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Atlantic Union Pastors and Teachers: Together in His Calling





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More than 700 pastors, teachers, other workers, and guests attended the Atlantic Union Conference Pastors and Teachers Convention on August 2-5 in Providence, Rhode Island. It was the first-of-its-kind event held in the Atlantic Union Conference. Beginning on page 4 of this issue, we share highlights from the convention. We also bring to you our regular features: Adventist Education and Positions of Our Faith. The cover photo of the Rhode Island Convention Center 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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Together in His Calling

he first Atlantic Union Conference Pastors and Teachers Convention is now history. It was a resounding success, not only in planning and implementation (thanks to a team of competent union personnel), but also in content. We had some of the best devotional and plenary speakers and breakout session seminar presenters that could be found. Most came from within our union territory, but several came from across the nation. The theme of the convention heralded what every speaker touched on in their presentations in part or in whole: "Together in His Calling"—pastors and teachers yoked together with Christ for service.

The convention was not just another meeting of peers coming together to fellowship, but it was about some of the most important values we hold dear as a church movement from the very inception: pastors and teachers working together to evangelistically advance the kingdom of God and provide Adventist Christian schools where our children may be taught of the Lord as we await His soon coming.

As I've always said, Adventist Christian education is more than a classroom to teach the three Rs of reading, writing, and arithmetic (any school, Christian or not, can accomplish this). It's also about teaching the fourth R of righteousness as properly understood in the context of Revelation's Three Angel's Messages and God's final message of love to our world. This is where pastors and teachers can unite as one to advance these important values and mission of our movement.

With the challenges that Adventist education in North America faces, the faltering and declining numbers in enrollment, even as the church continues to grow, and the fact that more and more eligible Adventist

college students are choosing to attend non-Adventist schools, we've got our work cut out for us. This is no time to hide in the shadows and cringe. There is a spiritual war raging for the control of our children. This is the time for us to press together and fight the good fight of faith, for the sake of what we believe . . . for the sake of our children, and our children's children.

"Pastors should be known as the biggest fans of the school. They should promote the school, referring to the high quality of education at the school (see www.cognitivegenesis.org) and the successes of graduates of the church school from the pulpit in sermons, in church board meetings, and in all church activities. They must see that they are the channel of information and inspiration flowing from the church to the school and from the school to the church. . . . Teachers need to understand that their teaching is a calling and a ministry. All church activities are part of that ministry. They should attend the worship service, Sabbath School, prayer meeting, socials, and other church meetings and activities"-ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE PASTORS AND TEACHERS MANUAL, 2009, p. 23, 24).

It is my hope and prayer that out of this first-time Pastors and Teachers Convention in the Atlantic Union will come greater and more dedicated support for our schools, an evangelistic awakening throughout our union field, where both the Adventist Church and our educational system began, and a unified workforce of pastors and teachers, churches and schools to train our

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



"This is no time to hide in the shadows and cringe. There is a spiritual war raging for the control of our children. This is the time for us to press together and fight the good fight of faith, for the sake of what we believe . . . for the sake of our children, and our children's children."



Atlantic Union Pastors and Teachers:

FOGETHER In His Calling



On opening night, standing on a well-decorated stage, Donald King, Atlantic Union president, and Astrid Thomassian, education director, welcomed the pastors and teachers to the convention.

fter months of planning and preparation, the long awaited Atlantic Union Conference Pastors and Teachers Convention became a reality. On August 2-5, pastors

and teachers, along with other workers and guests, gathered at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island, for this firstof-its-kind convention in the Atlantic Union. Before presenting his keynote

address, George Knight, a retired pastor and educator, applauded the Atlantic Union's leadership for the "understanding that brought both pastoral clergy and educational clergy under one roof for a shared professional convention."

Visible on either side of the well-decorated stage was the convention theme, "Together in His Calling," and logo. The logo was a cross with two yokes depicting a "visual call to both pastors and teachers to be yoked together with Christ for service."

According to Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president and ministerial director, "The purpose of the convention was to reemphasize the important values we treasure as a church movement—pastors and teachers working together to advance the kingdom of God and provide Adventist Christian schools where children may be taught of the Lord as we await His soon coming." That







Donnett Blake



Dedrick Blue



Ron Clouzet

focus was kept in the forefront of the meeting with the introduction of a commitment card that posed the question, "After Rhode Island, what is next?" Each pastor and teacher was asked to consider making a commitment to work together to ensure every school-aged child receives an Adventist education.

The carefully planned, well-packaged convention program included early morning prayer sessions and prayer walks sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries Department. Morning devotions featured Clifford Jones, Ron Clouzet, and Donnett Blake. The general sessions were presented by Samuel Betances, Larry Blackmer, Lois Tucker, and Dedrick Blue. Gary Thurber spoke at the banquet. There were more than 90 seminars with 59 presenters covering various topics for pastors, teachers, and spouses, respectively and jointly. At the closing dedication service conducted by King, the commitment cards were collected, everyone was asked to hold hands, and King presented the pastors and teachers to God as an act of rededication and recommitment.

"The Pastors/Teachers Convention in Rhode Island was great! The preaching was inspiring. The workshops were instructive. But the best part was the renewed sense of 'oneness in mission and message' we all felt," said Phil Vasseur, pastor of the Merimack Valley/Billerica, Massachusetts, church district.

Teacher and seminar presenter Lileth Coke, from the Northeastern Conference, added, "The pastors and teachers convention has been a great blessing to me. The messages, workshops, and banquet were great. We, pastors and teachers, definitely need to work together in rescuing this generation for God."

The convention caused some to move to action like Van Sailo, newly appointed pastor of the Framingham/ Waltham, Massachuestts, church district who said, "When the speakers mentioned the verse in Isaiah (54:13) over and over again, which says, 'All thy children shall be taught of the Lord,' I felt a strong impression that we should establish a church school at a new place where I



Millie felt, blue sweater, administrative secretary for the Atlantic Union Office of Education, gave instructions to those responsible for registration at the convention.

am going in the near future. I immediately contacted the local Spanish pastor about the need to have a Christian school and how we can work together on this project when I come to town, and he fully

"I have attended many conferences. I can truly say that this was excellent on all levels."—Fitz Honoré, Ebenezer church

agreed. Praise the Lord for a new direction!"

The idea for this convention was planted in the spring of 2003 when then education director Rosemary Tyrrell and the Atlantic Union Conference education administrators met in Niagara Falls, New York, at what is known as the "Niagara



Clifford Jones



Donald King



George Knight



Larry Thurber







At the end of the closing program, Donald King, Atlantic Union president, invited everyone to join hands as he offered a prayer of dedication for the pastors and teachers.



Several exhibitors as well as representatives from the Southern New England Adventist Book Center, were on hand to provide resources for pastors and teachers.

Summit." Clifford Jones, associate dean of the Seventhday Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs,

It was in 2007 when King was invited to speak at the annual fall Educators Administrative Council that

"I was impressed by the spirit of unity and cooperation at the convention. I am thankful I had the opportunity to sharpen some important ministry tools. I also left the convention very passionate about taking my small part of the vineyard to a higher level of exceptional service."—David Steede II, pastor, Brockton church

> Michigan, representing the seminary, was present at the meeting.

the topic was brought to the forefront again. In his devotional to the group, King

> likened the pastoral and education ministries to dual rails on a train track, both running in the same direction and sharing the same goal of leading parents and students, adults and youth to Jesus Christ. He challenged the educators to unite with church pastors and convert the dual rails to a monorail. thus maximizing evangelism in the church and in the school and at the same time strengthen

ing Adventist education. This revitalized the Niagara Summit's initiatives. Union and conference ministerial directors met with union education directors and conference superintendents and secondary school principals in the spring of 2008 to plan the convention. A committee was established to write a manual for pastors and teachers, providing ideas for their joint ministry.

Several days have passed since the convention took place and evaluations, e-mails, and comments are still being shared by those who attended. The overall results indicate that the convention was very well received. However, this is just the beginning. There is still much work to be done. The Atlantic Union Conference administrators and ministerial leaders Donald King, the Atlantic Union president, Carlyle Simmons, Leon Thomassian, Dionisio Olivo, and Louis Métellus, and the Office of Education leaders, Astrid Thomassian,



A crew of six worked on site with the Atlantic Union Adventist Media (AUAM) production truck to record the devotional and plenary sessions.





Street banners announcing the Pastors and Teachers Convention were placed around the convention center.

Jerrell Gilkeson, and Marlene Alvarez, along with the ministerial directors and superintendents of schools in each of the six conferences and Atlantic Union College, recognize the seriousness of the times and are committed to moving forward after Rhode Island and continuing to work to unite pastors and teachers to promote Adventist education and ensure a vibrant church in the future.

When the dust has settled, it is the impressions left with those who attended that will make the greatest impact. Here are additional thoughts that were shared. "As a pastor, I thoroughly benefitted from the speakers and workshops dealing with relevant issues that I am confronted with on a daily basis. My greatest satisfaction was that both pastors and teachers could be trained

and equipped together to help in the mission of character building," said Stanley Dixon, Trinity Temple pastor.

Alicia Biek, a teacher in the New York Conference said, "The biggest thing I left with was that we are ministers as well as teachers. So, if there are two ministers in the church, it only

makes sense for [us] to work together to accomplish our goals." 0

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER. Photos this spread: Ednor A. P. Davison.

To view more photos of the convention visit: www.atlanticunion.org/ptc2009.html.

A Letter to the Atlantic Union President

The following letter was e-mailed to Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, following the August 2-5 Pastors and Teachers Convention.

August 10, 2009

Dear Don,

As you made the final appeal to us as pastors and teachers to commit ourselves by signing the green commitment card, I felt impressed to fill it out. My commitment to God in prayer was, "Lord I give you full permission to use me however you see fit in reopening the Kellogg school." You see, the Lord had already made it clear to me that he wanted the school reopened. But we needed \$75,000 to get started and, since the school didn't have the money, I had placed the plans on hold till I could start focusing on raising the funds.

This time I placed the Lord first. I said "You use me however you see fit." Today, Monday, a man who had been attending our church, a non-Adventist, mind you, but a firm believer in the message, asked me for a meeting. I went over to see him. He explained that three years ago he was involved in an estate settlement [that] he didn't think would amount to anything, but he made the promise to God that whatever it turned out to be, he [would] give it to the Lord. He just received a check for \$74,550 and the Lord has impressed on his heart to sign it over to reopen the Kellogg school, which closed about five years ago.

Don, he handed me the check and God is moving forward with His plan to reopen His school in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Thank you for allowing God to use you and others to challenge us pastors and teachers to commit to this endeavor.

Maranatha, Your brother in Christ, Carl Behrmann

A Parent's Prayer Fulfilled

The loss of twins born prematurely was the parent's heartache that led us to study God's Word more intensely for peace,



Pastor Gerald Mattenson baptizes David Santiago, Jr., while sister, Samara, looks on.

understanding, and a closer walk. As parents, we felt Hannah's need for a child and identifying with that need, prayed Hannah's prayer.

God blessed and answered our prayers one year to the month after the loss of our previous set of twins. Once again, a boy and a girl! How mighty is our God!

We stayed true to our prayer and walked with our Creator. My husband and I came from different religious backgrounds and, while reading the Bible, came to understand the Sabbath truth and went to the library to research further. We came upon the Seventh-day Adventist Church and visited to be re-baptized. Our twins were dedicated and brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Now, nine years later, David and Samara Santiago have given their lives back to God in a public demonstration of baptism on Sabbath, August 1. As my husband David Santiago, Sr., and I sang the "Parent Song" by Steven Curtis Chapman, we gave our twins back to the Lord for His service.

Praise God for His answered prayers; not always in our time, but always in the right time—God's time.

My husband and I would like to solicit your prayers for David, Jr., and Samara, as they continue to serve the Lord amid such vast temptations and influences. Most of all, our prayer is that God will come quickly and find us all faithful while we serve the Master here.

—Natalie C. Santiago, Long Island area coordinator, Old Westbury church

Gethsemane Youth Hold Evangelistic Meetings

The youth department I from the Gethsemane French Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, conducted a series of evangelistic meetings using the theme "Jesus, the Only Hope." It has been said that the series, which ran from April 8 through 18, was the greatest youth evangelistic meeting so far in the church's history.

In preparation for the meeting, the staff members spent several nights on their knees interceding for God's blessings. Prior to the start of the meetings, the staff dedicated one week to prayer and all members were able to participate in helping to make the event successful.

Six teens and young adults were selected to preach the Word. The six were Jimmy Dorval, Casley Chery, Marcus Rimpel,

Darwin Blanc, Jasmine Blanc, and Nadege Joseph. All of them are active youth disciples in the church. For two weeks, people from all lifestyles gathered at Gethsemane church to hear the gospel preached. The young people not only

was titled "A Thousand Years in Iail." He reassured the people that Jesus will return soon and chain the devil for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1, 2) while His children will be at peace in heaven. Night after night, the young people

For two weeks . . . the gospel of Jesus Christ was delivered ... through the channel of six young people.

preached; they were in charge of the event.

Jasmine Blanc demonstrated the grandeur of God in her sermon. Marcus Rimpel, with a convincing and commanding tone of voice, captured the minds of many. One of his sermons

preached the Word with poise and certainty.

The praise team that included Fabiola Jean, Linchy Lezeau, Elizabeth, and various local singers such as Ritchie Charles, Dorothy Clavin, Maureen, and many more, lifted Jesus

up in song. Nadege Joseph reminded the people about judgment day. One of her sermons, titled "The Trail of All Ages," focused on the fact that humanity will be judged for all good and bad deeds (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Jimmy Dorval preached about false prophets. They will be imitating the one true Messiah and Christians must be careful and be on alert for the fake ones (Matthew 24:5, 11). With a mild and soft-spoken tone of voice, Darwin Blanc captivated the minds of many by preaching about the Sabbath. He reminded the people how holy and sanctified the seventh day is. Casely Chery taught the people how to follow Jesus' guidelines. "In Psalm 19:7, it is written that the law of God is perfect. There is no going around it. As evangelists and as disciples of Jesus Christ, we all must follow



lanzo Smith, communication

the 10 Commandments, and blessings will be granted abundantly."

The youth department staff extends thanks and appreciation to everyone who took an active role in making the youth evangelistic meetings a success. Special thanks to the church's pastors, Jean-Marie Charles and Brian Ladiny, the elders, the youth director, Delor Laguerre, the

praise team, the singers, and the ushers.

For two weeks, except Thursday nights, the gospel of Jesus Christ was delivered with force through the channel of six young

people. With the help of the Holy Spirit, 14 individuals were baptized.

—James Gourdet, member, Gethsemane church

Pentecost and More in the Bahamas



Evangelist G. Earl Knight with the praise team and choir opening one of the meetings.

Earl Knight, Greater **J.** New York Conference executive secretary, preached in Nassau, for the Bahamas Conference "Pentecost and More" evangelistic meetings held February 21 to March 21. The messages were live streamed through the conference Web site. One hundred seventy-three individuals were baptized.

The success of the meetings can be attributed to the collaboration and commitment of the members, clergy, and conference administration. Each morning at 5:00 a.m., prior to reporting to work at 7:00 a.m., a group of 50-60 volunteers met at the tent with the evangelist, the manager in charge of the meetings, the pastors, and the conference administration for prayer and planning. They also remained after the nightly meetings for debriefing and reorganization.

A small band, praise team, a choir of approximately 50 members, singing groups, and soloists provided inspirational music for the meetings. Other volunteers included groups of health lecturers, ushers, Bible workers, and 20-30 prayer warriors.

A most significant event highlighted the last week of the meetings. One night, before preaching, Knight invited the youth forward for special prayer. Spontaneously, youth from both inside and outside of the tent streamed forward. As singing evangelist Jean Brown sang "The Blood Covers It All," Knight continued his appeal. The first two rows of seats were evacuated to make space for those who answered the call. Because there was such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the entire congregation, it became impossible for Knight to present the message that he had prepared for the evening.

Twenty-seven were baptized in the tent that very night. Most of them were young men. Robes were provided for those who had not come prepared for baptism. Others chose to be baptized in the sea at the planned Sabbath baptism.

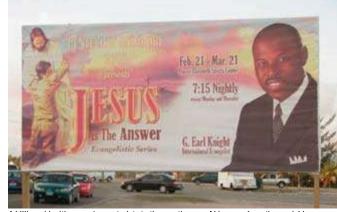
Two of every three of the 173 baptized were young men. Bahamas Conference president, Leonard Johnson, introduced all of the pastors and gave the location of their churches. The new members chose to be assigned a mentor and a church.

During this Year of Evangelism the Bahamas model of evangelism is being replicated in Greater New York and in the Atlantic Union. Surely we yearn to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, and more!

—H. Helen Meade, member, Brooklyn church



Most of the 173 baptismal candidates were in the planned Sabbath baptism in the sea.



A billboard inviting passing motorists to the meetings could be seen from the roadside.



Little Church with a Big History

Tf you have ever driven from f LĆentral Square to Fulton, New York, on Route 49 you have driven past the Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church. This unassuming church has a large and distinguished history. It is the oldest church building erected and used by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Built during the fall and winter of 1858-1859, it was dedicated to God's service on June 17,

Since then it has been the site of historical meetings where the foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was laid; a place where pillars of the denomination have spoken; a place where many had an opportunity to hear about the love of Jesus Christ and commit their lives to Him. The church has witnessed weddings, funerals, and baby dedications. It is a place to find God's grace and peace. It is truly a special church.

Over the years it has had

its transformations. In 1885 the inside of the church was remodeled and the layout of the sanctuary was reversed. At one point in the 1930s the church was used as a chicken coop and the neighbors had an eye on turning it into a dance hall. When these plans were discovered, the church was reclaimed, renovated, and on June 8, 1935, rededicated to God's work. The latest addition was made in 1985 with the erection of the fellowship hall.

On June 12-13, 2009, this little church with a big history celebrated the 150th anniversary of its dedication. The guest speaker for the weekend was Merlin Burt, associate professor of church historv and director of the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University. Friday evening Burt's presentation was entitled "Adventists: A People with a Mission." He spoke about the history of the church from the Great Disappointment through the

> formative years of the denomination, incorporating the role of the Roosevelt church during that time. He continued on Sabbath morning with "The Passion of Adventism," how sharing the love of Jesus Christ is the driving force today. Later at the 5:00 p.m. meeting, he led the congregation in a service of recommitment to finish God's work.

> The church was full with the overflow in a tent behind the church.



Merlin Burt, associate professor of church history and director of the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, was the speaker for the 150th anniversary celebration of the Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Members old and new were present. Some traveled great distances to participate in this historic event. It is the hope of the members that the second

coming of Jesus Christ will prevent another celebration such as this.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

Get off Your Knees and Pray

October 23-25, 2009

The New York Conference invites you to the Women's Fall Retreat

> **Watson Homestead Center** Painted Post, New York



Keynote Speaker Wanda Davis Senior Staff Chaplain Florida Hospital, East Orlando

Registration fees range from \$155 – \$265 depending on your room selection. Make checks payable to New York Conference and mail to New York Conference Women's Retreat, 4930 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215. Contact Lynee Hamm for registration forms and further details (315) 391-6263 or e-mail abcshopgirl@yahoo.com.



Robert Hess, Roosevelt church pastor, and his wife, Cecelia, dressed in costumes depicting the time period during which the church was first opened.

Camp Meeting Goes to the Community

Mhile on this earth, Christ gave instructions that were to be "passed from generation to generation." He said, "Ye are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." These instructions were not only meant for the generations of the past, but for this generation, as well.

Camp meeting 2009 presented everyone with the opportunity to be a light in the Union Springs community. Young and old alike gathered behind the big tent awaiting their assignments. The leaders were a group of young people bearing the ministry name "This Generation." They were eager to jump into action for Christ and let their lights shine for Him in order to spread the light to others.

The group began moving down toward the community with rakes, brooms, gloves, trash bags, and smiling faces. As we walked down the street people stared at this unusual sight. They knew

where we were coming fromthose "tent meetings up the road." We dispersed into smaller groups and began our tasks. Some washed fire trucks, swept out the fire station, or raked leaves, while others swept the sidewalks on Main Street, washed windows, or picked up trash.

People pointed. People smiled. And people expressed gratitude for our willingness to do some community service. We hoped the community would notice our outreach, and that their curiosity would draw their attention to the joyful people at the tent meetings. Furthermore, we hoped their attention would be drawn to our Heavenly Father.

We will continue community outreach events every year at camp meeting. We prayed for our outreach effort, and hope that someone saw Christ's light shining through our good works as we purposed to glorify our Father in heaven.

—Jessica Flores, member, This Generation







Young and old alike at the New York Conference camp meeting descended on the town of Union Springs to rake leaves, wash fire trucks, sweep streets, wash windows, and pick up trash.

Onondaga Nation Church Reaches Out to Distraught Community

Taving survived Lattempts of arson, the Onondaga Nation Seventhday Adventist Church is already known on the reservation as "the church that will not burn."On July 5, a Sunday morning, the Wesleyan Chapel among the Onondagas was completely destroyed by fire. On the same street. the United Methodist Church Onondaga Mission experienced major fire, smoke, and water damage. Fortunately, no one was injured and services

were not in progress at the time of the fires. However, still standing was a beacon of Christian hope, the Onondaga Nation Seventhday Adventist Church.

After working two hours to extinguish the flames, the firefighters spent much of the day investigating and determining the cause of the early morning fires. Recognizing the call to help, the Seventh-day Adventist Church sprang into action and contacted several local businesses for food and beverage dona-

tions in hopes of reaching out to distraught community members. Food was provided for firefighters and displaced members of the Wesleyan and Methodist churches

Due to the fires, traffic was directed past the church and each person driving by witnessed the power of Christian fellowship and ministry firsthand. In an attempt to rebuild the community's faith and hope, the Onondaga church has offered the future use of

their facility to the congregations of both burned churches for services while they make arrangements for their future homes.

The members of the Onondaga Nation church praise God for His continued protection of their church building. We pray that the hearts of many will be touched through the love and generosity shared by the church that will not burn.

—Aaron Purkeypile, pastor, Onondaga church



NEWS

Summer Graduates Receive Degrees

In summer commencement ceremonies held at Thayer Conservatory on July 12, Atlantic Union College awarded 36 degrees to 31 successful candidates. Eleven students received Master of Education degrees; 17 received Bachelor of Arts degrees; seven, the Bachelor of Science; and one, the Bachelor of Music. Sixteen of these graduates had completed their work through the Adult Degree Program.

Noteworthy among them is Eloise Symonds, a veteran Bible instructor with the Bermuda Conference who also, as a student in the Adult Degree Program, was for three years elected president of the program's Student Association. She graduated summa cum laude and received both a Bachelor of Arts in religion and a Bachelor of Science in personal ministries.

Those graduating July 12 were evidence that AUC serves a constitu-



July graduates line up on the steps of Thayer Conservatory. Eloise Symonds, who graduated summa cum laude, is front row, center. Carline Waugh, the sole music performance graduate, is front row, left. She sang at the commencement ceremony. Hood colors signify majors; gold cords indicate honors.

ency beyond the Atlantic Union: only 19 percent (six) of them were born within this union, and 77 percent (24) were born outside the United States.

Richard Trott, professor of religion and chair of the Department of Religion and Theology, delivered the commencement address. Ian Bothwell, assistant vice president for Academic Administration and professor of education, presented the summer class of 2009 to President Norman Wendth, who conferred their degrees, assisted by Lynn Zabaleta, registrar; H. Roger

Bothwell, professor of education and coordinator of the M.Ed. program; and Ian Bothwell.

Commencement was originally scheduled for the lawn; but rain the previous night, following a long season of rains, had softened the lawn so much that the ceremonies were moved indoors. Afterward, however, graduates, faculty, families, and friends moved outdoors for congratulatory handshakes, hugs, and photographs.

—Ann Parrish, professor emerita of English, Atlantic Union College



Graduates, faculty, family, and friends crowded into Thayer Conservatory's Red Room for the summer commencement ceremony.

Atlantic Union College is one hour from Boston and three hours from New York.



AUC President Norman Wendth prepares to confer degrees on the July graduates. Also shown (left to right) are Rohan Barnwell, personal ministries graduate from St. Vincent; Richard Trott, commencement speaker; lan Bothwell, assistant vice president for Academic Administration; and Hebe Soares, business administration graduate and vice president for development.

INION COLLEGE

"We Didn't Start the Fire"

Professor Richard Trott based his July commencement address on Paul (Philippians 4:9) and on Billy Joel ("We Didn't Start the Fire"). This is the conclusion of that address:

7hat can really be done in a world that's always been on fire since the world's been turning?"

What can we—the professors, the elders—rightly expect of you gradu-

- to fight the fires?
- to challenge the models that have gone wrong?
- to make our charred world more a place of God's peace? I have three suggestions:
- 1. Don't be afraid to acknowledge problems—it's the first step toward finding new solutions. Don't go unconscious through life—listen to your heart and soul. "It is the work of true education to ... train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought"— Education, p. 17.
- 2. Pray. If we, at AUC, taught you nothing else, we should have left you with this: "Acknowledge within the Christian context the existential crisis of the human species by reaching out to the divine and infinite." Really! Prayer (however/whenever) is a clear way to maintain perspective that God is also concerned about the world's fires that burn. Even God hasn't been able to put out the fires yet! But God is still Sovereign, and He has a plan according to Holy Scripture.

3. What can you do? Choose one part that you can play in fighting the fires of this world's ills. Just one aspect of the fires you can approach with the cooling effect of your energy and commitment—one part of this world's burning that you can address that you'd like to see changed for the better.



Richard Trott, professor of religion and summer commencement speaker, smiles at the graduates seated before him in the Red Room of Thayer Conservatory.

This is AUC's commitment as we move forward—to be a part of the leadership of our communities. AUC's new focus is on Christian Leadership and Community Engagement. We are preparing students to be successful in their work environment while transforming the world around them.

No one can tell you what your role will be, but this one thing is clear: in our Christian context, we can and must build on something firm—and the Apostle Paul says that is the foundation of the Bible's teachings.

Not just any value from the past. Not just the values of those who are older. Not necessarily the values of your professors.

It couldn't be clearer: we must build on the values of Holy Scripture!



Carolyn Jette graduated with a degree in psychology. A navy veteran, Carolyn is accompanied by her service dogthe first dog ever to march at an AUC graduation ceremony.



Daniela Ciccopiedi, a native of Argentina and a newly minted M.Ed., shares the joy of commencement day with her family.

Northeastern Academy . . . Change Has Come!

hange has come to ✓Northeastern Academy (NEA) with regard to its vision, academics, staff, and programs; however, the most important change is a spiritual one. Under the administration of Marlene Alvarez, principal, and James Bennett, vice principal, the Spring Week-of-Prayer was conducted like none other ever seen at the academy. Working with the theme, "Falling in Love With Jesus," four of NEA's students wrote and delivered the Word of God to faculty, staff, parents, and their peers. Following four dynamic days of preaching, which took place April 4-7, a baptism was conducted on April 8 in which 13

students dedicated their lives to Christ.

On April 4, Raven-Symone Edwards, a junior, spoke on the topic "Jesus . . . Friend or Enemy." She discussed

varying perceptions of Jesus, and asked, "Do we see Jesus as a friend, one we can talk to or do we see Jesus as mean, judgmental, and boring?" Raven reiterated, "How you see Jesus will determine your relationship with Him." We learned that we should be open with Jesus as we are with our personal friends.

On April 5, Jeremiah Wright, a freshman, spoke on the topic "Why, Oh Why, I Love God." He discussed

how everyone in the world is looking for love, but yet oftentimes we take God's love for granted. Jeremiah reminded us that God is knocking on our heart's door, and it is our duty to decide whether or not we will let Him come in.

On April 6, Samantha Rodriguez, a sophomore, presented a message entitled, "Why do we push away from God?" In her

talk, she referenced the story of Job.

► Students, teachers, and family members encircled the baptismal pool. Some were moved to tears as the students were baptized.

She highlighted the fact

to God in spite of losing

that Job remained faithful

his family and earthly pos-

sessions. Samantha asked

the attentive congregation,

when things don't go your

way?" Sometimes, when we

give our lives to Christ, we

expect to live a life free of

ever. Samantha reminded

us that God's armor is not

complete without faith.

On April 7, Joniel

trials and tribulations: how-

"How do you treat God

Forsythe, a senior, presented the culminating message of the series entitled, "From Dust to Destiny." He discussed how we sometimes get so caught up in the war that we do not let God fight the battle. He discussed the toxicity of sin and its ability to alter who we are physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. He reminded us that the only way we can receive healing

dents who gave their lives to Christ.

I can honestly say, as one of the 13 students who was baptized, this week was one the most amazing experiences I have had at the academy. Amazingly enough, the spiritual momentum did not stop there. In the following weeks, we had two more baptisms in which six more individuals dedicated

> their lives to Christ.

We ended the year on a spiritual high. However, our hearts were saddened as we said goodbye to Mrs. Alvarez [who is going to

her new assignment at the Atlantic Union Conference office as certification registrar and assistant director for Early Childhood Education and Carel. Although we were sad to see her go, we appreciate the three years of dedicated service invested in the academy. As former vice principal James Bennett picks up the torch, serving as principal for the 2009-2010 school year, we look forward to continuing the change that has begun at Northeastern Academy where we encounter God, experience learning, and exercise leadership.

—Dana Jones, class of 2010 and Celes McGeachy, English teacher, Northeastern Academy



were baptized after the spring Week-of-Praver at Northeastern Academy.

is through Jesus. Joniel encouraged us that "Iesus is

going to take the memory of sin from His memory. He is not doing it for Himself, but He is doing it for us."

On April 8, for the first time, a baptism was held at Northeastern Academy. Superintendent of schools Sylvan Lashley, associate superintendent Gwendolyn Wesley, chaplain Raymond Alcott, pastors Phillip Wesley and Jamie Kowlessar, parents, staff, and the student body lovingly supported 13 stu-

Gifted is not a Byword

'herease Street, Chelsea Roye, and Jordan Benn are not your typical 17-, 13- and seven-year-olds. They are young people who attend the South Ozone Park Seventh-day Adventist Church who are making contributions to their community by volunteering their time to help others in need while excelling in school.

Cherease, a youth advocate and leader, volunteered to tutor students at New York City's P.S. 50 Vito Marcantonio after-school program. These students suffer from medical and emotional conditions inherent to living in a community marked by extreme poverty. She also volunteered at Jamaica Hospital and is active in breast cancer awareness walks and fundraisers. "I want to continue to help the people in my community, especially in our schools, where there are enormous challenges. It's my turn for giving back and I'm determined to use all that I have learned to help others," says Cherease.

During her final months of high school, Cherease was inducted into the following honor societies for achieving scores of over 95 percent for her four years in high school: Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, a United States mathematics honor society for high



Jordan Benn

schools and two-year colleges; and the Spanish National Honor Society, an academic honor society for Spanish language excellence in secondary education.

Cherease applied to 10 colleges and was accepted by nine with offers ranging from full to partial scholarships. Of the nine schools, Cherease has chosen to attend The Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education to pursue the accelerated seven-year Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine program.

This program integrates undergraduate education with the first two years of



Cherease Street

medical school. Upon completion of the five-year program, one transfers almost seamlessly to one of six cooperating medical schools where, in two more years, one will earn a medical degree. Entry into medical school is assured without doing the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Based on the criteria for the program, Cherease would be a doctor at age 23!

Eighth-grader Chelsea and second-grader Jordan are sibling role models for other children. Chelsea is one of the 32 students from 1,000 applicants city-wide to be accepted into the Columbia University School of Law Summer Institute. For her community outreach project, Chelsea gave up her summer vacation and volunteered to work in a day care center. Chelsea beams when she was asked about her work at the center. "Learning to deal with all the children was a challenge at first, but I really had a wonderful time working with them," she says.

Jordan attends Cambria Heights, New York, PS 176Q, a magnet school for exceptionally gifted children. Because of his attitude, ability, and achievement toward his school work, Jordan was selected and has been accepted into the John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth International Mathematics and Verbal Talent Search. His qualifying score on the



Chelsea Roye

verbal portion of the School and College Ability Test (SCAT) was higher than 78 percent of fourth-graders who took the same exam internationally. Jordan's favorite word is "actually." He is also a budding pianist, loves basketball, cheetahs, and model trains.

We continue to pray for our young people. Keep up the great work Cherease, Chelsea, and Jordan!

—Donna Toussaint, education director, and Lorraine Archie, communication director, South Ozone Park church





By Kim Kaiser

Sacrifice in Perspective

magine that roles are reversed and you are in God's place. The children you love are becoming "stuck" in everyday minutiae, buying and selling, getting and gaining, losing sight of eternal priorities. What do you do? How do you turn the situation around? Hmmmm. . . . What if you bring them into close contact with a group of people who know how to be content in spite of poverty and oppression, people who are faithful to God through difficult circumstances? Would it help if your children saw homes with little or no furniture and other children with only secondhand clothes in families where everyone smiles and works together?

This is exactly the experience of those who are familiar with the Karen and African refugee families who have been flooding into New York State. Many have spent most or all of their lives in refugee camps to avoid persecution. With these families have come dozens of school-aged children, many of whom had the blessing of an

Adventist education in, of all places, their refugee camps. Sending them to inner city public schools is unthinkable because to do so is to risk spiritual and, sometimes, physical safety.

During the 2008-2009 school year, our schools accepted 22 elementary and seven academy students, trusting that God would provide for the resulting expenses. Through the generosity of committed church members, several churches, and Union Springs Academy, He did provide. In the process He helped us understand that the word "sacrifice" may be a bit extreme when we compare our needs to those of the refugee families. Our "modest" homes feel decadent when we visit in barren immigrant homes. Meanwhile, our children have witnessed the determination of immigrant children as they try to learn English and other academic content, and have been blessed by the friendships they have formed.

This school year there will be approximately 42 elementary and 14



Kyaw Shwe Aye tries gymnastics with Union Springs Academy students.

academy students in need of sponsorship. God continues to stretch our faith—and that's a good thing! And who knows whether you are reading this article for such a time as this.



Kim Kaiser is the associate superintendent of schools for the New York Conference.



Eh Dar and Say Wah Paw work on science models.



Five Congolese children whom New York Conference hopes to be able to attend one of their schools are front. Sifa. Otiniel. and Shukuru, and on the back row, Alliant and Maombi.



Students work together to make apple pies.



God's Speed to Supply Our Needs

is no situation too serious,

no problem unsolvable, no

hurt too great.

ven before I knew I had a problem, God already had it worked out. In March 2006, my mother's kidneys failed. She had been taking care of my children who were sick with the flu. Then she began to feel sick. She felt that the children had passed the virus on to her, so she went to the doctor. An analysis of her blood revealed a serious problem with her kidneys. She was put on dialysis the next day. There had been no symptoms. The doctors said that if she had not sought medical attention, she would have had a massive stroke and died. Thank the Lord that she was watching my children and "caught the flu."

For two years she was on dialysis. Her sessions were on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 4:45 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. After her dialysis sessions, she would go to work. I would leave home at 4:00 a.m. to take her to dialysis. From there, I would go back home, get my three children—ages 10, five, and 18 months—ready for school and nursery, then go off When we trust God, there to my own job.

It was painful to see my mom on the dialysis machine, but I thanked God that the machine was keeping her alive. I decided to be tested to see if I was a

match to donate my kidney. I expressed my desire, but mom stated, "No way! You have a husband and three young children; there is no way I would take your kidney!" I told her I am an organ donor, and it is stated on my driver's license.

I prayed, then contacted the dialysis unit to start the process. I was a match! More tests were required. I travelled to Boston to continue with the prep work for the kidney donation. About three weeks after the testing, I received a call. I can still hear the doctor's voice saying, "The test revealed that your veins to your left kidney are reversed. You have a kidney stone the size of a marble, and a cyst. You are no longer eligible to donate." I felt sick! My mom was on the national donor list, but the wait was approximately five to seven years and ultimately, someone had to die in order for my mom to get a kidney. I prayed and prayed.

I did not share the results with my mom or husband. I told the doctor I still wanted to go ahead

with the surgery. He said that because it was my mother, he would still perform the surgery, but the risk of the kidney not working was great. Also, because of my reversed veins, I might not be able to get the laparoscopic surgery. They would need to open me up. He also informed us that we would need between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to cover medication that insurance would not cover in the hospital. I was living from pay check to pay check. I wondered where we would get the funds. I cried out to the Lord, and fasted for 10 days—no food for 10 days.

On March 6, 2008, at 6:00 a.m., the surgery took place. It took seven hours. Normally, it would have taken three hours, but because of my reversed veins it took longer. They removed my kidney and discovered there was no kidney stone, nor was there a cyst present. I was able to have the laparoscopic surgery. God performed a miracle!

The kidney was placed in my mom and it started

to work right there on the operating table. Sometimes the transferred kidney does not kick in and the patient may need dialysis to help. Sometimes the body rejects the new kidney. My mom's new kidney started as soon as it was implanted!

Life is going to be full of trials; they come to test our faith in God. God promises to never leave us or forsake us. Before we knew my mom's kidneys were to fail, before I knew I had a kidney stone and cyst, before we knew we needed thousands of dollars, God had a solution!

If we trust God, no matter what the trial is-medical, financial, marital, our children, or our job—all we need to do is put ourselves in His care. When we trust God, there is no situation too serious, no problem unsolvable, no hurt too great. It is God's job to rescue us; our job is to have faith. 0



Michelle Morris is a member of the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church on the island of Bermuda.

Reprinted with permission from the Bermuda Conference newsletter, STREAMS

OF LIGHT, June 2009, vol. 22, issue 2.



Adventurers Let Their Lights Shine

dventurer Spring Escape was held at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, on May 13-15. The theme "Let your Light Shine" featured Jonah telling his story. Ned Little, along with Karen Little and crew, helped set the stage in the lodge with "the ship" that was going to Ninevah!

Friday evening started with a special presentation, "Finding your Joy," by Zack Mazone, our own specially-trained pilot. He told the children about his childhood dreams of flying, his career as a fighter pilot, and how he found joy when God led him to work for an airline! For his finale, he lit a candle, turned and lit a child's candle, and they each shared their light with all the others. Soon the room was all aglow with soft candle light as they welcomed the Sabbath.

On Sabbath morning we

met Jonah, played by Ben Medina. As the story goes, he heard God's voice but decided to do his own thing and was thrown overboard. He vanished and the children got wet from the big splash Jonah created when he was thrown into the dark, turbulent water!

After church service, the children went on a scavenger hunt, created by using quotes from the Bible and picture clues. They collected objects from around Camp Lawroweld which they used to learn about being a shining light for Jesus. "Packy," a papermaché elephant, made by Debbie and Rodney Hayes and Wendy Williams, stood on the steps with its trunk held high ready to receive the children's offering. The offering collected was sent to an orphanage in China.

In the afternoon the children, with passports in hand, visited 10 countries. They spent about 25 minutes in each country learning many things. Then, each Adventurer had his or her passport stamped and took home a little souvenir from that country.

The countries featured were:

- · China, presented by Kyra Schlager and James Mello, recent missionaries in China:
- Mongolia, presented by Scott Christiansen who worked there with ADRA;
- Belize, presented by Leon Twitchell and his wife, Ingrid, who worked there for a few years.
- · Dominican Republic, presented by Beth Sikes, with help from Darian Santana and Jessica Leccese, who highlighted



The children saw a Teepee decorated with Native American artifacts, and were told of the customs which they still practice today.

- a children's school where Sikes went for her recent mission trip.
- · India, presented by Krista Medina who shared her experience from her recent mission trip. She let the children work in

Portsmouth Church Sows Seeds in the Community

In April, members of the **⊥**Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered outside to pray that the Holy Spirit would lead them to people in the surrounding area of the church for whom they could pray.

The church members then went into the community to pass out seeds and invite people to an organic gardening lecture that was scheduled for May. It was a warm Sabbath, and people were working in and around their gardens. Church members chatted with them and gave them seed packets along with an invitation to attend our garden lecture. We were able to do this twice before the actual event.

Aa a result of that effort, a total of 26 people attended, three of whom

were from the community. A gentleman who goes by the name "Dr. Tomato" was scheduled to give the lecture that evening, but that very morning he was rushed to the hospital and had

emergency surgery. His business partner, James Cavarretta, was able to fill in at the last minute.

After the lecture we were able to pray for Cavarretta and for Dr.



Twenty-six people attended the garden lecture sponsored by the Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Tomato (David), and we are keeping in touch with them. Another lecture is scheduled for this fall.

—Mark Wine, head elder, Portsmouth church

the rice paddies and they made rice cakes.

- Kenya, presented by Jared Arika, native Kenyan, and friends. They invited the children to experience life in Kenya.
- South Mexico, presented by Lanita Medina, her place of origin. She built a little Indian Chamula hut. She demonstrated how people living there are treated badly because of their mixture of Indian and Mexican blood. They made tortillas and took a Mexican hat home with them.
- Yemen presented by Sheryl and Dan McWilliams. Sheryl was barely visible because of her heavily covered face and black robe.
- America presented by Ken and Sarah Demars. Ken

- is part Native American and spoke from personal experience. The children saw a Teepee decorated with Native American artifacts, and were told of the customs which they still practice today.
- Down by the water where the lighthouse stood shining, Wendy Williams and Debbie Hayes shared how lighthouses work and why they are so important. They explained how we, as Christians, shining for Jesus, are so important!

But what happened to Ionah? He was all covered in seaweed, and headed straight toward Ninevah this time, where he met the King, played by James Davison. The children experienced the scene when they were covered with sackcloth and ashes.

Each child was given a floating candle and they ran through the rain down to the water's edge trying to keep their candle lit as a symbol of dedicating their lives to Jesus as they go out into the world and become shining lights.

Patty Knellar wrapped things up on Sunday morning, giving the finishing words on letting our lights shine for the world. Then we headed off for the games! Who could resist Keeping your Boat Afloat, the Mexican Hat Dance. Needle in a Haystack, or The Wood Gatherer.

Thanks to all those who spent hours helping as presenters, builders, cooks, cleaners, and of course the leaders of Adventurer

clubs. Thanks to the many families who brought their children to this event. We treasure these moments with them, and take seriously our task of trying to present Jesus' love for them.

—Lanita Medina, Adventurer leader, Camden church



Sheryl McWilliams was barely visible because of her heavily covered face and black robe worn.



Northern New England Conference Prayer Ministries Fall Prayer Retreat

October 16-18, 2009

"Praying In the Spirit,
With the Spirit"

Camp Lawroweld Weld, Maine

Join us for this powerful retreat experience!



Guest Speaker: Ruthie Jacobsen North American Division Prayer Ministries Director

Mark your calendars - See you there! Families welcome! Registration forms available soon.

> E-mail: Kellyv07@yahoo.com Web site: www.nnec.org

Our Church Members in the News

ennis "Denny" Raymond may be the oldest active volunteer firefighter in Lisbon, Connecticut, but at 67 years old there is no denying he is up to the task. Raymond, a member of the Norwich Seventh-day



Dennis Raymond was the first to arrive for a water rescue of a young child at a local pond in Lisbon, Connecticut.

Photo courtesy John Shishmanian/NorwichBulletin.com

Adventist Church, was featured in the Norwich Bulletin when he was the first to arrive for a water rescue at a local pond. A young child had fallen through the ice behind her home. Using a rope he grabbed from his garage on the way to the pond, he tied the rope around his waist and handed the end to the other firefighters. He was within inches of the girl when the ice gave way under him. Raymond grabbed the girl and his fellow firefighters pulled the two to safety. The complete stories can be found at www.norwichbulletin.com/ homepage/x1959828671/ Firefighter-saves-6-yearold and www.norwichbulletin.com/homepage/ x1237125834/Lisbon-

firefighter-saves-girl-whofell-through-ice.

oriah Smith, a senior Mat Boston Latin Academy and the student representative on the Boston School Committee, had the privilege of introducing Mayor Thomas M. Menino before he took the stage at Faneuil Hall to deliver his State of the City address. Moriah, a Connecticut Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church member, is a member of the Boston Student Advisory Council. In his remarks, Mayor Menino commended Moriah for her introduction. "Moriah reminds us that all children dream . . . I look at students like Moriah in classrooms throughout our city, and I see Boston's future doctors, teachers, and even a mayor

or two," Menino said. "All of Boston's students energize me to keep pushing for progress every day of every month of every year." Read the complete story at www.bostonpublicschools.org/node/3305 and www.youtube.com/ watch?v=aweTu42Itss.



Moriah Smith introduced Boston's mayor. Thomas M. Menino, before he took the stage at Faneuil Hall to deliver his State of the City address.

SLA Students Make an International Impact

outh Lancaster Academy Students from South Lancaster, Massachusetts, traveled to Santa Barbara, Honduras, during their spring vacation to help others. The team of 27 students and seven chaperones worked many fundraising projects and solicited donations, including one from the Clinton Rotary, to raise sufficient funds for the trip.

The Impact Honduras team focused on a home owned by Reach International for children ages 5-19. The home, located near Santa Barbara, has a primary school attached, a high school about two miles down the road, and a daycare center in town. God blessed as we were

able to complete 22 sections of a security wall (eight were anticipated), assisted in gardening, painted a large multipurpose room and entryway of the dormitory, and completed the walls of a casita, a 12' x 16' cement block home for a family of seven. The casita is situated up a four-wheel drive, water washed, gullied road. All sand, cement, and cement blocks had to be carried over the hill, through tree roots, gullies, around houses, dodging chickens, dogs, and children. Water is supplied via a small PVC pipe. There are no sewage facilities.

Sabbath was spent sharing in worship services and



South Lancaster Academy students and chaperones take a break from their mission work in Honduras.

providing afternoon activities for the 40 children at the home. They enjoyed Bible charades, creation chalk drawing, and drinking straw yarn weaving. While there, the brother of one of our local construction contractors was hit by a car. The cost of surgery was estimated at \$900 U.S. Construction workers make between \$4 and \$15 per day. The students were quick to recognize the monetary demand



Sabbath afternoon activities were provided for the children at the Reach International home.

on the family. The team determined to take up a donation from our personal funds. More than \$900 was raised for the surgical procedure.

We continue to be in contact with our mission site coordinator. Remaining funds are sufficient to finish the locked gate section in the wall, cement posts for water line support, and an additional casita for a migrant family, an older couple with two daughters.

Neither daughter has ever attended school. The family has promised that if a house is provided they will settle down and the girls will attend school. These are just a few ways your students are making an international impact for eternity!

View the complete story with pictures at www.slabrowning.org/March 20-09. pdf starting on page 3.

—Jamie Daum, business manager, South Lancaster Academy

Clinics Provide SNEC Students With Hands-on Learning

ore than 100 fifth- and Msixth-grade students participated in a one-day sports clinic sponsored by the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) and held at the W. G. Nelson. Recreation Center on the Atlantic Union College campus in South Lancaster. Massachusetts, last fall.

in March for all the elementary school students in Bailey Hall on the SNEC campus.

Browning elementary school eighth grade bell choir.

In April more than 100

seventh- and eighth-graders participated in another sports clinic at the W. G. Nelson Recreation Center. Training for this event focused on softball, soccer basketball, and the

Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge. Clinicians included Mark Bugbee, Neil Clauson, Sandy Smith, Robert Jackson, Ray Daniels, and I. Besides learning and playing these various sports, students were reminded that the body serves as the

temple of God, attitudes promoted through good sportsmanship are life-long essentials, and sports like these can provide an avenue for life-long exercise.

Events, such as these clinics, provide Southern New England Conference students with an opportunity to participate with a larger group of Adventist students. Hopefully, students who interact only within their own Adventist school can see that by joining together, the community generated a large number capable of accomplishing great and mighty activities. In other words, no student or school is alone in SNEC's Adventist educational community.

–Pat Giese, associate superintendent of schools, Southern New England Conference

Southern New England conference students enjoy clinics designed for hands-on learning. Students were instructed in

basketball, volleyball, and soccer skills, and they were led through the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge. Clinicians included Mark Bugbee, Neil Clauson, Dick Kamieneski, Sandy Smith, Ray Daniels, and I.

A chimes clinic was offered

Under the leadership of Carol Swinyar, students learned learn techniques, met fellow chimers, and gained a feel for this area of music ministry. At the end of a hard day of work and learning, Participants were treated to a surprise performance by the



Reaping the Harvest

From March 6 through April 4, the "Festival of Prayer, Praise, and Proclamation," was held at the Devonshire Recreational Grounds. This was the first time a religious program of this nature was held at this venue. The festival was broadcast live on the ATV television network to all of Bermuda, including the prisons and coed facilities. Ryan Simpson, Devonshire Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, an animated preacher, used everyday situations as well as current

Through the Word of God and his personal touch, many came to celebrate Christ and accept Jesus as Savior. A wide range of topics were covered during the series, including lifestyle issues, prophecy, forgiveness, the end time, hope for the future, a better way of life, and reconciliation, all using beautiful graphics and text. The graphic presentations helped make God's Word very clear and interesting.

events to teach life lessons.

Music played a very impor-

tant role. as well, in the festival. Singer Carey Sales (popular gospel recording artist from Jamaica) lifted everyone's spirit with his beautiful voice, and he even taught the audience a new song he'd learned



Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, left, examines the candidates prior to their baptism at the Festival of Prayer, Praise, and Proclamation meetings hosted by the Devonshire church along with their pastor, Ryan Simpson.

in Jamaica. ("God is Good"). This song is often sung during praise and worship. Other music artists also performed, including Raykeisha Binns (Bermuda's Idol winner).

Each night there was a special emphasis on prayer. People were encouraged to write in prayer requests. There was also a prayer request hotline that one could call any hour of the day.

The prayer request operator would not only take prayer requests but would also pray with the caller, if requested.

The live simulcast in the Co-educational Facility and

the Farm Facilities was very effective. Some who watched were baptized at end of the festival. The prison guards reported a marked change in those who viewed the program.

As the series came to an end, there were 27 new baptisms, and 10 re-baptisms making a total of 37. Of the 37 persons baptized, eight were baptized from the prisons, four from the coed, and four from the prison farm.

—Ryan Simpson, pastor, Devonshire

Reprinted with permission from Bermuda Conference newsletter, STREAMS OF LIGHT, vol. 22, issue 2.



The Appointment

"In the day of trouble I will call on you because I know you will answer me"—Psalm 86:7 (Clear Word).

Tlive on a small island where Lertain specialized health professionals, such as dentists, are few. Subsequently, it is very difficult for the islanders to get appointments, so many persons opt to have their routine/elective care done outside of the island. It isn't unusual for one to wait months to get an appointment to do a routine cleaning. I was having trouble with a tooth and was told by a dentist that I needed

to have a root canal; however, I could not get an early appointment.

As the weeks dragged on so did my periodic pain, an excruciating pain that would interrupt my daily life. I cried bitterly because of the intensity of the pain. One night at church, someone gave a testimony of how the Lord provided an early appointment for her at the island's only hospital after she prayed. It was this testimony I remembered during one of my painful episodes. I cried to the Lord and reminded Him of how He answered prayer for this individual and begged Him to

work for me in like manner. I got off my knees and called the dental office. The courteous receptionist apologetically informed me that there were no openings but that she would call me if there were any cancellations. I hung up the phone with much resignation and again sent up a silent prayer. Within an hour the phone rang. It was the dental office calling to see if I would be able to come in the next day.

I thank God that He still hears the cries of His children.

—Tamar Boswell, member, Hamilton church







Historic Stand for Temperance Principles and Acceptance of Donations Statement Impacts Social Change

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).

From the very inception of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, temperance has been a major focus and the church has played a key role in struggling against the inroads of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other drugs. While some Christian denominations have lessened their emphasis on temperance, Seventh-day Adventists have continued to vigorously oppose the use of alcohol, tobacco, and improper drugs. The stand of the church advocating abstinence from harmful substances is well established in the church's fundamental beliefs.

There is evidence indicating that in some areas there has been a relaxation in the promotion within the church of the principles of true temperance. This development, coupled with the relentless advertising campaigns of the alcohol and tobacco industries, has revealed that some Seventh-day Adventists have not been impervious to such negative and insidious influences.

An issue that arises from time to time is the offer of funds to religious organizations by the alcohol or tobacco industries. It is the position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that such offers of funds shall not be accepted by the church, nor by any of its institutions. Such money is tainted by human misery, and in the case of the alcohol industry, "has come through the loss of souls of

men" (Ellen G White, REVIEW AND HERALD, May 15, 1894). The gospel mandate of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to rebuke evil and not praise or encourage those who manufacture "poisons that bring misery and ruin" and whose "business means robbery" (MINISTRY OF HEALING, p. 337).

The Seventh-day Adventist Church reaffirms its historic stand for the principles of temperance, upholds its policies and programs supporting Article 21 of the Fundamental Beliefs, and calls upon each member to affirm and reveal a life commitment to abstinence from any form of alcohol and tobacco and the irresponsible use of drugs. The 1992 Annual Council calls for a revival of temperance principles within the church and urges individuals and church organizations to refuse donations and favors from identifiable alcohol or tobacco industries. \P

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee at the Annual Council session in Silver Spring, Maryland, October 11, 1992.

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

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL

Les adventistes se joignent aux groupes religieux et groupes de santé publique pour faire l'éloge du projet de loi américain anti-tabac

es adventistes du sep-Les auvennesses du les tième jour partisans anti-tabac font partie de plus d'un millier de groupes de santé publique, groupes religieux et autres groupes non-gouvernementaux qui applaudissent une nouvelle loi annoncée comme la plus grande action jamais menée par le gouvernement des Etats-Unis pour réduire la consommation de tabac.

Signée devant la justice la semaine dernière par le président des Etats-Unis Barack Obama, on s'attend à ce que la Loi de Contrôle du Tabac et de la Prévention de la Cigarette dans la Famille donne un pouvoir sans précédent à la Food and Drug Administration (organisme gouvernemental de contrôle pharmaceutique et alimentaire), pour limiter la production et le commerce du tabac, et mettre particu-

lièrement l'accent sur le fait de garder les enfants loin de la cigarette, selon les activistes anti-tabac.

Ce projet de loi voit le jour 45 ans après que le ministre de la santé américain ait établi pour la première fois un lien entre la cigarette et le cancer du poumon. Ce projet impose des taxes plus élevées sur les cigarettes, limite la publicité sur le tabac et interdit ce que la Maison Blanche appelle des revendications "trompeuses," telles que la cigarette "légère" ou cigarette "à faible teneur en goudrons." Ce projet de loi vise aussi à mettre fin aux ventes illégales de produits à base de tabac pour les enfants, à interdire les cigarettes parfumées aux bonbons et aux fruits, et à autoriser la Food and Drug Administration à réduire la quantité de nicotine dans le produits à base de tabac.

Après des années d'inaction relative de la part du gouvernement sur la question des tabacs, ce projet de loi constitue une "étape dans la bonne direction" a déclaré Peter Landless, directeur adjoint du département des ministères de la santé à la Conférence Générale.

L'église adventiste, dont le Plan de Cinq Jours était un des premiers programmes de sevrage tabagique, fait désormais équipe avec la Campagne pour des Enfants sans Tabac, la Société Américaine du Cancer et les Associations Américaines du Cœur et des Poumons.

"Nous les félicitons d'avoir tracé le chemin vers cette législation" a affirmé DeWitt S. Williams. directeur des ministères de la santé à la Division nord-américaine de l'église adventiste et membre

de Faith United Against Tobacco, une coalition de dirigeants confessionnels anti-tabac

D. Williams, qui était présent à la cérémonie de signature du projet de loi à la roseraie de la Maison Blanche, a dit qu'il partageait l'espérance de Mr Obama dans le fait que ce projet de loi permettra de mieux protéger les enfants d'une éventuelle dépendance tabagique.

"Ça fait du bien de voir que les adventistes sont à nouveau actifs" a ajouté D. Williams, faisant allusion aux nombreuses lettres écrites et appels téléphoniques lancés par des membres d'église appelant leurs représentants au Congrès à voter pour le projet de loi.

Source: Adventist News Network 7 July 2009

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/2009/06/adventists-join-publ.html.

Des sermons Twitter en direct durant le service de culte pour l'église adventiste d'Allemagne

n groupe d'adventistes en Allemagne passe ses sabbats matins sur Twitter; mais au lieu de se diviser dans l'église, ils diffusent le sermon à 140 personnes à la fois.

Twitter, service de réseau social microblogging, est utilisé pour tout, du partage de ce qu'une personne a pour son petit-déjeuner jusqu'à l'annonce des dernières nouvelles. Pour Martin Haase, Twitter est un outil pour partager Dieu.

M. Haase, ancien directeur des communications pour la Division eurafricaine de l'église adventiste du septième jour mondiale, a dit que dans la culture d'aujourd'hui, il est normal d'être sur Internet toute la journée, quelque soit l'endroit où l'on se trouve.

"Avec Twitter, vous pouvez amener les gens à se tenir au courant de l'Evangile alors qu'ils sont assis dans un café ou en train d'attendre dans une station de métro" a déclaré M. Haase

M. Haase a été profondément impliqué dans la création et la promotion du compte de Schlosskirche Twitter. Les sermons Twitter sont les premiers sermons de ce type dans le pays, selon le journal allemand Bild.

En fin de compte, M. Haase espère avoir un groupe de membres d'église et plus de quatre pasteurs impliqués dans le processus de diffusion.

Aujourd'hui, 66 personnes suivent Schlosskirche (Castle Church) sur Twitter. M. Haase a dit que la plupart des spectateurs ne sont pas membres de l'église adventiste.

"Twitter va former les membres d'église à utiliser et comprendre la communication numérique de la société postmoderne" a déclaré M. Haase.

L'église adventiste Bergisch Gladbach et Staonline, association adventiste allemande d'évangélisation par les médias, participent aussi aux sermons Twitter.

Pour suivre Castle Church sur Twitter, cherchez à Schlosskirche. Allez sur schlosskirche.org pour de plus amples informations.

Source: Adventist News Network 7 July 2009

English translation available at: news.adventist. org/2009/06/german-church-twitte.html.



Comienza la selección de delegados para el Congreso Mundial de la Iglesia Adventista

unque falta casi un laño, ya se están seleccionando unos dos mil cuatrocientos delegados para el Congreso Mundial de la Iglesia Adventista, que se llevará a cabo en junio próximo en Atlanta, Georgia, Estados Unidos.

La semana pasada, la oficina del secretario de la Iglesia Adventista mundial envió a cada una de las trece regiones o "divisiones" de la iglesia mundial su cupo de delegados para el evento de diez días de duración.

El secretario Matthew Bediako dijo que cada

regiones mundiales tanto por población eclesiástica como por sustentabilidad propia de las regiones administrativas.

Por ejemplo, un grupo de iglesias de sostén propio de un territorio es clasificado como "asociación," mientras que un grupo similar que recibe subvenciones externas se denomina "misión." La distinción también es similar para las "uniones," que son grupos de asociaciones en varios estados o provincias. Una región de sostén propio se denomina "unión asociación," a dife-

dos no administrativos de ambos géneros y en representación de diversos grupos etarios y nacionalidades.

"Esto busca evitar que los delegados al Congreso de la AG sean todos empleados de la iglesia," dijo Bediako. Y añadió: "De ese cincuenta por ciento, una buena porción debería estar compuesta por jóvenes."

El Congreso es el foro donde se eligen los directivos de la iglesia mundial para los siguientes cinco años. Los puestos sujetos a reelección son los del presidente, los vicepresidentes,

departamentales seleccionen sus asociados.

Rosa Banks, secretaria asociada de la iglesia mundial dijo que se espera que esta medida figure en la agenda del Congreso 2010.

Entre los temas constitutivos que se espera sean votados se encuentra un ajuste del Manual de Iglesia y la aprobación de un cambio en la organización de las uniones de iglesias.

En la actualidad, el Manual de Iglesia está siendo reescrito por una subcomisión para simplificar su redacción y eliminar repeticiones innecesarias, dijo Bediako.

Asi mismo, en 2007, la Junta Directiva de la iglesia aprobó el uso más amplio de la distinción "uniones de iglesias," en las cuales se eliminan las asociaciones locales y un grupo de iglesias se relaciona de manera directa con la Asociación General.

Bediako dijo que la convocatoria también será un encuentro espiritual. El primer día contará con un tiempo de énfasis espiritual. Durante la sección administrativa del Congreso, las divisiones también presentará informes sobre el ministerio en sus territorios.

El Congreso se llevará a cabo desde el miércoles 23 de junio hasta el sábado 3 de julio de 2010.

Si desea más información, visite el sitio www. gcsession.org.

Source: Adventist News Network 30 de Julio del 2009

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/2009/07/delegateselection-b.html.

Llevado a cabo cada cinco años, el Congreso de la AG es la reunión administrativa internacional de la Iglesia Adventista mundial. La denominación cuenta con unos 16 millones de miembros en 207 países.

división seleccionará sus delegados v enviará los nombres a su oficina antes del fin de este año.

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Aunque comenzó en los Estados Unidos en la década de 1860, el movimiento se ha extendido: en la actualidad, alrededor de uno de cada tres miembros viven en el África y otro tercio vive en América del Sur y Central.

Los delegados con poder de voto representan a las

rencia de la "unión misión," aue no lo es.

Las asociaciones y las uniones asociaciones envían su presidente y dos delegados adicionales al Congreso, mientras que las misiones y las uniones misiones envían solo un delegado adicional además de su presidente.

Todos los delegados tienen que ser miembros regulares de la Iglesia Adventista, según expresa la Constitución de la Iglesia Adventista.

La Constitución también determina que al menos el cincuenta por ciento de los delegados tiene que estar compuesto por laicos, pastores, docentes y emplealos presidentes de división, el secretario y los asociados, el tesorero y sus asociados, así como los de los directores departamentales.

Si bien los asociados de los departamentos por lo general han estado sujetos a reelección en el congreso, el Congreso 2010 podría marcar un cambio en esta tradición. En 2008, la Junta Directiva de la iglesia mundial aprobó una medida por la cual retrasaría la elección de los asociados de los departamentos hasta el primer Concilio Anual posterior al Congreso mundial, que suele llevarse a cabo en el otoño septentrional. Esto daría tiempo para que los recién elegidos líderes



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October 2009	2	9	16	23	30	
Bangor, ME	6:11	5:58	5:46	5:35	5:24	
Portland, ME	6:18	6:05	5:54	5:43	5:32	
Boston, MA	6:22	6:10	5:58	5:48	5:38	
South Lancaster, MA	6:24	6:12	6:01	5:50	5:40	
Pittsfield, MA	6:30	6:18	6:07	5:56	5:47	
Hartford, CT	6:28	6:17	6:05	5:55	5:46	
New York, NY	6:34	6:23	6:12	6:02	5:53	
Albany, NY	6:31	6:19	6:07	5:57	5:47	
Utica, NY	6:38	6:26	6:14	6:03	5:53	
Syracuse, NY	6:41	6:29	6:18	6:07	5:57	
Rochester, NY	6:47	6:35	6:24	6:13	6:03	
Buffalo, NY	6:52	6:40	6:29	6:18	6:08	
Hamilton, Bda	6:59	6:51	6:42	6:35	6:28	

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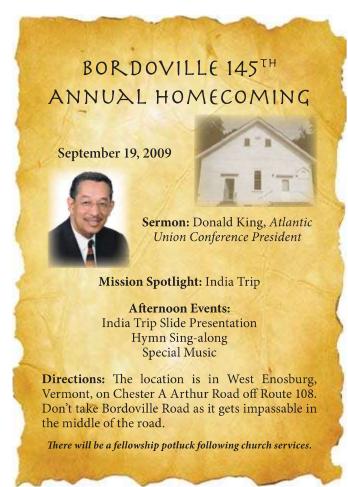
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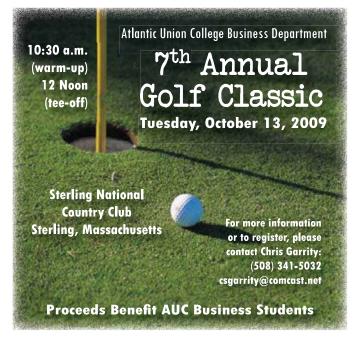
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