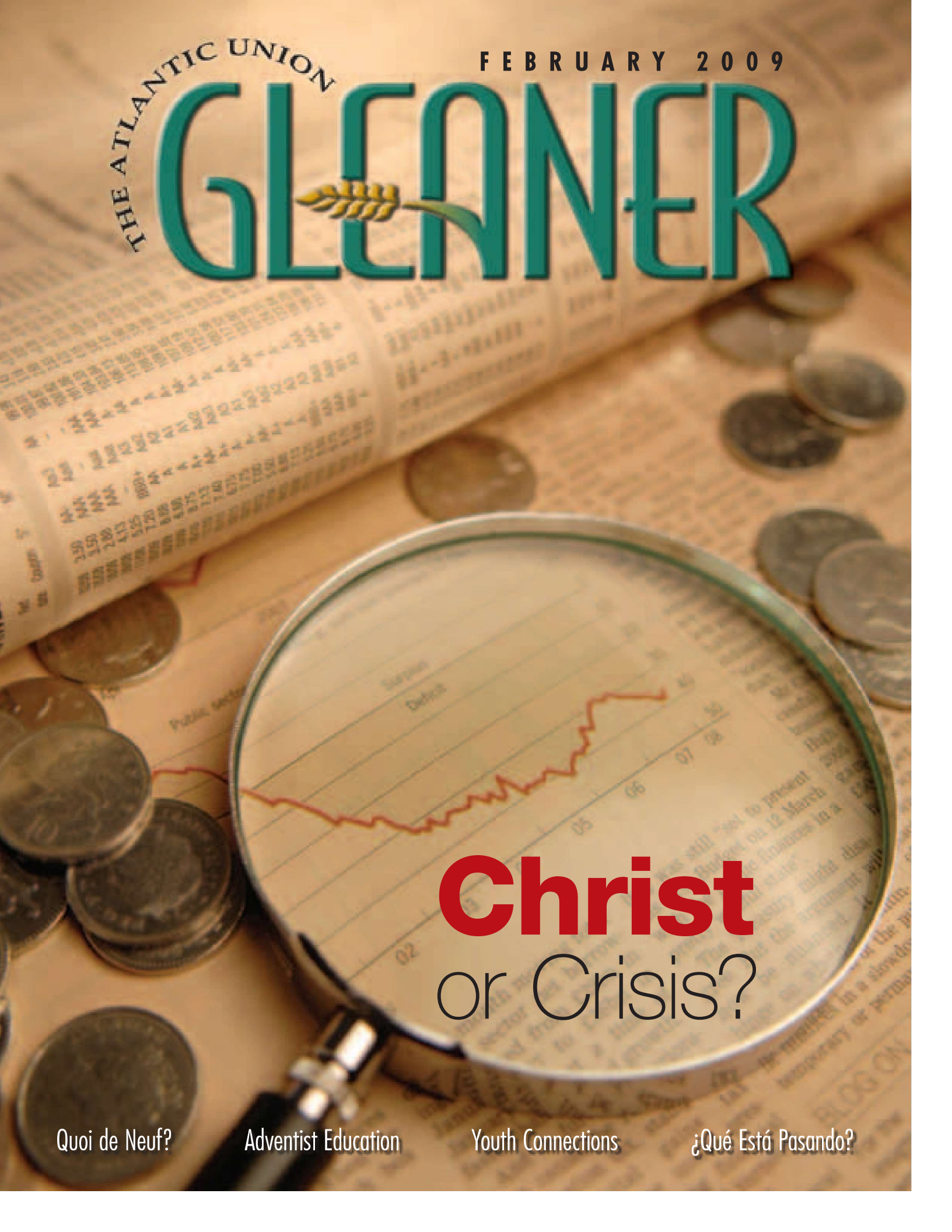


THE ATLANTIC UNION

FEBRUARY 2009

# GLEANNER



## Christ or Crisis?

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

Youth Connections

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

This month's cover story, "Christ or Crisis?" on page 4 of this issue focuses on the subject of religious liberty. Read what Amireh Al-Haddad, Southern Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, has to say about what we need to be focusing on in these difficult times. We also bring to you our regular features: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith and Youth Connections. The cover photo is from iStockphoto.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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April 2009	February 13
May 2009	March 13
June 2009	April 10

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

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# Big Events in 2009



**T**he year 2009 has great significance for the North American Division (the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America), in general, and for the country of Bermuda, in particular. For Bermuda, this year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its history dating back to the early settlers in 1609. For the North American Division, 2009 has been designated as the Year of Evangelism. Both events will generate celebrations and interesting activities. The Bermuda Government has planned monthly commemorative events focusing on the country's history. The pastors, administrators, teachers, departmental directors, students, and more than one million members in the North American Division have been encouraged and motivated to engage in public and personal evangelism. The anticipated celebrations of Bermuda and the many baptisms from the evangelistic thrusts in 2009 remind me of the challenge posed by the song, "Bringing in the Sheaves."

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;  
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

**Refrain:**

Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;  
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

This evangelistic thrust among God's people, directed to our neighbors, our communities, and our towns, is most timely as our world experiences a very unprecedented financial meltdown, job losses, home foreclosures, sickness, untimely deaths, and a host

of distressing influences motivated by greed and selfishness. People in our communities, our towns, and even our world need a sense of hope and a word of encouragement that a better world and a more productive life can be ours. While a change in our government may facilitate more favorable lending and borrowing policies and better national and international social relationships, we know that the only lasting, permanent solution to our world's problems is the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world, He gave them a mission and a commission. We read in Matthew 24:14 (NIV), "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." The preaching of the gospel to the whole world is the mandate and the goal of Jesus. Should we really expect the return of Jesus, when this mandate has not been completed? In today's world the opportunity of accomplishing Jesus' Commission has been enhanced by the advance of science, technology, and world conditions. There can be, however, no substitute for the human agent, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, to accept its responsibility to obey the Commission of Jesus.

As we look forward to the unfolding events of 2009, I implore everyone to get involved in some type of evangelism and celebrate the transformation of lives and the growth of God's church until He comes in all His glory.☺

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

*"The only lasting,  
permanent  
solution to our  
world's problems  
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Coming of our  
Lord and Savior,  
Jesus Christ."*





iStockphoto

**H**ave you gotten the e-mails? You know the ones—the e-mails relating to the hundreds of different predictions for the current financial crisis and end-time events that well-meaning Seventh-day Adventists are circulating on the Web. The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department faces the challenge of being the resource that many turn to when trying to verify these predictions and rumors, because we are so closely linked to Adventist understanding of end-time events. In our study of these events, we have come to realize that we must all make a decision about what our focus will be upon, Christ or “the Crisis.” Admittedly, I have borrowed this title from a colleague, but it was hard to resist since it captures the sentiment for this present moment.

Historically speaking, Seventh-day Adventists tend to get their feathers ruffled when there is a papal visit to

the United States—understandably so, in light of Bible prophecy. We also get excited during presidential campaigns. Even if you don’t say it aloud, many Adventists wonder to themselves, “Will the Sunday laws be ushered in during this administration?” Even in years when these two events—a papal visit and a presidential election—happen independently of each other, we see an increase in the circulation of messages predicting doom and gloom. Last year, we had a triple whammy of an election year, a papal visit, and an economic recession visited upon us.

These predictions of doom and gloom have run the gamut of prophetic end-time scenarios. The first started in October 2007 with widespread Internet messages about Pope Benedict’s springtime visit to the United States. Those rumors purported to have “insider” information that revealed the pope’s visit was for the purpose of establish-

ing the Sunday laws here in America. Even though the General Conference thoroughly investigated the information, finding it was indeed pure rumor and conjecture, other independent ministries picked up on the rumor and ran with it, some quite widely in the early spring and summer months of 2008.

By mid-summer, another crisis was upon us as the aftermath of the housing loan crisis set widespread panic across the world, with rumors of recessions, absolute economic collapse, and more. Now Internet mail, sermons, and videos continue to go out forecasting the financial collapse of the United States as months, maybe just weeks, away.

And still more Internet rumors speak of crises like martial law being enacted, switching to a new monetary standard, and new currency. One e-mail, which made its way into my hands on seven different occasions, gave details on how “Soviet troops” were waiting in

the United States to be called to action at the command of the Illuminati. It encouraged Adventists to stock up on supplies or flee the cities before the end of September when all travel would be prohibited. Despite the fact that there are no “Soviet troops” anymore (I would remind the reader the Soviet Union fell apart almost 20 years ago), there were many Adventists who wanted to believe it was all true and that this doom was eminent. We want to believe because we have waited so long.

We have a tendency to watch for one big thing to happen that will lead us into end-time prophecy being fulfilled. However, events have been unfolding for years that many people overlook. Much has been made of President Bush’s personal trip to the airport to greet the Pope in April. And yet, it is not the current events of the past year that have solely been fulfilling prophecy. Indeed, the religious liberty department is carefully watching, and praying, and discerning even the smaller, less-talked-about world events, as they relate to prophecy. In 1994, many ignored a major waymark of end times. In April of that year, Protestants in the United States came together with the Catholic Church to agree upon the document entitled *Evangelicals & Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium*. Aside from Protestant evangelical leaders reaching to join hands with the Roman Catholics, they also declared a truce at the end of the document when it comes to trying to convert individuals across other faith lines.

However, what the religious liberty department is most worried about is the spiritual well-being of our church members. Our concern with each of these Internet rumors, whether they are true or not, is the state of mind in which each member is left after reading them. Most concentrate on the crisis at hand. None have left the reader confident and assured that all will be well in the end—if we remain centered on

Christ. Without doubt we live in “end times.” As people of prophecy we have been awaiting Christ’s return for more than 160 years. The church is cautious now; we do not make time predictions. Our date-setting days are in the past. Some will say that the church’s caution means that she has fallen asleep at the wheel; therefore, many will look to other sources who claim to know and understand what is happening.

Ellen White gives us a word of caution in regard to prophecy and what has been revealed and what has not yet been revealed: “There is need of a much closer study of the Word of God; especially should Daniel and Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God”—TESTIMONIES TO MINISTERS AND GOSPEL WORKERS, p. 112. Christ’s disciples asked Him the same question we are asking ourselves these days: “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”—Matthew. 24:3. Christ’s answer is not in a sentence or two. He takes almost a chapter and a half to answer them. He goes on to warn them three times not to believe in some very specific things. But, unless you study the Bible for yourself, you will not know these things.

Many church members wait six days in between studying their Bible. Some expect their pastors to hand them everything they need to know in 25 minutes or less each Sabbath. But when time is short, and we really believe the crisis of the end is soon, it becomes critical for us

to go back to the Bible and make Christ our focus. With our concentration on Him, the crisis will be but a blur.

In January, we kicked off a very special year of evangelism. If we are truly looking for signs of the end, if we truly believe Christ’s return is soon, then we have a tremendous job ahead of us for this next year. It is a job that will call upon each and every church member to take an active role. Is the final crisis upon us? Not yet. Ellen White writes, “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be

**If time is short, as we believe it is, then we cannot afford to focus on the crisis.**

among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. . . . Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming”—GREAT CONTROVERSY, p. 464.

If time is short, as we believe it is, then we cannot afford to focus on the crisis. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the revival cited above was what we are preparing to do with evangelism this year! Prophecy tells us there will be a crisis so that we will not be caught unaware. The ministry of the Religious Liberty department is focused upon Christ, and we invite all to share that focus with whomever you come in contact this year.①



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



By Sylvan Lashley

## How SAFE is Your School?

In this age of school violence and dissident apathy, questions of safety loom near, especially in the wake of the 9/11, Columbine, and the Virginia Technological University incidents. Is it conceivable that such incidents could occur in a Seventh-day Adventist school? Violent incidents in schools are mushrooming. The National Center for Education and Statistics (2007) carries a full report on crime and school violence. According to the National School Safety Center (2007), more than 207 violent deaths reported in schools were shooting victims. Students know of others who routinely carry weapons to school, so I ask the question again, "How safe is your school?"

Our concerns about physical safety should not minimize our concerns for much more comprehensive safety. Joshua 20:1-6 establishes the six cities of biblical refuge to which those who erred without malice could flee. These cities of refuge served the population well—they were placed in geographically strategic places; the roads to the cities were broad and unhindered with clear directional signs; the elders waited at the gates to gather in the refugees; the case of each refugee was heard and, as long as you were in the city, you were safe. When the priest died, full pardons were issued and refugees could return home without fear. In the cities of refuge, individuals received solace,

comfort, and spiritual nurture.

In the Northeastern Conference, we are promulgating SAFE schools. A SAFE school is one that is **Spiritually** sound, **Academically** rigorous and challenging, **Financially** responsible, effective and efficient, and **Excellent** in service. But what does it mean to be spiritually sound? Does it mean simply to teach Bible, have Weeks of Prayer, Adventist teachers, and baptisms? It must

adaptive curricula that result in stellar performances and constant teacher improvement in the area of teaching and learning, rather than merely doing busy desk work. Financial responsibility calls for committed parents, churches, and church leaders paying on time in a manner that allows the school to proceed; it also means effective and efficient administrative systems. Excellence in service points to tutorial and nurturing programs for students and parents.

In Northeastern, we embarked on an expansive audit of our schools. We are performing a safety audit of the spiritual, academic, financial, and service programs. Are they

uniquely Adventist? Our audits have unearthed areas

in which we need to improve. The plan is to communicate widely to gather constituent pastoral and lay support

to meet the deficiencies, to redefine our Christian core product, and then promote it vigorously with the help of each church member. To this end, Northeastern launches its conference-wide recruitment and marketing plan in February 2009. We solicit your support for SAFE schools.①



**SAFE for Eating**

be more if we are to be distinctively Adventist. Spiritually safe schools should result in spiritual conduct that is uplifting and translates into a Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle and deportment. A spiritually safe school allows my child to leave there committed to the truths of the Bible as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to be aware of our health message, and to have a grasp of Adventist heritage. Academically rigorous means having



*Sylvan Lashley is the Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools.*

# Inspire - Equip - Deploy

**B**y the time this issue of the GLEANER reaches your mailboxes, each church in the Atlantic Union would have received a ROAD MAP TO 2010 booklet. Our destination for the road map is the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Congress planned for October 14-17, 2010, in Hartford, Connecticut.

I encourage each youth leader and pastor to review the booklet which includes goals and objectives set by the Atlantic Union Conference youth directors. How do we accomplish these goals? The "road map" highlights many ministries that we hope will be established as part of your church's youth ministries program. Please note the following ministries.

## **Outreach Ministries.**

Certainly all Pathfinder clubs and youth groups should have planned outreach. This section includes a brief description on how to involve young people of all ages in sharing Jesus with others.

**Prayer Ministries.** We would like to see 60 percent of our churches with active Pathfinder clubs and youth prayer ministries. Included in the booklet are some practical ideas on how to start a prayer ministry and suggested Web sites that will further assist you as you plan.

**Small Group Ministries.** The Greater New York Conference, under the leadership of José Cortés, has had a great deal of success recently using small group ministries as a tool for evangelism. Ellen White speaks of the importance of small group ministry when she says in *The REVIEW AND HERALD*, August 12, 1902: "The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err." Very practical guidelines are given, plus many Web site resources that will assist you as you plan. We would like to see 50 percent of our Atlantic Union churches with active small group ministries.

**YouTube Evangelism.** This is a cutting-edge method of evangelism that will excite your young people. We

know that young people are going to connect to the Internet and we want to meet them where they are. In an attempt to plug into their world, you may want to consider posting content to YouTube. It's free! YouTube can be accessed by anyone with an Internet connection. Refer to the ROAD MAP TO 2010 booklet to access more information about how to use YouTube in evangelism.

## **Young Adult Ministries.**

Young adult ministries is spreading like wildfire through all the corners of the United States. In the Atlantic Union we have young adult ministries spreading to all corners of this union. Reach out to those attending public colleges and universities in your area. Reach out to the young adult professionals in your church. Refer to the booklet to find Web sites you can access that will give you resources for various aspects of this unique ministry.

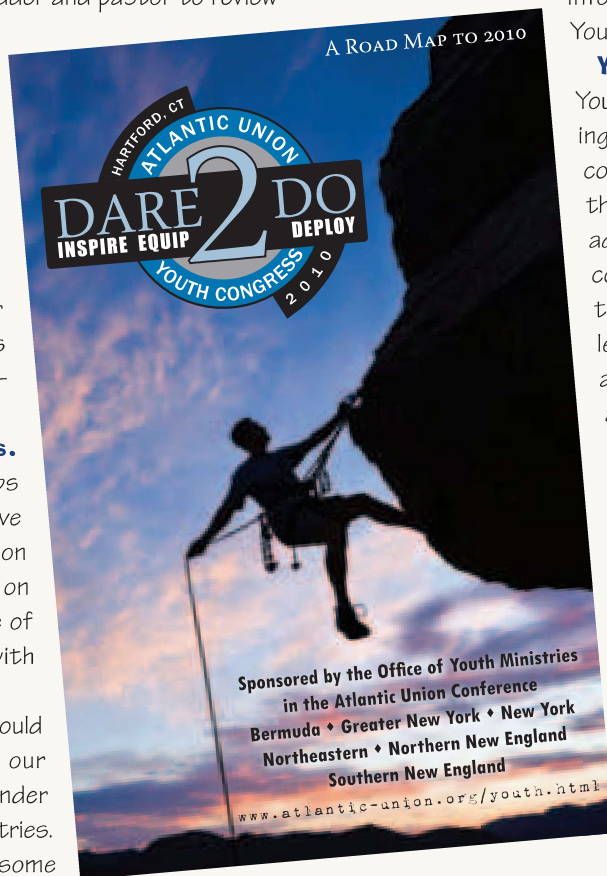
## **Youth Evangelism.**

To realize the goal of taking "the Advent Message to the entire world in this generation," involve your young people in some type of evangelism. We are reminded that with such a great

army of youth, the work will be finished soon.

There is an abundance of resources that are available to you and your youth group. The joint union and conference goal is to have our youth conduct 26 youth-lead public evangelistic meetings throughout the union. Refer to the booklet to help you make plans.

**YMI (Youth Ministries Intensives).** Training events will be conducted at several strategic locations throughout the Atlantic Union. Take advantage of these specialized training events to help equip you and your team to help finish God's work in the great Northeast.①



*Bill Wood is the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer director.*

## Literature Evangelist Celebrates 25 Years of Ministry

Ivan Gibbons is celebrating more than 25 years of literature evangelism ministry on the island of Bermuda. He began his work as a full-time literature evangelist on September 23, 1983, when Pastor Alvin Goulbourne was assigned by Pastor Wayne Johnson to work in the Hamilton Parish area. Gibbons felt this was the prime place to begin, since he grew up in this area and had relatives and friends that he knew. But it was not to be; there was not a single sale. So, he sought the Lord. "Lord," he prayed, "Please give me a sign to let me know where You want me to be."

Two nights later, he received a phone call from a family in Somerset who expressed interest in purchasing some of his books. After conferring with Johnson, Gibbons went to Somerset and made the presentation. After the presentation, he asked which of the books the couple wanted to purchase. They excused themselves for a period of time and then returned to purchase the entire set of books that Gibbons presented. He believed

that this was surely his answer to prayer. This was by far his most memorable presentation to date—even after 25 years.

After conferring again with Johnson, Gibbons began working in the Somerset area and he worked his way to Hamilton. "In those days," said Gibbons, "There were others who covered other sections of the island, so I could not go all the way to the east end."

Gibbons received training from such notable individuals as Kenneth Manders, Diana Williams (now Trott), and Derek Albuoy. Among the best-selling books in the early days of his ministry were THE BIBLE STORY set, BEDTIME STORIES, and the health books. His most memorable year was in 1990 when, both he and Diana Williams, together sold more than \$80,000.00 worth of books in one year, the highest of any two people in the conference.

Today, Gibbons serves as the only full-time literature evangelist and he has been canvassing the entire island alone for more than 10 years. He is presently completing his fifth round



Ivan Gibbons is celebrating more than 25 years as a literature evangelist on the island of Bermuda.

from Somerset to St. George's—he is now in the St. David's area and will complete St. George's before starting in the west again.

—D. Randolph Wilson, assistant communication director, Bermuda Conference

## Bread-making Ministry at Pembroke Church

About 12 persons, including two who are not members of the Adventist Church, took advantage of the opportunity to learn how to make bread. The class that included two children, both of them boys, began on October 5, 2008. The bread-making class was conducted as a part of the ShareHim activities for the Pembroke Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While the bread was rising during class on the second week, Glenda Daniels taught the group how to make fried dumplings. In the final session



Members conducted bread-making classes as part of the ShareHim activities at the Pembroke church.

on November 2, one new person joined the group and they made about 18 loaves of bread and about four dozen rolls.

It was good to see the expressions on the faces of the group, knowing that they were going home with bread they had made themselves. "It is our intent to teach people how to make wholesome bread," said Lynette Albuoy. As for future plans, we would like

to make bread on a regular basis so that we can serve our community.

—Derek Albuoy, Pembroke Bread-making Ministry director



## Between Father and Son

While it is true that many young people who grow up in the church truly embrace the message and lifestyle of the Seventh-day Adventist family, there is still a large segment of our youth who leave the church.

In his book, *WHY OUR TEENAGERS LEAVE THE CHURCH*, Roger Dudley asserts that “Between 40 and 50 percent of Adventist youth leave the church in their 20s.” Dudley’s book also reveals that the youth who make the choice to leave do not leave because of doctrinal issues, but rather, because of social, cultural, and spiritual reasons.

In my personal experience, I have watched young people opt to leave the church and I have witnessed the impact their decision has had on families and

the local church community. I have been working with the youth in my local church for a number of years, and I have prayed with crying parents as their children walked away from the church.

While it is common for Adventists not to discuss negative elements of Adventism, the truth is, we are not going to get to the core of the problem without extensive dialogue and exhaustive research. Once at the core of the problem, we are not going to overcome it without faithful collective prayer combined with faithful collective action.

In an effort to keep this subject at the forefront of our collective concern, the Greater New York Conference Media Center and the Greater New York Conference Youth Department have collaborated to produce *Between Father and*



The movie “Between Father and Son” tells the story of a Seventh-day Adventist father who is struggling to keep his 17-year-old son in the Adventist Church.

*Son*. This movie tells the story of a Seventh-day Adventist father who is struggling to keep his 17-year-old son in the Adventist Church. Screenings of the film have produced much discussion in families and church communities. José Cortés, Greater New York Conference youth director, says, “Fighting between youth and adults has been around for a long time and is yet to yield a positive result. It has only resulted in losses, both at home and church. This movie is a bridge that will help to connect both generations and get them talking.”

*Between Father and Son* is a look at one fictional family, and is not an attempt to be a problem-solver. The goal of the movie is to stimulate conversation throughout our churches, encourage prayer, and bring attention to what we believe is one of the most challenging times in Adventist history. To find out more about the film, visit [www.myspace.com/sdacinema](http://www.myspace.com/sdacinema).

—Clarence McCall, member, Co-op City church

## The Little Ones Chose God

On Saturday, December 27, 2008, a time when the children of the world are busy playing with the gifts they received during the holidays, the children of Spanish Soundview Seventh-day Adventist Church chose instead to give back to their church and their community by taking over the entire Sabbath service.

The children arrived early to officiate in the Sabbath School program. The Sabbath School lesson was followed by inspiring missionary words. Before the main service began, a baptismal ceremony was performed. Three candidates were baptized: Weslin Lantigua, 9, Shay Feliz, 9, and Matthew Monroy, 11. They not only chose to dedicate themselves to the Lord that day, but also to participate in the service that followed.

As the divine service began, the crowd waited with anticipation to

see the fruits of the labor of love by Abel Rosario, the church’s pastor, and Reinaldo Bravo. Both took the time to coach the youngsters in their endeavor to become missionaries and preachers for the Lord.

The welcome, song service, Scripture reading, prayer, tithes, and offerings were all officiated by the children of the church from ages 8 to 13. Instead of the children’s story corner, the elder’s story corner took place. The elders sat at the front to have a story told to them by the children of their church. Following was a three-part sermon on reverence by three youngsters: Kisandra Matos, 13, and Matthew Monroy and Shay Feliz who were baptized and called to action by the Lord on that day.

We learned many things about reverence that day, but we also learned that we each play an important role in seeing the Good



Daniel Espinosa

The Spanish Soundview church children led out in the Sabbath services on December 27, 2008.

News delivered to all the inhabitants in the world, and that whether old or young, the Lord will use you if you are willing to let Him into your heart, your mind, and your life. It is a new year; let us strive along with our oftentimes forgotten young people to set a new course and get the Lord’s message out to our neighbors, community, country, and world as quickly as possible.

—Daniel Espinosa, communication co-director, Soundview church

## Buffalo Suburban Youth Make a Pledge for Purity



The Buffalo Suburban Seventh-day Adventist Church held a youth retreat focusing on sex education from a biblical perspective. The retreat ended with a challenge to make a personal pledge for purity and each youth signed a pledge card.

The Buffalo Suburban Seventh-day Adventist Church held a youth retreat focusing on sex education from a biblical perspective. Organizers conveyed to the youth how music, TV, movies, and Internet messages portraying sex among young people as fun and carefree are false and lead to life-long problems, such

as sexually transmitted diseases, low self-esteem, and teen pregnancy. Sexuality was taught to be a precious gift from God and a source of blessing and delight when reserved for marriage.

The program was developed by parents who saw a need to provide their children with a deeper level of education than what is

typically provided through the Adventist and public school curricula. Books from AdventSource (adventsource.org) proved to be a valuable resource. Sessions covered such topics as the body, sexual interaction, God's view on sex, pregnancy, birth, abortion, puberty, peer pressure, and sexual abuse. Separate classes for boys and girls were held when covering more sensitive and personal topics.

Presenting the material in a group setting provided a forum well-accepted by the youth. This provided an alternative to individualized child instruction where parents may feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped. Kati Hernandez, one of the youth who attended, commented that "We were able to talk and ask freely about otherwise difficult topics."

The retreat ended with a challenge to make a per-

sonal pledge for purity. Each youth was given a pledge certificate reading: "Throughout my youth I will save myself for the one God has chosen for me, so that I might be able to bring to my bride/groom on our wedding day my total man/womanhood, given to none other, but reserved in sacred trust for her/him alone . . . that I might feel worthy and unashamed to accept the gift of her/his virgin purity, not unjustly and unequally receiving from her/him that which I cannot offer in return." Every youth signed their pledge. Michael Gayle said that his daughter, Mia, proudly posted her certificate on their refrigerator door.

If you are interested in holding a similar program for your youth, contact me at donyoung@hotmail.com for lesson materials and a PowerPoint presentation.

—Don Young, youth leader, Buffalo Suburban church



Westvale church members celebrated the dedication and baptism of several children. From left, Jennifer King holding Nicole, Darrin Baker, behind; Edeline Mutanga holding Rumbidzai with Teurai, behind; Rufaro Mutanga and Julie Falle, front; Patricia Owusu-Ansah holding Afia, and Fred.

## Gifts for Heaven

The Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church rejoiced as three infants were dedicated and two young people committed their lives to Christ in baptism on Sabbath, December 20, 2008. Jennifer King and Darrin Baker presented baby Nicole Irene to the Lord; Teurai and Edeline Mutanga brought baby Rumbidzai; and Patricia and Fred Owusu-Ansah brought little Afia. The Mutanga's joy was doubled as their second child, Rufaro, committed her life to Jesus in baptism. Rufaro was joined by Julie Falle who was baptized by her father, Doug Falle, New York Conference treasurer. Surely heaven received these presents with the greatest of joy.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

## Thankfully, It Is Ultimately About Him and Not Me

It was not the type of Sabbath behavior that reflected Christ. As a matter of fact it was downright embarrassing. It was Sabbath morning and an argument that had broken out in our home went from bad to worse. Satan was up to his tricks again and we had fallen for them. It had escalated to such a point that we actually went our separate ways; some to one church, and the rest to another. Here we are leaders of this church plant and acting like a bunch of spoiled babies.

During potluck dinner, my husband, James, was approached by a person inquiring about the Lord's work in Niagara Falls. Jim shared the many outreach projects we are working

on and the way God has been leading and blessing. During the conversation, he was asked what needs the church plant had. The biggest need at the time was a van. Trying to pick up 25 to 35 kids in small cars is very challenging. We had been searching for a cheap,

***"I am so thankful that God allows us to be His vessels, even though, more times than I would like to admit, I am unworthy."***

used van that would at least run and do the job. Seeing the great need and responding to the Holy Spirit, the person committed to purchasing a van for the ministry.

Jim came home and

shared with me the good news. We were going to get a van! My mind instantly recalled how foolishly we had behaved, especially me. What puzzled me even more at that moment was the thoughts that came to mind: *How could it be? We don't deserve it. How can He*

*be blessing us with a van the way we were acting?* It really did not make sense. So, gently, God impressed me that the greatest thing we have to be thankful for is that, in spite of what we really deserve to receive, we gain great riches and blessings because of the merits of Jesus Christ. Everything we attempt is worthless without remembering that it is only by God's grace and love that we are allowed to co-labor with Him. It is not about me, it is about Him and His glory.

I am so thankful that God allows us to be His vessels, even though, more times than I would like to admit, I am unworthy. I am eternally thankful that it isn't about me, because when those times come and God allows me, for a moment, to see the real me, it can be truly embarrassing. There is nothing we will ever do to earn any higher degree of the free gift that God gives us. We have to look solely to Him and not see one speck of ourselves.

The next week we picked up our new van. A check had been donated for \$20,000.00 to allow us to purchase the 2008 Ford 12-passenger van. It was more than we could have asked for! Thank you to that special person who makes it possible every day for kids and adults to come and learn about Jesus. Thank you, Jesus for the miracles You give us each day and for Your precious blood that makes us worthy and beautiful.

—Christina Webber, The Master's Vineyard church plant

### Praying with Power with Shelley and J.D. Quinn from 3ABN



March 6-8, 2009

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## REVERBERATIONS

*Meet some enthusiastic members of the great Atlantic Union College family! This month, we invite you to hear reflections from members who came to Atlantic Union College from the Northeastern and Southern New England conferences.*



Oscar Bogran, '09, is pictured in his art studio (atelier) at the Atlantic Union College Art Department. The department is housed in the former Atlantic Book Binders building. Bogran is a member of the Amsterdam, New York, church in the Northeastern Conference.



Phil Anderson

“Ever since I can remember, I have loved to draw and design. The only thing I loved more was God. In fact, I recall talking to Him when I would find a little nook in the small Brooklyn apartment where my family lived.

“Being exposed to graffiti art and comics and *THE GREAT CONTROVERSY* was an odd mix, yet I believe it was all for a purpose. Thanks to the Atlantic Union College Art Department, I have

gotten an epiphany. We are all called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, and God has given each one of us a talent that, when connected with His purpose, can do miraculous things. Through my art, I help the blind see, I help the sick get better, and I bring hope to the hopeless.

“The first time I heard about the art program at Atlantic Union College, I was debating what I was to do with my life. I recall going to church on Sabbath following an argument in a relationship that was destroying me spiritually. I went to the bathroom to break down. It seemed like my life had no purpose. I started to pray, ‘God, just show me where to go and I will go.’

“As I wiped my tears and began to leave, a magazine caught my eye. It was the Atlantic Union *GLEANER*. I’d

seen it a million times before, but this one was different. I picked it up and began reading. My eyes could not stop looking at the cover and the article about a new kind of art department that was ‘modeled after the masters.’ I couldn’t believe it! Art for God?

“It was the answer to my prayers. I had to get to that college. I also remembered that my closest friend was attending there. I began making calls and he told me to come for a visit.

“We went to a student church meeting at the College Church. I was overwhelmed to see so many young people interested in serving God. It was beautiful. I made up my mind from that point to come to Atlantic Union College.”

—Oscar Bogran, '09, junior art major

“I enjoy Atlantic Union College because of my professors, music, and sports.

“Some of my high school friends who went to public colleges and I were comparing different aspects of college and adjusting to college life. I said that it’s great that I can go to my professors if I have a problem or questions about a paper or project and they will sit down one-on-one and talk to me whenever I need them. In fact, they encourage it.

“I’ve been at AUC for a year-and-a-half now and I’ve already been in eight vocal groups, ranging from a 50-member choir to a quartet in which I sang bass. We’ve performed at the college, at church, in several states, and also Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

“I’ve also been captain of one of the football teams and played every

Sunday. AUC offers flag football, basketball, soccer, racquetball, badminton, volleyball, softball, and also swimming competitions. It’s one thing to play the game. It’s another to walk onto the field or court with your friends, play a competitive, healthy game, and then walk off still brothers and sisters in Christ.

“There is almost always something going on at AUC. The Student Association is always coming up with activities for us to have a great time—from triathlons to banquets, and sports tournaments to movie nights. AUC keeps your free time active and exciting.”

—Alexander Kircheng, '11 psychology major

*This feature is presented by the Enrollment and Retention office, Bordes Henry*



Cindy Kurtzhals

Alexander Kircheng, '11, is pictured in the rotunda of Haskell Hall. Kircheng is a member of the College Church of Seventh-day Adventists, South Lancaster, Massachusetts, in the Southern New England Conference.

*Saturné, vice president, and the Public Relations department, Cindy Kurtzhals, director.*



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and a bowling  
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Atlantic Union GLEANER, February 2009



## Families: Healthy, Wealthy, and Energized

More than 350 people gathered at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson, New York, for the Northeastern Conference Family Ministries Department annual Family and Singles Ministries Convention. The theme for the convention, held November 7-9, 2008, was "Families: Healthy, Wealthy, and Energized." The main presenters were Samuel DeShay, M.D. and his wife, Bernice, and John Scott, Kanisa Fellowship and Toronto North church pastor. The devotional speakers were pastors Ainsworth Joseph, and Pablo Huefano, and the main worship speaker was Jonathan Thompson, Ellen G. White Estate branch office director at Oakwood University. All the speakers focused on showing the relationship between a healthy and energized fam-

ily home and a strong relationship with Jesus Christ.

Among the most important and informative aspects of the convention were the 10 workshops that helped to jumpstart the participants toward fulfilling the objective of the conference, to become healthy, wealthy, and energized. Workshops such as "Economic Empowerment" by Jonathan Thompson and family, "Sexuality in Marriage" by Jose and Kethlie Joseph, "Nutritional Health" by Fitzgerald and Victoria Kerr, "Keys to a Happy Marriage" by Ainsworth and Jillian Joseph, "Ministering to Hispanic Families" by Pablo and Magla Huerfano, "The City of Light" by the DeShays, "Biogenx Global" by Simeon Cuffy, N.D., and "Nurturing in Prayer" by Patricia Langley.

"This was one of the best Family Ministries conven-



Samuel and Bernice DeShay were the main presenters for the convention along with Pastor John Scott (not pictured).

tions ever," one participant commented, and another said, "It seems as if the conventions are getting better and better each year." Jesse Bevel, Northeastern Conference Family Ministries director, and the Family Ministries advisory credits God's guidance for the level of success experienced by the department.

The next Northeastern Conference Family and Singles Ministries

Convention will take place on a cruise to the island of Bermuda on October 11-18, 2009. For information, contact the Northeastern Conference Family Ministries Department at (718) 291-8006, ext. 248 or e-mail [jbevel@northeastern.org](mailto:jbevel@northeastern.org).

To view pictures of the convention, visit [www.northeasterncommunication.org](http://www.northeasterncommunication.org).

—Stephen L. Williams, Sr., communication director, Northeastern Conference

## Pastoral Family Banquet Hosted by Northeastern Conference Ministerial Association

Pastoral families of the Northeastern Conference were treated to a night to remember by the conference's Ministerial Association. More than 130 people gathered on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel in New York for a gala banquet. Pastors and their wives were dressed in their regal attires as they came together for a night of fellowship, laughter, and relaxation.

The event marked the end of a year filled with hard work and many challenges. During the banquet, the Ministerial Association recognized those who recently retired from the Northeastern Conference workforce. Charles Creech, Jose Rojas, Desmond Francis, and Joseph St. Jean, all of whom have given more than 40 years of service to Jesus Christ in the Seventh-day

Adventist Church, were acknowledged with special plaques of appreciation.

Rupert Young was singled out for his outstanding service to the Northeastern Conference pastors. Young served as the ministerial director during the last quadrennial and he commended the conference administration for the wonderful working climate they created during the time he served. He also served with distinction as the conference's Family Ministries director for many years.

The association also recognized Elfreda Blue, Ph.D., the conference's Shepherdess Club leader, who has been doing an outstanding job trying to meet the needs of the pastor's wives. Blue remarked that the recognition should go to a team of ladies with whom she works closely, especially

Eunice Baker, wife of Trevor Baker, Northeastern Conference president.

"This was such a beautiful event," acknowledged many couples as they walked hand in hand out of the banquet hall.

The Ministerial Association is under the leadership of Roberne St. Louis, president, Stephen L. Williams, Sr., secretary, and Herman Charles, treasurer. The next event hosted by the Ministerial Association will be the pastoral families workshop at the Holiday Inn in Albany, New York, during the Northeastern Conference Departmental Training Workshops on February 15-18, 2009. Ron Smith, Southern Union Conference executive secretary, will be the presenter.

—Stephen L. Williams, Sr., communication director, Northeastern Conference

## Youth Offer the Bread of Life to Those in Need

More than 50 youth provided the Bread of Life to people in Chicago, North Carolina, and New York last November. If you were in one of these places, you may have heard them, accompanied by a small marching band, as they cheerfully played “Glory, Glory Hallelujah!” As the band played, the student volunteers and local church members dashed through the streets of Brooklyn and downtown New York, passing out Christ-centered literature, praying with those they met, and alerting people to the needs of those less fortunate.

The young people are part of an international student-volunteer organization known as NAPS or the National Association for the

Prevention of Starvation ([www.napsoc.org](http://www.napsoc.org)) stationed on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. While in



Some of the members of NAPS with Baldwin Barnes, right, City Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor.

these cities NAPS distributed more than 9,000 magazines.

NAPS appreciates the support of the Dunamis Seventh-day Adventist Church, Cornerstone and Canaan

Baptist churches, and all the other churches that hosted them. At night, NAPS lodged at City Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has become an annual resting place for them.

People around the world still have the greatest need of all—the need for a Savior. This band of youth is working to hasten the soon return of Jesus. NAPS students will travel to Zimbabwe, Angola, and Namibia, where more than 150 youth, in their respective countries, will be trained to continue the work of helping people physically and spiritually. We solicit your prayers and as we continue this important work.

—Earnest Flowers III, elder, City Tabernacle church

## Springfield Hispanic Church Hosts Successful Evangelistic Meetings

The Springfield Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, baptized 16 people following a week-long evangelism emphasis called “Con Cristo Todo lo Puedes” (With Christ Everything is Possible). The guest speaker was Pastor Luis Enrique Prieto, who currently resides in New York City. Prieto taught church members and their guests that the only real hope we have in this life can only be found in God.

More than 200 people attended the weekend services. One week prior to the meetings, the church made a call to prayer and fasting as part of the evangelistic emphasis. Participants were challenged to fast one day and show up each day to pray for the people they had committed to reach.

At the end of the meetings, church members were encouraged to conclude their week by attending an evening service where 16 people were baptized and guest artists were invited to sing. People of all age groups, including youth,

es who don't know Christ and invite them to church. The church members and their guests were encouraged to gather at the end of every evening service for refreshments.

All along, members were encouraged to bring

love. His sermon was based on Apostle Paul's Christian life and letter to the Corinthians. Later that night, at the invitation time, many people made public their interest in preparing for baptism at a later time. Four others also took their stand and wanted to be baptized.

Five members of one family were among the baptismal candidates. They, along with their cousin, were baptized together. Armando Amadias, the church's pastor, performed a wedding service just before the baptism for this family, who were anxious to make things right before God.

With the baptism of these 16 people, the Springfield Hispanic church exceeded its baptismal goal for 2008.

—Sharon I. Lopez, communication staff member, Springfield Hispanic church

One week prior to the meetings, the church made a call to prayer and fasting as part of the evangelistic emphasis.

came to the evening service that was followed by a celebration during a social event.

During the Saturday evening service, the church's pastor, Armando Amadias, noted the importance of people being willing to talk to friends and acquaintanc-

visitors to the services as well as the baptism at the end of the week. On baptismal night, Stephen L. Williams Sr., Northeastern Conference communication director, presented a sermon and discussed the importance of preaching about Jesus and His

# Help for Adventist Communicators

*Feeling dazed and confused about communicating your church's message in today's media-saturated world? Don't worry. There's help.*



Participants of the 2008 Society of Adventist Communicators Convention posed for the annual group photo.

By  
Nicole  
Batten

If you've ever been asked to serve as communication director or webmaster for your church, you know the challenges that come with the job. Many members who end up serving in these kinds of positions have little to no training in communication. They aren't sure how to write and submit a press release to their local newspaper. They don't know how to create a Web site that attracts young families. They have

never edited a newsletter and dealt with frustrating printing issues. They also usually don't have the first clue about how to create a YouTube video for their church.

The thought of doing these kinds of communication tasks can be overwhelming for anyone. But the great news is you don't have to do it alone. There is an organization called the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC)

that provides support for Adventists involved in the field of communication. It is for everyone—from communication professionals to lay people serving in their local church.

I recently attended SAC's annual conference—something I look forward to every year. Besides great speakers and valuable workshops that help you hone your communication skills, you get to meet people from all over the North American Division who do what you do. You can swap ideas and ask for help on projects. It is an amazing networking opportunity. The attendees range from professionals who work for the denomination to freelancers to newspaper reporters to local members who serve in their churches. They all have one thing in common though—they're Seventh-day Adventists who want to use their talents to communicate God's love.

Last year's SAC conference included seminars on such topics as: how to use



social media to build your awareness online, how to pitch to reporters with confidence, how to use the power of video, and how to communicate in a crisis situation. In addition to the learning and training that happened at the conference there was an important spiritual component. Excellent presenters, such as Dick Stenbakken, shared Jesus in new and powerful ways. And over the weekend a sense of camaraderie developed—one that made me realize we are in this “battle” together—we are not alone. I came away from the weekend feeling spiritually energized, ready to tackle whatever challenges the devil sends my way, and armed with new knowledge that would empower me to be a better communicator.

I have been a member of the Society of Adventist Communicators for six years now, and while I enjoy the annual conference immensely, I also benefit all year long from the resources and contacts they provide—resources like their online learning center, job bank, membership directory, and their media credentialing. Whether you are a local church communication director or a professional working in the field, you will find SAC’s membership benefits worth their meager \$25 annual membership fee (\$10 for students).

SAC’s membership benefits include perks like a free monthly newsletter and access to the Members Only part of their Web site. My favorite perk though is the online membership directory. This is helpful in finding

people to collaborate with. For example, do you need to find someone who produces videos, designs Web sites, or writes press releases? You’ll find them in SAC’s online directory. You can also post your own profile, even uploading samples from your portfolio.

The Members Only part of SAC’s website also has an online learning center where you can listen to podcasts on various communication topics. All of the speakers and seminars from last year’s annual convention are posted there.

If you work in the field of communication, you will definitely find SAC’s job bank very helpful. It allows you to post jobs or post résumés. SAC also

offers local chapters. If there isn’t one in your area, you can start one. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if each of our conferences had their own chapter?

The point is—whether through the membership directory, joining a local chapter, or attending the annual con-

vention, you’ll benefit from a professional organization like the Society of Adventist Communicators. Empower yourself—and your church—check out SAC today ([www.adventistcommunicators.org](http://www.adventistcommunicators.org)). Perhaps I’ll see you at the annual convention!

---

*Nicole Batten works as a public relations consultant. Have a comment to share? Write her at [nicole@gofishpublicity.com](mailto:nicole@gofishpublicity.com).*

## What is SAC?

The Society of Adventist Communicators nurtures the spiritual, social, and professional growth of Seventh-day Adventists who are involved in the field of communication. Their members are comprised of communication professionals, both in and outside of the church structure, students, teachers, freelancers, and lay-people serving their local church. Their members are involved in all aspects of communication, including:

- Public relations/Media relations
- Corporate communication
- Marketing communication
- Broadcasting (TV and radio)
- Writing
- Editing
- Advertising
- Video production
- Graphic design
- Photography
- Web design/programming
- Teaching

To learn more about the Society of Adventist Communicators or become a member, visit [www.adventistcommunicators.org](http://www.adventistcommunicators.org).

# Society of Adventist Communicators

## King's Heralds Gospel Quartet Visits Freeport Church and Pine Tree Academy

The King's Heralds gospel quartet visited the Freeport Seventh-day Adventist Church, located on the campus of Pine Tree Academy (PTA), for a sacred music concert on November 17, 2008. What many people did not know, however, was that the King's Heralds scheduled this concert, in part, with another purpose in mind. They wanted to spend some time with the students at Pine Tree Academy.

For some time now, quartet baritone Russell Hospedales has had a passion to encourage academy students to expand their musical horizons. The quartet has noticed over the years that many changes have occurred within our churches and schools. In the past, both churches and academies had choirs,

along with a number of vocal ensembles, such as select choirs, male quartets, and ladies' trios. Today, in some places, it is unusual to find an active church choir, let alone any small groups. Even schools rarely have small vocal groups. Hospedales also notes that more and more young people (and adults) do not know how to read music, harmonize, or sing in small groups. Students often only want to be the soloist. More and more church members sing from music on a screen, utilizing only the melody line.

Because of these observations, the quartet has begun a campaign designed to revitalize small group singing, and to promote the joy of harmonization. The quartet test-piloted a vocal master class at Blue



The King's Herald Quartet performed in concert at Freeport Seventh-day Adventist Church in Freeport, Maine, and visited with Pine Tree Academy students. Standing from left are first tenor, Don Scroggs; second tenor, Joel Borg; baritone, Russell Hospedales; and bass, Jeff Pearles.

Mountain Academy last year and it was successful. When deciding on their next academy visit they picked Pine Tree Academy, because of the school's strong music program.

And so, on Tuesday afternoon, November 18, the quartet spent more than an

hour with all the choir and band students in the choir rehearsal room. The quartet sang a number for the students, and explained how they warm up vocally for concerts. Then, all the quartet members shared their various musical backgrounds with the students. First tenor Don

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Scroggs shared his journey from musical ambivalence through his operatic studies. He encouraged students to find joy in their music. Bass Jeff Pearles shared his background in country music, and his backup singing for many great country music stars. He encouraged the students to learn how to read music, and to learn music theory. As each member of the quartet told his story, it was apparent that they all come from different backgrounds, and yet they have come together to

praise God through music. The quartet then sang for the students again.

After this, the PTA choir sang for the quartet. And then, for the remainder of their time together, the quartet worked with the choir, and with small mixed ensembles of the choir. According to the quartet members, they intend to return to PTA as soon as possible to work with the students again.

—Brendan Krueger, principal, Pine Tree Academy

## Woodstock Pathfinders Enjoy God's Awesome World

The first morning of November dawned a warm day. There wasn't a cloud in the sky as the Woodstock Whitetails Pathfinder Club prepared for an all-day hike. Twenty-six of our Pathfinders, staff members, and friends drove to Shagg Pond (near Woodstock, Maine). Everyone donned their backpacks and fluorescent orange jackets and hats (It is hunting season!), and after a prayer for the safety of our group, the Pathfinders bounded up the trail. The trail was wet from all the rain we had received, and in places it was a steep climb, but our Pathfinders continued on, despite the hurdles.

After climbing over three peaks, everyone was ready for a picnic lunch. Our area coordinator, Bill Snow, gave a worship thought for the day, reminding us that God knows what we need, even before we ask.

Everyone safely descended the three peaks as we returned to our waiting vehicles. Enjoying God's awesome world while fellowshiping with one another—what a wonderful way to spend the Sabbath!

—Ashley Tardif, communication correspondent, Woodstock church



Woodstock Whitetails Pathfinder Club prepare to go on an all-day hike in the mountains near Woodstock, Maine.

## Six Baptized at Presque Isle Church

Six individuals from the Presque Isle Seventh-day Adventist Church were recently baptized by



Pastor Mark Harris. Noah Kruzich, Ezra Kruzich, Kathryn Kruzich, Shantel Seeley, Ethan Francine, and Rick Dewitt have chosen to start a new life with Jesus. Church family and friends from our neighboring churches in Oakfield and Perth-Andover, Canada, witnessed the special occasion. We will continue to pray for our new members as they embark on their walk with God.

—Michelle Seeley, communication correspondent, Presque Isle church

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ways acknowledge  
Him and He shall  
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Proverbs 3:5,6 KJV*

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## Connecticut Church Celebrates Education Sabbath



Jocita Gowin

Laurel Oaks students celebrated an education Sabbath at the New Haven church.

New Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church members were treated to an education Sabbath last

year. Laurel Oaks students in grades 1–8 were featured throughout the service in song, Scripture readings, and piano performances. Using the theme “May Peace Be With You,” students and staff stressed the true, inner joy that originates from the great Educator—thanking Jesus for guiding the progress of the school year.

During the children’s story, Eduardo Rodriguez, New Haven Spanish church pastor, dramatically por-

trayed the peace and thankfulness of the Father when His prodigal son returned. As Laurel Oaks student, Gabriel Garcia, translated, Rodriguez told how God cleanses from within as he peeled off a makeshift shepherd’s garb.

The packed congregation looked on as expressions of appreciation were shared with those who are on the front lines of shaping the lives of young people.

—Cheri Daniels, member, New Haven church

## Brockton Church Impacts Their Community

The Brockton Seventh-day Adventist Church started last fall with a series of evangelistic events: A Back to School Revival conducted by Dwayne Wilson, Oakwood University church associate pastor, and two weeks of meetings by David Steede II, Brockton church pastor.

Prior to that, we brought together health professionals, Pathfinders, and politicians for a Health Day to ignite the community with the Seventh-day Adventist health message. Using the theme “Restoring Eden by Envisioning Eternity,” Brian Hall, elder, shared the Sabbath School lesson while Jocelyn Germain, a registered nurse, charged the congregation to control the spread of viruses by sneezing in the sleeve and washing hands regularly. During the worship service, David Moore, South Atlantic Conference Health Ministries director, encouraged members to practice good health habits as he called the congregation to reformation.

The Pathfinders held a rally and parade attended

by Pathfinders from the Hyde Park, Berea, Roxbury, Real Truth, Temple Salem, Brockton, Brockton Temple, Brockton Cape Verde, Malden, Lynn, Northboro, and Worcester churches. Under the direction of Eric

Brockton church presented a charge to the youth while city councilors Michael Brady, ward two, and Michelle Dubois, ward six, and councilors-at-large, Robert Sullivan, council president, and Todd Petti, addressed the

Brockton, driveways were filled with individuals who wanted to learn more about what we were doing. City Councilor Michael Brady marched in the entire 2.7 mile parade route from the Brockton Cape Verde church to the Brockton church. The police department provided traffic control and direction along the route that allowed us to distribute material inviting the community to the Back to School Revival and evangelistic meetings.

The day culminated with moments of praise, a poetry jam, and a health seminar by Moore. We thank the members for their support in carrying the health message to the Brockton community.

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



More than 300 Pathfinders marched through the city of Brockton bringing to the attention of the community the Seventh-day Adventist health message.

Johnson and Arthurine Jackson, Pathfinders were organized by clubs and led by various drum corps. The rally took place on Warren Street, a strategic location in the city of Brockton and adjacent to the Brockton Cape Verde church.

Adriel Mingo from the

group. They said they were encouraged by the number of young individuals involved in sharing the message of healthy living with the Brockton community.

As the Pathfinders and church members marched through the city of

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**School Feature**



**B**rowning Elementary school is part of a pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade school program with South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. The Browning building houses pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Every classroom focuses on Jesus and the mission of introducing our students to a loving Savior while sharpening their academic skills for success in today's world. The curriculum is enriched with music, physical education, and technology classes.

[www.sneckids.org](http://www.sneckids.org). Click on "Schools."

## Connecticut Valley Members Support Blood Drive

**T**he goal set by the American Red Cross for the annual Connecticut Valley Adventist Church blood drive was surpassed last year with a total of 48 units of blood collected. This event not only assists the blood banks of central Connecticut, but also serves as an opportunity to let the blood donors and American Red Cross staff know that there is a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the area.



The American Red Cross relies on the annual Connecticut Valley Adventist Church blood drive to assist blood banks in the area.

—Einar Rom, pastor, Connecticut Valley church

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

Southern New England Conference Association  
Regular Meeting

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of the Regular Constituency Session of the Southern New England Conference Association, a Massachusetts corporation, is called to meet in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561 on Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the conference.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and a board of trustees, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of Southern New England Conference Constituency Session will be the delegates for the Southern New England Conference Association.

Lunch will be provided.

Frank Tochterman, President  
Jeff Linthwaite, Secretary

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

Southern New England Conference  
Constituency Session

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of the 35th Session of the Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called to convene at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 31, 2009, in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To receive reports.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, and executive committee.
3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the conference.
4. To accept new churches or disband churches as may be necessary.
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

According to the constitutional provision, each organized church is entitled to one delegate and one additional delegate for each thirty-five (35) church members or major fraction thereof.

Lunch will be provided.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting of the Organizing Committee will convene at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2009, in Bailey Hall, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561, for the purpose of appointing the members of the Nominating Committee to serve for that meeting. There shall be one member chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church plus an additional member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof.

Lunch will be provided.

Frank Tochterman, President  
Juan Borges, Executive Secretary

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## Un nouveau bâtiment, une nouvelle identité en Ukraine

Une nouvelle église adventiste du septième jour dans la capitale de l'Ukraine représente bien plus qu'un nouveau lieu de culte. Après avoir lutté pendant des décennies contre des libertés religieuses limitées, les adventistes disent que l'ouverture le mois dernier de l'église adventiste de Podol à Kiev marque leur place dans ce pays orthodoxe.

Les dirigeants de l'église adventiste racontent que pendant des années, les officiels du gouvernement n'ont pas permis aux adventistes de construire une structure permanente dans la ville. Mais la proposition d'une église qui s'intégrerait au lieu grâce à une architecture similaire aux autres églises a finalement été acceptée il y a deux ans.

"J'ai été extrêmement impressionné par l'église, aussi bien par le bâtiment que

par l'esprit de fête" a dit le président de l'église adventiste mondiale Jan Paulsen après sa visite. Pendant qu'il était dans ce pays d'Europe de l'est, J. Paulsen a rencontré le Vice Premier Ministre Ivan V.

adventiste a connu une forte augmentation des inscriptions ces cinq dernières années. Elle accueille désormais 2000 étudiants environ.

J. Paulsen a dit qu'il a été encouragé par l'implication des

les autres congrégations qu'il a visitées dans le monde entier.

L'église, qui se trouve au coeur du quartier du gouvernement et des affaires, constitue un des trois seuls bâtiments qui appartiennent à l'église adventiste dans cette zone. Tout comme les autres congrégations adventistes qui louent actuellement un local comme lieu de culte, la congrégation de Podol a dû louer un bâtiment pendant 17 ans. Kiev compte maintenant 26 églises adventistes.

L'Ukraine compte 60000 adventistes pour une population qui atteint presque 46 millions d'habitants.

Ansel Oliver, assistant director  
Adventist News Network  
--rapport supplémentaire de Yuriy  
Kuzmenko  
4 December 2008

Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

English translation available  
at: [http://news.adventist.org/  
data/2008/1228430353/index.html.en](http://news.adventist.org/data/2008/1228430353/index.html.en)

**Tout comme les autres  
congrégations adventistes  
qui louent actuellement un  
local comme lieu de culte, la  
congrégation de Podol a dû louer  
un bâtiment pendant 17 ans.**

Vasiunyk et Yuriy Bogutskyi  
du Bureau du président.

Les officiels du gouvernement et le Premier Ministre sont conscients de l'oeuvre adventiste dans la région, a déclaré J. Paulsen. Une école

jeunes dans la congrégation de Podol. "J'ai particulièrement remarqué qu'il y avait beaucoup d'enfants, de jeunes et de jeunes adultes dans cette église." Il ajoute que cela constitue une nette différence avec

## ADRA réagit à l'éruption volcanique en Colombie et à la propagation du choléra au Zimbabwe

L'Agence Adventiste d'Aide et de Développement (ADRA) a distribué des colis alimentaires d'urgence à plus de 300 familles réfugiées suite à l'éruption le mois dernier du plus haut volcan de Colombie, le Nevado del Huila. L'éruption a eu une incidence sur 12,000 personnes. ADRA apporte actuellement de l'aide à 1700 personnes.

Le 20 novembre, l'éruption du Nevado del Huila a fait jaillir des gaz et de la cendre chaude dans l'air, qui mêlés à la neige, ont entraîné la boue, les rochers et l'eau d'inondation à dévaler vers la rivière Paez, détruisant ainsi des maisons, des ponts, des cultures, ainsi que des terres, villages et communautés indigènes isolées.

Les familles dont un des membres est handicapé, les citoyens les plus âgés, les ménages dont le chef de famille est une femme et les gens qui ont perdu leurs maisons et tout ce qu'ils possédaient, reçoivent des colis alimentaires qui

contiennent du riz, des haricots rouges, de l'huile végétale, de la farine de maïs, du sucre de canne en barres et du sel iodé. Chaque colis apporte à une famille de cinq personnes suffisamment de nourriture pour tenir deux semaines.

ADRA Colombie travaille en collaboration avec la Croix Rouge colombienne pour acheminer les colis d'urgence depuis Popayán, capitale du département du Cauca, jusqu'à la ville de Guadualejo, soit une distance d'environ 90 kilomètres. Ces colis sont ensuite transportés à dos de mule jusqu'à la zone cible qui se trouve à 10 kilomètres environ.

ADRA apporte aussi une réponse à la propagation du choléra au Zimbabwe, épidémie qui a tué 783 personnes depuis le mois d'août, selon les Nations Unies. Les équipes d'ADRA donnent actuellement une formation de prévention et une instruction en matière d'hygiène et de santé. Elles distribuent aussi des désinfectants, des comprimés de traitement de

l'eau et des récipients à eau.

L'association tend à aider 500 familles, soit approximativement 2500 personnes, dans la région d'Harare de Kuwadzana, où les résidents utilisent souvent des égouts ouverts pour s'approvisionner en eau potable, et la région de Chendambuya, zone rurale dans le département de Manicaland.

ADRA distribue aussi des fournitures médicales, notamment des comprimés de réhydratation orale, des gants en latex, des antibiotiques, des analgésiques, des solutions et comprimés anti-diarrhéiques et des agents nettoyants.

Pour de plus amples informations, cliquez sur [adra.org](http://adra.org)

Nadia McGill  
Adventist News Network  
16 December 2008  
Traduction: Stephanie Elofer

English translation available at: [news.adventist.org/  
data/2008/1229443630/index.html.en](http://news.adventist.org/data/2008/1229443630/index.html.en)

## DVD de Misión Adventista ahora en cuatro idiomas

La semana pasada, la Secretaría de Misión Adventista de la Iglesia Adventista presentó la primera edición multilingüe del DVD de Misión Adventista, un recurso que permite informar a los miembros de iglesia de los proyectos misioneros en el mundo. Además del inglés, este DVD trimestral ahora también estará traducido al francés, portugués y español.

Desde 2006, este DVD ha sido enviado a todas las congregaciones adventistas de Norteamérica y a todas las oficinas administrativas de la iglesia en el mundo. Si bien algunas regiones continuarán reproduciendo el audio para su grupo lingüístico (como en coreano y alemán), ésta es la primera vez que el DVD se produce masivamente en múltiples idiomas.

“Ya estamos recibiendo respuesta de parte de los países de habla portuguesa y española,” dijo Dan Weber, uno de los productores del DVD.

“Esto nos permitirá enviar el material alrededor del ochenta por ciento de las congregaciones en América Central,” dijo Carlyle Bayne, director de ministerios de la iglesia para la región Interamericana.

Cada DVD cuenta con una docena de historias de variada longitud que muestran de qué manera los adventistas en diversas partes del mundo comparten el amor de Dios por medio del trabajo misionero. Por lo general se acostumbra a ver el DVD en la Escuela Sabática o en los hogares. Cada DVD tiene al menos una historia escrita especialmente para los niños y narrada por uno de ellos.

Los relatos del DVD de este



El DVD de Misión Adventista destaca los proyectos misioneros en el mundo. Este recurso trimestral ahora se encuentra disponible en cuatro idiomas.

trimestre incluyen historias sobre una clínica flotante en Indonesia, el compromiso de un creyente con la fe en un lugar sumamente hostil de Costa de Marfil y otros proyectos en el Sudeste Asiático y el África.

Si desea solicitar un ejemplar complementario del DVD de Misión Adventista

o presenciar algunas de las historias en línea, visite [www. AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org).

Adventist News Network Staff  
6 January 2009  
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

English translation available at: <http://news.adventist.org/data/2009/1231255846/index.html.es>

## El fuego daña la sede de la Iglesia Adventista en el estado de Washington

El fuego dañó la mayor parte de los edificios administrativos de la Iglesia Adventista en Spokane, Washington, Estados Unidos, el pasado domingo 28 de diciembre. El edificio albergaba la Asociación de Columbia Superior, que supervisa las tareas de más de cien iglesias y treinta escuelas en el Este del estado de Washington y en parte de Idaho y Oregón.

No se informaron de heridos de gravedad o fallecidos como resultado de este incendio, que dañó dos tercios del edificio. El incendio comenzó alrededor de las 5 de la mañana, y se extendió desde la librería que funcionaba en el lugar, hasta el resto de las instalaciones, según un informe de prensa publicado en el sitio web de la asociación. Aún no se ha determinado la causa del fuego.

“Estamos muy agradecidos que no hubo muertos ni heridos graves en este trágico incendio,” dijo Max C. Torkelson, presidente de la asociación, agregando que esperan reconstruir el

edificio en el mismo lugar. Se cree que el proceso podría demandar de doce a dieciocho meses.

En el edificio funcionaba también una estación de radio FM y un canal de televisión. El personal de esas dependencias

**No se informaron de heridos de gravedad o fallecidos como resultado de este incendio, que dañó dos tercios del edificio.**

se encuentra analizando los daños y estudiando la forma de regresar al aire.

El fuego también interrumpió temporalmente los servicios de teléfono e Internet. Se informa que los números de teléfono y fax se han derivado a otras oficinas fuera del predio, y se

espera que en los próximos días el servicio de Internet esté reestablecido.

Este incendio es el segundo que afectó este año a un edificio administrativo de la iglesia. La Asociación Unión Británica, ubicada en Stanborough Park, Watford, Reino Unido, perdió la mayor parte de sus edificios administrativos debido a un incendio que se produjo en noviembre pasado. Ambas entidades han perdido una significativa cantidad de datos como resultado de estos incendios.

Adventist Risk Management, la organización de evaluación de riesgos de la iglesia, dijo en una declaración del pasado 30 de diciembre que piensan trabajar junto a los directivos de la iglesia para “implementar una mejor preparación y mejores planes de contingencia” para el futuro.

Megan Brauner, coordinadora editorial  
Adventist News Network  
30 December 2008  
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

English translation available at: <http://news.adventist.org/data/2008/1230677820/index.html.es>

# Family Violence (Part One)

(The official Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Family Violence will be presented in two parts. Part One in February 2009 and Part Two in March 2009)

*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).*

## Family Violence

Family violence involves an assault of any kind—verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, or active or passive neglect—that is committed by one person or persons against another within a family, whether they are married, related, living together or apart, or divorced. Current international research indicates that family violence is a global problem. It occurs between individuals of all ages and nationalities, at all socioeconomic levels, and in families from all types of religious and non-religious backgrounds. The overall rate of incidence has been found to be similar for city, suburban, and rural communities.

Family violence manifests itself in a number of ways. For example, it may be a physical attack on one's spouse. Emotional assaults, such as verbal threats, episodes of rage, depreciation of character, and unrealistic demands for perfection are also abuse. It may take the form of physical coercion and violence within the marital sexual relationship, or the threat of violence through the use of intimidating verbal or nonverbal behavior. It includes behavior such as incest and the mistreatment or neglect of underage children by a parent or another guardian that results in injury or harm. Violence against the elderly may be seen in physical, psychological, sexual, ver-

bal, material, and medical abuse or neglect.

The Bible clearly indicates that the distinguishing mark of Christian believers is the quality of their human relationships in the church and in the family. It is in the spirit of Christ to love and accept, to seek to affirm and build others up, rather than to abuse or tear one another down. There is no room among Christ's followers for tyrannical control and the abuse of power or authority. Motivated by their love for Christ, His disciples are called to show respect and concern for the welfare of others, to accept males and females as equals, and to acknowledge that every person has a right to respect and dignity. Failure to relate to others in this way violates their personhood and devalues human beings created and redeemed by God.

The apostle Paul refers to the church as "the household of faith" which functions as an extended family, offering acceptance, understanding, and comfort to all, especially to those who are hurting or disadvantaged. Scripture portrays the church as a family in which personal and spiritual growth can occur as feelings of betrayal, rejection, and grief give way to feelings of forgiveness, trust, and wholeness. The Bible also speaks of the Christian's personal responsibility to protect his or her body temple from desecration because it is the dwelling place of God.

Regrettably, family violence occurs in many Christian homes. It can never be condoned. It severely affects the lives of all involved and often results in long term distorted perceptions of God, self, and others.

(The above statement is informed by principles expressed in the following scriptural passages: Exodus 20:12; Matthew 7:12; 20:25-28; Mark 9:33-45; John 13:34; Romans 12:10, 13; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:2, 3, 21-27; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:5-8.)<sup>9</sup>

*This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) on August 27, 1996, and was sent for consideration by the Annual Council in San Jose, Costa Rica, October 1-10, 1996.*





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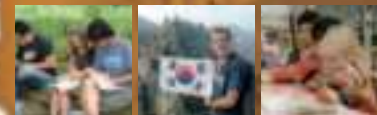
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# Bulletin Board



## Sunset Table

March 2009	6	13	20	27
Bangor, ME	5:30	6:40	6:49	6:57
Portland, ME	5:37	6:46	6:54	7:03
Boston, MA	5:41	6:49	6:57	7:05
South Lancaster, MA	5:43	6:52	7:00	7:08
Pittsfield, MA	5:50	6:58	7:06	7:14
Hartford, CT	5:48	6:56	7:04	7:12
New York, NY	5:54	7:01	7:09	7:16
Albany, NY	5:50	6:58	7:07	7:15
Utica, NY	5:57	7:06	7:14	7:22
Syracuse, NY	6:01	7:10	7:18	7:26
Rochester, NY	6:07	7:15	7:24	7:32
Buffalo, NY	6:12	7:20	7:28	7:37
Hamilton, Bda	6:20	7:25	7:30	7:35

Eastern Daylight Savings Time\*

\*Eastern Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

**Do you desire to minister to the needs of others?** The Master of Education with chaplaincy concentration at Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts (one hour from Boston), can provide you with the knowledge and tools you need to serve as a chaplain. Three courses are offered each summer with completion possible in three years. Financial aid may be available. E-mail: chaplaincy@auc.edu for an information packet.

## OUT-OF-UNION

**Courage to Stand International Camporee:** More than 9,000 Pathfinders have already registered to attend the largest six-day Adventist youth event in the world, Aug. 11-15. More than 30,000 participants will represent approximately 100 countries. To exhibit and/

or participate, contact the Center for Youth Evangelism (269) 471-8380 or [www.camporee.org](http://www.camporee.org).

**Enterprise Academy Alumni Association 90th Anniversary.** All School Homecoming will be held Apr. 10-11 on the campus of Great Plains Academy, in Enterprise, Kans. All alumni are invited to attend. For more information visit: [www.alumni2009.org](http://www.alumni2009.org) or call Darcy Force at (785) 263-8211.

**La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend:** April 24 Golf Tournament, April 25 Alumni Reunion Sabbath. Honor Classes '49, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89, '99, '04. Friends of LSA are welcome! Keynote speaker Lewis Walton. Come celebrate friends and memories on our Riverside campus. Contact alumni office (951) 351-1445 ext. 244, or [lsaalumni@lsak12.com](mailto:lsaalumni@lsak12.com) to update information, find missing class members, and share news and class reunion gatherings. A large selection of vintage yearbooks and group photos is available if you need replacements.

### Atlantic Union Hispanic Ministries Celebrates "A Hope to Share" Elders Retreat

May 1-3, 2009  
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#### Register:

Atlantic Union Conference  
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Phone: (978) 368-8333 ext. 3016  
Fax: (978) 368-7948  
E-mail: [hispanicministry@atlanticunion.org](mailto:hispanicministry@atlanticunion.org)

#### Registration Fee

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\$250.00/person - 4 persons/room

#### Registration deadline

March 15, 2009

Web site: [www.atlantic-union.org/hm\\_elders\\_retreat0509.html](http://www.atlantic-union.org/hm_elders_retreat0509.html)

**Platte Valley Alumni Association Homecoming** will be held April 25 on the Platte Valley Academy campus in Shelton, Nebr. For more information visit: [www.greatplainsacademy.org](http://www.greatplainsacademy.org) or call Darcy Force at (785) 263-8211.

**The Oakwood University Alumni Homecoming Celebration**, April 9-12. All Graduates and friends are welcome. Events are

held on the Oakwood University campus in Huntsville, Alabama. This year's speakers are: Ron Smith, Sabbath worship service; Jeffery Watson, youth worship service; and Linda Penick, Friday evening vesper service. For further information visit our Web site at [www.oakwoodalumni.org](http://www.oakwoodalumni.org) or contact Oakwood University Alumni Relations at (256) 726-7039.

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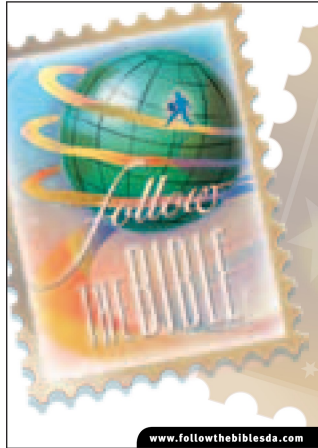

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# Some Things You Should Know

## Follow the Bible

“Follow the Bible” is an initiative sponsored by the General Conference and its world divisions to stimulate a deeper interest in reading the Bible. It features a special leather-bound Bible, measuring 12 by 18 inches, written in 66 languages—one for each book, that will travel to countries around the world and large international gatherings. The journey began in the Philippines at the church’s Annual Council meeting on Sabbath, October 11. During the afternoon program, delegates were invited to recommit their lives to the study of and faithfulness to God’s Word. The Bible will travel throughout the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and then to each world division until July 2010 when the journey climaxes at the opening session of the General Conference Session in Atlanta.



For more information, a travel schedule, and resources about “Follow the Bible,” visit: [www.followthebiblesda.com](http://www.followthebiblesda.com).

## Adventist Mission DVD Now in Four Languages

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Office of Adventist Mission last week [January] debuted its first multi-lingual edition of the Adventist Mission DVD, a resource informing members of mission projects worldwide.

In addition to English, the free quarterly DVD now includes French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Since 2006, the free quarterly DVD has been sent to every Adventist congregation in North America and each administrative office around the world. While some regions will continue to reproduce the audio for their language group (such as Korean and German), this marks the first time the DVD has been mass-produced in multiple languages.



“We’re already getting great feedback on this from Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking countries,” said Dan Weber, one of the DVD’s producers.

More people in different regions will be able to use the new version, according to several church leaders. “[This] will enable us to bring this material to some 80 percent of the congregations in Central America,” said Carlyle Bayne, a ministries director for the church’s Inter-American region.

Each DVD features about a dozen stories of varying length, showing ways Adventists around the world are sharing God’s love through mission. The DVD is typically viewed during Sabbath School, church, between services, or in homes. Each DVD has at least one story written for and narrated by a child.

Stories on this quarter’s DVD include features on a floating clinic in Indonesia, a believer’s commitment to faith in hostile surroundings in Cote D’Ivoire, and other projects throughout Southeast Asia and Africa.

To order a complimentary copy of the Adventist Mission DVD or to watch stories online, visit [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org).

—Adventist News Network (ANN) staff

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

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