse est faite concernant ce que Dieu a accompli avec, pour et à travers le département des Ministères Haïtiens. Je ne peux pas m’empêcher d’entonner la doxologie: «Gloire à Dieu de qui viennent toutes les bénédictions» Ce regard rétrospectif nous permet d’appréhender comment Dieu nous a aidés de mettre à l’exécution tous les points de l’agenda de l’année écoulée.

Premièrement, le département des Ministères Haïtiens de l’Union Atlantique était appelé à coordonner deux événements importants pour le Concile Haïtien au niveau

de la Division Nord-Américaine: La Célébration du 50ème Anniversaire et la Convention Pastorale de Leadership.

Le premier avait eu lieu du 4 au 5 Mai 2007. Près de 2,700 membres avaient assisté à cet événement important, à Calvary Cathedral of Praise, à Brooklyn, New York, marquant la croissance de l’œuvre haïtienne de 10 membres en 1956 à plus de 34,000



membres en 2006.

Le second était tenu le 10 Octobre 2007 à Camp Kulaqua à High Springs, en Floride où leadership en était la note dominante.

Deuxièmement, dans le cadre des Services Communautaires, du 17 au 20 Mai 2007, des cours de formation étaient tenues à l’hôtel Westin Stamford à Connecticut. Les séminaires suivants étaient présen-

tés: Soins Pastoraux, Mentor-Tuteur, Santé, Centres Communautaires et Réponse en cas de désastre. Au début du mois de Septembre 2007, sous la coordination du département des Services Communautaires de l’Union Atlantique, les fédérations Greater New York, Northeastern et New York ont signé un mémorandum mutuel avec l’Etat de New York (Memorandum of Understanding – MOU). Ce document octroie des droits à ces fédérations de gérer les entrepôts de l’Etat de New York en cas de désastre.

Troisièmement, deux dîners de prière étaient organisés en faveur des “Senior Citizens”: l’un dans la région de “New England,” l’autre à Brooklyn, New York. Ces rencontres constituaient des hauts moments spirituels et sociaux pour les personnes âgées.

Finalement, un practicum sur les ministères de la Prison était tenu sur le campus du Collège de l’Union Atlantique en vue de préparer nos membres à témoigner dans les prisons.

La récapitulation nous permet d’embrasser du regard, par la grâce de Dieu, où le Seigneur nous a conduits et où serions-nous sans Lui. Nous disons “Gloire à Dieu qui nous fait toujours triompher par Jésus-Christ Notre Seigneur.”



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

English translation available at www.atlantic-union.org/news154.html

El presidente de la iglesia visita la isla



Una multitud de más de 500 personas de la Casa de Luz Buey Arriba llenó todos los asientos disponibles y aun los antepechos de las ventanas durante la dedicación del templo el pasado 4 de noviembre. Este templo es uno de los muchos que en Cuba hacen las veces de lugar de reunión y residencia pastoral. (fotografía: Rajmund Dabrowski/ANN)

Cuando los directivos de la iglesia y los invitados se unieron a otras 500 personas en la inauguración de una nueva casa de adoración en Buey Arriba, fue Raúl Álvarez el que recibió los aplausos más fuertes.

Álvarez, que es un pastor que se acaba de jubilar, recibió una calurosa bienvenida por su contribución a la iglesia adventista que, el domingo 4 de noviembre, dedicó oficialmente un nuevo templo.

Álvarez, que fue asesor político de los líderes de la Revolución Cubana, se unió a la iglesia adventista a comienzos de los años 60, y la misión de esta le otorgó un llamado de diferente naturaleza. Hasta hace poco, trabajó como presidente de la iglesia en la región. Álvarez regresó este mes para celebrar una victoria para Dios en un pueblo al pie de Sierra Maestra en el sudeste del país.

Al unirse a cientos de otras personas para la ceremonia del corte de cintas, Álvarez no pudo ocultar su emoción. Años de intentos de construir un santuario con recursos limitados culminaron ese domingo por la noche con lágrimas de gozo y abrazos aptos para la ocasión.

La iglesia, denominada Casa de Luz de Buey Arriba, una residencia pastoral cuya sala tiene lugar para 200 personas sentadas, celebró con estilo. Y la lluvia no impidió que alguien faltara a la dedicación.

Las lluvias torrenciales que se desataron el día de la inauguración retrasaron la llegada de la agrupación Maranatha Volunteers International, con sede en los EE.UU., que fue la organización res-

ponsable de construir el templo, y de los directivos de la iglesia. Cuando llegaron a las 6:00, ya habían pasado dos horas desde la hora programada para el comienzo de la ceremonia. Pero la multitud estaba esperando. Más de 500 personas atestaban el templo con capacidad para solo 250 personas. Cada rincón, asiento y antepechos des las ventanas estaba lleno de gente.

Laura Noble, de Maranatha, recuerda haber visitado el templo de Buey Arriba unos años atrás. De sus muchos viajes, este era uno de los pocos lugares que la atemorizaba, recuerda. El techo estaba hecho de pesadas tejas rojas sostenidas por una estructura de maderas unidas con un solo clavo en cada juntura. Lo peor, recuerda, es que las maderas estaban llenas de agujeros hechos por las termitas.

Cuando la congregación llegó a los 200 miembros, la necesidad de contar con un nuevo templo se agudizó, dijo Adalberto González, pastor de la iglesia. En lugar de aprobar los planos de una iglesia, el gobierno cubano otorgó un permiso para construir una "Casa de Luz."

Las llamadas "Casas de Luz" de Maranatha funcionan como residencia pastoral y templo al mismo tiempo. Uno no puede dejar de preguntarse cuántas otras salas de la región cuentan con una pila bautismal. Luego de la ceremonia, se realizó un bautismo de 10 nuevos miembros.

Daniel Fontaine, presidente de la iglesia en el país, expresó su gratitud por las nuevas instalaciones. "Para nosotros significa mucho. Al menos podemos tener un lugar, una luz, donde la gente puede ir en busca de esa paz y esperanza que sólo Cristo puede dar."

"Y a nuestro país que nos dejó tener un lugar como este", dijo, "le estamos muy agradecidos."

Del otro lado de la isla, en La Habana, la iglesia dio la bienvenida al pastor Jan Paulsen, presidente de la iglesia adven-

tista mundial. El viernes 2 de noviembre, Paulsen se unió a otros 80 delegados de la región Interamericana de la iglesia que asistieron a la reunión anual de su junta directiva. Al llegar al aeropuerto de La Habana, Paulsen fue recibido por Caridad Diego, director de la Secretaría de Asuntos Religiosos de Cuba.

Al hablar en la reunión de adoración sabática en la Iglesia Adventista de Vibora, en La Habana, Paulsen dijo: "Siento la fortaleza del compromiso y la espiritualidad que poseen. Percibo tanto fuego en sus almas."

"Esta visita a Cuba es muy significativa, especialmente para la iglesia y el gobierno de Cuba," dijo Israel Leito, presidente de la iglesia en Interamérica.

Si bien Cuba es uno de los 15 territorios de mayor extensión en la región, no había sido sede de este encuentro en los últimos 62 años, según fuentes eclesiales. Durante dos años, a mediados de la década de 1940, la iglesia de la región tuvo su sede central en Cuba. La región Interamericana de la iglesia cuenta con más de tres millones de miembros, lo que la convierte en la mayor región de la iglesia adventista mundial.

Al hablar en la sesión de apertura del encuentro, Paulsen reconoció el "fuerte énfasis en la misión" que tiene la iglesia en la región. Asimismo, enfatizó la necesidad de la iglesia de "construir comunidades sólidas y de encontrarse con el mundo desde una posición de fortaleza."

El domingo, Paulsen volvió a referirse al tema de la participación adventista en la sociedad al hablar ante una representación de el estado y el gobierno local. "No tenemos una agenda política. Como iglesia, estamos conscientes de que si bien somos una comunidad espiritual, también estamos comprometidos con la construcción de la sociedad," dijo.

Al referirse a la "participación activa en la sociedad", Paulsen añadió que los adventistas "queremos contribuir con las comunidades, y hacer que estas sean más seguras."

Rajmund Dabrowski, director
Adventist News Network
9 de Noviembre del 2007
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

English translation available at: <http://news.adventist.org/data/2007/10/1194630354/index.html>

¿QUÉ ESTÁ PASANDO?

EN LA IGLESIA MUNDIAL

A Statement on the Holy Scriptures

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 the Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures lie at the foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of purpose, message, and mission. We respect the Bible as the message of God transmitted through human writers. Although the format of the Scriptures manifests itself in human language, background, and historical setting, its content consists of divine messages conveyed to humanity as a whole, and especially to believers in God. Above the diversity reflected in human language stands the unifying truth that ties together the whole into the Word of God.

The Scriptures provide authentic, reliable reports of the Creator God and His activities in bringing into existence the world as well as its inhabitants. They provide knowledge of origins, give meaning to life, and disclose the ultimate destiny of humanity.

Above all, the Scriptures bear testimony to Jesus Christ who is the ultimate revelation, God among us. Both Old and New Testaments bear witness to Him. For these reasons the Holy Scriptures stand as the infallible revelation of God's will, the norm for Christian values and

life, the measure of all things within human experience, and the sole reliable guide to salvation in Christ.^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.

Web sites

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

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

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

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

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

Books

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

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL

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Sunset Table

February 2008	Eastern Standard Time				
	1	8	15	22	29
Bangor, ME	4:44	4:54	5:04	5:13	5:23
Portland, ME	4:52	5:02	5:11	5:21	5:30
Boston, MA	4:59	5:08	5:17	5:26	5:34
So. Lancaster, MA	5:01	5:10	5:19	5:28	5:37
Pittsfield, MA	5:07	5:16	5:25	5:34	5:43
Hartford, CT	5:06	5:15	5:24	5:33	5:41
New York, NY	5:14	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:47
Albany, NY	5:07	5:16	5:25	5:34	5:43
Utica, NY	5:14	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:50
Syracuse, NY	5:17	5:27	5:36	5:45	5:54
Rochester, NY	5:23	5:32	5:42	5:51	6:00
Buffalo, NY	5:28	5:38	5:47	5:56	6:05
Hamilton, Bda.	5:51	5:58	6:04	6:10	6:15

OUT-OF-UNION

Union College Homecoming April 3-6, 2008. Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to come *Remember When...* April 3-6, 2008. Honor classes are '38, '48, '53, '58, '68, '78, '83, '88, and '98. For more information contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Health Summit Orlando February 1-9, 2008—Do you need motivation and new ideas for health ministry outreach? More than 25 seminars will be taught including the following brand new offerings: *Forgive to Live*, *Reaching Out to Your Community*, *Foundations of Health Ministry* (earning college credit), *Women's Health*, and *Black Family Health*. To learn more about this exciting training which is co-sponsored by the North American and Inter-American Division Health Ministries departments go to www.nadhealthsummit.com.

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

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

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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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/

OFFICIAL NOTICE Atlantic Union College Corporation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Atlantic Union College Corporation is called to convene Sunday, January 27, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. on the campus of Atlantic Union College in the Machlan Auditorium, Main Street, South Lancaster, Massachusetts 01561.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear reports, including a financial update, and to attend to any other business which may properly be brought before the body.

Norman Wendth, President
Weymouth Spence, Secretary

Religious Liberty — Important Web Sites

Adventist Public Affairs & Religious Liberty North American Division . . . <http://www.nadfreedom.org>

Liberty Magazine <http://www.libertymagazine.org>

Office of Legislative Affairs <http://ola.adventist.org>

Other Religious Liberty Links . . . <http://ola.adventist.org/Links.htm>

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty General Conference <http://parl.gc.adventist.org>

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

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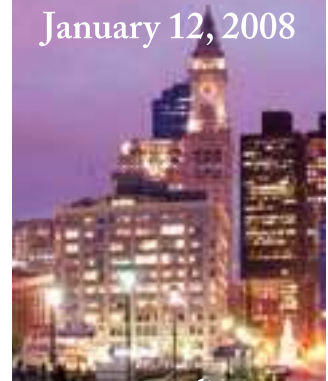
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Greater New York: Richard Marker, President; G. Earl Knight Secretary; Benjamin Santana, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Web site: www.greaternewyork.org

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Southern New England: Frank Tochterman, President; Juan Borges, Secretary; Randall Terry, Treasurer. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 365-4551. Web site: www.sneconline.org

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