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In this issue, we highlight preschool programs located in Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions throughout the Atlantic Union. Read more, beginning on page 4. Also included are our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. The cover photo of some of the preschoolers at the Shining Stars for Jesus Preschool was taken by Ednor A. P. Davison.

Mission Statement

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

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DEADLINES

September 2008	July 11
October 2008	August 8
November 2008	September 12

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

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Is There Anything Too Hard for the Lord?

n 2 Kings 2:9-10 (NIV) it says: "When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied. 'You have asked a difficult (hard) thing,' Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not."

In life we often face hard things, hard decisions, and sometimes, hard results. There are, at times, situations and conditions beyond our control, and beyond our ability to manage, let alone resolve. Hard things often run parallel to hard times.

Notice that when Elisha asked Elijah for a hard thing, Elijah's reply was, "If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not." The condition for Elisha's request being satisfied was that he must physically see Elijah translated. We can better understand why he could not be discouraged and influenced about separating from Elijah just prior to his translation.

In many ways the experience of Elisha, his specific request, the nature of his request, and our human response to the hard times we face in this world have something in common. We may not be asking for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, but as Christians, we all need supernatural intervention. We may currently be facing the most difficult family and marital relationships, problems with health care issues, aging, employment, financial crises, foreclosures, and the ever-increasing stress of food and gas prices in our complex postmodern age. We have hard things to resolve. To whom can we turn for support or solutions?

I am thankful that Jesus is willing to respond to our needs. In Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV), Jesus gives us the way to achieving help and a solution to most difficult situations. He says, "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Ask, seek, and knock, the first letter of each word taken together, brings us back to the first word Iesus admonishes us to do. He tells us to "Ask." We must cultivate the spirit and attitude of approaching our heavenly father in faith for solutions and wisdom in these times in which we live.

Ellen White says, "Every saint who comes to God with a true heart, and sends his honest petitions to Him in faith, will have his prayers answered. Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if you do not see or feel the immediate answer to your prayers. Be not afraid to trust God; rely upon His sure promise; 'Ask, and ye shall receive"-TESTIMONIES, vol. 1, pp. 120-121.

Elisha's "hard request" was answered because he followed the conditions laid out by Elijah. Today, if we hold on to Jesus, His teachings, His promises, and His instructions, our hard times or hard things will be resolved to our encouragement and His glorification. Hold on to Jesus, He is coming again!

Carlyle Simmons is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and the Health Ministries, Human Relations, and Prayer Ministries director.



"Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you"-Matthew 7:7 (NIV).



"I didn't go to a Christian school, but most of my brothers and sisters did. Being a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from birth, I've always admired and encouraged a Christian education. Six months ago I did not know if my three-year-old child was ready for school, so I thought I would gradually ease him into it. However, I knew which school I wanted him to attend, but was he ready? Was I ready? Today I want to say thanks to the staff and faculty of Greater Boston Academy and Edgewood Elementary school, especially to Mrs. Jackson, for grooming my child. He is soaking up things like a sponge. His little brain is being challenged. Edgewood Elementary school has a real Christ-centered child-friendly environment. The classes are not crowded, so my child has a real one-onone with his teacher. They are friendly. It's a really good place to send your children. I would not hesitate to recommend any parent to send their children there."—Loren Madden, father of a three-year-old.

ith the economic challenges facing many families, having a "stayat-home parent" has not been an option in many homes for some time. Often, both parents must work in order to make ends meet. This creates challenges for them as they seek to identify facilities that will provide, in their estimation, proper care for their children.

All parents want to know that their children are engaged in meaningful learning and fun activities throughout the day in a safe environment. More and more, the options include Adventist facilities where, in addition to all the other activities, children can learn about Jesus' love. Nestled in some of our Seventh-day Adventist



educational institutions throughout the Atlantic Union are a number of preschool programs that cater, for the most part, to three-year-olds to fiveyear-olds. All of these programs are there to help provide a much-needed service for today's growing families.

According to Kathy Girma, Shining



Stars for Jesus Preschool director at Browning Elementary School in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, "Having a preschool in an Adventist location is beneficial. It allows the teacher to share Jesus in the classroom every day. Not only does it benefit those who already know about Jesus, but it is a wonderful opportunity to witness to [children] and their families who have never been introduced to Him."

Rondi Aastrup, Edgewood Elementary school and Greater Boston Academy principal says, "Adding the PreK-3



program has changed everything about our school. The older students are more conscious of the things they say and do, knowing there are little eyes and ears there to see and hear them. They take a special delight in mentoring them, going to their room to read to them, play with them, and pray with them. Everyone has noticed the kinder, gentler atmosphere. The little ones have been a real blessing to each of us."

Recognizing the existence of this important evangelistic and nurturing resource, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is exploring ways in which it can make these programs more beneficial for everyone (see sidebar entitled Preparing Children to Become Spiritual Giants on page 5). This opportunity opens doors to teach children about Christ from an early age, reinforcing what is taught by Christian parents at home, and

Preparing Children to Become **Spiritual Giants**

Scattered through the Bible are stories about children that delight readers young and old. Listeners thrill to the story of Jacob and Esau, the little captive maid, Joseph, the child king Joash, David, babies Moses and Jesus, the little children brought to Jesus, the ruler's daughter, the widow's son, and Timothy. The godly training provided by their parents gave them a spiritual foundation that impacted nations.

In Bible times, parents assumed the responsibility to educate their children. We applaud the parents who are willing to invest time, effort, energy, and resources as stay-at-home parents for their preschoolers. We recognize that fam-

> ily disruptions, economic pressures, and social inequities may preclude many parents from the stay-at-home experience.

With this in mind the North America Division, with its unions and conferences, has seized an opportunity to develop an organizational structure that will provide support, continuity, and guidance to achieve a quality, cohesive system of early childhood education and care. It is not intended to replace the home, but rather, to support parents in their desire to provide godly training for their children.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children defines early childhood as birth to eight years of age. For the most part schools have programs for three-year-olds and four-year-olds. However, plans are underway for a division/union/conference partnership to offer children a Christ-centered environment from

birth. The North American Division has listed the following as the goals for early childhood programs:

- Facilitate evangelism.
- Encourage witnessing and community outreach.
- Maintain safe environments.
- Offer Bible-based curriculum.
- Guide instruction and assessment.
- Foster professional development.
- Maintain separation of church and state.
- Support and nurture families.
- Guide the development of the whole child—spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually.

Studies on infant brain development show that most of a person's neurons are formed from ages 0-8. If a young child does not receive appropriate spiritual nurturing, he/she may be developmentally deficient on a spiritual level. The Atlantic Union Conference is eager to respond to God's bidding that "All children shall be taught of the Lord"—regardless of age! The administration has voted to employ a part-time supervisor to nurture and guide early childhood programs throughout the Atlantic Union Conference. A biblical curriculum is being developed for use in these programs. Hopefully, this venture will not only add to increased enrollment in existing Adventist schools, but prepare children to become spiritual giants like the ones scattered throughout Bible. Ultimately, it is the desire for each student enrolled in Adventist schools, along with their parents, to be reunited with our Savior in the world to come.

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

1. http://www.naeyc.org



exposing them to Christian education for the later years.

Rita Jackson is the PreK-3 teacher at Edgwood Elementary school. She proudly states, "Working with children provides me with a daily perspective of God's unconditional love for His children. I truly love each one of my students and I find it an awesome privilege to be impacting their lives every day. Whether it is reading a story, teaching them a life skill, or just getting down on the floor and playing a game, I know these are the things they will remember for the rest of their lives. It is my prayer that each student will see the heart of Jesus in me as I teach them each day."

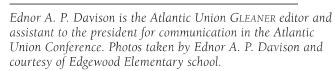
Chris Foster, a parent of preschool and first-grade children says, "My family relocated to the South Lancaster area in order for our children to attend Adventist schools. Soon after our children were born, we realized the importance

of being part of an Adventist community. Each day our children come home singing songs and telling stories they learned at school about Jesus' love and blessings. We know what they experience and learn at school is an extension of what we teach at home and what our Adventist Church teaches. The teachers and staff are loving and supportive and exemplify the love of God."

> Gisselle Palacios, another parent, says, "The PreK-3 program was a great addition to Edgewood's curriculum. Mrs. Jackson brought a lot of great ideas and energy to the classroom. Throughout the year, I saw my daughter grow spiritually, mentally, and physically! The children received individual attention and learned the basics (sharing, counting, singing, etc.) through the monthly themes, but more importantly, that Jesus

loves them very much! I'd recommend (and did) this program to parents who are looking for quality education."

Since children do most of their learning in the very early stages of their lives (according to the research on child development) then what an opportunity has been presented, through the establishment of these programs, to instill Christian values for a lifetime.



If you are interested in getting information about preschool programs in your area, contact your local conference education office (see directory on page 31).





By Trudy Wright

A Call to Action

od wants you! He wants you in Jaction.

"God's people are called to a work that requires money and consecration. The obligations resting upon us holds us responsible to work for God to the utmost of our ability. He calls for undivided service, for the entire devotion of heart, soul, mind, and strength."1

The mission field is not just in third-world countries. Some countries have a ratio of one Seventh-day Adventist to every 10 persons. The United States has a ratio of approximately one Adventist to 300 persons.

It is time to open representative schools so our children can obtain Adventist education—effective daily child evangelism. According to the 2000 VALUEGENESIS2 study of Adventist school students, when home, school, and church are supportive environments, the greatest potential exists for them to develop: a saving relationship with Jesus (75 percent); denominational loyalty (88 percent); and intrinsic grace oriented religion (99 percent).²

Our teachers work long hours, some with less-than-ideal resources and conditions: church/school shared facilities, inadequate facilities, and lack of janitorial and maintenance services. In spite of challenges, according to LaSierra University's CognitiveGenesis Study, our North American Division students achieve above the national average and above predicted levels on valid, reliable. norm-referenced tests. In Northern New England Conference our schools, according to 2007 statistics,

perform 27 percentiles above national averages and 15 percentiles above predicted levels.

What brings such incredible results? First, God blesses as He blessed Daniel. Second, we have consecrated, caring faculty. Third, we have students giving honest effort. Forth, we have faithful parents and volunteers. Fifth, we have an exceptional Adventist curriculum.

Effective improvement includes vision, skills, incentives, resources,

"God calls upon His people to awake to their responsibilities"

action plans, action, and evaluation. When we are without: vision equals confusion, skills equals anxiety, incentives equals only gradual change, resources equals frustration, action plans equals false starts, evaluation equals no accountability, but without action we have nothing.

The adversary is waging war on our youth. We are responsible for the next generation. We need you to encourage and lift the heavy burdens that the principals and teachers bear for the salvation of our youth by: praying for our youth, building and maintaining schools, funding schools and worthy students, recruiting students, marketing schools, and helping in schools and classrooms.

"God calls upon His people to awake to their responsibilities. . . . If our people had the love of God in the heart, if every church member were imbued with the spirit of selfsacrifice, there would be no lack of funds for home and foreign missions; our resources would be multiplied; a thousand doors of usefulness would be opened; and we should be invited to enter. Had the purpose of God been carried out in giving the message of mercy to the world, Christ would have come, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God." 3

"Men [women] of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of dispirited workers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love and whose hands are strong to do their Master's work." 4

God calls you to action!



Trudy Wright is the Northern New England Conference superintendent of schools.

- 1. White, Ellen G., (1940) Counsels on Stewardship, p.35, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Tacoma Park, Washington, D.C.
- 2. Gillespie, V. Bailey, VALUEGENESIS2, TEN YEARS LATE, A STUDY OF TWO GENERATIONS, pp.361,362, Hancock Center Publications, Riverside, CA
- 3. White, Ellen G., (1940) Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 36, 37, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Tacoma Park, Washington, D.C.
- 4. White, Ellen G., (1905) MINISTRY OF HEALING, p.497, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, CA





and ideas on various topics.

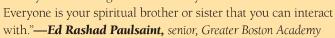
"What's the best part of attending an Adventist academy?"



"The best part of attending an Adventist academy is the Christian atmosphere. Everyone is so caring and loving, and that's something people won't always see at a public school. Also, it's nice to be able to pray and openly talk about God. The worships and chapels we have are so uplifting and enlightening. I love

being able to have that each morning."—Becky Picard, freshman, Pine Tree Academy

"The best part of attending an Adventist academy is the spirituality in the school. The day can't start without inviting God. It's a habit to pray before every class. There is always a moment where you find God in a new way during the day. It's like a big Christian family.





"Many people think that because you attend a Seventh-day Adventist school you can't do anything on Saturday and that it's boring. Well, not my school. I attend Bermuda Institute and I love it! Why, you may ask? Well, attending B.I. keeps you active in Christ seven days a week. I love the Christian

exposure. Check this out: we have a fall and spring Week of Prayer, which is a week that we come together as a school and focus solely on God, prayer, and testifying. We have "B.I. Day," and our choir sounds like a band of angels! Also, each year Bermuda Institute has a theme. This year our theme is found in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We apply our themes to everything that we do, from our school work to discipline, even to a sports day! So what's the best part of attending a Seventh-day Adventist school? Everything! Because, it's all done in Christ."—Keleé Darrell, junior, Bermuda Institute



"The best part of attending an Adventist academy is being in a safe environment where positive Christian values are taught. We are getting an education without all the negative ideas that are taught in most public institutions. Students who go to Adventist academies are more likely to stay in school, gradu-

ate, go to Adventist colleges and universities, and stay in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Also, students are less likely to smoke, drink alcohol, go to clubs, eat unclean foods, etc. Another thing is that students enjoy meeting other Christian students. We also meet Christian teachers who take special interest in our education by helping us achieve our highest goals. I personally don't regret coming to Greater New York Academy."—**Briana Figeroux**, junior, Greater New York Academy

"After going to public school for so many years and then switching to an Adventist academy, I can really see the difference between the two. Something about Adventist academies just gives a much bigger sense of belonging than at public schools. I believe it's because I'm now in an environment with fellow stu-



dents my age who believe and follow the same morals that I do. We can learn and grow together as our relationship with Christ develops."—Helen Olsson, junior, South Lancaster Academy

Share With Us

If you are 30 years old or younger, here is a question we would like you to respond to. "What do you like about the worship service at your church?" Send your response to the GLEANER editor at gleaner@atlanticunion.org. Be sure to include your full name, age, church, and the town and city where you reside, and a good quality photo.

Bermuda Institute Science Fair Day Turns into Science Fair Week

This year the Bermuda Institute Science Department found it challenging to pack all the enlightening developments and the results of our students' hard work and research into a one-day Science Fair presentation. The regularly scheduled fair grew into a full-blown Science Week, replete with presentations from such entities as DolphinOuest. the Department of Environmental Protection, the BIOS station, and Central Diagnostics.

The students from grades 5-10 were presented with not only an opportunity to learn more about their island home and its delicate ecological balance, but they were given the chance to see science at work in the world around them.

During the week, the ideals of such scientists as John Outerbridge, George Washington Carver, Ernest Everett Just, and Emmett Chappelle came to life as students were guided over the rocky terrain that connects their day to day classroom or lab activities to how they exist and function in the world around them. The experience enhanced the thought-provoking, meticulous experiments and proposals realized by our own students.

As judges came to the campus to evaluate the projects presented at the Science Fair, they found it difficult

to choose just one first-place designation. Quantifying the data and results presented in chart and graph form in order to examine evidences. of the implementation of the scientific process proved a daunting task. There were two first-place winners in multiple categories: one in grade 10 and one in grade 8.

Overall, there were 14 award-winning projects



Fourteen Bermuda Institute academy students had award-winning projects during the Science Week.

from the 95 that were entered from academy students. Teachers and students alike were impressed with this outstanding exhibition of talent and academic achievement in the sciences, as well as the investment of our community leaders who took the time to come and share with us how they use science to impact our lives every day.

In the near future, we hope that Bermuda Institute will be recognized for playing an integral role in shaping some of the world's most brilliant scientific minds and that the successes of those Nobel Peace Prize recipients can unquestionably be dated back to April 30, 2008.

> Ericka Hinds Biology and Spanish teacher Bermuda Institute

A Couple's Bread Ministry Blesses Many

 $\sqrt{\lambda}$ hat a difference a loaf of bread can make! A loaf of homemade bread softened the hearts of a St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Church couple who were so impressed that they decided to start a bread ministry of their own.

Michael and Wennae Douglas started this project in April 2007 with a group of church members who contributed and helped to distribute the bread door to door on a monthly basis. To date, they have distributed more than 500 hundred loaves of bread in the St. George's community. The members who have been involved have many experiences and testimonies. One testimony was shared about a woman

who lives alone. When a team member knocked on her door, she invited them in. After she was given the loaf, she confessed how much she needed bread. She began thanking Jesus and wanted to know if they were angels.

The responses of the residents have been overwhelming. Others have voiced their amazement at the generosity of those who have taken the time to make and share a loaf of fresh homemade bread. A loaf of bread knows neither class, color, or creed; it simply opens doors.

> Elizabeth Stovell communication director St. George's church



Michael and Wennae Douglas continue to supply bread to the residents of the St. George's community. It is a ministry that simply opens doors.



Harmony Choir Anointed for the Lord's Service

The Harmony Youth Choir, com-the Yonkers Seventh-day Adventist Church and directed by Cynthia González, has been active for more than two and a half years. In addition to singing for their church services, they are also invited to sing in other churches in the Greater New York Conference, at the



The Harmony Youth Choir was anointed for the Lord's service.

Richmond Children's Center, and at various nursing homes.

This talented group of young people decided they wanted to be dedicated for the Lord's service, and on December 1, 2007, before a packed church filled with well wishers from area churches, they were anointed. The special guest speaker and international gospel recording artist,

> Jean Brown, presented a spiritually uplifting sermon entitled "Don't Lose Jesus," and encouraged them to hold on to Christ no matter what.

Anthony Mazzella, Yonkers church pastor, was on hand to assist Della Patton and the prayer warrior team in anointing the Harmony Youth Choir. Then the youth in the audience were also given the opportunity to dedicate their lives to the Lord in the anointing service.

The choir had previously decided their ministry would be more effective if they owned a portable sound system, so they combined this special day with an afternoon fund-raising concert. The Lord blessed their efforts with donations received before, during, and after the concert, totaling approximately \$1,000. In addition, a local flower shop donated flowers and boutonnières for the occasion and Troy Printers offered their services.

It turned out to be a day we will not soon forget. We give all the praise, glory, and honor to God.

> Lisa González communication director Yonkers church

Students Preach of God's Power to Change Lives

Zacchaeus was one, Mary Magdalene was another-these were real people with real problems. During a week-long evangelistic series from March 31 through April 5, three students from the Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School preached about these

and other Bible characters, using their stories to illustrate that, like the characters of old, our lives can be transformed by the awesome power of God.

Seventh-grader, Jonathon Joseph, spoke about "The Possessed Man" and "The Leper." He told the audi-

After their baptism, Mekala Hagley, Akinwale Isijola, and Kayla Mills were each presented with gifts of a Bible, hymnal, and the book, Steps to Christ, to help them continue to grow in

ence that we cannot change ourselves, but instead, we must be touched by God to experience change. Meanwhile, eighth-grader, Danielle Samuel, used the stories of Mary Magdalene and Nicodemus to show that Christ's unconditional love will empower us to choose to do right instead of continually choosing to do wrong. And sixthgrader, Hendrick Francois, explained that the stories of "the woman with the issue of blood" and Zacchaeus teach us the importance of having true faith and also being willing to make sacrifices for Jesus.

Francois capped off the week on Education Day, Sabbath, April 5, by telling the congregation that Zacchaeus was able to give up everything—including a love of money—to follow Jesus, and by the power

of God, we, too, can give up whatever stops us from committing fully to Him.

The 12-year-old National Junior Honor Society student asked the packed audience: "Is there something stopping you from accepting Jesus? A job? Dancing?" Francois said, "Jesus is call-



National Junior Honor Society student, Hendrick Francois, was the Education Day

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ing us by name and asking us to let Him change us. God specializes in people whose lives seem to be out of reach."

The highlight of Education Day came when three students. Akinwale Isijola, Mekala Hagley, and Kayla Mills, were baptized by Artemas Julien, the church's pastor. Julien who studied with the students prior to their baptism spoke lovingly of each candidate and gave them this charge: "God has a plan for your

life. Just walk each day with Jesus and you will see Jesus when He comes."

Principal Laura Mayne, in her remarks, beamed and told the students. "Heaven is well pleased with your effort this week." Then, turning her attention to the faculty and staff, she thanked them for their "loyalty and selfless dedication in building characters for Christ."

It was also announced that eight students, including two of the three speak-

ers during the Week of Prayer, were nominated to the recently chartered National Junior Honor Society. This chapter of the Honor Society marks a notable milestone in the school's 70-year history, as it is now the first elementary school in the Greater New York Conference to be a part of the nationally-recognized organization.

> Debbie Michel communication director Brooklyn church



Principal Laura Mayne beaming and telling the students: "Heaven is well pleased with your effort this week."

From Great Disappointment to True Happiness

Tn 1991, Marcia [pronounced Marshal Pizarro was riding on a Brooklyn bus when she noticed a long line of people getting ready to enter a popular mega-church. Thinking it must be something special, she joined the church and, for the next several years, faithfully attended, along with some 20,000 other worshippers. Still, something was missing. "The pastor would talk eloquently, but you came out empty," she said. In addition, "There was no Bible study."

In September 2007 she contacted the church leaders to let them know she would be undergoing major surgery. She let them know where she could be reached, but no one came to visit; no one even bothered to call.

A few weeks after this great disappointment, Marcia needed to fill a prescription and her trip took her to Flatbush Junction. Then she came in contact with a group from the Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist Church working feverishly to invite people to their upcoming Revelation Seminar. Marcia knew immediately she wanted to attend and called her best friend. an Adventist, and asked her to accompany her to the meetings. Her friend happily obliged.

Marcia had visited her friend's Adventist church in the past but didn't feel impressed. That all changed from the first day of the Revelation Seminar conducted by Pastor Atremas Julien. "I never heard the truth like this!" she said. "The pastor explained it so directly and simply, point by point. She never saw me so excited. I told her, 'Pat, we have to go back!'

Growing up in Costa Rica, Marcia, whose grandparents are from Jamaica, West Indies, said she was always interested in spiritual things. She spent her early years living in a Catholic convent with her aunt. She remembers that the first time she personally accepted Jesus Christ was while working as a nurse on a cruise ship when a non-denominational missionary in Alaska came on-board to pray with her.

Then in 1988 she moved to New York City to live with her mother. Over the years she suffered a series of health set-backs, but God placed in her path Christian friends, notably the Adventist friend Patricia Gordon, who encouraged her to keep pressing on despite whatever obstacle the enemy threw her way.

As the seminar neared its end, Marcia received a double blessing



Marcia Pizarro, left, was baptized by Pastor Artemas Julien after attending a Revelation Seminar.

when her son Reinaldo migrated to New York from Costa Rica and he, too, began attending the seminar. On December 29, 2007, Reinaldo watched proudly from the sidelines as his mother took a public stand to "follow the Lamb whithersoever He goest" (Revelation 14:4). Twelve individuals were baptized as a result of the Revelation Seminar. Marcia said her baptism was a day she will never forget. "The date was special. I was so happy I was going to be part of the Adventist family! If they had given me a million dollars, I don't know if I would be happier."

> Debbie Michel communication director Brooklyn church

Well Prepared at AUC for My Career

Y experience with Atlantic Union College was truly a blessing and a prayer answered. God sent me to AUC and, like Jonah, I was very hesitant, yet a still small voice said, 'Go.'

"With one single accounting class, God opened doors that I never ever even imagined were there. I had never even dreamed of becoming an accountant and here I was an accounting major; excelling in all my classes; peer tutoring; a member of Sigma Beta Delta, the business honor society; on the Dean's List and served as senior class treasurer.

"I had advisers who encouraged me in what to do, and what paths to take. I was shown that I have so much at my fingertips and even more so with God behind me. I had teachers with real-life experience in the field who would

bring back that information to the class. They gave tests similar to what we would see in licensing exams as well as experience using software that is current in the business world today.

"I owe all this to the direction of God leading in my life, the prayers of family and friends, and the encouragement of faculty and fellow classmates. I started to live by a little motto, 'You cannot begin to live, until you begin to let God lead.' It was not until I let go and let God, that the pieces of my life began to fall into place.

"Yes, I truly felt well prepared for my career at Atlantic Union College." (1)

Erica Gibson, 2006, business major, now working as an accountant.



Erica Gibson '06

Super Basketball Week at AUC

A cademy men's and women's basketball teams from Vermont to New York City ran the floors, dribbled, soared over the rim, dunked the ball, and scored exciting points in the Atlantic Union College Hoops Tournament, March 27-30.

Central Vermont, Greater Boston, Greater New York, and South Lancaster academies traveled to the college for three days of tournaments at the W.G. Nelson Field House. In addition to sports, they got a SNAPSHOT of life in the residence halls, food at Chan Shun Dining Commons, Student Association programs,

and worship on campus. The final event was observing the college's All-Star Intramural games.

"We have meaningful recreation and a vibrant intramural program for students, faculty, staff, and the community," says Coach Sandy Smith. "Atlantic Union College students have proven that it is possible to participate in

sports, to develop their bodies physically, have fun, be spiritual, and keep up their



Central Vermont Academy player, left, races up court in a blur while the defendant Greater New York Academy player, right, tries to catch up to CVA player and prevent CVA from scoring. The champions of the AUC Hoops Tournament were the South Lancaster Academy men's and women's basketball teams.

grades at the same time. The key is that Jesus is their focus." ①

Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director, Atlantic Union College South Lancaster, Massachusetts

lv Kıırtzhale

ATELANTIC UNION COLLEGE

An Exhilarating Graduation Weekend — May 9-11



Lance Wilbur, Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Lance Wilbur, a husband and father of four, went to college three-quarter time and worked full-time. He always wanted to study nutrition and religion. He completed his prerequisites at Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Massachusetts; all of his credits transferred; and he graduated right on time from AUC. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology and religion, and graduated cum laude with departmental honors. He wants to do ministry in some way, shape, or form. His immediate plans are for continued local ministry with the Fitchburg Seventh-day Adventist Church and volunteer projects in youth ministry.



Seanna Cummins, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Seanna Cummins was told at another nursing school that she would have a five-year wait to get in. Able to secure enrollment at Atlantic Union College, she graduated with her associate degree in nursing after two years.

Each nursing graduate shared why they chose to become a nurse. "I can remember as a little child spending endless hours playing hospital and being intrigued by my grandmother's nursing stories. That is what spurred me to become a nurse. I plan to continue my education by getting my bachelor's in nursing and working part-time." Her grandmother, Evelyn Cummins, pinned her at the Nurses' Pinning, May 10.

Graduation Statistics

89 Graduates

66 Females/23 Males

Number of candidates with:

- 4 Honors Core Program
- 17 Departmental Honors
- 12 Latin Honors
- 9 Cum Laude
- 3 Magna Cum Laude

"Soar Now" . . . continued

some of you came because you were told you had no other option, some of you came without knowing why.

"Irrespective of how you arrived, a transformation took place. You came with an **aptitude** to learn. Your dedicated teachers prepared you with the right **attitude** to learn, and today I am saying to you: soar now into the **altitude** to learn and serve.

"The anatomy of opportunity in learning and service dictates that the more you give of yourself, the more you receive. The cause and effect principle of service dictates that if you give freely you shall freely receive. . . . Never neglect the opportunity to serve.

". . . It is in the sharing of charity, the teaching of one's own successful methods, and the seizing of opportunities to be of service that we may attain and retain true wealth. That these actions and inherent values are as we believe them to be: the true measure of how we have conducted ourselves and the lasting legacy of this human soul that has been gifted to us."

Dennis Langley is president and CEO of the Urban League of Rhode Island. This organization provides resources for those who wish to better their circumstances and their communities.

Langley received his A.S.C. in science and art from West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) in 1972. He received his B.A. in religion from Atlantic Union College in 1974, and M.A. in counseling from Rhode Island College. In 2006, the University of Rhode Island awarded him a Doctorate of Humane Letters. Since 2001, he has been a member of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.

"Soar Now into the Altitude to Serve"

Commencement address focused on community engagement and leadership

raduating class of 2008, from the complexity of God's creation of which you are akin, to the tiny snowflake, individuality is one of the collective features of our universe. . . . Please remind yourself that you did not come into this world by accident, but by the will of God. . . . I would venture to speculate at this moment by saying you came to AUC, not because of an accident, but because you deemed it prudent to prepare yourself for a life of service. Some of you came voluntarily,



Commencement speaker Dennis Langley.



Ithaca Church Members Minister to Seniors

s part of their outreach program, adults and Achildren from the Ithaca church gathered at Long View Assisted Living Facility to sing for the residents on Sabbath afternoon, March 15. From all indications, those who participated in this event really enjoyed the time together. The residents were especially delighted by the young people and toddlers. One of the youth, Jodial Tau, played the piano for the hymn sing without any sheet music and did a terrific job!

> Joan Payne communication secretary Westvale church



Some of the Ithaca church members who sand for the Long View Assisted Living Facility residents included Pam and Ed Jerez, left, Joshua McLean, Jodiah Tau (piano player), Gofhaone Tau, David McLean, Richard Thompson, and Bethany Thompson.

Buskirk Church Enjoys First Wedding



Ray and Kelsey Bunting walked down the aisle during lilac season to celebrate publicly the wedding for which they have been waiting.

his past summer Miriam Ford received a phone call from a young lady named Kelsey asking about our church. Ford encouraged her to come and bring a friend. The next Sabbath she came with her boyfriend, Ray Bunting. Since then, they have been attending regularly. When their work schedule conflicted with the Sabbath, they took a stand, and with the support of our church members, told their employers that the Sabbath was their day of worship.

During Bible studies with Ford, they realized the depth of their commitment to each other but were convicted that they shouldn't be living together outside of marriage so they set a wedding date for May 2008. Still they felt that they were going against God's wishes, so Ford suggested that there was no reason they couldn't go to a justice of the peace and marry. As they prayed and discussed this matter, the Holy Spirit convicted them, and they married on December 29, 2007.

Ray bought his bride a lovely home, but the purchase took most of their resources. Our church wanted to celebrate this occasion with them, so we began to secretly plan a Valentine's Day surprise shower. The night of the shower, our fellowship hall was filled with family and friends bearing gifts for the new home. In May, the first wedding in the Buskirk church occurred when Ray and Kelsey walked down the aisle during lilac season to celebrate publicly the wedding for which they have been waiting.

Again we are reminded that with God all things are possible.

Susan Carpenter communication secretary Buskirk church

Pinewood Car Derby Raises \$6,000

Darkview Junior Academy's 9th annual Pinewood Car Derby was held on Sunday, March 30. The 45 cars that entered raised approximately \$6,000, which will be added to the goal to replace the main roof on the school building.

Creativity was a feature of the event with the K-9 winners being Alaina Burghardt, Ruben Alvarez, Ashley Halbritter, and Victoria Ahles. The speed winners among students were Kathe Burghardt, Joanna Pitcher, and Brook Garlock, with Brad Trombley taking first place in the adult division.

Several trophies and ribbons were awarded and



Many were on hand to witness and enjoy the Pinewood Car Derby.



Dan Whitlow, New York Conference youth director, officiated Parkview Junior Academy's 9th Annual Pinewood Car Derby with the support of George Silver and Dick Bradt.

each entrant received the traditional "candy car" to

enjoy. Dan Whitlow, New York Conference youth director, officiated, with the "must-have" support of George Silver and Dick Bradt.

Judges included Jonathan Hafner, Nathan Hamm, Jason King, Al Kaiser, and Jamie Lewis. The organizational genius who made it

all happen was, as always, Margaret Ahles.

Many, many thanks go to those who helped sponsor our students and volunteered to make this event a roaring success!

> Kim Kaiser communication director New York Conference

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!



Joan Payne, homebound leader, presents Lenore Coling with flowers from her church family, while Carmen Gonzalez, an elder of the church, presents her with a birthday cake she made for the occasion.

Westvale Church Member Celebrates 97th Birthday

enore Coling, the oldest member of the Westvale church, turned 97 years old on March 28. On Sabbath afternoon, March 29, church members Carmen Gonzalez, Ingrid Walberer, Diana and Richard Mann, and I went to the nursing home where she now resides to visit and help celebrate her birthday.

> Joan Payne communication secretary Westvale church

Atlantic Union Adventist Media Charters New Course



The Atlantic Union Adventist Media production truck is available to provide media services. not only in New York City, but in any church within the Atlantic Union territory and the northeast corridor of the United States.

nder the visionary leadership of Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, the Atlantic Union Adventist Media (AUAM) was formed in 2002 with the objective of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ through satellite, cable television, and the Internet to large urban cities within the Atlantic Union territory and the northeastern United States.

Union Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference, Northeastern Conference camp meetings (a joint venture with praizevision.com), and a biography of the life of one of Adventist's best loved television evangelists, C. D. Brooks. This pro-

gram is already edited and will air on 3ABN in August (www.3abn.org).

AUAM remains committed to the mission of producing Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist programming for broadcast on HOPE TV, 3ABN, and the Internet. AUAM has a new Web site, www.auam.tv. Here you will find archived media, live streaming media, online Bible studies, as well

> as products from some of our musical artists' within the Atlantic Union.

Great things are ahead for AUAM and we ask that

you support us in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through media. We see AUAM as the type of ministry that plants the seed, encourages the discouraged, and helps people make a decision for Jesus Christ that we hope will lead someone to walk into your church and be baptized.

As we forge ahead, we seek your financial support. On August 9, a

special offering will be collected in churches across the Atlantic Union for this media ministry. We ask that you prayerfully make your contribution to Atlantic Union Adventist Media, and join us in this new thrust to achieve our objective through media. Your special tax-deductible offering will help us in accomplishing the mission of sharing Jesus through media with those who may never find the door of your churches, but by surfing the Internet or by watching one of our Adventist stations, may find Jesus through the programs recorded by AUAM.

This offering will also help us to acquire needed equipment that will enhance our ability to better serve you. I consider it a privilege to be asked to serve in this capacity and I ask that you continue to pray for this ministry. Thanks in advance for your financial support.

Rohann D. Wellington is the Atlantic Union Adventist Media managing director.



Rohann D. Wellington has been asked by the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee to serve as the Atlantic Union Adventist Media managing director.

AUAM has a new Web site. Here you will find archived media, live streaming media, online Bible studies, and more.

With new leadership in place, AUAM is charting a new course. AUAM is available to provide media services, not only in New York City, but in any church within the territory of the Atlantic Union and the northeast corridor of the United States. Numerous programs have been recorded since the beginning of this year, which include the Atlantic

Family Ministries Leaders

Equipped to Help Hurting Families

By Alanzo Smith

he Atlantic Union Conference Family Ministries Department held it first certificate training program for family ministries directors in May under the leadership of Dionisio Olivo, Hispanic Ministries vice president and Family Ministries and Sabbath School director.

Five of the six conferences in the Atlantic Union participated, and the training was presented by the following conference family ministries directors: Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda; Alanzo and June Smith, Greater New York; Jesse Bevel, Northeastern; Merlin and Cheryl Knowles, Northern New England; and Pedro Perez, Southern New England.

Seven modules were presented under the theme, "Strengthening Our Families for Christ." The seminars were designed to help Family Ministries leaders understand current issues affecting families and to become more equipped with the tools necessary to help hurting families. The Sabbath vesper program included a sacred musical concert presented by a

> Participants at the Atlantic Union Family Ministries Training Retreat pose for a group photo with the conference family ministries directors.

group from the Greater New York Conference called Strings & Harmony.

Fifty-eight family ministries leaders from churches in the Atlantic Union attended the event in Kerhonkson, New York, completed the



Atlantic Union Family Ministries directors, Jesse Bevel, middle, and Merlin Knowles, right, shake the hands of the family ministries leaders who received certificates after a weekend of training.

The seminars were designed to help Family Ministries leaders understand current issues affecting families and to become more equipped with the tools necessary to help hurting families.



training, and received their Level 1 certificate at the graduation ceremony on Sunday morning.

Commenting on the purpose of the training, Olivo said, "This event was held with the intention of training family ministries leaders in close collaboration and involvement with the family ministries directors in the conferences, so we can have a strong team of individuals that can assist the families in our churches."

Alanzo Smith is the Greater New York Conference Family Ministries director.



Rockland-Westchester Youth Federation Shares Jesus with the Homeless



The Rockland-Westchester Youth Federation united on May 4 for the Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Community Outreach Impact Initiative at the Grasslands Homeless Shelter.

7outh and young-at $oldsymbol{\mathrm{I}}$ heart from Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Spring Valley, First White Plains, and Peekskill Seventh-day Adventist churches united on May 4 for the Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Community Outreach Impact Initiative at the Grasslands Homeless Shelter.

One by one shelter regulars migrated to the large room where we were praying and singing. As the audience increased so did the involvement of those present as they shared their testimony about the goodness of God and how He brought them through the storms of life.

A rap session followed that covered topics dealing with what it means to be a Christian and living the life through Jesus. Games and a drama ministry promoted team effort as we bonded with the people at the facility. We then headed downstairs to fellowship during the meal that was

served and prepared by the Adventist volunteers.

After lunch, the day continued with another lively session of singing. The group was treated to a health lecture on heart disease by Dr. Frank Babb from Spring Valley on the topic "Heart Disease." Many questions were asked pertaining to this topic. Just as this session was ending, a young man, Alcoln Thomas, came to the stage to present a sermonette that showed Jesus Christ in a clear spirit-filled way. Thomas spoke about how Jesus will never give us more than we can bear. He reminded the group that there is a God amidst all the strife and pain in this world.

There were many solos and poems that were used to touch the heart of each individual present. The final sermonette, presented by Donald Webb, centered around how we will rise and shine, giving God the glory at all times. The shelter participants were so

appreciative of the whole event that many came and shared hugs, telling how much they enjoyed the program and of their anticipation for the next one to come. Our hearts were touched as we saw the gratefulness in their eves and gave out more than 80

care packages.

We were extremely blessed by this whole experience and will never be the same. Seeing the smiles and the happiness on each face made us understand that this is what Christianity is all about.

Thanks to Spring Valley, New Rochelle, Peekskill, First White Plains, Mount Vernon churches, Sheron Lewis-Hendrickson, president; Maxine Phillips, first vice president; Trifene Thomas, second vice president; Janice Thompson; Ana Marie Blinth; Angela Clarke; Vanessa Scotland; Marvin Brown; Alcoln Thomas; Donald Webb; Carol Martin; Frank Babb: and Volunteers of America for their faithfulness in making this program a success.

Iasmine Webb and Mark McDonald Rockland-Westchester Youth Federation

"Time to Change" Evangelistic **Series Encourages Many**

`he Springfield Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, had 26 baptisms and two professions of faiths following a twoweek evangelistic



Springfield Hispanic church pastor, Armando Amadias, baptizes one of the 26 individuals who made a commitment following the two-week evangelistic series.

campaign, April 12-26, by Pastor Ernesto Prieto. The series, entitled, "Time to Change," encouraged many

to make a commitment to serve God.

Sol Ramos communication director Springfield Hispanic church



Pastor Ernesto Prieto, left, conducted the evangelistic series from April 12-26.

NEWS

Into All the World Abroad and at Home — Small Church Evangelism at Work

The "Bible Explosion" team for the Gethsemane Seventhday Adventist Church in Brockton, Massachusetts, ventured to northern Belize in the South Corozal district in April to conduct a two-week evangelistic initiative. The team of 10 persons consisted of church members from the Boston area, and the cities of Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Los Angeles.

By the end of the meetings, 28 persons were baptized, more than 250 persons were cared for in various daily health interventions, a grand concert was rendered by one of New England's finest instrumentalists, and the kitchen of the local Seventh-day Adventist elementary school was refitted with major appliances. The team dealt with issues ranging from health to leadership, marriage, and education, with time out for side-trips to the Mexican city of Chetumal, a mere 11 miles away. The Belize Conference president, Earnal Scott, attended the meeting on the first Sabbath.

Belize, in the Inter-American Division, is the only English-speaking country in Central America and follows a British system of government. There are more than 31,000 Seventh-day Adventists worshipping in 74 congregations, spread over 8,000 square miles of flat sugar-cane and papaya fields, rolling hills and mountains, and out-island seaside resorts. Famous for its Mayan ruins

an opportunity to cross-culturally fulfill the gospel imperative, and trains members for global situations where adaptability and creativity are required. Whereas church members in developed countries have followed the tradition of concentrating mostly on "giving offerings to missions," the Gethsemane-Belize paradigm adds the

The Gethsemane-Belize
initiative is a prelude to
energize members to evangelize
in their own neighborhoods."

and the world's second longest barrier reef, the country borders Mexico to the north and Guatemala to the south and west and is fully bilingual (Spanish and English). Belize is just 90 minutes southwest of Miami and served by several major American airlines.

The Gethsemane-Belize initiative brings missions alive, allows participants

dimension of total evangelical-cultural immersion for brief, intense periods where visiting participants can collaborate in small teams, utilize local strategies, eat local foods, and work alongside on-ground local teams and form a lifelong church-to-church, acrossthe-ocean network, truly "going from everywhere to everywhere."

This summer. Gethsemane turns this concept inward to its own locale through several member-led house evangelism initiatives focused on small home groups attended by neighbors. The strategy consists of STEPS TO CHRIST booklets mailed to neighborhood homes, followed by a month-long, memberled, house-bound campaign using the New Beginning DVDs series of 26 sermons and targeting return interests from the mail-outs.

Mailing and feedback services directly back to Gethsemane are being provided by Project Steps to Christ, Inc., of Covington, New York. The member-led series is then followed by a pastor-member, churchbound campaign where home groups come together for a final church-wide evangelistic effort. The Gethsemane-Belize initiative is a prelude to energize members to evangelize in their own neighborhoods.

Another Gethsemane-Belize campaign is planned for April 2009. As a prelude to nightly meetings, a daily full-scale Monday to Thursday team of medical, educational, legal, and professional personnel will work in tandem with local church groups and authorities to reach villages and barelyentered territories as a prelude to nightly meetings.

For more information about the April 2009 evangelistic initiative, contact the Gethsemane church at (978) 660-7293. Nurses, doctors, social workers, business persons, teachers, photographers, musicians, lay preachers, and any church members willing to donate at least one week of time are needed. No funds are taken from churches and the trips are totally self-sponsored and self-sacrificing.

May God bless you as you turn your personal missions' contribution into live service. I can promise you—your life will never be the same again. Try it!

Sylvan Lashley, pastor Gethsemane church



By the end of the meetings, 28 persons were baptized in the Estrella River.

Camden Church Project Touches Many in the Community

f embers of the Camden Seventh-day Adventist Church started a project at the beginning of 2007 that involved sending out cards to residents in surrounding towns, asking those who wanted Bible studies to respond by returning the postcard that was attached. As a result of their efforts, more than 120 responses came in over the first few months!

Church members teamed up in groups to give Bible studies, meeting young and old alike to spread the Good News. A Bible worker, Pam Temple from California, joined us for six months to help with the contacts. Soon we had a series of cooking classes led by Diane Fickett and Kay Fischer, depression seminars led by Harriett and

Peter Robinson, and a bird flu seminar by Dr. John Clark. In October 2007 we participated (along with many other churches in the Northern New England Conference) in a Revelation series. In addition to having Pastor Enoch Brownell as our facilitator and

guests faced some challenging decisions as they studied.

It was a special Sabbath when Edgar Johnson was baptized on February 16. Randy Acorn, one of our faithful attendees, was ecstatic as he told me about finishing Bible studies and

ularly meet with Randy and others for Bible studies so they will continue learning as they are teaching others.

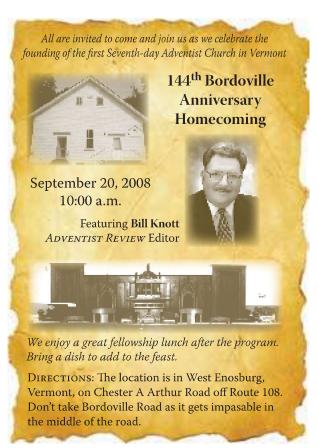
Pam, our Bible worker has moved on to work in Texas, but our members stepped up and continued the Bible studies. We are thrilled at how God is working in our

We are thrilled at how God is working in our community, and . . . we pray that we would be known as . . . an open church that shows God's love.

speaker, we were blessed to have Lydia Lajewell Wannemacher (17 years old) from the Saco church present two sessions each week. The number of visitors varied each night. As the series drew to a close, we had eight guests who faithfully attended. Our

preparing for baptism. His recent diet change resulted in weight loss and stabilizing his diabetes, reducing his need for several of his medications. Kay Fischer, a registered dietician from the church, has been working closely with him. Both Frank and Kay Fischer regcommunity, and as Diane Fickett put it, we pray "that we would no longer be known as the church with the closed doors, but an open church that shows God's love."

> Lanita Medina communication correspondent Camden church



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Baptism Stories from Williston Church

Karen Pfleiderer (fly'-der)

Karen had studied God's Word for years searching for the truth. After attending several churches but not finding what she was searching for, she began a Bible correspondence course several years ago. After completing this course through the school, she was soon directed to our own Discover Bible School at the Williston church. After going through two courses with Alma Briggs as the instructor, Greg Carlson, the church's pastor, visited her home to offer personal Bible studies and invite her to church. At the time she was recovering from surgery, but about six weeks later she called to accept the offered ride to church. She quickly became a regular at church

service on Sabbath and at the Wednesday night prayer meeting.

It wasn't long before she requested baptism. The pastor realized that she understood the Adventist beliefs. Her love for the Lord was obvious. Karen Pfleiderer was baptized and accepted into fellowship at the Williston church.

Bradley Beisiegel

Bradley, the oldest of the five children of Dan and Sonya Beisiegel, has had the privilege of growing up in a loving Adventist home. He is looked up to and admired by his younger brother, Kyle, and identical triplet sisters Heidi, Kaitlyn, and Nicole. One Sabbath last March was a very special day for the family as Bradley was low-

ered into the waters of baptism by his own father, an elder in the local Williston church. A PowerPoint presentation was shown prior to the baptism. Grandparents, cousins, and many friends attended to help celebrate this special milestone in Bradley's walk with the Lord.

> Greg Carlson, pastor Williston church

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!

Woodstock Women Sponsor Bible Study Meetings

any who attended the Woodstock Seventh-day Adventist Church's 11-week Bible study meetings sponsored by the Women's Ministries department indicated that the series of meetings have changed their lives. Twenty-eight women attended the meetings held on Wednesday evenings beginning the first week of the new year.

Each evening began with four discussion groups. Utilizing a book entitled Jesus, the ONE AND ONLY by Beth Moore, a Christian author, we discussed what we learned from our reading. We then discussed how the power of the Holy Spirit has been shown to us personally.

Many who attended the 11-week Bible study meetings indicated that the series of meetings changed their lives.

In addition, we watched Moore's live-stage video from her travels around the world. Each meeting ended with prayer with family and friends. Many women indicated that they have benefited from this series of meetings.

> Laurie Wilson, correspondence secretary Woodstock church

Estabrook School Alumni Weekend 101 Maple Street, West Lebanon, NH 03784 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.

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.

Are We There Yet?

n the book, The Great **L**CONTROVERSY, we read about the children in Scandinavia preaching about the second coming of Christ in the first part of the 19th century, prior to William Miller's preaching in America. The state church forbade the adults from speaking about the Second Coming, but did not stop the children. God's Spirit fell on the children and the whole area was given the message of the Advent.

God uses children and youth to reach adults many times in the Bible. We think of young Samuel and the shepherd, David, along with Timothy. The question is, "Does he still do it?"

Recently at the Berkshire Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, three young people presented the message on Sabbath morning. The three were Dillon and Alyssa Walter and Lubia Martinez, ages 7, 8, and 10.

Under the direction of Aileen Walter, Dillon and Alyssa's mother, the three children wrote their own sermons on the theme of the Second Coming. They used the child's favorite saying, "Are we there yet?" throughout the sermons. They

covered every aspect of the Second Coming and shared it through the eyes of their own experience. The sermon inspired the church and gave us a look at why we are Adventists. Many expressed that they were glad for a sermon on the Second Coming as many have not heard an extended talk on that subject for a long time.



Alyssia Walter, Lubia Martinez, and Dillon Walter wrote their own sermons on the theme of the Second Coming and presented them to the Berkshire Hills church.

Could it be that God wants to put His Second Coming on our front burners again and is using the little children to accomplish His purposes? We need to prayerfully approach the Second Coming and put it first in our lives.

> Stuart Dixon communication leader Berkshire Hills church

CVACs Weekend Meals on Wheels Program Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

'en years ago, Gloria Kerr, the Connecticut Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church (CVAC) community services leader, made the remark that the church needed a project that

would uniquely touch the community. After many discussions at the church board level and the town level, a niche was discovered. The town faithfully ran a feebased Meals on Wheels pro-



Kathy Goring delivers another meal to a CVAC weekend Meals on Wheels client.

gram from Monday through Friday, but this left the clients without a hot meal on Sabbath and Sunday. This is where the church stepped in by providing two free hot meals each weekend to those clients.

The church, with the support of Pastor David Dennis, stepped into action. Kurby Bechthold and Brooks Martyn saw to it that the kitchen was upgraded to meet the local health inspector standards. Gloria Kerr found a source for donated food and committed herself to hundreds of hours of cooking food for the clients. Other volunteers were found to drive the meals to clients (some CVAC members and some non-members do this).

warm the food on weekends, supply milk to go with each meal (done by John and Barbara Clifford), administer the paperwork to keep track of clients (a task fulfilled by Beverly Patterson), and more.

Approximately 22,880 served meals later, the CVAC weekend Meals on Wheels program celebrates its 10th anniversary. On January 26, CVAC, with a declaration from Governor M. Jodi Rell, and two representatives from the town of South Windsor, paused to thank God for this ministry that began 10 years ago in the heart of community services with the goal of serving the community.

> Ray Ouellette, elder Einar Rom, pastor Connecticut Valley church



Pathfinder Bible Bowl Showcases Book of Matthew

n a brisk, but sunny, March Sabbath afternoon, uniformed Pathfinders from a dozen Southern New England Conference Pathfinder clubs descended upon Camp Winnekeag armed with a wealth of knowledge on the book of Matthew.

The event was the annual Pathfinder Bible Bowl that would eventually send one club to Michigan for the final round of Bible Bowl meets. The Pathfinders were given more than 100 questions, in English and Spanish, pertaining

to the book of Matthew and the related Seventhday Adventist Bible Commentary comments with one recess to stretch their legs.

The event represented countless hours that the Pathfinders invested in learning and memorizing the first Gospel of the New Testament—knowledge that will remain with them forever.

The March 22 event was led by Pedro Perez, Southern New England Conference youth director, conference area Pathfinder



The annual Pathfinder Bible Bowl featured the book of Matthew this year with club members answering more than 100 questions.

coordinators, and Bill Wood, Atlantic Union Conference youth director. Einar Rom, pastor Connecticut Valley church

Mayor Encounters the Brockton Church Experience

The Brockton Seventh- day Adventist Church continues to grow under the leadership of Pastor David Steede, II. The church is strategically located between a commercial and residential zone and stands as a beacon to the community. Its diverse membership and inspiring programs are an attraction to many visitors who transfer into the body of fellowship after encountering the Brockton church experience. A special highlight each week brings a new perspective to the worship service

and a new opportunity for community outreach.

On May 2, the church had the distinguished privilege of welcoming the Honorable Mayor James Harrington of the City of Brockton, Massachusetts. Mayor Harrington addressed the congregation and reflected on how his God-fearing mother helped him develop an appreciation for God. The mayor praised the Brockton church for the significant role it plays in providing stability to the community.

Mayor Harrington experi-



The South Shore Elementary School choir lifted up Christ in songs of praise during the worship service.

enced first-hand one of the ways the church contributes to community stability when Health Ministries director Anton Dormer presented Christ to the children in the Elijah story and encouraged them to love God and respect their elders.

The Brockton church was also privileged to have the South Shore Elementary School choir lift up Christ in songs of praise. The worship service culminated with a message from Pastor Franklin Jackson, of the Grace church

in Hartford, Connecticut, that challenged the congregation to accept the present state of affairs reflected globally as a sign of the end of time.

The Brockton church is committed to fulfilling the great commission to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"—Matthew 28:19.

Anton Dormer Health Ministries director Yonnette, Semple-Dormer, church clerk Brockton church



Nick Blaise, left, Mayor James Harrington, Simone Hall, Pastor David Steede, II, standing, and Grace church pastor, Franklin Jackson, during the divine service.

Le nouveau directeur de l'aumônerie adventiste planifie plus de formations et de recrutements

Councell déclare que J. le ministère dans les hôpitaux, universités et corps armés est un domaine en pleine croissance

En apparence, peu de choses ont changé pour le Colonel Gary Councell depuis qu'il est devenu directeur du Ministère des aumôneries adventistes le 1er mai.

L'aumônier retraité de l'armée se lève toujours à 4h du matin pour se rendre à son bureau entre 5h15 et 6h du matin. Son département donne toujours son aval aux adventistes qui servent comme déroulée différemment de ce qui était prévu pour ce petit garçon de l'Ohio qui était un jour destiné à devenir garde-forestier dans les parcs nationaux américains. Avec des tantes et des oncles ayant participé à la Seconde Guerre Mondiale et la guerre de Corée, il était presque inévitable que G. Councell finisse dans l'armée. Toutefois, il avait un objectif différent.

G. Councell, 64 ans, dit qu'il est devenu aumônier pour apporter aux soldats l'aide que son propre père n'a

pas eu quand il fut incorporé pour la Seconde Guerre Mondiale deux semaines après sa conversion à l'adventisme.

"A cette époque, il n'y avait pas d'aumônier adventiste pour aider les adventistes qui effectuaient leur service militaire. Mon père a rencontré toutes sortes de problèmes allant de l'observation du sabbat au régime alimentaire, en passant par le fait de ne pas vouloir

porter des armes. Et il n'a eu personne pour l'aider à défendre ses convictions.'

Aujourd'hui, G. Councell dirige un département qui donne ses lettres d'accréditation aux 350 aumôniers adventistes des Etats-Unis et entretient des relations avec les départements des aumôneries adventistes de nombreux autres pays afin d'actualiser les accréditations des quelques 300 aumôniers adventistes dans le monde.

> G. Councell fut aussi le second adventiste à obtenir le grade de Colonel, grade que seulement 8% des aumôniers

taires de la côte du Pacifique.

lecture, la trompette et la visite de l'armée atteignent un jour. de mémoriaux de champs de Il dit que ça serait bien que bataille, G. Councell dit "qu'un davantage d'églises accordent un amour pour notre communaupeu plus de respect à l'aumônerie. té, nos membres d'église" le

conduit chaque jour au bureau.

Il ajoute également qu'il est

direction vers laquelle il souhai-

te que le département se dirige."

incluent le fait de recruter plus

d'aumôniers pour les prisons,

de désigner un coordinateur

à plein temps pour les cam-

programmes complètement

indépendants de formation

davantage de régions du

d'aumôniers de l'église dans

monde et d'aider plus de théo-

logiens diplômés à réaliser que

l'aumônerie est "une expres-

sion viable du ministère, et

que les aumôniers sont tout

pasteurs et les évangélistes."

autant indispensables que les

G. Councell est particulière-

ment passionné par une chose.

plus nombreux que les églises,

beaucoup ne trouvent pas de

nauté" affirme-t-il. "Ils doivent

comprendre que les aumôniers

sont appelés au ministère tout

Le message commence certainement à passer parce que

G. Councell dit recevoir plus

d'appels de personnes dési-

Avant de venir travailler

pour la Conférence Générale,

ce grand-père de 5 enfants a

travaillé au Pentagone comme

directeur de la communication,

la gestion des installations et de

la logistique pour le bureau en

chef des Aumôniers. Il avait pré-

cédemment servi comme aumô-

nier en chef des aumôniers mili-

de la gestion du personnel, de

travail dans notre commu-

comme les pasteurs."

rants être aumônier.

"Les théologiens diplômés étant

pus publics, d'établir des

Il précise que ses plans

motivé par "une vision de la

"Nous avons tendance à ne regarder qu'au résultat final: le nombre de baptêmes. Mais les aumôniers plantent des graines et les font pousser. Nous façonnons la crédibilité de l'église et entrons en contact avec des personnes qui n'ont jamais entendu parler des adventistes."

En dehors du bureau, G. Councell continue à servir partout où il le peut en se portant volontaire comme pasteur intérimaire dans les églises locales et comme prédicateur occasionnel dans d'autres églises certains sabbats. C'est une façon de poursuivre sa carrière d'aumônier.

Il dit que même s'il travaille pour l'église, il voit cela comme une forme de ministère personnel.

Face à ce type d'engagement dans l'église, nous comprenons que Martin Feldbush, qui a récemment pris sa retraite comme directeur de l'aumônerie adventiste, a déclaré: "J'ai intentionnellement recommandé Gary. Nous venons d'origines différentes mais nous partageons des objectifs philosophiques communs pour le département. J'ai confiance en son jugement."

William Broome, aumônier adventiste du Pentagone qui a connu G. Councell il y a 25 ans, n'a pas hésité une seconde lorsqu'on lui a demandé si G. Councell était l'homme qu'il fallait pour le poste.

'Gary sait comment les aumôniers travaillent et en tant qu'homme de foi, il sait ce dont les aumôniers ont besoin.'

> Taashi Rowe, staff Adventist News Network 6 May 2008 Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

English translation available at: http://news.adventist.org/ data/2008/1210082899/index.html.fr



L'aumônier Gary Councell est le nouveau directeur du Ministère des Aumôneries Adventistes. Il déclare que les aumôniers fondent la crédibilité de l'église en soignant les relations avec les personnes qui n'ont jamais entendu parler des adventistes. [photo: Rajmund Dabrowski/ANN]

aumôniers dans les hôpitaux, les campus des universités publiques et les corps armés. Il travaille toujours pour obtenir des arrangements permettant aux adventistes des corps armés d'observer le sabbat et il a toujours le même bureau que celui qu'il avait lorsqu'il est devenu, il y a deux ans, directeur adjoint du département.

Avec plus de 30 ans de service, G. Councell a commencé à travailler pour la Conférence Générale des adventistes du 7ème jour en 2005, soit le lendemain du jour où il a pris sa retraite de l'armée américaine.

La vie s'est finalement

Ainsi, au lieu de prendre sa retraite et de se faire plaisir avec la randonnée, les promenades à vélo, le camping, la

Nuevo director de capellanía espera incrementar entrenamiento, reclutamiento

Aprimera vista, no mucho ha cambiado para Gary Councell desde que fue nombrado director de Ministerios de Capellanía el pasado 1 de mayo.

El capellán retirado del ejército aún se levanta a las cuatro, y llega a su oficina entre las 5:15 y 6 de la mañana. Su departamento aún apoya a los adventistas que colaboran como capellanes en los hospitales, en los predios universitarios y en las fuerzas armadas. Aún trabaja para que los adventistas que están en las fuerzas armadas tengan el sábado libre y todavía

lo que era casi inevitable que terminara en el ejército. Solo que con un propósito diferente.

Councell, de 64 años de edad, dice que llegó a ser capellán para brindar la clase de apoyo que su propio padre no tuvo cuando fue reclutado durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, dos semanas después de convertirse al adventismo.

"En ese entonces no había capellanes adventistas para ayudar a los feligreses que formaban parte del ejército. Mi propio padre tuvo toda clase de problemas, desde el sábado hasta estar motivado por "un sentido de visión respecto de la dirección que quiero que asuma el departamento."

Councell dice que está entre sus planes contar con más capellanes en las cárceles, tener un coordinador de tiempo completo para los predios de instituciones públicas, establecer programas de instrucción en capellanía independientes en más regiones de la iglesia mundial v ayudar a que más graduados de los seminarios teológicos entiendan que "la capellanía constituye una expresión viable del ministerio, y es tan vital como la tarea del pastor y el evangelista."

Dice Councell: "Hay cada vez más graduados de teología, y muchos no pueden ser empleados por la denominación. Necesitan entender que los capellanes son llamados también al ministerio, al igual que los pastores."

El mensaje parece estar llegando a destino porque Councell dice que las llamadas más comunes que recibe son las de ministros que quieren ser capellanes.

Antes de trabajar en la sede central de la iglesia, este abuelo de cinco nietos trabajó en el Pentágono como director de información, gestión de recursos, instalaciones y logística en la oficina del Jefe de Capellanes. Antes había colaborado como capellán principal de todos los capellanes militares del Pacífico.

Councell fue también el segundo adventista en obtener el grado de coronel, un logro que solo ocho de cien capellanes del ejército logró.

Aun así, dice que le gustaría que las iglesias respetaran más la tarea del capellán. "Tendemos a mirar solamente el número de personas bautizadas. Pero los capellanes siembran y cultivan las semillas del evangelio. Participamos en el desarrollo de la credibilidad de la iglesia y nos contactamos con personas que jamás oyeron hablar de los adventistas," dice.

Para Councell, en su caso esta tarea representa un ministerio personal. Es por eso que tiene sentido que Martin Feldbush, que se acaba de jubilar, recomendó a Councell para el puesto: "Tenemos trasfondos diferentes, pero compartimos objetivos filosóficos para este departamentos. Confío en su juicio."

Y William Broome, capellán adventista en el Pentágono, y alguien que ha conocido a Councell durante 25 años, no dudó cuando se le preguntó si éste era la persona correcta para esa tarea.

"Gary entiende cómo trabajan los capellanes y como fiel hombre de Dios entiende lo que estos necesitan," dijo Broome.

> Taashi Rowe, staff Adventist News Network 6 de Mayo del 2008 Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

English translation available at: http://news.adventist.org/ data/2008/1210082899/index.html.es

Los capellanes ayudan a cultivar las relaciones con personas que jamás han oído hablar de los adventistas.

conserva la misma oficina que tenía cuando llegó a ser director asociado del departamento dos años atrás.

Después de pasar más de treinta años en servicio activo, Councell comenzó a trabajar para la sede central de la iglesia en 2005, literalmente al día siguiente de su retiro del Ejército de los Estados Unidos.

La vida fue diferente de lo planeado para este niño de Ohio que planeaba ser un guardabosques. Councell tuvo tías y tíos que participaron de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y de la Guerra de Corea, por el régimen alimentario y la posibilidad de no portar armas, y no tuvo a nadie que lo ayudara a defender sus convicciones," dice.

La tarea de Councell ahora es la de supervisar un departamento que apoya a 350 capellanes adventistas en los Estados Unidos y coordinar el trabajo con los departamentos similares en otros países que apoyan la labor de otros 300 capellanes.

Councell dice que lo motiva "el amor por nuestro pueblo, por nuestros feligreses." Eso es lo que lo ayuda a venir a su oficina cada mañana. Asimismo, dice





A Statement on Peace

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 Peace

One of the great political and ethical issues of our day is the question of war and peace. It is both complicated and convoluted. Despair hovers around hearts and minds, for millions expect a nuclear holocaust without the basic hope of afterlife or eternal life.

Today there is a new situation, unparalleled in history. Human beings have developed the means of humanity's own destruction, means that are becoming more and more "effective" and "perfected"—although these are hardly the right words. Since World War II, civilians are no longer just occasionally or incidentally harmed; they have become the target.

Christians believe that war is the result of sin. Since the Fall of man, strife has been a perennial fact of human existence. "Satan delights in war. . . . It is his object to incite nations to war against one another."—The Great Controversy, p. 589. It is a diversionary tactic to interfere with the gospel task. While global conflict has been prevented during the past forty years, there have been perhaps 150 wars between nations and within nations, with millions perishing in these conflicts.

Today virtually every government claims it is working for disarmament and peace. Often the known facts appear to point in a different direction. Nations spend a huge portion of their financial resources to stockpile nuclear and other war materials, sufficient to destroy civilization as it is known today. News reports focus on the millions of men and women and children who suffer and die in wars and civil unrest and have to live in squalor and poverty. The arms race, with its colossal waste of human funds and resources, is one of the most obvious obscenities of our day.

It is therefore right and proper for Christians to promote peace. The Seventh-day Adventist Church urges every nation to beat its swords into plowshares" and its "spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4). The church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 7 states that men and women were "created for the glory of God" and were "called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment," not to destroy or hurt one another. Christ Himself said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

While peace cannot be found in official church pronouncements, the authentic Christian church is to work for peace between the first and second advents of Christ. However, hope in the Second Coming must not live in a social vacuum. The Adventist hope must manifest and translate itself into deep concern for the well-being of every member of the human family. True, Christian action today and tomorrow will not of itself usher in the coming kingdom of peace; God alone brings this kingdom by the return of His son.

In a world filled with hate and struggle, a world of ideological strife and of military conflicts, Seventh-day Adventists desire to be known as peacemakers and work for worldwide justice and peace under Christ as the head of a new humanity.

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventhday Adventist Church, on June 27, 1985, at the General Conference session in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

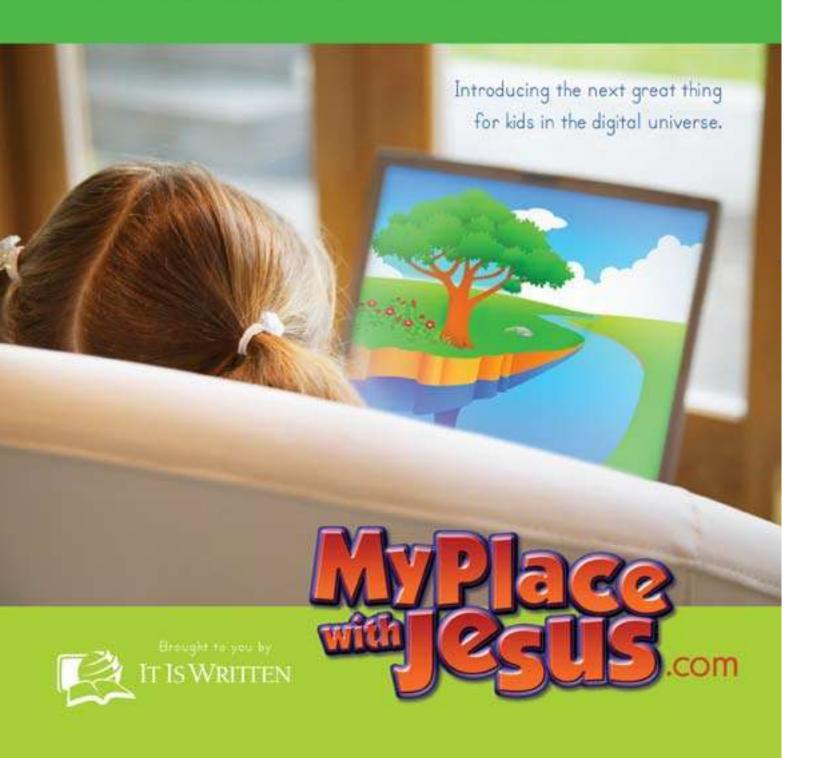
Available online at AdventSource (www.advent source.org) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) (www.adventistbookcenter.com)

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

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Bangor, ME	7:59	7:49	7:38	7:27	7:14
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Boston, MA	8:02	7:53	7:43	7:32	7:20
South Lancaster, MA	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:34	7:23
Pittsfield, MA	8:11	8:02	7:52	7:41	7:29
Hartford, CT	8:07	7:58	7:48	7:37	7:26
New York, NY	8:09	8:01	7:51	7:41	7:30
Albany, NY	8:11	8:02	7:52	7:41	7:30
Utica, NY	8:20	8:11	8:01	7:50	7:38
Syracuse, NY	8:24	8:14	8:04	7:53	7:42
Rochester, NY	8:30	8:21	8:10	7:59	7:48
Buffalo, NY	8:34	8:25	8:15	8:04	7:52
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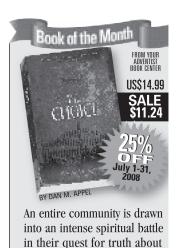
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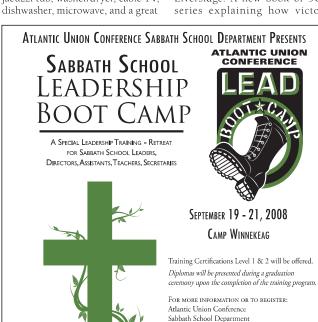
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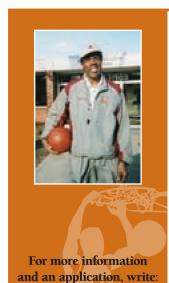
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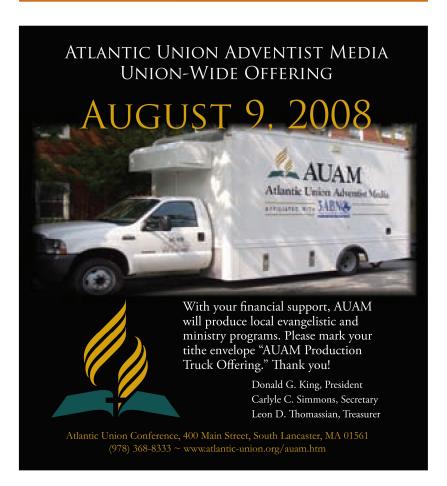
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