

THE ATLANTIC UNION

APRIL 2010

# GLEANER

People  
*Helping*  
People

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

Youth Connections

¿Qué Está Pasando?

# inside **APRIL** 2010

## FEATURES



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Many individuals and organizations have come to the aid of the residents of Haiti since the massive 7.0-magnitude earthquake rocked the country on January 12. Members from the Atlantic Union have also volunteered to assist in the relief efforts. In the article entitled "People Helping People" on page 4, we highlight some of the ways members are reaching out. Our regular features include: Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. The cover photo is courtesy of ADRA International.

## 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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June 2010	April 9
July 2010	May 14
August 2010	June 11

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

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# Are You Overwhelmed?

**H**ave you ever felt completely stressed out? Have you ever felt like leaving everything and walking away from your responsibilities, duties, office, home, finances, church, and even from God? Modern life is full of hassles, deadlines, frustration, and demands, and stress builds up and we sometimes become overwhelmed by these stressors.

If you do not learn how to deal with them, major damage can be done to your health, mood, relationships, and quality of life. It is not the stressors themselves, but the response to them that determines our stress levels. Many people are stressed out because of their response to the slow-growing economy, slow housing recovery, slow recovery of employment, slow improvement in Wall Street, slow spiritual growth, etcetera.

What should we do when we feel overwhelmed? I want to draw attention to a story in the Bible (John 6:1-14, KJV). A crowd of people came to see and hear Jesus and to see Him perform miracles. Evening was approaching fast and Jesus asked a question, "How are we going to feed this multitude? Where can we go to buy bread to feed them? They are hungry, tired, restless, and stressed out. They deserve to eat something."

Here is a situation about which every normal person would be stressed and overwhelmed. It is time to have supper with 5,000 men plus women and children. Jesus was concerned about the people and wanted to feed them, but the disciples had no food. There was no restaurant nearby, no Subway, Pizza Hut, or Taco Bell. The situation was very bad and embarrassing. Then Andrew breaks the silence and says "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish." But how would this feed the multitude?

Jesus orders the people to sit down on the grass. Once the people were seated, Jesus took the loaves, blessed them, and distributed them to the hungry people. He also did the same with the fish. When they all had eaten as much as they wanted, Jesus asked the disciples to gather the leftovers.

This is the way Jesus dealt with the overwhelming situation. How do we deal with overwhelming situations that come our way? Allow me to suggest a few simple steps.

1. **Sit down.** Jesus knew that panic and stress do not solve any problem. Let the people sit down and be comfortable. We need to rest our burdens and problems and life situations for awhile. Take time off; take a break; relax before you take up whatever issue you are struggling with. Take time to pray, meditate, and claim God's promises.
2. **Believe and trust that God has a plan for each one of us.** Jesus was testing the faith of the disciples, but He had a plan in mind. God is aware of your needs. God has the power to meet your needs. God will provide. Trust Him in every situation.
3. **Start small.** Take baby steps before running. The loaves and fish were not much, but a small beginning. Look for your loaves and fish and get started with what you have now. Concerned about personal finances? Start building a small budget now. Concerned about family and relationships? Start with a hug, a kiss, a flower, a kind word. Concerned about employment? Start retraining, studying, and observing the market conditions. God has a plan for you. Seek it.
4. **Gather up the leftovers for the next challenge.** You probably will overcome the present problem or situation, but the question is, "What will you learn and understand from this experience?" You may learn to be patient, to trust, to believe, and to lean on Jesus more. Whenever you go through a difficult time, you should learn something about how the church, school, community, and how the world out there behaves and operates. Because of that, you can become a better individual and better prepared to face the future.

God will give you what you need when you walk with Him day by day. Remember, you are not alone. The same God who multiplied the loaves and fish 2,000 years ago is with you now. Remind yourself that you are in His loving care and He will take care of you through all your stresses. ①

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



*God is aware of  
your needs. God  
has the power to  
meet your needs.  
God will provide.  
Trust Him in  
every situation.*



# People Helping People

It was a 7.0 magnitude earthquake lasting only 35 seconds that rocked the country of Haiti and caused massive devastation on January 12. The resulting effects of the quake's impact could be felt in the Atlantic Union Conference territory, particularly in the Boston and New York City area, where scores of Haitians reside, many of whom are Seventh-day Adventists. The devastation rocked their world as they anxiously awaited news of loved ones and friends.

Cognizant of the challenges facing the people of Haiti and family members in the Atlantic Union, the administrators moved into action to determine what would be the best course of action to take. As a result of their collaborative efforts, a three-pronged approach to the situation emerged—prayer, donation of funds, and manpower to provide sustained assistance.

At the time of this writing, two months following the earthquake, there is evidence that many members have reached out in significant ways to provide assistance. Some of the actions taken by churches and members are highlighted in this article. By no means an exhaustive list, this is simply a brief overview showing how “people are helping people.”



Koesthler-Dimanche

Following Sabbath services, Pierre Omeler, Northeastern Conference Haitian Ministries coordinator, second from right, tours the Philadelphia church building in Carrefour, Haiti. On Omeler's right is the first elder Jean Junior Dormeus, and on his left are elders, Maurice Cine and Jonas Montrevil. Services are conducted outside because of the damage to the building.

## Prayer—Privately and Collectively

In the days immediately following the earthquake, church leaders invited members to join in prayer, privately and collectively, for the situation in Haiti. Members continue to pray daily for those affected as well as the volunteers who are traveling to Haiti to assist in the relief efforts.

## Ministering to Haitian Families in the Atlantic Union

In response to a critical need, several locations were established where members could receive counseling or try to find out news about their families. These include:

- An emergency command center at the Gethesmane French Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, established to assist in providing communication between families in New York and Haiti.
- The Golgotha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Roslindale, Massachusetts, provides counseling through a Mattapan nonprofit organization. Members are being urged to take a break from the images of destruction and talk to someone. “When you talk about it, that’s the only way the healing can come,”



Ruben Merino

Temple Adventiste in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was left in ruins by the quake. Fourteen choir members were buried in the rubble.

Colbert Calixte, pastor of the Golgotha church told a Boston Globe reporter.

## Adventist Community Services Disaster Response

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) directors in the Atlantic Union and all six conferences, along with their teams, are assisting in the relief efforts. Listed are two of the ways in which they are assisting.

- The Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Adventist Community Services Disaster Response team and Adventist Youth Emergency Services (AYES), under the direction of Rubin Merino, have been working with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to coordinate the activities at several food distribution sites in Haiti.
- According to Louis Métellus, Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries vice president and Adventist Community Services director, a team from the GNYC Adventist Community Services, led by Irish Stoboslai, has established a kitchen on the university campus that provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the volunteers.

## Volunteering to Provide Medical Assistance

The health ministries directors in the Atlantic Union and all six local conferences are attempting to provide sustained assistance for the medical needs in Haiti. Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union Conference health ministries director, and Métellus have been working through the proper channels to coordinate a schedule for doctors and nurses willing to travel to Haiti at their own expense.

Medical personnel interested in volunteering should contact their local conference health ministries director for addi-



People stand in line at one of the clinics, waiting to be seen by the doctors and nurses.

tional information. A copy of the Atlantic Union schedule for volunteers is available on the Atlantic Union Conference Web site at: [www.atlantic-union.org/health.html](http://www.atlantic-union.org/health.html).

## Helping to Meet the Needs

The needs in Haiti are immense. Some of the supplies being requested include tents for shelter and medical purposes, big tents for churches, medical supplies, including medicine, walkers, crutches, clothes, shoes, and food.

- Fitzgerald Kerr, ACS director for the Northeastern Conference, is assisting in coordinating the conference's efforts to get tents to Haiti.
- The Greater New York Conference Youth collected hundreds of tents that were shipped to Haiti in March.
- AUC (Atlantic Union College) in Action for Haiti is collecting donated items from students, faculty, and staff. Included among the items are shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, clothing, shoes, pillows, and blankets.
- Plans for the Northeastern Conference include assisting in the construction of homes in Haiti. Kerr is the contact person for information about the project.

## Benefits/Donations

Many churches in the Atlantic Union are sponsoring benefit concerts and other programs to raise funds for Haiti. Many schools are also involved in humanitarian projects.

- The Atlantic Union Conference made an appeal on February 6 for an offering to be collected in all churches. In its February meeting, the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee voted that a portion of the funds col-



Dr. Pierre Gilles, an orthopedic surgeon, and Renette Gratia, a registered nurse, treat patients inside the tent clinic on the grounds of the Adventist University in Haiti.



Worshippers from six non-Adventist congregations joined Emmanuel Joseph, pastor for the Dedham Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, front row second from left, and the members for a solidarity worship for Haiti.

lected will be used for the Adventist members/community in Haiti, and a portion will be used to purchase medical supplies. Anyone wishing to donate may do so by sending a check written to the Atlantic Union Conference with the words "Haiti Relief Fund" in the memo line.

- "On the last Sabbath in February, members from six non-Adventist churches met at the Dedham Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dedham, Massachusetts, for a solidarity worship for Haiti. The program was well attended and the pastors were all present. The Allin Congregational Church choir performed on three occasions during the program," said Emmanuel Joseph, the church's pastor. "On March 2, the Dedham Town Hall employees hosted a bake sale to benefit Haiti. The sale generated more than \$1,000. Between the worship service and the bake sale, more than \$3,000 was collected. Through the initiative of Dedham Town Hall, a 40-yard container will be stationed in Dedham for the residents to donate clothes and non-perishable food for Haiti."
- Kristia Beaubrun, Northeastern Conference Franco-Haitian Youth Federation public relations director, shares that "The Franco-Haitian Youth Federation jumped into



Hundreds of young people attended a benefit concert for the people in Haiti at the Horeb Seventh-day Adventist Church. The event was sponsored by the Northeastern Conference Franco-Haitian Youth Federation.

action, organizing a benefit concert, just two weeks after the debilitating earthquake struck Haiti. The concert, entitled, "Praise in the Midst," was held at the Horeb French-speaking Seventh-day Adventist



Hundreds of thousands of people are living in tent cities after the quake left nearly 1.3 million Haitians homeless, more than 750,000 of them in metropolitan Port-au-Prince.

Pierre Omelero

Church in Brooklyn, New York. Hundreds of youth from across the Federation and the Northeastern Conference filled the sanctuary to offer prayers and show support for a community in grief and in search of hope.

"Artists included Cheraky Toussaint and VOI, Laos In Harmony, David Metayer and One Accord, the Horeb Youth Choir, Joel T. Lester and Friends, Haitian Mass Choir, One Praise, and many more.

"Local elected officials, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke from the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and Council Member Mathieu Eugene from the 40<sup>th</sup> district, a native of Haiti, were present to offer their condolences and pledged to support the humanitarian efforts toward Haiti.

"A total of \$4,850 was raised at the concert to aid the relief efforts of ADRA and the American Red Cross. The Federation has made a commitment to continually raise funds for Haiti and they are also assisting in identifying medical professionals who are willing to volunteer their time to assist in Haiti. To learn more, contact Bendzy Cadet, first vice president, at (866) 253-1890 or by e-mail: fhyf.nec@gmail.com."

- Laura Mayne, principal of Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School says "the students were involved in the 'Dress a Child' project. They shipped 48 bags of complete outfits of clothing, shoes, underwear, footwear, and toiletries for children ranging from six months to 12 years. We also sent cash to the Greater New York Conference Education Department project that is specifically to provide medicine."

### Important Information for Volunteers

There are many ways to become involved in assisting the efforts in Haiti. However, for those planning to travel there, it is important to adhere to the request from the North American Division secretary's office that only volunteers who can provide medical assistance should travel to Haiti at



National Junior Honor Society students from the Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School were involved in packing bags for the 'Dress a Child' project that supplied clothing and other items to children in Haiti.

this time. All volunteers should go through the standard process via the Office of Volunteer Ministries to ensure that the proper protocols for persons traveling to a foreign country are adhered to. To read the entire statement from G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division executive secretary, regarding travel to Haiti, visit

[www.atlantic-union.org/news\\_helping.html](http://www.atlantic-union.org/news_helping.html).

We continue to pray for the people of Haiti, the government, the volunteers, and all the organizations and leaders involved in helping the people of Haiti.

Pierre Omeler, Haitian Ministries coordinator for the Northeastern Conference, summed it up after a recent visit to Haiti saying, "The devastation left by the earthquake is immense, the desolation is great, the destruction is vast and heartbreaking, but the Haitian people are hopeful and very resilient. They know there are better days ahead and God's glory will shine, even through this." ①

*Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.*



Louis Métellus and Ruben Merino, Adventist Community Services directors for the Atlantic Union and Greater New York Conference respectively, standing on the side of the Auditorium de La Bible, a 3,000 member church severely damaged during the earthquake.



Adra Internacional

## ADRAs Efforts Continue in Haiti

**A** DRA continues to bring help to Haiti as the country gradually shifts from a focus on emergency relief to long-term development.

ADRA is responsible for an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp on the campus of the Adventist University in Carrefour, just outside the capital of Port-au-Prince. The camp is home to 20,000 Haitians who are living in tents and makeshift shelters, because they simply have nowhere to go. ADRA has provided clean water and food for the camp since immediately after the earthquake. A health clinic provides medical care to the camp's residents, and 80 latrines help provide sanitation and reduce the risk of disease in the camp. An ADRA psychosocial program is also giving the camp's children an opportunity to play, interact, and begin dealing with their emotional pain.

ADRA is taking part in a massive food distribution aimed at feeding approximately 300,000 people. As a partner of the World Food Programme (WFP), ADRA is the primary food distributor for the Carrefour region and is providing 1,296 metric tons of rice, corn-soy blend, beans, vegetable oil, and salt—the second largest allocation of food given to an aid organization in Haiti. ①

Source: [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)

To learn more about ADRA's work in Haiti and around the world, visit: [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)



## God Had Other Plans

Christmas 2009 was supposed to be the fulfillment of a four-year-long dream to take a group of students from Bermuda Institute (BI) on a mission trip overseas. My wife, Darla, and I, along with a group of students, worked diligently to ensure that this trip would be a success. It is because of God's blessings, the generosity of the Adventist churches, as well as local donors, that this mission trip was made possible.

The destination was Guyana, South America. The National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS) was the partner organization. Everything was set and, on December 17, students Zuri Burgess, Eron Hill, Deshi Smith, my wife, and I boarded a plane for Huntsville, Alabama, to stock up on supplies and to meet with individuals from NAPS before leaving for Guyana.

Sadly, due to the snow storm that shut down our connecting airport in New York, we would never make it to Guyana. There we were, in Huntsville, bags and supplies packed for a 10-day mission trip to Guyana and no possible way to get there. It was at this point in the journey that Isaiah 55:8, 9 became clear to us. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Our thoughts and ways would have taken us to Guyana, but God's thoughts and ways had another plan in place.

My wife and I prayed and then posed two options to the students. Some of the NAPS team members were already in Atlanta conducting a community outreach mission. We could join with them or we could return to



Four NAPS team members play their instruments while reaching out to residents in an Atlanta, Georgia, community. Assisting them was Eron Hill, walking right, along with other students from Bermuda Institute.

Bermuda early and enjoy our Christmas break with family and friends.

The students were prepared to participate in a mission trip and they felt that they could not return to Bermuda without completing one. The decision was made to drive to Atlanta to meet the NAPS team that was already working there.

Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the NAPS team and the group went to work. By the end of the trip, it felt as if our students had been a part of the

NAPS group since August.

"Their presence [Smith, Hill, Burgess] made a significant impact on the mission," said Randrick Chance, NAPS mission coordinator. With the assistance of the BI students, NAPS was able to conduct youth impact programs at eight Juvenile Detention Centers, assist in the preparation of the Hosea Feed the Homeless 2009 Christmas Dinner, and pass out more than 15,000 pieces of literature.

—Torrey Price, science teacher  
Bermuda Institute

## Warwick Church Hosts Empowered Living Seminar

The Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Warwick, Bermuda, hosted an eight-day Empowered Living Seminar from January 8-20 with authors and international speakers, Jim and Sally Hohnberger.

The seminars, divided between the spiritual and the familial, discussed "God-governed" versus "man-managed" beings, the contrast between God being with someone and God being in someone, balanced lives (you can say 'no' to excessive demands after all!), and Christian family growth.

The central theme throughout the meetings was

the issue of relationships—relationships with God and people, culminating with the core element of happy family life as the springboard for proclaiming the gospel.

"The exercise of my will," said Mrs. Hohnberger, "is to do right in Him, even against my desires."

Mr. Hohnberger posed the question, "What are we doing behind closed doors to those closest to us?" He went on to say that "Seventh-day Adventists are not changing the world because we are not changing our families."

He also spoke to the men addressing the lapses

of leadership in the home, resulting in conflict with wives and absence from the children. "If it can be lived in your home," Jim assured the men about the gospel, "it can be sent to the world. Is it worth exporting to the world?"

"It was terrific," said Jim Lightbourne, a long-time Warwick member. "I learned a lot from them—especially how to treat my wife and deal with the kids."

"They inspired me, both of them," said Brenda Harris-Burchall, a Pembroke church member. "That's why I came back. Their perspective was really good."



Jim and Sally Hohnberger were the presenters at the eight-day Empowered Living Seminar held at the Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—Excerpts from an article written by Coggie Gibbions, communication staff, Warwick church





## Soundview Church Goal of 26 Baptisms Surpassed

The Soundview Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bronx, New York, celebrated the accomplishments of 2009 on Sabbath, December 26, with a day of music, a graduation, and a baptism.

During Sabbath School, the children sang a potpourri of songs about the birth of Jesus. At the worship service, 108 people graduated, including 75 who attended the Revelation Seminar presented by Abel Rosario Sr., the church's pastor, and 33 who attended the Spanish Bible study series, La Fe de Jesus, presented by church members.

Two enthusiastic and Spirit-filled youth from the Soundview Spanish church, Reinaldo Bravo and Keila

Pinales, preached about Jericho.

The leaders from the Personal Ministries department who initiated the goal for 26 baptisms by December 26 were pleased to have 30 decisions, six of them were baptized on that day.

"You could actually feel the Holy Spirit flowing through the temple," said Mathew, a Soundview member for 11 years.

Seven more people felt impressed to be baptized making it a total of 13 people, including two children, who joined the church family that day.

After lunch, many attended a concert that was organized by the music department. AMMI, Alvin



Thirteen people joined the Soundview Seventh-day Adventist Church family on December 26, 2009.

Abreu, Dyckman Choir, and Freddy Disla were the musical artists. The Lord has blessed the church and the community as we watched people giving their lives to Him.

—Abel Rosario Jr., communication director Soundview church

## Accepting a Challenge



Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference director of family ministries, communication, and Sabbath School, accepted the challenge to lead 100 individuals to Christ. Through his Family Enrichment Series he was able to baptize 124 people.

In January 2009, at the North American Division Ministries Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, one of the speakers gave a challenge to the pastors and directors in the meeting room. Since it was the North American Division "Year of Evangelism," he handed out papers and asked us to make a personal pledge as to how many individuals, by the grace of God, we would lead to Christ. I took the paper, prayed over

it, and then wrote "100 individuals in North America." I specifically wanted this goal for North America. You see, as a family evangelist, each year I baptize hundreds of people for Jesus around the world. However, it has always been a more difficult challenge to reach 100 or more in North America.

This was now my daunting task, my faith goal, my prayer dream. Understanding the magnitude of the task, I chronicled a path of preaching on family themes and family values with the hope of saving families and winning souls for Christ. It is amazing to see how this paradigm shift in evangelism outreach attracted many people.

In the Brooklyn campaign, people were drawn to the messages that dealt with suicide, depression, self-esteem, parent/child relationships, and family matters.

At the Rockville/Gaithersburg meeting, on the other hand, people were

Type of Evangelism	City	# Baptized	# of weeks
Family	South Hampton, BDA	13	1
Family	Brooklyn, NY	15	3
Family	Brooklyn, NY	51	3
Family	Rockville, MD	45	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>124</b>	

attracted to messages on youth, singles, and marital and parent/child issues.

Whatever the issue, whatever the need, the gospel was the same—a challenge to listeners to strengthen their families, repent of their sins, and give their hearts to the Lord.

The result was awesome, the stories refreshing. One 10-year-old girl brought her mother to me and asked me to prepare her for baptism, and she was baptized. Another person closed down her business on Sabbath in preparation for baptism. One person found a flyer on the street that was soaking wet, but through it, she responded to the invitation to attend the meetings. Praise God!

Above (see chart) is a breakdown of what God did for me through family evangelism in North America.

This series of family enrichment meetings was more than just an evangelistic outreach, it was designed to strengthen existing families and to build hope in future marriages.

At the end of the evangelistic series there was a renewal of marriage vows, and a commitment service for singles, adults, youth, and children. Souls for the kingdom and more families strengthened—what more blessings in ministry could one ask for, except to say, "to God be the glory, great things He has done."

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

## Elmira and Friendship Church Pathfinders Inspire Adults



Elmira and Friendship church Pathfinders participated in the January 23 worship service at the Elmira church.

“Do everything as well as you can.” That is what I remember Pathfinder directors teaching us. On January 23, the Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church in Elmira, New York, saw those words put into action. The church members attending Sabbath School watched as the youth repeated memorized texts, provided music, and gave of themselves. The speaker for the day was the George Silver, New York Conference Pathfinder director. Pathfinders from the Friendship Seventh-day Adventist Church in Elmira, New York, joined in the grand march into the sanctuary and participated in the day’s events. Youth with a purpose give us, as leaders, a reason to be the best we can be as we serve them. We are the Pathfinders strong!

—Erich Haesche, communication secretary, Elmira church

## Maxwell’s Legacy to Young People Continues

Lawrence Maxwell, son of the well-known “Uncle Arthur,” invested his life in young people and, even after his death, continues to bless them.

Maxwell became pastor of his first church in 1950. In 1953, he took a job at the Review and Herald® Publishing Association edit-

ing JUNIOR GUIDE (which later became GUIDE) until 1970. He subsequently edited SIGNS OF THE TIMES until 1986.

While semi-retired, he taught religion classes for the emerging college for colporteurs, The George King Institute. When the college moved to Union Springs, New York, Maxwell

accompanied them where he remained, teaching classes at Union Springs Academy and preaching at the Union Springs and Geneva Seventh-day Adventist churches.

After a brief battle with cancer, Maxwell passed away at the home of his daughter Heidi in Maryland, on October 27, 2009.

His love for young people is being memorialized in a sizable gift to Union Springs Academy to be used to further the education of students in financial need. His family requests that other gifts of remembrance be given for the same purpose.

—Patricia Kimble, elder, Union Springs church

## Springs of Living Water

North Country Women’s Retreat  
May 14-16, 2010  
Camp Cherokee, Saranac Lake, NY

Guest Speaker:  
**Charlotte Thoms**

Women’s Ministries Director, Atlantic Union Conference

Fees:  
\$60.00 (includes room and meals)

For More Information:  
315-469-6921 ext. 29

Youth Ministries Department, New York Conference



**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  
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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

**Listeners Are Tuning in to Better Living Radio**

**B**etter Living Radio, Inc., WBLN-LP, has been broadcasting in Glens Falls, New York, on frequency 104.9 FM since May 6, 2005. The 100-watt radio station is owned and operated by the Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist Church and is affiliated with the Life Talk Radio Network.

WBLN-LP has teamed up with Christians from the community to produce many original programs in its studio. One of our most popular programs, *Beginnings*, features Robert Carr, a retired chemical engineer, who looks at science through the eyes of a Christian. "It deals with the creation/evolution issue," he said. These interview programs covering many topics

can be accessed on Carr's Web site: [sites.google.com/site/creationstudy](http://sites.google.com/site/creationstudy).

Other locally-produced programs include: *Inspirational Moments* by musician Paul Gibbs which encourages listeners to trust in God; *Making Sense of Investing* with Joe Kelly, an Edward Jones representative; *Reach for Understanding*, presented by John Engelbrecht of Adirondack Christian Counseling Service.

We are currently working on a children's program that will include music and story readings. Phil A. Smouse, a talented children's book writer and illustrator, graciously gave us permission to read his books on the air.

This type of teamwork is



**Gary Bombard, president and chief engineer, in the studio of radio station WBLN-LP in Glens Falls, New York.**

building bridges with the Christian community and opening doors for praying, praising, and sharing faith. A platform for sharing end-time truths has been created and people are tuning in to listen.

—Gary Bombard, president and chief engineer, WBLN-LP

**District Churches Team Up for Radio Ministry**

**T**he Capital District Council, consisting of the Greater Albany,

Joy of Troy, Schenectady, Macedonia, Buskirk, Saratoga, and Gloversville Seventh-day Adventist churches, will jointly support a district-wide radio program. The program will be aired on a local Christian radio station that covers the entire New York

Capital Region, including parts of Vermont and Massachusetts. The program is called "Glad Tidings" and

will air on Sabbaths at 10:00 a.m. beginning March 13. I will host the

The program will be aired on a local Christian radio station that covers the entire New York Capital Region, including parts of Vermont and Massachusetts.

program along with others from the participating churches. The goal is to spread the Adventist message and to show that God's Word is still relevant to the issues we face today. Programming will include sermons, interviews, as well as a segment in which life questions will be answered from a biblical perspective.

—Miguel Crespo, pastor, Cohoes, Schenectady, and Troy churches



## Preparing to Be Your Pastor



Cindy Kurtzhals

Junior theology and religion students were publicly dedicated by religion department faculty as a confirmation of their calling into various forms of ministry. Pictured from the left are Willis Byas, William Byas, Fines Baez-Roman, Henri Colin, Daniel Mendoza, Richardson Desire, Devin Berry, and Akeem Brett.

Eight students were dedicated at the annual Ministries Dedication Service. The religion faculty conducts this service as “one more affirmation of God’s call for these students to prepare for ministry,” said Rick Trott, chair of the

department. The audience heard students’ stories, obstacles, guiding texts, and life plans. Some expressed goals of helping young adults. Two had challenges to overcome, which included survival of life itself.

### Henri Colin

“At Ditmas Junior High School in Brooklyn, New York, I realized I was being molded for the work the Lord has in store for me.

“I was hit by a van that put me into a coma. Doctors and nurses had very little hope or hint that I would make it out of the coma. They said if I did, I would not be able to talk, write, or speak.

“I did wake up. On that

day, my mother had a vision that it was an angel that came to her with a bag of blood. The blood, to me today, represented the transfer of Christ’s shed blood, switched with my sinful blood. This was the turning point of my life.

“Praise be to God, for I am here today. The Lord has encouraged me to go into ministry to reach troubled teens and youth like I once was.”

### Richardson Desire

“I was born in Haiti to two high school teenagers, a 16-year-old mother and a 19-year-old father. They did not know what to do. Prior to that, my grandmother, at that time, was a well-known voodoo priest and promised to kill this boy. My soon-to-be parents did everything they could to get rid of the baby—me. But . . . it was not the will of God.

“Later in my life, I almost died twice. I was hit by a rock in the head, and was electrocuted.

“My childhood was sad and miserable because I was raised by a number of strangers and relatives. I did get to see my par-

ents’ faces when I was 12 or 13 years old.

“Because voodoo was so strong on my mother’s side, it was said that I was to become a voodoo priest before my teenage years. However, God in His mercy led me toward the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I wandered for months seeking a church where the Bible was practiced word for word.

“I have experienced God’s love and power and am convinced He has called me. I want to be a minister and a chaplain and I want my ministry to be characterized and based on the principles of love and service.”

—Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director  
Atlantic Union College

## AFP Honors Your Fellow Philanthropists

Three alumni and a former faculty member of Atlantic Union College were each honored as a 2009 Philanthropist of Distinction by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Central Massachusetts Chapter, in the fall. It was the eighth annual National Philanthropy Day celebration.

Alumnus James Campbell '54, Oscar Schmidt '37, Lois Peters '75 (honored in absentia), and retired faculty member Vera Davis, have given their servant hearts to Atlantic Union College. Below are their stories.



Honored as Philanthropists of Distinction by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, from left, James Campbell, Oscar Schmidt, and Vera Davis. Inset, Lois Peters.

**James "Jim" Campbell's** smile and hearty laugh are a welcome addition to our campus; and whenever we spot him, we know Atlantic Union College will benefit from a serious amount of work. Campbell is an AUC alumnus, a 1954 graduate of the School of Business and Economics. A retired health care administrator with a master's degree in business administration, Campbell is never too busy to volunteer his skills and time to benefit his alma mater. Whether serving as a financial consultant to the Office for Advancement or investing thousands of hours improving the landscaping and physical appearance of our campus, Campbell's work is always effective, efficient, and invaluable. He is a salt-of-the-earth man, and how grateful we are that he continues to "season" the campus of Atlantic Union College.

**Oscar R. Schmidt**, 1937 alumnus of Atlantic Union College, has earned a special expression of gratitude from the college. Schmidt's ties to AUC were first formed in 1933 when he enrolled for classes and discovered if he could earn a dollar per day and eat in the cafeteria for under \$3.50 each week, he could stay out of debt. The ties of love and dedication binding him to AUC strengthened as he served as assistant librarian and, then, director of the G. Eric Jones Library. His honorable tenure at the Atlantic Union College library, beginning in 1951, did not end with his retirement in 1966. Schmidt has continued enriching our library and college campus as a full-time volunteer. As AUC's professor emeritus of Library Science, this 95-year-old scholar was honored as Alumnus of the Year in 1982, and, in 1997, he received recognition with a place in AUC's Memorial Rose Fence. The recipient of awards and honors too numerous to mention, Oscar Schmidt's name and contributions will forever be remembered at Atlantic Union College.

When we speak of friends of Atlantic Union College, at the top of that treasured list is registered nurse **Vera Davis**, an amazing and prolific volunteer. Davis is a former Atlantic Union College faculty member. She is undaunted by the biggest of projects and enthusiastically tackles each one, making mole hills out of the proverbial mountains. Davis always finds a way to cheerfully make time for doing whatever needs to be done, whether as a "how-to" consultant for projects and events, or as that all-important hands-on, get-the-project-done team member. For many years, Davis and her husband have been integrally involved in the activities of Atlantic Union College, and they have been generous donors to AUC since 1984. If Davis is lending a hand, you are in the best of hands!

For more than 20 years, **Lois Peters** has made an immeasurable contribution as a member of our Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees. Lois is a 1975 alumna of the college's School of Nursing. She and Leroy, her husband, have always been avid supporters of AUC with their presence and their influence, as well as with their financial resources. Through the years, she has financially supported the education of a vast number of students, making a tremendous difference in the outcome of young lives. This generous couple has not only opened their home for various alumni events, they have given a host of gifts in support of AUC, including an outstanding million dollar gift to the college! Lois is a wonderfully warm, caring, and involved individual. Atlantic Union College owes so very much to this noteworthy woman.

—Hebe (Abby) Soares, vice president, Office for Advancement, Atlantic Union College



## Conference President Speaks at Berea Church



Eunice Baker, Northeastern Conference president's wife, left, was welcomed to the church and presented with a wrist corsage by Geneva Harris, Berea church pastor's wife.



A ladies trio sang "There is No Way I Can Live Without You" during the worship service.

The Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nyack, New York, welcomed Northeastern Conference president Trevor Baker and Eunice, his wife, for the service on Sabbath, January 30. Baker presented the sermon, titled, "Singing the Lord's Praise." Baker shared that, regardless of what we as Christians are confronted with, we ought to sing God's praises.

Citing Psalm 137:2-4, his message stressed that, even while captive and exiled to a strange land, the children of Israel were God's people and should not have "hung their harps in the willow tree." He said that even in the direst of circumstances,



Northeastern Conference president Trevor Baker's message for the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church congregation was entitled "Singing the Lord's Praise."

God is to be praised.

He admonished the congregation to be cautious not to "hang up their harps" in the way they dress, in the food they consume, and most of all, in winning others for the Lord.

—Frances E. Pratt, communication correspondent, Berea church



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## Hebron Church Welcomes New Members

There was an army in white that walked softly into the sanctuary as they prepared to publicly declare Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They faced the stage and answered, "Yes" to every question, accepting the vows that were read aloud. They were now ready for baptism, joining the grand family of Christ and the Hebron French-speaking Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Under the leadership of Emmanuel Toussaint, personal ministries director, a new initiative was launched to have baptisms on a regular basis. Baptismal ceremonies were usually held during summer evangelistic meetings, at the conclusion of a Week of Prayer, or whenever the church calendar allowed availability. Sometimes the delay in scheduling a baptismal ceremony for a group of people rather than just a handful or less had discouraged candidates altogether.

In conjunction with the emphasis placed on evangelism by the North American Division, a baptismal ceremony is now held at the end of every month. Since January 2009, more than 40 men, women, and children have been baptized by Japhe Saint-Louis, the church's pastor.

These young men and women heard the message and answered the appeal of the pastor, who urged the worshipers that time was almost out. They were ready to seal their decision to serve Christ until His second coming through the act of baptism. We welcome them into our family at Hebron and the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—Kristia M. Beaubrun, communication director, Hebron French-speaking church

In conjunction with the emphasis placed on evangelism by the North American Division, a baptismal ceremony is now held at the end of every month.

## Simmons Speaks at Brooklyn Faith Youth Day Service

**E**lla Simmons, a vice president for the General Conference, was the guest speaker for the Youth Day celebration at Brooklyn Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, on December 12, 2009.

Simmons, an African American and the first female to serve at that level of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, spoke on the theme “Run for Your Life!” using the text found in Genesis 19:17. She spoke about how the current world atmosphere points to the imminent return of Jesus Christ and suggested that the congregation ought to make sure they are ready to go with Him. She

encouraged the young people to strive for excellence and to make sure that Jesus is the center of what they do. She told them not to allow the enticements of this world to distract them from what God has called them to do. She reminded them, “You are the light of the world, the salt of the earth,” making the point that our existence here on earth is to make a difference.

After the worship service, Simmons and Nord, her husband, ate lunch with the young people, followed by a “Let’s Talk” session in the afternoon. This gave the young people and those visiting the opportunity to ask her questions on

any issue relating to the church.

“Dr. Simmons was very good,” said Tonianne Williams, assistant AYS leader. “She was very lively and what she had to say was relevant for the occasion.”

Having a representative from the General Conference speak for youth day has become a regular occasion for Brooklyn Faith church. In the past they have hosted Mike Ryan, General Conference vice president; Baraka Muganda, General Conference youth director; and Daisy Orion, General Conference assistant treasurer.

—Jason Dryden, AYS leader, Brooklyn Faith church

## Youth Leaders Recognized at Youth Convention

“Congratulations!” “You made it!” “I knew without a doubt you’d be invested.” Such good tidings were heard frequently during the afternoon at the Northeastern Conference (NEC) Youth Ministries Convention Investiture Service held at the Stamford Hilton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut, on Sabbath, January 16. It was a wonderful afternoon for family members, guardians, uncles, aunts, friends, and many others.

Throughout the year, many signed up to join the ranks of Master Guide and to earn the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) and Pathfinder Instructor Award (PIA). Through toil and labor a vast majority stood fast and braved several tests that would lead down the road to investiture.

Prior to the Master Guide service, an early morning Senior Youth Leaders Investiture was held.

Seventeen leaders were officially welcomed as senior youth leaders for NEC. Bill Wood, Atlantic Union youth ministries director, shared encouraging words with everyone present.

When the afternoon ceremony began, everyone assumed their places and waited for the Master Guide drum corps and color guards to start the service. The processional was led by Irwin Lawrence, NEC drill coordinator, and Paul Fyffe, NEC Pathfinder Federation vice president. The program was administered by Nigel E. Lewis and Philip M. Wesley II, NEC youth ministries director and associate director, respectively.

Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism executive director, was the keynote speaker. He gave a powerful message with occasional humor about the prestige of wearing the “green uniform.”



Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism executive director, back right, poses with the newly-awarded Master Guides, Pathfinder Leadership Award, and Pathfinder Instructor Award recipients.

Candidates received their insignias and certificates, solidifying their new status as a Master Guide. Pathfinder leadership and instructor awards were also given to those who completed the rigorous curriculum.

Garnet M. Morris, former NEC associate youth director, gave the charge, encouraging these newly invested Master Guides

to go forth and finish the great work that God has set before us. In all, there were 89 new Master Guides, four PLAs, and two PIAs.

Gordon M. Jones, Sr., NEC Pathfinder Federation president, was acknowledged for his tremendous work with the candidates throughout the year.

—Nickisha Barrett, senior youth leader, Brooklyn Faith church





By Carrie Bobenhausen

## Are You Fully Committed?

One day as I was reading my Bible, I was led to 2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV), which says, “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” I asked myself, “What does it mean to be fully committed to God?” We usually talk about being fully committed to God in terms of our will and desires, but that doesn’t seem to go far enough. The heart, its will and desires, only covers a small amount of who we are as a person.

spent every day solely in Bible study and prayer, I could not truly know Jesus unless I was nourishing my physical and mental being, as well.

God calls us to honor Him with our bodies. In 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 Paul tells us that our body is the temple of the Lord and we should honor Him with it. Our health message is one of the great gifts God gave us through Ellen White. When we neglect to care for our health, we are dishonoring our bodies and, in essence, telling God that this gift to

than silver and yields better returns than gold.” As a church, we have proven our understanding of this as we promote and practice Christian education. Each must take responsibility and be vigilant in our duty to continually grow and expand our mind and understanding.

God is calling us to be fully committed to Him spiritually, mentally, socially, and physically. Jesus has provided us the model in Luke 2:52. This means living a balanced life—eating right, exercising regularly, getting our proper rest, educating ourselves, working in moderation, and, of course, among other things, studying spiritually through spending quality time with God.

This is a huge task and requires conscious effort and thought. I believe that if we focused more on these things, character development would naturally happen. Our characters would naturally be slowly changed into Christ’s. This is the beauty of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Our school system educates the whole person—the physical, mental, social, and spiritual. Praise God for Adventist education! ①

**Our commitment to education is one of the hallmarks of Adventism. . . . Our school system educates the whole person—the physical, mental, social, and spiritual.**

To be fully committed to God, we must incorporate all parts of ourselves, not just the heart. It means being committed, not just spiritually with daily devotions, but also physically through healthy living, and mentally through expanding the mind. We are neglecting God every bit as much when we neglect our physical and mental nature as when we neglect the spiritual part of ourselves. God created us as complete people. I am fully certain that if I

us means nothing to us. Responsible stewardship calls us to care for our bodies, and through healthful living we can better serve Him.

Another great calling that the Adventist Church has embraced is the calling to develop the mind. Our commitment to education is one of the hallmarks of Adventism. Solomon says in Proverbs 3:13, 14 (NIV), “Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding. For she is more profitable



*Carrie Bobenhausen is the guidance counselor for Greater New York Academy.*



# Entertainment and Youth Ministry

**A** “hot button” issue has been popping up in various youth circles. Some individuals have suggested that much of what we do in youth ministries is “entertainment” and not spiritually based. As a result, the word “entertainment” has become a bad word in some areas of youth ministry.

I would suggest to you that there are many forms of entertainment, from something as simple as watching a cloud pass by in the sky to watching a full-blown drama production or movie, from enjoying a sports event during a church basketball game or just having a fun time with a group of friends.

One definition of entertainment I found is to “delight in something.” Other related words describing entertainment are: enjoyment, fun, joy, and loving. I would hope that in all of our youth programs and activities, these components would be included. I would hope that when our youth attend any event planned by the church they would not be bored. All too often I hear young people saying that Sabbath School is boring and AY is boring. When young people say that, many times what they are saying is, “We are bored with leaders who do not challenge us.” Certainly we would hope the youth would express appreciation and enjoyment for attending any of these functions, no matter what type of function it is, as long as it has a positive spiritual impact on their lives.

When it comes to programming, the book *GETTING IT RIGHT* (p.36) states that youth are crying out to our church, saying:

- **We want to find real answers.**
- **We want to find hope.**
- **We want to be challenged.**
- **We want to know God.**
- **Show us how to find answers to our questions in God’s Word.**

All effective preachers, speakers, and meeting planners use methods to keep the attention of their audience. This could be in their voice inflections, the illustrations they use, the construction of the sermon, object lessons shown, etcetera. That, too, is a form

of entertainment. In many of Jesus’ parables He used stories and illustrations that kept the attention of those sitting on the hillside. You’d better believe that when He turned five loaves and two fish into enough food to feed 5,000 and more, He grabbed their attention. I think Jesus enjoyed life. Children were drawn to Him, so He sparked their interest. Maybe it was a twinkle in His eye or a loving (appropriate) touch on the shoulder or arm that let them know He cared. The

**In many of Jesus’ parables He used stories and illustrations that kept the attention of those sitting on the hillside. You’d better believe that when He turned five loaves and two fish into enough food to feed 5,000 and more, He grabbed their attention.**

bottom line in this discussion is Does what we do—a spiritual program, planned social activities, or outreach and community service—draw our young people closer to Jesus? Are the lessons taught going to make a lasting impact on their lives?

Philippians 4:8 is a text we can use to help us plan programs that are meaningful, relevant, spiritual, and joyful. We can use the principles found in this text to help us plan any type of youth program, whether it be a Sabbath AY program or a Saturday night social or basketball game.

Youth programs must be planned with the bottom line in mind—young people should be delighted that they came and were part of it. Every activity we do should be faith-based, challenging, and show evidence of thoughtful planning. They should be encouraging, inspiring, and founded on Seventh-day Adventist Christian principles. Look for spiritual lessons in every activity. In the end, young people should have a clearer picture of Jesus and want to become involved, productive members of the church. ①



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



## Coming Clean

**A**s I opened the door to my parents' garage, I stood aghast at what greeted my eyes. I had been in denial far too long about my dad's Alzheimer's, and it was getting worse without me realizing it. Recently, after taking a walk, Dad got lost and was in the woods all night before the search team found him. After his stay in the hospital, he was moved to a nursing home.

Now, here I was, staring at all the accumulated trash from the past few months. Dad was faithful in taking

quit and did not return until the next day. So many questions invaded my thoughts. *Why was I having such a hard time getting the job done? Why was I feeling as though my heart was being pulled and tugged? I've been a janitor, and I have cleaned houses for extra income. Why was I having such a struggle cleaning for my own parents? Why was I feeling angry?*

As I thought about it, I began to realize that, not only was this the dirtiest work I'd ever done, but I was mourning my father's absence. Lots of memories were surfacing, and in

easy to sort through everything trying to decide whether to save, burn, or sell them in the upcoming garage sale. All these things brought memories, and it took "forever" to go through it all. To top it off, Dad had a wood-burning stove in the garage and everything was covered with a layer of black dust. Because it made me cough and sneeze, I could only work a short time before returning to the house for a shower and a game of Scrabble with Mom.

One day, while spouting and fuming to myself while I was cleaning, God spoke directly to me. He said, "I clean up and deal with people's trash every day." In that split-second revelation, I understood and sympathized with Jesus in a way I have never done before. I also felt sadness for all the times He's had to clean up my filthy garbage.

With sorrow, admiration, and thanksgiving for what Jesus is doing for us, I made a 180-degree paradigm shift in my spirit. With a happy heart I began to sing. No longer did it bother me to clean up my parent's dirt. Why should it? God was cleaning mine!

—Diane Fickett, communication correspondent, Camden church



Lots of memories were surfacing, and in many ways I was still in denial at the thought of losing the father I had known.

the trash from the house to the garage, where he would sort the plastic, cans, and items to burn, but now he was too confused to remember what to sort and what to do with it once it was sorted.

There was nothing for me to do but to buckle down and get to work. As I cleaned, I often wrinkled up my nose and clenched my jaw. I wondered *Will there ever be an end to it?* After an hour or two, having handled all I could, I

many ways I was still in denial at the thought of losing the father I had known. It was pressing me in on every side that my dad had struggled as long as he could to live normally and could no longer keep up the facade.

Not only did the trash need sorting, but so did all the treasures in the attic. Strangely enough, I found myself getting angry with him. *Why had he stored all this stuff?* It wasn't

## Concord Church Youth Baptized

**D**akota, Connor, and Natasha Banfill and their cousin, Aaron Stokes, began classes to prepare for baptism after watching the Amazing Adventures DVD series in their home in Alton, New Hampshire. Then they completed the seven written assignments with follow-up visits by Cliff Gleason, pastor of the Concord Seventh-day Adventist Church in Concord, New Hampshire.

Then, on Sabbath, January 23, David and Tracy Stokes witnessed the baptism of four of their grandchildren at the Concord church. Many family members and church friends attended the baptism service, and tears of joy flowed freely as Pastor Gleason relayed

to the congregation how each young person chose to accept Jesus as their personal friend and Savior.

The Stokes have faithfully involved their family in church life. They have been positive witnesses and a patient encouragement to their family. Because of this, these four young people are active members of the Central New Hampshire Flames Pathfinder Club. They traveled with the club to the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, last summer.

Following the baptism, Dakota, Connor, Natasha, and Aaron were



Cliff Gleason, Concord Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, introduces the young people who were baptized on January 23. From left, Connor Banfill, Dakota Banfill, Natasha Banfill, and Aaron Stokes.

warmly welcomed into fellowship as members of the Concord church family.

—Cheryl Johnson, communication correspondent, Concord church

## Trust God First in Time of Need

Where do you go when you have a “need” for money, a car, health, love, comfort, or encourage- first to other people or the government? Do you go to your knees or the phone? Where we go first is

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”—Proverbs 3:5, 6.

ment? Is it your first choice to turn God’s way and trust His myriad of promises? Or do you choose to turn what we trust most. Where we go second is what we trust second. Daniel’s three friends, Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abednego, when facing a fiery furnace, chose to remain obedient to their convictions. They chose God and His promise first when they said to Nebuchadnezzar, “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up”–



Daniel 3:17-18. They were confident in God’s ability to deliver. They trusted Him completely. But if God chose not to, they were certain God knew best.

They still trusted God in time of extreme need.

Does your faith trust His promises? God says, “Come unto me.” Where do you go in time of need? Go to God first, and then everything can follow His purpose and plan for you (Matthew 6:33).

–Mike Ortel, president, Northern New England Conference

Northern New England Conference Women's Ministries invites you to...

**Our First 1-Day Retreat**

**“Loving Well”**

**Saturday, May 22, 2010**  
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**Cost:** \$105.00 by 04/01/10  
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**Price includes:** 4 nights lodging, meals and materials. No refunds after April 26, 2010. No telephone registrations, please.

Register online at [www.lawroweld.org](http://www.lawroweld.org) or print out a mail-in brochure at [www.nnec.org](http://www.nnec.org), search under ‘calendar of events’ month of May 2010.

**FMI:** contact [kellyv07@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyv07@yahoo.com)

## Pre-school Sparks Whole School Growth

When Rita Jackson moved back to Stoneham, Massachusetts, three and a half years ago with her husband, Bobby, who was hired to teach seventh- and eighth-grade at Greater Boston Academy (GBA), she had a spark of an idea that she hoped would catch fire. She wanted to start an Adventist pre-school. "I wanted to help the school grow," she says. "I enjoy working with young children, and I thought a pre-school class could do that." Little did anyone know then that the spark would burst into flame and grow, literally, like wildfire and just how much her little class would change the entire school population.

As soon as the school board passed her request, Jackson went to work to create a comfortable and inviting space for the three-year-olds. At the same time, she was also putting the word out that GBA was offering an affordable Christian alternative to public pre-schools.

When school opened at the end of August, five little ones were there, along with their anxious parents. Soon the word spread that Jackson ran an excellent class. By the end of the first semester, the small group had grown to 15. By the beginning of the second

year, there were 20 students and the school had to hire a full-time assistant. This year, the class topped out at 23, with a waiting list. In fact, Jackson is lobbying the board for a second classroom, certain that the students would be there if space were available. The best news for GBA, though,

in addition to the satisfaction of witnessing to and teaching the non-Adventist students about our beliefs. We have quite a few non-Adventists attending because we are Christian. They stay because their parents like the strong spiritual atmosphere."

In the summer, Jackson runs a day camp for GBA students as well as oth-

er son was struck by a car and had a lot of separation anxiety as a result. "When Ehlias arrived at the pre-school program at GBA, my husband and I were scared, as you could imagine," says Nazario. "Mrs. Jackson just embraced our son with so much love, compassion, and patience and helped us feel very comfortable leaving our son in her care. We are very pleased with the changes in our son, especially with his speech. Although Ehlias received therapy for his speech, I can honestly say that we saw drastic changes in his speech after he participated in the pre-school program

here. . . . I thank God every day for the pre-school program and Mrs. Jackson.

The success of GBA's pre-school program does not come as a surprise to Mr. Jackson, who is also the school's recruiter.

ers who aren't yet enrolled. These summer camps also serve as a feeder for the whole program and have been responsible for a number of students enrolling during the regular school year.

One parent's testimony is typical of the response families have to the GBA pre-school experience. Carmen Nazario writes that she is "most grateful for the pre-school program and Mrs. Jackson." This past summer

Parents are looking for quality Christian education and they are finding it at GBA for ages 3 through 18. One of GBA's mottos is "Educating for Eternity" and it's doing just that, from the oldest down to the smallest three-year-old.

—Rondi Aastrup, principal, Greater Boston Academy

This article originally appeared in THE BUZZ February 1, 2010 (Atlantic Union Conference early childhood education newsletter). Used with permission.



Photos: Martha Bon



is that each year, the students have moved on to the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes and brought with them friends and family members for other classrooms. Jackson's hope to help the school grow came true abundantly!

Jackson says that what brings her joy is "the satis-

## Shoe Donations Help Haitian Community



Rosalina Frias, Southern New England Conference Hispanic Women's Ministries director, organized the project of collecting new shoes to be distributed to a Haitian community in the Dominican Republic.

The Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Hispanic Women Ministries Department had the privilege of distributing more than 200 new pairs of

shoes to a Haitian community in the Dominican Republic.

During the eighth annual 2009 SNEC Hispanic women's retreat, each participant was asked to donate a new pair of shoes. The shoes were collected throughout the weekend. Most of the women complied with the special request

and brought in many pairs of new shoes.

When the day came for the shoes to be distributed, the group began by singing songs, praying, and min-

istering to everyone who attended by telling them about the marvelous blessing of the love of Jesus.

The recipients expressed their thankfulness for their gifts and many kids shared their happiness at receiving new shoes for school. It was a day filled with joy for those who assisted in distributing the shoes.

The women's ministries group expressed thanks to God for giving them the opportunity to contribute to His cause. A special "thank you" to the women who helped to make this a reality for these men, women, and children.

—Rosalina Frias, director, Southern New England Conference Hispanic Women's Ministries

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at receiving new  
shoes for school.

## First Springfield Celebrates International Day

The First Springfield Seventh-day Adventist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, celebrated its first annual International Day and sixth annual International

Approximately 170 members and visitors attended.

The worship service began with a parade of flags carried by members, each representing their country.

French/Creole group, and the Romanian group.

The day's festivities concluded with the much anticipated food festival in the evening. This event always provides an opportunity for sampling ethnic dishes, socializing, and enjoying musical presentations in different languages. The evening concluded with everyone singing the American National Anthem and the closing prayer was offered by Mihail Baciu, the church's pastor.

A lot of positive feedback and comments were voiced during the day, but one thought was expressed more than once: "If this is just a small taste of what heaven will be like where people from all nations come together as one to worship Christ, then I want to be there."

—Ellen Crossfield, communication secretary, First Springfield church

.....

"If this is just a small taste of what heaven will be like where people from all nations come together as one to worship Christ, then I want to be there."

Festival on Sabbath, January 30. This diverse church membership represents 36 countries and 10 conference divisions.

Juan Borges, Southern New England Conference executive secretary and Hispanic ministries coordinator, was the guest speaker for the worship service.

The prayer was given in Spanish, French/Creole, Romanian, and English. Louisa Cabana shared some impressive statistics about the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. Special music was presented in four languages by the African children's group, the Spanish group, the



# Quoi de Neuf?

A Travers l'église Mondiale

## Une catastrophe plus sombre une réponse plus profonde

**D**ans le sillage du tremblement de terre d'Haïti, il a été accordé beaucoup d'attention aux différents commentateurs francs qui ont cherché à mettre la responsabilité du désastre et de la dévastation soit sur Dieu ou sur le malin. Mais les suites immédiates d'un tel événement ne constituent probablement pas les meilleures circonstances pour discuter des différentes théologies de la souffrance. Plutôt ces jours et semaines devraient prévaloir notre théologie de la compassion et du service qu'il s'agit de mettre en pratique.

Ainsi, tandis que nous donnons, et que nos communautés participent aux événements de collecte de fonds et que les secouristes font de leur mieux pour soulager les souffrances sur le sol

d'avantage dûe à la pauvreté qu'au séisme. Le tremblement de terre qui a frappé Haïti le 12 janvier dernier a suscité un stress extrême et un déchirant signe de ponctuation, tout comme il a attiré une attention hypermédiatisée envers une situation qui était déjà désespérée et tragique.

Voilà précisément pourquoi l'impact du tremblement de terre a été si sévère. La pauvreté n'est pas seulement l'absence ou l'insuffisance d'approvisionnement en argent, c'est le manque de ressources, d'occasions et de choix. La pauvreté conduit à se concentrer sur le simple fait de survivre aujourd'hui plutôt que de construire des vies de façon à être plus forts face aux catastrophes inévitables de la vie.

plupart du temps, nous ne parlons pas ou ne pensons pas aux lentes tragédies qui sont bien plus grandes que n'importe quel séisme ou autres événements qui font la une.

Oui, nous devons donner et travailler pour alléger les souffrances immédiates résultant du tremblement de terre d'Haïti. Et oui, Paul, nous sommes censés faire quelque chose, mais pas seulement cette semaine ou ce mois-ci. Nous devons faire quelque chose de plus grand pour nous occuper de la pauvreté permanente en Haïti et dans beaucoup d'autres endroits sur cette terre. Ceci pourra réduire l'impact de catastrophes futures tout en soulageant la souffrance quotidienne de tant de personnes dans le monde.

**Nous devons faire quelque chose de plus grand pour nous occuper de la pauvreté permanente en Haïti et dans beaucoup d'autres endroits sur cette terre. Ceci pourra réduire l'impact de catastrophes futures tout en soulageant la souffrance quotidienne de tant de personnes dans le monde.**

haïtien, il vaut la peine de considérer pourquoi nous devons nous préoccuper de cette tragédie. [Particulièrement quand dans certains endroits même ceci peut être un sujet de débat.]

Le blogueur influent Paul Shirley a été évincé du site d'ESPN après avoir vivement parlé sur le peuple haïtien, disant que celui-ci ne "méritait pas" de recevoir de l'aide. "Je m'appuie sur l'idée que je suis CENSE faire quelque chose" a écrit P. Shirley. "Je voudrais aider, mais seulement si je sens que mon aide est méritée et justifiée."

Malheureusement, ses observations et les nombreuses réponses positives qu'elles ont soulevées révèlent une fâcheuse ignorance au sujet de la nature de la pauvreté.

L'escalade de la destruction, de la mort et du désespoir en Haïti est

La pauvreté est une oppression de l'esprit, du corps et de l'âme. Elle a tendance à anéantir l'espoir, l'énergie et l'effort. La pauvreté, ce sont des logements et des bâtiments publics souvent mal construits, des infrastructures limitées et la valeur de la vie humaine réduite. Tout cela existait avant la catastrophe télévisée.

Dans un endroit comme Haïti, cette pauvreté est largement considérée comme allant de soi. Il s'agit d'un ensemble compliqué de problèmes impliquant l'économie, la politique, l'histoire, la culture et les sociétés, sujets qui ne sont pas facilement abordés durant [les nouvelles du soir]. En général, les médias et notre attention tournent principalement autour de photographies impressionnantes et histoires super traumatisantes. Et la

Cela fait partie de l'être humain. Tout comme un écrivain de ma tradition religieuse l'a écrit, "nous sommes tous tissés dans le filet de l'humanité. Le mal qui survient à une partie de la grande fraternité humaine met en péril l'ensemble" (Ellen White, *THE MINISTRY OF HEALING*, page 345 ou en français, le ministère de la guérison).

La Bible nous propose une motivation encore plus grande: "Qui opprime les pauvres outrage Dieu leur Créateur. Seul l'honore celui qui leur porte secours" (Proverbes 14:31, NLT).

*Nathan Brown est éditeur de la Signs Publishing Company à Warburton dans l'état de Victoria (Australie), et auteur du livre '7 Reasons Life is Better With God' (en français 'Les 7 raisons pour lesquelles la vie est meilleure avec Dieu).*

Source: *Adventist News Network*

English translation available at: [news.adventist.org/2010/02/a-deeper-response-to.html](http://news.adventist.org/2010/02/a-deeper-response-to.html).

# ¿Qué Está Pasando?

## En la Iglesia Mundial

### Paulsen Anima a los Jóvenes Adventistas a Participar en la Iglesia

Los jóvenes adventistas deberían seguir trabajando por sus prójimos y buscar papeles más activos dentro de la iglesia, dijo Jan Paulsen, presidente de la Iglesia Adventista mundial, a un grupo de jóvenes como parte de un diálogo televisivo en vivo realizado hace unos días.

Jan Paulsen también pidió a estos jóvenes de la región Interamericana de la iglesia que trabajen por sus compañeros que están considerando abandonar la iglesia o actuar con rebelión.

“Con amor, atraigámoslos de vuelta,” dijo Paulsen, citando el ejemplo bíblico del hijo pródigo. “La tarea de Dios es salvar a las personas.”

La transmisión fue la entrega más reciente de la serie “Hablemos,” en la que Paulsen responde preguntas de los jóvenes que no han sido acordadas de antemano. Esta serie se ha llevado

“A mis colegas, les pido que confíen en los jóvenes y les den responsabilidades,” dijo Paulsen. “Muchos [jóvenes] han dicho, si la iglesia no me necesita hoy, mañana me voy.”

Paulsen también animó a los jóvenes a que compartan principios bíblicos con sus compañeros en lugar de sentir la necesidad de adaptarse a otros estilos de vida para compartir el evangelio.

“No tienen por qué cambiar los valores bíblicos. Solo tienen que hablar de ellos porque son valores que pueden enriquecer la vida [...] tanto en el futuro como también en el presente,” dijo él.



Jan Paulsen, presidente de la Iglesia Adventista, habla con los jóvenes de Interamérica sobre la importancia que ellos tienen para la iglesia. Este diálogo fue parte del 20° episodio de “Hablemos,” una serie de diálogos televisivos sin editar. [fotografía: DIA]

la región. En respuesta a una pregunta sobre la posibilidad de que cada país de América Central establezca su propia universidad, Paulsen dijo que no hay límite de instituciones que podrían construirse, pero que hay que tomar en cuenta las necesidades de la comunidad y de cada nación.

“Queremos que todo lo que establezcamos tenga la mejor calidad,” dijo Paulsen. En el presente, la iglesia de la región opera universidades en Colombia, Costa Rica, México y Venezuela.

Paulsen respondió una pregunta sobre abuso sexual, diciendo que es un “enorme desafío” para la víctima, pero aclarando que esa persona no debería “tener duda alguna que Dios la ama.”

“Esa persona debería encontrar alguien de confianza con quien hablar [...] o hacer terapia. Nadie debería llevar esa carga por sí solo,” dijo Paulsen, y aclaró también que los casos de abuso sexual deberían ser denunciados ante las autoridades. “Aun si se produce en la iglesia,” dijo Paulsen, refiriéndose a la reglamentación de la iglesia que ordena denunciar a la policía esas acusaciones.

Source: Adventist News Network

English translation available at: [news.adventist.org/2010/02/young-seventh-day-ad.html](http://news.adventist.org/2010/02/young-seventh-day-ad.html)

**Paulsen también animó a los jóvenes a que compartan principios bíblicos con sus compañeros en lugar de sentir la necesidad de adaptarse a otros estilos de vida para compartir el evangelio.**

a cabo en más de veinte ocasiones en diversos lugares del mundo.

La transmisión del 6 de febrero incluyó intérpretes para la audiencia de 18 jóvenes de habla hispana.

Durante el programa, llevado a cabo en el estudio del canal 33 de San Salvador, Paulsen reiteró temas de entregas previas. Una vez más, animó a los jóvenes a participar activamente en la iglesia, y a los líderes de la iglesia a incorporar a los jóvenes a puestos de liderazgo.

En relación con los adolescentes de la iglesia que actúan con rebeldía, Paulsen dijo: “Los adolescentes son sumamente sensibles y pueden sentirse culpables con mucha facilidad. Apoyen a los jóvenes y muéstrenles que se interesan por ellos.”

“Todos cometemos errores,” dijo Paulsen.

En relación con el ministerio local y los recursos de educación, Paulsen dijo que los líderes regionales son los que tienen que tomar decisiones para





# A Seventh-day Adventist Statement Concerning Human Gene Therapy

## Introduction

Recent advances in medicine and genetic technology make it possible to treat human disease by altering the genes in cells of the sufferer. Though the methods of the emerging field of genetic medicine are still under development, the pace of clinical trials and recent advances suggests that gene therapy will become a common and versatile medical option. This prospect highlights the need for Christians to identify the moral principles of their faith that apply to the practice of human gene therapy.

## General Description

Gene therapy employs DNA or RNA, the chemicals that make up genes, to cure or ameliorate inherited defects or acquired diseases. The therapeutic genetic material may be designed to replace defective genes in the patient's cells or to provide supplementary genetic information to regulate the function of normal genes. The DNA may come from almost any source—animals, plants, microbes, viruses—or it may be synthetic with no counterpart in nature. The effect of the introduced material may be intentionally temporary or it may be permanent. Often the results achieved by gene therapy cannot be obtained by any other means. The diseases that were first considered for gene therapy were relatively uncommon inherited conditions. Subsequently, the focus moved to genetic treatments for common ailments—cancer, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, etc.

Discovering efficient ways to introduce genes into a large number of the particular cells that would most benefit from them has been the technical challenge limiting the usefulness of gene therapy. In most clinical tests, viruses are used as “vectors” or “vehicles” to carry the new DNA because viruses are incredibly efficient at infecting cells with their own genes. A virus vector is typically constructed by removing genes that the virus would use to replicate or to damage its host cells, and replacing them with therapeutic genes. Adenoviruses (cold

viruses), retroviruses (relatives of HIV), adeno-associated virus (a small virus not known to cause disease), herpes virus and several others have been used in various cases. All virus vectors have characteristics that limit their usefulness and there is often a medical risk involved in their use. Other means for inserting genes into cells that do not involve viruses may also be developed, but non-viral methods are generally less effective.

## Somatic Gene Therapy

Categories of gene therapy are defined by the heritability of the changes they cause. Somatic gene therapy alters genes in cells that may be located anywhere in the body, except the reproductive cells. Many different organs have been proposed as targets—bone marrow, liver, muscle, skin, lungs, blood vessels, heart, brain. However, somatic therapy conscientiously avoids making genetic change that may be transmitted to the offspring of the patient. Consequently, this form of gene therapy has the same goal as conventional medicine—to save the life or relieve the suffering of the treated individual.

Somatic gene therapy is divided into two classes depending upon how new genes are introduced. In many situations cells are first removed from the patient and then treated in the laboratory, a procedure often called *ex vivo* gene therapy. After the genetic modification has been accomplished, the cells are returned to the patient in the hope that they will take up residence in the target tissue in sufficient numbers to achieve the desired effect. Because *ex vivo* protocols must be individually designed for each person, they are labor-intensive and costly. A current objective is to accomplish genetic modification *in vivo*, by introducing therapeutic genes directly into the patient. At present, none of the available vehicles can seek out intended target cells effectively and inject their cargo of genes with sufficient efficiency to achieve the desired effect.

Though there have been many clinical tri-



als of somatic therapy, few have been unambiguously successful. The techniques for introducing therapeutic genes into body cells are still primitive, inefficient, and potentially hazardous. The death of one young patient in a clinical trial in late 1999 demonstrated that an adequate level of safety had not been achieved.

### Germline Gene Therapy

In contrast to somatic gene therapy, germline therapy purposely makes genetic changes that extend to the reproductive cells. As a result, the change may be inherited by the offspring of the original patient. Thus, germline therapy deliberately attempts to improve not only the condition of the patient, but also his or her descendants for generations to come. In this respect it represents a fundamentally new objective for medical intervention. It offers the potential advantage of eliminating the cause of a debilitating condition, as opposed to separately treating affected individuals in each successive generation.

The technique involves the precise manual introduction of DNA into individual fertilized eggs or into the cells of embryos at a very early stage of development. At present, germline modifications have been accomplished only in animals. In addition to the health hazards it shares with advanced reproductive technologies,<sup>1</sup> germline therapy is associated with a high risk of embryonic and fetal death, stillbirth and infant death, physical abnormalities, genetic defects. Beyond the fundamental issue of safety, germline therapy raises serious ethical concerns. These include the problem of informed consent from individuals not yet born, assessing the long-term consequences of genetic alterations, the possible reduction of human diversity by systematic elimination of specific traits, genetic determinism imposed

by the choices of the original patient and genetic therapists, the prospect that germline therapy may be used in eugenics programs, and the problematic issue of using it to engineer cosmetic enhancements. Because of the unresolved safety and ethical issues, germline therapy is widely discouraged or prohibited.

### Biblical Principles

While gene therapy is still in its infancy, it is our moral responsibility as thoughtful Christians to become aware of its potential to meet human needs, to understand the biological and genetic risks that it entails, and to avoid its misuse. Decisions in this complex and evolving area should be in harmony with the following biblical principles:

1. Alleviating suffering and preserving life. The Bible portrays God as endlessly concerned with the health, well-being, and restoration of His creatures (Proverbs 3:1-8; Psalm 103:2, 3; Matthew 10:29-31, 11:4, 5; Acts 10:38; John 10:10). He explicitly commands us to continue His healing ministry (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:2). To the extent that gene therapy can prevent genetic disease and restore health, it should be welcomed as a means for cooperating with the divine initiative to relieve avoidable suffering.
2. Safety, protection from harm. The Scriptures charge us to defend the vulnerable in society (Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Psalm 9:9; Isaiah 1:16-17; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 4:18, 19). Where disease or genetic disorder is not life-threatening, genetic intervention may be considered only when a high level of safety has been achieved and life is protected at all stages of development. Even in situations where life is at stake, the risks involved in genetic intervention must be

amply balanced by the prospects for healing.

3. Honoring God's image. Human beings, created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27), are distinct in kind and degree from all other earthly creatures, with God-given abilities to reason, appreciate spiritual values, and make moral decisions (1 Kings 3:9; Daniel 2:20-23; Philippians 4:8, 9; Psalm 8:3-8; Ecclesiastes 3:10, 11). Great caution must attend any action that would permanently change the human genome in ways that affect these capacities.
4. Protecting human autonomy. God places a high value on human freedom (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Genesis 4:7). Genetic alterations that would limit an individual's abilities, restrict participation in society, reduce autonomy, or undermine personal freedom must be rejected.
5. Understanding God's creation. Since God endowed human beings with intelligence and creativity, He intends for them to take responsibility over His creation (Genesis 1:28) and to grow in their understanding of the principles of life, including the function of their bodies (Matt 6:26-29; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Psalm 8:3-9; 139:1-6; 13-16). Ethical research and examination can only increase our appreciation of God's wisdom and goodness. ☉

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*This document was adopted by the General Conference Christian View of Human Life Committee in April, 2000, and was referred to those church departments and institutions that will find the material useful.*

<sup>1</sup> Refer to CVHLC statement "Considerations on Assisted Human Reproduction," July 26, 1994.



## Sunset Table

May 2010	7	14	21	28
Bangor, ME	7:53	8:01	8:09	8:14
Portland, ME	7:56	8:03	8:11	8:15
Boston, MA	7:55	8:01	8:09	8:14
South Lancaster, MA	7:57	8:04	8:12	8:16
Pittsfield, MA	8:04	8:10	8:18	8:23
Hartford, CT	7:59	8:06	8:14	8:18
New York, NY	8:01	8:08	8:15	8:20
Albany, NY	8:05	8:11	8:19	8:24
Utica, NY	8:14	8:20	8:29	8:33
Syracuse, NY	8:17	8:24	8:32	8:37
Rochester, NY	8:23	8:30	8:38	8:43
Buffalo, NY	8:27	8:34	8:42	8:46
Hamilton, Bda	8:01	8:06	8:13	8:16

Eastern Daylight Savings Time

## ATLANTIC

### ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE

**Music for "Dare2Do" Atlantic Union Youth Congress 2010** – Are you an outstanding musician, soloist, choir or group? Would you like to be a blessing to someone? The Atlantic Union Conference is looking for excellent music for the upcoming Dare2Do Youth Congress, Oct. 14 – 17, 2010, in Hartford, Conn. Please contact: Atlantic Union Conference Youth

Ministries Department for more information: youthministries@atlanticunion.org, (978) 368-8333.

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on state tests, the quality 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](http://www.wpschool.net) or call (516) 997-5177. They are located at 211 Jericho Turnpike, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

## OUT-OF-UNION

### GREATER NEW YORK

**Whispering Pines Seventh-day Adventist School** is a comprehensive Christian elementary school exclusively for children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, 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

**The Madison College Alumni Homecoming**, June 18-20, honoring classes of 40, '45, '50, '55, and '60, and those attending. Friday evening, Sabbath, and Sunday breakfast, all at the Madison Academy Campus. Jim Culpepper, secretary/treasurer, (615) 654-3311.

**Weimar College Alumni Reunion weekend** is April 16-18. Please call (530) 422-7933 to register. For more information e-mail: [alumni@weimar.edu](mailto:alumni@weimar.edu).

## Share Your News, Stories, and Photos

- The Atlantic Union GLEANER staff is looking for news and amazing inspiring stories from churches, schools, members, and youth and young adults.
- Submit news about what your church is doing to make a difference in its community.
- Submit inspirational stories on topics including evangelism, witnessing, a life-changing experience, and answered prayers.
- Submissions should be between 300 and 350 words. Include your name, a phone number, church's name, and your photo.
- Send your submission via e-mail it to [gleaner@atlanticunion.org](mailto:gleaner@atlanticunion.org).
- We are looking for stories now and throughout the year.

## FRIENDS OF CAMP LAWROWELD 2010 REUNION

Date: July 2-4, 2010

Location: Camp Lawroweld  
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Mark your calendars!  
We would love to see you there!

# Remembering . . .

## Harold D. Singleton

*Former Northeastern Conference President*



**Harold D. Singleton**, who served as president of one of the first Seventh-day Adventist conferences established to serve African-American

congregations in the United States, died February 6. He was 101.

Singleton was the sole surviving member of the first presidents of the nine Regional conferences in the Eastern United States in the 1940s. He was the first president of the South Atlantic Conference, formed in 1945, with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. He also served as president of the Northeastern Conference, then based in New York City, from 1953 to 1962. He was then elected to serve at the church's world headquarters as secretary of the Regional Department, a department discontinued in 1979.

Harold Douglas Singleton was born in 1908 in Brunswick, Georgia, and graduated from then Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, during the Great Depression. He later continued his education at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska and at the Adventist Theological Seminary, then located in Washington, D.C.

Upon entering the ministry, Singleton gained a reputation as a church planter, pastoring churches in Tennessee, Florida, and the Carolinas.

Later he served the Southern Union Conference as Regional Department secretary, overseeing the church's work among African Americans in the South. In 1962, he was elected to serve at the church's world headquarters, then in Takoma Park, Maryland, where he stayed until his retirement in 1975. Later, he was often called into active service to pastor churches.

Singleton is survived by Mary, his wife of 71 years, six children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

*Entire article available at: [news.adventist.org/2010/02/singleton-one-of-fir.html](http://news.adventist.org/2010/02/singleton-one-of-fir.html)*

## Maurice T. Battle

*Former General Conference Administrator*



**Maurice T. Battle**, retired long-time Seventh-day Adventist Church administrator and a former associate sec-

retary at world church headquarters, died [on February 23]. He was 82.

During denominational service spanning more than 50 years, Battle served as a pastor and administrator. Beginning in 1948 with pastoral work in the church's South Atlantic Conference, his career later led to posts in West Africa and England before beginning service at the world church headquarters in 1970.

Born in 1927 in Oberlin, Ohio, Battle developed a love of reading—especially biographies, travel, gardening, and stamp collecting. In 1948, he earned a bachelor's degree in theology from then Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama.

Battle later received an honorary doctoral degree from Union Theological Seminary, an independent graduate school of theology in New York, in recognition of his “outstanding contribution” to both his denomination and the community.

He served as Adventist Church president first in Liberia and later in Sierra Leone. During his years in Ghana, Battle acted as regional secretary and also oversaw several departments, including Sabbath School, Lay Activities, and Public Relations.

Battle first served the world church as associate secretary for the Lay Activities—now Personal Ministries—department, beginning in 1970. He was elected as an associate secretary of the Adventist world church in 1978.

Battle is survived by his wife, Esther, and four children.

*Entire article available at: [news.adventist.org/2010/02/first-african-amer.html](http://news.adventist.org/2010/02/first-african-amer.html)*

## Arthur Griffith

*Founder of Adventist Deaf Ministry*



**Arthur Griffith** once created Bible study movies for deaf people by setting up a movie camera he could operate with a makeshift

foot pedal.

In the 1960s, a sheet covering the window turned a room in his Portland, Oregon, home into a movie set where Griffith would stand in front of projected slides to minister to other members of his often-neglected subculture and language group—the deaf.

Griffith, who died [on January 16] at age 89, was ordained as the Adventist Church's first deaf minister in 1969, following a request for him to serve as the leader of a deaf Bible study group. A former machinist lacking formal theology training, he founded much of the church's deaf outreach and served as a minister to deaf church members around the country.

He studied with, converted, and mentored most of the deaf Adventist leaders currently serving the church.

Griffith was born in 1920 to Minnesota farmers, who soon moved to Alberta, Canada. Still a child, he and his brother contracted spinal meningitis. His brother did not live, and Griffith lost his hearing.

His simple films were seen by North American church leaders, who sponsored a set of 12 professionally-produced films to share the church's message with the deaf.

Griffith later published a newsletter, drawing 500 subscribers, which allowed the deaf community to better network with each other. He served as deaf ministry leader throughout the country, and retired near Manteca, California.

Griffith is survived by his wife and four children.

*Entire article available at: [news.adventist.org/2010/02/founder-of-adventist.html](http://news.adventist.org/2010/02/founder-of-adventist.html)*

*Source: Adventist News Network (ANN)*

The Atlantic Union Conference Presents  
**Evangelism Homecoming Rally**  
**SABBATH, MAY 1, 2010**

**CHRIST  
 FOR  
 THE  
 CRISIS**

COLLEGE CHURCH  
 OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
 337 MAIN STREET  
 SOUTH LANCASTER  
 MASSACHUSETTS



**3:00 P.M.**  
**AFTERNOON PROGRAM  
 HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ Inspirational Praise Music and Performing Musicians
- ❖ Soul-winning Testimonies—All Ages
- ❖ Youth Connections: Inspire, Equip, Deploy
- ❖ Christian Education Vignettes
- ❖ Evangelism Reports and Strategies Going Forward

**A Power-packed and Inspiring Experience  
 for churches in New England**

To celebrate and be inspired by what God has wrought in 2009 (the Year of Evangelism) and lay strategic soul-winning plans going forward. This is one of three one-day Sabbath events to create evangelistic enthusiasm across the Atlantic Union territory featuring rousing speakers, inspirational music, stirring testimonials.



**9:30 A.M.**

**SABBATH SCHOOL SPEAKER:**  
**GREG CARTER**  
 Pastor, White Memorial Adventist Church  
 Portland, Maine



**11:00 A.M.**

**DIVINE WORSHIP SPEAKER:**  
**DONALD G. KING**  
 President, Atlantic Union Conference  
 South Lancaster, Massachusetts

*"The Best in Evangelism Is Yet To Come!"*  
[www.atlantic-union.org/homecoming2010.html](http://www.atlantic-union.org/homecoming2010.html)

Bring your lunch and plan to spend the entire day with us. All are welcome!

**Nursing Continuing Education  
 Class—3 CEUs**

*The Art of Caring With a Passion*  
 Kari Radford, PhD, RN, CCRN

April 16, 2010  
 Room 110 Nursing Department  
 9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Objectives:**

1. Discuss three facets of caring necessary to provide optimum care.
2. Identify five dimensions of caring that are inclusive in caring for self and others.
3. Delineate the 5 Cs of caring that encompass the care of others.
4. List actions that apply in caring for others and discuss ways they might be carried out.

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Dave Sherwin

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# THE ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

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# ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE SummerCampSchedule2010

## CAMP BERKSHIRE

### Greater New York Conference

Web site: [campberkshire.org](http://campberkshire.org)

Junior Camp ..... Jul. 4 – Jul. 11 (Ages 10-12)  
 Teen Camp ..... Jul. 11 – Jul. 18 (Ages 13-15)  
 Extreme Teen ..... Jul. 18 – Jul. 25 (Ages 14-16)

## CAMP CHEROKEE

### New York Conference

Web site: [www.cherokeesummer.com](http://www.cherokeesummer.com)

Teen Camp ..... Jun. 27 – Jul. 4  
 Junior/Tween Camp ..... Jul. 4 – Jul. 11  
 Adventure Camp ..... Jul. 11 – Jul. 18  
 Family Camp 1 ..... Jul. 25 – Aug. 1  
 Family Camp 2 ..... Aug. 1 – Aug. 8  
 Home School Camp ..... Aug. 8 – Aug. 13

## CAMP VICTORY LAKE

### Northeastern Conference

Web site: [www.campvictorylake.org](http://www.campvictorylake.org)

Summer Camp Session 1 ..... Jul. 11 – Jul. 25  
 Summer Camp Session 2 ..... Jul. 25 – Aug. 8  
 Summer Camp Full Session ..... Jul. 11 – Aug. 8

## CAMP LAWROWELD

### Northern New England Conference

Web site: [www.lawroweld.org](http://www.lawroweld.org)

Junior Camp I ..... Jul. 4 – Jul. 11  
 Junior Camp II ..... Jul. 11 – Jul. 18  
 Blind Camp ..... Jul. 18 – Jul. 25  
 Teen Outpost Camp ..... Jul. 18 – Jul. 25  
 Horse Camp (Limited to 6 campers) ..... Jul. 18 – Jul. 25  
 Teen Camp ..... Jul. 25 – Aug. 1  
 Family Adventure Camp ..... Aug. 1 – Aug. 8

## CAMP WINNEKEAG

### Southern New England Conference

Web site: [www.campwinnekeag.com](http://www.campwinnekeag.com)

Adventurer Camp/Junior I ..... Jun. 27 – Jul. 4 (Ages 8-9)  
 Junior Camp I ..... Jun. 27 – Jul. 4 (Ages 10-12)  
 Junior Camp II ..... Jul. 4 – Jul. 11 (Ages 10-12)  
 Tween Camp ..... Jul. 11 – Jul. 18 (Ages 12-14)  
 Teen Extreme Camp ..... Jul. 11 – Jul. 18 (Ages 13-17)  
 Teen Camp ..... Jul. 18 – Jul. 25 (Ages 13-17)  
 Family Camp I ..... Jul. 25 – Aug. 1 (All Ages)  
 Family Camp II ..... Aug. 1 – Aug. 8 (All Ages)

For information on summer camp activities contact your local conference youth department. The phone numbers for each conference are listed in the directory on page 31. Visit the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Department web site: [www.atlantic-union.org/youth.html](http://www.atlantic-union.org/youth.html).

Photos courtesy of the camp staff from the camps in the Atlantic Union.