

THE ATLANTIC UNION

OCTOBER 2011

# GLEANER



Members Assist With the  
**Relief Efforts After the Storm**

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

Youth Connections

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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Many residents on the east coast, from North Carolina northward, are recovering from the damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene. In this issue read about some of the work done by Adventists in the Atlantic Union to assist in the relief efforts. Our regular features include Adventist Education, Positions, and Youth Connections. The cover photo, taken by Paul Miller from Vernon, Vermont, is an aerial view of a section of Route 100 in Wardsboro, Vermont, that was damaged by the storm.

## 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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December 2011	October 14
January 2012	November 11
February 2012	December 9

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# Look Forward, Not Back



**A**t the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, in his Sabbath sermon, the newly-elected world church leader President Ted Wilson, reminded us, “When God says to go forward, we must go forward.” We need to move forward and to stop looking at barriers, obstacles, and road blocks. Whatever hindrances there are, remember the key words—“Go forward.”

In Scripture Paul said, “Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”—Philippians 3:13, 14, NKJV.

In the Old Testament the story of Lot’s wife is very instructive. She was told, “Don’t look back at your old life. Look ahead. Move forward to your new life with God.” But she couldn’t resist. She looked back, and the Bible says “she turned into a pillar of salt.”

I know people today who could relate strongly to Lot’s wife because they spend so much time, effort, and energy looking back that they become immobilized. They become like “a pillar of salt” frozen in place. It seems as if they are unable to move forward because they are constantly looking back over their shoulders. They can’t break away from the past, so they miss the joy of a new life with God.

From Moses, from Jesus, and from the Apostle Paul the same message is clearly given, “Don’t look back.” Perhaps it is appropriate to note why we are given the injunction to move forward and not look back.

First, move forward and do not rest on your past successes. People bask in the glow

of their past victories so much that they become spoiled, lazy, and complacent, they forget their mission, they forget their calling, and they forget their priorities. They stop running forward and they just become spiritually and emotionally paralyzed. Forget what lies behind and press on into the future for new victories.

Second, move forward and don’t keep lamenting your past hurts. We need to forget and move on beyond those past hurts, disappointments, discouragements, and bad experiences that dampen our spirits, drain our energies, and poison our souls. Exercise forgiveness, let go of grudges, and seek reconciliation where possible. Don’t let past hurts immobilize you. Past hurts can make you sick and figuratively turn you into a pillar of salt. The Apostle Paul is saying, “Forget about your hurts. Do not nurse grievances. Don’t give in to self-pity.” Put them behind you and move forward.

Third, move forward and don’t dwell on your past failures. A secular song reminds us, “You can pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again.” The lyrics send a powerful message, but the truth is, to truly make it, we need supernatural help. We can’t really do that by ourselves. God is the One who can pick us up, dust us off, and give us a new start. That’s why Jesus Christ came into the world. He came to give us forgiveness, a new chance, a new start, a new beginning, and to close the door on our past sins and failures, and to help us move forward. ①

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

*We need to move forward and to stop looking at barriers, obstacles, and road blocks.*





## Members Assist With the **Relief Efforts After the Storm**

**T**he full impact of the fury of the storm that had been Hurricane Irene became evident on Monday, August 29, as damage reports were received. From North Carolina northward, communities began to clean up and take stock of the cost.

Downed trees and branches, power outages, and flooding were just some of the reported damage. Our prayers go out to the families who lost loved ones during the storm. Major cities, such as New York and Boston, where residents heeded the warning and prepared for the worst, were spared from the brunt of the major damage. However, the state of Vermont experienced what its governor called “the worst flooding in a century.” Irene dumped up to 11 inches of rain in the landlocked state, washing out bridges and making roads impassable, causing some residents to be completely cut off from access outside of their communities. Parts of upstate New York experienced a similar fate when more than 13 inches of rain fell in that region.

Brian Bilbrey, pastor of the Randolph and Barre-Montpelier church district in

the Northern New England Conference, reports that in Vermont, at least “260 roads were washed away or damaged. Six bridges were totally wiped out. Some of the bridges have stood for more than 100 years, surviving a century of flooding. Some 30 bridges were damaged and closed. About 280 people were left homeless after their homes

were destroyed or damaged by the flood waters. And, 11 towns were cut off from the state highway system and isolated.” In spite of the tragedy and devastation brought about by Irene, Bilbrey says, “Vermont residents have come together to rebuild.”

Pierre Omeler, Adventist Community Services Disaster



**Adventist Community Services Disaster Response volunteers partnered with individuals from Feed the Children and Lowe's to bring supplies to residents in Waterbury, Vermont.**

Response (ACSDR) director, and José Cortés, youth ministries director from the Atlantic Union, joined with Harry Sabnani, ACSDR and youth ministries director, and Peter Robinson, ACSDR volunteer, from the Northern New England Conference, to offer assistance to these communities. Cortés traveled to Vermont and together with Art Miller, pastor of the Mountain View church in Vermont, and Mark Harris, pastor of the Osborne Memorial and Plainfield churches in New Hampshire and the South Newbury church in Vermont, identified locations where members, including youth and young adults, could assist with the relief efforts.

Members of the Greater New York Conference Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps (AYES), led by Walter Harris, began their work in Plainfield, where they helped clean up the house and business of one of the members of the Plainfield church. They worked on Friday and Sunday, September 9 and 11, respectively.

“The ACSDR team was among the volunteers that partnered with Feed the Children, an international, non-profit relief organization, and Lowe’s, a home improvement store, to bring



Brian Billbreay

**Top of page 4:** The Medical Cadets Corps from Hartford, Connecticut, helped clear the mud and debris from the local high school in Wilmington, Vermont.

▲ Members from the Barre, Randolph, and Williston churches assist by packing bags with much needed supplies.

▶ Members of the AYES Corps attended vespers at the Plainfield church.



a truckload of food and supplies to the Waterbury area for relief and aid,” Billbreay said. “The Barre church was called on to organize additional volunteers. More than 30 church members representing the Barre, Randolph, and Williston churches were joined

by 12 young people from the Greater New York Conference Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps on September 10 to help to distribute the food and give relief to those in need.

“After they finished distributing goods for that day, eight pallets filled with supplies were delivered to the Barre church and Central Vermont Academy to continue distribution to other communities in the area. From the young to the old, church members came to share the love of Christ with their neighbors, with those in need, and to assist their own church members.

“Food distribution was not the only act of kindness that was displayed by church members. Individual families have been going out and helping families shovel the mud and dirt from their homes.”

The AYES team also traveled to distribute supplies in Moretown and Waitsfield. However, in Duxbury, they had to leave the supplies at a bike



Members of the Southern New England Conference Medical Cadet Corps helped with the relief efforts in Vermont.





Members of the Greater New York Conference Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps traveled to Vermont to assist the residents with the clean up.

shop, the location for organizing and coordinating supplies in that town, because of the difficulty getting into the affected area.

Members of the Southern New England Conference Medical Cadets Corps from Hartford, Connecticut, led by Denis Martinez, went to Wilmington to help clear the mud and debris from the local high school. The

Mountain View church served as their headquarters.

In Cohoes, members of the New York Conference's Greater Albany church and their pastor, Miguel Crespo, gave permission for the church's gym to be used as the resource processing center for donated goods for the State of New York. The church also offered disaster response

training for church members interested in getting involved in ACSDR.

The Kingston, New York, church in the Northeastern Conference is using their church as a distribution center to provide aid to their community.

AYES also went to Oneonta, New York, on September 17 to assist ACS, Lowe's, and Feed the Children with the food distribution.

There are many church members assisting in their communities from whom we have not heard. People are determined to clean up, rebuild where necessary, and move on with their lives. Members are ready to lend a hand in any way they can, while sharing Christ, and reflecting His character everywhere they go.

*If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Adventist Community Services or wish to volunteer your services, contact your local church ACS director or the ACS director in your local conference. ☺*

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



Church members from the Barre, Randolph, and Williston churches with bags of supplies ready to be distributed.

Brian Billorey

# Atlantic Union ASI Chapter Raises \$40,135 at Spring Conference

By Andi Hunsaker

The Atlantic Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) held its spring conference on May 13-15 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge, Massachusetts. About 153 people from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New York, and Bermuda attended the weekend of spiritual nourishment. Throughout the event 10 booths were available for those attending to visit and experience how various ministries are working for Christ.

The theme for the weekend was "Lightened With His Glory." The main speakers included Ty Gibson, speaker and associate director of Light Bearers Ministry, and Edwin Nebblett and his family. The Nebblett family led the morning meetings at 7:00 and again on Sabbath afternoon. In keeping with the theme for the weekend, they led the group through a path of spiritual growth from personal growth, to growth as husband and wife together, and then to growth as a family. Gibson began Friday evening with an appeal in his sermon

titled "The Coming Glory Revolution" and continued on Sabbath with a sermon titled "A Lingering Fragrance."

One highlight on Sabbath morning was the collection of the special projects offering. After much prayer in the weeks leading up to the meeting, the offering goal was set at \$40,000.00 to fund four special projects. The actual amount collected on Sabbath morning was \$40,134.94, which was \$134.94 over the set goal. That was an amazing answer to prayer.

Following lunch, two meetings were held, one in which the national officers presented some of the projects that ASI is involved in, including the One-day church and One-day school. A mini concert by Vocé, the South Lancaster Academy choir, was held in the evening, followed by a meeting with Gibson, who challenged the group to do great things for God. The final meeting on Sunday morning featured Nebblett and his family.

ASI provides a great opportunity for being spiritually renewed and encouraged to work for Jesus Christ. Through networking with other ministries and other people, ASI provides many ways



The Nebblett children and friends were among those who provided music for the Atlantic Union ASI regional chapter meeting held in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Ty Gibson, speaker and associate director of Light Bearers Ministry, was one of the speakers for the Atlantic Union ASI regional chapter meeting. Robert Hunsaker in the background.

in which individuals can become involved in helping to finish the work with plans to meet together in heaven.

The current ASI Atlantic Union chapter officers are Andi Hunsaker, president; Tony Sebros, vice president for communication; Gregg Perry, general vice president; Mary Penner, vice president for finance; Peggy Schauffler, vice president for membership and recruitment; and Steve Peden, vice president for evangelism.

The next Atlantic Union ASI chapter meeting is planned for April 20-22, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Newport, Rhode Island, with speakers David Asscherick and Ty Gibson. Included will be a meeting for children and more exhibit booths. For more information about ASI and the Atlantic Union chapter, visit [asiatlanticunion.netasi.org](http://asiatlanticunion.netasi.org).

Andi Hunsaker is the president of the Atlantic Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries.



Photos: Paul Miller

The Nebblett family led the morning meetings at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



# ASI Convention Draws Record Numbers in Sacramento

Despite a volatile economy and uncertain times, record numbers of attendees and exhibitors participated in the 2011 ASI International Convention August 3-6 at the Sacramento Convention Center in California. They also gave approximately \$2.1 million—well above the \$1.5 million goal—to support 47 carefully-selected ministry projects around the world.

The annual ASI convention has been likened to a worldwide church camp meeting, complete with powerful speakers, life-changing personal testimonies, and inspiring music. Those who attend can expect to have their spiritual batteries recharged and their perspectives on mission changed. Some experience a sense of calling for the first time and end up establishing medical outreach centers in Zimbabwe, ministering to the needs of orphans in Haiti, or simply sharing their faith with friends in their inner circle with renewed purpose and understanding.

For Peggy Schaufler of Swanzey, New Hampshire, ASI conventions are a return to the old-fashioned camp meeting experience she remembers as a child, with clear spiritual focus and many opportunities for uplifting personal interaction. She and her family discovered ASI conventions when her children were 18 and 19. They have attended three conventions together, joining the many repeat attendees who come from all over the world to what amounts to a large annual family reunion.

Extra chairs had to be set up this year for the more than 3,300 people who came to hear Ted N.C. Wilson,



Outgoing ASI president Norm Reitz (left), a California attorney, presents the symbolic Bible and gavel to incoming president Frank Fournier of Loveland, Colorado, on the final evening of the 2011 ASI International Convention in Sacramento.

Adventist world church president, on Sabbath morning. The exhibit hall had a record-breaking 338 booths, representing 221 ministries and organizations from all over the world.

George Adams, ASI convention site selection and housing coordinator, says it's hard to pin down why the numbers change from year to year. Recent adjustments in registration fee structures no doubt affected this year's attendance. But significant support and attendance from California locals also drove attendance higher this year.

To Terry Anderson, ASI vice president for evangelism, Sabbath afternoon attendance at the "ASI Presents" program was most telling. "That's the time when people usually go back to their hotel rooms and take a nap," he said. "But this year, many more stayed by to hear the testimonies presented during the afternoon program.

It seemed to indicate a seriousness about the times we live in."

"The times we live in." That phrase is increasingly tossed around in religious and secular gatherings alike as the world collectively wonders how to respond to wave after wave of crisis. In the United States, those waves are hitting closer and closer to home. The messages presented

Lance Wilbur from Harrisville, New Hampshire, attended the ASI convention for the first time this year. Wilbur is co-director of The Mission, a soul-winning ministry in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.







Brandon Clay

**Ivor Myers, senior pastor of the Templeton Hills church, in Templeton Hills, California, covered the entire Great Controversy theme, including all major doctrines and prophecies, in 38 very interactive minutes during the Friday evening general session.**

by eight general session speakers and 24 seminar presenters were marked by a common sense of urgency and hope reflected in the convention theme, “Finishing Strong.”

During the opening night keynote address, Doug Batchelor, speaker/director for Amazing Facts in Roseville, California, spoke of the need for courage. On Friday night, Ivor Myers, a Central California pastor and ministry leader, packed the entire Great Controversy theme—including all major doctrines and prophecies—into 38 breathtaking minutes that left listeners with a clearer understanding of the significance of the Adventist movement.

Many opportunities for networking and personal interaction take place in the convention exhibit hall or during mealtimes. Schaffler recalls sitting at a table next to an elderly gentleman during Sabbath lunch this year. “We talked, and I sensed he was sad inside,” she says. “I asked him if I could pray for him. He readily agreed, and we had a beautiful prayer. I could see his heart was lifted and that he felt encouraged. This greatly encouraged me as well.” This year, the convention featured a designated prayer room that remained

open from 6:15 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day.

Lance Wilbur from Harrisville, New Hampshire, attended the convention for the first time this year. Wilbur is co-director of The Mission, a soul-winning ministry in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. He, like Schaffler, noted the “rich fellowship at mealtimes,” as well as the networking opportunities that motivated him to attend in the first place.

“I will certainly be encouraging others to attend ASI,” he said. “It is a great opportunity to connect with various ministries from all corners of the globe, while finding ways in which you can strengthen one another’s hands and finish the work as swiftly and as intelligently as possible.”

Andetta Hunsaker, a physician from Sudbury, Massachusetts, and president of the ASI Atlantic Union chapter, has been working over the past year to renew awareness of ASI and its worldwide work throughout the Atlantic Union.

“I heard great gospel points made at ASI this year that I have not heard before,” she said. “The Lord really is moving, and I am so excited to be a part of this great movement. I wish that all Seventh-day Adventists would attend. The ASI family really believes that Jesus is coming soon, and this last convention shows me that it is no longer business as usual. Praise the Lord!”

On follow-up surveys assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the convention, many attendees responded that the main drawback was that “it ended.” Of course, each person had a different motivation for attending. But convention attendees commonly experience an “aha” moment when they think, “I’m glad I didn’t miss that!”

For many, it was Ted Wilson’s and Ivor Myers’ sermons. For Wilbur, it was the renewed sense of conviction

that came as a result of interacting with others from his region. “Having met several people [at the convention] who had a sincere vested interest in the work in the Northeast,” he said, “it became more apparent and conclusive to me that the Lord is about to do something spectacular in this territory where our work first began, and that He has entrusted us with being a part of it. May we remain faithful.”

During the convention, ASI officers were elected or re-elected for two-year terms, with Frank Fournier of Eden Valley Institute in Loveland, Colorado, taking the helm as president. “My heart’s burden is to bring the focus around to spiritual preparation of God’s people to ensure success in our ministries,” said Fournier, who presented the morning devotionals during the convention. ①

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*Conna Bond is the communication director for the national chapter of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries.*

## About ASI

**A**dventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) is an organization of Seventh-day Adventist laypersons who enthusiastically participate in and support the Adventist Church’s worldwide mission, along with its various outreach programs. ASI members range from supporting ministry leaders to professionals and business owners from every walk of life. They seek not only to experience God’s love in their own lives but also to share that love with people they encounter in their daily activities and work responsibilities. Hence, the ASI motto, “Sharing Christ in the Marketplace.” Visit [www.ASIministries.org](http://www.ASIministries.org).





By Larry Hayes

## Our Vision: A School With No Empty Seats

The past four years have been an adventure in growing faith in my life. I spent the previous 10 years trying to do things my way, promising God that, when I got to a certain point, I would be willing to do things His way. The problem with this scenario was that the point I needed to reach was constantly moving away, never getting closer. Constant worry and stress about finances and guilt about not doing what I was feeling led by the Holy Spirit to do finally drove me to give up and give in. Once I allowed God to take control, and believed that He would, the worry

how to show my gratitude, which I denied for those 10 years. My way of showing gratitude for what was done for me was to do the same for others.

When my wife and I moved back to New York, the opportunity to start my own business was presented along with a chance to give God control of all aspects of my life. I owned my own business, but in my mind I was an employee of a company run by God. And, like anything controlled by God, opportunities and revenue skyrocketed. Over the past four years, in spite of the economic recession, revenues increased more than 1,000

pulled together to make this possible. Currently the school operates with a “no empty seats” vision that God is clearly blessing in every way, including financially.

What happened at Parkview happened so quickly that I became convinced God had something even bigger in mind. Union Springs Academy has a lot of empty seats and, because of high tuition expenses and insufficient worthy student funds, those seats have been a challenge to fill. I don't believe that it's our job to fill the seats or make the money, but rather to allow God to fill the seats and provide the money. He does this through individuals who understand the importance of Christian education and who share a sense of gratitude for what God has done in their lives.

Every school has enough church connections to make it possible for every child to have a Christian education. Just as in the parable of the talents, God has entrusted us with so much. What we do with it determines how much more of His blessings He will pour out on us, or what He will take away and give to someone else. I pray that we will all be servants who use the five talents He gives us to His glory and watch it turn into 11! ☺

**“MY first opportunity to make a difference presented itself at Parkview Junior Academy, where there seemed to be many kids who were not attending because of lack of finances.”**

disappeared. As I allowed Him to lead, slowly the financial stress disappeared and blessings began to pour in. This allowed the basic needs to be met, as well as provided opportunities to give back to God.

As a teen I wanted to go to Union Springs Academy, but family finances simply wouldn't allow this. However, generous church members, financial aid, and working at a job off campus made it possible for me to attend Union Springs Academy during my last three years of high school. The years at the academy instilled beliefs that came back to help me put my trust in God and enabled me to know

percent. Along with the financial increase, my passion for Christian education, prompted by the Holy Spirit, also soared.

My first opportunity to make a difference presented itself at Parkview Junior Academy, where there seemed to be many kids who were not attending because of lack of finances. Although budget issues were a constant source of concern, the school agreed to step out in faith and allow students to attend whose resources were minimal at best. Enrollment went from 43 to just shy of 60 in two years, and the school ended the year in the black when church members



Larry Hayes is a church member in the New York Conference who is a supporter of Adventist education.

## The Power of Prayer Meeting

While traveling on a street in downtown Hamilton, Bermuda, in the middle of June, Loderick (Loddy) Holder shared his desire to be rebaptized. The baptism was scheduled to take place on the beach at Horseshoe Bay Cove in Southampton at the conclusion of Bermuda Conference's camp meeting. The agreement was that we would get back with each other to finalize plans. Unfortunately, that did not happen and the rebaptism did not take place as scheduled.

Another date was set and the rebaptism was scheduled to take place at Holder's church during prayer meeting on the first Wednesday after camp meeting. Unfortunately, that did not occur, either. I had overlooked a previous engagement scheduled for the same time. The rebaptism was rescheduled again for the following Sabbath on the beach at Jobson Cove in Warwick. Unfortunately, David Small, one of Holder's best friends, did not receive the notice of the most recent change, so he and his wife, Dianne, showed

up at prayer meeting looking for a baptism that never happened. Small stayed for prayer meeting and, from all indications, he thoroughly enjoyed it.

The two friends, Holder and Small, talked in the church parking lot for more than an hour after prayer meeting. They confirmed that the rebaptism would take place at 7:00 a.m. on Sabbath morning at Jobson's Cove in Warwick. It was then that the Spirit of Lord spoke to Small. "If it is OK, I want to join you in being baptized this coming Sabbath," Small said to his friend.

On the Friday evening before the rebaptism, Holder and I reconfirmed the location and time.



Loderick Holder, right, was rebaptized at Jobson's Cove in Warwick, Bermuda, with his wife, Sonya, on hand to witness the event. They are members of the Hamilton church in Hamilton, Bermuda.



It was at that point that Holder spoke about his friend's desire to be baptized with him. He wanted to know if it would be OK. The Bible instructor had been informed also, but it was determined that no one had conducted any Bible studies with Small. I was hesitant, since I did not know who he was. As far as I knew, he had never had Bible studies, attended church, or even kept the Sabbath. All these thoughts ran through my mind.

On Sabbath morning, when I pulled up in the parking lot of Jobson's Cove, I noticed a couple seated in their car. I parked my car and waited for the appointed time. People began to arrive close to 7:00 a.m. Then Holder arrived with his wife and walked over to my car. While we were talking, Small got out of his car and approached us. I was informed that he was

the gentleman who had expressed interest in being baptized.

Well, there in the parking lot I became reacquainted with him. I remembered him as a motorcycle policeman from my younger days as a young pastor in the 1980s. What I did not know was that he grew up as an Adventist in his native homeland. I did not know that he attended an Adventist home school. It was when he came to Bermuda and became a policeman that he stopped attending church. Now retired, he attended prayer meeting expecting to witness a friend's rebaptism that did not take place, but during the prayer meeting the Lord worked on his heart. Today, two friends walk together in Jesus' name. Pastors and members of the churches in Bermuda are reminded of the importance of having prayer meeting week after week because of the evangelistic nature of the meetings. You never know who the Lord will send!

—D. Randolph Wilson, assistant communication director, Bermuda Conference



David Small, who grew up Adventist and left the church, went to witness his friend's rebaptism, but God would have it that he sat through prayer meeting and was convicted of his need to be baptized. He was baptized at Jobson's Cove in Warwick, Bermuda.



## Health Fair Reaches Community Residents

Queens Faith Temple in Queens, New York, reached out to the community in May at its annual community health fair. The event was coordinated by Patrice Wright-Douglas, health ministries director, with the assistance of Pearl Mack and Kimi Roux James.

The highlight this year was the seminar, "God's Pharmacy" which was presented by Thomas Jackson, Ph.D., director of Missionary Evangelistic and Educational Training (MEET). Dentists, opticians, nurses, prayer warriors, and medical missionaries provided services to church members and the community. Adventist International Medical Missionaries (AIMM) augmented the medical team

with doctors, nurses, and medical missionaries. Eddie Kirkland, a ventriloquist, provided captivating activi-



Medical professionals were on hand at the Queens Faith Temple's annual health fair to assist in screening members and people from the community.

ties for the children. The church's Pathfinders and Adventurers, led by Lisa

Quailey and Carol Harris, respectively, participated in a parade led by the Greater New York Conference,

under the direction of Kyon Alexander. This served as a means of informing

the community about the health fair. Among the dignitaries present was G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president.

The focus of the event was to promote optimal health. Fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables were made available to church members as well as the community, providing an opportunity to share the importance of proper nutrition. Visual aids promoting the eight laws of health were provided by Polly Cornelius.

The church and sidewalk swelled with members, people from other Seventh-day Adventist churches, and the community.

—Gloria Panton, communication director, Queens Faith Temple church

## Twenty-three Baptized During Tent Meetings

Twenty-three people were baptized during a three-week gospel explosion held by the Beulah Temple church. Using the theme "Blessed Hope," evangelist Jeffrey Harriott delivered the nightly messages from July

9-30 under a huge red and white tent erected on the American Legion Baseball Field in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, New York.

Among the candidates for baptism was 16-year-old Jamaican vacationer, Keona

Bailey. During her 2010 summer vacation, Bailey escorted her eight-year-old brother, Brandon Stewart, to the church's annual Vacation Bible School (VBS). Not wanting to make two trips daily to pick him up, she volunteered to work at the VBS. One of

the VBS staff, Shana-Kay Cummings, invited her to the 2010 evangelistic series led by Dwayne Lemon. At the end of the series Bailey was convicted of the truth but stopped short of getting baptized, fearing her mother's reaction when she returned home to Jamaica.

This year when Bailey returned on her vacation, she again volunteered at the VBS. She also attended



Corben Crew, Beulah Temple church pastor, baptized Brandon Stewart. Nevron Brown, a deacon, is in the background.

the 2011 Gospel Explosion and had no reservation about walking with Jesus all the way into baptism. Just before she was baptized she tearfully sang, "I Give Myself Away," with her father by her side embracing her. The following week her brother, Brandon, was also baptized.

—Gillian Semple, communication leader, Beulah Temple



Corben Crew, Beulah Temple church pastor, baptized Keona Bailey during the church's evangelistic meetings held under a tent in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, New York.

## Members Experience Pentecost Again at Haitian Camp Meeting

The 2011 Greater New York Conference Haitian Ministries Camp Meeting was a family retreat and a spiritual revival for the youth and young at heart. Held at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, this year's theme was entitled Pentecost Again.

God used Lucien Isaac, dean of the theology department at Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica, to impart His words of transformation and consecration.

Eddly B. Benoit, a doctoral candidate from the Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, took the youth to a higher level of thinking and a deeper spiritual experience with God. Dudley François, "a student of the word," presented the Power Hour

segment daily at noon.

Moab A. Honoré, Greater New York Conference Haitian Ministries coordinator, and his staff were responsible for coordinating the weekend events.

and Brian Ladiny worked side by side with the coordinator. Others involved with the coordination included Edouard Michel, Jean-Joseph Lapierre, Flore Lafontant, and Elsie

increase next year.

The Greater New York Conference administrators attended the Friday night and Sabbath events, including G. Earl Knight, president, and his wife, Yvonne. Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries vice president, and his predecessor, Louis B. Métellus, were on hand to greet God's people and worship with them.

Community leaders, pastors, elders, youth leaders, musicians and singers, church members, and the coordination support team worked vigorously to make the 2011 Camp Meeting a huge success.

—Daniel Beauzil, member, Gethsemane French church

The 2011 Greater New York Conference Haitian Ministries Camp Meeting was a family retreat and a spiritual revival for the youth and young at heart.

Two youth leaders, Evans Charles-Pierre and Farah Beaubrun, made the camp fun for the youth. The Haitian pastors showed their support by their presence. Andy Lagredelle,

Romain. A large number participated from the Gethsemane, Bethsaida, Ephraim, and Shiloh Bilingual churches, and the hope is that the number of churches participating will

## Grand Concourse Church Welcomes 25 New Members

Members of the Grand Concourse Temple in Bronx, New York, welcomed 26 people into membership during three baptismal services that took place during the Family Enrichment Series held July 3-23 with speaker Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference personal ministries and Sabbath school director. The church members, along with Alan Hay, the church's pastor, and Julian Jones-Campbell, the church's associate pastor, were filled with joy as they viewed the baptisms.

Members baptized on July 16

are Jaime Lebron, Garfield Porter, Keyshawn Carr, Clarence Williams, Carl Mayers, Jordan Benn, Venus Hylton, Sabrina Francis, Kasanny West, Dennese Vigo, Quenite Lamother, and Diane Beauford. Another member, Emmanuel Amegavie, was baptized on July 19. Those baptized on July 23 are Jayden Malcolm, Alonzo Myrie, Mykayla Malcolm, Nahomie Louis, Emiol Destin, Thelma Mayers, Casandria Pitter, Donna Morgan, Elisa Freeland, Zeraida Torres, Kelly-Ann Thompson, and Tracy Ann Williams.



Some of the July 16 baptismal candidates being presented to the congregation by Cordell Anthony, elder, and Patricia Thiessen, head elder.

—Ann Slaughter, communication committee member, Grand Concourse church



## Adventist History at the William Miller Farm

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual William Miller Camp Meeting was more about team effort than individual achievement. The coordinators were aiming to win a championship for God rather than individual trophies. All the great man-made wonders of the world required teamwork, and that was also true for this great camp meeting. To find parking spaces for 130 cars is no small matter, to pitch a four-pole tent is no small matter, to arrange a potluck for more than 375 people is no small matter,

and to put on a program for adults and children is no small matter. This was about creating a program greater than the individuals. It is still true that everyone wants to be part of something greater than themselves.

The featured speaker was Stanley Hickerson, pastor of the Stevensville church in Michigan and longtime board member of Adventist Heritage Ministry. Hickerson is an Adventist Heritage scholar who shared from his years of study and research. His



The annual William Miller Camp Meeting was held on July 30 at the William Miller Home and Chapel in Whitehall, New York.



The red schoolhouse is the latest addition to the William Miller Farm.

two sermon titles say a lot about the relevance of his messages for today. The Sabbath worship sermon was titled “Grace for a Side-tracked Soldier,” and his afternoon sermon was “Yom Kippurim — What Really Happened on October 22?” Not only is history discussed at the William Miller Camp Meetings, but it is also created. I talked to two couples who first became acquainted at this event and one even talked about coordinating a wed-

ding event at this location. During lunch a half-hour movie was shown highlighting the little red schoolhouse that brought several community people to our rescue on many occasions. The schoolhouse is the latest addition to the William Miller Farm. For more information on the schoolhouse movie, contact Jim Everhart at the William Miller Farm at (518) 282-9617.

—David Harriss, member, William Miller Camp Meeting organizing team

## Small Churches Growing by God’s Grace

Tony Hlavac and Jim Thwaits started Bible studies as a result of door-to-door surveys conducted in their towns of Pulaski and Adams Center, New York. During the survey, Hlavac discovered that a prophecy seminar was going to be held in Pulaski in the fall and he made plans to attend. From the start of the seminar to its close he attended regularly and, as a result, began to attend church on Sabbath and other functions, as well. He developed a close relationship with the members of the Pulaski church and, after witnessing a few baptisms, Hlavac decided that it was time to be baptized.

Thwaits started Bible studies as a result of the survey and, after a



Josh Reitman, conference Bible worker, center, standing with Tony Hlavac, left, and Jim Thwaits, right, who were baptized in July in Lake Ontario.

short time, began attending the Ellisburg church, not far from Adams Center. During the stud-

ies, he made the observation that if we are going to be Christians, we need to “live by the Book.” By going through the Bible studies he discovered just how to do that. As a result Thwaits made his decision to be baptized.

Both Hlavac and Thwaits sealed their commitment to Christ on July 9 by being baptized in Lake Ontario. The Ellisburg and Pulaski church members welcome them into their fellowship and look forward to seeing them grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

—Josh Reitman, Bible worker, New York Conference

## Health Lectures in Elmira Well Attended

The Elmira church in Elmira, New York, was privileged to have John Clark, M.D., present two lectures during the first week in July on hypertension and diabetes from his "Discover the Keys to Your Health" lecture series. With the growing number of people in our society who are diagnosed with these health problems, many are anxious to learn more about how to manage and prevent these serious conditions. Every third American has high blood pressure. These individuals are three times more likely to have a heart attack and eight times more likely to suffer a stroke. Diabetics



John Clark, M.D., presented two health lectures on hypertension and diabetes from his "Discover the Keys to Your Health" lecture series.

and pneumonia, than the general population. Clark discussed the importance of

healthful lifestyle.

Clark and his wife, Julie, along with their son, Connor, conduct a full-time non-profit health education ministry known as "Northern Lights Health Education," in Skowhegan, Maine. Clark completed his training at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and now shares his knowledge on the causes of many lifestyle diseases and offers practical

tips on how to prevent and even reverse these debilitating conditions.

The event was well-attended by church and community members. Clark answered many questions from the audience following each presentation. Church members have indicated a desire for Clark to return in the near future.

—Sharon Reynolds, clerk, Elmira church

**"Clark discussed the importance of a plant-based diet, exercise, drinking plenty of water, and many other aspects of a healthy lifestyle."**

experience a significantly higher rate of amputations, kidney failure, blindness,

a plant-based diet, exercise, drinking plenty of water, and many other aspects of a

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# The Future is Now, and You Are Not Too Young (Part 2)

**F**or about three decades I have observed that although youth and young adults are very much affected by the challenges and problems in society and in our churches, they are hardly ever the cause of these problems. If you find this statement hard to believe, look around in your church and in board and committee meetings. How many youth and young adults are voting members? Youth are hardly ever the cause of the problem, because most times they are not among those making the decisions. They are often considered too young for the present and maybe the future. When David showed up, Saul and his army were in big trouble. The trouble was not David's doing or the doing of David's generation.

"And Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth'"—1 Samuel 17:33 (NKJV).

**"In order to have a future, there must be a present. If you sacrifice the present for the sake of the future, the future may never come."**

Here are a few more great lessons from this Bible story:

**1. "You are the future" and "you are too young" are two significant mistakes we have made regarding our youth.** Satan has been successful in having us perpetuate these phrases, hoping that he will prevent new generations from becoming change agents in this world and in the church. I say to the youth that believing these phrases will paralyze you, and one day you will wake up and realize that the future never came and that now you don't have the passion, drive, or energy to make the difference you once wanted to make. In frustration, you too will start telling the younger generations that they are too young. Unless someone stops believing these lies, the cycle will repeat itself and the church will never become what God wants it to be.

**2. If you don't do something today, you may have nothing tomorrow.** Saul did not realize that without David in the present, Israel faced destruction, slavery, and exile. There would be no future unless David acted. In order to have a future, there must be a present. If you sacrifice the present for the sake of the future, the future may never come. If you are young and you are not active in the church today, you may not be in church when you become an adult. Find a ministry and begin to work for God, for your church, and for your community today.

Dear adult, enable the youth for service and leadership today, even if you have to yield your place to one of them. With God's blessing, this will assure a growing movement and a victorious church tomorrow.

**3. Stop looking around to see who is going to do the job at hand.** This world and our church are filled with people who are standing and looking around to see who is going to do the work. God is willing to use you, and anyone who is willing, to do great and awesome things in His name. When God gave the challenge, the young man, Isaiah, who trusted Him said, "Here I am."

David could have believed the lies and waited, but he trusted God and did something. If you are an Adventist youth or a young adult in Bermuda, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, or New York, I challenge you to embrace the fact that the future is now. And please remember, you are not too young to serve and lead for God. ☺

To be continued in the February 2012 issue.



José Cortés is the director for the Youth Ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer departments in the Atlantic Union.

Connect with him on Facebook and Twitter at: <https://www.facebook.com/PastorJoseCortesJr>, <https://www.facebook.com/JoseCortesJr>, and <https://twitter.com/JoseCortesJr>.





## A Collaborative Strategy for Unions, Conferences, and Churches

**O**ur North American Division territory is experiencing spiritual warfare. The great controversy! Can you see the signs? Mean-spirited politics? Personal addictions of every sort? Satanic entertainment? Inroads of secularism? Rampant materialism? The ominous threat of terrorism? As the old hymn reminds us, we are living and dwelling in a “grand and awful time.”

Against this bleak backdrop, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is uniquely positioned for the battle. After all, we’re a church with a distinctive message of hope and wholeness! If the world ever needed our message in the past, it really needs it now.

**Our message of hope.** Adventism is a message illustrated by Sanctuary truths, modeled in the life of Christ, communicated by the prophets throughout the ages, and succinctly expressed in the Three Angel’s Messages of Revelation 14:6-12. This special message points prophetically to Christ’s second coming—a concept embroidered in our very name, Seventh-day Adventist!

**Our message of wholeness.** Our distinctive message not only points toward the future—it adds abundant life to the present! Hundreds of scientific studies have confirmed the benefits of our Adventist message of health—a key doctrine embraced by the church early in its history. Coupled with the assets of physical health is the assurance of God’s saving grace and protecting care.

### **Wanted: A Strategy to REACH North America**

Success in any battle requires dis-

cipline. Ellen White says it best: “If discipline and order are necessary for successful action on the battlefield, the same are as much more needful in the warfare in which we are engaged, as the object to be gained is of greater value and more elevated in character than those for which opposing forces contend on the field of battle. In the conflict in which we are engaged eternal interests are at stake”—  
EVANGELISM, p. 115.

Last October, church leaders in the North American Division assembled in Silver Spring, Maryland. They came from Bermuda to Bakersfield, from Maine to Miami and points in between. They were pastors, university leaders, health care professionals, and church administrators—all ages, personalities, and cultures. It was a striking portrait of diversity.

And yet, one thing brought them together—the desire to REACH North America! These leaders, differing in so many ways, unified around five themes. In an anonymous survey, the delegates overwhelmingly endorsed these themes as a way to organize our diverse efforts in communicating hope and wholeness to North America and points beyond.

One thing quickly became evident—before attempting to REACH the world, the church needs to be prepared for battle. As at Pentecost, we ourselves must come to one accord (see Acts 2:1) and receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Then—like them—we will turn the world upside down for God (see Acts 17:6). This preparation, as well as the battle itself, is reflected in five themes that have come to be known as REACH North America:

### **Revival and transformation:**

Connecting with God through public and personal worship

**Education for discipleship:** Every youth and adult learning, growing, and becoming more like Christ

### **Alignment within the church:**

Connecting within our diverse church family

### **Community outreach and evangelism:**

Connecting with our communities to share hope and wholeness

### **Healthy leadership and management:**

God’s mission-driven stewards insisting on personal and church-wide excellence

### **What REACH is NOT:**

REACH is not a program, project, or initiative. It is not a mandate handed down by church leadership. It is not a quinquennium slogan that expires in four to five years to make room for yet another “cutesy” catch phrase. Rather, the five REACH elements above are enduring principles that we as a church value. They are organizing themes that help our church clarify, focus, and unify around a common mission.

The North American Division is engaged in a different kind of war. It is not a conflict of hostility and bitterness, but a battle waged with God’s amazing grace poured out to a world in desperate need of His love. And, a glorious outcome is already decided! ☺

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*Dan Jackson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.*

## Fifty Respond at Pentecost Evangelistic Meetings

When the Preservation of Pentecost Evangelistic Series ended recently at The Waymark church, in Dorchester, Massachusetts, some 50 people had either given their lives to Christ for the first time, or had renewed their commitment through baptism. The series presented by singing evangelist Claude H. Edwards attracted hundreds every night, both young and old. Many who attended the meetings said that their curiosity was

piqued by such sermon titles as “Ten Ways to Say I Love You,” “Signs You Can’t Ignore,” and “Ain’t Nothing But Manna.” However, it was the content of both sermons and songs that kept them riveted, taught them about the matchless love of Jesus, and resulted in their surrendering all to Him.

The Preservation of Pentecost Series was directed by Samuel Bulgin, then pastor of The Waymark church; Claude Edwards,



The first 12 people who were baptized at the Preservation of Pentecost Series were, from right, David Cumberbatch, Jonas Shepard, Justin Palmer, Dexter Brown, Rasheed Knight, Marjorie Ricketts, Orlandino Gray, Joan Evans-Barnes, Cheryl-Ann Matthews, Nordia McBean, Cherick Logan, and Elizabeth Lewis.



Individuals on the team that assisted in preparing for the Preservation of Pentecost evangelistic series included, from left, Samuel Bulgin, then pastor of The Waymark church, Pauline Charlot, Bible worker, and Claude Edwards, evangelist.

evangelist; Convelle Morton, personal ministries leader; and Pauline Charlot, Bible worker. Their combined efforts of canvassing, and praying for, studying with, and encouraging people, convinced entire families, at a time, to give their lives to Christ.

The four-week series focused on relationships and healthy living, but the overarching emphasis was on teaching the love of Jesus and the fundamental doctrines

of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—a feat achieved by Edwards in a manner that even the youngest could understand.

On the final day, Edwards, who is also an international gospel recording artist, presented a one-hour concert, bringing the Preservation of Pentecost Series to an end. The series helped to heighten awareness that Jesus is coming soon.

—Agnes Jordan, communication leader, The Waymark church

## Eight Baptized at Capernaum Haitian Church

The Capernaum Haitian church in Rochester, New York, concluded a three-week summer evangelistic series on July 10. Using the theme: “L’Apocalypse Proclame: Jesus est Vainqueur!” (“Revelation Proclaims: Jesus is Victor”), Frantzcel Aguy, the speaker and church’s pastor, preached and taught from the book of Revelation. Each night church members and visitors watched and experienced vibrant, clear-cut, spirit-filled, and soul-searching presentations. The Personal Ministries department and the church at large worked to share the three angels’ messages.

Although the Haitian community in the Rochester area is very small, the members praise God for a number of visitors who came night after night to hear His Word and above all, for the eight people who were baptized.

—Marie Adeline Lindor, communication director, Capernaum church



Eight people were baptized as a result of the summer evangelistic meetings held at the Capernaum church in Rochester, New York.

## Members Celebrate Young as He Retires

Shelter Rock church in Jamaica, New York, was the location for a gathering of family, friends, well-wishers, and supporters who celebrated Rupert Young's 46 years of pastoral ministry as he retires. Hope Ashmeade, Mount Sinai church pastor, and representatives from the Northeastern Conference, including Trevor Baker, president, along with his wife, Eunice; Ebenezer Agboka, treasurer; Pat Langley, prayer ministries director; Sylvan Lashley, superintendent of schools; and church members, family, and friends took turns paying tribute to Young.

Children sang and recited poetry, and AYS leaders spoke of his kindness and flexibility. Many spoke of his willingness to listen, share,

and to participate in the lives of those around him. Church members spoke of their pride at having such a distinguished worker as their pastor and such a positive role model in his wife, Hope.

Throughout his two and a half years at Shelter Rock church, Young was often seen working shoulder to shoulder with deacons and elders, surprising them with his proficiency with hammer and nail. Blessed with a double doctorate, Young looks forward to gaining his next degree in retirement, while continuing to forward the work of Christ in Georgia.

—Peggy Ann Caesar, student of The School of Prayer, Northeastern Conference Prayer Ministries Department



▲ After serving for 46 years in pastoral ministry, Rupert Young and his wife, Hope, will retire to Georgia.

► Many, including young people and children, spoke of Rupert Young's willingness to listen, share, and to participate in the lives of those around him.

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## Diana Tunnell Named Teacher of the Year

The Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Teacher of the Year Committee named Diana Tunnell the Teacher of the Year following this year's nomination process. The certificate and a gift were presented to Tunnell during the Ministry of Teaching Commissioning Service held during the NNEC Camp Meeting on June 25. In addition, Tunnell's name appears on the plaque that hangs in the conference office, along with the names of those who have received the Teacher of the Year award since 1998.

Tunnell received her undergraduate degree in engineering from Lafayette College in 1995. After graduating, she went on to work as an engineer for Bell Atlantic in New York City. While working for Bell Atlantic, she received a Master of Science degree in Management of Technology from Polytechnic University, and before long left Bell Atlantic to work for CAP Gemini Ernst & Young. This new job required her to travel extensively, during which time she and her husband moved back to New Hampshire to be close to family.

In 2001, Tunnell approached a turning point in her life where she was confronted with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its place in her life. She attended Bible studies with Rick Kuntz, then pas-



Diana Tunnell was named Teacher of the Year in 2011.

tor of the Portsmouth church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and in January 2002 she was baptized.

In wasn't until 2002 that Tunnell's teaching career began, which was a sharp departure from her prior professional work. She began teaching in the New Hampshire public educational system, and at the same time continued her own studies at Plymouth State University to complete her Master of Education in Secondary Mathematics. In 2007, Tunnell joined the faculty at Central Vermont Academy where she teaches math and science.

Through both math and science, there is a window to God's creative power, and Tunnell's greatest hope is that her life and that of her fam-

ily, students, and friends will witness the hand of Jesus to make all things new again. As a mother, she knows the fundamental principle of a foundation based upon purpose and a child's realization to know God and His will in his or her life. Tunnell has transferred the great responsibility a mother has for her child to the precious gifts entrusted to her—her students.

The balance in her life has been directly related to the object lessons found in her studies. Everyone must appreciate the way in which the Lord has directed in their lives—both the refining and the obvious blessings Christ makes evident to us.

Tunnell's favorite Bible text is Galatians 5:14, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Tunnell and her husband, Mark Cleminson, have a daughter, Rachel Cleminson, who is a student at Central Vermont Academy, and a stepdaughter, Regan Cleminson, a student at Northeastern University.

Tunnell says, "Teaching has been a great opportunity for me to blend my love for science and math with my love to help people, young people especially."

—Education Department, Northern New England Conference

## VBS Reflects on the Life of Jesus as a Child

"Hometown Nazareth" was the theme for the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program held in August at the Harrison church in Harrison, Maine. Dressed in costumes, the VBS staff enacted scenes of Jesus as a child. The children were able to visit "Mary's House" to listen to Mary tell about some of her experiences of raising Jesus while He was growing up. They also visited shops that children in

Nazareth might have visited to experience what life might have been like for Jesus when He was a young boy.

The church family worked together to present the VBS program that, from all accounts, was well received by children in the church, and visitors, as well.

—Frank Donald, pastor, Harrison church



## Jamie Trott Commissioned at Camp Meeting

Jamie Trott was commissioned as a teacher at the Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting on Sabbath, June 25. The commissioning service was held in the main auditorium on the campgrounds.

Trott graduated from Atlantic Union College in 2004 with a major in religion and a minor in biology. He has completed seven years of teaching at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, serving as the Bible teacher, wood shop teacher, and assistant boys' dean (one year). He assists in maintenance and plowing around the campus, as well.

He says he loves his job and that it is truly his dream job. "I feel honored, blessed, and humbled each

day that I get to be a part of such a wonderful Christ-centered school," Trott says. Raised by two teachers, he is 100 percent committed to the importance and value of Christian education.

Trott has learned firsthand through life experiences that God's plans are bigger and more amazing than our own. His wife, Alicia, teaches a college-level fitness class at Pine Tree Academy. They readily admit that their one-year-old son, Tucker, is the joy of their lives.

The Trotts hosted baptismal classes in their home during the 2009-2010 school year, and 14 students attended regularly. During the 2010-2011 school year Trott was a sponsor of the senior class



Arnold Schnell, Northern New England Conference executive secretary, prays for Jamie Trott during the commission service as the officers and directors surround him.

for the third time, and took the class on a trip to southern Mexico, where they built a church, helped at a medical clinic, and hosted Vacation Bible School programs.

—Education Department, Northern New England Conference

Jaime Trott with his wife, Alicia, and son Tucker.



## Keene Church Expanding Outreach Efforts

Members of the Keene church in Swanzey, New Hampshire, partnered this year with The Mission, a medical missionary training ministry, to help them with their outreach efforts. They are conducting training in Bible correspondence, door-to-door evangelism, medical missionary work, and how to be focused as a church on outreach. Keene church members are partnering with The Mission to conduct 44 Bible studies in the area.

As part of the outreach, plans are being made to conduct cooking classes, a health expo, and a prophecy series in the fall. Ron Nickerson, the church's pastor, will also help to establish a Pathfinder club.

The youth ensemble and chime choir are planning for a busy few months. They recently provided music for the annual Washington, New Hampshire, day and are planning performances for the Nashua and Manchester churches.

The members of Keene church need prayers as they step out to meet the residents in the community and tell them about Jesus.

—Greg Perry, communication correspondent, Keene church

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## Saturné Named Principal of Greater Boston Academy

Greater Boston Academy announced on September 6, 2011, that Bordes Saturné has been named principal. Saturné began his new role in mid-July.

“The board is delighted to have Dr. Saturné as our principal,” said Linda Barrows-Stacey ’64, board chair. “We are blessed with his knowledge as an educator and administrator and with his ability to work with people—both in the school and community.”

Saturné, an ordained minister, is joining Greater Boston Academy after serving for 15 years in New York—as principal for eight years in the Northeastern Conference and as superintendent of schools for nine years in the Greater New York Conference. He also pastored several churches during his tenure in both conferences. For the past six years, he served at Atlantic Union College as professor



**Bordes Saturné has taken the helm as principal at Greater Boston Academy.**

of religion and educational administration, assistant to the president for administration, and vice president for enrollment and retention.

“With Dr. Bordes Saturné’s acceptance of the principal’s position, a revitalized spirit seems to be permeating GBA,” said Patricia Giese, superintendent of schools for the Southern New England Conference. “His humble and professional attitude, mixed with his passion for

success for GBA, is commendable and refreshing! As GBA looks toward the future under Dr. Saturné’s leadership, the hope is to draw the entire community to an understanding of the spiritual, academic, and service aspects of GBA that will influence the Boston area, as well as minister to all the students who are attending GBA.”

Saturné earned his bachelor’s degree in theology at the Adventist University of Haiti, and his master’s and doctoral degrees in religion at Strasbourg University in France. He also has a master’s degree in educational administration from Atlantic Union College.

GBA, founded in 1944, serves students from preschool to twelfth grade. The student population is very diverse, coming from 30 churches and various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The school motto is “Excellence for the purpose

of service.” GBA offers honor diplomas and more than 95 percent of all graduates go on to college. The school offers a unique curriculum with special emphasis on the study of foreign languages. Elementary students can now start taking both French and Spanish as second languages. A strong emphasis is also placed on spiritual growth and character building.

The school board has already approved an expansion to the facility. Over the summer, the lobby was renovated, the student bathrooms were all completely redone, and school landscape was upgraded. GBA is poised for extraordinary growth.

Saturné is predicting an enrollment growth of 20 percent by next year. Volunteers and board members are engaged and energized.

—Lisa A. Wheeler ’85, director of advancement, Greater Boston Academy

## Gardner Church Raises Awareness in the Community

Pat Richard, Adventist Community Services director, and church members Audrey Murray, George Beckner, Red and Myrt Allard, Al Landry, and Frank Jackson were on the streets in Gardner, Massachusetts, setting up two tents early on the morning of August 5. By 9:00 a.m. people began arriving to participate in the 72nd annual “Experience Gardner Festival” and sidewalk sale—a two day event. The festival offered shopping, live entertainment, and games for all ages.

The members of the Gardner church were out in force to man the booths that

included drawing blood for diabetes testing, taking blood pressure, handing out literature on spiritual and health issues, distributing copies of the video entitled *Jesus*, and sharing balloons and tote bags filled with health and spiritual literature appropriate for young people. Many people stopped by the booth to



**Nurses and church members, from left, Bahati Geliga and Doris Thibaudeau, were on hand at the “Experience Gardner Festival” to provide free diabetes screenings and blood pressure testing.**

look at the health exhibits. Some were shocked to learn how much sugar there is in a can of soda.

Mark Haranes, a reporter from

the GARDNER NEWS, was on hand for the event and interviewed Doris Thibaudeau, a nurse from Leominster and member of the church, who was there to make sure Gardner resi-

dents were healthy by taking their blood pressure and small blood samples. “When the people come by, we want to make sure everything is OK with them,” Thibaudeau told the reporter. “People have been very grateful to be able to just walk by, sit down, and let me quickly examine them so I can tell them if they’re healthy or if they should see their doctor.”

Gardner church members participated in this event to help raise awareness about the Adventist Church in the their community.

—Duane Henehan, communication leader, Gardner church

## Children Learn Lessons That Will Last a Lifetime

More than 30 children were taught more about God during the Vacation Bible School (VBS) held at the Worcester Airport Drive church in Worcester, Massachusetts, during the week of August 8-12. The western ranch theme introduced them to some rousing new songs and got them laughing at the antics of a would-be cowboy named Rowdy.

Through daily witnessing challenges, the children filled the corral with cattle—one steer for each “good deed.” The staff of 20 volunteers enacted Bible stories, showed videos, taught crafts, and played games, all with an application to that evening’s Bible point—God is real, with us, strong, awesome,

and in charge! Crew leaders guided their groups from one station to another, helping them make the connection between the activity and the deeper lesson being taught.

At each closing round-up, a group of children were featured in a video produced during that evening. They loved seeing themselves and their friends on the big screen and couldn’t wait for their turn!

The evenings ended at Cowpoke Chow with delicious refreshments and a time to choose a witnessing activity to do that night or the next day before coming to VBS. Choices included such activities as listing 10 things that only God could make, praying before a game with friends, cleaning



Some of the children and staff who participated in the Vacation Bible School program at the Worcester Airport Drive church.

your room without being asked, or playing with a younger sibling and letting him or her choose the game.

It is wonderful to see the children respond to God’s love and direction in their

lives. Hopefully, the many lessons learned will last a lifetime.

—Jean Rieser, VBS director,  
Worcester Airport Drive church

## Southern New England Conference Welcomes New Associate Youth Director

The Southern New England Conference welcomes its new associate youth director, Ryan Simpson, who is coming from the Bermuda Conference where he served as youth ministries and Pathfinder director, pastor, and previously, personal ministries director. Simpson succeeds Robert Hines, who accepted a call to the Florida Conference.

Prior to serving in the North American Division, Simpson served in the Inter-American Division as a district pastor, youth/Pathfinder ministries and communication director, and as national television and radio presenter for the East Jamaica Conference in Kingston, Jamaica.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in religion from the Northern Caribbean University in 2001, a master’s degree in family relations from Montemorelos University in 2006, and is pursuing a doctoral degree in

youth and young adult ministries at the Andrews University Theological Seminary.

“I enjoy working with young people, giving motivational talks, planning, and coordinating youth developmental programs and activities,” Simpson says. While in Bermuda,

Simpson developed and implemented CHOICES, a one-week summer youth and community impact and improvement initiative that was held two years in a row.

Simpson and his wife, Jo-Ann, a general medical practitioner, are natives of Jamaica and have been living in Bermuda since the fall of



The Southern New England Conference associate youth director, Ryan Simpson, with his wife, Jo-Ann, and their two children, Ryan II and Lylah-Elizabeth.

2008. They are the proud parents of six-year-old Ryan Simpson II (Sebastian), two-year-old Lylah-Elizabeth, and they await the arrival of another baby girl. They are both fluent in Spanish.

It is Simpson’s philosophy that “The Lord empowers whom He calls.”

—Frank Tochterman, communication director,  
Southern New England Conference



### L'avenir est Maintenant, et Vous n'êtes pas Trop Jeunes

**D**epuis environ trois décennies, j'ai observé que bien que les jeunes et les jeunes adultes sont très touchés par les défis et les problèmes dans la société et dans nos églises, ils ne sont pratiquement jamais la cause de ces problèmes. Si vous trouvez cette déclaration difficile à croire, jetez un regard dans votre église, dans les réunions des comités. Combien de jeunes et jeunes adultes sont des membres votants? Les jeunes sont rarement la cause du problème, car la plupart du temps ils ne sont pas parmi ceux qui prennent les décisions. Ils sont souvent considérés comme trop jeunes pour le présent et peut-être l'avenir. Quand David

Satan a réussi à nous faire répéter perpétuellement ces phrases, espérant d'éviter de nouvelles générations à devenir des agents de changement dans ce monde et dans l'église. Je dis aux jeunes que croire en ces phrases vous paralysera, et un jour vous vous réveillerez et réaliserez que l'avenir n'est jamais venu, et que maintenant vous n'avez pas la passion, l'entraînement, ni l'énergie pour faire la différence que vous contiez faire. Dans la frustration, vous aussi, vous commencerez à raconter aux jeunes de la nouvelle génération qu'ils sont trop jeunes. A moins que quelqu'un arrête de croire

vous ne serez pas à l'église lorsque vous deviendrez un adulte. Trouvez un ministère et commencez à travailler pour Dieu, pour votre église, et pour votre communauté aujourd'hui.

Chers adultes, consacrez vos jeunes pour le service et le leadership aujourd'hui, même si vous avez à céder votre place à l'un d'entre eux. Avec la bénédiction de Dieu, ceci assurera un mouvement grandissant et une église victorieuse de demain.

3. Ne cherchez pas autour de vous pour voir qui va faire le travail. Ce monde et notre église sont remplis de gens debout, regardant tout autour, pour voir qui va faire le travail. Dieu est prêt à vous utiliser, et quiconque est disposé à faire de grandes et merveilleuses choses en Son nom. Quand Dieu a donné le défi, le jeune homme, Esaïe, qui avait confiance en Lui disait: "Me voici.»

David aurait pu croire aux mensonges et attendre, mais il avait confiance en Dieu et a fait quelque chose. Si vous êtes un jeune adventiste ou un jeune adulte dans la région de Bermudes, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhodes Island, Connecticut, ou New York, je vous conseillerai d'embrasser le fait que le futur est maintenant. Et s'il vous plaît, rappelez-vous, vous n'êtes pas trop jeune pour servir et conduire pour Dieu.

*José Cortés est le directeur pour les ministères de la Jeunesse, Eclaireurs, et Aventuriers à l'Union Atlantique.*

*English translation on page 10 of this issue.*

**Pour avoir un avenir, il faut qu'il y ait un présent. Si vous sacrifiez le présent pour le bien de l'avenir, il se peut que l'avenir ne vienne jamais.**

fut apparu, Saül et son armée étaient en grande difficulté. Ces troubles ne venaient pas de David ni de sa génération.

"David dit à Saül: 'Que personne ne se décourage à cause de ce Philistin! Ton serviteur ira se battre avec lui. Saül dit à David: Tu ne peux pas aller te battre avec ce Philistin, car tu es un enfant, et il est un homme de guerre dès sa jeunesse'" —1 Samuel 17:32, 33 (LS).

Voici quelques leçons tirées de cette histoire Biblique:

1. "Vous êtes l'avenir" et "vous êtes trop jeune" sont deux erreurs importantes que nous avons comises au sujet de nos jeunes.

ces mensonges, le cycle se répète et l'église ne deviendra jamais ce que Dieu veut qu'elle soit.

2. Si vous ne faites pas quelque chose aujourd'hui, vous n'aurez rien demain: Saül n'avait pas réalisé que sans David dans le présent, Israël ferait face à la destruction, l'esclavage, et l'exil. Il n'y avait pas d'avenir, à moins que David ait agi. Pour avoir un avenir, il faut qu'il y ait un présent. Si vous sacrifiez le présent pour le bien de l'avenir, il se peut que l'avenir ne vienne jamais. Si vous êtes jeune et vous n'êtes pas actif à l'église aujourd'hui, c'est probable que



## El Futuro es Ahora y Tu No Eres Demasiado Joven

**P**or casi tres décadas, he observado que aunque los jóvenes y los adultos jóvenes están muy afectados por los retos y problemas en la sociedad y en nuestras iglesias, casi nunca son la causa de estos problemas. Si encuentras esta afirmación difícil de creer, mira a tu alrededor en tu iglesia y en las reuniones de la Junta de Iglesia. ¿Cuántos jóvenes y adultos jóvenes son miembros votantes? Los jóvenes casi nunca son la causa del problema porque la mayoría de veces no están entre quienes toman las decisiones. A menudo se les considera demasiado jóvenes para el presente y quizás aún para el futuro.

Cuando David apareció, Saúl y su ejército estaban en grandes problemas. El problema no era las acciones de David o las de su generación.

“Y Saúl dijo a David, ‘tú no eres capaz de ir contra este filisteo a pelear contra él; porque tú eres un joven y él es un hombre de guerra desde su juventud’” — 1 Samuel 17:32, 33 (NKJV).

Aquí hay algunas grandes lecciones de esta historia Bíblica:

**1.** “Ustedes son el futuro” y “eres demasiado joven” son dos errores significantes que hemos hecho con respecto a nuestra juventud. Satanás ha tenido éxito en invitarnos a perpetuar estas frases, con la esperanza de que evitará que las nuevas generaciones se conviertan en agentes de cambio en este mundo y en la iglesia. Le digo a los jóvenes que el creer estas

frases te paralizaran, y un día te despertaras y te darás cuenta de que el futuro nunca llegó y ahora no tienes la pasión, la motivación o la energía para hacer la diferencia que una vez quisiste hacer. En frustración, tú también empezarás a decir a las nuevas generaciones que ellos son demasiado jóvenes. A menos que alguien deje de creer estas mentiras, se continuará repitiendo el ciclo y la Iglesia nunca será lo que Dios quiere que sea.

ca el tener que ceder tu lugar a uno de tus jóvenes. Con la bendición de Dios, esto asegurará un movimiento creciente y una iglesia victoriosa mañana.

**3.** Deja de mirar quién va a hacer el trabajo. Este mundo y nuestra iglesia están llenos de personas que están de pie, mirando alrededor, para ver quién va a hacer el trabajo. Dios está dispuesto a usarte a ti y cualquiera otra persona que esté dispuesta a hacer

**Para poder tener un futuro, debe haber un presente. Si sacrificas el presente por bienestar del futuro, este pueda nunca llegar.**

**2.** Si no haces algo hoy, pueda que no tengas nada mañana: Saúl no se dio cuenta que sin David en el presente, Israel enfrentaba la destrucción, esclavitud y exilio. No había ningún futuro a menos que David actuara. Para poder tener un futuro, debe haber un presente. Si sacrificas el presente por bienestar del futuro, este pueda nunca llegar. Si eres joven y no estas activo en la Iglesia hoy, pueda ser que no estés en la iglesia cuando seas adulto. Busca un ministerio y empieza hoy a trabajar para Dios, para tu iglesia y para tu comunidad.

Estimado adulto, instruye hoy a los jóvenes para el servicio y liderazgo, incluso si esto signifi-

cosas grandes y maravillosas en Su nombre. Cuando Dios dio el desafío, el joven, Isaías, quien confiaba en El, dijo, “Heme aquí.”

David pudo haber creído las mentiras y esperar, pero él confiaba en Dios e hizo algo. Si tú eres un joven adventista o un adulto joven viviendo en Bermudas, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut o Nueva York, te desafío a abrazar el hecho de que el futuro es ahora. Y recuerda, no eres demasiado joven para servir y liderar para Dios.

*José Cortés es el director de los departamentos de Jóvenes, Conquistadores y Aventureros en la Unión del Atlántico.*

*English translation available on page 10 of this issue.*



# Statement on the Nurture and Protection of Children

*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).*

**S**eventh-day Adventists place a high value on children. In the light of the Bible they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family, the community of faith, and society-at-large. Children possess enormous potential for making positive contributions to the church and to society. Attention to their care, protection, and development is extremely important.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church reaffirms and extends its longstanding efforts to nurture and safeguard children and youth from persons—known and unknown—whose actions perpetrate any form of abuse and violence against them and/or sexually exploit them. Jesus modeled the kind of respect, nurture, and protection children should be able to expect from adults entrusted with their care. Some of His strongest words of reproof were directed toward those who would harm them. Because of the trusting nature and dependence of children upon older and wiser adults and the life-changing consequences when this trust is breached, children require vigilant protection.

## Redemptive Correction

The Seventh-day Adventist Church places a priority on church-based parent education that helps parents develop the skills necessary for a redemptive approach to correction. Many children experience harsh punishment in the name of a biblical approach to discipline. Correction characterized by severe, punitive, dictatorial control often leads to resentment and rebellion. Such harsh discipline is also associated with heightened risk for physical and psychological harm to children as well as increased likelihood that the youth will resort to coercion and violence in resolving their differences with others. By contrast, examples from Scripture as well as a large body of research confirm the effectiveness of more gentle forms of discipline that allow children to learn through reasoning and experiencing the consequences of their choices. Such milder measures have been demonstrated to increase the likelihood that children will make life-affirming choices and espouse parental values as they mature.

## Making Church a Safe Place for Children

The church also takes seriously its responsibility to minimize the risk for child sexual abuse and violence against children in the congregational setting. First and foremost, church leaders and members must themselves live by a strict code of ethics that precludes even the appearance of evil as regards the exploitation of minors for the gratification of adult desires. Other practical measures toward making church a safe place for children include attention to the safety of the church facility and its surroundings and the careful supervision and monitoring of children and their environment during all church-related activities. Education regarding what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate interaction between adults and children, the warning signs of abuse and violence, and the specific steps to be followed should inappropriate behavior be reported or suspected are vitally important. Pastors and church leaders who are visible and approachable play an important role

Other practical measures toward making church a safe place for children include attention to the safety of the church facility and its surroundings and the careful supervision and monitoring of children and their environment during all church-related activities.

in prevention, as well as in responding well to the needs of children whose safety may have been jeopardized. Regular updates are needed regarding their moral and legal responsibility to report child abuse to appropriate civil authorities. The designation of trained personnel and specific protocols at wider levels of church organization will help to ensure appropriate action and follow-through when abuse is reported within the church setting.


Because of the complex nature of the problem of child sexual abuse and violence against children, intervention, and treatment of perpetrators requires resources beyond the scope of ministry provided by the local church. However, the presence of a known perpetrator in a congregation calls for the highest levels of vigilance. While perpetrators should be held fully responsible for their own behavior, the supervision of persons with a history of inappropriate behavior is necessary to ensure that such persons maintain appropriate distance and refrain from all contact with children during church-related activities. Provision for alternative opportunities for perpetrators to grow spiritually in settings where children are not present greatly enhances child protection.

### Fostering Emotional and Spiritual Healing

Children who have been personally victimized or who have witnessed disturbing events need the care of adults who treat them with sensitivity and understanding. Practical support that helps children and families maintain stability in the midst of turmoil empowers victims and their families and promotes healing. The church's commitment to

breaking the silence frequently associated with child sexual abuse and violence, its efforts toward advocacy and justice for all victims, and deliberate action to safeguard children from all forms of abuse and violence will contribute much toward the emotional and spiritual recovery of all concerned. The church regards the nurture and protection of children as a sacred trust.

(This statement has been informed by the principles expressed in the following biblical passages: Lev. 18:6; 2 Sam. 13:1-11; 1 Kings 17:17-23; Ps. 9:9, 12, 16-18; Ps. 11:5-7; Ps. 22:24; Ps. 34:18; Ps. 127:3-5; Ps. 128:3, 4; Prov. 31:8, 9; Isa. 1:16, 17; Jer. 22:3; Matt. 18:1-6; Matt. 21:9, 15-16; Mark 9:37; Mark 10:13-16; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; 1 Tim. 5:8; Heb. 13:3.)

(See also "Seventh-day Adventists Speak Up For Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.") 

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*This statement was approved and voted by the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on June 23, 2010, and released at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, June 24-July 3, 2010.*

### 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](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html)

*Guidelines:* [www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/guidelines/index.html)

*Fundamental Beliefs:* [www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html)

*Church Manual:* [www.adventist.org/beliefs/church-manual/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/church-manual/index.html)

*Other Documents:* [www.adventist.org/beliefs/other-documents/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/other-documents/index.html)

### Books

Available online at AdventSource ([www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)) or your local Adventist Book Center (ABC) ([www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com))

STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MANUAL



## Sunset Table

November 2011	4	11	18	25
Bangor, ME	5:18	4:10	4:03	3:58
Portland, ME	5:27	4:18	4:12	4:07
Boston, MA	5:33	4:25	4:19	4:14
South Lancaster, MA	5:35	4:27	4:21	4:16
Pittsfield, MA	5:41	4:33	4:27	4:23
Hartford, CT	5:40	4:33	4:27	4:22
New York, NY	5:48	4:40	4:35	4:31
Albany, NY	5:41	4:33	4:27	4:23
Utica, NY	5:48	4:40	4:33	4:29
Syracuse, NY	5:51	4:44	4:37	4:33
Rochester, NY	5:57	4:49	4:43	4:38
Buffalo, NY	6:02	4:55	4:48	4:44
Hamilton, Bda	6:24	5:19	5:15	5:13

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dr. Roderick Carruthers will be 100 on Dec. 3, 2011.** All invited to help celebrate at an Open House on Sunday Dec. 4 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., at Greater Boston Academy, 108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA., E-mails and cards can be sent to: [DRCarruthers100@yahoo.com](mailto:DRCarruthers100@yahoo.com), c/o Robert Carruthers, 37 Albion Ave., Stoneham, MA 02180, (781) 438-0287.

**The Danbury Bethel church is sponsoring a Gospel Concert on Oct. 22 at 7:00 p.m.,** at the Danbury High School, 43 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury, CT 06811; featuring gospel artist Jennifer LaMountain. Adults \$25, children (ages 5-12) \$15, children (5 and under) \$5. For more information, contact Pete Maldonado, pastor, at (413) 222-6114.

## OBITUARIES

**ARTHUR, Lionel, R.**—90; b. May 24, 1920, in Eckstein Village, St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies; d. February 1, 2011, in Hyattsville, Md. He was employed by the Northeastern Conference as an assistant treasurer for two years until 1973. He pastored the Flatbush, Bethesda Amityville, Mt Zion, South Ozone, Elim, and Lighthouse Tabernacle churches. The Flatbush and Excelsior schools were established under his leadership. Survivors include, Sheila Arthur, his wife of more than 63 years; children Bert Arthur, Myrtle Arthur, Michael (Dawn) Arthur; a brother, Colin Trotman of the Bahamas; grandchildren Deidre Arthur, Rodney (Brandy) Arthur, Simone Arthur, Robert (Alicia) Arthur; Chandra Arthur; great-grandchildren, Raven, Tuesday, Rodney II, Athena; many nephews, nieces, and other relatives.

**BUNKER, Lorna Alice (Fish)**—81; b. Mar. 16, 1929, in Igera, N.Y.; d. Dec. 10, 2010. She attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church school in North Creek, N.Y. She was a leader in the North Creek church, often acting as speaker and leader when there was no pastor. She conducted Vacation Bible School, led out in Pathfinders, and was a Bible student and gave many Bible studies to family and friends. She cared for her invalid mother, mother-in-law, and deceased children (Bonnie and Brenda), served as Adventist Community Service leader, and taught her children to lead out in neighborhood Sabbath School. She sponsored many children to Camp Cherokee in Saranac Lake, N.Y. Survivors include her two daughters, Connie Lee Olortegui of Apopka, Fla., and Mary Lou Cross of Newport, Tenn.; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; a sister, Margaret Chastain of Cleveland, Tenn.; and a brother, Henry Fish of Elijah, Ga.

**CHENOWETH, CATHY A.**—58, b. May 4, 1952, in Portland, Maine; d. May 1, 2011, in Scarborough, Maine. She was a member of the Limington church in Limington, Maine. She graduated from Pioneer Valley Academy in New Braintree, Mass. She worked for 14 years in the Northern New England Conference office. She was predeceased by her former husband, Gerald Sawyer. Survivors include her husband, Roger Chenoweth, two sons, Keith (Kathleen) Sawyer and David (Katrina) Sawyer; a sister, Linda Devine; and a granddaughter, Shyla Rain Gailey.

**FOGGIN, Janice M.**—90, b. Sept. 4, 1920, in Elmira, N.Y.; d. Jul. 2, 2011, in Chattanooga, Tenn. She lived in St. Petersburg, Fla., for many years and in Fletcher, N.C. for 10 years

before returning to Elmira, where she attended Elmira church. The last few years she resided in Collegedale, Tenn. Survivors include a daughter, Lana Feder, of Atlanta, Ga.; a grand-

daughter, Kimberly Feder, of Atlanta, Ga.; two nephews, Roy Van Atta of Elmira, N.Y., and Kurt Van Atta of Margate, Fla.; and a niece, Wendy Proctor of Seneca Falls, N.Y.

## Remembering . . .

### Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse



Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse

**RITTENHOUSE, Virginia-Gene (Shankel)**, 88; b. Oct. 15, 1922, in Lacombe, British Columbia, Canada; d. August 30, 2011, in Worcester, Mass. She was an accomplished violinist, pianist, composer, and conductor. When she was three, she moved to South Africa with her parents. She began piano study at age six and pursued her musical career there until she was 19.

She began her teaching career at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) in College Place, Wash., in 1945 where she taught for one year before going to Atlantic Union College (AUC) in South Lancaster, Mass., where she taught violin and piano until the early 1950s. She worked in Jamaica, West Indies, from 1954-56 and also in 1961 where she taught music. She returned to the Lancaster area in 1964 and, in 1968, she started practicing with five young students in her living room and out of that practice group the New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) developed. The NEYE has traveled extensively over the years, performing countless times in the United States, Canada, South America, Africa, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and China. In 1994, the NEYE relocated to Washington, D.C., and began its affiliation with Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University). Rittenhouse was a significant part of the Lancaster community, contributing both personally and musically to AUC, the Adventist Church, and the wider community. She has to her credit a number of original compositions including *The Jamaican Suite* for violin and piano, *The Song of the Redeemed*, and *The Vision of the Apocalypse*. Rittenhouse is survived by Harvey Rittenhouse, M.D., her husband of 61 years, a brother-in-law, Robert (Peggy) Rittenhouse, M.D., of Hudson, Mass., and numerous nieces and nephews.

To read additional information about this musical powerhouse, visit: [www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=4690](http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=4690) and [news.adventist.org/2011/08/remembrance-adventis.html](http://news.adventist.org/2011/08/remembrance-adventis.html).

**KIRCHBERG, Ernest "Ernie" C.**—88; b. Apr. 25, 1923, in Hamden, Conn.; d. May 30, 2011, in West Haven, Conn. He was a member of the New Haven church in New Haven, Conn. He was a World War II veteran. Survivors include two daughters, Linda Seideman of Harrah, Okla., and Betsy Kirchberg of Orange, Conn.; three sons, Earl (Kallie) Kirchberg of South Lancaster, Mass., Paul (Debbie) Kirchberg of Orange, Conn., and Eric (Ivy) Kirchberg of Battle Creek, Mich.; and seven grandchildren, Alexander, Demetri, and Nicholas, Kirchberg of South Lancaster, Mass., Johnathan Kirchberg of Orange, Conn., Paul (Smita) Kirchberg of Millford, Conn., Michael O'Brien of West Haven, Conn., and Zachary Kirchberg, of Battle Creek, Mich., and two great-grandchildren, Aria Kirchberg of Millford, Conn., and Kaitlyn O'Brien of Stratford, Conn.

**KOPKO, Thomas M.**—76; b. Nov. 1, 1934, in Newark, N.J.; d. Nov. 30, 2010, in Roseville, Calif. He was a member of the West Sacramento church in Sacramento, Calif. He served as a pastor in the Atlantic, Columbia, Pacific, Southern, and Southwestern unions. Survivors include his wife, Doris Steinbacher Kopko of Roseville, Calif., a son, Thomas Kopko of Roseville, Calif.; and two granddaughters, Kristen and Tricia Kopko of Roseville, Calif.

**STEVENS, Henry George Stevens**—74, b. Jan. 26, 1937, in Newton, Mass.; d. Feb. 20, 2011, in Portland, Maine. He was an active member of the Hudson church in Hudson, Mass., serving as the senior deacon for many years. Survivors include several cousins.

**THOMAS, Lavern E. (Polite)**—60; b. Dec. 13, 1950, in Savannah, Ga; d. Mar. 22, 2011, in Jamaica, N.Y. She was a member of the Jamaica church in Jamaica, N.Y. She became a Seventh-day Adventist at the age of 14 while attending a tent meeting. She was employed for 19 years with the Northeastern Conference in the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments. She became the first woman to be ordained as an elder at the Jamaica church under the pastoral leadership of David Glover. She served the Jamaica church as an usher, Sabbath School secretary, superintendent, and teacher, and as an elder. Survivors include Carlos Thomas, Sr., her husband of 36 years, of Jamaica, N.Y.; two sons, Carlos Jr. of Las Vegas, Nev., and DeVaughn Thomas of Jamaica, N.Y.; her mother, Elizabeth Polite of Queens, N.Y.; a brother, Kenneth Polite of Long Beach, Calif.; a grandson, Malachi of Queens, N.Y.; sisters-in-law, Carlota Thomas-Brown, Garnetta Thomas, and Lynn Polite; and brother-in-law, a Reginald Lewis, Sr.

## Greater Boston Academy Alumni Weekend October 14-15, 2011

Friday, October 14

Stoneham Memorial Church,  
29 Maple St., Stoneham MA

6:00 p.m. Light Supper

7:30 p.m. Vespers

Sabbath, October 15

Stoneham Memorial Church,  
29 Maple St., Stoneham MA

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Guest Speaker from the Class of 1961

1:00 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon

Greater Boston Academy, 108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA

Saturday Night

Greater Boston Academy, 108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA  
Class Reunions and Alumni Basketball Game

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# THE ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

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have  
NEED of  
SCHOOLS.”

FUNDAMENTALS OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, p. 359



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