

SEEDS Attendees Empowered, Motivated, and Energized



inside JUNE

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This month's cover story features an article about the Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference that was held on the last weekend in March 2008. More than 650 individuals attended this first of its kind event held in the Atlantic Union Conference. Read more beginning on page 4. Also included are our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover design uses the SEEDS logo, courtesy of the North American Division Evangelism Institute.



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

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We Don't Do That Around Here

he voice on the other end of the phone line said, "Mike, is the latter rain falling in your conference?" I was taken aback for a couple of seconds, and then said, "No." The voice then said, "It sure is falling here on our church!" Not to be too embarrassed, I responded, "Well, there are a couple of churches here where I know God's Spirit is mightily blessing."

While I had been anticipating this annual phone call, I confess that I was not prepared for that particular question. My friend went on to tell of unbelievable soul-winning miracles and asked if I would be willing to speak at his church in early 2008. I agreed to do so and looked forward to the opportunity.

The Sabbath I arrived I was shocked at the full sanctuary and the sea of new faces, representing a wide variety of ages. I thought that indeed the latter rain must be falling here. Later, after the fellowship meal, I made fast work of acquainting myself with as many of the new faces as possible. What miraculous testimonies they shared. How they praised God for their new spiritual friends! I left that church saying, "Wow, praise God!"

I was so intrigued by what I had witnessed at this church that, during the following week, I contacted many of its long-time members to find out what happened. The answer was the same from each: "We stopped criticizing each other and started loving each other. We started praying for the Holy Spirit to change us, to transform

us by His grace. We chose to focus our prayers on God changing our hearts, rather than others." I was told that after this took place, new people began showing up on Sabbath mornings eager to worship and seek God's truth. These were complete strangers whom the Holy Spirit had been working with.

God's "inspired pen" explains the phenomenon preventing our churches from having this latter rain experience: "The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?"—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 371

Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, states in his book, FRESH WIND, FRESH FIRE that when his church outlawed peoples' criticism and slander by telling each other "We don't do that around here," God started miraculously growing their church.

Could God be waiting for us to declare, "We don't do that around here," in order for us to truly be able to welcome the outpouring of His latter rain?

Mike Ortel is the Northern New England Conference president.



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SEEDS Attendees Empowered, Motivated, and Energized

Atlantic Union hosts first Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference

s I moved from table to table at breakfast on Sunday morning, March 30, it was evident to me that many people were excited about their weekend experience at the Atlantic Union Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference. They used words such as excellent, spiritually uplifting, and power-packed. They shared their thoughts about how they were personally impacted by the event. "There is no other place I would rather have been than here at this conference. I enjoyed listening to the experience of others that let us know how God is leading," said Lydia Small. She was one of more than 650 individuals—church members, leaders, pastors, and other workers who participated in this first-ever conference of this type in the Atlantic Union. The conference, held in Stamford, Connecticut, united individuals from many cultures in seminars focused on the art of soul winning.

According to Trevor Forbes, Atlantic Union Conference Personal Ministries director and coordinator for the event, the primary objectives of the conference were to:

- empower the laity and leaders through practical teaching seminars, and
- motivate members and leaders to serve as nurturers and witnesses for the Lord.

"We want to create a sense of unity in our union territory so that we can work in concert with the Holy Spirit. From the reports we have received, it would appear that we have realized our objectives," said Forbes.

Excitement was in the air throughout the weekend friends caught up with each other and new acquaintances were made. It seemed as though people were intentional as they moved from seminar to seminar, to the general sessions, and as they greeted one another.

At the opening program on Friday evening, March 28, Donald King, Atlantic Union president, welcomed the attendees to what he referred to as a historic occasion in the Atlantic Union; and he acknowledged the representatives from all six conferences. To kick off the event, the keynote speaker, Don Schneider, North American Division (NAD) president, conveyed his thoughts on sharing the love of his special friend Jesus with everyone. Other general session speakers were: Jonas Arrais, General Conference Ministerial Association associate secretary; R. Ernest Castillo, NAD vice president and Multilingual Ministries director; Ron Clouzet, NAD Ministerial director; Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president; J. Alfred Johnson II, NAD Adult Ministries director; and Paul Ratsara, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division president, who was also Sabbath worship speaker.

Many months of planning went into coordinating the event, which was a joint effort of the Atlantic Union personal ministries director and the conference personal ministries directors Errol McLean from Bermuda, Gerson Santos from Greater New York, Angel Rodriguez from New York, Oswald Euell from Northeastern, Harry Sabnani from Northern New England, and Whitford Shaw from Southern New England, in conjunction with Marti Schneider and the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) team. There was something for everyone—preaching, general sessions, inspirational music, seminars, prayer groups, testimonies, and more. Fifteen tracks and 65 seminars were presented in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. Portions of the event were broadcast live on the Internet using the Atlantic Union Adventist Media production truck.

Gus Lescouflair describes the conference this way, "It was a watershed experience. From this experience we are filled with new ideas on not only how to approach other people, but how to approach God." Individuals came to the event hoping to get information on topics such as leadership, the Holy Spirit, and starting small groups, among other things.

One group I approached that was in a deep discussion said they were reflecting on how they were going to use all the information they gleaned from the seminars when they returned to their churches. According to Norma Sanchez, "There are so many things we need to do for the church. We are in a position to make change. We are going back to try to put into practice the things we learned about small groups."

Overwhelmingly, many indicated they were blessed and felt empowered, motivated, and ready to work more fervently for the Lord. Here are just a few of the thoughts that were shared:

"I came looking for information on outreach programs for my church and I found that and much more. I wish more people from the churches attended"—Yvonne Sheridan.

"The conference was energizing. I especially enjoyed the seminars on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was very impressed"—Daniel Cheddar.

"I was glad to have the exposure to what it is like to be baptized by the Holy Spirit"—Patricia Thiessen.

"The seminars were very worthwhile. I learned a lot. There is no limit to what God is able to do. He can do great things if only we have faith. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to be with us and to have a daily baptism of the Holy Spirit"—Juan Carlos Batista.

There is much work to be done in the Atlantic Union



Paul Ratsara



Don Schneider



Registration was conducted in four languages.



Sandra Brown



Donald King



Donna and Ron Willey



Ruthie Johnson



Ron Clouzet



Christine Sinclair







A group from Greater New York Conference.



Errol McLean and Gary Robinson



Trevor Forbes



The Atlantic Union Adventist Media (AUAM) production truck was on site for the Atlantic Union Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference in March.

to help prepare members to be bold witnesses and effective leaders. This conference was one avenue of accomplishing that goal. "The roster of names of individuals who were a part of making the event a great success is very long and it would not be impossible to list all of them. However, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Personal Ministries directors of all six conferences, to express thanks and appreciation for all the contributions that were made, and the professional manner in which this was accomplished. Thank you for a job well done," said Forbes.

As the last prayer was uttered and members left for home, there is an expectation that the individuals called to action by their participation in this historic event will pass on the torch. Forbes puts it this way, "Now that the event is over, our prayer is that everyone will use the benefits of the conference to bless many others in their churches and communities."

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

Photos contributed by Ednor A. P. Davison, Alanzo Smith, and Bill Wood.



Rohann Wellington, AUAM managing director, and Gary Saunders, CEO of Praizevision.com, teamed up to do a live broadcast at the conference.



Rohann Wellington and Wilson Trigo at the switcher in the AUAM truck during the Saturday morning program.

Portions of SEEDS Conference

Live on the Internet

The Atlantic Union Adventist Media (AUAM) production truck was on site for the Atlantic Union Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference in March. The Friday evening and Saturday morning general sessions were broadcast live on the Internet.

Rohann Wellington, recently appointed AUAM managing director, the AUAM team, and Gary Saunders, CEO of Praizevision.com, went into action on Friday evening with the opening session, making it possible for individuals who could not attend the conference to be a part of portions of this first-ever event in the Atlantic Union.

The AUAM mobile unit travels, as requested, throughout the Atlantic Union to major evangelistic and other significant events in the conferences and the churches to broadcast live and/or record programs.



By Pollyanna Barnes

Adventist Education Rally Day

Each year on the first Sabbath in the month of April, the Northeastern Conference Office of Education and its 18 schools congregate to celebrate Adventist Education; we call it Adventist Education Rally Day. Our conference president, pastors, school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and friends meet in a constituent school's church to worship together. The purpose of Adventist Education Rally Day is threefold: first, it helps promote Adventist Education to constituents of the Northeastern Conference: second, it showcases our students' talents; third, and most importantly, it facilitates a system-wide baptism.

Our Adventist education system is special with a different focus, for it was ordained by God. Everything we do in our schools is designed to fashion our students into God's likeness. We do not separate spiritual from intellectual training. We interweave biblical principles into the curriculum that students may connect God with all their learning and see His practical nature. On rally day we want others to know that Adventist education produces results as lasting as eternity.

On Adventist Education Rally Day congregants are blessed by our students' gifts and talents. The programs of the day—Sabbath School, divine worship, concert, and basketball tournamentare mostly presented by our students. Divine worship is majestic. We are touched, moved, and inspired by wonderful music and spirit-filled sermons. Lunch provides us the opportunity to fellowship with one another while we savor a delicious meal. Then our schools present an inspirational concert. They fill the place with delightful music, giving us a taste of heaven. And when the accommodations are favorable, we end

the day with a basketball tournament involving various schools. All participants receive a medal and the winning school leaves with a conference trophy. Our system of education is wholistic.

Besides graduation, where the 12 New York City schools unite for a commencement service, rally day is the highlight of the school year. At the conclusion of the fall spiritual emphasis week, students in our schools express their desire to study the Bible as preparation for baptism. Our schools are mission fields. Since 40 percent of the students in our system are not Adventists, we have the opportunity to evangelize to both these students and their parents. Our chaplain coordinates Bible classes. This is the time when some pastors, Bible workers, and other volunteers collaborate to teach these students about the Bible and Seventhday Adventism.

As rally day approaches, parents give their approval for their children's baptism. On some occasions the blessing is multiplied when parents accept to be baptized with their children. We have an annual goal of baptizing at least 100 students. Although the numbers of baptisms vary, God has blessed us with as many as 47 students baptized on rally day. Even though the preparation has been done in our schools, many of our Adventist parents prefer to have their children baptized in their own church by their pastors. We have gone beyond our annual goal of 100 several times. On Rally Day we witness with glee the manifestation of our purpose where our students surrender their lives to the Almighty. Some pastors join our eldereducators to conduct the baptismal service. There is no greater feeling, no better satisfaction than to see the students

we work with every day publically commit to follow Jesus.

Adventist education is redemptive. We intend to immerse students in the powerful Word of God, which transforms their lives even at a young age. This work is done by committed Christian teachers who devote their lives for this purpose. As students learn to follow Christ they also learn to become disciples to impart the truth to others. Just as evangelism is an integral part of our educational system, so is the training for discipleship. We want to prepare students to be well versed in the Bible so that they can live it and share it. Our children will play a very important role in the last days' events of this world. It is therefore crucial that we prepare them in every aspect to powerfully meet the forthcoming challenges.

Adventist Education Rally Day is indeed a day which reaffirms who we are as Seventh-day Adventists. It motivates us to continue to collaborate with God in transforming lives, passing on our spiritual heritage, and making disciples until Jesus comes. In Joel 1:3, Joel admonishes us to, "Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation." There is much to be done. We invite you to participate with us in this great work of Adventist education. We welcome pastors as partners in this evangelistic endeavor so that as we work for the salvation of our Adventist students, they may do the same with their parents.



Pollyanna Barnes is the Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools.



Bermuda Adventurers Enjoy Fun Day

The last event had the blindfolded Adventurers walking through a section of the field where little bags were placed. Once stepped on, the bags

Mhen you arrive at "Top Hill," as the Bermudians call it, you might think you are

entering an army camp with little soldiers running around with their "camo" outfits on. The occasion was the Bermuda Conference Adventurer Boot Camp Fun Day held Sunday, April 6, on the athletic field of Bermuda Institute.

The Boot Camp was organized by Juanita Swan and the Adventurer team of the Bermuda Conference. The Adventurers were given a "camo" hat and special fun day tee-shirt to fit in with the theme of the day. After everyone was registered, each

Adventurer was assigned a team that competed with other teams.

The Adventurers participated in several events, such as drill practice and target practice, throwing a bean bag through a series of tires that were hung from a fence. It is important for soldiers to maintain good health, so a canteen water bucket relay was held.

Just as Satan puts many obstacles in front of Adventurers, the Adventurers had to negotiate an obstacle course. One of the most challenging events had the Adventurers carry a water balloon on a spoon through various



obstacles. There was one team that made it the whole way without dropping the "balloon."

The last event had the blindfolded Adventures walking through a section of the field where little bags were placed. Once stepped on, the bags swelled up. It is important for Adventures to know that we need to watch where we are going. Satan has placed many hindrances in our way, and if we are not

careful, we can get hurt.

There was a giant inflatable game in which the Adventurers enjoyed climbing to the top and sliding down.

The Adventurer program is growing in Bermuda under the dedicated leadership of directors Roy Butler and Juanita Swan.

> Bill Wood, Adventurer director Atlantic Union

Just as Satan puts many obstacles in front of Adventurers, the Adventurers had to negotiate an obstacle course.





Rosa Parks Award Presented to Mary Cameron

ary Cameron, .communication director of the Bethany Seventhday Adventist Church, was presented with the 2008 Rosa Parks Award by representatives of the Town of Hemptead in New York during its African-American history month cel-



The Town of Hempstead presented Mary Cameron, center, with the 2008 Rosa Parks Award. Pictured with her are Town of Hempstead representatives Supervisor Kate Murray, left, and Councilwoman Dorthy Goosby, right.

ebration in February. Cameron was nominated during one of the town's African-American History Month Celebration Committee meetings. The award was presented to her in "recognition of her many contributions to carry on the legacy of civil rights icon Rosa Parks with dignity and grace."

Attending the event was James LaMar, Bethany church pastor, Hayden Smith, elder, family members Errol Cameron, Sr., and Errol Cameron, Jr., along with other family members and friends.

> Communication department Bethany church

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the second regular quadrennial and twenty fifth regular constituency meeting of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 8, 2008, at Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York.

The purpose of this meeting is for the receiving of reports for the past quadrennium, the election of officers, departmental directors, and pertinent committees for the ensuing quadrennium, and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each organized church within the conference is entitled to be represented by duly appointed delegates chosen on the basis of one for the organization and one additional delegate for each 70 members or major fraction thereof.

> Trevor H.C. Baker, President Larry J. Bailey, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the second regular quadrennial constituency meeting of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the twenty fifth regular constituency meeting, (second regular quadrennial) of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, June 8, 2008 at Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York. The meeting of the corporation will convene at 3 00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and trustees for the ensuing quadrennium, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates to the second regular quadrennial meeting of the Conference are the delegates to the second regular quadrennial meeting of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

> Trevor H.C. Baker, President Larry J. Bailey, Secretary

Highlights from Northeastern Conference

New Churches Organized

New churches continue to be organized in the Northeastern Conference. On Sabbath April 5, the Community Tabernacle Mission in Brooklyn, New York, a congregation planted by the Christian Fellowship church, was officially organized as a church. Administrators from the conference officiating at the organization service were Larry Bailey, conference secretary, and Ebenezer Agboka, conference treasurer. On hand to witness the historic occasion were: Roody Auguste, pastor of the Community Tabernacle, Anthony Usher, Christian Fellowship church pastor, Oswald Euell, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director and former pastor and evangelist who conducted the evangelistic meetings that spawned the congregation.

Also organized on that same date was the Mizpah French church in White Plains, New York. The Mizpah church was started by the Eden French church in New Rochelle, New York, which is now under the leadership of Pastor Elie Pierre. Administrators from the conference officiating at the service were Trevor Baker, conference president, and Jose Joseph, conference Haitian Ministries coordinator.

Pastors Join Northeastern Conference

Four new pastoral families have joined the Northeastern Conference

team in recent months. They fill vacancies created by individuals who accepted calls or retired. They are: Pastor Joseph Aaron at the Shiloh church in Springfield, Massachusetts; Pastor Winston James, at Capital City church in Albany, New York; Pastor Stanley Dixon at the Trinity Temple in Poughkeepsie, New York: and Pastor Charles McNeil at the Riverdale Avenue church in Yonkers, New York. We welcome these pastors and their families, and wish them well in their new responsibilities.

Evangelism in the Northeastern Conference

The Northeastern Conference administrators have once again set a conference-wide baptismal goal of 3000 for 2008. As a result, several evangelistic events have been planned by pastors and laypersons all across the conference. One of the special evangelistic initiatives planned is "Pentecost New York," which is a cooperative venture of the pastors and the churches in the borough of Manhattan. Other joint efforts are planned for Long Island, New York, and Boston, Massachusetts, and will be launched during the summer. Every member is encouraged to take an active part in making the goal of 3000 a reality.

Adapted from the Northeastern Conference newsletter, Envision, vol. 6, Number 1, April 2008.



Shalom Church Celebrates its Accomplishments



Former pastor, Orette Mitchell, burns the Shalom church's mortgage note while, Bancroft Daughma, right, looks on.



Former pastors Artemas Julien and Conrad White, Steve Cassimy, Shalom's senior pastor, and Richard Marker, conference president, participate in the mortgage burning ceremony.



Steve Cassimy, Shalom church's pastor, makes opening remarks along with first elder Jenesee Johnson.



Conference president, Richard Marker, reads the declaration of the Shalom church becoming debt free.

wo years after it was orga-I nized, the Shalom church was welcomed into the Greater New York Conference sisterhood of churches on November 5, 1994. Like most churches, Shalom has had its share of challenges and periods of struggle. Yet, through it all, God remained faithful.

Sixteen years later, on February 15, 2008, the church made its final mortgage payment—one year earlier than originally scheduled. Paying off the mortgage and owning the church "free and clear" gave the church a reason to celebrate. From February 27 through March 2, Shalom proudly celebrated this important milestone.

The mortgage burning ceremony officially signified "new beginnings." All members, past and present, were invited to share in the joy of the momentous occasion. Previous pastors honored us with their presence and delivered the messages for the celebration.

The celebration began on Wednesday evening when Roy Bowen, (1998–2001), presented a moving sermon entitled, "Who Has Led You Thus Far?" On Friday evening, Orette Michelle (1995-1998) focused on "The Stone of Help." Conrad White (2001-2007) delivered the Sabbath worship message exhorting the church to embrace opportunities of change to reach millions for Christ.

During the mortgage burning ceremony, which began at 3:00 p.m., each previous pastor was presented with a plaque commemorating his contribution to Shalom's advancement. Artemas Iulien (1992–1995) reminded the church that we are "a lighthouse in a dark house of sin, bearing witness to the world," and Pastor Orette Mitchell burned the mortgage note. Conference officials, Richard Marker, president, and Bancroft Daughma, English Ministries director, were present for the occasion. Marker brought greetings from the conference and commended the church on a job well done.

The ceremony concluded on Sunday evening with a banquet in New Rochelle. New York. that was filled with entertainment accompanied by gracious company and good food.

Moving into the future with God, our pastor, Steve Cassimy, a visionary, recognized that Shalom is now in its "honeymoon stage." Yet, there is still a lot of work to do. He believes that God deserves the best, and now is the time to take our church to a new level. According to Clifford Cromwell, an elder, "Paul planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the increase." We thank God and everyone who has helped us on this journey. "We've come this far by faith."

> Petula Louis, communication director Shalom church

Vibrant Youth Week of Prayer at Soundview

od blessed the Spanish JSoundview Seventhday Adventist Church with a great youth Week of Prayer entitled "Live for God" that was held March 22-29. Five youth from the church spoke about how they can live for God, focusing on difference aspects of their lives.

Soany Santos presented the very first sermon of the week and spoke about God's unconditional love. She is the church secretary and assistant director in the youth department.

Catherine Cariño spoke about how we are created for a specific purpose. She is an enthusiastic young woman who aspires to be director of the youth department.

Johana Santana captivated the congregation with her enthusiasm and

sermon entitled "The Wonderful Machine," which reflected on how we have been created in God's image.

Reinaldo Bravo spoke about being God's servant forever. He is one of the Sabbath School teachers for the youth and enjoys ministering to children.

Manuela Rojas said she can't wait to see Jesus and spoke about living for God.

She is currently the Women's Ministries department director for the church.

Carolina Monroy spoke about how great it is to be an ambassador for the mighty God of the universe.

José Cortés, Jr., the Greater



Week of Prayer speakers at the Spanish Soundview church were, from left, Manuela Rojas, Catherine Cariño, Reinaldo Bravo, Pastor José Cortés, Jr., Johana Santana, Carolina Monroy, and Soany Santos.

New York Conference Youth Ministries director, concluded the special week speaking about how young people can make a difference in their churches. Each of these young speakers comes from different homes and neighborhoods to demonstrate that any youth can be guided by the Holy Spirit and speak for the Lord.

> Abel Rosario, Jr. assistant communication leader Spanish Soundview church

Children at Spanish Soundview Church Conduct Sabbath Service

April 5 was an exciting day for the children of Spanish Soundview Seventh-day Adventist Church. About 12 children had practiced and were ready for their big day. That Saturday the entire worship service was conducted by the church's smallest members. They led the congregation through everything from reading the Scripture to announcing and collecting the tithes and offering. Their participation even included one of their very own telling the story for the Children's Corner, which ended with a prayer from a three-year old.

The sermon was presented by three children: Charlie Peña, 10; Shay Feliz, eight; and Job Basilis, 13. Their message shared the love of God, not only to the adults but also to the children. The service ended

with an appeal, to which the entire congregation responded.

Their enthusiasm was reflected in their participation and eagerness to make the service the best ever. At the end of the service all the children were congratulated by the adults at the door. "As soon as they finished, they asked me when they can do it again. Our goal

in this church is to prepare our children for the kingdom," said Abel Rosario, the church's pastor.

Matthew 19:14 records Jesus saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." It is so important to



The children of Spanish Soundview Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted the entire worship service on Sabbath, April 5.

give our children the opportunity to showcase their love for Jesus through church participation. It brings blessings not just to the children, but to the entire church.

> Sunilbe Rosario communication director Spanish Soundview church

"Baptized Like Jesus" AUC's Ryan Amos Tells His Mission Experience



Ryan Amos at his favorite building on campus, Founders Hall. Amos is from Somersworth, New Hampshire, and is a member of the Rochester Indonesian church in Rochester, New Hampshire.

Torrential rains came every day at 5 o'clock the first week of the ShareHim Bible evangelistic meetings in the Dominican Republic. Water was even coming into the churches. Because of the intensity of the rain, most people couldn't go to the churches to hear the Bible messages, which began at 7:00 p.m. Twelve mission-focused preachers from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, were faced with about five people in each audience compared to the typical attendance of 50-100 per church. So, some of the meetings were cancelled.

One student said, "Let's pray about this." As a result, the Lord led them to have special sessions of prayer and provided the idea to visit people, the new Bible students, in their homes, thus enabling the students to still share the gospel.

This was also the experience of Ryan Amos, a sophomore theology major at Atlantic Union College. The weather broke for the second week of the series and it was hot. Ryan found himself walking through the hot streets of Santiago to the El Remanente Seventh-day Adventist Church. He, too, was there for the college's summer 2007 ShareHim mission trip. As Ryan prepared to speak to the 60-member congrega-

tion to which he was assigned, he wondered how his 11 colleagues were doing at their assigned churches.

After the service, a woman named Maria Castellano approached Ryan and invited him to her home because she wished to speak with him. There, Maria brought out a drink of red soda. Ryan is allergic to red dye, yet he knew that this was her only drink and that she purchased it especially for him. He prayed, "Lord, let me get through this. Don't let this drink clog my throat. I promise that I will go to the emergency room as soon as I leave." As they talked, he drank slowly. His throat seemed perfectly fine.

"I want to be baptized like Jesus," Maria told him, yet at 95 years of age she worried that she would struggle to make it up the stairs to the big baptismal tank. Her other option was to profess being newly born by faith. She made Ryan promise that he would come up with a way that she could be "baptized like Jesus."

On the final Friday of the series, Andres, a member of the church, picked up Ryan and they went to a local pool to meet Maria and the pastor. There, they cut the legs out of a lawn chair, tied ropes around it, and lowered Maria into the water. The pastor baptized Maria and they carefully lifted her out.

The following Sabbath, Maria came to Ryan and asked, "I wasted 95 years of my life, so how can the Lord use me?" Ryan replied, "The best thing you can do is give your testimony." That same Saturday she did.

Later in September, while Ryan was at home, he received a call from Andres. Maria had passed away, yet her last words had been, "I am going to see Jesus."

AUC's 2008 Summer Missions

- May 19–June 10—Ghana, Africa. ShareHim Evangelism. Nine AUC students and two faculty/staff will conduct evangelistic meetings. They will each preach 18 sermons in an assigned church. Sponsors: AUC, The Quiet Hour International radio broadcast, Southern New England Conference.
- 10 weeks—Literature evangelism in Framingham, Massachusetts. Sponsor: AUC's Center for Discipleship Evangelism.
- First two weeks of August—Medical mission trip to Honduras. AUC nursing majors will work at a clinic and orphanage. Sponsor: Center for Discipleship Evangelism.

Noemilia Basilis is an advanced composition student and a sophomore education major. Originally from the Dominican Republic, she is from Bronx, New York, and is a member of the Spanish Soundview church.

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Alissa Sundstrom '06



Nurses' pinning, Rachel Noel '08, right.

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Ignition

Incoming freshmen—earn four, free transferable academic credits this summer—July 27-August 20. Courses include: Art, College Algebra, Computer Science, Introduction to Business, EZ Accounting, Life and Teachings of Christ, Physical Education, and Strategies for Success. Pre-register by July 1.



Lystra Cole is a freshman nursing major and member of the Northoboro church in Northborough, Massachusetts.

Ignition student Lystra Cole says . . .

"Atlantic Union College's summer Ignition program allows incoming freshmen to get a head start in getting to know the college they intend to attend, and to earn a few credits before the first semester begins.

"I enjoyed taking part in the religion class during Ignition. I learned things about Jesus that I hadn't learned before. I felt most comfortable in my environment, and my education and spiritual life were growing at the same time.

"The program included 20 individuals from different cultures." We not only spent our time in the classroom, we went on outings every day—to a water park, to Worcester to a baseball game, and miniature golfing. When we went different places, it allowed us to build closer bonds with the other students. We all have grown together and the friendships we built can still be seen on campus, and may last a lifetime.

"I want to thank the person who came up with the idea of Ignition."

Music Festival Staffed by Noteworthy Volunteers



ifth through eighth grade elementary students from across the New York Conference united in praise to their Creator at the annual music festival on the campus of Union Springs Academy March 6-8.

Young Adult Mission Trip Wrangell, Alaska July 11 - 20, 2008 The participation fee is \$300.00. Each individual The goal for this is responsible for mission trip is to making and paying make contacts in for their own travel. the community and to present a Vacation Bible School program to the children. For more information contact: David Damon at (315) 644-4140 or Youth Ministries Department New York Conference at (315) 469-6921



Erin Flannigan from Union College was the guest conductor of the choral group. Here she is pictured in a Sabbath afternoon performance.

Michael Gayle from the Buffalo Suburban church wrote music for a most unusual combination of instruments and led 15 students to unite in creating a delightful sound.

This year included two new features that all agreed were positive additions. Thanks to the vision and organizational skills of Vanessa Piersanti, USA choir director, the program offered challenging and enjoyable breakout sessions, that included rock wall climbing, gymnastics, sewing, drama, baking, flag football, and tie dying between rehearsals. A caring group of academy students and staff helped make this possible by leading these groups.

The other new addition was an instrumental group conducted by Michael Gayle from the Buffalo Suburban church. Gayle wrote music for a most unusual combination of instruments and led 15 students to unite in creating a delightful sound.

Erin Flannigan from Union College was the guest conductor of the choral group. After having her flight cancelled twice, she arrived to begin work with a group that was well-rehearsed, thanks to the flexibility of Piersanti and Esther Baker, USA band director, who filled in. Flannigan completed the process leading to a polished and sparkling choir.

The Friday vespers program featured smaller groups from individual schools, revealing that the New York Conference has truly been blessed by God with many musical gifts.

Gratitude must also be expressed to the many teachers and volunteers who generously gave their personal time and resources to transport and support students throughout the event.

> Kim, Kaiser, communication director New York Conference



NEWS

Parkview Students Prepare Soup for the Homeless

n February 15, Mrs. Connie Froehlich, a parent, Ms. Cassie

Isn't it amazing how God can make people so happy with just a little container of soup?

Johnson, a teacher, and Ms. Kelsey Hayes, a church member, took our class to give soup, dinner rolls, and brownies to people who were homeless and cold. Our class all helped

to make the soup. I cut the carrots. Then I went with Mrs. Froehlich, and students Kristen, David, Richard, and Dominic to go around town to look for people to serve the soup to. The greatest experience was when we

served the soup to a cold, elderly, poor man who was walking. We asked him if he wanted soup and he took everything with such a happy, joyful, thankful glow in his eyes and a cute, happy smile. That really made my day when he was so thankful and happy. After we gave all the soup away we went back to the school.

Isn't it amazing how God can make people so happy with just a little container of soup? I think it is wonderful that God gave us the gift to help others.

Kathryn Halbritter, student Parkview Jr. Academy

USA Chapel Transformed into an English Tea Room

The setting was the fireplace room in the chapel at Union Springs Academy, but with its lovely

touches, it felt like an English tea room. Soft music wafted. lights sparkled around the perimeter, and the fire flickered. Even fresh flowers on the small tables in early March set off the dainty morsels of cakes, cookies, and saltines.

Participants brought their own tea cups for the nice selection of

hot drinks. While they sipped, attendees enjoyed a

few thoughts by Women's Ministries leader Gail Mason. She reminded us that we are God's beauti-

ful daughters,

Women's flowers in His garden, **Ministries** and we need the custom of leader, Gail sharing time together and Mason, reminded supporting one another. us that ... we A display need the custom of quality books for of sharing time reading and cards for the together and ailing were also available. supporting one Thanks. Gail and friends, another.

> Linda Schermerhorn, correspondent Union Springs church

for organizing

this event.

New York Conference Annual Singles Retreat 2008

Camp Cherokee August 20–24, 2008

Speaker: Pastor Melville Andrade, Pennsylvania Conference

Activities Include: Boating, Canoeing, Surfing, Sailing, Tennis, Hiking, Swimming, Horseback Riding, Basketball, and more.

Fees: August 20-24: \$140 August 22-24: \$70

Fees include all meals and camp activities. For more information contact Carmen Gonzales at (315) 451-4017.

Don't miss out on a great time! Register now.

Name:		_
Address:		
Phone No:		

Mail Registration to:

Singles Ministries, New York Conference, 4930 W Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY 13215. Make checks payable to New York Conference – Singles Ministries.

Adventist Singles Ministries is active in New York!

Mission Statements: A Must **Have for Youth Ministries**

t is a yellow 5×7 laminated card that sits on the right-hand corner of my desk. It's been there for almost 10 years. It is what keeps me focused. It is what drives youth ministry in the Atlantic Union. I review it from time to time to keep in my mind the goals and purpose for youth ministry in this union. It is the Atlantic Union Conference mission statement for the youth department as developed by the Atlantic Union youth directors.

It reads, "The Atlantic Union Conference's Youth Ministries exists to strengthen those who work directly with Adventurers, Pathfinders, youth, and young adults. We are a team of committed Seventh-day Adventist Christians from diverse cultures, language groups, and people groups. Our purpose is to train, urge, and empower Adventurers, Pathfinders, youth, and young adult leaders and members of whatever race, class, gender, or language. It is our goal to be ready for the soon coming of Jesus Christ and encourage our peers and friends to be ready as well."

What is your church youth group's mission statement? Developing a mission statement is like getting a fix on the purpose of ministry. Here are some youth ministry mission statements that others have developed.

"Our youth ministry mission is to win lost teenagers and enable them to become growing and fruitful followers of Christ."

"Our youth ministry exists to REACH non-believing students, to CONNECT them with other Christians, to help them GROW in their faith, and to challenge the growing to DISCOVER their ministry and HONOR God with their life."

Consider four essential elements of ministry to young people that need to be reflected in a mission statement.

Essential Number One: Focused on God in Christ.

"We will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ"—Ephesians 4:15 (NIV). The number one goal for every Seventh-day Adventist youth group is to help young people develop a love relationship with God. Planning great AYS programs is important, organizing exciting youth socials is important, taking the youth on awesome ski trips is important, but nothing is more important than giving our youth a spiritual direction.

Essential Number Two: Calling Students to Service. Christ shared with us the importance of service when He gave us the second commandment to "love our neighbor as ourselves" (Matthew 22:39-40). Plan a one-day domestic mission trip, involve the youth in a mission trip to a foreign country, or do something in your community. "A biblical philosophy of youth ministry must embrace an intentional effort to help students understand that growing, active love for God will always be manifested by a growing, active love for one's neighbor"—This Way to Youth Ministry, p. 447.

Essential Number Three: Building Disciples. One of the core missions of the Adventist Church is to make disciples. That is our mandate, to make not only disciples from the unchurched, but to make disciples of our own youth. "A biblical philosophy of ministry will be shaped by the mandate to form and nurture students into Christ likeness, to encourage, guide, and accompany teenagers in the intentional and fervent pursuit called discipleship"—This Way to Youth Ministry, p. 454.

Essential Number Four: Building One Another in Love. Building relationships should be a core value in any youth ministry. This should be part of a mission statement. There is a clear emphasis on relationships in the mission statement of the Saddleback church in California:

Relationship approach

Encouragement

Laughter

Acceptance

Transparency

Involvement of young people

Outreach orientation

Numerical growth

Spiritual growth

Homelike feeling

Intimacy

Professionalism

Strategic follow-up

Why not spend some quality time with your youth ministry team and develop a mission statement for your youth group including these four essentials? A mission statement should be simple, meaningful, action oriented, and compelling (Purpose Driven Youth MINISTRY, p. 64).

If you need assistance in developing a youth ministry mission statement, don't hesitate to consult with your local conference or union youth ministries professional.



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

TRANSITION

It's Your Choice!

ransition — It's Your Choice was the theme of the GODencounters 2008 Young Adult/Collegiate Retreat held at Camp Winnekeag the first weekend in February. The key text for the weekend was Romans 12:2: "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Each one attending had time to explore the opportunities available every moment of every day to begin again and think new thoughts about their journey to heaven, about their spirituality, and about their sexual purity. When young adults are transformed, their life is changed forever.

120 young adults braved the icy, wintery weather and made their way from New York City, Western Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Boston, Northern New England, and other areas of the Atlantic Union to enjoy the weekend that was planned especially for them.

Ron Pickell, University of California—Berkeley secular campus chaplain, was the guest speaker for the weekend. He also coordinates Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) for the North American Division. ACF exists to meet the needs of Adventst youth who attend a secular campus or university.

Scott Campbell and the praise and worship team provided music for the praise and worship service. They are youth from the Freeport, Maine, church in the Northern New England Conference.

The workshops presented included Transition to Heaven presented by Shawn Brace, a young adult pastor, Transition to Spirituality presented by Zane Yi, a doctoral student at Columbia University, and Transitioning (Breaking Free) from Habitual Sin by Rick Trott from the Atlantic Union College Religion Department.

A special and unique prayer room experience was provided by Rebecca Ruf, a young adult from Leominster, Massachusetts. Elliezer and Eliel Oliveira from Silver Spring, Maryland, provided a special concert on Sabbath afternoon. Willie Brown and his puppet, Woody, performed a Saturday night program, which ended with some very exciting and energetic group games led by Pete Maldonado.

Involving young adults in the planning and actual coordination of this weekend is intentional. It is hoped that as young adults participate in this weekend they will go back to their schools and churches and plan and coordinate local ministries for young adults in their community. Young adults were encouraged to remember the text, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, NIV), as they go through a transitioning experience in their lives.

GODencounters weekend has become a traditional event for the young adults of the Atlantic Union. The next GODencounters weekend is scheduled for February 6–8, 2009.

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



Longtime Members Recognized for Community Service Work



Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference Adventist Community Services director. center, presented a plaque to Rachel and Kenneth Lee for their 45 years of dedicated service in community service work.

enneth and Rachael Lee, longtime members of the Auburn Seventhday Adventist Church in Auburn, Maine, were recognized on Sabbath, March 25, by the Northern New England Conference for

their many years of community service work. A plaque was presented by Harry Sabnani, the conference's Adventist Community Services director.

This marked 45 years of service dedicated to volunteering their time and energy to helping others. Kenneth Lee's expertise is in making beautiful quilts that were sent out to families of fire victims, the homeless, and people with various needs. Rachael

greeted the public along with other duties. including sorting, mending, wash-

you did it to Me." ing, and organizing used clothing to be given

to people in need. They worked together as a team for all these years along with many other dedicated members who also graciously volunteered their

time. The Lees have only recently stepped down from their service due to ill health.

The Auburn church, known as a place of refuge for many who have been in need, have heeded the

> commission in Matthew 25:36. 40, "I was naked and you clothed Me;. . . . Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did

it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

> Iovce A. Leonard communication secretary Auburn church



Central Vermont Academy

"Inasmuch as you did

it to one of the least

of these My brethren,



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What Is Your Mental and Spiritual Attitude?

ne of the most serious and powerful principles of life is that we often get what we expect. If we expect God's blessings, miracles, and direction, we

we expect we work towards, consciously or subconsciously, and usually receive. Are you a "half-full" or "halfempty" glass type of person? What is your spiritual and

mental

attitude?

Are you

known as

a whiner,

com-

plainer,

criticizer,

Christian

half-full

In order to develop and maintain a spiritual and mental attitude of faith and positive expectancy, we must: hope, dream, believe, pray, read, and associate with positive daily thoughts.

usually get them. They may come in forms different from our expectations. But on the other hand, if we expect failure, doom, or gloom, it usually shows up. This behavior finds its source in The Law of Self-fulfilling Prophecy which suggests that what

or are you a person hoping in God and His promises, expecting something good to happen?

Ioshua and Caleb stand out from the others sent by Moses to spy out the Promised Land. They focused on the good, and by faith in their awesome God, knew the giants would fall. Of the 12 spies, we only remember two names. Of the twelve people in your family or church, what are you known for?

In order to develop and maintain a spiritual and mental attitude of faith and positive expectancy, we must: hope, dream, believe, pray, read, and associate with positive daily thoughts. We must make that choice. No one else makes it for us. Fill your mind with the positive. Eliminate the negative. Trust God. Glen Coon, who has written much about God's promises, states that God's Word has 3,573 promises on which we can focus. Would it not be good to daily sing, repeat, and tell others and yourself of God's promises and blessings? God told Joshua to "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"—Joshua 1:9 (NKJV). Ellen White writes extensively on this subject in THE

MINISTRY OF HEALING. A couple of God's one-liners are:

- "Beware of self-pity. Never indulge the feeling that you are not esteemed as you should be" (p. 476).
- "Self is the enemy we most need to fear"(p. 485).
- "Talk of the promises; talk of Jesus' willingness to bless" (p. 488).
- "The only security for any soul is right thinking" (p. 491).
- "It never pays to think of your grievance" (p. 492).

Take time daily and fill your mind with the positive power of spiritual expectancy (Psalm 52:5). Then your heart will not be troubled because God is our refuge and strength and our very present help in trouble (John 14:1, Psalm 46:1).

What is your mental and spiritual attitude?

Mike Ortel, president Northern New England Conference



Sabbath, July 12

Sabbath School 10:00 a.m. Church 11:00 a.m. Lunch 1:00 p.m.

Afternoon Program

Sunday, July 13

Auction 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Picnic and Ball Game

Contact information: Sandy Anderson Phone: (802)355-1076; E-mail: sjakid54ever@aol.com

Please bring an unusual item(s) to be auctioned off. E-mail favorite recipe to be compiled in a cookbook.

Limington Church Members Take Prayer Meeting Home

he Limington Seventh-day Adventist Church has been holding prayer meetings at the Millikens' home each week instead of at the church. The reason? Wynona Milliken has not been able to get out of the house for any church meetings except on very rare occasions because of her health. The church misses her companionship, so prayer meeting was moved to her home so that members could fellowship with her.

> Cathy Chenoweth, communication correspondent Limington church

Have you considered moving to the country?

We are inviting families, workers, and professionals to join us in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont, home of the Barre Seventh-day Adventist Church and Central Vermont Academy. We will assist you in your search for housing and for local jobs available with SDA employers. We have a growing, active church district with Pastor Bob Rice and an on-site radio station (WJLP-LP) broadcasting 3ABN 24-7.

For information and assistance contact Ron Kowalkowski at mkowalk417@aol.com or call 802-318-8359.

Connecticut Valley Plants Seeds at the Mall



The third and final sign presented by the Connecticut Valley church encouraged shoppers to "Come and get to know God with us!"

In an effort to reach people $oldsymbol{\perp}$ where they live, work, and play, the Connecticut Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Windsor. Connecticut, rented an illuminated mall billboard sign for one year at the Buckland Hills Mall in Manchester, Connecticut.

Three different signs were displayed throughout the vear, starting with a sign promoting Heartquest with Mike Tucker, followed by a holiday message, and concluding with a general welcome to our church.

Church members hope the signs will increase the church's visibility, while planting seeds for a future harvest, as thousands stroll past them.

> Einar Rom, pastor and Zaidy Palma Personal Ministries director Connecticut Valley church



The Connecticut Valley church displayed a holiday message at their local mall inviting shoppers to come to their church services.

Interactive Sports Clinic Gives Hand-on Experience

he Southern New England Conference Education Department and the Atlantic Union College Athletic Facilities and Recreation Department joined forces to provide an interactive sports clinic this past January.

More than 180



All-star basketball game participants as chosen by the clinicians. The clinicians based their decision on how the students performed during the day.

students in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 from 12 Southern New England Conference elementary schools learned techniques about soccer, tennis, basketball, and volleyball.

AUC's Athletic Facilities and Recreation director Coach Sandy Smith organized the clinic and arranged for the clinicians, many AUC students, who assisted. The elementary students rotated through the different sports at AUC's field house and South Lancaster Academy's gymnasium.

The day ended with two all-star games in soccer and basketball with players chosen by the clinicians based on their performance during the day.

> Ruth Pope, associate superintendent Southern New England Conference



Southern New England Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting Camp Meeting Pavilion 34 Sawyer Street South Lancaster, MA

All are welcome Seats available on a first-come basis www.sneconline.org Saturday, July 19 5:00 p.m.

Elegant Dinner Raises Nearly \$50,000

ore than 160 people V**⊥**gathered at Montvale Plaza, a function hall in Stoneham, a scant five minutes from Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy, to enjoy an evening of fine dining, entertainment, and fellowship. Started by Home and School leaders Bernadette Ovalles and Lauren Rittenhouse seven years ago, they rallied their partners to the cause and inaugurated a fundraising dinner that has, to date, raised several hundred thousand dollars to support Christian education at Edgewood/GBA. The most recent dinner, held on April 6, brought in nearly \$50,000.

Attending were members of Stoneham Memorial, the local constituent Adventist church, as well as friends and family members of the staff. Not so coincidentally, among the special guests attending the dinner this year were the 11 members of the North American Division

Accrediting Team who spent the following three days evaluating Edgewood/GBA's program and facility. I felt it was important for the committee to see the strong and substantial support the local community has given to the school. The committee was duly impressed and commended the church and community in their final report.

Julie Rittenhouse '06 and Cherie Asgeirsson (Stoneham Memorial church member) provided background music on cello and piano. Former Edgewood teacher Erika Randall Bryan, and an Edgewood/GBA graduate herself, made the appeal for donations and pledges, apparently to good effect, as her call garnered the most support since the dinners began.

Once again, local merchants provided products and gift certificates for the door prizes and drawings that took place during the evening. The GBA choir, under the direction of Rachel



The GBA choir, under the direction of Rachel Pamphile, sang two numbers while the donations and pledges were collected.

Pamphile '06, sang two numbers while the donations and pledges were collected. The evening closed with student Emilie Pla '09 singing two numbers, leaving the guests on a high note.

Today, thanks to fundraisers like this elegant dinner and other measures, Edgewood/GBA is on solid financial footing, and getting stronger every year. Enrollment is growing as well, with a class for three-year olds being added this year, and an additional elementary classroom coming next year.

This summer, the school will offer several day camps, including Reading Camp,

Math Camp, and the return of last year's Basketball Camp with former pro-player Anthony Bowie. There is an anticipation in the air for more good things to come.

Parents in the greater Boston area with school-aged children are encouraged to call the office at (781) 438-4253 for more information about enrolling in either the summer programs or for the coming school year.

As one board member put it, "Good things are coming for Edgewood/GBA. Now is the time to get involved."

> Rondi Aastrup, principal Edgewood Elementary/ Greater Boston Academy

SLA Students "P.U.S.H." Their Week of Prayer

7hat do "Prayeroids," "Persistence," and "P.U.S.H." have in common? Yes, the letter "P," but they were also the South Lancaster Academy student Week of prayer devotional titles. The theme for this January event was "P.U.S.H.—Pray Until Something Happens.'

Monday's speaker was sophomore Jeremy Wilson. His topic, "Prayeroids," emphasized that we need to pray many times about something. Prayer is like toothpicks—it's easy for Satan to break one, but it's difficult to break many.

My topic on Tuesday was "Be Persistent." I recom-

mended praying regardless of what happens. If you do, you will get the victory, like the N.Y. Giants, and God will answer your prayers.

On Wednesday the speaker was freshman Corv Keith. His topic was "Believe in Prayer and God." His main point was that you must have faith, pray, and trust God.

Thursday Pastor Omar Jarvis spoke on "Faith." Faith equals power. Power is not equal to answered prayers. Don't worry if God doesn't answer your prayers immediately, it's because He has something better in store for you.

Junior Ashok Willmott spoke Friday on "P.U.S.H." He discussed how we are all sinners like the thieves on the cross. But like the repentant thief, we should accept Christ in our lives. If we do, we will live with Him forever.



The final speaker, sophomore Eric Morris, spoke Saturday on "Persistence." He stated that, like the Internet and pop-ups, the devil sends distractions our way to block our prayer life, but we need to be persistent. God will reward our persistence.

To all those who participated in this Week of prayer, thank you. The music, skits, testimonies, devotionals, prayers, and quotes were great. I was blessed.

Remember to Pray Until Something Happens.

> Jessica Malcolm, junior South Lancaster Academy

\$10 Buys 200 New Churches

By Carrie Purkeypile

Tt seems impossible, but Maranatha Volunteers International **⊥**builds churches for \$10! Now donors and recipients are celebrating the 200th miracle \$10 Church. These solid sanctuaries are the pride of their communities, and many have served as a refuge in earthquakes or tropical storms. Faithful donors from around the world have been giving small gifts to build churches for 20 years now. In March 2008, the 200th \$10 Church was

The \$10 Church fund, initiated in 1988, combines small monthly donations to build churches for Adventist congregations in urgent need. People want to be a part of a ministry that makes such a tangible dif-

built and paid for.



One of the many happy congregations in Huaynacancha, Peru, in front of their new \$10 Church.

ference. The program now has more than 4,000 individuals participating every year. These faithful donors, with monthly donations of \$10 each, were instrumental in helping the organization reach its 200-church mark in March.

Maranatha president Don Noble says, "People love being part of the \$10 Church. They feel good about making an important difference in the world. I can assure you that these churches truly make an impact for Christ. It is all happening because thousands of people join together to help."

Donors to the \$10 Church fund are very diverse. Sabbath School groups, elementary schools, college students, business people, children, families, and retired folk contribute each month, and delight in the monthly update letter with a picture of the church they built.

Donor Jean Buchanan has been supporting Maranatha through the \$10 Church program for several years now. "Thank you for the privilege of being a part of building a church each month! I am in awe of God's ideas and I'm grateful and humbled to be a part of the team of brothers and sisters who care. To think, two churches a month where people can go to worship and learn about Him! My heart is touched and I'm so glad to be a part of this project. God bless you and your workers, and your givers!"

A donation of \$10 is so manageable that anyone can be a part of this solution. Through the years people have discovered creative ways to raise funds for churches. Many people have a special place to drop their spare change at the end of the day. God blesses those jars full of pennies, and turns out churches! Others collect aluminum cans and glass bottles for recycling refunds, or donate all money found on the ground to the \$10 Church. Others are even more industrious, selling soda or popsicles at school or the workplace or holding other small fund-raisers. The result is something that 20 years ago, no one could have imagined.

Today 200 congregations are meeting in a building, instead of a shack. Figures have shown that within a few years of Maranatha building a church, membership increases by 300-400 percent.

After volunteer Tootie Teeter and her family experienced mission projects for themselves, they signed on to help support the \$10 Church. "Thank you for the opportunity to help the Lord!" she says. For more information or to join the \$10 Church, visit www. maranatha.org or call (916) 920-1900.

Maranatha Volunteers International is a non-profit organization that mobilizes volunteers to construct urgently-needed buildings all over the world.

Carrie Purkeypile is a communication specialist at Maranatha Volunteers International.

Cruise with a Mission

By Cassie Martsching

hree hundred **⊥** thirty Seventhday Adventist young adults, including 11 from the Atlantic Union, departed from Tampa, Florida, for the first annual Cruise With a Mission on December 16, 2007. They boarded the



Anna Fuentes of Bridgeport, Connecticut, brings cheer to a hospitalized boy.

ms Veendam, a Holland America ship, prepared for a seven-day combination spiritual retreat, mission trip, and vacation.

Cruise With a Mission was created by the Center for Youth Evangelism, which is part of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The goal of the trip was to connect Adventist young adults from around the world to experience ministry training, spiritual growth, community, fun, and service.

During excursions to Belize and Guatemala, volunteers conducted medical and dental clinics, led Vacation Bible School programs, and helped renovate several parks and schools.

The second annual Cruise With a Mission is scheduled for December 14-21, 2008, and will depart from Tampa, Florida. The Cruise With ith a Mission team is putting together an exciting group of speakers, musicians, worship leaders, event planners, and programming experts. For more information, visit www.cruisewithamission.org.

Cassie Martsching is the communication director for AdventSource in Lincoln, Nebraska.



From December 16-23, 2007, 330 young adults set sail on the first annual Cruise With a Mission combination spiritual retreat, mission trip, and vacation.







A Statement on Literacy

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

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 Literacy

The Seventh-day Adventist Church values the unique role that women play in fulfilling the church's mission to spread the gospel. Part of that mission involves meeting the physical, intellectual, and social needs of those around us, just as Jesus did when He lived on earth.

Research indicates that six major challenges in the lives of all human beings—women in particular—are: literacy, poverty, abuse, health, work hours and conditions, and opportunities for training and mentoring. To better meet these needs, the Office of Women's Ministries of the Adventist Church has launched a major thrust on literacy training in 1995.

The inability to read impacts every aspect of a person's life—earning power, career opportunities, access to health care information, and even the ability to raise a child properly. Without the skill of reading, few doors of opportunity can ever be opened.

Teaching reading creates endless possibilities for people to be informed concerning such topics as careers, health, parenting, and marriage, and offers the teacher unexcelled opportunities for touching lives through ministry.

Adventists recognize a more vital reason to share the gift of reading. We believe that the ability to read God's Word—the good news of salvation—should not be reserved for the privileged few. We assert that every man, woman, and child should have access to the truths and uplifting power of the Bible.

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.advent source.org) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) (www.adventistbookcenter.com)

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL

Les Adventistes se joignent aux dirigeants religieux et des organisations humanitaires pour lutter contre la pauvreté

arantir la somme d'un milliard de dollars pour aider les femmes et les jeunes filles ; 'En éduquant une fille, vous éduquez une nation'

Le 13 avril, les représentants religieux, d'aide humanitaire et du gouvernement ont fait remarquer qu'il y avait un lien entre la pauvreté et la situation des femmes économiquement faibles. Ce n'est pas une coïncidence qu'environ 70 pour cent des 1.2 milliards de personnes vivant avec seulement 1 US\$ par jour soient des femmes et des jeunes filles, ajoutent-ils.

C'est une "obligation morale" de chercher à renverser ces statistiques troublantes, ont affirmé les dirigeants réunis pour le "Women, Faith and Development Summit to End Global Poverty" (Convention des femmes, de la foi et du développement pour mettre fin à la pauvreté mondiale) qui se tenait dans une cathédrale bondée.

"Nous n'acceptons pas que la pauvreté soit un aspect inévitable de la condition humaine," a déclaré lors de son discours d'ouverture Madeleine Albright, ancienne ministre des Affaires étrangères aux États-Unis.

Les participants à la convention, dont certains dirigeants de l'Église adventiste du septième jour, se sont réunis pour lancer la "Women, Faith and Development Alliance" (Alliance des femmes, de la foi et du développement), un partenariat entre les organisations pour les femmes, les organisations de développement international et les organisations religieuses. Ils ont également cherché à garantir des fonds pour freiner la pauvreté mondiale en aidant les femmes et les jeunes filles.

"Alors que l'écart entre les riches et les pauvres s'agrandit de plus en plus, nous ne pouvons pas seulement répondre aux besoins immédiats. Nous devons agir en profondeur et à long terme," a expliqué plus tard Dr. Ella Simmons, vice-présidente de l'Église mondiale, demandant des solutions durables à la pauvreté.

Parmi les 70 organisations engagées à verser US\$ 1 milliard pour ce projet se trouve ADRA, (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) qui s'est aussi engagé à donner US\$ 1.5 millions afin de réduire les lacunes dans le domaine de l'alphabétisation des femmes et de l'accès à l'éducation pour les filles.

Même si les gens lèvent les yeux au ciel ou haussent les épaules lorsqu'on parle d'éliminer la pauvreté, M. Albright a déclaré que l'objectif est "réalisable" et qu'une telle autosatisfaction est l'ennemi du progrès. "Quel est le problème ? Ce n'est pas comme si nous essayions de changer la gravité. La pauvreté n'est pas une force de la nature. La pauvreté est un choix fait par la société. Et ce que nous avons la capacité de choisir, nous avons le pouvoir de changer," a affirmé M. Albright.

Les orateurs de la convention étaient d'accord que pour faire baisser le taux de pauvreté il ne suffit pas de canaliser l'argent dans les mains de personnes privées de leurs droits civiques. Il faut plutôt se servir pleinement des femmes et des jeunes filles comme "instigatrices de changement, et non comme objets de charité," a expliqué Dr Ishmael Noko, secrétaire général pour la Fédération mondiale luthérienne.

"Si vous voulez qu'un pays progresse, responsabilisez les femmes, éduquez les jeunes filles, c'est la seule solution," a affirmé Mary Robinson, ancienne présidente de la République d'Irlande, qui a parlé lors de cet événement. Dans les semaines à venir, les dirigeants mondiaux devront "retrousser leurs manches" pour aborder le côté pratique de ce partenariat essentiellement "symbolique," a ajouté M. Robinson. "Il faut que ça marche.'

En s'adressant aux participants de la convention par vidéo, l'archevêque Desmond Tutu a précisé que cette tâche devait être assumée aussi bien par le gouvernement que par les chefs religieux. En parlant de certaines communautés religieuses en particulier, D.Tutu a rapporté que "la religion est trop souvent utilisée comme moyen pour opprimer les femmes," et que les dirigeants religieux ont choisi à tort d'ignorer plutôt que de "condamner" les pratiques telles que les mariages d'enfants et les mutilations génitales féminines, pratiques approuvées dans certaines cultures.

Le fait d'ignorer des abus si épouvantables ne peut plus être une excuse, a déclaré M. Albright. "Certains diront: 'Tout cela est une affaire de culture, et personne ne pourra rien y faire.' J'affirme que c'est criminel, et que nous sommes tous dans l'obligation de l'arrêter," a-t-elle ajouté.

Ashley Judd, ambassadrice de Global YouthAIDS et actrice américaine s'est fait l'écho du point de vue de M. Albright, appelant le viol et les autres crimes commis contre les femmes "l'apartheid des sexes." Les participants à la convention se sont engagés à faire des plans pour aborder les différents défis auxquels les femmes et les jeunes filles doivent faire face, y compris la violence due au sexe.

En parlant du rapport entre la pauvreté et l'analphabétisme, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, première présidente du Libéria, a déclaré que les nations en voie de développement doivent tirer profit des talents et des idées des femmes et des jeunes filles. "Lorsque vous éduquez une fille, vous éduquez une nation," a-t-elle ajouté.

E. Simmons, également déléguée de la communauté religieuse au WFDA Leadership Council, a recommandé d'inclure les hommes et les garçons dans les efforts pour réduire la pauvreté, même si les femmes et les jeunes filles sont parfois affectées injustement. "En soutenant tout le monde, nous encourageons tout le monde," a-t-elle ajouté.

Se joindre aux efforts combinés de la WFDA est une façon pour les délégués de l'Église adventiste de "maximiser" l'impact de leur travail en s'associant avec d'autres dirigeants ayant la même vision des choses. "Nous sommes appelés à prêcher l'Évangile dans le monde entier, et cela inclut de répondre à la condition humaine," a-t-elle déclaré.

La convention a également permis d'établir de nombreux réseaux de contacts, a indiqué Heather-Dawn Small, directrice du département de l'Église adventiste pour le ministère des femmes, et membre de la WFDA. "Il est important de pouvoir discuter avec d'autres femmes dirigeantes, d'apprendre ce qui marche dans d'autres pays, et de pouvoir ramener ces informations.'

> Elizabeth Lechleitner asistente editorial Adventist News Network 16 April 2008

English translation available at: http://news.adventist. org/data/2008/1208356991/index.html.en.



Unidos Para Cumprir o Comando de Jesus

o dia 12 de Abril, as igrejas de Língua Portuguesa de New Bedford, Seekonk e Fall River tiveram um dia memorável. Os membros do distrito se reuniram para a cerimônia de formatura de 85 instrutores bíblicos e mais de 100 membros que finalizaram as Quarenta Madrugadas com Deus, um programa de envolvimento íntimo de comunhão com Deus.

A mensagem central doi apresentada pelo Pr. Gerson P. Santos, coordenador do conselho de língua

portuguesa da Divisão Norte Americana, que preparou os materiais de treinamento para os instrutores bíblicos. O Pr. Dionísio Olivo, vice-presidente e coordenador do Ministério Português da União do Atlântico, fez a oração de dedicação para os mais novos instrutores bíblicos

leigos. Esta cerimônia foi parte de um programa de um ano de Evangelismo que inclui treinar e equipar os membros, promover o crescimento espiritual, e unir os esforços para salvar o maior número de pessoas.

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No ano passado, durante um programa de colportagemna Igreja de Seekonk, o Pastor Paulo Vieira, pastor do distrito, pediu ao departamento de publicações através do Pr. Luis Biazotto para preparar um programa de evangelismo para o ano de 2008 envolvendo a colportagem estudantil - Light America Mission e as igrejas do distrito. O programa envolve um ano de atividades de evangelismo, não apenas um evento. Este programa é dividido em três partes e cada uma começa com umasérie treinamento para os membros da igreja. Oprimeiro ciclo de treinamento é uma série de oito classes para preparar instrutores bíblicos leigos. De acordo com o irmão Valadares de Mello, ancião da igreja de Seekonk, o treinamento lhe proporcionou a oportunidade de desenvolver-se como testemunhar, tornando-se mais comprometido como discípulo de Jesus Cristo.

Na cerimônia de formatura os colportores estudantes e todos os formandos receberam um kit mis-

> sionário, incluindo um DVD player, DVDs e estudos



Grupo de novos instructores bíblicos leigo, motivados e equipados para cumprir o chamado da grande comissão.

pados para cumprir o chamado da grande comissão. Durante as próximas séries de treinamento eles serão treinados no ministério de pequenos grupos.

O projeto foi desenvolvido com a cooperação do ministério de língua portuguesa da Divisão Norte Americana e da União do Atlântico, Associação Sul da Nova Inglaterra, e da Review and Herald Publishing Association. O Centro Universitário Adventista de São Paulo irá enviar seis alunos de teologia para servirem

com obreiros bíblicos por três meses. Todos os níveis da igreja estão participando, somando experiências, esforços e recursos, pois o principal propósito do programa é promover um evangelismo integrado não simplesmente um evento de evangelismo.

Um outro aspecto importante do programa é a oração. Atos 1:14 diz: "E todos perserveravam unânimes em oração." Em todos os três ciclos do programa de evangelismo 2008 a igreja está participando das Quarenta Madrugadas com Deus. Durante este período os membros desenvolvem uma comunhão mais profunda com Deus. E todos que participam devem orar por mais cinco pessoas que não são membros da igreja. No final dos quarenta dias, eles convidam as pessoas por quem

> oraram para um programa chamado Reencontro. Mais de cinquenta visitantes vieram à igreja no dia 8 de março no final da primeira jornada das quarenta madrugadas. Como resultado, 15 pessoas já foram batizadas este ano. Pastores, membros de igreja,

professores, estudantes, colportores, evangelistas e adiministradores estão trabalhando juntos respondendo ao chamado de Jesus: "Ide e fazei discípulos de todas as nações, batizandoos em nome do Pai, do Filho e do Espírito Santo" (Mateus 28:19).

Luis Biazotto Diretor de Publicações Southern New England Conference e Review and Herald Publishing Association

The English translation is available at $www.a \bar{t} lantic-union.org/news_united.html.$

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION

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Ginger Church
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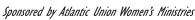
\$169 Regular
May 29 through
July 17, 2008

\$189 *Late*July 18, 2008 through
August 5, 2008

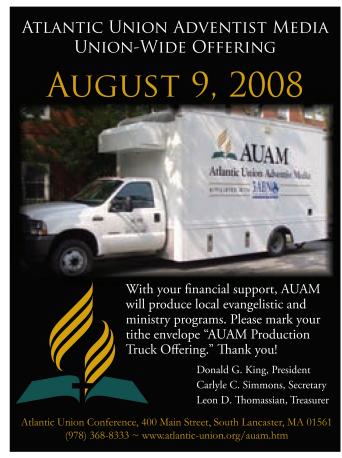
For additional information, contact Charlotte Thoms
Phone: (585) 329-9295 or (585) 475-6688
E-mail: atlanticunionwm@yahoo.com

www.atlantic-union.org/womensretreat08.html















Sunset Ta	Eastern Daylight Savings Time			
July 2008	4	11	18	25
Bangor, ME	8:23	8:20	8:14	8:07
Portland, ME	8:25	8:21	8:16	8:10
Boston, MA	8:23	8:20	8:16	8:09
South Lancaster, MA	8:26	8:23	8:18	8:12
Pittsfield, MA	8:32	8:29	8:25	8:18
Hartford, CT	8:28	8:25	8:20	8:14
New York, NY	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:17
Albany, NY	8:34	8:30	8:26	8:19
Utica, NY	8:43	8:39	8:34	8:28
Syracuse, NY	8:46	8:43	8:38	8:32
Rochester, NY	8:52	8:49	8:44	8:38
Buffalo, NY	8:56	8:53	8:48	8:42
Hamilton, Bda	8:27	8:26	8:23	8:19

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OUT-OF-UNION

Elder Care Ministry is a *new* program for seniors and caregivers coordinated by the North American Division Adventist Community Services Department. This new ministry coordinates education and services related to aging, health, finance, and social issues for seniors in the church and community. Attend training for this cutting-edge ministry at the Adventist Community Services Convention June 29-July 5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information and to



For more information and an application, write: Coach Sandy Smith, PO Box 1142, So. Lancaster, MA 01561 or e-mail sandy. smith@auc.edu.

www.atlantic-union. org/basketball.html



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OBITUARIES

BLAKE, Pearl Lena (Rose)—b. Sept. 13, 1941, in Hibernia District in the Parish of Manchester, Jamaica, West Indies; d. March 20, 2008, in Huntsville, Ala. When she lived in the Boston area, she served in many capacities in the Berea and Mattapan Seventh-day Adventist churches. She was a Bible worker for many years. At the time of her death, her membership was at the Harvest Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harvest, Ala, where she served as a Sabbath School teacher, deaconess, and Sabbath School superintendent. Left to cherish her memories are her husband, Winston, of 41 years; her daughter and son-in-law, Marcia and Waltie Getfield of Huntsville, Ala.; two grandchildren, Joseph and Victoria Getfield; three sisters, Tolleter St. Aimee of Mattapan, Mass., Esmine Harris (Hewlette) of Milton, Mass., and Valrie Rose Bernard (Orville) of Wayland, Mass.; eight brothers, Sterling Rose of Manchester, Jamaica, Clinton Williams Rose of Bridgeton, New Jersey, Kenneth Rose (Delores) of St. James, Jamaica, Raymond Rose (Lulutte) of Mandeville, Jamaica, Clifford Rose (Veronica) of Dedham, Mass., Balvin Rose (Lenora) of Rochester, N.Y., Victor Rose (Beverly) of Rochester, N.Y., and Felix Rose of Roxbury, Mass.; and more than 140 nieces and nephews who reside in various countries around the world. She was predeceased by a sister, Cherry Rose, in 1957.

KELCHNER, Danica (Todorovich)—b. Jan. 25, 1913, in Regina, Saskatchewan; d. Dec. 24, 2007, in Portland, Ore. At age seven she immigrated with her parents to College Place, Wash. She graduated from New England Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing in 1936. She worked as an R.N. in Mass., Md., Va., and W. Va. In 1937 she married John Ellsworth Kelchner (attended Atlantic Union College but graduated from Washington Missionary College), who served as a pastor in the Potomac, Chesapeake, and Pennsylvania conferences. Her husband preceded her in death in 1995. Survivors include daughters Elizabeth Gerety of Damascus, Ore., Bonnie-Jean Hannah of Orlando, Fla., and Carol Barney of Martinsburg, W.Va., two brothers, John Todorovich of Calif., and Bud Todorovich of Ore.; seven grandchildren, and 13 greatgrandchildren.

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 Conferencehttp://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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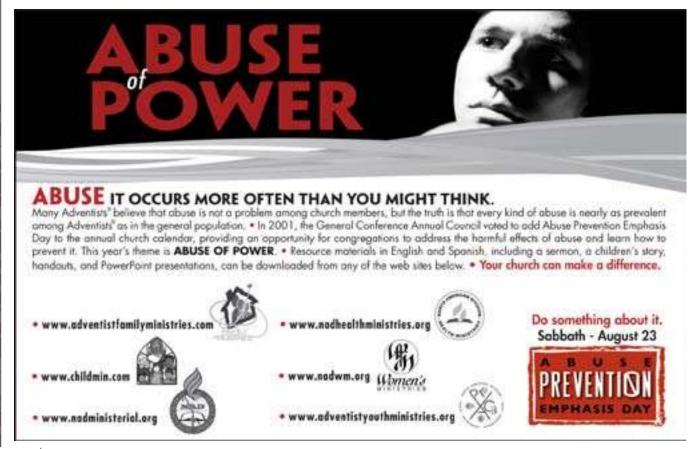
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Remembering

Geraldine I. Grout

GROUT, Geraldine Isabel (Hale)—b. Jun. 16, 1923, in West Groton, Mass.; d. Feb. 21, 2008, in Clinton, Mass. She and her husband actively served the South Lancaster Village Church of Seventh-day Adventists for many years. She was the church historian, founder of the church's Adventist Heritage Center, and communication director.

She was the youngest of three girls—Marjory, Thelma, and Geraldine. She graduated from Groton



Geraldine I. Grout

High School in 1941, earned her undergraduate degree and master's in education (1950) at Boston University, and her doctorate in business education from the University of Indiana in 1960. She married John Grout on April 21, 1957.

She began her career as a teacher at Troy High School in Troy, N.H., in 1947. In 1949 she continued her teaching career at South Lancaster Academy where she was also women's dean. She spent three years at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., where she was department head and an associate professor of business education. She taught secretarial science at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass. She was a licensed nursing home administrator of the Hale Convalescent and Nursing Home in West Groton, Mass., for several years. She also worked as a secretary in the E. E. Miles Bindery and for the Atlantic Union Conference youth and communication departments. After 22 years and 396 issues of the Atlantic Union Gleaner, she retired in December 1996 ending her long career of service as a Seventh-day Adventist Church employee.

She will be missed by her husband, John, of 50 years, her nieces and nephews, and other family members and friends. She was predeceased by her sisters, Marjory and Thelma.

George Merlin Kretschmar

KRETSCHMAR, George Merlin—b. Mar. 8, 1931, in College Place, Wash.; d. Dec. 5, 2007, in Marathon, Fla.

After graduating from Walla Walla College, he entered ministry in the Oregon Conference in 1953. This was just after his marriage to Juanita Thiebaud in Great Falls, Montana. He served seven years in pastoral ministry, then they went to Brazil as missionaries with their two children, Suzanne and



George M. Kretschmar

Joseph. The majority of the time they were in Brazil, he served as president of the Bahia Sergipe Mission. While there, their third child, George, was born. Returning to the United States after nine years, they resumed pastoral ministry in the Upper Columbia Conference, and, after four years, accepted a call to the Greater New York Conference where they remained for two decades and where he spent 16 years as president. While there, the Greater New York Conference Community Services Van Ministry, which has impacted hundreds of thousands of persons on the streets of New York, was started.

Upon his retirement in 1994, following God's leading, the Kretschmars, moved to Florida where he co-founded A Key Encounter and Ultimate Encounter, for God's honor as Creator and including a planetarium showing the second coming of Christ.

In addition, Kretschmar pastored two churches until the day of his death—and conducted an ocean baptism on the last Sabbath of his life. Pastor Merlin's selfless life was saturated by prayer and can be measured by the powerful impact he had on his family, fellow workers, and persons led by His influence to walk with God and lead others to do the same.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Kretschmar, of Big Pine Key, Fla.; a son, Joseph, of Paradise, Calif.; a daughter, Suzanne Land, of Conyers, Ga.; a brother, Norman Kretschmar, of Condon, Mont.; a sister, Joyce Reiswig, of Redlands, Calif.; and seven grandchildren.



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