

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JANUARY 2010

GLEANNER



Labor Unions

AND THE FIGHT TO

Preserve Individuality

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

Youth Talk

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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This month's cover story, "Labor Unions and the Fight to Preserve Individuality," focuses on the subject of religious liberty. Read what Amireh Al-Haddad, Southern Union conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, has to say about dealing with labor unions. Also in this issue are our regular features, Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Talk. The cover photo is from iStockphoto.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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DEADLINES

March 2010	January 8
April 2010	February 12
May 2010	March 12

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

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A Plan for **Action** in 2010

It was my privilege to share an evangelistic plan for action in 2010 and beyond at a recent Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee meeting. That's right! We wanted to start the year with an evangelistic bang! The plan calls for identifying the major population cities and unentered counties in the Atlantic Union and setting about to pray and lay plans to take on the task of impacting these areas with the three angels' messages. We are intensely conscious that human ability is false dependence. The anointing power of the Holy Spirit must be our only reliance.

Central to this plan is the cross of Christ and what it means for humanity. When you look at the cross, its image embodies a vertical reaching up to God (the upward look) and a horizontal reaching out to the world while nurturing the church (the outward look). Reaching up to God involves practices such as Bible study, prayer, the stewardship of returning a faithful tithe and offering, and witnessing through personal testimonies and experience with God.

The outward look of getting involved in service projects in our communities is a great need in our church. Research data suggests only 31 percent of Adventists get involved. We can do better. The world sorely needs our service and support, especially in these times of tough economic challenges. Conducting small study groups and inviting the unchurched to our Sabbath worship services must remain a high priority. Once again, our goal is to baptize 5,000 new believers into the church in 2010. Is this possible? By His grace, absolutely yes!

This new year, the Atlantic Union will be conducting three evangelism homecoming rallies throughout its territory: South Lancaster, Massachusetts in May; Syracuse, New York in October; and Brooklyn, New York in November. The goal is to inspire and

encourage every congregation in the union to adopt a strategy for kingdom growth.

This strategic plan also calls for church inreach through intentional nurture activities. It calls for all believers (young and old) to improve church attendance and retention of members. It calls for increasing the number of parents who send their children and youth to Adventist schools and to our own Atlantic Union College. It calls for pastors and teachers, churches and schools, conference administrators and educational superintendents to combine and redouble their efforts to help prepare our students and children to become champions for God. Our youth are depending on us. We must not let them down.

Leadership training initiatives for mission are key to the success of this strategic plan. We are told through the pen of inspiration:

“Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath-school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the uncon-

verted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors. Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people, and others, uniting with them, will learn from their example. One example is worth more than many precepts”—THE MINISTRY OF HEALING, p. 149.

May this year be a banner year for you. May the upreach and outreach message of the cross ring true in your life this year.

Blessings . . . always. ①

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



The Cross of Christ

*We are intensely
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Labor Unions

AND THE FIGHT TO

Preserve Individuality

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

In just a few weeks you will be seeing brochures cropping up in churches around the North American Division that look very similar to the image you see on the back page of this issue. The brochures feature an incredible story about the wife of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Canada, who not only had to fight for her job, but was grilled for three days in a grueling cross examination of, not only her faith, but the church's teachings and practice regarding labor unions. Sharlene Harwood moved with her husband to a new church district. In doing so, she also changed jobs. Sharlene is a registered nurse dedicated to caring for the sick. But in Manitoba, Canada, she was told that she could not care for the sick or be employed as a nurse unless she joined and financially supported the Manitoba Nurses' Union. Being required to join a labor union was not something new for Sharlene. She had worked as a nurse in three other Canadian provinces and each time she requested an exemption, it was granted.

One of the caveats of the provincial labor relations act was that individuals

who sought a religious exemption from the union must be a member of a religious group that has as one of its articles of faith members refraining from joining and supporting labor unions. This should not have been a problem, since the church has clear and unmistakable counsel from Ellen White on labor union membership. The United States also has rules that allow for certain exemptions for those members with a conscientious objection. These rules vary from state to state.

All of the New England states and New York are considered "forced-unionism states." However, this does not mean that you are without recourse. There are procedures to follow, if you wish to file for a religious exemption. It doesn't mean that you will get out of paying dues, but in most (not all) cases, your dues can be given to a mutually agreed-upon charity. (Contact your local religious liberty leader for more information.)

An article in the October 24, 2009, *WORLD* magazine reported that \$450 million was spent in the 2008 election by labor unions seeking to gain bigger power for the unions. In April 2009

"In this work we are to preserve our individuality. We are not to unite with secret societies or with trade unions. We are to stand free in God, looking constantly to Christ for instruction" —*TESTIMONIES*, vol. 7, p. 84.

the president of the Service Employees International Union boasted that \$60.7 million were from that one union (*REALCLEARPOLITICS*, May 13, 2009). The payoff has been as big as the money spent. The new administration issued an executive order to encourage federal agencies to award bids over \$25 million to go only to construction companies with unionized contractors. This is strange policy to initiate in a time of economic hardship, with unemployment rates at their highest since the Great Depression. Politics aside, speaking from a purely Seventh-day Adventist viewpoint, how can we ignore the counsels of Ellen White when she wrote, ". . . how can men obey . . . and form combinations that rob the poorer classes of the advantages which justly belong to them, preventing them from buying or selling, except under certain conditions! . . . The forming of these unions is one of Satan's last efforts"—E. G. White, Letter 26, 1903.

Understandably, the argument for labor unions has both pros and cons, especially in a world of corporate greed. In that same article in *WORLD*



magazine, Rian Wathen, a former state labor union official, sums it up by stating, "There's no such thing as good unions, just bad management." There are many who argue that labor unions are not what they were in 1903, when Mrs. White wrote those words of caution. In truth, membership in a labor union is not a test of faith for membership in the church. That option, thankfully, is given to each church member to decide on their own. However, we encourage each church member to read and understand the Spirit of Prophecy counsels concerning labor unions. "The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began"—SELECTED MESSAGES, vol.2, p. 142.

In Revelation, John describes beholding another beast; this one has horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon. This beast is about enslaving mankind, forcing men and women to give it homage, in order that they might buy and sell. It is that prophecy that mandates that we as Christians must heed the warnings given.

To quote a popular sixties folk singer, "For the times they are a-changin'." You cannot deny the change in attitude that has come upon us. In the last year, we have seen other changes; membership in labor unions for the past 20 years has been on the decline. In 2008 a reversal took place and membership in labor unions in the United States grew by well over 400,000 employees.

In March 2009 the Employee Free Choice Act was introduced in both the House and the Senate. The bill would effectively do away with the secret ballot vote on unionizing a workplace. While the bill never made it out of committee, at last count, it had 227 co-sponsors in the house. Expectations are certain that this bill will come back in another congressional session. The

Supreme Court has also been making strides toward empowering labor unions. In April 2009 it ruled that claims that arose in a collective bargaining agreement, which had clearly and unmistakably required the labor union member to arbitrate a discrimination claim, were enforceable. In other words, the court decided that if your labor union had agreed to it, your rights to litigate your discrimination claims in federal court were waived. Justices Stevens and Souter were among the dissenting vote in that case. Justice Stevens pointed out that arbitration is not a substitute for what bona fide judges do in a courtroom. It is quite a change in mindset when just 30 years ago the opinion had been that labor union arbitrations primarily deal with the law of the shop and not the law of the land.

There is still hope for those who oppose labor unions. With the dedicated assistance of the religious liberty department, Sharlene was finally able to get the exemption. Resolution for her came on the eve of the trial. Sharlene took to heart the following counsel, "In this work we are to preserve our individuality. We are not to unite with secret societies or with trade unions. We are to stand free in God, looking constantly to Christ for instruction"—TESTIMONIES, vol. 7, p. 84.

The religious lib-

erty department is about helping you to stand free, too. The department assists church members in issues involving liberty of conscience against an evil that is great, but not greater than God. LIBERTY magazine also stands for these principles. It is the outreach tool to more than 150,000 men and women who have the power to effect policy change. Please remember the work the religious liberty department is doing as we go forth to "preserve our individuality." ①



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

Problems With Labor Unions:

- Mandatory enrollment conflicts with religious convictions
- Labor unions engage in political actions that may be contrary to the conscience of the member
- Labor unions can negotiate a waiver of your right to legal recourse in workplace discrimination issues
- Seniority agreements can negate your ability to receive a shift with Sabbath off
- Labor unions demand loyalty to the union first and foremost

Religious Liberty Helps In These Ways:

- Sabbath accommodation issues in the workplace
- Labor union issues in the workplace
- Sabbath testing issues
- Conscientious objection to bearing of arms/limited immigration issues
- Child custody issues
- Education issues
- Other issues involving liberty of conscience



Adventist Communicators Ride the Wave of Communication Excellence

Collaboration. Creativity. Inspiration. This year's Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention delivered all of this and more. Newport Beach, California, proved to be an inspiring backdrop for the 20th annual conference. A total of 140 communicators from across the country joined together to exchange ideas, celebrate successes, and brainstorm strategies for improvement.

After mingling with welcomed newcomers and longstanding veterans at the open reception, attendees gathered for the Thursday-night program. The Communications Showcase featured exciting new projects, highlighting the Voice of Prophecy and the Hope Channel. The business meeting covered numerous agenda items, including the nomination and voting of new board members. Steve Vistauet, assistant to the president for the North Pacific Union Conference and Gleaner editor, will be replacing Celeste Ryan Blyden, assistant to the Columbia Union Conference president and VISITOR editor, who dutifully served as SAC president for the past two years.

The evening closed with the SONscreen film screening, highlighting young adults who effectively use film and video to encourage social consciousness, inspire action, and celebrate creative entertainment.

Keynote speaker Ryan Bell, pastor of the Hollywood church, and young adults from his congregation shared their inspirational and artistic approach to ministry. The Friday-morning address opened minds to the importance of artists, filmmakers, writers, and actors serving the Lord.

The remainder of the day was spent in breakout sessions addressing the diverse needs faced by communicators. Award-winning filmmaker, Martin Doblmeier, closed the evening with a moving presentation of his film *The Power of Forgiveness*. Clips of his upcoming film *The Adventists* was also shown. The production focuses on Seventh-day Adventists' unique approach to the interconnected relationship between faith and science and is scheduled for release December 2009.

Blessings continued pouring on Sabbath morning with a touching testimonial from Christian Jordan, associate pastor of the Campus Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Loma Linda, California. Campus Hill senior pastor, Hyveth Williams, presented the morning's message. Her prolific rendering reinvigorated and charged the congregation as she urged worshipers to serve and praise the Lord "excellently."

The evening's award banquet and farewell was drenched in humor by the program's guest emcee, Jimmy Phillips, including the surprising performance of The Three Waiters. However, the heart of the evening was focused on celebrating the efforts of high-reaching and high-achieving individuals and

teams. Roland Scalliet from Southern Adventist University won the Student Award; Jessica Lozano from Southwestern Adventist University won the Young Professional Award; the 2008 Offering Campaign for Adventist World Radio was awarded the Excellence Award; the Southeastern California Conference Web site redesign was awarded the Reger Smith, Jr., Cutting Edge Award; and Daniel "Don" A. Roth received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Communicators left rejuvenated, inspired, and revving to fulfill this year's theme: "Ride the Wave of Communication Excellence." The next convention will be held in Rochester, New York, on October 14-16, 2010. ☺

Julie Zaiback, corporate communications specialist, Adventist Health System

For more information about SAC, visit adventistcommunicator.org.



A group of 140 Adventist communicators gathered in Newport Beach, California, for the annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention.



By Astrid Thomassian

Caring Creates Commitment

BEST PRACTICES FOR ADVENTIST MINISTRY, edited by Loren Seibold, recently published an article in which the author told about two words we frequently use and which yield contrary outcomes. Combined, these words are eight letters. Each of us has, at one time or another, used them. We utter them when we console or admonish a person not to fret unnecessarily. When expressed in this context it soothes as a balm, easing all embarrassment and discomfort. However, these same two words, when articulated in a nonchalant tone, can convey a crushing blow, erase any trace of affirmation, and inflict a mortal wound to a self-concept. The two words are *Who cares?*

We caringly assure the person who spills the drink at potluck that they matter, and say Who cares about the messed up tablecloth or floor? The spill can be easily cleaned. On the other hand, as proud parents enthusiastically announce that their child can recite all 12 memory-verses and is a straight “A” student at the local church school, instinctively someone mutters under their breath, *Who cares?*

Last August, the Atlantic Union Conference sponsored the first-ever Pastors and Teachers

Convention. Side by side, pastors and teachers sat and listened to the presentations and workshops. Each felt the sense of urgency to prepare our children to discern the deceptive influences of the Old Serpent. In these closing days of earth’s history 400 hundred pastors and teachers signed cards committing to join forces to emphasize the value of Adventist education and ensure that every youth in our church is given the opportunity to attend an Adventist school.

Now that a few months have separated us from the convention, I wonder about those commitments. Is there anyone out there who cares?

Have challenges, disinterest, busy schedules, or obstacles forced us to shelve those commitments? I pray that the

Atlantic Union Conference Office of

Education will be flooded with responses telling about the various projects in schools and churches around the Atlantic Union to save our youth.

Ellen White tells us, “No higher work was ever committed to

“One child, properly disciplined in the principles of truth, who has the love and fear of God woven through the character, will possess a power for good in the world that cannot be estimated”

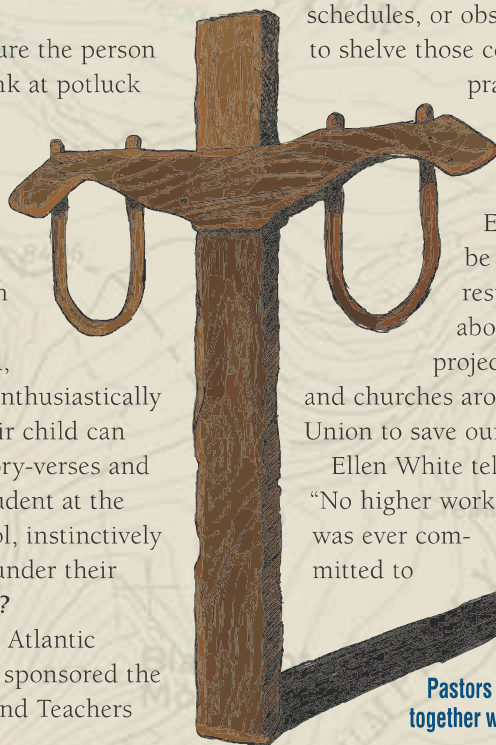
—CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 163.

mortals than the shaping of character. Children are not only to be educated, but trained as well; and who can tell the future of a growing child, or youth? Let the greatest care be bestowed upon the culture of your children. One child, properly disciplined in the principles of truth, who has the love and fear of God woven through the character, will possess a power for good in the world that cannot be estimated”—CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 163.

May God create in our caring hearts a commitment to save His children. ☉



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



Pastors and teachers yoked together with Christ for service.

Youth Talk

Atlantic Union youth share their opinions and ideas on various topics.

Two young adults with connections to Greater Boston Academy share some thoughts on their mission trip experiences

I went on two mission trips while I was at Greater Boston Academy. Neither one changed my life. I experienced amazing things, learned valuable lessons, and made good memories. But was my life changed? Nope.

My first mission trip was to Louisiana when I was a sophomore, after Hurricane Katrina.

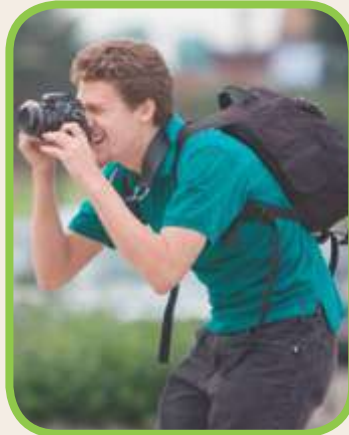
I helped to give out food and supplies. I had fun with Christian teens from across New England, and helped people who really needed it.

My second trip was when I was a senior. We went to San Pedro, Chile, and built a church. I had a lot of fun with my Greater Boston Academy classmates, learned to mix cement,

"I forgot that Jesus Himself was homeless, and we who follow Him find our only home in heaven."

improved my Spanish, and helped give the local believers something they needed. After each trip, I spent some time trying to convince myself that my life had been changed (I had always heard mission trips were supposed to do that). Looking back, I see my problem was that I always went back *home* when the trip was over. I don't mean the fact that I returned to Boston and to my family. I mean the fact that I returned "home." I forgot that Jesus Himself was homeless, and we who follow Him find our only home in heaven. We discover that our lives are nothing more than a long-term mission trip to earth. The day I learned that was the day that my life was changed.

James Harper, a 2008 Greater Boston Academy graduate, is now a sophomore at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.



The streets of Lukasa, Zambia, were filled with children, many of whom were orphans. Their eyes were filled with darkness! You could see no joy or hope for the future. Every day was a day of survival!

My first mission trip changed my perspective of what it meant to be a Christian. It is to lay one's life aside (see 1 John 3:16) for the cause of Christ. Each experience since has drawn me closer to God, given me a deeper understanding of His words, and allowed others to do the same.

I have spent a portion of each year in India as a teacher. My students there come from Catholic, Muslim, and Hindu homes. All come to learn of Jesus! I can remember one boy asking if his Hindu village worships the true God. He then answered his own question by stating, "No they do not, but I will worship the true God, the God of Abraham!"

My current mission field is my classroom at Greater Boston Academy in Stoneham, Massachusetts, where my students are at the age when they must choose, like the boy in India, who or what they will worship. This field stretches out to include the Stoneham Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church and my community.

Gavin Gaynair, a 2007 graduate of Oakwood University (then Oakwood College) in Huntsville, Alabama, teaches science at Greater Boston Academy.



Kerrn Dixon

"My current mission field is my classroom at Greater Boston Academy . . . where my students are at the age when they must choose . . . who or what they will worship."

Bermuda Conference Equips All Churches with Touchless Dispensers



Andria Francis, a member of the Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bermuda, uses the newly-installed touchless hand sanitizer dispenser to combat dangerous germs.

In a proactive effort to combat the H1N1 virus that is sweeping across the United States and, indeed, the world, the Bermuda Conference has equipped all of its churches with touchless hand sanitizer dispensers and boxes of refills. Following counsel from Rosemarie Tyrell, a permanent secretary for the Bermuda Government and a member of the Somerset Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Bermuda Conference has purchased two five-foot touchless dispensers for each church that can operate as stand-alone or wall-mounted dispensers. The conference office and the Adventist Book Center have also been equipped.

Bermuda Conference is dedicated to promoting the improvement of human health and is committed to the health education of all.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

“Feed My Lambs” Ministry Impacting Haiti

“I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it,

mission projects in countries where he visited.

Rego, a member of the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Warwick, Bermuda, never imagined when he was

the children and fulfilling their needs that he was inspired to call his ministry, “Feed My Lambs Ministry.”

Recently, Rego asked the people of Bermuda to share his dream to assist the less

the Central Haitian Mission of Seventh-day Adventists to build his Transitional Home and Vocational School. The students, both boys and girls, will go to school for half-a-day and learn vocational skills for the other half of the day. Some of the trades being offered are electrical, sewing, computer skills, mechanics, and conversational English. He envisions that the school will become self-sufficient and the young people who graduate from there will be able to support themselves.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Philip Rego . . . never imagined when he was planning his trip to Haiti that the people of Haiti, especially the children, would find their way into his heart in such a dramatic way.

as I shall not pass this way again.” Philip Rego’s life is a reflection of these words by William Penn. Rego has a burning desire to do mission work. He sold the family business and his plan was to travel and do some

planning his trip to Haiti that the people of Haiti, especially the children, would find their way into his heart in such a dramatic way. While on a short mission trip there, he felt such excitement when feeding

fortunate people of Haiti. The response and outpouring of love from all walks of life and from churches of varying denominations and businesses has been well received. Rego has secured property that is owned by



Six Ordained to Ministry in the Greater New York Conference

Six Greater New York Conference pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry at the 2009 United Camp meeting held on September 19 at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York.

Lincoln Mark Smith.

In 1997 Lincoln Mark Smith responded to God's call to the gospel ministry because of the encouragement of Alanzo H. Smith, director of the Greater New York Conference Family Ministries and Communication departments. He graduated from Oakwood University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in theology. After graduation he received a call to the Greater New York Conference to be the associate pastor at the Victory, Three Angels, and South Bronx Community church district under the mentorship of Bancroft Daughma, the church's pastor.

In September 2004 he was transferred to the North Bronx church where he served for nearly three years under the mentorship of Horace Russell, the church's pastor. While at North Bronx, he initiated "Real Talk," the first youth rally in the North East Bronx area, and a vibrant youth Bible study class. As a result of his ministry, many young people have given their hearts to Christ.

Smith is now serving as senior pastor at the Antioch and Huntington churches in Deer Park and Huntington Station, Long Island, New York. His life's motto is, "To be a servant of God and a friend to man." It is his belief that man's character



Lincoln Smith

is the highest treasure given by God.

John Osborne

It was 4:30 a.m. one June morning in Florida, when John had a "burning bush encounter" with God! Even though he had taken four years of theological training at Southern Adventist and La Sierra universities, he just wasn't sure God had called him into the gospel ministry.

In January 1980 Osborne received an invitation from Evangelist Kenneth Cox to enter the ministry as his singing evangelist and program director. In August of that same year, he received a call from the Florida Conference to pastor the Arcadia church and then the Naples/Bonita Springs district. It was there in Naples, Florida, in



John Osborne

1983, that Osborne started his first television ministry. From 1985 to 2000 he continued his television and pastoral ministry on a self-supporting basis at Prophecy Countdown, Inc. In 2001, the Greater New York Conference invited Osborne back into denominational employment, as pastor of the Poughkeepsie church. With the blessing and support of the Greater New York Conference, the Osbornes have a new television ministry *My Father's House*, that airs weekly on Cablevision and Time Warner Cable, and monthly on TBN of New York.

Osborne and his wife of almost 35 years, Dianne Isabella Smith, have a son, J. Wesley Osborne, III.

Anthony Romeo

Anthony Romeo has worked in the Greater New York Conference for the past 40 years, starting out in various positions both as a layman and pastor. After graduating from Atlantic Union College (AUC), with a Bachelor of Arts in religion, he worked for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in the Graphic Arts department.

Over the years, Romeo has been associated with several churches in the New York City area, including the Manhattan and Yonkers churches, and most recently as senior pastor of the Advent Hope church in New York City.

Romeo is also a graduate in advertising design from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. In 2003 Andrews University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree for his work in advertising and his posi-



Anthony Romeo

tive influence on students and society.

Romeo has been married for 33 years to Marlene Romeo, who was born in Cuba. She serves as the principal of the Bronx-Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist School. They have two adult children, A.J. and Jennifer. The Romeos have dedicated their lives to the diverse community and the people they love who make New York City the great city that it is.

Neylon Shawn Samuel

In 1995 as a result of the faithful witness of his father, Winston Samuel, and the fervent prayers of the Dunamis church prayer band, he accepted Christ into his life and was baptized by Pastor Artemas Julien. In 1997 he enrolled in the Greater New York Conference Lay Bible Institute.

After graduating from the Lay Bible Institute, Samuel graduated from Atlantic Union College in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in theology. He began his ministry in the Greater New York Conference in April 2003 when he was assigned to the Grand Concourse and All Nations church district as Bible worker, under the leadership of Steve D. Cassimy, the church's pas-



Neylon Samuel

tor, who has remained a mentor and friend.

In October 2004 Samuel was called to serve as the associate pastor of the Victory church under the direction of senior pastor Bancroft Daughma. In May 2007 he was called to shepherd the Living Waters and Mamaroneck church districts where he now serves.

Samuel says he is forever grateful to God for all those who have continued to encourage him on the path of ministry. His greatest supporter and encourager has been the love of his life, his partner in ministry and wife for eight years, Rhonda Samuel. God has blessed their union with two boys, Zachari and Jeremi.

Kevin Emmanuel Brown

Kevin Emmanuel Brown, at the impressionable age of eight, surrendered his life to the Lord and later, having sensed the call to the minis-

try, graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology and mathematics from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

He taught high school math for three-and-a-half years in the New York City Public School System. He also served part-time as the youth pastor of the Long Island City Korean church and as associate pastor of the Macedonia church in Hempstead, New York.

Since January 2003 he has been employed by the Greater New York Conference. He has served the North Bronx and Grand Concourse churches and is presently the pastor of Macedonia and Five Towns churches in Long Island, New York. He is pursuing a master's degree in pastoral ministry at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Kevin loves the Lord and people, and his personal



Kevin Brown

philosophy is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." He thanks Dionisio Olivio, Atlantic Union Conference Hispanic Ministries director; pastors Easton Marks, Horace Russell, and Steve D. Cassimy, for the role they played in his ministry. His favorite text is Psalm 17:15, a text of hope and promise, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness."

Okezie Nwanbunwanne Erondu

Okezie Nwanbunwanne Erondu attended the University of Ife in Nigeria (now Obafemi Awolowo University), where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and history. In 1988 he earned a Master of Science degree in international relations from the same university.

His journey into the ministry started when, on a trip with his father following the completion of his study in international relations, his father lamented, "I have trained you with God's money, but why do you want to go and be a diplomat for the state and not an ambassador of God?" Erondu told his father that if the church would invite him to teach at the seminary, he would go and serve. Some days later,



Okezie Erondu

the Adventist Seminary of West Africa (now Babcock University) invited him to join the faculty.

After completing that semester, the seminary president, Adekunle Alalade informed Erondu of their decision to grant him full scholarship to complete another master's degree in church history. In 1990 he was married to Victoria Njoku. Their marriage is blessed with two boys: Chinedum and Chibuikem.

While teaching in the seminary, Erondu became pastor of the Akaka church. In 1998 he attended Andrews University, and completed the Master of Divinity degree. In 2006 the Greater New York Conference employed him. He is the pastor for the First Igbo, Co-op City, and Port Chester churches.

—Alanzo H. Smith, communication director, Greater New York Conference

Greater New York Conference School Feature

Whispering Pines Seventh-day Adventist School is a comprehensive Christian elementary school exclusively for children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. They are located on 13 acres of grassy land in a quiet neighborhood in Old Westbury, New York. Whispering Pines has an open door policy that embraces all who desire to provide a better quality of preparedness and education for their children. What makes them stand out is consistency in obtaining high scores on state tests, the qual-

ity of music presented by the school orchestra and choir, outstanding drama performances, the after-school sports program, the foreign language program, the professionalism of staff, dedicated teachers, the promotion of cultural diversity, but most importantly, numerous opportunities for a personal relationship with Christ. To learn more about Whispering Pines, visit them at www.wpschool.net or call (516) 997-5177. They are located at 211 Jericho Turnpike, Old Westbury, NY 11568.



Atlantic Union College Nursing Grads Rank Top in Nation on NCLEX-RN Exam

Atlantic Union College nursing graduates are among those ranked No. 1 among the 1,653 nursing programs in the nation. The Atlantic Union College Nursing Department received these positive results of the NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination)—the nurses' licensing exam.

Graduating nurses took the exam between May and September 2009. "All 25 of our May graduates passed the exam," says Lenora Follett, chair of the nursing department.

Atlantic Union College (AUC) shares this No.1 ranking with 157 other nursing programs in the nation with 100 percent pass rates. The total number of nursing programs with at least 10 graduates taking the test is 1,653—which includes 610 Bachelor of Science in nursing programs, 990 Associate degree programs, and 53 Diploma programs.

The Nursing Professors

The college's seven nursing professors focus on making this success possible by

maintaining a high standard for students passing their exams, conducting good review classes, and expecting students to use critical thinking in clinical lab, skills lab, and case studies. "Students must work hard to obtain the extensive amount of material that must be learned to become a professional nurse," explains Follett.

"Congratulations to our graduates, the nursing faculty, and all of those involved in the students' education!" says Follett.

"Congratulations to your

entire team," AUC president Norman Wendth heartily affirms. "This is quite an impressive feat."

New Nursing Classes Start in January

A new cohort (semester) of students will begin classes January 19, 2010. Students in AUC's nursing program are predominantly from Massachusetts, yet they come from all over the world, including the Caribbean and Africa. They must have a GPA (grade point average) of 2.75 to enter the program and a



Borles Henry Saturné

Class of May 2009 Nursing Grads

Pictured in the front row from left to right: Monique De-Nysschen, Deborah Adams, Dawn Beaton, Eda Bien-Aime, Daniela Torrez, Jamie Rodriguez, Yossyanne Simbolon, Heather Peasley, Lindsey Daley, Teresa Brouillet, and Sharla Lavarin. Pictured in the back row from left to right: Pricila Ahnert, Renata Moen, Veronica Cormier, Stephanie Larson, Kelly Moore (not a May graduate), Eva Tomkiewicz, Jessica Wilson, Katherine Davis, Holly Hunt, Stephanie Zarr (hidden), and Jamie Michel. Not pictured: Casey Buczek, Ana Cotrina, Andrea Ducharme, and Latasha Mims.

Cindy Kurtzhals



Quality Professors Produce Quality Students

In the skills lab, AUC nursing professors seated from left to right are Lenora Follett, chair of the nursing department and a professor; and Coleen Fritsche, associate professor, teaches Second Year MedSurg Nursing and B.S. nursing classes. Standing from left to right, Nancy Wada, assistant professor, teaches Parent-Newborn Nursing and is First Level coordinator; Olga Walker, an instructor, teaches Introduction to Nursing; Kimberly Dunker, associate professor, teaches Second Year Medical-Surgical (MedSurg) Nursing and is Second Level coordinator; Kitty Quick, an adjunct professor, teaches Nursing Workshop and is Skills Lab coordinator; Sally Tochterman, assistant professor, teaches MedSurg Nursing I and B.S. nursing classes and is B.S. coordinator.



How To Reach Us

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

P.O. Box 1000
338 Main Street (Route 70)
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Massachusetts 01561

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Student Financial Services:
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Web site: www.auc.edu

reading level of 13th grade.

Apply now for prenursing. Applications for clinical nursing are being accepted for the fall semester.

Where We're Located

Atlantic Union College is located at 338 Main Street (Route 70), South Lancaster, Massachusetts. Seated in the heart of American and Seventh-day Adventist church history, the college is about an hour, plus or minus, from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Boston. It is three hours from New York.

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

Alumni Weekend Details Announced

Join us for the 2010 Alumni Weekend, April 15-18, 2010. The theme is *Transforming Our Communities*.

- Starting with the Thursday-night banquet, our guest speaker is State Representative Harold Naughton.
- For Friday vespers, we are happy to be joined by Angel Rodriguez, '85, New York Conference executive secretary.
- Sabbath school will start with a celebration of mission service.
- The worship service message will be delivered by Ernestine Finley '00.
- Sabbath vespers will be a very exciting program with a BCU Choir 40th anniversary reunion concert. Ten past directors spanning four decades are working together to bring an exciting program with a choir that already numbers more than 150. It's not too late to join the choir.
- Join our Atlantic Union College group on Facebook at www.facebook.com and visit our alumni Web site at: www.aucalums.com.

Don't forget the cooking classes, history tours, ice cream socials, and visiting with friends. This is all just the beginning of an exciting weekend. Watch for further updates on the alumni Web site. —John Satelmajer, '98

25 Years of Pathfinder Rallies and Car Derbies

November 7, 2009, marked 25 consecutive years of conference-wide Pathfinder rallies and pinewood derbies. Genesee Park, Wayland, and Westvale were three of the eight clubs represented that won grand trophy prizes. These names will be the last to be engraved on the three original trophies that have been passed down through the years. These trophies will now be retired as Pathfinder memorabilia.

The Sabbath morning began with a rousing song service followed by a Sabbath school activity organized by Dan Whitlow, New York Conference youth director, focusing on the Pathfinder law. The worship service featured an inspiring sermon by 14-year-old Harrington Brown of South Lancaster, Massachusetts. Afternoon activities included hiking around Cayuga Lake and the Montezuma Wildlife Sanctuary, as



The derby winners include the following youth from left to right: Teen craftsmanship: Tyler Young, Shaina Ahles, Shawna Thomas; Speed: Toot Jones, Rachel Silver, Jani Severin; Preteen craftsmanship: Andrew Consler. Not pictured: Libnah Rodz and Rufaro Mutanga.

well as a Bible quiz event. Vespers celebrated God's blessings at the recent camporee at Oshkosh through video and photos.

Enthusiasm mounted as our attention was riveted on the 148 competing derby cars of every size, shape, and color. Craftsmanship winners included Shawna Wheeler, Shaina Ahles, Tyler Young, Andrew Consler, Rufaro Mutanga, Libnah Rodz, Josh Schmieder,

Marge Ahles, and Siki Plung. Speed winners were Jani Severin, Rachael Silver, Toot Jones, Donna Gilmore, Craig Gilmore, and John Stumph.

It was a full day of devotion and activities. Each Pathfinder was encouraged to become physically strong, mentally awake, morally straight, and spiritually sound, having the "courage to stand!"

—Marge Ahles, Pathfinder leader, Westvale church

Baptism at Buskirk

The Buskirk Seventh-day Adventist Community Church in Buskirk, New York, welcomed one of its youngest members. Hannah Hoffmeister, 11, was baptized on August 29, 2009, at the home of Bert Beisiegel, D.D.S. Hoffmeister's family are long-time friends of Beisiegel of Adams, Massachusetts, and they shared this special moment with him. She was baptized in the pond at his home, surrounded by her church family as well as her own family, Steve, Sarah, and Caleb Hoffmeister. Buskirk church members welcomed Hoffmeister into the family and are praying that God will continue to lead in her life.

—Julie Lawwill, communication secretary, Buskirk Community church



Hannah Hoffmeister, one of the newest members of the Buskirk Community church.

OFFICIAL NOTICE New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the fourth regular quadrennial Constituency Session of the New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 11, 2010, at Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York.

The purpose of the meeting is for the receiving of reports, the election of officers, departmental directors, and pertinent committees for the ensuing quadrennium, the amending of the constitution and/or bylaws, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

According to the constitutional provision, each organized church is entitled to one delegate and one additional delegate for each fifteen members or major fraction thereof. Delegates for the New York Conference will also be delegates for the New York Conference Association and Union Springs Academy sessions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a meeting of the Organizing Committee is being called for Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the New York Conference office in Syracuse, New York. All members of the Organizing Committee should plan to be present.

Stan Rouse, President
Angel Rodriguez, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE New York Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the fourth regular quadrennial session of the New York Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 11, 2010, at Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York.

The purpose of the meeting is for the receiving of reports, the election of a board of trustees and officers, the amending of the constitution and/or bylaws, and the transaction of other business as may properly come before the delegates.

According to the constitutional provision, the delegates to the New York Conference constituency session also serve as delegates to the New York Conference Association session.

Stan Rouse, President
Angel Rodriguez, Secretary

Adjusting in America

Blah Gay Moo is a student at Union Springs Academy. In the 2008-2009 school year she came as a freshman. She is from Myanmar and knew very little English when she first arrived at the school. When asked how she came to the United States she said she came on a big “aero plane.” “I wasn’t scared,” she said. “I wanted to come, but I miss my grandma in Burma,” she added.

This year she is back. She is still a little shy and unsure, but improving her English everyday. No matter how hard it is to adjust, she always has a smile on her face.

When Blah Gay first learned English, she said that it was very difficult for her. Everyone around her spoke a language she couldn’t understand. The only people she could talk to were the four other Karen girls at the school. This year she talks a lot more, and smiles more too. She understands the people around her better. “I’m so glad



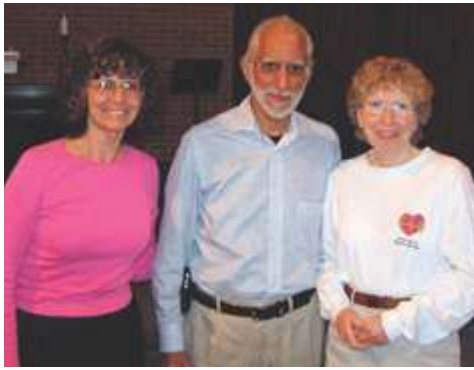
Blah Gay Moo, a student at Union Springs Academy, is learning to speak English and adjusting to living in the United States.

“I’m in this school. I don’t want to go home,” she says with a laugh.

—Sarah Bailey, student, Union Springs Academy

Westvale Church Sponsors Healthy Heart Program

Daniel Fuleihan, M.D., a cardiologist with the New York Heart Center and on staff at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse, New York, gave a presentation on the heart on Sabbath



From left to right are Sally Hafner, R.N., health ministries assistant leader; Daniel Fuleihan, M.D., and Joan Payne R.N., N.P, health ministries leader.

afternoon, October 3, 2009, at the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Westvale, New York. His presentation was about the progression of care since the 1950s of patients who have experienced heart attacks. Risk factors, such as obesity, high blood pressure, and exercise were also discussed. At the end of his presentation, he

answered questions from the audience. Many positive comments were heard afterward about Fuleihan’s presentation. He has agreed to return, and the health ministries team is planning to invite him back in the fall for another presentation on the heart.

—Joan Payne, communication secretary, Westvale church

Two More Give Their Lives to Jesus

Family and friends watched as Corey King and Ruben Alvarez made a public declaration of their love for Jesus, and were baptized on Sabbath,



October 10, 2009, by Jeremy Garlock, church elder and teacher at Parkview Junior Academy. We look forward to seeing what God will do in their lives.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference



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Kyte Selected New President of Adventist Risk Management

The board of Adventist Risk Management (ARM), at a December 3, 2009, meeting, selected former Seventh-day Adventist world church general counsel Robert E. Kyte to serve as its new president. The appointment was made eight weeks after the unexpected passing of former president Robert L. Sweezy.

Based at the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, ARM, which currently employs 160 people in offices worldwide, offers risk management services and manages some \$150 million of the church's international assets.

"My intent is to build on the base that Rob [Sweezy] and the team put in place and to build an environment of good leadership that reinforces team efforts

by all the employees," Kyte told ANN following his appointment.

Previously, Kyte served as general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, general counsel for Healthwise, a nonprofit consumer health information company in Boise, Idaho, and as chief executive officer and general counsel for Pacific Press Publishing Association in Boise, Idaho, from 1989 to 2005.



A graduate of Walla Walla University, Kyte is a member of the Idaho State Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, The United States District Court for the District of Idaho, The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the American Bar Association.

It is expected that he will transition into his new role at ARM and be full-time by February. ☺

—Read more about Robert Kyte and his new assignment at Adventist Risk Management, visit: news.adventist.org/2009/12/kyte-selected-as-new.html and www.adventistrisk.org.

RENEWED AND READY Magazine Moves to Online Community

RENEWED AND READY, a magazine targeting Seventh-day Adventists ages 50 and over, has moved



online after more than two years in print circulation.

The online version will feature much of the same content that was distributed monthly. RENEWED AND READY, a publication of church-owned Pacific Press Publishing Association, allows readers access not only to current stories and columns, but to previous ones, as well. It also lets readers become writers—to respond and share their own stories with just a few clicks. It opens the door to a whole new audience, editors say.

The online RENEWED AND READY magazine is available at www.renewedandready.com. ☺

Adventist Church Growth Rate Trends Higher in United States, Canada, Bermuda

As of September 30, 2009, there are 1,097,217 members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, said G. Alexander Bryant, secretary of the church in North America, in a report opening the 2009 year-end meetings in Silver Spring, Maryland. The figure represents a ratio of one Seventh-day Adventist for every 312 people in North America, he said.

That's a net increase of 12,379 members over the 1,084,838 on the record at the end of 2008, according to statistics on file at Bryant's offices. During 2008 Bryant said, 7,353 members passed away, and another 14,687 were either dropped from church rolls or could not be located. Today, North American mem-



bers of the church worship weekly in 6,005 churches and congregations in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda.

From June 30, 2008, to July 1, 2009, an average of 116.8

people joined the church in North America per day, either by baptism or on profession of faith. That's 4.1 percent of the 2,818.1 people who joined the worldwide Adventist Church every day during that period, for a global total of 1,029,206 members. Global Adventist Church membership, as of late September, stood at just over 16 million, world church leaders reported. ①

—Adapted from *Adventist News Network (ANN) article: news.adventist.org/2009/11/adventist-church-gro.html*

“Just Claim It!”

Second NAD World Youth Prayer Conference

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will host its second World Youth Prayer Conference on April 7-11, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio. Themed “Just Claim It: Experience the Power of Prayer – Claiming Communities for Christ,” youth from all over the world will participate in this power-packed experience to claim the power of God in their lives.

“The purpose of this prayer congress is two-fold. First, it will draw serious attention to the challenges of senior youth by reintroducing them to a love relationship with Christ. Second, it will empower them to reclaim their cities through service to others while bringing a message of hope,” said James Black, Sr., director of youth ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

In addition to the 120 hours of organized prayer, 15 workshop tracks (180 workshops) will be presented. Other scheduled events include a special community mission project called “Just Make-Over,” along with speaking opportunities for teens called “Youth Preach-Out,” drama presentations focusing on biblical prayer encounters, a biblical floats parade, a music festival

with a special feature of the 300 voice JCI Mass Choir accompanied by a 250-piece orchestra, and recreation.



For more information on the conference, registration, schedule details, or to be a volunteer, visit www.jci2.org or send an E-mail to info@jci2.org or call (301) 680-6420. ②

—Gael Murray is ministries coordinator for the North American Division Youth Ministries office.

59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia

More than 2,400 voting members are expected to gather in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23 to July 3, 2010, for the 59th General Conference Session. The General Conference Session is the forum for electing Seventh-day Adventist world church officers and voting changes to the church's constitution. Delegates also hear reports from each of the 13 administrative regions of the church. The theme for the session is “Proclaiming God's Grace.” The theme song titled “Proclaim His Grace” was composed by Bruce Ashton.

The opening business meeting will begin Thursday, June 24 at 2:00 p.m., DST. The closing meeting will end on Saturday night, July 3.

For more information about the General Conference Session visit: www.gcsession.org.



Sixteen Honored at Bethany's 11th Annual Community Recognition Day



James LaMar, back row, second from left, pastor of the Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church, congratulated honorees at the 11th annual Community Recognition Day. Back row from left to right: Glyndun G. Sangster, Jr., M.D., Bethany's director of music, received an Appreciation Award; police officers Jason Wrieske, Hector Bourren, Brian McQuade, and Inspector Kevin G. Canavan were honored with Law Enforcement Community Service Awards; and Haydn Smith, Bethany's first elder, was given an Outstanding Service Award. Front row, from left to right: Mary Cameron, Distinguished Service Award recipient, was honored for pioneering the Community Recognition program; Nellie Walhrust, Th.D., from the neighboring community, received a Community Service Award for her advocacy efforts. Not pictured are Ken Roberson, Bethany Adventist Community Services director, who received an Appreciation Award; Community Service Award recipients Tricia Ferrell, Nassau County District Court judge; Larry Montgomery, Community Journal publisher; Kenneth Pettus, Unified New Cassel Community Revitalization Corporation executive director; and Law Enforcement Community Service awardees, police officers Mark Iovino, Jesse Atchison, and detective Sergeant William Leahy.

The Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church Communication and Religious Liberty departments honored 16 individuals at its 11th annual Community Recognition Day on October 24, 2009.

Mary Cameron, executive director of the Uniondale Early Childhood Center, received the Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to sustainable development in the Westbury, New York,

area. Cameron was also recognized for pioneering Bethany's Community Recognition Day, one of the few programs of its kind in the Northeastern Conference. The event was initially designed to honor

police officers and firefighters who went above the call of service. In recent years, community, clergy, and legislative leaders have been added to the roster of honorees.

Keynote speaker Stephen S. Carryl, M.D., chairman of surgery at the Brooklyn Hospital Center and president and founder of the

Overseas Medical Assistance Team, inspired the congregation with a soul-stirring sermon entitled "Putting First Things First." Carryl, also an elder at Bethany church and a member of Northeastern Conference's executive committee, called on the honorees to put God first in their endeavors.

Another highlight of the awards ceremony was a special tribute to Savilla Burton, one of Bethany's founding members, who, after more than 50 years, continues to serve as a church organist.

"While we continue to build goodwill through this program," said James LaMar, Bethany's pastor, "our aim is to share God's love and the exciting news of Jesus' soon return with our community."

—Beryl R. Williams, communication and religious liberty director, Bethany church



Savilla Burton, organist and founding member of the Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church, received an Outstanding Service Award at the 11th annual Community Recognition Day.

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!

Upload your articles and photos to the Northeastern Conference Communication Department Web site at northeasterncommunication.org. Be sure and include a caption with each photo and name of the photographer if that is available.



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

Stephen Williams
Communication Director
Northeastern Conference
E-mail: swilliams@northeastern.org

Still Worth The Wait!

Revelation Worldwide Inc., in conjunction with the Northeastern Conference Youth Department, collaborated in an effort to educate teens on God's plan for marriage.

Approximately 240 teens, parents, and mentors attended the second annual Purity Ball on September 20, 2009. The ball was held in a chandelier-lit white tent housed at the Stamford Hilton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut.

While teens pledged before God to practice abstinence before marriage, parents and mentors pledged, by the grace of God, to live pure lives while teaching teens to do the same. "I was proud to see my niece taking such a bold step. I promise to encourage her and also to set the right example for her to

continue in her commitment to God," said Elvis, who attended the ball with his 16-year-old niece.

Keynote speaker Abraham Jules, senior pastor of the Mount Vernon

act of cherishing your mind, body, and soul for God's use," he said.

"Don't be fooled!" he exclaimed.

"Sex is not love; that's a lie." Jules also gave the teens 15 tips on

how to be pure, one of which included "staying in constant communication with God through prayer." Not that prayer will prevent sexual arousal and temptation, but prayer strengthens one's resistance to the enticements of the devil.

In addition to the message from Pastor Jules, the teens enjoyed music, a fashion show, and food. The teens left the ball encouraged, knowing that God will give them the

strength to keep their commitments to Him. "It's still worth the wait."

—Philip Wesley, associate youth director, Northeastern Conference



At the annual Purity Ball, hosted by the Northeastern Conference Youth Department, teens pledged before God to practice abstinence before marriage.

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mount Vernon, New York, challenged the youth to choose purity at all times. "Chastity is a profound

Hanson Place Church Hosts USC Alumni Day

Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted the University of Southern Caribbean (formerly Caribbean Union College) Alumni and Friends day on August 29, 2009.

The Sabbath school program, under the leadership of Annette David, focused on the importance of Christian education with a specific emphasis on USC. The worship service was enhanced by the music of Curt Willis and the Hanson Place church choir, under the direction of Carl Benjamin.

Beryl Williams, the guest speaker, entitled her sermon "Conversations at Sabbath Lunch." She introduced the sermon by

reflecting on her personal experiences at Sabbath lunch. Throughout those

discussions, she said, there was evidence of knowledge, which sometimes ended in mere futility. However, Williams went on to explain the difference between some philosophical discussions and knowledge that is gained through "knowing" or experience. This experience,

she suggested, comes from a personal encounter with God. Her biblical reference of someone who had such an encounter was Saul.



Beryl Williams was the guest speaker for the University of Southern Caribbean Alumni Day at Hanson Place church.

The Sabbath program ended with Praise In Pipes, the second in a series of organ recitals sponsored by the Hanson Place church music

department with Milton Haynes as chairperson. The organist for the evening

was David McCalla who rendered several numbers on the organ and then added another dimension to the program when he was joined at the piano by Phedy Pierre, Bethesda church's director of music. They presented several variations for piano and organ. This musical program opened with vocal selections by the Rogers Avenue church children's choir and the Church of the Oranges chorale from New Jersey.

The New York Chapter of the University of Southern Caribbean Alumni Association is under the leadership of Lionel Williams.

—Maureen O. Burke, member, communication committee



A Young Man's Journey **Back Home**

Lynn Ortel, communication director

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

It was in Pennsylvania as a guest speaker for a one-week evangelistic series last September. Two days into the program, in came a handsome, tall, and physically fit young man of maybe, 30 years old. He sat near the front row and listened intently as the nights rolled on. It was Wednesday when we extended a call for baptism, and this eager young man, with tears in his eyes, was one of the first to respond to the call. We knelt together, along with others at the altar, and prayed intently for a new life as the young pianist softly played in the background the familiar tune “I Surrender All.”

Thursday morning I sat in the pastor's office and listened as this young man shared his testimony with us. He began to explain that when he was 13 years old, through dreams and visions, he felt that his life was going to definitely end at the age of 33. At that time his parents were going through a divorce and it seemed that his young life was falling apart. Shortly thereafter, he found himself alone and trying to find his way through life's maze. Still he had this reoccurring conviction that his life was going to end at the age of 33.

It was with dreaded fear that he greeted his 33rd birthday in California. Every day of that new year added more reason for stress. As he neared the end of that year, his concerns and fears seemed to intensify and he finally decided that, if he were to die, he needed to at least know God. So one day, he walked into a church and decided to take a seat as the pastor preached his sermon using a PowerPoint presentation. The first slide he recognized was a Bible verse taken from John

3:3 and it read, “Jesus answered, and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ ” This young man, in his state of mind, was led to focus particularly on the number “33,” and when he re-read the verse, it became personal to him. That was the answer that had haunted him all these years. He jumped up in excitement and, with a new found joy in his heart, exclaimed as he rushed out of the church, “I am not

*“This is the
very same
church I
walked away
from some 20
years ago.”*

going to die, I am going to give my life to Jesus.” That day, in the quietness of his heart, as best as he could, he surrendered his lonely and broken heart to the Lord.

Two weeks later, this young man traveled from the west coast to the east coast, all the way to Pennsylvania. There, he called his niece whom he had not spoken to in more than 12 years. They came together and reminisced about the

past as they worked out at the local gym. He asked her what she was doing for the rest of the week. She pointed out that she was going to be involved with a children's program in an evangelistic series at her church. He asked if he could come. She, never knowing him to be a religious person, exclaimed in excitement, “Really? Sure! I will pick you up.” He sat alone each night in the sanctuary as she handled the children's program downstairs. It was an unbelievable shock when he announced to her that he had made the firm decision to fully surrender his life to Jesus.

As we explained about baptism to this determined young man, he, in tears, shared his testimony with us. He understood, more than we could ever understand, how much baptism meant to him. He was ready to die to self and start living for Jesus. “I am ready!” he said. “This is the time and this is the place for me.” “Wait!” he said, “Tell me again, which church is this?” The pastor responded and told the gentleman that this was the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “This is the very same church I walked away from some 20 years ago. God, I am finally coming back home.” He sat back in his chair and there was a pensive moment of silence. As tears started to stream down his cheeks, he said, “God, this feels good! I am wanted, I am really loved. Thank you, Jesus.”

“Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; . . . O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like thick clouds, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you”—Isaiah 44:21-22, NIV.

—Carl Behrmann, pastor, Manchester and Nashua churches

Williston Church Hosts “Christ’s Way to Restoration” Seminar

Philip Samaan and his wife, Sherilyn, visited the Williston Seventh-day Adventist Church in Williston, Vermont, in August to conduct a day-long seminar. The seminar, “Christ’s Way to Restoration,” was based on a book he has recently written. About 150 people from around the Northern New England Conference and New York attended the meeting.

Samaan is a former professor at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, a former missionary to Africa, and previously the editor of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide. Currently he is a professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Samaan encouraged everyone to use their God-given freedom of choice to make the right decision about trusting and obeying Jesus. He also taught that the enmity against evil that is in our hearts is implanted there by Christ, and that it should be exercised to shun the bad and embrace the good. Thus Christ’s eternal purpose of restoration from rebellion can be realized, and we can be saved from our sins and delivered from death.

Samaan’s wife, Sherilyn, inspired the group with a harp and piano concert. She is a music teacher and an accomplished musician.

The Samaans enjoyed the hospitality of the Briggs family for their visit to Vermont. Samaan grew up on a farm and connected



Philip Samaan, a professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, conducted a day-long seminar at the Williston church in Vermont.

immediately with the entire family. Karen Briggs is one of his students at Southern Adventist University. Stories, laughter, and inspiration were the order of the weekend.

Many thanks to the Williston church social

committee and deaconesses for the meals provided. Samaan closed the Sabbath with his testimony of his praying mother and coming to America.

—Greg Carlson, pastor, Williston District

Northern New England Conference
presents

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
VESPERS - 6:30PM

SABBATH, FEBRUARY 6
SABBATH SCHOOL - 9:50AM
CHURCH SERVICE - 11:15AM
VISUAL PRESENTATION
"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS" - 2:15PM
WORSHIP - 3:00PM

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March 25-27, 2010

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

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Choir
JONATHAN WALL

Youth Choir
DORIS KRUEGER

Strings
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Do You Know Your Mission?

Is your church a growing community of faith? I'm not asking if your church is increasing in worship attendance, in the number of ministries, or meeting budgetary needs. I'm not even asking if your church is increasing church membership. Those things don't necessarily mean that your church is growing. You see, those things don't necessarily mean that you're growing the kingdom of God.

Your church could be growing due to transfer growth, but that's not kingdom growth. Kingdom growth occurs when people everywhere are being converted to Christ, then baptized, and become disciple-makers themselves. Transfer growth, as good as it is, doesn't accomplish this. Instead,

transfer growth simply moves members of the kingdom around; it doesn't increase it.

Kingdom growth
occurs when people
everywhere are being
converted to Christ,
then baptized, and
become disciple-
makers themselves.

To begin changing this trend, your church must be crystal clear about the mission. What's the mis-

sion? The mission is to grow the kingdom of God by making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) in the context of the three angels' messages (Revelation 14:6-12).

If the mission is not achieved, basically we've failed. God, however, does not want His church to fail. The church and its mission are paramount to His plan of salvation. He will supply your every need to accomplish it. After all, the church is the most powerful enterprise on the planet. Jesus said, "The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, NKJV). So what can stop us? Know your mission and together, pursue it with a passion.

—Phil Vasseur, pastor, Merrimack Valley and Billerica churches

Church Assists Community with Autism Seminar

The Taunton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Taunton, Massachusetts, sponsored an autism seminar. Topics included current research in autism spectrum disorders, causes, early symptoms, prevalence, effective approaches, impact of autism on families, special education services, and adult autism.

I conducted the seminar. As a doctoral graduate of Lesley University, my dissertation is an examination of supports and services



Jelly Flores Daley presented an Autism seminar at the Taunton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

for adults with autism in Massachusetts.

I have a personal testi-

mony as a parent of both an autistic child and one who has suffered over the years with seizure disorders due to a brain tumor. Because of my personal experiences, I have been able to assist families with similar situations.

Autism is on the rise. New studies show, as reported in the October 2009 issue of PEDIATRICS magazine, about one in every 100 children or about 673,000 in the U.S. have some form of autism, higher than the previous estimates of one in 150.

—Jelly Flores Daley, member, Taunton church

For more information visit: www.autismspeaks.org/press/cdc_autism_prevalence.php and www.autismspeaks.org/donate/we_need_answers.php.

Upcoming Family Life/Young Adult/Youth Events . . .

Godencounters
2/5/2010 – 2/7/2010
(Ashburnham, Mass.)

Engaged Encounter Retreat
2/12/2010 – 2/14/2010
(Ashburnham, Mass.)

Marriage Retreat
2/12/2010 – 2/14/2010
(Ashburnham, Mass.)

Single's Day of Fellowship
2/20/2010
(New Haven, Conn.)

SNEC Pathfinder Area Level PBA
2/27/2010

For more information, visit www.snecyouth.org

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Quinebaug Church Holds “Live With Hope” Series

Pastor John K. Amoah presented the “Live With Hope” evangelistic series from October 23 through November 7, 2009, at the Quinebaug Seventh-day Adventist Church in Quinebaug, Connecticut. Pastor Amoah’s first sermon was titled, “Soul Food: Is the Bible the Inspired Word of God?” Ten community members attended the first night’s meeting to find out the answer, and the Holy Spirit impressed hearts and minds through Amoah’s talent for bringing the Scriptures to light. An aver-

age of 8-10 guests attended each of 19 presentations.

Any church member who brought a guest attending five nights in the series would receive a special family Bible from the pastor. The guest would receive it, as well. Several guests qualified for the free Bibles and many received gift books for attending nightly.

Three special people chose to follow Jesus and were baptized on Sabbath, November 14, 2009, as a result of this effort. Sabrina Varrichione was so excited she said, “I just love this

church! I would have come here years ago if I had known about it!” Dan Fitzgerald and his wife, Brandy, had been studying different faiths for years while attending our church. All three made their decisions to be baptized after attending this evangelistic series because they felt this church preached the truth.

Thank you to all our members for their team effort to bring the gospel to others.

—Kenneth A. Maynard,
communication director, Quinebaug church



Top: Pastor John K. Amoah prepares to baptize Sabrina Varrichione. Bottom: Pastor John K. Amoah, center, preparing to baptize Brandy Fitzpatrick, right, and later, her husband, Daniel Fitzpatrick, left, on November 14, 2009, at the Quinebaug Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Photos: Ken Maynard

Pleasant Street Church Members Participate in Healthy Living Expo

The City of Worcester, Massachusetts, held its biggest Healthy Living Expo ever, October 23-25, 2009, and it was a huge success.

Throughout the three days, thousands of people streamed through the doors of the DCU Center, where the event was held, and were exposed to hundreds of products and services related to health, from massage

a healthy diet and lifestyle. Our free materials provided Bible-based principles on how to achieve both. The planning committee chose the Bible verse 3 John 2, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” as our motto during this event and included it on many of our materials. We distributed more than 4,000 pro-

Our church offers exercise classes three days per week, vegetarian cooking classes, and stop-smoking clinics.

Also at our booth was a video message from our pastor, Michael Henry, describing the health goals and initiatives of our church and encouraging visitors to take advantage of the materials available.

Church members volunteered to watch the booth over the three days of the expo. Many of the participants shared that it is hard to come into contact with so many people over such a short time while sharing our Bible-based health message and not come away blessed. The appreciation that many of our visitors expressed for the information we provided was gratifying. The curiosity some showed about our church and our message was uplifting. The personal testimony some shared about the health struggles that they or a family member were facing and their determination to do something about it was inspiring.

—Ben Ogunjobi, member, Pleasant Street church

The church offered material that was “aimed at providing a gateway . . . for the individual to embark on a journey to physical and spiritual health and to bring awareness to the various free health programs.”

therapy to sugar-free cookies. There were many different vendors—health foods producers, tool manufacturers, service providers—but only one church: Pleasant Street Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Healthy Living Expo was a great introduction for us to the City of Worcester.

The emphasis of our participation in this event was on promoting

motional items, such as magazines, pamphlets, bookmarks, pens, pedometers, and business cards. They were all aimed at providing a gateway, either through the church or through the reading material, for the individual to embark on a journey to physical and spiritual health and to bring awareness to the various free health programs we offer.



Maranatha marque les quarante ans de la construction d'églises et d'écoles dans le monde

Cette année, la société de construction à but non-lucratif Maranatha Volunteers International a marqué son 40ème anniversaire de projets d'écoles, églises, cliniques, hôpitaux et orphelinats conduits par des bénévoles.

Maranatha, ministère annexe de l'église adventiste du septième jour, a travaillé avec plus de 60.000 bénévoles et a réalisé des projets dans soixante-trois pays distincts depuis les débuts de l'organisation en 1969.

Kyle Fiess, vice-président responsable du marketing et des projets de Maranatha, a déclaré: "Le plus gros changement en quarante ans a été la capacité de l'organisation à répondre aux besoins de l'église mondiale."

"Pendant vingt ans, l'organisation a su répondre

à plusieurs projets par an. Aujourd'hui, Maranatha agit dans de multiples pays dans le monde."

Et les projets arrivent toujours en masse, a ajouté K. Fiess.

Actuellement, Maranatha a reçu plus de 100.000 demandes de construction d'églises, nombre que l'organisation peut mieux traiter grâce aux récentes acquisitions d'équipement (<http://news.adventist.org/2009/10/adventist-businessma.html>), a expliqué la direction.

Les programmes en cours de Maranatha incluent 'One-day Church', projet apportant des solutions de construction rapides à des centaines d'adventistes dans le monde, et "Ultimate Workouts," projet de construction visant les bénévoles qui ont entre 16 et 18 ans.

"'Ultimate Workouts' a commencé avec une poignée d'adolescents. A présent, le projet répond à la demande de près de 200 participants chaque été."

Le 20ème "Ultimate Workout" aura lieu cet été.

Bien que le nombre de volontaires ait progressivement augmenté, l'organisation a toutefois été affectée par la crise économique.

"La récession a affecté Maranatha financièrement" a expliqué K. Fiess, ajoutant que l'organisation a dû "réduire ses dépenses dans un certain nombre de domaines, notamment en matière de personnel administratif."

En dehors des réductions budgétaires, la plupart des projets bénévoles de Maranatha sont "au maximum des moyens de l'organisation" a ajouté K. Fiess.

Les nouvelles méthodes de construction, une planification minutieuse et "la direction de Dieu" feront avancer l'œuvre de l'organisation pendant la prochaine décennie, a dit Don Noble, président de Maranatha.

"Nous projetons d'augmenter nos moyens pour construire davantage d'églises et d'écoles, afin de répondre aux besoins de la croissance de l'église et d'impliquer plus de bénévoles aussi bien dans la construction que dans les occasions d'évangélisation plus larges qui sont en lien avec ces projets."

Source: Adventist News Network
17 November 2009

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/2009/11/maranathamarks-40-y.html.

La campagne adventiste de lutte contre la violence faite aux femmes coïncide avec la dernière initiative des Nations-Unies

Un mois environ après le lancement par l'église adventiste mondiale d'EndItNow, campagne nationale pour faire cesser la violence faite aux femmes et aux filles, les Nations-Unies ont annoncé une initiative mondiale similaire.

Le 6 novembre, le Fonds de développement des Nations Unies pour la femme (UNIFEM) a lancé un site Web pour encourager les efforts individuels visant à éradiquer la violence faite aux femmes.

Le site Web de l'initiative "Say No - Unite to End Violence Against Women" (en français 'Dites non — unissons-nous pour faire cesser la violence faite aux femmes') qui aborde ce problème répandu, estime que 70% des femmes

enditnow
Les Adventistes Disent Non à la Violence Contre les Femmes

ont été victimes un jour ou l'autre d'une sorte de violence et fait preuve d'un soutien en dirigeant des efforts pour lutter contre ce problème.

"Nous savons que la violence contre les femmes est un problème qui a des solutions" a déclaré le directeur exécutif d'UNIFEM Inés Alberdi lors d'une visite rendue aux patientes d'un centre médical pour les femmes victimes de violence sexuelle à Nairobi au Kenya.

"Ce que j'ai vu aujourd'hui au Kenya, c'est l'impact d'un travail efficace à un niveau de base. Pourtant, les gouvernements ont un besoin urgent de

mettre cette question en tête de leurs priorités et de prendre des mesures décisives" a affirmé I. Alberdi.

En comptant les efforts des particuliers, des gouvernements et des groupes de la société civile, la campagne s'est fixée comme objectif 100.000 efforts de lutte contre la violence d'ici mars 2010 et 1 million d'ici un an.

Pour plus d'informations sur ce que fait l'église adventiste pour mettre fin à la violence faite aux femmes et pour signer la pétition, consultez enditnow.org.

Pour de plus amples informations sur "Say No," consultez unifem.org.

Source: Adventist News Network (ANN)
16 November 2009

English translation available at: news.adventist.org/2009/11/adventist-led-anti-g.html.

Cada Uno Gane Uno

¡Estaba nervioso! Era mi primera experiencia dirigiendo el campastre de la Greater New York Conference (GNYC) como director del ministerio hispano. Era mi responsabilidad coordinar todas las actividades que habían de llevarse a cabo durante la semana. Estaba entusiasmado, pero a la misma vez preocupado pues quería que todo saliera perfecto para la gloria y honra de Dios. Alrededor de 300 personas asistieron al campastre durante toda la semana.

El enfoque era el de ganar almas y el tema fue “Cada Uno Gane Uno.” Roberto Herrera, director de mayordomía de la División Interamericana, presentó los devocionales en la mañana y en las tardes. El nos animó a ser parte del grupo de la iglesia que hace más de lo que se espera de ellos. Evelyn e Ivan Omaña compartieron anécdotes

Roberto Herrera, director de mayordomía de la División Interamericana presentó los devocionales en las mañanas y tardes.



James W. Zackrison, asistente especial de la Voz de la Profecía, habló de los eventos finales.

tas e instrucciones acerca de como estructurar los hogares cristianos para que ellos sean “una antesala del cielo aquí en la tierra.” James W. Zackrison, asistente especial de la Voz de la Profecía, habló acerca de los eventos de los últimos días. Sus



Ivan y Evelyn Omaña cautivan sus oyentes durante su presentación para parejas.

seminarios nos animaron a reflexionar en nuestra mayor esperanza— ¡la segunda venida de Cristo!

Los seminarios de Rosa Alvis titulados “Entre nosotras” fueron dedicados especialmente a las mujeres. Evelyn Omaña e Ivelisse Herrera

asistieron con las presentaciones. Muchas preguntas fueron hechas por las damas que asistieron durante las reuniones.

Bonnie Marker, la esposa del presidente de la GNYC, sostuvo unas reuniones con las esposas de los pastores el sábado para ayudarlas a hacer planes en como

trabajar unidas en el ministerio al cual Dios las ha llamado.

Durante todas las reuniones se podía sentir un ambiente cristiano de armonía y confraternidad. Durante los cultos juveniles y adultos, muchas personas tomaron la decisión de seguir a Cristo. El sábado 18 de julio, una ceremonia bautismal tuvo lugar en la piscina del campamento y 17 almas fueron bautizadas. Muchas clases de actividades

recreativas tuvieron lugar durante la semana incluyendo caminatas en las mañanas para la buena salud, coordinadas por Marco Molina, pastor de las iglesias de Bay Shore, Central Islip, y Hampton Hispana. Otras actividades sociales y jugos verdes fueron provistos para aquellos interesados. Una escuela bíblica para niños fue conducida por Delrita Cañas.

La música le dio un toque especial a las reuniones. Hubo solistas, coros, grupos musicales y un concierto por Eusebio Díaz.

Damos gracias a Dios por su cuidado durante el campastre. También agradecemos a los administradores del campamento quienes viven y trabajan allí. Cada uno de ellos fueron de gran ayuda para nosotros. Gracias al equipo pastoral que me ayudó para que mi trabajo fuera más liviano. Gracias a Karen Pérez por su valiosa asistencia. Gracias a cada persona que asistió al campastre, sin ustedes esta actividad no hubiera sido un éxito. Al final, solo se escuchaba una declaración la cual era música a los oídos: “¡Este campastre fue magnifico!”

—Gilberto Alvis, director del Ministerio Hispano, Greater New York Conference

Statement on Home and Family

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).

The health and prosperity of society are directly related to the well-being of its constituent parts—the family unit. Today, as probably never before, the family is in trouble. Social commentators decry the disintegration of modern family life. The traditional Christian concept of marriage between one man and one woman is under assault. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in this time of family crisis, encourages every family member to strengthen his or her spiritual dimension and family relationship through mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility.

The church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 22 states the marital relationship "is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. . . . Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and

caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God."

Ellen G. White, one of the founders of the church, stated: "The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are the 'issues of life' (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—*THE MINISTRY OF HEALING*, p. 349. ④

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

Resources

Listed are some resources that will help you learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's beliefs, positions on specific topics, and established guidelines.

Web sites

Official Statements voted since 1980: www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html

Guidelines: www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html

Fundamental Beliefs: www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html

Church Manual: www.adventist.org/beliefs/church_manual/index.html

Other Documents: www.adventist.org/beliefs/other_documents/index.html

Books

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

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL

Visit the Atlantic Union Web site

BulletinBoard



Sunset Table

February 2010	5	12	19	26	Eastern Standard Time
Bangor, ME	4:59	5:04	5:15	5:24	
Portland, ME	5:07	5:11	5:22	5:30	
Boston, MA	5:12	5:16	5:26	5:34	
South Lancaster, MA	5:14	5:18	5:28	5:36	
Pittsfield, MA	5:20	5:25	5:35	5:42	
Hartford, CT	5:19	5:23	5:33	5:40	
New York, NY	5:25	5:29	5:39	5:46	
Albany, NY	5:20	5:25	5:35	5:43	
Utica, NY	5:27	5:32	5:42	5:50	
Syracuse, NY	5:31	5:36	5:46	5:54	
Rochester, NY	5:37	5:41	5:52	5:59	
Buffalo, NY	5:42	5:46	5:57	6:04	
Hamilton, Bda	5:57	5:58	6:05	6:10	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Pleasant Street Adventist Church is sponsoring a follow up visit by Vernon and Sheree Dawson from the Voice in the Wilderness Mission, Feb. 19-21, at 370 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01609. For more information contact Ben at (508) 752-1756 or e-mail: bogunjobi@msn.com,

or Pastor Michael Henry at (508) 612-2668 or e-mail: michael_henry7@yahoo.com.

OUT-OF-UNION

Union College Homecoming, Apr. 1-4. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, Apr. 1-4. Honor classes are '40, '50, '55, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, and '00. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503,

3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506 or e-mail: alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend, Apr. 23-24:

Friday Golf Tournament, Vespers, Sabbath services at LSA gym, class reunions, basketball game. Yearbooks available for sale. Visit your campus, renew your friendships! Honor Classes: '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05; Contact alumni office (951) 351-1445 ext. 244 or e-mail: lsaalumni@lsak12.com.

predeceased by her dad, Beresford Darrell; sisters, Marion Smith, Mavis Douglas, and Burnette Hill; and brother, Philip Smith.

JAMIESON, Margaret "Madge" Donnelly—99; b. Apr. 4, 1910, in County Armagh, No. Ireland; d. Nov. 6, 2009, in Collegedale, Tenn. She lived in Camden, Maine, for 68 years and was active in the Camden church Adventist Community Services. In 2002 she moved from Camden, Maine, to Apopka, Florida for seven years before moving to Collegedale, Tenn. She is survived by a son, John Donnelly (Donna) of Sun City Center, Fla; two grandchildren; four great-grandsons; three stepchildren, Mildred Swanson (Arnold) of Berrien Springs, Mich; Lee Jamieson (Anne) of Walpole, N.H.; Judson Jamieson (Donna) of Cleveland, Tenn.; a sister, Joan Irwin of Newry, No. Ireland; sister-in-law, Mary Henry of Kitchner, Ontario, Canada; 11 step grandchildren, many step great-grandchildren, step great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her husbands, Patrick Donnelly and Everett Jamieson; one stepson, Lloyd Jamieson and his wife, Carlene; two step grandsons, one step great-granddaughter and 11 of her 12 siblings.

OBITUARIES

SMITH, Janice Pearl May—71; b. Mar. 13, 1938, in Paget, Bermuda; d. Nov. 20, 2009, in Paget, Bermuda. She was a member of the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church and served as Sabbath school secretary. Survivors include her mother, May R. Smith; a son, Clement Smith, Jr., (Rosemary); a daughter, Roslyn Amory (André); grandchildren, Shakir and Shakira Amory; siblings, Fay Whalley, Michael Whalley, Hilgrove Smith, Thelma Joell, Robert Harvey, Margaret Harvey, and Luzetta Matthic; aunts, uncles, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was

Atlantic Union

February 10-13, 2010

Music Clinic

Band/Art

BAND

Giovanni Santos

Loma Linda Academy
Band Director

ART

Maria Roybal-Hazen

Atlantic Union College

All are invited to a performance, Saturday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Machlan Auditorium, 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, Massachusetts (on the campus of Atlantic Union College).



For more information:
Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education
E-mail: education@atlanticunion.org
Phone: (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020

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Remembering . . .

James A. Cress

Aug. 30, 1949 - Nov. 26, 2009

James A.

Cress, 60, ministerial secretary for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



since 1992, died on the evening of November 26, 2009, at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Cress always considered himself a “pastor on loan” to the world church headquarters, where he led out in training, encouragement and mentoring of pastors, elders, deacons and deaconesses around the world. His position saw him travel to many countries around the globe, holding seminars, preaching sermons, and working with local leaders and pastors to promote excellence in ministry.

Cress was the author of several books, including *COMMON SENSE MINISTRY*, *MORE COMMON SENSE MINISTRY*, and *YOU CAN KEEP THEM IF YOU CARE*, and hundreds of articles for *MINISTRY* magazine, of which he was publisher. In that role, Cress continued and strengthened fundraising efforts to send copies of *MINISTRY* to pastors outside of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as a way of building bridges between Adventists and other faith communities. This also led to the annual *PREACH* seminar, which under Cress’ leadership expanded to global satellite, cable TV and Internet broadcasts, reaching 25,000 pastors each year with continuing education in homiletics.

Cress graduated from Southern Missionary College with a bachelor’s degree in theology and received a Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He had previously served as a pastor/evangelist and ministerial secretary in the Mid-America region of the United States before joining the world headquarters team.

Cress’ wife, Sharon, who survives, is an associate secretary of the Ministerial Association and oversees Shepherdess International, a ministry to pastors’ spouses

and children. She has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a Bible worker, associate pastor, and seminary leader.

Cress is survived by a brother, John C. Cress, of College Place, Washington, an Adventist pastor who serves with Adventist Health Care. A third brother, David Cress, who had been president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, died in an airplane crash in December 2004.

—Adapted from *Adventist News Network (ANN) article: news.adventist.org/2009/11/james-a-cress-minist.html*.

Robert L. Sweezy

Sep. 13, 1957 - Oct. 16, 2009

Robert L.



Sweezy, 52, president of Adventist Risk Management (ARM), who is credited with

responsible handling of the church’s insurance and risk management services for more than a decade, died in Florida on October 16, 2009.

As the risk manager for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sweezy served as president of Gencon Insurance Company of Vermont, the church’s captive insurer, and Gencon Insurance Company International, Ltd.

Sweezy will be remembered as someone who used his “vision and direction” to lead the company through “challenging financial deficits” when he took over in 1992, an ARM press release said. He worked to underwrite insurance policies that currently ensure 90 percent of the church’s facilities and institutions worldwide, the release said.

A graduate of Walla Walla University (then Walla Walla College) in College Place, Washington, in 1980, Sweezy earned bachelor’s degrees in business and theology. In 1987, he graduated from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California, with an M.B.A. Later, he earned a Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sweezy, a strong believer in continued growth through education, was a few months away from

writing his doctoral thesis at the time of his death, ARM officials said.

During his career, Sweezy was designated as a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter by the American Institute for Property Liability Underwriters. He was licensed as an insurance broker, a registered representative and a registered principal, as well as a Risk Management Fellow of the Risk and Insurance Management Society.

Sweezy was also an active member of the Baltimore First Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving as the church’s first elder and a member of its school board.

Sweezy is survived by his wife, Dr. Karen “Muffy” Piper, and three children: Herb, Katie, and Benny.

—Adapted from *Adventist News Network (ANN) article: news.adventist.org/2009/10/president-of-adventi.html*.

Milton Murray

Apr. 6, 1922 - Dec. 9, 2009

Milton Murray, a life-long philanthropist, mentor and founder of charitable organizations throughout North



and South America, died December 9, 2009, in a care facility in Loma Linda, California. He was 87.

Murray founded the philanthropy program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI), in the 1970s and served as its director for 20 years. The organization is based at the church’s world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Murray received the highest honor bestowed by the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy, the Si Seymour Award, in 1980. The National Society of Fundraising Executives (now the Association of Fundraising Professionals) named him Outstanding Fundraiser in 1991, and he received the Henry A. Rosso Award from the University of Indiana in 1992.

After Murray spent 27 years advocating for the release of a stamp commemorating philanthropy, the United States Postal Service issued “Giving & Sharing” postage in 1998.

Murray was born on April 6, 1922, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to missionary parents. After spending his first 17 years in Spanish-speaking territories, he spoke fluent Spanish for the rest of his life.

Murray graduated from La Sierra University in Riverside, California, in 1949. He joined the staff at Loma Linda University as the facility’s first public relations professional, working there for 12 years.

In 1961 Murray left Loma Linda to work for the G. A. Brakeley Company and later for the Ford Foundation. He subsequently moved to Mexico, commissioned by the Ford Foundation to establish a development program at the University of Guadalajara. The program was the first of its kind at any private institution of higher education in Latin America.

Murray later accepted a position with the Adventist Church’s regional administration in the Mid-Atlantic United States as a consultant for institutional development. He also worked at the church’s Columbia Union Conference, which serves the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region.

In 1973 Murray joined the Adventist world headquarters, launching PSI. In that office he helped nurture and establish programs among more than 100 church institutions located primarily in the continental United States.

Murray received an honorary doctorate in humanitarian service from La Sierra University in 2004. Murray’s life also inspired the book, *THE MAKINGS OF A PHILANTHROPIC FUND RAISER: THE INSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLE OF MILTON MURRAY*, written by Ronald Knott and published in 1992.

Until his retirement in 1992 Murray was a certified member of the National Society of Fundraising Executives, an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, and a Fellow of the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy.

He is survived by his second wife, Jeanne Murray, two children and two grandchildren. His first wife, Virginia H. Murray, died in 2000.

—Adapted from *Adventist News Network (ANN) article: news.adventist.org/2009/12/adventist-philanthro.html*.

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All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is \$35 for each insertion of forty words or less, and 50 cents for each additional word. For all other advertisements the rate is \$40 for each insertion of 40 words or less and 50 cents for each word over the 40. There is an 80-word maximum. Check or money order should be made payable to Atlantic Union GLEANER or Atlantic Union Conference.

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