

THE ATLANTIC UNION

OCTOBER 2009

GLEANER



Courage to Stand

Highlights of the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee

Quoi de Neuf?

Youth Connections

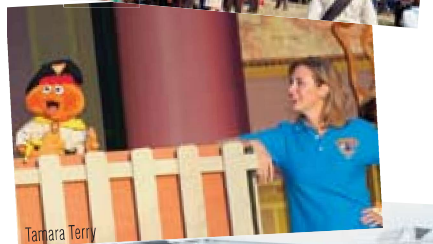
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MISSION STATEMENT

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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IN THIS ISSUE...

4,500 Pathfinders from the Atlantic Union joined the more than 35,000 Pathfinders who journeyed to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee. In this issue, we share highlights of that event. The cover photos, beginning clockwise from the top left, were taken by Tamara Terry, Paul Watson, Steven Norman, Paul Watson, Adventist Mission, and Paul Watson.

When Money Dies



We should not permit poverty, the economy, and financial turmoil to prevent us from returning our tithes and offerings and being good stewards.



For the past decade we have experienced a time of relative prosperity in the world—but current events have been very troubling. Massive layoffs. Plunging stocks. Loss of consumer confidence. Evictions. Personal bankruptcies. Government raising taxes to meet budgets, etcetera.

The Bible tell us about two ladies who knew about times of economic hardship. Both were widows. The first widow was out one day gathering sticks. A stranger approached her and asked for some water to drink. As she was going for the water, he asked her to bring him a piece of bread also. This was more than the widow could handle. She remonstrated, “I do not have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a can. I am gathering a few sticks to take home that I may make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.”

She was in a desperate situation. It is difficult to believe, but countless numbers of people in our world today are just as desperate. They do not know for certain where their next meal is coming from.

The widow’s situation appeared helpless and hopeless in her eyes, but not in the eyes of the stranger. For the stranger was the prophet Elijah. He knew that God is a bountiful, giving, loving, caring, and merciful God.

Elijah said to the highly nervous woman, “Do not be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread, then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord the God of Israel says, ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the can of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.’” The widow did as Elijah said and there was food every day for Elijah, the woman, and her son.

The New Testament speaks of the second widow. One day this poor but dedicated woman was making her way quickly through a crowd of folks gathered in the temple. Some of the wealthier worshippers were throwing large amounts of money into the temple treasury. Shyly, this faithful

widow put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. This was the least one could put in the treasury. Rabbinic law forbade putting in just one coin; the smallest allowed was two. She put in the smallest amount possible.

Paying close attention, Jesus said to His disciples, “I tell you the truth. This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.”

Two widows had their own challenges in hard economic times. What do we do when the economic hardship comes to our house? What do we do when our needs are greater and our resources are meager? Do we stop returning tithes and offerings? Do we stop believing, trusting, obeying, and depending on God?

We should always trust in our loving Provider. Sometimes trusting in God is hard, but trust anyhow. The first widow lost all faith in society and God. The prophet Elijah helped to restore that faith. She trusted in Elijah and his God, and God kept His promise to her family.

We need to remember that there is Someone always watching over us. Jesus was watching over the second widow as she dropped the only two coins that she possessed, but she was willing to turn them over to God. That is trusting—having faith and hope that God will provide. Small wonder that Jesus commended her.

God was watching over the first widow also in a different way. They were all under God’s protection and watchful eye and so are we in this trying, challenging, and testing time. God is watching over us also.

We should not permit poverty, the economy, and financial turmoil to prevent us from returning our tithes and offerings and being good stewards. We should not stop laying up treasure in heaven. God pours out His blessings on the rich and the poor alike, if we are faithful stewards. Remember, God is watching over us . . . even when money dies. ①

Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.



Rich Herard



Terrence Bowen



Rich Herard

By Diane Thurber

COURAGE TO STAND

Highlights of the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee

Oh, We Are the Pathfinders Strong!

The strength of the Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder organization was evident as loaded cars, vans, and buses streamed through the gates of the EAA AirVenture Campgrounds in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, August 11-15. Several cyclists pedaled 550 miles across the country to the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee, an event that only occurs every five years.

In all, more than 36,000 Pathfinders made the journey to the camporee, themed "Courage to Stand." Among them were 4,500 Pathfinders from the Atlantic Union. Included in the tally of participants were 1,975 international guests from 10 Seventh-day Adventist divisions. More than 130 North American clubs hosted 1,500 international Pathfinders and youth leaders, and the remainder

camped independently or stayed in nearby hotels. The Atlantic Union hosted 166 Pathfinders and youth leaders from the South Pacific Division.

A plethora of recreational choices were available for the Pathfinders at both on-site and off-site locations in surrounding communities. These included activities such as ice skating, sailing, golfing, Frisbee golf, inflatables, archery, a petting zoo, a full-size model of the sanctuary, and many others too numerous to list. The airline hangars at Wittman Regional Airport adjacent to the campgrounds were filled to capacity each day as Pathfinders converged to complete activities from more than 120 honors offered.

Highlights of the daytime activities included the Suzuki Dream Team, the Talent Tent performers, the Native American village, the obstacle course,

and the daily afternoon on-site parades featuring clubs in full-dress uniform marching down the Midway to the beat of numerous drum corps teams who faithfully practiced day (and night).

Another highlight of the camporee was pin trading, which provided opportunities to interact with so many young people from different parts of the world. Even Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, got involved. He offered a specially crafted prayer pin to any Pathfinder willing to pray with someone they didn't know. Schneider gave out 2,500 pins at the camporee.

The Servants of God Are We

At the opening night, a search began to locate the oldest Pathfinder present at the camporee. Soon Donna Hooper, a



Jamara Terry



Gary Burns



Paul Watson



Steve Daum

Clockwise from left: Aerial view of the Pathfinders at Sabbath morning service; gateway to the Greater New York Conference campground; youth directors Bill Wood (Atlantic Union) and Barry Black (North American Division); Shaneece Earl and Leandra Gaymon from the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Calvary Generals help clean Honey Creek as part of community service; Northern New England Conference Pathfinders prepare to march in the parade; the Leominster Wampanoags from Massachusetts stand in front of the gateway to the Atlantic Union campground; the Clinton Golden Hawks drill team from Massachusetts during the competition; the Lockport church bike team, Jim Acre, Gary Riggs, Alex Acre, Joelle Acre, and Brendann Acre, biked more than 550 miles to the camporee.

91-year-old Master Guide from Calhoun, Georgia, was spotted riding around the campgrounds on her motorized scooter, offering to trade pins with the young people. She still enjoys teaching honors, too. What an inspiration she was as Pathfinders learned of her life of service!

On Sabbath, more than 400 Master Guides and TLTs (Teen Leaders in Training) were pinned during the Investiture portion of the morning service. As they stood throughout the mass of people that filled the assembly field and were invested by their local club leaders, eyes turned to admire and appreciate their dedication to Pathfinder ministry.

The camporee would not have been possible, according to camporee executive director Ron Whitehead, except for the more than 1,000 volunteers, paid staff, and summer camp staff. These individuals worked very long hours and endeavored to meet each need and request with a smile, to ensure the Pathfinders experienced the most from the camporee.

Among the volunteers were three Atlantic Union Conference healthcare

professionals: Sebastian Williams, an emergency medical technician (EMT), and Louisdon Pierre M.D., a Pediatric Intensive Care physician, both from the Northeastern Conference, and Herbert E. Goulding II M.D., a family physician who serves as the Greater New York Conference Health Ministries associate director. They were part of a team that provided acute care to the hundreds of campers who accessed the First Aid Center for help. Williams could be seen roaming the 300-acre camporee campground responding to patients who needed immediate care.

“The gratitude expressed by the many patients seen and cared for, and the camaraderie enjoyed with the other colleagues on the medical staff made volunteering enjoyable, exciting, and worthwhile. This is ministry in action,” says Goulding.

“It was just a blessing to be able to help and to share my expertise with the people of God,” added Pierre.

Faithful as We March Along

In addition to the daily on-site parades, on Sabbath more than 1,500 Pathfinders

boarded buses for downtown Oshkosh and marched in full dress uniform through the streets of Oshkosh to Menominee Park which borders Lake Winnebago. Townspeople gathered to see the young people who caused such a stir in their town since their arrival earlier that week. Many of these young people faithfully witnessed throughout the week as they met strangers in stores, restaurants, and at outreach sites. The march concluded with a rally at Leach Amphitheater, where the world church youth director, Baraka Muganda, challenged parade attendees to adopt healthy lifestyles and better living.

In Kindness, Truth, and Purity

Goals for the camporee included encouraging the Pathfinders to look outward—to contribute to those in the surrounding communities. More than 20 off-site community service projects were attended by thousands of Pathfinders. These included places like Heckrodt Wetland Preserve, The Paine Art Center and Gardens, and the Sheldon Nature Center. The young people’s presence and impact

Drill and Drum Results

A “shout out” to the following teams who displayed their talents and skills in the following areas:

Basic Drill

Shalom Conquerors (GNYC) - 2nd Place
Spanish Central Brooklyn (GNYC) - 2nd Place

Fancy Drill

Clinton Golden Hawks (SNEC) - 1st Place
Faith Golden Eagles (NEC) - 2nd Place
Mezulah (NEC) - 2nd Place
Philadelphia Lions (NEC) 2nd Place
Genesis (NEC) - 3rd Place
Shalom Conquerors (GNYC) - 3rd Place
Silent Knights (SNEC) - 3rd Place

Drum Corps

Philadelphia Lions (NEC) - 2nd Place
Mezulah, Senior Team (NEC) - 3rd Place
Mount Vernon Dolphin, Junior Team (NEC) - 3rd Place
Worcester Doves of Peace (SNEC) - 3rd Place

were felt throughout Oshkosh. Many they serviced were impressed by the Pathfinders’ willing spirit and attitude while working. Also a surprise was their quickness to complete tasks.

Locks of Love representatives were stationed at a booth at the campgrounds to cut hair of Pathfinders who wished to donate their long tresses to disadvantaged children who are unable to grow hair because of a medical condition.

Pathfinders lined up on Friday of the camporee to donate blood to the American Red Cross at the Blood Drive. Sarah Stevermer, communications and public relations specialist for the Mid-America Blood Services Division, says 20 pints were collected at the camporee. There is a careful health screening process involved for blood donation and many of the Pathfinders were under the legal age allowed or there would have been more blood collected.

Throughout the campgrounds acts of kindness were witnessed. Whether assisting a friend carrying a heavy load, picking up debris from the assembly field (each Pathfinder was challenged to pick up 10 pieces of litter a day) or sharing food or camping supplies when needed, many young people demon-

strated the familiar Pathfinder spirit of caring for others.

A Message to Tell to the World

Each night at designated sites at the assembly field, Pathfinders delivered Bibles they had collected back home since 2004. At the 2004 camporee, 32,000 Bibles were collected. At the 2009 camporee, the challenge was to collect 35,000 English and Spanish Bibles. These Bibles will be delivered to mission sites in Ghana, Belize, Brazil, and India in 2010. The Sabbath morning offering appeal by Kevin Gutierrez urged Pathfinders to donate one dollar each to raise the \$35,000 needed to cover shipping costs or to purchase Bibles in native languages. To learn more about the upcoming Pathfinder evangelism mission trips, visit www.adventistyouth.org.

James Black, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, spoke Sabbath morning and challenged Pathfinders to have purpose, determination, and focus as they stand for the Lord in their communities. He stressed, “The devil is trying to convince you that all your efforts for God are useless. But don’t you believe it for a minute. . . . I believe God is going to use many of you to do things that have never been done before . . . your time is now. God has called us to the camporee for such a time as now . . . so you can get your marching orders.” He also encouraged them to look for people near them who need help or need to know about Jesus and make it happen. He said, “I believe God is raising up a young people who, when you pray in the name of Jesus, something will happen.” He emphasized, “Before you go anywhere to stand anywhere around this world, you make sure you stand at home first . . . stand in your neighborhood and in your community. . . . Go elsewhere to practice what you do here.” In conclusion, Black asked, “Jesus stood for you. Who will stand for Him?” He invited the crowd

to repeat in unison, “I will stand” if it was their desire to stand for Jesus, which they did with much enthusiasm.

A Truth that Will Set Us Free

Pathfinders were encouraged to contemplate the life of Esther, a young Jewish girl who was placed in King Xerxes’ palace to accomplish God’s purpose for His people at that time in history. In his opening message to Pathfinders in the PathfinderTODAY newsletter, Whitehead challenged those at the camporee by saying: “Even if those around you compromise and fall, I challenge you to always have the ‘courage to stand’ because He stood for you on the cross! He loves you so much! And He is coming back for you soon, so stand strong!”

A prayer journal was given to the young people; it included information about Esther and the world she lived in, and thought questions and places to write personal responses.

At the beginning of each evening program, Pathfinders joined in chorus to sing the theme song, “Courage to Stand,” written by Emily Beth Bond of the Southwestern Union.

Nightly, the Pathfinders sat with rapt attention as “Courage to Stand: The Story of Esther” was portrayed by a 24-member cast and approximately 40 extras and guards. Esther’s story of courage in adversity and her stand for truth encouraged many Pathfinders to also stand with courage in a world that challenges them with many temptations. Some were so inspired by Esther’s stand for the Lord that they decided to join the Sabbath afternoon baptism service where 518 Pathfinders publicly made a commitment to Jesus and were baptized. Thirty-six of those baptized were from the Atlantic Union. It was incredible to listen as these names were read and watch as groups of eight to ten Pathfinders stepped into one of two large swimming pools with the pastors who would baptize them. Family



and friends jockeyed for space to view the baptisms. Some who were baptized Sabbath afternoon had waited two years or more for the experience of being baptized with so many other committed Pathfinders, and others were convicted at the camporee when Hunter Murray, the keynote speaker from Queensland, Australia, made an appeal after each evening program. As the groups of Pathfinders emerged from the pools, they were handed helium-filled balloons with their names on them, which they released toward heaven together—a symbol of their commitment to Jesus and their desire to have their name written in the Book of Life.

King Jesus the Savior's Coming Back for You and Me

As the sun set before the closing night's program, whispers and gasps were heard throughout the assembly field as many pointed to a remarkable cloud

formation in the sky. When an airplane intersected a vertical cloud formation, the plane's exhaust created the shape of a cross that was prominently displayed in the sky. Some called it miraculous, and many expressed their belief that it was a sign the Lord was present at the event.

After the last Esther play concluded, an animated announcement introduced the theme of the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee, "Forever Faithful." The next camporee will focus on the life of Daniel, a courageous Hebrew boy who remained faithful to the Lord through much adversity in his life. This theme selection resulted in spontaneous cheers by the Pathfinders.

Whitehead closed the camporee by saying, "See you at the next camporee . . . or in heaven." Though many enjoyed the camporee, many expressed their belief that a reunion in heaven would far surpass the experience. A much-enjoyed fireworks display fol-

lowed Whitehead's remarks and punctuated the end of a memorable camporee.

The next camporee in North America is scheduled for August 12-16, 2014, in Oshkosh.

Pathfinders may learn more about the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee by visiting www.adventistyouth.com. ☺

Diane Thurber is the assistant director of communication for the Lake Union Conference and Ednor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor.

Clockwise from top left: Frank Tochtermann, Southern New England Conference president, and his wife, Sally, volunteered their time to be a part of the prayer group. Prayer tents were located throughout the campgrounds with staff available to pray with anyone who wanted prayer; many individuals took advantage of the obstacle course provided by the Atlantic Union; actors on stage during performance of the play about Esther; Sebastian Williams, EMT, Louisdon Pierre M.D., and Herbert E. Goulding II, M.D., were volunteers at the First Aid Center; Greater New York Conference Pathfinder leaders set the pace during the parade; Tim Dixon from Trinity Temple Church in Poughkeepsie, New York, shows off his skateboard tricks at the Pathfinder skate park; approximately 35,000 attend the opening night ceremony of the "Courage to Stand" International Pathfinder Camporee; and members of the Pembroke Golden Leopards Pathfinder Club from Bermuda.



Tamara Terry



Debbie Bezerra



Tamara Terry



Patrick Graham



Stacy Griggs



Rich Herard



Rich Herard



By Sylvan Lashley

“An Ounce of Prevention . . .”

The old adage, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” applies to many things including the cars we drive. Money spent on good tires and regular maintenance will prevent serious injuries on the road and represents an excellent investment in operational safety.

The education of our children offers a comparison, yet, some parents frequently wait until it is too late to act, despite the admonition of scripture “to train up a child in the way he should go . . .” (Proverbs 22:6). In our search for quality in our schools, we may identify two types of costs—the cost of prevention (poor education choices), and the cost of fixing (bad education choices).

The cost of fixing a problem represents the amount of money that the school and the parent will spend when a child fails to achieve or reach some desired standard. It costs much more to fix a problem at the end of the day than it does to prevent it in the first place. Some estimates suggest that the cost of fixing a problem represents more than 30 percent of the original cost.

Our time and resources should be invested in the cost of prevention. In the prevention stage, we are putting systems in place and investing

in the welfare of our children. We are selecting schools, choosing teachers, and choosing a specific curriculum, all of which contribute to the eternal welfare of our children. Our educational system has built-in evaluation

While we can fix some problems before our children complete school, it is sometimes just too late to rectify those issues after graduation.

and inspection tools to ensure that our children and schools are reaching their objectives.

The problem-fixing stage consists of adjusting situations after the fact. While we can fix some problems before our children complete school, it is

sometimes just too late to rectify those issues after graduation. It is so much easier to spend our money on prevention because “an ounce of prevention is worth [more than] a pound of cure.”

Whereas in the automotive industry it is possible to repair and recall cars that have defects, we cannot “recall our children,” but we can engage in remedial activities. Obviously, widespread collaboration must occur among pastors, teachers, and administrators to ensure that the products of our schools do not become useless items.

The implications for Seventh-day Adventist education are extraordinary. We risk losing time and resources when we ignore the need to invest in prevention before it is too late. Is not an ounce of prevention better than a pound of cure? Does not Isaiah 54:13 call for “all . . . children . . . to be taught of the Lord?” Are not parents accountable? Perhaps today, you can make a decision for “an ounce of prevention.” ☺



Sylvan Lashley is the Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools.

Fourteen Baptized at Youth Meeting

Sixteen-year-old tenth-grader Kojo Twumasi, of the Queens Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ozone Park, Queens, presented a two-week evangelistic meeting at the First Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York.

Code-named “Dare to Be Different,” the young people of the First Ghana district took charge of the planning and organizing under the leadership of Master Guide Nana Yaw Asiedu Baffour. According to the youth leader, “The young people have been praying and planning for this evangelistic meeting for more than a year now in

has entrusted to the church, the young people decided to approach their peers through friendship evangelism. Months before the meeting they busied themselves distributing religious literature and extended invitations to other teenagers as a way of introducing them to the unique teachings of the Adventist church. Some of them encouraged friends to attend the annual North American Ghanaian youth camp and check out for themselves the difference it makes in the lives of young people.

The young people and their leaders selected Kojo Twumasi from

ing for and they were not disappointed at all by what they heard every night.”

The nightly messages were preceded by a dental health talk given by one of the youngsters, Justice Osei Tutu. He used his graphic PowerPoint presentations to focus mainly on dental hygiene and proper care and maintenance of teeth. To sustain the young people’s continual interest, Tutu and the young people distributed some toothbrushes and toothpaste as an incentive to those who came every night without missing a single lecture.

Some of the young people also served as ushers and greeters. There were those who formed groups to sing every night and those who conducted the nightly quizzes and gave out gifts to the visitors. Others registered visitors and set up the electrical equipment. A prayer group, comprised of young people, devoted themselves to prayer and fasting for the success of the series.

On the final Sabbath, 14 people responded to the promptings of Christ’s invitation and were baptized. Once again the church saw the wisdom in the inspired writings of Ellen G. White



Fourteen people were baptized as a result of the two-week series of evangelistic meetings presented by 16-year-old tenth-grader, Kojo Twumasi, at the First Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York.

who wrote: “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world.”

The Greater New York Conference Multi-ethnic Ministries director, Hermann Kuma, attended some of the meetings to boost the young people and gave thanks to God for what He has done through the young people. I, as district pastor, along with the board of elders praised God and we plan to make youth evangelism a yearly event.

—S.K. Twumasi, pastor, Queens Ghana church

A prayer group, comprised of young people, devoted themselves to prayer and fasting for the success of the series.

order to make a difference in their own lives and that of their non-Adventist friends.” The focus, he said, “was to use a young preacher to target the youngsters who will speak their language, use an illustration that appeals to the teenagers, and at the same time motivate peers to meet Christ personally.” At the end of the two weeks, the parents of these youngsters saw the fulfillment of God’s prophecy through the prophet Joel—that in the last days He will pour His Holy Spirit upon the young people who will prophesy.

Wanting to be part of the evangelistic thrust that God

the Rockaway Region 5 Scholars’ Academy. Twumasi is known for his simple, yet powerful, biblical sermons that have been impacting the young people in the area churches for some time now. Every night he, in his own unique style, preached the word of the Lord with power and clarity. His nightly messages included his own personal illustrations that demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit. According to First Ghana church youth leader and Master Guide Prince Acheampong, “This proved to be exactly what the young people were look-

What’s Happening in Your Church?

If you have news or other inspiring stories from your church that you would like to share with our readers, we would love to hear from you!

E-mail your stories with the photos attached as separate files (not embedded in a Word document or the e-mail message) to the Greater New York Conference communication director. Be sure and include a caption with each photo and name of the photographer if that is available.

For information on what types of stories to submit, visit www.atlantic-union.org/gleaner5.html.



Alanzo Smith
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Greater New York Conference
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Our Neighbor Meets Jesus

The Buskirk Seventh-day Adventist Community Church is a church plant operated by its members. The appointed minister visits three to four times a year. The local elders and the church members take turns teaching and preaching. The church is out in the country on NY 67 across from a lovely, old covered bridge. The church building was in need of repair three years ago when it was purchased, but today it has two new Sabbath school rooms and two new bathrooms. It is completely refurbished and now glistens in the sunshine.

Lawrence Grover, a handyman neighbor from across the street, helped the members whenever they worked on a church project. He even mowed the lawn with his mower when one wasn't available, and he generally watched over the church. He became a real

friend to the members.

One evening, church member Miriam Ford felt strongly impressed to drive to the Grover home and tell them the plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation. She made a phone call asking if she might be allowed to come at that late hour on such short notice, and they graciously consented. Upon arrival, one could see that they had been preparing for bed, but they invited their late visitor to sit at the dining room table and tell them what was on her mind. She explained the urgent impression and immediately began to tell the story of salvation, which took an hour and a half. As the visit proceeded, tears began to fill the couples' eyes and spill down their faces. Mostly they just listened and wept. When their late night visitor rose to leave, she embraced them.



Church neighbors Lawrence, left, and Cora Grover outside the Buskirk church with Dale Ford, a church elder. Lawrence Grover was baptized on May 2.

Since that night, Miriam has studied often with the Grovers. Because Cora Grover reads very well and has become a real Bible student, Lawrence has appointed her as his daily teacher. She and Lawrence spend many hours studying their Bibles together, and they attend Sabbath school, church, and prayer meeting.

Mr. Grover tells how he knew that God had something special for his family when the old church was sold again

this time to a Seventh-day Adventist church group. He has always loved the old church, and now it is his church. On May 2, the Grover family with his wife, Cora, son, Larry, and other family members were present as Mr. Grover stepped into the baptistry. That Sabbath day the angels rejoiced in heaven with a group of God's people in the tiny settlement of Buskirk, New York.

—Julie Lawwill, communication secretary, Buskirk church

Evangelism Springs to Life in Camden, New York

The Camden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Camden, New York, held a "United States in Prophecy" seminar on July 24 and 25. Roy Weeden, a pastor from Mason City, Iowa, presented this dynamic way of teaching Bible truth, especially with interest in last-day events. Close to 40 people attended.

From this seminar, a Bible study group began meeting on Tuesday nights to watch the Prophecy Code with Doug Batchelor, president/speaker of Amazing Facts. Twenty-eight people are attending these meetings, which will continue until our fall evangelism series with pastors Roger Curtis and Bob Hess in October and November. We continue to pray for a harvest for the Lord.

—Doreen Weeden, Sabbath school superintendent, Camden church



Union Springs Academy Open House & Academy Days

Come experience academy life

visit classes Have fun at the "Almost There" fair Stay in the dorms

WHO: Grades 7-11

WHEN: November 15-16, 4:00 P.M. Sunday – 2 P.M. Monday

WHERE: Union Springs Academy

FOR MORE INFO: Contact us at (315) 889-7314

www.myusacademy.org

40 Spring Street • Union Springs, New York

A New Mission of Community Outreach

Mission is a complex word, especially within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From our earliest years we are exposed to the term missionary through the mission

spotlight segments and the letters of friends and family from afar. But what about the people we see here, where we live, work, and pray? Cortland Christian Radio, WDRX-LP 100.7 FM,

has been broadcasting since 2004 with a new mission of outreach to our community.

Almost 100 people attended our recent lawn party concert. During the preparation, we had no idea what to expect. We advertised where we could on a very limited budget and we told the local churches (Adventist and non-Adventist) about the event.

Local businesses supported the event by setting up displays. Triangle Lifestyle Center brought freshly baked, made-to-order, whole grain bread. Some attendees even tried out an oat burger from our food



Jeff Hunt and Dennie Shortleif were guest artists at the lawn party sponsored by the Cortland Christian radio station.



stand. The interaction was great and the volunteer crew felt we had accomplished our goal of reaching out to our community.

—Cortland Radio Station staff

Stepping Forward in Faith



Lorrie Schrader, right, stands with her interpreter during one of her ShareHim/Quiet Hour evangelistic meetings in San Salvador.

“Lord, don’t let me stand in the way of your work. Don’t let me be a hindrance. In spite of myself, please use me as your instrument.” That was my prayer one evening before standing up to preach in San Salvador this past July. I was there with a

group from Southern Adventist University conducting an evangelistic series in cooperation with the ShareHim and Quiet Hour program. As I waited to take the stage and present the Word of God, I realized my own weaknesses.

In spite of myself, I stepped forward in faith that Christ would bless my willingness. And bless He did! It was by no means easy, but God’s Word came through with clarity. The encouragement of others was priceless. The blessings have been extraordinary. I don’t plan on becoming an evangelist, but I see that fear is never a reason not to do God’s work. Slowly, but mercifully, God is breaking down this barrier. I am so grateful.

I felt unworthy and yet God taught me that the only qualification for presenting the Word of God is a heart for Jesus. None are worthy because none can measure up. However, God’s grace covers us. As we submit to Jesus, He takes responsibility for the outcome of our work. I did nothing extraordinary. It was all God. I did nothing to convict anyone of their need for Jesus. God did it through me. All He needs from us is to be willing to step forward in faith. He will do the rest.

—Lorrie Schrader, Tioga County church member and 2009 Southern Adventist University graduate

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 abceshopgirl@yahoo.com.



The Gift of Service

Atlantic Union College, which has for 127 years prepared students to serve in the larger world, is itself the grateful recipient of freely rendered service from constituents, alumni, neighbors, and the local Adventist church family. Although this is not new in the life of the college, it was particularly true in Summer, 2009.

Colleges traditionally use summers to strengthen their infrastructures, to spruce up their physical plants. For colleges like AUC, however, without large endowments, summers are lean times financially with little tuition money available. This summer, with the world's economy in trouble, AUC was blessed by the service of volunteers.

Most dramatically, volunteers from the College Church of Seventh-day Adventists assembled on four weekends to paint, tile, and repair build-

ings wherever needed, with a strong emphasis on student housing. To Don Pate, the church's new pastor, stewardship, a Christian responsibility, made helping the College Church's college a natural part of church life. [See interview below.] AUC president Norman Wendth describes the effect that church volunteers had on dormitory students: "Students notice not only the improvement in their dorms, they note that the church/alumni community cares enough to give them time and effort. To know that people are working for them means a lot to them."

As summer progressed, volunteers from other churches, singly or in

pairs, served also. Leslie Aho, a stonemason from Ashburnham, contributed his skills at dry wall construction to repair the wall at the Rossway,

"Volunteers from the College Church assembled on four weekends to paint, tile, and repair buildings wherever needed, with a strong emphasis on student housing."

married student housing. Inside the Rossway housing units, Del Braman, of the Lancaster Village Church of Seventh-day Adventists, repaired,

Volunteering for AUC

An interview with Don Pate, pastor, College Church of Seventh-day Adventists, South Lancaster, Massachusetts

Thank you, Pastor Pate, for agreeing to this interview.

DP: You're more than welcome.

AUC: What gave you the idea to organize church volunteers for AUC?

DP: My parents have been involved in more than 100 Maranatha projects around the world. I've seen the evidence of the good that can be done by willing and capable volunteers when they are given a vision and empowered to get it done.

AUC: To whom did you talk about it?

DP: I first floated the idea at a forum hosted by AUC president Dr. Norman Wendth on the Sabbath afternoon of AUC's alumni weekend. Apparently the idea took on a life of its own as people began to approach me to see how we could actuate it.

AUC: Who decided which areas needed the most help?

DP: The administration of the college assigned various staff members to spend several hours touring the campus one afternoon. We looked at many areas of need and prioritized what might be accomplished based upon several criteria: 1) What could we actually tackle and accomplish with such a team? 2) What would bring the fastest "return on investment" in campus "street-appeal," student support, and potential income to the college?

AUC: How did you organize?

DP: Various AUC staff members participated in an organizing committee. These were joined by David Keith (from the Atlantic Union office), Henry Livergood (College Church

member and community representative), and John Satelmajer (AUC alumni president). I was asked to serve as the "neutral" chairman of the committee.

AUC: Did AUC provide materials?

DP: Yes. The AUC staff representatives purchased paint and tile and supplies in advance of the times when we would need them.

AUC: How many sessions and hours of labor were involved?

DP: Our committee targeted four weekends. On Friday we worked from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Sunday we worked from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. AUC provided meals for the volunteers, and we started each day with a short devotional prior to organization.





sanded, and repainted walls. His wife Jean sped his work along, unscrewing lighting units and applying masking tape as needed, making this project a family venture. Del Braman began volunteering for AUC long ago. He worked for many years as AUC's master painter, and for much of that time he was on call every third weekend, contributing his weekend time rather than collecting pay for it.

In early March 2009, James Campbell of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, drove to South Lancaster and began clearing out weeds and winter waste from AUC's flower beds, preparing them for alumni weekend, April 16-19. (He is an alumnus, Class of '54). After alumni weekend, Campbell continued tending the flower beds until this summer's rains drove him away,

but he returned in August, essentially to start again.

He first rescued the flower beds in 2007. Once, they had been an admired feature of campus landscape, but staffing cuts—only one groundskeeper on summer payroll—had forced their neglect. Campbell started his rescue mission with the bed at the entrance to the Jones library, and his work spread across campus from there, removing weeds and restoring beauty. In 2008 he was missing from campus—knee surgery—and the gardens demonstrated his absence. This year he is back, tending beds around the library, the administration building, both residence halls, and Prescott House. His knee is fine, he says. Gardening, he has found, is good exercise and it speeds recovery. "The campus looks better," says

President Norman Wendth, "and Jim Campbell's efforts are a significant part of that!"

Volunteering—freely spending and being spent for others—can also be habit-forming. Among the College Church members contributing their time and sweat to AUC this summer were Henry Livergood, retired AUC Food Service director, and a number of others who regularly travel with him to work for church projects in Venezuela, St. Croix, and—last January—Barbados. They are confidently and prayerfully waiting for permission from the Barbadian government to return there on January 1 to continue the work they have begun. Meanwhile, they volunteer close to home.

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

AUC: How many people participated?

DP: Some days we had about eight wonderful volunteers; on others we had about 15. Student laborers were also assigned to participate with the volunteers.

AUC: What is your personal background with the kinds of work you did during these sessions?

DP: Mostly I took part in the painting, but I did have the privilege of working with Timothy Trott (AUC faculty member and College Church elder) on tiling in the men's dorm lobby. Through the years I've had a lot of experience with both of these skills.

AUC: What is your most positive memory from this venture?

DP: Probably the sweetest moment of all was when a young man approached me in the lobby of the dorm and started to tear up. Finally, with tears running down his cheeks, he said, "I can't believe you'd do this for us! You have no idea what this means to me—that you'd give us your

time this way to make our dorm better!" That was sweet.

AUC: What was the response from AUC to this project? And from the participants?

DP: Dr. Norman Wendth has several times expressed, for the AUC administration, his true appreciation. More than that, I especially felt it from both the student laborers who were assigned to work with us and from the young men in the dorm who asked several times, "Do you need any help?"

I know the volunteers didn't do it for the thanks or the recognition. They just saw a need and knew that they had both the privilege and responsibility to make a difference.

AUC: Are there any plans for future volunteer efforts at AUC?

DP: Originally it was envisioned that we could make this type of project a "sweat-eAUCuity" camp meeting event for the Atlantic Union family. It would be a huge undertaking and the logis-

tics would be massive, but the benefits would be enormous on several levels:

- 1) We would re-engage the union family in the fabric of our campus,
- 2) We would make a personal re-investment in the upkeep of the school that heaven has given into our stewardship, and
- 3) We would provide tons of visible benefit to the atmosphere and psyche of the Atlantic Union College family.

We could organize a week of solid work, with the College Church providing marvelous morning and evening worships. That's why we'd call it a "sweat-eAUCuity camp meeting."

Again, this would be a ton of work, and we are prayerfully considering whether or not we have the energy and the critical mass to make it a reality.

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



“Sharing the Hope . . . Reaping

Adult Theme



Northeastern Conference Camp Meeting Highlights

Thousands of members from around the conference territory and beyond attended the 2009 Northeastern Conference camp meeting. In addition to the usual youth and adult services, there were services for children, teens, and young adults. The services in each of the venues were power-packed and filled to capacity. The youth and young adult services used the Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Department’s 2009 theme, “Finish the Race.” The adult services were conducted using the theme “Sharing the Hope . . . Reaping the Harvest.”

Camp meeting concluded with a baptism in both the adult and youth pavilions. We praise the Lord for the 120 new members who were added to the family of God.

—Trevor H. C. Baker, president, Northeastern Conference; Photos: Gregory Hodge, Keicha Gosling, and Stephen Williams

NORTHEASTERN
Stephen Williams, communication director

the Harvest . . . ”



“Finish the Race”

Youth Theme

Marlene Alvarez Joins the Atlantic Union Conference

The Atlantic Union Conference welcomed Marlene Alvarez and her husband, Gary, in July 2009 as the new certification registrar and assistant director for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). As certification registrar, she replaced Frances Hunter, who served in that position on a part-time basis. Hunter retired at the end of June.

Before coming to the Atlantic Union, Alvarez served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the New York City area as teacher at the Hebron Bilingual school (1988-1995), Excelsior elementary school (1995-1996), as vice principal and principal of the Hebron Bilingual school (1996-2006), and principal of Northeastern Academy (2006-2009).

She has also served on several boards and committees, includ-



Marlene Alvarez

ing the Atlantic Union Conference K-12 Board, the Atlantic Union Conference Curriculum Committee, and the Teacher Bulletin Committee.

Alvarez graduated from Brooklyn College 1988 with a bachelor's degree in special education/ele-

mentary education. She received a Master of Education degree in administration and supervision from Atlantic Union College in 1996 and a Master of Education in curriculum development in 1997.

"Early Childhood Education and Care is a new position in the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education. In her capacity as assistant director of ECEC, Alvarez will coordinate a cohesive, quality, Christ-centered ECEC system within the Atlantic Union. As part of her responsibilities, she will provide regional in-service education for conference school-based ECEC personnel. We solicit your prayers as we implement the biblical injunction that 'All children shall be taught of the Lord,'" says Astrid Thomassian, education director.

Ednor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor

That We All May Be One

When I saw the advertising flier for the African Fellowship Day on Sabbath, May 23, I knew I had to be there. I suspected that there would be lots of music and I was not disappointed. Six choirs and singing groups from Ghanaian churches in the Atlantic Union were featured in the divine service.

You might be wondering just how long the service would last if five choirs

performed. Let's just say that the guest speaker, Kwabena Donkor, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland, didn't get up to preach until nearly 2:00 p.m. But no one seemed worried about the time. Everyone just seemed to be enjoying the richness of the very special spiritual, social, and cultural occasion.

The spoken word was in English; the choirs, however, generally sang in Twi, a

language spoken in Ghana. A praise team from the Leominster All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church led a spirited gathering song, "He Has Done Marvelous Things." Choirs that performed hailed from Worcester, Yonkers, Queens, and Providence.

The sounds and sights of the congregation singing were both impressive and pleasing. Common pieces were sung in beautiful four-part harmony.

Accompaniment matched the type of congregational song: organ/keyboards, piano, drums, and trumpet at times. One of the choirs used a cowbell and gourd shekeres, traditional African instruments.

It was a delightful day in the company of African Adventist brothers and sisters!



Officiating at the service were, from left to right, pastors Sampson Appiah-Kubi, Brooklyn Ghana church and Eric Voyard, Lowell All Nations church, Hermann Kuma, Greater New York Conference Multi-Ethnic Ministries director, and Louis Métellus, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Haitian and African ministries.

—Carol Swinyar, Music Ministries volunteer director, Southern New England Conference

Excerpts reprinted with permission from the SINGING CHURCH newsletter, May-June 2009, vol. 2, no. 6.



One of six choirs and singing groups that participated in the African Fellowship Day service.

Inspire - Equip - Deploy

ROAD MAP TO 2010

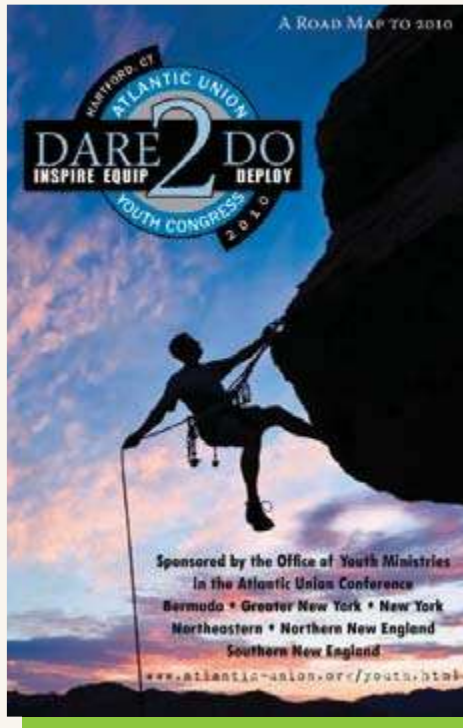
Several months ago each church in the Atlantic Union was sent several copies of a booklet entitled, A ROAD MAP TO 2010. On the cover was a logo with the theme “Dare 2 Do, Inspire, Equip, Deploy.” The theme was chosen by the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries directors and the road map will lead us to a destination—the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Congress scheduled for October 14–17, 2010, in Hartford, Connecticut.

The question to all local church youth leaders, Pathfinder leaders, and pastors in our union is, “Where are you now, many months later?” What have you done to inspire, equip, and deploy the youth of your church? This year the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department, in partnership with the local conference youth directors, has conducted several YMIs (Youth Ministries Intensives) throughout the union. These events are separate from the traditional youth and Pathfinder events planned in each conference. The YMI training events are intended to “Equip our leaders and youth to be deployed in various ministries of the local church.”

It is time take inventory of what has happened and cast a vision about what can happen in your local youth ministry. There have been many youth evangelistic meetings held, many small group ministries started, mission trips conducted, and we praise God for that, but can we do better?

The ROAD MAP booklet outlines several youth initiatives that we encourage our youth leaders and youth to become involved in:

- **Outreach Ministries**
- **Prayer Ministries**
- **Small Group Ministries**
- **YouTube Evangelism**
- **Community Services**
- **Young Adult Ministries**
- **Youth Evangelism**
- **Mission Trips**



The ROAD MAP booklet is a “how-to manual” on ways to accomplish each of these ministries, accompanied by many helpful resources and tools.

The goal of the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department is to have a “great army of youth” equipped with material to help finish God’s work in this union. Every young person in our union has a unique gift that can be used. The ministries highlighted above give our youth opportunities to use their God-given gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul points out that God has given each different gifts so that the body of Christ can be fitly joined together.

So what can you do? Look for the booklet that was mailed to your church. If you can’t find it, contact your local conference youth ministries department or

let us know, and we will send you one. Choose a ministry or ministries that you can do with your youth. Train them and release them to accomplish something great for God. Here is a simple formula you can use:

PRAY for God’s direction.

RECRUIT the youth.

ENCOURAGE them to get involved; they can do it!

TRAIN – provide hands-on experiences.

EQUIP – give them the tools necessary to accomplish the goal.

DEPLOY – let them go and do it.

You can connect with our department by calling (978) 368-8333 or sending an e-mail to youthministries@atlanticunion.org. The booklet can also be accessed on the Atlantic Union Web site: www.atlantic-union.org/youth.html. God bless you as you take the steps necessary to engage our youth in genuine, worthwhile, life-changing ministries. ☺



Bill Wood is the director for the Youth Ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer departments in the Atlantic Union Conference.



Conway Church Conducts Living Free Seminar



People from the community attended the Living Free seminars conducted by the Conway Seventh-day Adventist Church.

About 25 people from the community attended the Living Free seminar conducted by the Conway

Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was the second time that the six-week series was being presented.

Jay Neil, Sr., M.D., was the presenter and Amelda Neil, Diane Blakeney, and Heather Blakeney prepared food for sampling. They shared information regarding healthful living and healthy vegetarian recipes.

Those who attended showed interest in the information that was distributed, and some testified about the help they had received in overcoming personal addic-

tions. Many of the church members attended and gave their support.

At a follow-up meeting, everyone who had attended previously brought a dish of food that they prepared using the skills they learned from the seminar. They also had the opportunity to share their own personal goals.

Plans have already been made for two more seminars, Breathe Free and Depression Free.

—Darlene Cyr, deaconess, Conway church

Amazing Adventure Series Encourages Baptisms

On Sabbath, August 1, Cody Haggett, Trevor Haggett, and Beth Thomas were baptized at the Concord Seventh-day Adventist Church in Concord, New Hampshire. The three children expressed an interest in baptism during an evangelistic series held for the young people last fall. The DVD series called Amazing Adventure by Doug Bachelor, president/speaker of Amazing Facts, was shown three nights per week for four weeks and the meetings were well-attended.

The young people studied and prepared for baptism with Cliff Gleason, the church's pastor. These young people are the second group that has been baptized as a result of this effort (the first group was baptized in June). There are even more preparing for a future baptism date!

We are overjoyed at the decisions being made by the young people in our church as a result of the Amazing Adventure series.

—Cheryl Johnson, communication secretary, Concord church



Cody Haggett, Trevor Haggett, and Beth Thomas were baptized by Pastor Cliff Gleason following an Amazing Adventure series.

Backpacks and Bibles

The Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Keene, New Hampshire, started a group called "Backpacks and Bibles." The group gets together to hike for about one hour to a predetermined site, have a Bible study, and then hike back to their point of origin. Originally, this was designed as a baptismal class for about 12 people,

The "Backacks and Bibles" group get together to hike for about one hour to a predetermined site, have a Bible study, and then hike back.

but it has progressively averaged about 30 hikers. Each week either the pastor, one of the elders, or the Bible worker conducts the studies, which are very active and interesting.

When the church members first started discussing the creation of the baptismal class, the desired outcome was to not only make it interesting but to find a way to draw the older youth into the process. Both ideas were an immediate success—the older youth are mentoring the younger youth as a result. Several parents who were not baptized have become very active in the group as well.

—Ron Nickerson, pastor, Keene church

God Works to Build Lives in a Community

In 1958 the Voice of Prophecy radio show was sowing seed in the heart of Marge Coulter. Listening to the program, she was drawn to truth. Later that year, Jerry, her husband, attended a church social. Marge heard about camp meeting in Southern New England and wanted to go.

It's amazing how God works to build lives and a community.

As the Coulters grew in the message, Earl and Martha Charlestream nurtured and encouraged them. Almost every Sabbath the Coulters were invited over to the Charlestream's for dinner.

Fast forward to July 12 (51 years later) and the Bennington Seventh-day Adventist Church is filled to

capacity for the wedding of Ashley Coulter and Adam Howe. As it turns out, Ashley Coulter is the granddaughter of Jerry and Marge Coulter and Adam Howe is the great-grandson of Earl and Martha Charlestream!

It's amazing how God works to build lives and a community. Fifty-one years of laying a foundation of love and family. Fifty-one years sinking roots into the good soil of truth. Fifty-one years of preparing the next generations to carry on the work until Jesus returns!

Congratulations to Ashley and Adam! Praise God for his wonderful plans—and for seeds sown in good soil!

—Susan Carpenter, communication correspondent, Bennington church

Pease Greeters Volunteers Help Troops

Inge Houck, a member of the Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church, has joined the volunteer organization Pease Greeters. This group, comprised of more than 100 people—young and old alike—greet the troops as they prepare to depart overseas. The Pease Greeters also send the troops off with prayer for safe travel and a speedy return.

During one of her visits to the Pease terminal, Houck noticed some women knitting. She learned that these women were providing helmet liners for troops because of the frigid temperatures in the high mountains of Afghanistan. She also learned that the Pease Greeters put caps on each seat of every departing plane, making sure there are enough for every troop. A tag is placed with each cap that states, "Made with love and pride in every stitch," by the Pease Greeters. Also included is the name of the person who knitted the cap. Some women have knitted hundreds of caps.

There is always a great need for caps. For more information on knitting caps, visit the Web site bevscountrycottage.com/bevs-troop-cap.html. Caps can be mailed to Inge Houck, 4 James St., Dover, NH 03820.

For more information regarding the Pease Greeters, visit their Web site at www.peasegreeters.org.

—Information supplied by Inge Houck

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...Walk as children of light... Ephesians 5:8



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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



NHS Students Demonstrate “Pillars of Character”

With all students, staff, and family members present, Greater Boston Academy inducted five more students into its chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) last April. The inductees—Katerina Giampa, Sharla Mercado, Stephanie Nwaoha, Kayla Panameno, and Kyungje Sung—are students in the graduating class of 2011.

The NHS is an organization that recognizes and encourages academic achievement while the students who are selected to be recognized also develop other characteristics that

are essential to citizenship. According to the NHS Web site, membership “is often regarded as a valid indicator that the student will succeed in life and particularly in studies at the post-secondary education level.”

To be included in the membership, the students must hold a minimum of two leadership positions, must have made service contributions to school, classmates, and community, and must demonstrate the “pillars of character” that are supported by the NHS. These qualities include respect, responsibility,



Ronci Asstrup

The Greater Boston Academy National Honor Society inductees are, from left, Kyungje Sung, Katerina Giampa, Stephanie Nwaoha, Sharla Mercado, and Kayla Panameno.

trustworthiness, fairness, caring, cooperation, and citizenship.

Winona Wendth, a teacher and the mother of NHS sponsor Astrid Wendth, gave the address. She spoke about the five points that an NHS member should carry though life. They are knowl-

edge, scholarship, service, character, and leadership. “It is true what your parents or teachers may say to you,” she said. “You are judged by the people you keep company with.”

—Emelie Pla, 2009 Greater Boston Academy graduate and NHS member

Gardner’s Men’s Group Impacts the Community

The Gardner Seventh-day Adventist Church Men’s Ministries group provided the owners of 120 vehicles with free windshield washer fluid on a cold Sunday afternoon while outside a local Rite-Aid.

“We wanted to do something for the community with no strings attached,” said John Livergood, elder and personal ministries leader.

Gary Loomis, the men’s ministries leader, printed business cards with the church and church school information on it. The men gave a card to everyone who received a free washer fluid fill-up.

Even some young men of the church got involved. Seven-year-old Dan Livergood kept track of how many vehicles they served. When Dan left, 6-year-old Adam Dombrowski took over the record keeping.

The community people couldn’t believe it was free. Gardner’s men continue to serve the community once a month, demonstrating God’s love and His free gift of salvation.

—Sandra Dombrowki, member, Gardner church



Individuals from Gardner church men’s ministries group who are reaching out the community with random acts of kindness include, back row from left, Pastor Tom Dombrowski, Bob Murray, Gary Loomis, and Larry Larsen; front row from left, Andrew and Adam Dombrowski, and Dan Livergood.

The Family Life Department of the Southern New England Conference is Proud to Host their

Family RELATIONSHIP WEEKEND

October 30th - November 1st

Guest Speakers Elaine and Willie Oliver

The weekend is relationship enhancing and applicable to parents, young adults, married couples, and others. The presentations emphasize developing healthy relationships in order to enhance the opportunity for discipling people and leading them to a viable relationship with Jesus Christ

CAMP WINNEKEAG ASHBURNHAM, MA

THE EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL ONLY \$80.00

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Evangelistic Series Enlightens Many

“He talks too fast!” was the reaction of several to the first presentation in the evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Hiram Rester in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island. But they returned with 150 others for the next night’s topic! They could not resist the enthusiasm, the remarkable biblical insights, and the colorful stories from the young evangelist, a Mississippi native.

By the end of the month-long series, the many helpers were exhausted but thrilled to see 22 people join the church through baptism and profession of faith! Here are some of their stories:

Robert received the flyer in the mail and believed God wanted him to attend.

Betty had been searching for a church for some time. In January she prayed for God to help her find a church that kept the Sabbath. When she saw the ad in the Christian paper and then heard the ad again on WARV Christian radio, she knew God was inviting her.

Jimmy spent some time as an altar boy in Rome and was often helping at the Vatican. A recent heart surgery was part of his current “Job” experience. He was thrilled to learn these truths from Revelation and has already been sharing them with others.

Tom, a power-lifter and body-builder, has been fighting Lyme disease but has found new power in these biblical truths.

Tracey asked several priests and pastors about the Sabbath. They gave her many excuses, but no Bible support for Sunday worship.

When Mary Ann was baptized in another evangelical church years ago her earrings fell off and weren’t recovered. She believed God didn’t want her wearing jewelry anymore. She was the first to arrive at every meeting.

Todd’s Seventh-day Adventist spouse was overjoyed to see her husband baptized.

Clayton and Cheryl found the Amazing Facts



Johnston Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor “Bill” Warcholik, right with microphone, introduced some of the individuals baptized following an evangelistic series presented by Pastor Hiram Rester.

Web site and studied themselves into the church.

Ron and Alice found the church they were looking for.

Christine knew that God was calling her back to Himself after some time wandering. She was amazed that God led her to a totally different understanding of the Bible.

Clair has already begun to share these new truths with her husband and son.

The teens have been active in Pathfinders and are outstanding representatives for God in public school.

Keturah helped at the meetings and is being trained for service in the Lincoln Adventist elementary school.

What a blessing to see these and the others in church on Sabbath where our attendance swelled from about 70 to more than 110, including many babies and children. Others have come to ask for baptism and baby dedications. We give thanks to the Lord.

—William Warcholik, pastor, Burrillville, Johnston, and Wickford churches

Job Opening

Camp Winnekeag seeks couple to fill the camp assistant ranger and assistant food service director positions. If you are impressed by the Holy Spirit, please send your résumés and references to: Camp Winnekeag, 2257 Ashby Road, Ashburnham, MA 01430. If you have questions, please contact Roger Henderson at (978) 815-3377. www.campwinnekeag.com

www.sneconline.org

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Secrets to Being a Godly Woman
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October 24, 2009

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PHONE: (603) 898-4075
WEB SITE: www.sneconline.org/article.php?id=18

Space is limited!
Registration deadline:
October 10

*Don't have a teen daughter or mom that can attend? Adopt a teen or mother/
grandmother from your local church, circle of friends, or extended family!



Improving Your Spiritual Life Could Save Your Marriage

According to the Bermuda Government Department of Statistics, 3.3 out of every 1,000 Bermudians were divorced in 2007. Comparatively, the divorce rate in the United States in 2007 was 3.6 percent. Of significant note is that, while the United States has a population of more than 300 million, Bermuda's population is below 70,000.

In an article in the June 11, 2009, edition of the ROYAL GAZETTE, it was highlighted that this increasing divorce rate is threatening Bermudian society. In the same article, Dale Butler, former Minister of Culture and Social Rehabilitation, said "Given its small population size, the fabric of Bermudian society is increasingly being put at risk as more and more mar-

riages break down and end up in divorce. What we need are healthy marriages because healthy marriages equal strong families."

The Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church accepted the challenge to help combat divorce and help couples build and maintain healthy marriages when it hosted the Fireproof Your Marriage seminar from July 9 to July 14. The seminar, which is based on the popular Christian family movie, Fireproof, featured vibrant discussions and video clips from the movie. The movie depicted the amazing transformation of a troubled marriage after the husband (and later, the wife) decided to work on his personal relationship with God. Fourteen couples were represented at the semi-



Participants at the Midland Heights church Fireproof Your Marriage seminar. The seminar was attended by married couples, those engaged to be married, as well as a few singles.

nar, learning and sharing their experiences on topics such as Communication, What Is Love?, Conflict Management, Overcoming Addiction, Understanding Marriage (Vows), and Forgiveness.

Malcolm and Georgina Dill, family ministries directors for the Midland Heights church and main presenters at the seminar, shared their belief that a marriage, in which each spouse is daily working on his/her relationship with God will receive

countless blessings.

Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda Conference president and family ministries director, added that "God, through His Word, encourages us to love unconditionally (the way He loves us)." He further suggested that when we love our partners in this way, we'll show them more respect and forgive more readily.

The participants left the seminar daring to love unconditionally.

—Pete Saunders, associate communication director, Bermuda Conference

SHEILA HOLDER, communication director

Two New Adventist Doctors For Bermuda

Kyla J. Raynor and Kendra-Lee Pearman both realized the fruits of their academic labor when they earned their doctorates from Loma Linda University in California, and Andrews University in Michigan, respectively.

Kyla Raynor, a member of the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church, completed her Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program and graduated on June 14. She says of the program, "It was an extraordinary experience and the program itself was excellent. The students and faculty were like a family and that's what I really liked about it. It was not entirely about academics."



Kyla J. Raynor

Raynor's research for her doctorate was entitled Body Weight Perception and Weight Control Behavior Among Adult Bermudians and it addresses the problem of obesity in the Bermudian society.

Raynor was recently offered and accepted a position at the Department of National Drug Control.

Kendra-Lee Pearman, a member of St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Church, successfully defended her dissertation entitled,

An Investigation of the Knowledge and Beliefs Held by Teachers and Parents in a Parochial School System Regarding Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and the



Kendra-Lee Pearman

Variables that Predict their Knowledge, on Wednesday, July 15, and she graduated on August 2.

Pearman was motivated to do this research because her son was diagnosed with ADHD-PI (inattentive type) at an early age. She said, "As an educator and parent, I wanted to find out as much I could about ADHD. Pearman's goal is to assist students with ADHD, a neurobehavioral developmental disorder mostly found in boys. This is the first study conducted in the Seventh-day Adventist Church addressing ADHD. Pearman, a former professor at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, serves as an educator with the Bermuda Department of Education.

Both Raynor and Pearman are committed to following God's leading in their professional careers.

—Pete Saunders, associate communication director, Bermuda Conference



A Statement of Concern on Sexual Behavior

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).

In His infinite love and wisdom God created mankind, both male and female, and in so doing based human society on the firm foundation of loving homes and families.

It is Satan's purpose, however, to pervert every good thing; and the perversion of the best inevitably leads to that which is worst. Under the influence of passion unrestrained by moral and religious principle, the association of the sexes has, to a deeply disturbing extent, degenerated into license and abuse which results in bondage. With the aid of many films, television, video, radio programs, and printed materials, the world is being steered on a course to new depths of shame and depravity. Not only is the basic structure of society being greatly damaged but also the breakdown of the family fosters other gross evils. The results in distorted lives of children and youth are distressing and evoke our pity, and the effects are not only disastrous but also cumulative.

These evils have become more open and constitute a serious and growing threat to the ideals and purposes of the Christian home. Sexual practices that are contrary to God's expressed will include adultery and premarital sex, as well as obsessive sexual behavior. Sexual abuse of spouses, sexual abuse of children, incest, homosexual practices (gay and lesbian), and bestiality are among the obvious perversions of God's original plan. As the intent of clear passages of Scripture (see Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22,23,29 and 20:13; Matthew

5:27,28; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10; Romans 1:20-32) is denied and as their warnings are rejected in exchange for human opinions, much uncertainty and confusion prevail. This is what Satan desires. He has always attempted to cause people to forget that when God as Creator made Adam, He also created Eve to be Adam's female companion ("male and female he created them" Genesis 1:24, NEB). In spite of the clear moral standards set forth in God's Word for relationships between man and woman, the world today is witnessing a resurgence of the perversions and depravity that marked ancient civilizations.

The degrading results of the obsession of this age with sex and the pursuit of sensual pleasure are clearly described in the Word of God. But Christ came to destroy the works of the devil and reestablish the right relationship of human beings with each other and with their Creator. Thus, though fallen in Adam and captive to sin, those who turn to Christ in repentance receive full pardon and choose the better way, the way to complete restoration. By means of the cross, the power of the Holy Spirit in the "inner man," and the nurturing ministry of the church, all may be freed from the grip of perversions and sinful practices.

An acceptance of God's free grace inevitably leads the individual believer to the kind of life and conduct that "will add luster to the doctrine of our God and Saviour" (Titus 2:10 NEB). It will also lead the corporate church to firm and loving discipline of the member whose conduct misrepresents the Saviour and distorts and lowers the true standards of Christian life and behavior.

The church recognizes the penetrating truth and powerful motivations of Paul's words to Titus: "For the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all mankind; and by it we are disciplined to renounce godless ways and worldly desires, and to live a life of temperance, honesty, and godliness in the present age, looking forward to the happy fulfillment of our hope when the splendor of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus will appear. He it is who sacrificed himself for us, to set us free from all wickedness and to make us a pure people marked out for his own, eager to do good."—Titus 2:11-14, NEB. (See also 2 Peter 3:11-14.) ①

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee at the Annual Council session in Washington, D.C., October 12, 1987.



La sélection de délégués pour la session administrative internationale de l'église adventiste a commencé

Plus de 2400 membres sont attendus à l'assemblée d'Atlanta en 2010; le souhait est d'avoir des délégués plus jeunes.

Bien qu'il reste encore une année, près de 2400 délégués sont déjà en cours de sélection pour le comité administratif mondial de l'église adventiste prévu en juin prochain à Atlanta en Géorgie.

La semaine dernière, le secrétaire du bureau de la Conférence Générale des adventistes du septième jour a envoyé à chacune des treize "divisions" (régions du monde) leur quota de délégués pour la session

mouvement s'est répandu. Aujourd'hui, près d'un tiers des membres de l'église adventiste vit en Afrique et un tiers vit en Amérique du Sud ou Amérique Centrale.

Les délégués pour la session représentent les régions du monde, à la fois selon le nombre de membres et l'autosuffisance administrative et financière de leurs régions.

Par exemple, un groupe d'églises qui s'autosuffit dans un territoire est classé comme "fédération," alors qu'un groupe similaire qui reçoit un financement extérieur est référencé comme

être des membres réguliers de l'église adventiste du septième jour, déclare la constitution de l'église.

La constitution indique aussi qu'au moins 50 % des délégués devraient être des laïcs ou des pasteurs, des enseignants ou des employés non administratifs, hommes et femmes, qui représentent un éventail de groupes d'âge et de nationalités.

"C'est pour éviter que la session administrative ne réunisse que des employés de l'église" a indiqué M. Bediako. Il a ajouté: "En plus de ces 50 %, une

a approuvé une mesure qui reporte au premier Conseil Annuel après la session l'élection des adjoints aux départements. Ce conseil est habituellement planifié à l'automne. Ceci donnera plus de temps aux responsables de départements nouvellement élus pour choisir leurs adjoints.

La secrétaire adjointe de l'église adventiste mondiale, Rosa Banks, a indiqué que l'on s'attend à ce que cette mesure soit à l'agenda de la session de 2010.

Les éléments constitutionnels qui doivent être votés incluent un ajustement du manuel d'église et l'approbation d'un changement dans l'organisation des unions d'églises.

Le manuel d'église est souvent réécrit par un sous-comité pour simplifier l'écriture et supprimer les redondances, a expliqué M. Bediako.

Celui-ci a déclaré que la rencontre est également un rassemblement spirituel. Le premier jour met l'accent sur des temps spirituels. Pendant la partie administrative de la session, les divisions donneront leurs rapports sur les ministères dans leurs territoires.

La session est prévue du mercredi 23 juin au samedi 3 juillet 2010.

Pour plus d'informations, vous pouvez visiter le site : www.gcsession.org.

Source: *Adventist News Network*
6 August 2009

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

Cette rencontre qui a lieu tous les cinq ans est la réunion administrative internationale de l'église adventiste mondiale. Le mouvement adventiste compte maintenant près de 16 millions de membres présents dans 207 pays.

administrative d'une durée de dix jours.

Le secrétaire, Matthew Bediako, a indiqué que chaque division devra choisir des délégués et soumettre des noms à son administration d'ici la fin de l'année.

Cette rencontre qui a lieu tous les cinq ans est la réunion administrative internationale de l'église adventiste mondiale. Le mouvement adventiste compte maintenant près de 16 millions de membres présents dans 207 pays.

Bien que l'église soit apparue aux Etats-Unis dans les années 1860, le

"mission." La distinction est la même pour les "unions," groupes de fédérations qui s'étendent sur différentes régions ou pays. Une région autosuffisante est classée comme une "union de fédérations" alors que sinon, elle serait classée comme une "union de missions."

Les fédérations et unions de fédérations envoient chacune à la session leur président et deux délégués supplémentaires, alors que les missions et unions de missions envoient chacun seulement un délégué supplémentaire aux côtés du président.

Tous les délégués doivent

bonne portion devrait être composée de jeunes."

Cette session constitue le forum qui élit les administratifs de l'église pour les cinq années à venir. Les postes à réélire sont le président, les vice-présidents, les présidents de division, le secrétaire et ses adjoints, le trésorier et ses adjoints, ainsi que les directeurs de départements.

Alors que les adjoints aux départements étaient habituellement des postes à réélire lors de la session, la session de 2010 pourrait constituer une entorse à la tradition. En 2008, le comité administratif de l'église

El Ministerio Hispano/Portugués de la Unión del Atlántico Auspicia Retiro de Ancianos

El Ministerio Hispano/Portugués de la Unión del Atlántico auspició un retiro de entrenamiento en mayo para los ancianos de las iglesias hispanas y portuguesas de la Unión del Atlántico. Esta iniciativa se ha llevado a cabo por los últimos 15 años y es una manera de adiestrar a los ancianos para un servicio más efectivo en sus iglesias.

Fue un tiempo de más entrenamiento y evangelismo

Bajo el título "Dilo como Puedas, Pero Dilo," el Dr. Filiberto Martínez, presidente de la Universidad Adventista Dominicana, el cual escribió un libro del mismo título, presentó un seminario el cual enfatizó la importancia de continuar compartiendo el mensaje de las buenas nuevas de salvación y de ayudar a otros a prepararse para la segunda venida de Cristo.

Con un método simple, el inspiró a nuestros ancianos a comprometerse no

solamente a estar ocupados en la administración de la iglesia local, pero también a mantenerse activos trabajando en el evangelismo y trayendo almas a los pies de Cristo.

Fue un tiempo para refinar sus destrezas y de esa manera ayudar a los miembros.

El Dr. Holando Gesualdo, autor, psicólogo y líder espiritual, presentó un seminario en el cual les enseñó a los ancianos a entender mejor y asistir a los miembros de iglesia en su lucha espiritual.

Fue un tiempo para recordar que todos somos ministros

El profesor Pablo Frías, uno de los líderes locales, utilizando el material escrito por Rex D. Edwards en su libro titulado CADA CREYENTE ES UN MINISTRO, presentó su seminario. Recordó a los ancianos la responsabilidad que ellos tienen de apoyar a sus



El primer anciano Ronald Smester recibiendo un reconocimiento por sus 50 años de servicio continuo a la iglesia. Izquierda: Dionisio Olivo, Dr. Donald King, Ronald Smester.

pastores mientras se unen a ellos para animar a los miembros de sus iglesias a continuar en su caminar con Cristo y a llevar a cabo la misión de la iglesia.

Fue un tiempo de crecimiento espiritual

El orador principal fue el Dr. Jonas Arrais, director ministerial asociado de la Conferencia General. Sus mensajes espiritualmente recargados sirvieron para llevar a los ancianos a una relación más íntima con Cristo Jesús. Él es el autor del libro, UNA IGLESIA POSITIVA EN UN MUNDO NEGATIVO, el cual utilizó para recordarles como las relaciones con otras personas reflejan nuestra relación con Dios.

Presentación especial

El Dr. Donald King, presidente de la Unión del Atlántico y su esposa, Lois, estuvieron presentes en el evento. El Dr. King presentó a Roland Smester, primer anciano de la iglesia

hispana de Patchogue, una placa presidencial en reconocimiento por sus más de 50 años de servicio a la iglesia adventista.

Ayudando a que este evento fuera un gran éxito estuvo un equipo de líderes hispanos de las asociaciones: el pastor Gilberto Alvis, de la Asociación de la Gran Nueva York; el pastor Juan Borges, de la Asociación del Sur de Nueva Inglaterra; el pastor José Burroughs, de la Asociación del Noreste y el pastor Ángel Rodríguez, de la Asociación de Nueva York. Todos contribuyeron con el planeamiento, así como estimulando a los ancianos locales de sus asociaciones a asistir. ①



Dionisio Olivo es el vice presidente de los ministerios hispanos y portugueses en la Unión del Atlántico y asociado director ministerial, y director del ministerio de familia y escuela sabática.



Una parte de los delegados que asistieron al retiro de ancianos auspiciado por la Unión del Atlántico en mayo.



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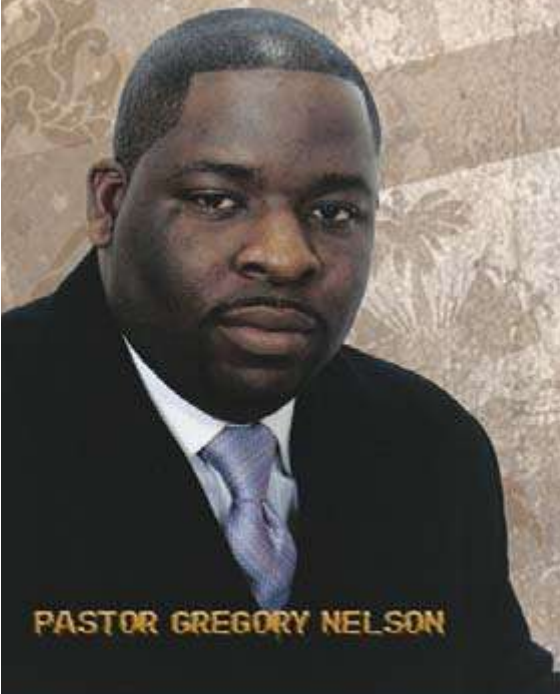
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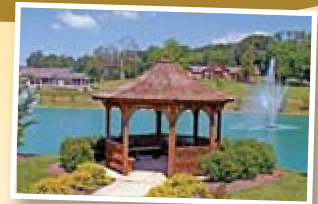
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Bulletin Board



Sunset Table

November 2009	6	13	20	27	Eastern Standard Time
Bangor, ME	4:15	4:07	4:01	3:56	
Portland, ME	4:24	4:16	4:10	4:06	
Boston, MA	4:30	4:23	4:17	4:13	
South Lancaster, MA	4:32	4:25	4:19	4:15	
Pittsfield, MA	4:38	4:31	4:25	4:22	
Hartford, CT	4:37	4:30	4:25	4:21	
New York, NY	4:45	4:38	4:33	4:30	
Albany, NY	4:38	4:31	4:25	4:21	
Utica, NY	4:45	4:37	4:32	4:28	
Syracuse, NY	4:48	4:41	4:35	4:31	
Rochester, NY	4:54	4:47	4:41	4:37	
Buffalo, NY	5:00	4:52	4:47	4:43	
Hamilton, Bda	5:22	5:18	5:14	5:13	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

7th Annual Golf Classic—The Atlantic Union College Business Department is sponsoring its 7th Annual Golf Classic on October 13 at the Sterling National Country Club in Sterling, Mass. Warm up is at 10:30 a.m. Tee-off is at noon. Proceeds benefit AUC business students. For more information or to register, contact Chris Garrity, (508) 341-5032 or e-mail: csgarrity@comcast.net.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Greater Boston Academy Reunion, Oct. 16-18 in Stoneham, Mass. Full details at www.greaterbostonacademy.com. Contact Arthur Barnaby at (951) 359-4344 or e-mail afbarnaby@juno.com, or call GBA at (781) 438-4253.

South Lancaster Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 9-11 in Lancaster, Mass. Full details are available on the Web site at www.sla-browning.org (click on "Links" then

"Alumni") or call Jon Nosek, development director, at (978) 368-8544.

The Stoneham Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church members invite you to join them for a weekend of seminars with Jack Sequeira, retired Seventh-day Adventist missionary and pastor, October 23-24. The seminars entitled, "Rediscovering the Gospel" begins Friday at 7:15 p.m. The Sabbath seminars are scheduled for 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. The church is located at 29 Maple Street, Stoneham, MA 02180. For more information on Jack Sequeira, visit www.jacksequeira.org. For seminar questions, call (978) 440-7838.

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ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS PLANT SERVICE DIRECTOR. The successful candidate must possess at least a bachelor's degree in engineering, business, architecture, or other related field. Significant relevant work experience and high school diploma, together with a post-high-school technical training may substitute for the college degree. Good communication and organizational skills and value consistent with the Seventh-day Adventist mission and tradition of the college. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For more details, visit www.auc.edu

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SUPERVISOR OF GROUP HOME: Bachelor's degree required. Dedicated worker, mission minded, no dependent children. Advent Home is an accredited residential care and academic program that serves ADHD boys ages 12-18. Salary, room, and board provided. Contact: Dr. Senior (423) 336-5052, bsenior@adventhome.org, www.adventhome.org.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. Advent Home, a self-supporting ministry, needs an energetic person to manage public relations and fundraising. Training in PR/Marketing, good writing, and interpersonal skills required. Experience in fundraising an advantage. Contact or send résumé to Blondel Senior (423) 336-5052, bsenior@adventhome.org.

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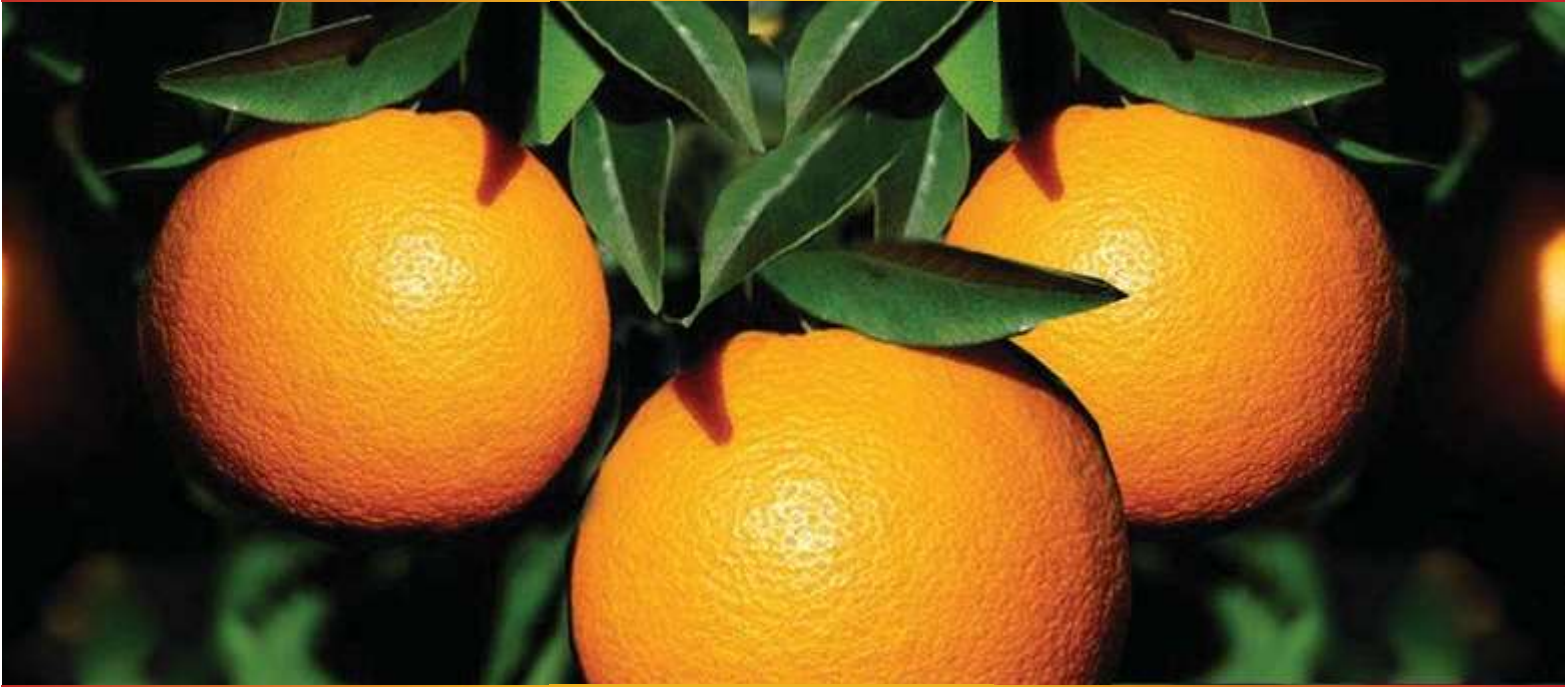
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