



PATHFINDERS

on a Mission to Share God's Love

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

Youth Connections

¿Qué Está Pasando?

inside FEBRUARY

FEATURES





COVER STORY: Pathfinders on a Mission to Share God's Love



"A Dollar in the Head is Worth Two in the Hand"

6 Bullying in Youth Groups?

7 Adventist Resources Increasingly on Smartphone Technology



IN THIS ISSUE...

The Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club from Barre, Vermont, entered into a community service project that allowed them to reach out and share God's love and support with 1,500 soldiers and their families. In this issue, we share their story. Also in this issue you will find Adventist Education, Positions of Our Faith, and Youth Connections. On the cover is the inside of one of the cards that the Pathfinders used to encourage the soldiers while they were deployed to Afghanistan.

Mission Statement

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

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DEADLINES

April 2011	February 11
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The Gift of Youth — What a Blessing!

he Apostle Paul writes to Timothy these words, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers"—1 Timothy 4:12-16, NIV 1984.

The counsel and advice of this Spirit-led leader to Timothy has in it essential elements for our Adventist youth and adults living in these times. No one would deny the wonderful opportunities available to our youth today. Youth and young people usually generate excitement, enthusiasm, and an energy that is often contagious. Just visit a Pathfinder event or stop at a youth evangelistic series, or better yet, sit and observe an active Bible study group discussion. There is nothing more rewarding for the transforming power of grace and Christian education, than a converted, "onfire for Jesus" young person.

I can well remember our youth adventures for Jesus as we participated in the services of the church and as we engaged in evangelistic activities. We climbed the hills and walked the streets of Bermuda, distributing evangelistic invitations for upcoming meetings. Today we have more technology, more modern means of inviting our neighbors to evangelistic meetings, but there is a

powerful presence and touch in a personal appearance at a neighbor's door. We must never forget the personal touch! This is what Paul's counsel is all about—cultivating and demonstrating visible attributes for the growth of the church. Our Adventist Church is blessed to have youth and young adults whose lives and characters are similar to that of Timothy.

I think of the early pioneers, their youthfulness, their commitment, and the way in which the Lord laid on their shoulders the burden of being His special people for these last days, carrying the Three Angels' Messages and the appeal of Revelation 18:4 to the world. In letter 43, in 1905, Ellen G White writes, "God calls for consecrated workers who will be true to Him—humble men [and women] who see the need of evangelistic work and do not draw back but do each day's work faithfully, relying upon God for help and strength in every emergency. The message is to be taken up by those who love and fear God. Lay not your burden upon any conference. Go forth, and, as evangelists, in a humble way present a 'Thus saith the Scriptures' "—EVANGELISM, p. 24.

The year 2011 is still young, and the challenge and commission of Jesus stands before all who have accepted the call of God's Spirit and discipleship. The church has been gifted with youth. What a blessing, what an opportunity to achieve greater success in growing spiritually and winning souls for the kingdom this year. God bless our efforts!

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



Today we have more technology, more modern means of inviting our neighbors to evangelistic meetings, but there is a powerful presence and touch in a personal appearance at a neighbor's door.



PATHFINDERS

on a Mission to Share God's Love

he Vermont National Guard began preparing in the fall of 2009 for its largest deployment to a combat zone since World War II. Approximately 1,500 soldiers were scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan. As a result of this deployment, 14 Pathfinders and the staff from the Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club set out on a mission to share God's love and their support with each soldier by sending letters of support and prayer cards every two weeks while the soldiers are deployed.

The Plan

The plan that the Pathfinders came up with to reach out and share God's love with 1.500 soldiers on the other side of the world was to write a letter and send a prayer card every month to each soldier. They started first with lots of prayer, then approached the military personnel to get permission for the project. After several weeks of phone calls and e-mails explaining their plan and showing them samples of the letters and cards, the mission was approved!

Now stop for a minute and do the math—1.500 soldiers are each receiving a letter and a card each month for approximately 10 months. That's 3,000 pieces of mail each month and a total of 30,000 pieces of mail for the deployment period. It's amazing what God



This banner was used in a parade to promote the Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club's project of sending cards and letters to the troops and the VFW's project of sending care boxes to the troops in Afghanistan.

has done to make this mission a reality. What does it take to do that?

The Pathfinders had to find a printer willing to donate 30,000 letters, cards, and envelopes. They did not have to search far, since my mom and dad own a printing company! With their support for the letters, cards, and envelopes, the Pathfinders then had to find a way to raise \$13,200.00 to cover the cost of the postage.

Getting the Word Out

I contacted a friend who manages several radio stations and invited him to lunch. In the business plan, I had

already written that he would provide free advertising on his three radio stations. He took the plan and began reading it as we ate, then he looked up and just stared at me. At first I thought Oh no, I have presumed too much. Then he said, "You know Jim, this is really cool, but we should use all 10 of my radio stations statewide!" So for the next three months the voices of the Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinders explaining their mission were broadcast on 10 radio stations covering more than 800,000 people across the state of Vermont, and parts of New Hampshire and New York.

Next, the Pathfinders needed a place to capture the funds and make it easy for people to donate. Here is another example of God answering prayers before we even asked. The local bank vice president was contacted with the following request: "We need a bank account with online donation capability, we need all 34 branches of your bank statewide, and we need them tomorrow." His reply was immediate, "What can we do to help?"

Within a week, there were cards in holders in 150 teller stations in 34 branches, along with posters at the stations and posters on every door in the banks promoting the mission! The branches themselves began having bake sales and book sales, all to raise funds to support this group of Pathfinders with an idea to share God.

The Experience

So each month whether the Pathfinders were out camping or at club meetings, they would all sit down and write letters. On one campout last summer I decided that the club should experience a little of what the troops might experience in the field. So all the Pathfinders and staff built lean-tos to sleep in and they all ate Meals Ready to Eat (MREs are the military's field rations) all weekend. Now if you have never experienced the blessing of eating lukewarm MREs, I encourage you to try some!

The Pathfinders have received a number of responses from the troops in the field. Here is what one soldier wrote:

"I want to take a moment to send a quick word of thanks to you and your Pathfinders for the great letters of encouragement that you have been



The Pathfinders helped to paint the home of a soldier who was deployed to Afghanistan before construction on his home could be completed.



Each month, whether the Pathfinders were out camping or at club meetings, they would all sit down and write letters to the soldiers in Afghanistan.





The Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club assisted in stuffing care boxes that were sent to the troops in Afghanistan.



The Pathfinders spent one weekend living in similar conditions as the troops. They built their own lean-tos and ate Meals Ready to Eat.

sending. To me it seems that your letters always come just when everyone needs a pick-me-up. Your last letters arrived here just after we lost two of our soldiers in action. Your kind words, Scripture quotes, and reminder of the good things of home, I believe, helped everyone through that trying time. I cannot tell you how much they helped.

"Today I received your most recent letter. As normal, I usually quickly scan through the pictures before reading the letter and when I saw the box of MREs in the picture, my heart went out to all of the Pathfinders. We like to refer to MREs as Meals Refused by Everyone. As much as possible we try to avoid eating them if we can.

"Each time I receive one of your letters I am immediately envious of you all. I am an avid outdoorsman and when I read about your camping trips and the fun you are having, it makes me very excited to get home and head back to the woods.

"We have begun counting the days until we start our movement home. Everyone is ready for this tour to end and to get back to our families.

"I hope that when we get home I am able to meet all of the Pathfinders and thank them face to face for their letters and prayers.

"Thank you again, we will keep you

in our prayers, as well. ASCEND TO VICTORY!"

Taking Care of Back Home

In addition to sending letters and prayer cards to the troops, the Pathfinders became involved in at least 20 local service projects for families of the troops who remained at home. In one case, they assisted a family to complete the construction of their home since the soldier was deployed before he could finish it. The Pathfinders arranged for qualified people to assist in completing the home and they assisted with the painting.

The Pathfinders also teamed up with the VFW, the American Legion, and the Elks Club by providing the workforce to pack care boxes for the troops. Additional services provided to the families of the soldiers by the Pathfinders included: mowing lawns, cutting and stacking firewood, building a play structure for a family, and helping families to move.

Update

The Pathfinders completed their mission for the troops in December 2010 with just over 27,000 letters and prayers sent out to military personnel. As far as the fundraising for postage goes, you can probably guess the answer. God has worked miracles and outpaced us. When

they were ready to mail the first letter on a Monday there was not enough money in the account to cover the postage. I was sitting at my desk worrying about it when the thought came to me, pray. After praying for God's will and guidance, I spoke to the church treasurer and found out that the previous Sabbath (two days earlier) someone had donated \$1,000.00 to the Pathfinder club! Praise God, He had already answered my prayer, even before I asked. The fundraising was complete several months before the end of the mission and the Pathfinder club was also able to make donations to the family support unit to assist with their mission to the military families here at home.

If you wish to follow the Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Clubs activities with this project, visit their Web site at www. centralvermontregiment.com, and sign the guestbook for the Pathfinders while you are there. Let them know what you think about their mission and hard work, and read what some of the soldiers had to say to them about the letters and cards they received. 0



Jim Brown is a counselor for the Central Vermont Regiment Pathfinder Club in Barre, Vermont. Photos: Janelle and Jim Brown.



By Sylvan Lashley

"A Dollar in the Head is Worth Two in the Hand"

he old adage that "a dollar in the head is worth two in the hand" rings true when it comes to a child's education. What greater return can there be than investment in a child's future as your stellar contribution to God's work? Too narrow a view of Christian stewardship has resulted in unfinished projects and unfilled scholarships when "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24:1, KJV). We need a loftier vision of what God can do through us.

focused giving for a common good, based on a problem to be resolved. When philanthropy and stewardship are combined, we not only have a relationship between the donor and God, but between the donor and others. It is only as the donor strengthens his relationship with God through the return of tithes and offerings that the donor is truly ready to be philanthropic in the final fulfillment of his relationship with God. A plan follows:

"Stewardship represents our care over the property that God has given us—the property of life, income, resources, talent, opportunity, and time."

Stewardship and philanthropy are key concepts in our giving plan. Stewardship represents our care over the property that God has given us the property of life, income, resources, talent, opportunity, and time. The closer the relationship to God, the better care we will give to "the garden" we've been permitted to tend. He desires us to focus the stewardship mix on living emblems of His grace that can maximize the value of His property a hundredfold. Philanthropy centers on the development of a relationship between individuals (the donor and a recipient) to encourage

- 1. Relationship-Building—Develop a close vertical relationship with God so that you can have a basis for a horizontal donor relationship with others.
- **2.** Giving Plan—Make a stewardshipphilanthropic plan-allocate tithe from income, then distribute percentages of time, talent, opportunity, and resources as God has blessed you.
- 3. Select a Person or Program— Focus those percentages on a person or a program that you clearly

understand and to whom you are committed.

- **4.** Accounting—Require a report from the recipients or organization.
- **5.** Evaluate—Determine whether you have accomplished your plan.

In my sophomore college year, I received a scholarship from a Seventhday Adventist dentist who wanted me to study law. We developed a friendship. When I became president of a Seventhday Adventist college, he gave a sizeable donation to that institution. He also donated a building at another Adventist college where I was president. I studied law eventually, more than 33 years after receiving the scholarship. The dentist returned his tithe, and invested his time. talent, opportunity, and resources. I became an object of his plan; he did his accounting. His investment paid off a thousandfold through me.

"A dollar in the head is worth more than two in the hand." "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12: 48), "for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7), "so bring . . . all the tithes into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10), and "suffer the little children to come . . ." (Matthew 19:14). (1)



Sylvan A. Lashley is the superintendent of schools for the Northeastern Conference.



Bermuda Conference Celebrates its Diverse Cultures

he adage "variety is the I spice of life rings true for the island of Bermuda that is home to inhabitants from 67 of the 232 countries recognized by the United Nations. To acknowledge and celebrate this diversity in cultures, the Bermuda Conference, that has a membership made up of 46 of the 67 countries represented in Bermuda, hosted Fall Fest 2010 under the theme Christ in Culture.

The event that took place on the weekend of November 19 and 20 allowed members and friends of the Seventhday Adventist Church to become acquainted with many of the cultures found in Bermuda and in the church. Fall Fest 2010 involved Finnish, Haitian, and Filipino members in presenting the welcome in their own tongues; Rwandan and German

members in praying to our God in a language He understands very well, though members of the congregation relied on translators; and Italian and American members in lifting hearts with their joyful singing. Indeed, "Oh how good and pleasant it was, and still is, to dwell together in unity."

Fall Fest 2010 catered to both youth and adults through the ministry of Ricardo Bain, youth director for the North Bahamas Conference, and J. David Newman, senior pastor for the New Hope Seventhday Adventist Church, respectively. Members and friends of the Bermuda Conference worshipped together on the grounds of Bermuda Institute and the Southampton Adventist Church complex throughout the weekend. The members heard from the presenters the importance

of celebrating cultural differences while focusing on Christ and serving Him.

Newman, who is an international figure, was born in Cape Town, South Africa, grew up in West Africa, and completed his formal school education in England, Scotland, and later, the U.S. Currently living in the U.S., Newman has been exposed to many cultures and concludes that diversity in culture is a fact of life. He said, "A difference in culture does not equate to sin, it is just different." He continued, "As Seventh-day Adventists, we should adjust our methods, if we desire to reach all people. We must adapt the position that Paul advised the church in Galatia to take when he said, 'There is neither Iew nor Gentile. neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Iesus' "—Galatians 3:28.

NIV. Newman also shared a few other practical and spiritual considerations in achieving this goal:

- 1. When possible, choose friendship over confrontation when differences in culture are evident.
- 2. Live in the culture where you are.
- 3. There are no absolutes outside of God's ten commandments.
- 4. Be flexible.
- 5. Introduce change respectfully and moderately.
- 6. Be creative in reaching across cultures.
- 7. It is easy to reach others outside of your own culture, if you remember to take your expectations out of the equation.
- 8. Depend upon the Holy Spirit.

Bermudian Anthony Wade, deputy principal for CedarBridge Academy in Devonshire, Bermuda, remarked. "The sermon on Sabbath was quite provocative. It inspired an afternoon of conversation about rules, procedures, parameters, relationship with God, Bible truths, the way we used to be, and where we need to go. It was the most thought-provoking sermon I have heard in a long time."

The weekend celebrations featured a colorful and spirited parade of nations.



The weekend celebrations featured a colorful and spirited parade of nations, where members who are citizens of other countries showed their true colors and national pride as they marched with their nation's flag.



Ricardo Bain, youth director for the North Bahamas Conference, was one of the speakers for Fall Fest 2010.

Members who are citizens of other countries showed their true colors and national pride while they marched with their nation's flag to the cheers and amusement of other members

Pandetha Minors, a native Jamaican and member of the Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, says, "This event was wonderful. I learned so much and realize that we all have our own unique cultural practices. I no longer view certain cultural differences as wrong but just different. I truly enjoyed the parade of nations."

Fall Fest also included a panel discussion which explored ways of effectively ministering to all people in Bermuda's multi-ethnic society. The eight panelists represented the various ethnic groups in Bermuda. The Bermuda Conference has already begun to make plans to put into motion some of the ideas born out of the discussion.

In speaking about the event, Sydney Gibbons, Bermuda Conference executive secretary and director of Inter-cultural Ministries, says, "From the early stages of planning for the event, people resonated with the initiative. There is much tension in Bermuda right now regarding race and foreign workers. Many Bermudians feel threatened by non-Bermudians and therefore distance themselves from them and in some cases, treat them with hostility." He further states, "As a church, we urgently need to do something to lessen the existing tension. We have to embrace people

regardless of their color, race, or ethnicity. We realize that we may need to change our methods or employ new ones to reach the various groups in Bermuda."

Bain, in his closing presentation, reminded everyone present of their future destination—heaven—where they can enjoy a life

without cultural barriers.

In keeping with the theme, the weekend's event concluded with a wellsupported social event characterized by games and other activities from various cultures

Fall Fest is a reminder that Jesus came to die for all. Gibbons says, "The goal of Fall Fest 2010 was to bring together all people of all cultures living in Bermuda and to galvanize a concerted effort to recognize and celebrate this diversity in cultures." While it is important to recognize and celebrate diversity in cultures, salvation is not unique to any particular culture, race, or religion.

Sonja McCottry, Warwick Seventh-day Adventist Church member and originally from Finland, says, "I found the Fall Fest energetic, informative, colorful, and an excellent way of spreading the Lord's Word. Though we have different styles and practices, we all serve the same God. I am already looking forward to the next Fall Fest and have



Adventist Church in Fulton, Maryland, was one of the speakers for Fall Fest 2010.

a few new ideas to share. It made me feel proud and appreciated as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as I am the one and only Finnish Adventist member on the island."

Zimbabwean and member of the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church, Princess Kwangware says, "It was a good experience. I learned about many other cultures. It was also good to have other people learn about my culture. After Sabbath, I had people ask me about other things about my country—how we greet each other in my language and the food we eat. I am glad to have been part of it all."

Fall Fest is an annual event of the Bermuda Conference. It is hoped that, through the event, members will be equipped and inspired to embrace and celebrate all cultures in Bermuda and to share with others the culture of Christ.

—Pete Saunders, associate communication director, Bermuda Conference



The Bermuda Institute auditorium was filled with members and friends attending Fall Fest 2010.

Consecrated for Service

The threat of snow and the bitter chill of winter did not prevent hundreds of worshipers from attending a speciallycalled consecration service for the administrators*, departmental directors, and executive committee members of the Greater New York Conference. G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president, called for the special consecration service as they committed themselves in service for this quadrennial.

Prevailing through the many remarks, prayers, and speeches, was the call

for unity. Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, who delivered the spiritual charge, challenged the leaders to lead with integrity, and called for unity in accomplishing the mission. Recognizing the conference as one of the most diverse in North America, King took the time to note that there is a difference between union and unity. "We can be joined together in one union but still not have unity," said King. "Greater New York Conference needs unity among its rich cultural diversity." Similar sentiments were echoed from Atlantic Union Conference vice presidents Louis Méttelus, Haitian ministries, and Dionisio Olivo. Hispanic ministries.

Knight, in giving his vision for the conference, laid a spiritual foundation. The Greater New York Conference is not corporate America; Greater New York Conference is the church of God. He sees a church that

can accomplish much if the members work together,



G. Earl Knight, Greater New Conference president, in giving his vision for the conference, laid out a spiritual foundation.



Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, delivered the spiritual charge at the consecration service.

regardless of language,

country of origin, or ethnicity. Recognizing the challenges ahead, Knight feels positive that Christ will bless the conference. He highlighted that what is needed most in Greater New York Conference in not more money, but more of the Holy Spirit so that the church can accomplish the mission and be ready for the Lord's return.

Consecration and praise were walking hand in hand as soloists, choirs, and groups from the diverse cultures of the conference joined in rendering praise to God. The choirs represented the North Bronx,



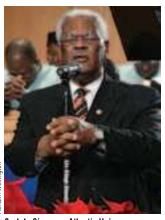
The North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church Choir.



Greater New York Conference administrators and departmental directors with representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference.



D. Robert Kennedy, senior pastor of the Church of the Oranges in Orange, New Jersey, offered the prayer of commission.



Carlyle Simmons Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary, offered the prayer of consecration.



Carlos Gonzalez, Greater New York Conference treasurer, offered the prayer of contrition.



David Cadavero, Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools offered the prayer of confession.

Spanish Dyckman, French Gethsemane, and Korean churches. Jean Brown, soloist; Joel Alvarez, saxophonist; and the beautiful strings of the Manhattan Ensemble also rendered praise.

The highlight of the consecration service was the four prayers offered to the Lord on behalf of the entire conference. These prayers invoked God's forgiveness while seeking His divine hand of blessing as they commit themselves in service. The four prayers were as follows:

Prayer of Confession Prayer of Contrition Prayer of Consecration Prayer of Commission

David Cadavero Carlos Gonzalez Carlyle Simmons D. Robert Kennedy

With this historic service, Greater New York Conference administrators, departmental directors, and executive committee members committed themselves to working together with all pastors, teachers, workers, and members in fulfilling the commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

Hundreds of worshippers attended the consecration service held at the North Bronx



and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" - Matthew 28:19, 20.

—Rohann Wellington, communication director, Greater New York Conference

*Gerson Santos, Greater New York Conference executive secretary, was unable to attend the service because he had to travel to Brazil for the funeral of his brother-in-law, who died unexpectedly.

Photos of the Consecration Service can be viewed at www.gnyc.org or on Facebook: Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. DVDs of the service can be ordered by calling (516) 627-9350 or by contacting the Office



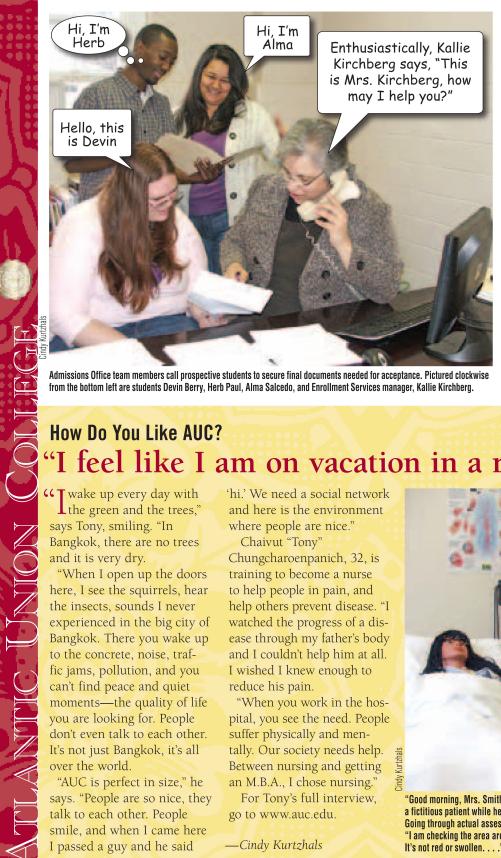
The Central New York Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church.



The Manhattan Ensemble.



Hello. This is Atlantic Union College calling . . .



Admissions Office team members call prospective students to secure final documents needed for acceptance. Pictured clockwise from the bottom left are students Devin Berry, Herb Paul, Alma Salcedo, and Enrollment Services manager, Kallie Kirchberg,

t's always good to have a face to put with a name when you do business on the telephone. Today, prospective students and parents can meet part of AUC's admissions team on this page.

The number of applications for the Fall 2011 semester is double the amount of last year's applications.

Apply online at www.auc.edu.

—Cindy Kurtzhals, public relations director, Atlantic Union College. Close to Connecticut and Rhode Island.

How Do You Like AUC?

"I feel like I am on vacation in a resort."

66 T wake up every day with Lthe green and the trees," says Tony, smiling. "In Bangkok, there are no trees and it is very dry.

"When I open up the doors here, I see the squirrels, hear the insects, sounds I never experienced in the big city of Bangkok. There you wake up to the concrete, noise, traffic jams, pollution, and you can't find peace and quiet moments—the quality of life you are looking for. People don't even talk to each other. It's not just Bangkok, it's all over the world.

"AUC is perfect in size," he says. "People are so nice, they talk to each other. People smile, and when I came here I passed a guy and he said

'hi.' We need a social network and here is the environment where people are nice."

Chaivut "Tony" Chungcharoenpanich, 32, is training to become a nurse to help people in pain, and help others prevent disease. "I watched the progress of a disease through my father's body and I couldn't help him at all. I wished I knew enough to reduce his pain.

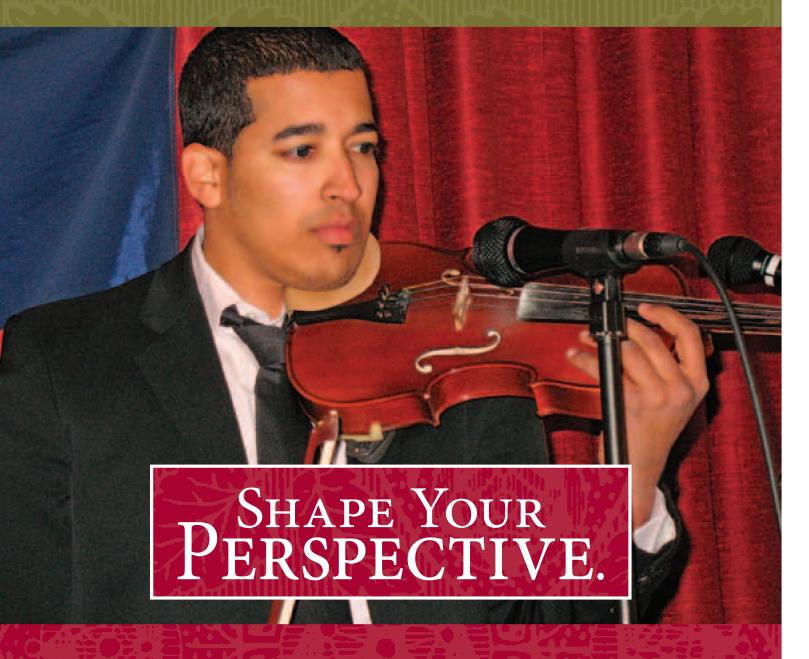
"When you work in the hospital, you see the need. People suffer physically and mentally. Our society needs help. Between nursing and getting an M.B.A., I chose nursing."

For Tony's full interview, go to www.auc.edu.

—Cindy Kurtzhals



"Good morning, Mrs. Smith. How was your night?" Tony mimics a conversation with a fictitious patient while he practices using an IV arm model in the nursing skills lab. Going through actual assessment motions, Tony explains to his patient what he is doing. "I am checking the area around your IV, Mrs. Smith. Do you have any tenderness? Pain?



Now Accepting Applications—The AUC Music Department!

The Atlantic Union College Music Department is now accepting new music majors for fall semester. Classes start in August 2011.

The Music Department offers two degrees: the Bachelor of Arts in Music, which is easily combined with a second major or pre-professional program, and the Bachelor of Music, a professional degree with two tracks, music education and performance.

AUC music students participate in the extensive artistic life of the greater Boston and Worcester communities. Working together, faculty and students create an atmosphere within which intellectual, spiritual, social, and artistic development can take place.

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Tioga County Church Members Support Wreaths Across America™

fter reading an article Aabout Wreaths Across America, a project to place Christmas wreaths on veterans' graves, the Tioga County Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Candor, New York, decided to become sponsors of the project.

Upon inquiry, the church was assigned to the Broadway Cemetery. Soon 35 Christmas wreaths graced the veterans' resting places. Church members were honored to remember those who fought and those who died while fighting for everyone's freedom.

Wreaths Across America was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester (Worcester Wreath) in 1992



Tioga County church members placed wreaths on the graves of veterans at the Broadway Cemetery.

Internet. The project received national attention and thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to emulate the Arlington project at their national and state cemeteries. This spurred the creation of Wreaths Across America (www. wreathsacrossamerica.org).

The wreath laying is now held annually on the second Saturday of December.

–Marnie Shrader, Sabbath School superintendent, Tioga County church

with the donation and laying of 5,000 Christmas wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery. This became an annual journey for Worcester.

The program was relatively obscure until 2005, when a photo of the stones adorned with wreaths and covered in snow circulated on the



Fifth Annual Lay Training Institute February 25-27, 2011

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To Register Contact

Cecelia Hess

E-mail: cecelia@nyconf.com Phone: (315) 469-6921 ext. 21

Registration fees include the motel room for two nights and Sabbath breakfast, lunch, supper, and Sunday breakfast. For single, triple, and quad rates, contact Cecelia Hess. To download a copy of the brochure, visit: www.nyconf.com.

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USA Reaches out to the Community

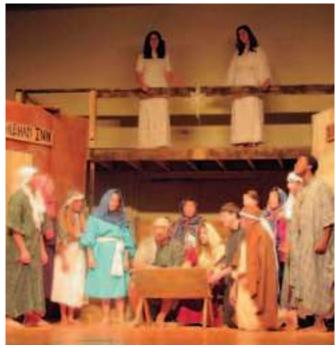
ore than 200 people Lattended "Bethlehem's Big Night," a Christmas play presented by Union Springs Academy (USA) students on December 18, 2010. Randy Quillin, boys' dean, directed the play and worked tirelessly on lights, technology, sound, and props. Sarah Strickland, music director, coached the singers and made sure the actions corresponded to the vocal selections.

"Mary, how could you possibly be pregnant?" asked Joseph, played by Ephriam Bernard, who was adamant that he could not take Mary (Kim Ford) as

his wife after this breech of trust!

Laughter erupted from the audience as the two wives of competing inns in Bethlehem tried to coerce their lazy husbands, Kyle and Zach, into greater preparations to attract customers. Many eyes were full of tears as the little daughter, Samantha Baker, tried to give away her room to Mary and Joseph. She sang a song that reached out to each rushed and harried person about the importance of making room in one's heart for the Savior.

As the students spent time practicing and imagin-



Union Springs Academy students reached out to the community by presenting "Bethlehem's Big Night," a play about the birth of Jesus.

Westvale Members Celebrate Six Baptisms

Six indi-viduals were baptized at the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Syracuse, New York, on November 20, 2010. Kelly



Kelly Pitcher, left, La Paw (with daughter Win Win), Ka Baw Moo, Na Kuh, Say Htoo Paw, and Lah Say were baptized at the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Syracuse, New York.

Pitcher was baptized by Bill Hrovat, Westvale church's pastor. The other five were baptized by Alan Kaiser, the church's head elder. They included a former Buddhist, La Paw, and two students from Parkview Junior Academy, Say Htoo Paw and Lah Say. Naw Kuh and Ka Baw Moo were rebaptized, having been baptized as young children.

The faces of each shone as they rejoiced about what Jesus has done for them. La Paw says she now finds joy in sharing her newfound faith with family members back in Burma.

-Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

ing how Jesus' birth may have been, the reality of the event began to sink in. "It was cool being Mary," Kim, a senior, said. "To think that God chose me, He trusted me to be responsible for his Son was an awesome realization." Ephriam, also a senior, said that portraying Joseph was a miracle experience for him. He had been sick all week and couldn't sing. Nobody knew whether he would be able to perform. "It was only through prayer that I was able to speak or sing in time for the production," he reflected.

The play was still having an impact the next day in a nearby Scipio community church. Several of the major themes from the play were incorporated into the call to worship. After church, Gary Mutchler, deacon, shared the part that most powerfully touched

his heart. Mary and Joseph were outside talking about his dream, and in the house behind them were a group of girlfriends, gossiping and trying to eavesdrop on their conversation. When Mary rejoined the group, they pumped her for information. "Do you have news?" they begged. And Mary replied, "I have the greatest news the world has ever, or will ever hear." With that, Gary's eyes filled with tears and his voice choked up. "The best news . . ."

It will be another year before USA gets to put on another big production for the community that focuses on Jesus' birth. But until then they will be sharing in their daily lives what that gift has come to mean to them.

—Esther Baker, school secretary, Union Springs Academy



Bullying in Youth Groups?

e have heard it before. Bullying has become a problem. Much has been written about bullying recently in schools, on the playground, on the streets, and other places where children and youth hang out. This is not a new topic, yet it is a topic about which church youth leaders need to take notice and beware. Just what is bullying? Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself.

It is estimated that 160,000 children each day miss school due to fear of an attack or intimidation by other students. Seventy-four percent of eight- to 11-yearold students said teasing and bullying occur at their schools. Ironically, with verbal bullying, bullies were less likely to make derogatory statements about other students' religion or race.

"Youth leaders must become role models through language and action, creating boundaries of non-tolerance of any verbal, physical, or sexual abuse of any kind."

Most of us believe we should defend a victim and prevent bullying, but most young people don't actually do so. Some research tells us that many young people want to help, but don't know how to do it. This should not change our calling to reach out and help others. Our great Example, Jesus, stood up for people who were being ridiculed and hurt and He taught us to do the same. Name calling (e.g., using such words as gay, fag, or homo, or using racial slurs), teasing (e.g., making fun of someone's appearance or mannerisms), and/ or social aggression (excluding people, gossiping, use of social media) are all forms of bullying, which compromise our call to treat others the way we want to be treated. (Warren Throckmorton 2010, Golden Rule Pledge)

Does bullying take place in church youth groups? I have not seen any significant studies that help answer that question, but it stands to reason that if it happens in other places, it is probably happening in church youth groups. Youth leaders need to be aware of any possible bullying in the group and will need to take action to deal with any possible incidents of bullying.

Youth leaders must become role models through language and action, creating boundaries of non-tolerance of any verbal, physical, or sexual abuse of any kind. Here are some signs that someone in your group may be a victim of bullying:*

- 1. Evidence of physical abuse, such as bruises and scratches
- 2. Loss of friends; changes in friends
- 3. Reluctance to participate in activities with peers
- 4. Loss of interest in favorite activities
- 5. Unusually sad, moody, anxious, lonely, or depressed
- 6. Headaches, stomach aches, or other physical complaints
- 7. Decline in school achievement (youth achievement)
- 8. Thoughts of suicide

Obviously, we haven't begun to scratch the surface when it comes to this important issue. Be intentional about addressing this issue before it becomes a problem. Do your own research and become educated about this terrible social issue. I would suggest that you check out the goldenrulepledge.com Web site. There are some very helpful materials that will help you as you address this issue with the youth of your church. Challenge them to take the Golden Rule Pledge, which is stated below.

I pledge to treat others the way I want to be treated. Will you join me in this pledge? "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31).



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

* www.eyesonbullying.org/signs.hytml

Adventist Resources Increasingly on Smartphone Technology

wo organizations at the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters are putting more of their resources on smartphone technology.

Both the Sabbath School/ Personal Ministries departments and the estate of church co-founder Ellen G. White have recently released upgrades to their apps. The newly upgraded app from The White Estate now makes available all of White's published writings. The Sabbath School department puts in an app all its study guides, from Beginner through the Adult Bible Study Guide.

Both apps are free; the iPhone/iPad versions are available in Apple, Inc.'s online iTunes store.

The Sabbath School app is available for the iPhone, iPad, and Android platforms in English, French, and Spanish, said Falvo Fowler, the department's editor and executive producer. The app also features media produced by the department, including Sabbath School University videos, Daily Collegiate Quarterly readings, multi-language podcasts and kindergarten lesson animations. Cool Tools, a resource for Sabbath School and small group leaders, is built into the app.

The department also posts its Kindergarten animations on YouTube and Vimeo, Fowler said. The YouTube channel now includes closed captioning in both English and Mandarin. Resources in more languages are in development.

In addition, an iPad app set for release next month for the GraceLink study series will feature a digital felt board, Fowler said. Parents, teachers, and kids will be able to tell stories by manipulating and moving characters and backgrounds specific to that week's story. Fowler said apps can also connect to a projector or monitor for presenting to audiences.

The new app from the White Estate includes all 412 books written by White or later compiled from

her writings, said Darryl Thompson, assistant director of the Ellen G. White Estate. The app also features search ability of the entire White library, a King James Version of the Bible and Webster's contemporary 1828 dictionary. It also allows users to create

> notes to share via e-mail, Facebook, or Twitter. Additionally, every Bible verse reference is hyperlinked.

The Estate has also released EGW Lite, with content based on 10 of White's most popular books, Thompson said. The lite app was created for users with limited storage devices or 3G coverage.

The White Estate is developing an Android version for release later this year, Thompson said.

For more information on the White Estate app, visit whiteestate.org.

For more information on the Sabbath School app, www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org.

—Source: Adventist News Network

The Adventists Goes International

he critically acclaimed documentary film, The Adventists, now airing on PBS stations in the United States, will soon begin airing internationally. Broadcasters in Romania, Italy, Poland, the Ukraine, Russia, and Asia (China, Japan, Korea) have licensed the film for translation, broadcast, and distribution on DVD.

The Adventists tells the story of the church's unique health care ministry that has made many members some of the longest-living people in the world.

"The themes we raise in the film about the intersection of faith and health care and the role theology plays in forging a healthier lifestyle are universal themes. That is why the film is now finding success beyond our own borders," says filmmaker Martin Doblmeier of Journey Films.

The Adventists is available at your local Adventist Book Center or on www.adventistbookcenter.com.

Bethany Church Honors Community Leaders

embers of the Bethany Seventh-May Adventist Church in Westbury, New York, recognized several community leaders at its 12th annual Community Law Enforcement Recognition Day on October 23, 2010.

Getting top recognition with a Legend Award was Lt. Colonel Spann Watson, the Tuskegee Airman who resided in Westbury until his passing on April 10, 2010. His daughter, Diane Capers, accepted the award.

Hugh W. Wyatt, publisher and editor of The Spiritual Herald and The MEDICAL HERALD, received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work as a newspaper journalist.

Nassau County Legislator Robert Troiano, the Distinguished Service Award honoree, said he was humbled by the gesture and vowed to continue representing the interests of the community with honor and integrity.

Bethany also recognized members of the Nassau County Police Department for valor, bravery, and outstanding police work. Inspector Kevin G. Canavan, who oversees the Third Precinct in which Bethany is located, and Detective/ Sergeant Salvatore Scalone were on hand to help acknowledge detectives John LoPiccolo and Fritz St. Jean, as well as police officers Michael Gnolfo, Kenneth Tymecki, and Hill Karl-Otto.

Community Service Awards were bestowed on Habeeb Ahmed, chairman of the board of trustees of the Islamic Center of Long Island. Harold Brown, a 25-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department and a 9/11 responder, said it was an honor to make a difference in the lives of those who faced harm and danger. Marnelle Paul, president of Women in Touch of Zion, thanked the members of her organization for the prayers which sustained their humanitarian efforts following the January 12th earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Bishop Robert W. Harris, pastor of Grace Cathedral International and a Nassau County Police Department chaplain, was also honored for his collaborative crime prevention work in the community.

Two elders of the Bethany congregation were given Service Appreciation Awards. Melvina Graciela Bullen.



James LaMar, left, pastor of the Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church, congratulates the law enforcement honorees, Detective John LoPiccolo, Police Officer Michael Gnolfo, Police Officer Kenneth Tymecki, Police Officer Hill Karl-Otto, and Detective Fritz St. Jean, at the 12th Annual Community Law Enforcement Recognition Day on October 23, 2010, as Inspector Kevin Canavan of the Third Precinct and Detective/Sergeant Salvatore Scalone of the Nassau County Police Department look on.

director of Bethany's African Tribes Pathfinder Club since 1988 and Long Island area coordinator for the Pathfinder clubs in the Northeastern Conference, was recognized for positively influencing hundreds of young people. Selwyn Irvin Stephen was acknowledged for more than 25 years of service to Bethany as a choir member, teacher, religious liberty director, music coordinator, historian, resident Bible scholar, deacon, and elder.

Keynote speaker, Vaughn E, James, professor and director of the Tax Clinic at Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock, Texas, delivered a sermon entitled "Only By This Shall All Men Know." James challenged the honorees and the congregation to exemplify rather than merely speak about love.

Another highlight of the celebration was vocalist Felina Backer's rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings." James LaMar, Bethany's pastor, exhorted the honorees to continue their dedicated work in the community. In a joint dedicatory prayer with James, he asked for God's continued blessings on each person.

According to LaMar, Community Law Enforcement Recognition Day is held each year to honor law enforcement, clergy, and community officials for exemplary leadership or exceptional service. "The underlying goal, however, is to cultivate goodwill and to inform our community about Jesus' love and soon return," he said.

—Beryl Williams, communication director, Bethany church



James LaMar, right, pastor of the Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church congratulates the community service honorees. From left are Inspector Kevin Canavan of the Nassau County Police Department accepting the Community Service Award for Bishop Robert W. Harris; Habeeb Ahmed, chairman of the board of trustees of the Islamic Center of Long Island; Melvina Bullen an elder at Bethany church; Marnelle Paul, president of Women in Touch of Zion; and Harold Brown former New York City Fire Department firefighter and 9/11 responder.

Members Ordained in Ministry at Solid Rock

ive members of the Solid Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church in Far Rockaway, New York, were ordained to ministry, four as elders and one as

Luis Coppin, Richmond Aliche, Delroy Hetburn, and Owen Girdey were ordained as elders and Jermaine Brown, 21, became the youngest deacon at Solid Rock church. He was a Baptist Christian, but was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2007 after attending Solid Rock with his sister, Ann-Marie Dyer Gunn.

David Cuke, pastor, and Rickford Trim, first elder, organized and conducted the November 20, 2010, service.

—Yvette Sheron Mingo, communication correspondent, Solid Rock



The four elders and one deacon who were ordained at the Solid Rock Seven-day Adventist Church on November 20, 2010, are, from left, Raymond Aliche, elder: Jermaine Brown, deacon; Luis Coppin, elder; Owen Girdey, elder; and Delroy Hetburn, elder.

Hanson Place Church Unveils Historic Book

omecoming 2010 at the Hanson Place Seventhday Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, was a memorable and historic event. The October 15-16, 2010, celebration began on Friday evening with guest speaker Maxwell Ferguson, a former associate pastor who served from 1993 to 1995. Also attending were Rupert and Hope Young,

with the sanctuary choir directed by Carl Benjamin. It prepared worshippers for the sermon, "The Inside Scoop," by Glenn Roberts, who pastored the church from 1974 to 1980.

During his tenure at Hanson Place, Roberts was known for his gift of storytelling and each Sabbath he presented interesting and spiritually-uplifting stories

Conference president, and his wife. Eunice. The book traces the history of some "ambitious immigrants from the Caribbean," many of them graduates of West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) in Jamaica and Caribbean Union College (now University of Southern Caribbean) in Trinidad. As a result of their commiting was introduced by a musical program featuring renditions by the Hanson Place sanctuary choir, the men's chorus, Majestic Praise, Voices In Praise, and guest artists Clinton Ingram and Shermayne Brown. The dedicatory prayer was offered by the church's pastor, Melwyn A. Mounter.

The weekend was planned by a special com-

The book, Singing In A Strange Land: The Hanson Place Church, records the challenges and triumphs the congregation encountered from its inception in 1958 and throughout its 52 years seeking to preserve its Seventh-day Adventist heritage and fulfill its mission in the community.

who served the church from 1981 to 1986.

On Sabbath morning hundreds of members. friends, and former members gathered for worship and fellowship. Lynna Scott Carnegie led the Sabbath School program that covered all the decades of the church's existence and included all age groups.

Voices In Praise, under the direction of Jeremiah Cox, Jr., provided music for the worship service, along

to the children during their story time. Those children, now adults with children of their own, listened once more to the children's story told by Roberts.

The afternoon service showcased the book, SINGING IN A STRANGE LAND: THE HANSON PLACE CHURCH. authored by Glenn O. Phillips, professor of history at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. It was unveiled by Trevor H. C. Baker, Northeastern

ment and great sacrifice, the Hanson Place church was born. The book records the "challenges and triumphs that the congregation encountered from its inception in 1958 and throughout its 52 years seeking to preserve its Seventh-day Adventist heritage" and fulfill its mission in the community.

In keeping with the book's title, Singing In A STRANGE LAND, the service of dedication and unveilmittee chaired by Milton O. C. Havnes.

For more information about the book, contact the Hanson Place church office at (718) 230-0410/0418 or visit the Web site at www. hansonplace.org.

The 1300-member landmark Hanson Place church is located in downtown Brooklyn, at the corner of Hanson Place and South Portland Avenues.

—Maureen O. Burke, elder, Hanson Place church



Believe in the Impossible

Drior to October 12, 2010, I wouldn't have thought it possible that my husband's life could be almost taken from him. I would have rendered it absurd to think that he could be involved in such an unusual and tragic accident. No wife ever imagines that they'll be the one rushing to the hospital and pleading with God for her husband's life. We hear about these things in the news, we see tragedy afar off, but rarely does it truly touch us. Rarely does it grip our soul and shake our entire existence. In our minds, we simply render such hurt and loss impossible.

Zane, my husband, always believed in the impossible. If you are blessed enough to know him, you know that it is because of his faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our God is well acquainted with impossibilities. After all, Jesus walked on water and raised the dead. What can't He do? But sometimes we forget just how possible He makes things. Sometimes our faith is lacking and we don't truly believe that our God can move mountains. Let me share with you some of the "impossibilities" that have strengthened my faith.

On October 12, 2010, Zane, a lineman for a power company, was involved in a high voltage accident. When the electricity arced out from the substation disconnect, it made contact with the rail of the scissor lift Zane was on rather than with Zane's body. Direct contact with 69,000 volts would have killed him instantly. Fifty

percent of his body was covered with third degree burns and they gave him a 70 percent chance of survival. His neck, chest, arms, back, and abdomen all suffered third degree burns. His face only sustained minor second degree burns along the jaw line, ear, and a tiny bit on his nose. His face will heal and look entirely normal. No one can explain how his face was protected.

His hands are just as miraculous. They were not burned nearly as severely as his arms. We are being told that they will heal on their own, without grafting. That, of course, is a huge blessing because grafts

There are two commercial flights out of our small town that go to Boston each day. We had just enough time to run home, grab clothes, and catch the last flight out. We arrived in Boston at the same time Zane did.

My uncle was at Boston's Logan Airport waiting on a flight that was delayed by 35 minutes when he received a text from family members telling him what happened. Even though he couldn't reach us because we were in the air, he postponed his flight and was going to head to the hospital. For some reason, he stayed at the airport, and when we landed, he was there to pick us up. Had

tion and had started to fill with fluid. A chest tube was placed and by Friday evening, the fluid was receding and shortly thereafter, the tube was removed from his chest. We've been told by nurses that they can't believe how quickly he bounced back from that night.

Several veteran nurses told us that they've never seen a neck graft look as good and heal as fast as Zane's has. We were told that it would be 30 days before we would be able to communicate with Zane at all. On day 13 he talked, responded to a question, and told me he loved me.

Co, tell me what's impos-Sible and I'll tell you how my God made it possible. Tell me one thing God can't or failed to do, and I'll tell you three things that He can and has done. Often our lack of faith limits the miracles that we're able to see. We get blinded by realities and logic. But, how sweet it is when our eyes of faith are opened and we truly see God work! Nothing is impossible for Him.

God has been working miracles in Zane's body, much more than we are able to share in this article. We continue to believe and trust that our heavenly Father will bring him through this healthy and strong. We are so thankful for everyone's prayers and support. We know that prayer is powerful and we praise God for the lives that have been touched by Zane's story.

-Courtney Wetzel, member, Oakfield church

For information on Zane Wetzel's progress, visit www.projectprettyblog.com.

Tell me one thing God can't or failed to do, and I'll tell you three things that He can and has done.

would make it much harder to regain full use of them.

t the time of the acci-Adent, my dad was only a parking lot away and was able to be with Zane immediately. My mom was working in the emergency department at a hospital. The fact that she was there when he came in is miraculous; she only works per diem. I was working directly across the street from the hospital. Dad picked me up and we were also there within minutes. Because Mom was on duty, she was able to get me in Zane's room before they sedated him and he was able to tell me he loved me. God worked out each and every detail.

his flight not been delayed, he would have been on his way to Memphis. Several financial miracles have taken place that allowed family members to be able to travel to Boston.

n Thursday night/ early Friday morning (October 14 and 15), we were told that Zane had acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). I didn't know it at the time, but this is often fatal. By the time Saturday rolled around, Zane had improved drastically, and the ARDS was no longer a threat.

Also on those horrible nights, Zane's lungs were in extremely fragile condi-

Thankful for June!

Tune O'Roak was born October 14, 1920, in East Corinth. Maine. In 1940. with encouragement from her mother and her Aunt Harriet, she accepted Jesus into her life. She attended the Bangor Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bangor, Maine, and was active in many ways.

O'Roak has a beautiful singing voice and has used it to glorify the Lord for the 70 years that she has known Him. She sang for the pastors' evangelistic meetings in St. Cloud, Florida. She has been a member of several churches: Bangor, Norridgewock, and Waterville, in Maine; Stoneham, Massachusetts; Tennessee; Florida; and now Dexter. Maine.

O'Roak has a wonderful ministry in the church. She calls everyone she knows who has a birthday and sings happy birthday to them. She



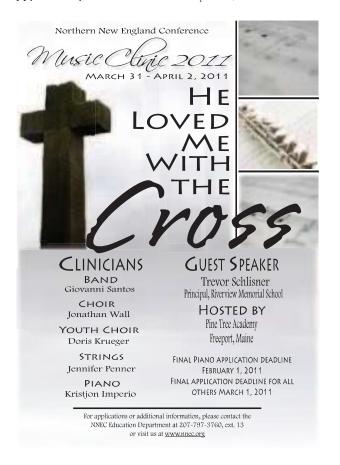
June O'Roak celebrated 90 years of a very active life on October 14, 2010.

also calls anyone who is sick and prays for them.

On October 14, 2010, her church family gave her a birthday party to celebrate 90 years of a very active life. She was blessed the next day by a party from her nieces, too.

O'Roak is much loved by everyone who knows her. "I am so happy with blessings and the love of those who care," O'Roak said, "And I am looking forward to the coming of Jesus."

-Colleen Giles, communication correspondent, Dexter church



God Loves our Uniqueness

hree-year-old Jonathon suddenly folded his arms across his chest, abruptly turned his little body toward the opened garage door, and determinedly marched around the parked car to the kitchen door of his home. Jonathon was clearly upset. He was sending a message.

His neighbor friend, Kaitlin, had come to play in his yard, at his invitation. It was her turn to ride the scooter. He had been riding it for several minutes. She had been riding another toy. The time had come to switch. Kaitlin positioned herself on the scooter, gained her balance, and began the fun. Jonathon must have thought that her 2.8-second ride was long enough. When the adults confirmed that it was still Kaitlin's turn on the scooter, little Jonathon protested. His reaction sent a clear message: "Life isn't going my way; I'm bailing out."

Fast forward a few decades. Some of us adults do the same thing. Church business decisions, our spouse's choices, our coworkers, or friends at school say or do something different than the way we think life ought to go and we react by bailing out and throwing an adult temper tantrum. "It's my way or the highway!" I am not talking about moral issues of right and wrong and standing up for what is right. I am talking about personal preferences, styles of worship, ways in which each of us relate to our God. Sometimes it seems as if we want new and old members to be "more like me" than more like God!

Maybe we forget that God created each one of us differently—like the individual snowflakes whose designs are not duplicated. What glory we bring to God when each of us experiences the truth: "God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him marked by our own individuality"—The Desire of Ages, p. 347.

Maybe we have never fully understood that God longs to take residence in our hearts for our benefit as we glorify Him. Sometimes we think we are God and all things in life have to go our way. There is no or little room for individuality. We stifle the very existence of God from the hearts of fellow believers when we are so dogmatic that we horribly misrepresent God.

Let's pray that none of us . . . stomps off when life doesn't go our way. Instead, let us "reason together" as the scriptures invite. Let [us] show the world that we are His disciples because we love one another. We get along. We have fun together. We reflect the diversity of God's creation because of respect, honor, and cooperation.

Poor Jonathon missed out on fun with his friend. He was miserable, isolated, and lonely—all because life hadn't gone his way. How about us? Let us not forsake fellowship and friendship with fellow believers and community because those people don't do things "my way."

—Lynn Ortel, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Hispanic Ministries Corner

The Southern New England Conference Hispanic Ministries Department has a theme found in Romans 10:14, 15 which says, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!""

We aim to make every converted soul a missionary as it is written in the words of Ellen G. White, who wrote: "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary," Desire of Ages p. 195.

In the past couple of years, with aid from the Southern New England Conference building fund, four Hispanic congregations that worshipped in basements or rented facilities have acquired their own church building greatly enhancing their worship experience. A few other congregations have obtained church status and are also working toward acquiring their own church buildings. At the present, there are 28 organized churches and six church companies.

Through evangelistic efforts, church plants, citywide outdoor programs, radio, television, ShareHim initiatives, and the concerted efforts of pastors and laity, the conference membership for the Hispanic population in the Southern New England territory is 3,850 as of the end of third quarter 2010.

We are reminded in scripture: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"—Mathew 24:14.

—Juan Borges, Hispanic ministries coordinator, Southern New England Conference

Deaf Ministries Thriving in the Northeast



Twenty-one deaf campers enjoyed the fourth annual DEAF Camp hosted by the Southern New England Conference and held at Camp Cherokee in New York.

any do not realize that deaf **⊥**people are the largest unreached population worldwide. American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most used language in North America, where there are approximately two million deaf people. Yet, just two percent of deaf people claim to know Jesus as their Savior.*

In the Southern New England Conference we are blessed to have an active deaf ministry. Deaf Everywhere Are Family (DEAF) is Southern New England Conference's Deaf Ministries group. DEAF meets monthly at various churches, where services are interpreted, lunch is served, and a sign language Bible study is conducted.

DEAF also hosts weekends where deaf pastors or others present meetings in ASL. It is vital to give deaf people opportunities to experience deaf presenters who communicate in their heart language, without the need for an interpreter.

The Southern New England Conference Deaf Ministries hosts the annual DEAF Camp. The fourth annual camp meeting was held August 25-29, 2010. This is the third time it was held at Camp Cherokee in

This was our biggest DEAF Camp to date. We had two deaf pastors, Paul Kelly, who presents annually and has been a pastor for the deaf since 1984, and David Trexler, 3 Angels

Deaf Ministries director. We also had our first baptisms.

Twenty-one deaf campers came to see Kelly present "Keep the Advent Hope Alive!" A few deaf people who are not Adventists were invited by their friends. They indicated that they enjoyed the experience and showed great interest in knowing more about the Bible. During free time, campers enjoyed horseback riding, boating, hiking, and swimming.

The highlight of DEAF Camp 2010 was the baptism of two individuals on Sabbath afternoon. Winfrey Tunison from Rhode Island and Christopher Emery from Massachusetts were baptized in Saranac Lake.

DEAF Camp 2011 will return to the same location—Camp Cherokee next year (August 31-September 4), so come, gain a spiritual blessing, and be refreshed through Christian deaf fellowship, God's Word, and nature.

For more information on DEAF, or about upcoming events, contact Southern New England Conference's Deaf Ministries coordinator, Jessica McGowan, at snecdeaf@gmail.com or call (866) 970-1689 (video phone) or (508) 838-5391 (hearing).

 Jessica McGowan, Deaf Ministries coordinator (volunteer), Southern New England Conference

*Statistics taken from 3 Angels Deaf Ministries (3ADM) Web site: www.3angelsdeafministries.com/ article.php?id=104



Foxboro Church Members Share "the Jesus Story"

Tearly 250 people braved the cold weather to attend the Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church's annual Christmas program in Foxboro, Massachusetts. Visitors heard and saw stories acted out from the Bible about Christ's birth and enjoyed hot tea and a story by the fire.

Then they headed into the village to try some hands-on activities at eight different shops. They ended their journey with a visit to the shepherds, angels, and nativity before stopping at the cross to hear "the rest of the story" from Luther Raposo, the church's pastor.

Something new is added each year and this year was no exception. There was a goat for people to try milking as well as two new shops. A honey shop, manned by Eddie Somers and Roseangel Gavidia, taught visitors what honey was used for in Bible times.

They even had a variety of honey flavors to sample.

A moneychanger shop, with Vera Raposo doing the shopkeeper duties, taught guests about weights, measures, and money. Visitors could also make

a sample "coin" to take home with them.

The program, dubbed a Walk through Bethlehem/Live Nativity, was started in 1997 and with the exception of taking one year off and being snowed out another year, church members and friends have bundled up every year and enjoyed presenting what they know to the public.



Visitors warm up by the fire before visiting the eight shops that are part of the Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church's annual Christmas program.

Many visitors have said they are grateful for a non-commercialized way to start their Christmas season and for being able to wish people a Merry Christmas.

One young girl summed up the feelings of most of the program participants and attendees when she said, "I just love the Jesus story."

-Paula Vogler, member, Foxboro church

God's Work Isn't Always in Our Comfort Zone

Then members of the New Haven Spanish Church in New Haven, Connecticut, planned their first-ever Community Fair on the Green in downtown New Haven back in August 2010, they did not expect to awake to clouds and rain with moments of torrential downpour. They discussed the possibility of canceling the event, but quickly determined that God's work isn't always in our comfort zone, so they decided to go ahead with the event. Working in between breaks of rain and winds, they set up seven tents, tables, chairs, a sound system, and the materials to be handed out. Before they finished, there was a line of people waiting for them to begin.

As the day progressed, the Lord was busy working

his miracles. He stopped the rain long enough for them to be able to unfold the program as planned. Each tent offered something different—prayer, clothing, food, water, health information, children's activities, and information about the Laurel Oaks Adventist school.

As people visited each tent, those assisting made sure the visitors left with literature, including RADIANT LIFE, BIBLE READINGS, and PEACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM. Although there was a designated prayer tent, prayer was offered wherever and whenever the need arose. Some who visited the prayer tent provided their names and telephone numbers so that someone from the church could follow-up with a home visit. Many visitors inquired

about whether or not the church would do this type of event again soon. The Holy Spirit was definitely at work.

Approximately 133 visitors passed through the tents. As a result of this, several families were helped and some are receiving Bible studies.

Members from the New Haven and New London Spanish churches assisted by preaching and helping out in the tents. Special music was provided by Japhet Ruiz from Massachusetts and Gilberto



Prayer was an important part of the New Haven Spanish church Community Fair on the Green in New Haven, Connecticut. Despite the rain, visitors and members alike received showers of God's blessings throughout the day.

Tabares from Waterbury, Connecticut. A special "thank you" goes to Frankie Vasquez, Southern New England Conference community service director, for helping the group to get organized. Everything was led by God and many received "showers of blessings."

—Marisol Galarza, church member, New Haven Spanish church



Duoi de Neuf?

A Travers l'Eglise Mondiale

'Pas de délai', voilà l'appel pour la nouvelle année de T.N.C Wilson prononcé à l'occasion de la convention 'Generation of Youth for Christ'

ans un message stimulant d'une heure délivré à la convention 'Generation of Youth for Christ' (GYC), le président de l'église adventiste mondiale du septième jour Ted N. C. Wilson a exhorté les jeunes adultes de l'Eglise à vivre une vie de fidélité et de service chrétien.

"Il ne fait aucun doute pour moi que le Seigneur nous demande en tant que peuple d''aller de l'avant' sans 'délai'" a déclaré T.N.C. Wilson, faisant allusion au thème de la rencontre sur cinq jours qui a attiré des milliers de jeunes adventistes dans la plus grande ville du Maryland. Juste après le service matinal, environ 5000 jeunes, accompagnés de T.N.C. Wilson et de son épouse Nancy, se sont répartis dans 75 bus et se sont déployés dans le métro de Baltimore pour témoigner au porte-à-porte et inviter les gens à s'inscrire à des études bibliques.

Durant le sermon, qui a été diffusé en direct sur Internet, le câble et les chaînes satellite, T.N.C. Wilson a mis une emphase spéciale sur le fait d'avoir une vie chrétienne pratique, dont des habitudes d'étude de la Bible, de prière, de témoignage et de lecture des écrits d'Ellen G. White, pionnière co-fondatrice du mouvement adventiste.

Dans son message, T.N.C. Wilson a souligné à plusieurs reprises l'importance d'un engagement personnel envers les vérités des Ecritures et la mission de l'église.

"Si l'église adventiste du septième jour doit un jour répondre à l'idéal du Seigneur en étant son peuple du

reste au temps de la fin, vous devez vous mettre au travail pour le Christ en étant au service des autres, vous en tant qu'individu et non seulement 'nous' en tant que dénomination ou 'jeunes'" a dit T.N.C. Wilson. Il a exhorté les jeunes adultes de l'église à servir dans leurs églises locales, à enseigner dans les classes d'école du sabbat, à faire des visites pour encourager les membres et à participer aux réunions administratives de l'église.

"Engagez-vous personnellement, impliquez-vous individuellement pour aider votre famille d'église à terminer l'œuvre que Dieu a confiée" a dit T.N.C. Wilson. "Continuez de collaborer avec votre église locale, votre pasteur local, votre société de jeunesse locale, les administrateurs de l'église et les directeurs du département de la jeunesse de la Fédération, de l'Union et de la Division."

"Participez à l'évangélisation du mouvement adventiste. Soutenez et nourrissez les autres initiatives de jeunesse de votre église locale et de votre fédération qui sont fondées sur la Bible et l'Esprit de Prophétie."

T.N.C. Wilson a mis l'accent sur les fruits spirituels d'une telle coopération; "lorsque chacun de nous se laissera transformer par le Saint-Esprit à la ressemblance de Jésus, nous commencerons automatiquement à faire le travail que Jésus nous a demandés de faire. De cette façon, le caractère du Christ se verra dans ce que nous faisons, et pas simplement dans ce que nous ne faisons pas."

T.N.C. Wilson, qui a trois filles d'âge adulte, a appelé les 7000 jeunes

présents à cette convention à faire des choix moraux solides en ce qui concerne leur vie quotidienne: "Alors que la société vous bombarde de l'idée que la jeunesse est une période de complaisance insouciante, la Parole de Dieu déclare le contraire" a expliqué T.N.C. Wilson. "Ma prière, c'est que les plus grands exemples de notre foi et de notre mode de vie présentés au monde soient la jeunesse de l'église adventiste du septième jour."

Lorsqu'il a invité les jeunes adventistes à s'engager à servir davantage l'église, T.N.C. Wilson a partagé une raison personnelle de souhaiter que la seconde venue du Christ soit proche. Il a dit que la mort récente de son père, Neal C. Wilson, ancien président de l'église adventiste mondiale, a avivé son désir de voir l'église achever sa mission.

"J'aspire plus que jamais qu'auparavant à ce que Jésus revienne" a déclaré T.N.C. Wilson. "Il y a deux semaines et demi, j'ai perdu mon cher père âgé de 90 ans. Il s'est endormi en Jésus, dans l'attente de son prochain retour. En tant que pasteur et dirigeant de l'Eglise, mon père croyait dans les jeunes de cette église, et moi aussi! Cette église a été instaurée par des jeunes, et par la grâce de Dieu, les jeunes joueront un rôle essentiel dans l'accomplissement de la mission."

Source: Adventist News Network

English translation available at: news.adventist. org/2011/01/no-turning-back-is-w.html



Qué Está Pasando? En la Iglesia Mundial

"No Volvamos Atrás," Fue el Mensaje de Wilson en una Convención de Jóvenes

n un conmovedor mensaje de una hora, Ted N. C. Wilson, presidente de la Iglesia Adventista mundial, exhortó a los jóvenes reunidos en la convención Generación Joven por Cristo (GYC) a que vivan vidas de fidelidad y servicio cristiano.

"No hay duda de que el Señor nos llama a avanzar y a no volver atrás," dijo Wilson.

Poco después de la reunión de la mañana, unos cinco mil jóvenes, incluidos Wilson y su esposa Nancy, abordaron 75 autobuses y realizaron testificación puerta a puerta, invi-

Que ningún líder, pastor, docente, administrador, o quien sea los aparte de confiar plenamente en el espíritu de profecía, que señala a la Biblia como Palabra autorizada de Dios."

Wilson enfatizó vez tras vez la importancia del compromiso personal con las verdades de las Escrituras y la misión de la iglesia.

"Cada uno de manera individual tiene que trabajar por Cristo para servir a otros," dijo Wilson, que instó a los jóvenes para que colaboren en sus iglesias locales como maestros de Escuela Sabática, visitando a otros miembros y participando de las juntas de iglesia.

lo de vida que demos al mundo pertenezcan a los jóvenes adventistas."

Wilson invitó a los jóvenes a que se adelantaran para comprometerse a servir a la iglesia, y compartió un motivo especial por el que aguarda la segunda venida de Cristo.

"Quiero más que nunca que Cristo regrese," dijo. "Hace dos semanas y media, perdí a mi padre. Él descansa en el Señor. Como pastor y líder, mi padre creía en los jóvenes de esta iglesia, y yo también creo en ellos. Esta iglesia comenzó con jóvenes, y estos tendrán una función clave en el cumplimiento de la misión."

El mensaje de Wilson recibió respuestas entusiastas. Chevene Simmonds, de Milledgeville, Georgia, dijo que "fue muy bueno que el nuevo presidente de la iglesia mundial les dirigiera la palabra. El Espíritu Santo ha estado presente, y me ha desafiado a hacer mejor las cosas."

Ashley Kanomata, de Lewisberg, Ohio, dijo que el mensaje de Wilson "resultó muy inspirador. Los jóvenes necesitan asumir una parte más activa en la obra de la iglesia."

Y Heather Braman, de Canby, Oregon, expresó: "Creo que el mensaje fue maravilloso. Nunca me sentí tan bendecida." Aprendí que "todos ejercemos una influencia y, si trabajamos juntos, pueden suceder cosas maravillosas." 0

Source: Adventist News Network

English translation available at: news.adventist. org/2011/01/no-turning-back-is-w.html

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tando a las personas a inscribirse en estudios bíblicos.

Durante el sermón, que fue transmitido en vivo por canales de cable, satelitales y de Internet, Wilson dio especial énfasis a la vida cristiana práctica, incluidos los hábitos de estudiar la Biblia, orar, testificar y leer los escritos de Elena G. de White.

"Algunos miembros tienden a minimizar o aun desechar los consejos del espíritu de profecía," dijo Wilson.

"Creo que el espíritu de profecía es uno de los más grandes dones para el pueblo remanente del tiempo del fin.

Wilson enfatizó los frutos espirituales de la cooperación entre los diversos ministerios, incluido GYC: "Cuando permitimos que el Espíritu Santo nos transforme a semejanza de Cristo, comenzaremos automáticamente a hacer la obra que el Señor nos ha mandado.

De esta manera, el carácter de Cristo será visto en lo que hacemos, no meramente en lo que no hacemos."

Wilson también apeló a los jóvenes para que tomen decisiones morales sólidas: "Es mi oración que los más grandes ejemplos de nuestra fe y esti-





A Statement on the Peace Message to All People of Good Will

In order to increase awareness of the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on various subjects, the Atlantic Union GLEANER will publish monthly one of the position statements or guidelines voted by church leadership since 1980. These official statements were issued by the General Conference in session, the General Conference Executive Committee, the General Conference Administrative Committee, or the office of the General Conference president.

As the church continues to grow and make an influence, its role in the society will require that its views and what it holds true become known. Such will continue to be the demands of the society, and such will be the need to define Adventism's relevance, or present truth, to those who are asking questions and seeking answers to their dilemmas and problems.

The documents presented here are not an end in themselves, but a reflection of a movement sensitive to its calling and the people who "know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).

urs is a world of international tension, habitual exploitation, economic chaos, frequent terrorism, and repeated appeals to arms. These hostilities and uncertainties endanger the peace and civilization of this planet. They create obstacles in the way of Christian witness across frontiers and tend to inhibit evangelism. They can lead to restrictions being placed on religious freedom.

When confronted with this stormy and confused world, the Adventist conscience is aroused. The delegates to the 53rd session of the General Conference invite God's people in all lands to earnestly pray for world peace and the holding back of the winds of strife and war. Adventists, by precept and example, must stand and work for peace and good will toward men—and thus be known as peacemakers and bridge builders.

We call on all Seventh-day Adventists and other people of good will, inasmuch as in them lies, to help create atmospheres of cooperation and brotherhood, leading to exchanges between different cultures and ideological systems and

better understanding between men of all races, faiths, and political persuasions.

Because time is short, and in view of the countless opportunities open to God's people for witness and gospel advance, while a preapocalyptic situation still prevails, we urgently call upon every child of God to participate in the concerted evangelistic program launched on all continents and guided "by His Spirit." 0

This statement was adopted by the General Conference Session in Dallas, Texas, April 1980.

Resources

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

Web sites

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

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

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

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

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

Books

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

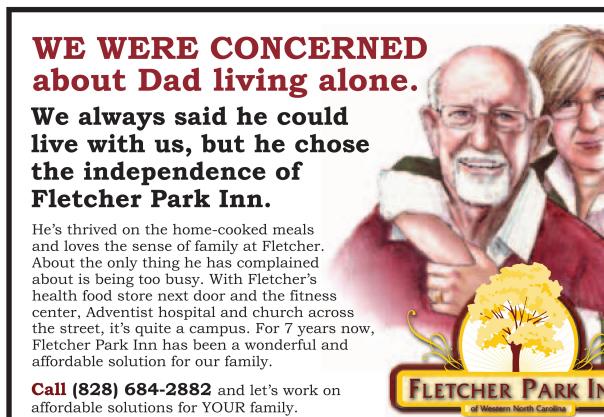
STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL









150 Tulip Trail Hendersonville, NC 28792 www.fletcherparkinn.com



Sunset Table			stern Daylight avings Time*	
March 2011	4	11	18	25
Bangor, ME	5:27	5:36	6:45	6:54
Portland, ME	5:34	5:43	6:51	7:00
Boston, MA	5:38	5:47	6:55	7:03
South Lancaster, MA	5:40	5:49	6:57	7:05
Pittsfield, MA	5:47	5:55	7:03	7:11
Hartford, CT	5:45	5:53	7:01	7:09
New York, NY	5:51	5:59	7:06	7:14
Albany, NY	5:47	5:56	7:04	7:12
Utica, NY	5:54	6:03	7:11	7:19
Syracuse, NY	5:58	6:07	7:15	7:23
Rochester, NY	6:04	6:12	7:21	7:29
Buffalo, NY	6:09	6:17	7:26	7:34
Hamilton, Bda	6:18	6:23	7:28	7:33
*Eastern Daylight Savings Time	e begins on March 1	3		

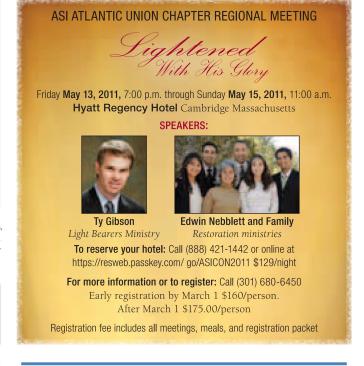
OUT-OF-UNION

Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend,

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welcome. For communication purposes, we need your e-mail address. Send it to: Ed Gutierrez at: edjuliel@att.net; or call: (630) 232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!





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Machlan Hall AUC South Lancaster MA

March 12, 2011

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Atlantic Union Conference

Children's Ministries Track

IV Workshop. This workshop

is free, but we ask that you

register in advance. Please

register online at

www.atlantic-union.org/

childrenstrack4.html

Atlantic Union Conference Multipurpose Room 400 Main Street Lancaster, MA 01523

Friday, March 25, 2011 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sabbath, March 26, 2011

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Lunch and supper will be provided for Sabbath only

Atlantic Union Conference Children's Ministries Department

P.O. Box 1189; South Lancaster, MA 01561 (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020; Fax: (978) 368-7948 www.atlantic-union.org/childrenstrack4.html

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New England Adventist Book Center® 2011 Spring Delivery Schedule

The Adventist Book Center® will be visiting a church or school near you! Locate the stop closest to you and call in your order by the deadline shown!

March 6 -	Orders	due	February	25.	1:00 p.m.
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9:30-10:30 a.m.	Laurel Oaks School, Hamden, Conn.
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Omega Church, New Haven, Conn.
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Waterford Church, Conn.
3:30-4:00 p.m.	Norwich Church, Conn.

March 13 - Orders due March 4, 1:00 p.m.

10:00–10:30 a.m.	Lincoln, R.I.
11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Fall River, Mass.
1:00–1:30 p.m.	Taunton, Mass.

March 20 - Orders due March 11, 1:00 p.m.

9:30–10:00 a.m.	Bennington Church, Vt.
11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Rutland Church, Vt.
2:30–3:00 p.m.	Morrisville Church, Vt.
4:00–4:30 p.m.	St. Johnsbury Church, Vt.
5:30–6:00 p.m.	South Newbury Church, Vt.

March 27 - Orders due March 18, 1:00 p.m.

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Hope Church, Bloomfield, Conn.
11:00-11:30 p.m.	Waterbury Spanish Church, Waterbury, Conn.
12:30-1:00 p.m.	Danbury-Bethel Church, Bethel, Conn.

Spring Open House

South Lancaster, Mass.

Thursday, March 31	9:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Friday, Ápril 1	9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Stoneham, Mass.

Thursday, March 31	1:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 1	10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Pine Tree Academy Music Festival and Spring Open House-Freeport,

Thursday, March 31	9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Friday, April 1	9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 2	After the Concert
Sunday, April 3	10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

April 10-Orders due April 1, 1:00 p.m.

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	-	Calais Church, Maine
1:00-1:30 p.m.		Presque Isle Church, Maine
2:30-3:00 p.m.		Oakfield Church, Maine
4:00-4:30 p.m.		Lincoln Church, Maine

April 15-17 - Southern New England Conference Spanish Women's Retreat, Best Western, Marlboro, Mass.

May 1 – Orders due April 22, 1:00 p.m.

9:30–10:30 a.m.	Laurel Oaks School, Hamden, Conn.
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Omega Church, New Haven, Conn.
2:00–2:30 p.m.	Waterbury Spanish Church, Conn.

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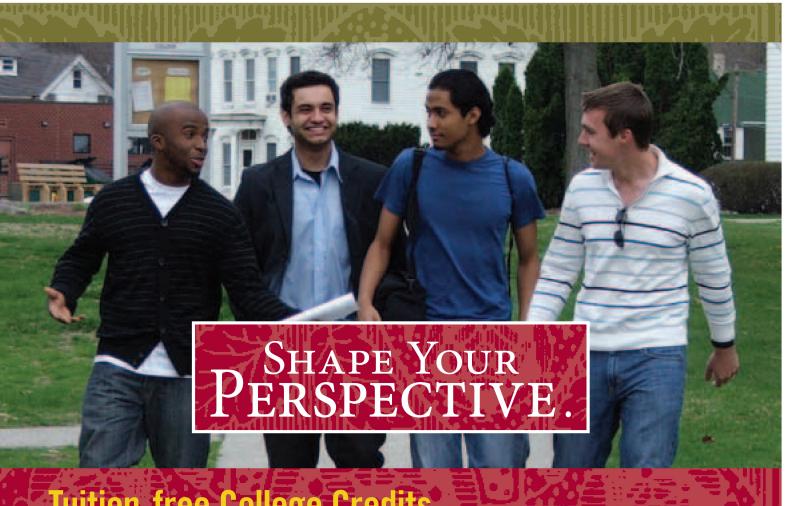
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