

THE ATLANTIC UNION

FEBRUARY 2012

GLEANER



Lighting the Way,
Without Reservation

Quoi de Neuf?

Adventist Education

The Big Picture

¿Qué Está Pasando?

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Without Reservation

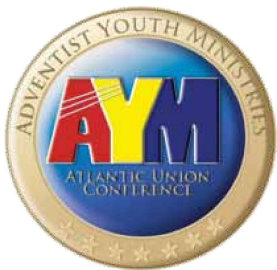


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The cover story includes an excerpt from Ellen G. White about the work in large cities, and information about the prayer initiative that has been established by the Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries Department in preparation for the 2013 evangelistic meetings in New York City. The regular features include Adventist Education and The Big Picture (youth ministries). The cover photo is an image from iStockphoto.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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DEADLINES

April 2012	February 10
May 2012	March 9
June 2012	April 13

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

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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site

BEGINNINGS —

Asking for Holy Boldness

On January 1 this year, two major initiatives were launched. Firstly, the North American Division Prayer Initiative, designed to encourage daily prayer for the power of the Holy Spirit and a spirit of unity in the nine unions and 58 conferences this year. The goal is to “Reach North America”—a plan that embraces and promotes Revival and Transformation, Education for Discipleship, Alignment in God’s Church, Community Outreach and Evangelism, and Healthy Leadership and Management. According to Dan Jackson, president of the Adventist Church in North America, the church in North America is also being urged to join our brothers and sisters around the world as we daily pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as well. His plea is that we ask the Lord for holy boldness for sharing the gospel beginning with Operation Global Rain, a 10-day prayer initiative that took place on January 4-14, and, might I say, “beyond.”

Secondly, January 1 also ushered in the beginning of the preparation with prayer for the NY13 Big City Evangelism in New York—across the Atlantic Union and Columbia Union, more specifically for the Northeastern, Greater New York, Allegheny East, New Jersey, and Southern New England conferences—an initiative of the General Conference and North American Division for evangelizing the world’s large cities. The efforts in New York City may provide an evangelistic strategy for reaching other large and complex cities of the world.

Preaching the gospel of Jesus and showing God’s plans for our future is the primary work of His disciples and His

church. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” In Matthew 24:14 (NIV) Jesus says, “and this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

As a church, we clearly see and understand our mission to be a last-day messenger, called to deliver an urgent message. We know that no success in this spiritual venture can be accomplished without the presence, power, and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been promised to those who open their hearts and their lives to Jesus and daily connect with Him through prayer. Ellen White, in the April 1, 1873, *THE YOUTH’S INSTRUCTOR*, said “The strength of Christ was in prayer. He had taken humanity, and He bore our infirmities and became sin for us. . . . When new and great trials were before Him, He would steal away to the solitude of the mountains, and pass the entire night in prayer to His Heavenly Father.

“As Christ is our example in all things, if we imitate His example in earnest, importunate prayer to God . . . we shall not be overcome by him (the wily foe).”

Our challenge and our opportunity during this year, yet unfolding before us, is to spend quality time communing with our Lord and experiencing the anointing and the power of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate holy boldness in sharing the Good News of Salvation. ☩

Carlyle C. Simmons is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and health ministries, human relations, and prayer ministries director.



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Lighting the Way, Without Reservation

“One of the goals of the Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries team is to cultivate 3,000 prayer intercessors/partners in preparation for the 2013 New York City evangelistic meetings,” said Carlyle Simmons, prayer ministries director, as he shared some plans that will be implemented in the coming months. A prayer ministries initiative has been established in the Atlantic Union involving three phases:

Phase 1 General Preparation With Prayer
(January 1, 2012–March 31, 2013)

Phase 2 Intensified Prayer Participation
(April 1, 2013–October 31, 2013)

Phase 3 Prayers for Preservation of Faith and Spiritual Growth
(November 1, 2013 and onward)

Whether members are in New York City and able to participate directly, or hours away, they are being encouraged to pray daily for the meetings. With the preparation underway, here is an excerpt by Ellen G. White about advancing the work in large cities:

“In our large cities the message is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. God will raise up laborers for this work, and His angels will go before them. Let no one hinder these men of God’s appointment. Forbid them not. God has given them their work. Let the message be given with so much power that the hearers shall be convinced. God will raise up workers who will occupy peculiar spheres of influence, workers who will carry the truth to the most unpromising places. Men will say, ‘Yea,’ where once they said, ‘Nay.’ Some who were once enemies will become valuable helpers, advancing the work with their means and their influence.

“With intense interest God is looking on this world. He has noted the capacity of human beings for service. Looking down the ages, He has counted His workers, both men and women, and has prepared the way before them, saying, ‘I will send my messengers to them, and they shall see great light shining amid the darkness. Won to the service of Christ, they will use their talents to the glory of My name. They will go forth to work for Me with zeal and devotion. Through their efforts the truth will speak to thousands in a most forcible manner, and men spiritu-

ally blind will receive sight, and will see my salvation. Truth will be made so prominent that he who runs may read. Means will be devised to reach hearts. Some of the methods used in this work will be different from the methods used in the work in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism.’

“God will set in operation many plans for the accomplishment of His work. The means that He has intrusted to wealthy men will be used to sustain His cause. His people will concentrate their efforts more and more on the great consummation, believing and obeying the commission:

“‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ ‘So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth,

“God will set in operation
many plans for the
accomplishment of His work.”

and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following’ ”—PRESENT TRUTH AND REVIEW AND HERALD ARTICLES, vol. 4, pp. 455, 456.

These words, penned years ago by Ellen White still ring true today. Imagine what God could do, if we allow Him to stretch us beyond our comfort zone. The Lord may choose to bless in different ways, but the greatest impact will be made when we let our light shine without any reservation, so that others might come to know of Jesus and Him crucified. ①

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

Information on each phase of the prayer initiative is posted on the Atlantic Union Web site and is available for download at www.atlantic-union.org/prayer.html. Those who are impressed to become prayer intercessors/partners should contact their local conference prayer ministries director.

Update on Atlantic Union College as of January 3, 2012

Since our last update*, we reported that the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) gave us a January 1, 2012, deadline to submit an application for the reestablishment of degree-granting authority at Atlantic Union College. I'm pleased to inform you that the application was sent as planned, almost one week before the deadline.

We wish to thank Gina Brown, Ph.D., administrative consultant, for spearheading the project, and her team of assistants, including former faculty/staff and board members for making it possible as promised. We will wait to hear from the DHE, which



will take several weeks. We will keep you informed of their response as soon as we hear from them.

Audit of Financial Statement

Also, after many hours of earnest effort by Steve

Blake from Cline Brandt Kochenower & Co. P.A. (external auditor), Todd Mayer and his team from the General Conference Auditing Service, and Lloyd Brown and his team from the college, the Audit: Financial Statement Year

End May 31, 2011, was completed and sent to the DHE on Friday, December 30, 2011. The DHE has acknowledged receipt of both documents.

In addition to posting on the college's Web site, this and all future information will also be sent via the union's communication network for the benefit of its constituency.

—Donald G. King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Inc., Board of Trustees.

*To read the last update, visit www.auc.edu under Updates or see the December 2011 GLEANER, page 8.

Lois King Elected Interim Director for Women's Ministries

The Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee at its November 16, 2011, meeting, elected Lois King, Ph.D., as the interim director for the Women's Ministries department during the current quinquennium. She succeeds Charlotte Thoms, who was the director for 14 years. Thoms will continue to serve as the union's Disabilities Ministries director.

King is the Atlantic Union Ministerial Spouses Association director and will continue in that capacity. Previously, she was assistant vice president for marketing and adjunct professor at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. Her background includes serving as the first female director for the Northeastern Conference Sabbath School and Religious Liberty departments.

Her educational background

includes an associate degree in liberal arts from Caribbean Union College in Trinidad, a bachelor's degree in business administration from La Sierra University, a master's degree in family life education from Loma Linda University, and a doctorate degree in higher education leadership from Touro University. King is a certified family life educator.

She has received many recognition awards in leadership and ministries. In 1995 she received the Woman of the Year Award for outstanding service from Operation ReachBack Inc., and later, an award for outstanding leadership from the Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta, where she served as president. In 2000 the Atlantic Union College Business Department recognized King as an outstanding



Lois King

teacher in marketing and business administration.

King says her goal in life is to motivate people, especially young people, to realize their goals and strive toward their maximum potential.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor





By Astrid Thomassian

In the Living Years

Recently I attended the funeral of a church worker. The church was packed. There wasn't even a seat available in the basement that was equipped with a wide-screen monitor to view the service. Speaker after speaker paid tribute to the deceased. On the long drive home, as I reflected on the tributes, I wondered whether in her living years this saint knew that so many people loved, valued, and were positively impacted by her life.

At the last North American Division

college have been expressed in its living years?

In recent years, school enrollment has been precipitously sliding in the North American Division. The numbers of students and schools in the Atlantic Union Conference have steadily decreased. I must confess that I shudder to project enrollment and the future of our schools if the current trends continue.

Larry Blackmer, vice president for education in the North American Division, recently wrote, "The VALUE

increase tithe income.

Friends, let us not find reasons to dismiss the findings of these studies. I would like to appeal to each reader, while you still have the opportunity, will you commit to join in our effort to make Seventh-day Adventist schools training centers where children can be educated to take their places in society and witness for Christ? Rigorous academic preparation should not be compromised. Moreover, the outcome for students' education in Adventist schools is that they will seek first the kingdom of God (which is lasting), and all the temporal things will be added to those who make salvation their primary focus. Ellen G. White tells us that that is "the greatest evidence of Christianity that can be given to the world"—CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 16.

In addition, White has further counseled: "The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand"—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 7, p. 64. "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world"—EDUCATION, p. 271. May we all commit to strengthen our schools and ensure that every young person in our church attends a Seventh-day Adventist school. ☺

Will you commit to join in our effort to make Seventh-day Adventist schools training centers where children can be educated to take their places in society and witness for Christ?

Teachers Convention a special issue of THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION was distributed, reflecting the history of Adventist education. I was drawn to the page listing the years Adventist colleges were established. I was shocked that Atlantic Union College did not top the list. When I inquired why AUC was not listed first, the editor responded that AUC began as a high school, not a college. I accepted the explanation. However, last August/September both the ADVENTIST REVIEW and Adventist News Network released more than one announcement that Atlantic Union College, the oldest Adventist college, had closed. Why, I reflected, couldn't that acknowledgment of being the oldest

GENESIS STUDY reveals that Adventist school students remain in church longer than those who attend public school. In fact, many parents and students are baptized as a result of Adventist education. Adventist education begins at home and benefits family life. As the *Cognitive Genesis Study* demonstrated, families that have worship have a stronger family life. Students learn better because of family worship. Adventist educational benefits extend to society. Education raises the economic, social, and intellectual level and, in addition, Adventist education emphasizes character building. A college diploma will add nearly a million dollars to a person's lifetime income." I might add . . . and thus



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

The Future is Now and You Are Not Too Young (Part 3)

God has used young men and women of every generation to deliver resolution, hope, positive change, blessings, and even salvation to the people. Joseph saved Egypt from the famine. Jonathan and his body guard fought an entire Philistine squad and defeated them. Esther risked her life and stopped the genocide of her people. Josiah became king when he was eight years old and “did what was right before the sight of the Lord.” Mary, at a tender age, was trusted by God to birth and nurture Jesus. John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah. Jesus defeated Satan and won salvation for humanity—at the cross, as a young adult, at age 33.

Looking back in history, I am amazed that Ellen G. Harmon, James White, John Nevins Andrews, Uriah Smith, Rachel Oakes, and other youth and young adults from the Atlantic Union territory, founded the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church that we have today comes as a direct result of their vision, sacrifices, willingness to change, and hard work.

These were young people who did not look around to see who would do the work. They figured that if someone was going to do the work, it would have been done already. This applies today—in your church, community, and country. If no one has done the work, it means that it is your turn.

Here are a few more lessons from the story of David and Goliath:

1. Big challenges can become the greatest opportunities. King Saul and the whole army of Israel looked at Goliath and saw a problem. David looked at Goliath and saw the opportunity to fix the problem. God’s youth and young adults do not run away from challenges in their personal lives, school, community, or work place. David could have said, “I am too young; I will do this in the future. Let those who are older and have more experience do it,” but God’s

youth see challenges as opportunities to act and to glorify His name.

2. Allow God to stretch you. When King Saul tried to convince David that he was not ready to face the giant, David told Saul a simple truth (1 Samuel 17:34-36). As a shepherd, David had faced and defeated a lion. He had fought a bear and killed it. David knew that God had put the lion and the bear in his way to stretch him and get him ready to fight the giant. In reality, God’s ultimate vision for David was not that he would kill the giant, but that David would be king. The lion, the bear, and the giant were just stepping stones, preparing David to be the best king in Israel’s history. The challenges are not necessarily a bad thing, God is just preparing you for the “big time.”

I am glad none of the youth and young adults mentioned above believed that they were too young or that they were merely the future. Be like them. Remember, the future is now and you are not too young. A path without obstacles usually leads to nowhere. God allows obstacles to sharpen your skills. Don’t let the challenges discourage you. Be strengthened by the obstacles. With God, they will turn into great opportunities and prepare you to fulfill His vision. ①

To be continued in the April 2012 issue.



José Cortés is the director of Adventist Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.

Connect with him on Facebook and Twitter at: www.facebook.com/PastorJoseCortésJr; www.facebook.com/atlanticunionadventistyouthministries, twitter.com/JoséCortésJr, and twitter.com/AUYouth.



Adventist Youth Leadership Perspective



www.AUYouth.com



Bermuda Conference ACS is Alive and Well

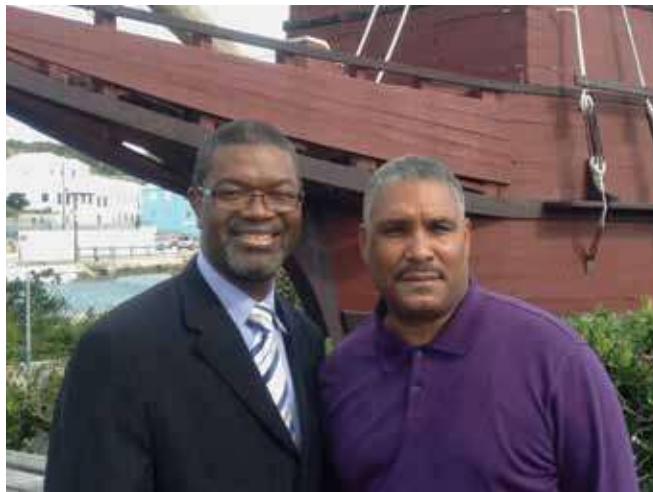


Larry Franklyn, Ph.D.; Dora Baker, Adventist Community Services Federation president, Margaret Wade, and Raymond Simons at the Community Services Day program.

The Bermuda Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) is making a real difference in the lives of real people on the island. Every church in the conference is in some way involved in serving the community. From the regular streetwalker to the people in the seat of government, Bermudians know about the work being done by the Adventists in their community.

The first thing one notices when visiting the island is the warm hospitality. A visit to the distribution centers shows hospitality is also present in the way that church members distribute food, clothing, and offer other services. The Bermuda Conference ACS director, Howard Ebbin; conference president Jeffrey Brown; along with the ACS federation president, Dora Baker; and the staff are to be commended for

their outstanding leadership. Brown says that “In



Pierre Omelere, Atlantic Union Haitian Ministries vice president, and Howard Ebbin, Bermuda Conference Adventist Community Services director.

a recent newspaper article bemoaning a decline in church membership, the leader of our country, Premier Paula Cox, said, ‘I think the churches identified as having increased participation are those that have been very aggressive in speaking to the needs of

the community and helping in a direct way. The Seventh-day Adventists and the Catholics have both been very deliberate in their outreach and in providing programs which actually help and benefit people on the ground.’ ”

ACS leaders are in close contact with emergency managers and island community leaders. On Community Services Day, they honored those who worked during the year to effectively serve the com-

Roslyn Bascome-Adams, for inviting our youth to participate as casualties in the annual mass casualty training exercise organized by King Edward VII Memorial Hospital; Kyjuan Brown, for providing free medical services during the health screening in the summer of 2011; and Leonard Gibbons, Bermuda Conference Health Ministries Department director (head doctor for health screening). Also honored were volunteer nurses Sonya McCottry (head nurse), Beverly Brangman, Fredrika Tucker, and LeeAnnette Magbakamara, who support the health initiatives of the ACS department. When asked about his work as the conference ACS director, Ebbin said, “The 11 churches in the Bermuda Conference were faithfully involved in several community ministries in 2011, thus by God’s grace, we can declare that the Adventist Community Services department is alive and well.”

—Pierre Omelere, Haitian Ministries vice president and ACS director, Atlantic Union Conference

munity. Among those recognized were several doctors:



Myra Omelere, Pierre Omelere’s wife, with Margaret Wade, community services director for the Somerset church, and Raymond and Selena Simons, other workers in the community services department.

Every church in the conference is in some way involved in serving the community.

Stewardship Retreat a First for Greater New York



Treasurers and stewardship leaders from across the Greater New York Conference attended the first-ever stewardship retreat.

The Greater New York Conference opened a new chapter in its history by sponsor-

ing its first-ever, annual stewardship retreat for treasurers and stewardship leaders. The October 14-16, 2011, event took place at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York.

There were 130

people who registered with an additional 20 people attending on Sabbath. Several seminars covering

a range of topics were presented. A banquet was held on Saturday night where many churches were presented with trophies and certificates for sending the remittances in on time and receiving a good report from the auditors.

The participants expressed their appreciation for all the activities and many have stressed the need to have another retreat in 2012.

—Dilcia Gonzalez, Stewardship department administrative assistant, Greater New York Conference

Greater New York Conference Addresses the Needs of PKs

PK Forum, a groundbreaking ministry developed in the Greater New York Conference to provide support and resources to pastors' kids, hosted another meeting in its series on Sunday, November 20, 2011, at the Greater New York Conference Office. Conceived and implemented by Steve Cassimy, the conference's family ministries and ministerial director, the PK Forum has, since its inception, incorporated other relevant conference departments, including Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, and the Ministerial Spouses Association.

Representatives from the departments participated in the November PK Forum, expressing their encouragement and outlining upcoming activities. Andres Peralta, the conference's Youth Ministries director, shared information on PK-specific events that will take place in 2012. They include a PK Fun Day that will feature games and activities, exclusive access for PKs to the conference campground the

Sunday following the end of camp meeting, and an anticipated PK retreat.

The need of support for PKs is not always obvious, since they are viewed by many as having a privileged position that is characterized by large amounts of attention. What is not often understood are the numerous challenges faced by PKs. A 2002 MINISTRY TODAY magazine article by Liz Eden refers to studies indicating that up to 80 percent of PKs suffer from depression.

Problems faced by PKs are often amplified because their lives are lived under a spotlight, and challenges range from unrealistic expectations of perfection to constant correction and criticism by others. The knowledge that their behavior can directly impact a parent's ministry, and the sense that they are expected to wear a happy face at all times, regardless of how they may actually be feeling, can lead many PKs to crumble, both spiritually and emotionally, under the pressure.

Yvonne Knight, the con-



Pastors kids of all ages attended the PK Forum at the Greater New York Conference office.

ference ministerial spouses coordinator, addressed some of these pressures as she presented the devotion. She noted that, to many people, PK means "perfect kid." G. Earl Knight, the conference president, gave the formal welcome and expressed his strong support of the ministry. Presentations were given by Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, North American Division Family Ministries director and associate director. Their presentation titled, "How to Talk So Your Parents Will Listen," focused on communication.

Rohann Wellington, the conference communication director, presented "My Journey as a PK," a continuation from a prior PK Forum meeting where

he talked about his personal experiences. Other facilitators include Lavona Cassimy and Donna Hay, who shared reflections on the last meeting and assisted in the small group discussion session, and Neil Wong, who prayed at the end. Simultaneous programs and activities were provided by the Children's Ministries department for PKs under the age of 12.

Participants from the PK Forum lingered for almost two hours after the meeting to eat, chat, and to get better acquainted. This is an indication of the strong sense of community and support that can develop as a result of this important ministry.

—Donna Hay, participant, PK Forum meeting

Holiday Outreach in Glens Falls

Every year the small city of Glens Falls, New York, closes down a section of Main Street on the first weekend of December to allow area businesses to set up booths and tables at a Christmas “block-party.” This year was no different, except that only one group of people turned out to set up for the festivities. The group consisted of people from several Adventist churches around the territory, and was headed up by Debbie and Herb Cox.

The Coxes operate a center for healthy living on Main Street, and each year they invite people from area churches to join them on the Friday night of the weekend festival to sing carols and hand out literature to

those passing by. Afterward, everyone is invited to the center for warm refreshments, to talk about whatever may come up, or to listen to or watch some appropriate Sabbath program. This year they watched a video produced by 3ABN, *The Pillars of Our Faith*.

Twelve people, representing four Adventist churches, attended. Following the caroling, they handed out literature and greeted everyone that walked by with a smile and a “Merry Christmas.” Most people who walked by took the literature and even stopped to listen for a few minutes. One man, Neal, stayed longer. He sang with the group for about 20 minutes and then, after asking if the group members were



On Main Street in Glenn Falls, members from four Adventist churches sang carols and distributed literature to those passing by.

Christians, identified himself as a “confirmed atheist.”

A couple of other young men also spent time with the group, providing an opportunity to build bridges between individuals who love the Lord and those who are apparently seek-

ing. Prayers continue to be offered for the work of the Holy Spirit, who can turn brief interactions into stepping stones to changed lives.

—Craig Fish, member, Union Springs church

Lay Members Conduct Evangelistic Meetings

A lay-led evangelism series featuring the ShareHim series “What the Bible Really Says” was conducted in the Cortland District on November 4-18, 2011. Lay people were in charge of everything from ordering handbills to preaching and doing

Josh Allen, a new young adult member, was scheduled to be the main speaker and practiced until he knew the messages well. Sadly, Allen got sick after preaching the first four nights so local elders stepped in to speak for him. Jocey

three baptisms have been scheduled. A number of people have signed up for

on-going studies.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

About 15 people from the community attended and, at this point, three baptisms have been scheduled.

follow-up. Dustin Hall, the Cornerstone church pastor, was preaching his own series at the Cornerstone church during this time, so he empowered members to get the job done by simply leading a pre-planning meeting and keeping in touch during the event.

Bottimer was influential in organizing the effort, ensuring that everything from a children’s program to the nightly meetings went smoothly. Each night members made the guests feel welcome. About 15 people from the community attended and, at this point,

Community Outreach Helps Boost Church Attendance

The Oneida church has started a new tradition. Each year the church opens its doors to the community on the Sabbath before Thanksgiving and hosts an annual Harvest Dinner. November 19, 2011, marked the second annual Harvest Dinner.

The dinner is significant for the church because of its size. There are usually 8 to 12 members in the pews on a given Sabbath, but when the Harvest Dinner is held, the attendance increases 400 percent. The members prepare a variety of foods and the women of the church help serve the visitors.

“This is more people than we have ever seen in the church at one time,” says Gerry Winnie, an elder. “This has become a great tradition.” The members in Oneida are already planning additional meals in the spring and summer, including picnics in a local park.

—Aaron Purkeypile, pastor, Oneida church

Members Press Together at Rally

About 350 people from the Rochester area churches and Union Springs Academy gathered at the Bay Knoll church for a rally sponsored by the New York Conference on November 5, 2011. The Sabbath School lesson was taught by Leroy Sewell, pastor of the Bay Knoll church. The mission story was a local one, featuring the Handyman Ministry led by Connie Leach. Those who work in this ministry offer basic handyman services such as cleaning, yard work, and simple repairs for community members in need, primarily the elderly and single moms.

Stan Rouse, New York Conference president, reminded members of the conference mission statement represented by the acronym EMPower. The “EMP” emphasizes the main idea of the statement, which is “every member participating.” Many lay members par-

ticipated in the service by leading responsive readings. The Union Springs Academy



Stan Rouse, New York Conference president, reminded members of the conference mission statement represented by the acronym EMPower. The “EMP” emphasizes the main idea of the statement, which is “every member participating.”

choir, Les Chanteurs, sang at the beginning of the worship service.

A powerful testimony was shared by Jim Taccone of the Bay Knoll church.

Taccone was diagnosed with cancer in several areas but recent tests show the tumors shrinking, apparently in response to lifestyle changes. The experience has given Taccone multiple opportunities to share his growing confidence in God’s goodness. Rouse’s sermon was a call to “press

together” and let the world be amazed by our love for each other as a result of

God’s work in our lives.

Following lunch, those who stayed witnessed the baptism of nine people. The new members who will be joining the Sandy Creek church include Debbie Kassman, Vincent Hartleben, and Ellie Doyle. The Genesee Park church will receive into fellowship Destiny Barnes, Ndimurigo Rose, Byamungu Emmanuel, and Niragira Sania. The Bay Knoll church welcomes Joan Kausch and Kim Watts. Each of these individuals was baptized by Sewell.

The day ended with a session in which members shared reports of their various ministries and how God has been blessing. Those present also engaged in brainstorming to determine how the churches in the area could better support each other.

—Howard Krug, elder, Bay Knoll church

First International Christmas Pageant in Utica

Jesus came to save people from all nations, tribes, tongues, and peoples. This message was the focus of the nearly 250 people from about 20 countries who celebrated the birth of Jesus at the First Utica International Christmas Pageant in Utica, New York.

Members from the Utica Spanish church and the Community Adventist church in the Northeastern Conference, and members of the Utica Spanish church, the Utica Karen church plant, and the Utica International church in the New York Conference worked together to invite those from all nations, tongues, and peoples to submit to the Prince of Peace who became flesh and came to save us all.

The message in Scripture, song, and Word brought the churches together—Adventist and non-Adventist—and it brought the conferences together. It was followed by an international feast of food from nearly all the countries represented by those who participated in the pageant. The churches have begun to plan how the



Karen Burmese students of the Utica International Adventist School sing of the wonders of the Baby Jesus coming to save them and everyone else.

event can be expanded to bring people from even more countries together at the manger of Jesus next year.

—Gary Wagner, pastor, Utica International church



Adventurers in Connecticut Touched Hearts



The Adventurers created Christmas cards for the homeless, and food pantry and soup kitchen clients.

The Faith church Adventist Community Services and the Adventurer Club in Hartford, Connecticut,

teamed up to make Christmas cards for the homeless, and food pantry and soup kitchen clients. This project was done because Reginald Hardwick, Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response director in the Connecticut area, and Aisha Edwards, Adventurer Club director, recognize the importance of getting young people involved in serving the community.

“I want to make the kids happy with Christmas cards—the ones I saw lifting in cardboard

boxes in the cold,” said one of the Adventurers who was involved in making the cards. When the project was complete, the Adventurers had made more than 200 cards.

As the cards were distributed at the food pantry, and the recipients found out that little children made them, one client began to cry and said, “I’m so thankful for this card. My own children will not send me one.” The Adventurers touched hearts, lifted spirits, and shared the goodness of Jesus Christ.

—Stephen Williams, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Trained in Case of Health Emergencies



These are the graduates from the Gordon Heights church in Coram, New York, who attended the Northeastern Conference CPR and First Aid course held at the Gordon Heights Fire Station in November 2011. The church’s Health Ministries department leader, Pansy Mayer, is standing on the end at the right and the church’s pastor, Cornelius Wesley, is on the left in the back. By choosing to take this course, these members of the Gordon Heights church are better prepared to handle certain types of health emergencies, should they arise.

—Carolyn Miller, clerk, Gordon Heights church

GED Grad Among 18 Baptized



Oswald Euell, left, Northeastern Conference personal ministries director, conducted evangelistic meetings at Brooklyn Faith church, resulting in 18 baptisms. Baptismal candidates line the front row of a church full to capacity.

In the spirit of Harvest 2011, the Brooklyn Faith church hosted a two-week Abundant Life Series from September 17 through October 8, 2011. Oswald S. Euell, Northeastern Conference personal ministries director, was the speaker for the evangelistic series.

The church, under the pastoral leadership of Eldeen King, worked by giving Bible studies and inviting the neighbors to the nightly meetings. Many lives were transformed by the power of God. One of the highlights of this meeting was the baptism of a recent graduate of the GED program offered by the church to the community. At the end of the meeting, 18 individuals were baptized.

—Leila Rose-Gordon, Personal Ministries department office secretary, Northeastern Conference

Mt. Olive Holds First Adventist Community Services Day

The Mt. Olive church in New London, Connecticut, held its first-ever Adventist Community Services (ACS) day on November 5, 2011. The church has a small congregation, but on this day the church was overflowing with visitors from the community and from other ACS departments in the area.

Akil Peck, director for ACS at Mt. Olive church, along with his wife, Angelica, and church clerk Keona Peake organized the program for the community. New London's mayor, Marty Olsen, and deputy mayor, John Russell, were present for the occasion. It was the first time a mayor has visited Mt. Olive church. In

fact, it was the first time that both men have ever been in an Adventist church!

"I'm overwhelmed with all the work that Adventist Community Services does in the community and around the world," said Deputy Mayor Russell. The mayor also expressed his appreciation for the work ACS is doing. In fact, the deputy mayor indicated he wants to work with Peck to find funding for ACS programs.

Fitzgerald Kerr, Northeastern Conference ACS director, delivered a message entitled, "Who is Your Neighbor?" Alyssa Lariguth, who works at the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London, was honored by Peck for the



Award recipient Alyssa Lariguth, right, with Akil Peck, Mt. Olive Adventist Community Services director, left, and Reginald Hardwick, Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services area coordinator for Connecticut.

work she is doing in the community.

Peck, already planning for the 2012 Adventist Community Services Day, says "If the church isn't serving the community, we

would be better off tearing the church down and building a supermarket instead."

—Reginald Hardwick, Connecticut area coordinator, Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services

Hanson Places Shares the Messiah

While members and guests of the Hanson Place church sat inside and listened to Handel's "Messiah," people within a two-block radius were also able to hear the oratorio while in their homes or passing by on the street. Outside of the church on December 17, 2011, a 9 x 12-foot mega screen was placed on a trailer and the entire program was

streamed from noon until 2:00 p.m. for all to hear.

In THE LOCAL, a newspaper covering the Fort Green and Clinton Hill areas of Brooklyn, Melvin Mounter, the church's pastor, was quoted as saying "There's a lot of traffic outside, so we thought, 'Why not bring the event to people passing by?'"

For at least 35 years, the choir has sung the "Messiah"

at Christmastime, but this is the first time that the church has brought the oratorio to the streets. Several members of the congregation stood outside and watched the reactions of passersby. Some took a moment to step into the church.

Mounter was also quoted in the newspaper as say-

ing, "For two years, I thought about bringing up the idea to the church and didn't say anything, but this year I decided to go for it." Mounter plans to use the same concept with future celebrations throughout the year.

—Stephen Williams, communication director, Northeastern Conference



Harold Gadlari

The Hanson Place church shared Handel's "Messiah" with residents in the community using a 9 x 12-foot mega screen placed outside of the church.

Save the Date

The Edward D. Herndon Memorial Concert

Saturday, March 17, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Newport Radio Station Celebrates Seventh Anniversary

WJSY-LP 96.1FM, Newport, Vermont's Voice in the Kingdom radio station, marked its seventh anniversary of broadcasting on November 19, 2011. Over the years, they have been staying true to their slogan. They "connect people with the Water of Life in their thirsty community."

The celebration began on Sabbath morning as members and friends gathered to welcome Don Pate, pastor of the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, as the speaker for the worship service. Pate is also from Between the Lines radio ministry. In his sermon, he reminded the congregation that Jesus became sin, so that we could escape its grasp.

Music for the service was presented by gospel recording artists David and Marion Lewis of Into the Light Ministries. The celebration continued into the evening as the Lewises presented a free concert for the community. They shared their very powerful and personal testimony as well as some of their musical selections.

The station held its first annual Gala Fundraiser on Sunday evening at the East Side Restaurant in Newport after months of careful preparation. Formal invitations were extended to community leaders, area businesses, churches, members, and friends. Representatives from the Northern New England Conference, Mike Ortel, president; his wife, Lynn, communication director; and Rande Reynolds, treasurer, were among the guests for the evening.

Guests gathered to enjoy the silent auction, a gourmet dinner, and entertainment provided by David and Marian Lewis. During the evening it was announced that the station, along with the support of the Newport church, has

The station held its first annual Gala Fundraiser on Sunday evening at the East Side Restaurant in Newport, Vermont.



Voice of the Kingdom Radio board members, front from left, Cornel Preda, Newport church pastor, and his wife, Gabriela Preda, Melanie Willey, Nancy Allen, Francis Sheehy, and Kathy Johnson; back, from left, Travis Eurbini, Keith Willey, Seth Johnson, and Jim Warman. Not pictured: June Seebeck.



Don Pate, pastor of the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, was the speaker for the worship service at Newport church.

arranged for Christian musician Steve Green to perform at the local high school auditorium on Sunday, April 15.

One of WJSY-LP's greatest miracles is that the computers have been running 24/7 for seven years. The board recently made a decision to step out in faith and raise \$10,000 to replace the existing computer equipment. They want to continue to "connect people with the Water of Life in their thirsty community."

—Kathy Johnson, communication correspondent, Newport church



Gospel recording artists, David and Marion Lewis of Into the Light Ministries presented music for the worship service and a concert in the evening.

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Righteousness
By Faith

Locations of the
2012 RBF Rallies

Feb. 10-11 Manchester, NH Church

Mar. 16-17 Brunswick, ME Church

Apr. 20-21 Mt View Church, Vernon, VT

FMI: www.nnecprayerministries.com

Adventist Youth Gather in Brunswick for Rally

Northern New England Conference youth and young adults attended the 2011 Youth Rally at the Brunswick church in Maine on November 11-12. José Cortés, Jr., Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries director, was the guest speaker. The entire weekend was led by the youth.

The theme for the weekend was “The Future is Now, and You’re Not Too Young!” Cortés encouraged the youth and young adults to get involved in their churches, regardless of their age. He also encouraged the adults to allow the youth to get more involved.

The rally began on Friday evening with praise music led by an all-youth ensemble and vocals comprised of members from the Brunswick church. Cortés led out in vespers. The evening ended with a prayer and praise summit and plenty of snacks.

As in past years, community service projects were the big focus after lunch. The participants broke up into many small groups to:

- Collect canned food items on pre-determined streets in the area, and deliver them to the local food bank,
- Visit the homes in the Westbrook area around the vicinity of the new conference office to distribute flyers introducing the Northern New England Conference to the neighborhood,
- Bake cookies and deliver them to the local fire and police departments, and
- Go on a prayer walk in downtown Brunswick to pray for local businesses and homes and for individuals they encountered during the walk.

The groups met back at the church to report on their projects. Cortés ended Sabbath with some encouraging words and Harry Sabnani, Northern New England youth ministries director, played the guitar while the group sang “This Little Light of Mine.” The program concluded with



Some of those who attended the 2011 Northern New England Conference Youth Rally at the Brunswick church in Maine pose for a group photo.

supper and a trip to Pine Tree Academy’s gymnasium for fun and games.

This was the first youth rally I attended, and I know it won’t be the last. The Holy Spirit was certainly present at this rally. I was so blessed to see how the youth of the Northern New England Conference are on fire for the Lord.

When you hear them say,

“I’m the future and I’m not too young” take notice and listen; take them seriously and see how you can involve them in your church. You’d be surprised at how much we can learn from them.

—Diane Kane, administrative assistant, Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries department



A team of youth from the Northern New England Conference led by Ricky George, Freeport church youth ministries director, spent time on a prayer walk in downtown Brunswick.

Northern New England Conference
music clinic 2012
 march 29-31

TRUTH
 ...I am the way, the truth, and the life...
 John 14:6 KJV

clinicians
 Band-Brendan Krueger
 Choir-Jonathan Wall
 Piano-Kristjon Imperio
 Strings-Lucy Lewis
 Youth Choir-Doris Krueger

speaker
 Pastor Mark Pekar
 Brunswick Seventh-day Adventist Church

program schedule - all welcome
 Clinician & Academy Concert ▶ March 29, 7:30pm
 Sacred Concert ▶ March 30, 7:30pm
 Sabbath Morning Concert ▶ March 31, 9:30am
 Church Service ▶ March 31, 11:00am
 Sacred Concert ▶ March 31, 7:30pm

hosted by
 Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine
 Final Piano registrations due February 1, 2012
 Final registration for all others March 1, 2012
 FMI or registration forms, please contact the NNEC Education Department at 207-797-3760, ext. 13 or visit us at www.nnec.org



Browning Students Participate in Operation Christmas Child

Once again, students from the Browning elementary school in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, participated in “Operation Christmas Child: Pack a Shoe Box” with the College Church during the 2011 holiday season.

Heather Cook, associate pastor at the College Church, spoke with the students and shared a short video about why the project is important and can bring joy and happiness to a child who may receive nothing else for Christmas. On the video, Franklin Graham, the president of Samaritan’s Purse, the organization that sponsors Operation Christmas Child, encouraged each student to take part in this simple idea. In the classrooms, teachers did the same.

It is important for children to learn that their “wish list” may not be the most important. For students who do take part, they shop for



Browning elementary school students collected a number of shoe boxes packed with gifts to share with children overseas.

the things that will bring delight to the children when the shoe boxes arrive. The shoe boxes were picked up on November 17, 2011, and began the trip to the overseas recipients.

God is good, even when times

are tough. The College Church and Browning faculty are thankful for those who participated and shared a valuable lesson with the children.

—Phyllis Crand, kindergarten teacher,
Browning elementary school

Pleasant Street Church Observes 30th Anniversary

It was a day of rejoicing and celebration, highlighting the topic “Journey of Faith” as the Pleasant church in Worcester, Massachusetts, celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Several hundred present and former church members, visitors, and well-wishers from the community at large attended. Together they worshiped to mark this monumental and festive occasion.

The celebration began with Sabbath School and included an interactive panel discussion with former pastors, moderated by the current pastor, Michael Henry. Easton Marks, pastor of Queens Faith Temple in Springfield Gardens, New York, and a former pastor of the Pleasant Street church (1997-2001), delivered the worship service message. Also



Ushers and greeters for the Pleasant street church 30th anniversary included, from left, Chauncey Moore, Yahnique Robb, Jessica Kennedy, and Brenda Wright.

officiating was former pastor Kenroy Malcolm.

One of the highlights of the day was the reading of a proclamation declaring it Pleasant Street Seventh-day Adventist Church Day in the City of Worcester. The proclamation was read and presented to Henry by District 4 councilor Barbara Haller, who represented the city’s mayor, Joseph O’Brien.

The church received several presentations from other churches, community businesses, and individuals, some of whom were present to mark the special occasion. Following lunch, a gospel concert was presented during the AY program. The concert featured Brothers in Christ of New Rochelle, Sisters in Christ of AUC, the Northboro Praise Team,

Pleasant Street’s very own children’s choir and praise team, along with other groups and soloists.

The day of celebration culminated with a multicultural social event held at the Epworth United Methodist Church. Each cultural group represented at the Pleasant Street church had the opportunity to showcase a part of their culture during the social. Each country represented had a table to display arts and crafts, along with native dishes for sampling. They played games and the remainder of the evening was spent celebrating God’s blessings.

The Pleasant Street church “has come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord” and the members look forward to many more milestones!

—Chauncey Moore, communication member, Pleasant Street church

Cape Cod Community Drawn to a Night in Bethlehem

The Cape Cod church made Bethlehem come alive for 130 visitors. This is the church's third year of offering a live nativity to the public. The nativity has become an important ministry for the church that has touched the hearts of visitors and church members.

Planning for the "Night in Bethlehem" began during the summer and went to the first weekend in December. The church sets up the village of Bethlehem in its fellowship hall. The initial building of the town and shepherds' fields was done by the Cape Cod Clippers Pathfinders. With assistance from Pathfinder staff and several other church members, the framework



A group of men from various Bethlehem trades.

for what was to become Bethlehem was completed in about two hours. Over the next several days church volunteers surrendered some of their time to make "Night in Bethlehem" a reality.

All church members involved in the shops or playing a role as a villager were

dressed in period costumes. There were shopkeepers, beggars, children, and shepherds. A few Roman centurions roam through town to keep the peace and ensure no one harasses the tax collector. And of course, then there is Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

A visitor's trip back in time starts with a stop at the census taker's table in the church foyer. Once they have been counted for Caesar, a Roman centurion escorts them into the church sanctuary where they are presented with a recital of Isaiah and a short presentation about the angel's message to Mary.

A centurion then directs visitors downstairs to the village. There they are greeted by Eli's assistant at the inn and are free to wander the village. During their travels, guests are invited to par-

ticipate in activities, sample the offerings at the shops, or listen to the storyteller. Light music is played in the background while other villagers, including the dreaded tax collector, meander throughout the shops and village center. One occasionally hears rumors about the strange star in the sky, a family in a stable, the birth of a king.

About every 15 minutes, a centurion reminds guests that the hour is growing late and it's time to be on their way. Visitors are guided to a field with shepherds, a starlit sky (with one star distinctly brighter than the rest), and a warm crackling fire. This is where they hear the story of the angels' message to the shepherds, of the coming of the Messiah.

Visitors are then brought to a stable where Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus lie. This is where the reason for the season really comes to life with the arrival of the Savior.

None of this would be possible without God's blessings. The church is thankful to be able to provide this witness of our faith to everyone. As one visitor remarked, "What the church is doing is a wonderful thing."

—Gerard Zavaski, member Cape Cod church



David and Angelique Zabaleta in the stable with Jesus.

100 Attend Forks Over Knives Showing at Connecticut Valley Church

When the Connecticut Valley church (CVAC) held a viewing of *Forks Over Knives*, a documentary detailing the medically proven benefits of a whole-food, plant-based diet, 100 people filled the fellowship hall, half of them non-church members. The community responded enthusiastically. During the question-and-answer period at the end, a gentleman stood and said, "What a great

service to the community. Thanks for doing this."

About 30 people attended the follow-up cooking class; again, half of them non-church members. "When is the next one?" people wanted to know. And so an additional class was scheduled. Thanks to the high recommendations from the coordinator of the Northern Connecticut Vegetarian Society, who attended the

first cooking class, the health ministries team has received interests from as far away as Torrington, an hour's drive from the church.

These community health outreach programs wrapped up a year of successful health evangelism for CVAC. Preceding the *Forks Over Knives* showing, CVAC hosted a CREATION Health Seminar, a blood drive, and a first-aid and CPR training

class. Thomas Dombrowski, pastor of the Connecticut Valley church, Lisa Walke, M.D., and the entire health ministries team are reaching out to introduce to all these people to the ultimate Healer, Jesus Christ. As Walke says, "The right arm of the gospel is flexing its muscle here at CVAC!"

—Sandra Dombrowski, publications liaison, Connecticut Valley church



Durant les Années Vécues

Récemment, j'ai assisté aux funérailles d'un officier d'église. L'édifice était bondé de gens. Il n'y avait même pas un siège disponible dans le sous-sol, qui était équipé d'un écran large pour afficher le service. Tous les orateurs ont rendu hommage au défunt. Sur le long chemin du retour, alors que je réfléchissais sur les hommages, je me demandais si dans les années vécues de sa vie cette personne savait qu'elle était tant aimée, appréciée et que tant de gens ont été favorablement influencés par sa vie.

ancien est fermé. Pourquoi donc, j'ai réfléchi, que cette reconnaissance de l'ancien collège ne pouvait être exprimée dans les années où il était encore ouvert?

Ces dernières années, l'inscription a été précipitamment glissante dans la Division Nord-Américaine. Le nombre d'élèves et les écoles de la Conférence de l'Union Atlantique ont diminué de façon constante. Je dois avouer que je frémis au projet d'inscription et l'avenir de nos écoles, si les tendances actuelles se poursuivent.

Larry Blackmer, vice-président

tère. Un diplôme d'études collégiales ajoutera près d'un million de dollars sur un revenu viager d'une personne." Je pourrais ajouter . . . et ainsi augmenter les revenus des dîmes.

Bien-aimés, ne laissons-nous pas trouver des raisons de rejeter les conclusions de ces études. Je voudrais faire appel à chaque lecteur, tandis que vous avez encore la possibilité, vous engagerez-vous à vous joindre à nos efforts pour rendre les centres de formation des écoles Adventiste du Septième Jour des endroits où les enfants peuvent être éduqués pour prendre leur place dans la société et témoigner pour Christ? Une préparation rigoureuse académique ne doit pas être compromise. Par ailleurs, le résultat de l'éducation des élèves dans les écoles Adventistes, c'est qu'ils vont chercher d'abord le royaume de Dieu (ce qui est durable), et toutes les choses temporelles seront ajoutées à ceux qui font du salut leur objectif principal. Ellen G. White nous dit que c'est "la plus grande preuve du Christianisme qui peut être donnée au monde"—CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 16.

En outre, White a encore conseillé: "Le Seigneur a désigné la jeunesse pour être ses ouvriers"—TÉMOIGNAGES POUR L'ÉGLISE, vol. 7, p. 64. "Avec une telle armée de travailleurs, tel que nos jeunes, à juste titre, qualifiés, bien équipés, combien de temps le message d'un Sauveur crucifié, ressuscité, et qui vient bientôt pourrait être propagée à tout le monde"—EDUCATION, p. 271. Puisseons-nous tous nous engager à fortifier nos écoles et nous assurer que tous les jeunes de nos églises fréquentent une école Adventiste du Septième Jour.

Astrid Thomassian est Directrice de l'Education de la Conférence de l'Union Atlantique

Traduction: Margareth Morriset

English translation on page 6 of this issue.

Tandis que vous avez encore la possibilité, vous engagerez-vous à vous joindre à nos efforts pour rendre les centres de formation des écoles Adventiste du Septième Jour des endroits où les enfants peuvent être éduqués pour prendre leur place dans la société et témoigner pour Christ?

Lors de la dernière Convention des Enseignants de la Division Nord-Américaine, un numéro spécial de La Revue de l'Éducation Adventiste a été distribué, qui reflète l'histoire de l'Éducation Adventiste. J'ai été attirée sur la page listant les années où les collèges adventistes ont été établis. J'ai été choquée de voir que Atlantic Union College n'était pas en tête de liste. Quand j'ai demandé pourquoi AUC n'a pas été inscrit en premier, l'éditeur a répondu qu'AUC a commencé comme une école secondaire, et non un collège. J'ai accepté l'explication. Toutefois, en août/septembre dernier, et Adventist Review et Adventist News Network ont publié plus qu'une fois l'annonce que Atlantic Union College, le collège Adventiste le plus

de l'éducation de la Division Nord-Américaine, a récemment écrit, "VALUE GENESIS STUDY révèle que les élèves des écoles adventistes restent dans l'église plus que ceux qui fréquentent l'école publique. En fait, de nombreux parents et élèves sont baptisés en raison de l'éducation adventiste. L'éducation adventiste commence à la maison et bénéficie la vie familiale. Comme *Cognitive Genesis Study* l'a démontrée, les familles qui ont le culte de famille ont une vie familiale plus forte. Les élèves apprennent mieux à cause du culte familial. Les avantages éducatifs adventistes s'étendent à la société. L'éducation augmente le niveau économique, social et intellectuel, et en outre, l'éducation adventiste met l'accent sur la formation du carac-

¿Qué Está Pasando?

En la Iglesia Mundial

En Los Años De Vida

Recientemente estuve en el funeral de una trabajadora de la iglesia. La iglesia estaba repleta. Ni siquiera había un asiento disponible en el sótano de la iglesia que había sido preparado con una pantalla grande para poder observar el servicio. Presentador tras presentador le rendían homenaje a la difunta. En el largo viaje de regreso a casa, mientras reflexionaba acerca de los homenajes, pensaba si en sus años de vida esta hermana sabía cuanto ella era amada, valorada y como su vida había impactado a otras personas.

En la última Convención de Maestros de la División Norteamericana se distribuyó una edición especial de La Revista de la Educación Adventista, la cual relataba la historia de la educación cristiana. Me llamó mucho la atención, la página que tenía una lista de los años en los cuales diversos colegios adventistas habían sido establecidos. Me tomó por sorpresa ver que el Colegio de la Unión del Atlántico (AUC) no estaba entre las primeras instituciones en la lista. Cuando pregunté porque AUC no estaba primero en la lista, el editor de la revista me respondió que AUC comenzó como una escuela secundaria y no un colegio. Yo acepte la explicación, pero el pasado agosto/septiembre la Revista Adventista al igual que la Red de Noticias Adventista anunció que el Colegio de la Unión del Atlántico, el colegio adventista más antiguo, había cerrado. ¿Por qué, reflexionaba yo, no se hizo este reconocimiento de ser el colegio más antiguo en sus años de vida?

En los años recientes, la matrícula de las escuelas adventistas en la División Norteamericana ha ido declinando. El número de estudiantes y escuelas en la Unión del Atlántico ha disminu-

do continuamente. Debo admitir que me estremezco al tener que proyectar las matrículas y el futuro de nuestras escuelas si la tendencia actual continúa.

Larry Blackmer, vice-presidente de educación en la División Norteamericana recientemente escribió que, “El VALUE GENESIS STUDY revela que los estudiantes que asisten a las escuelas adventistas se mantienen en la iglesia por más tiempo que aquellos que asisten a las escuelas públicas. De hecho, muchos padres y estudiantes son bautizados como resultado de la educación cristiana. La educación cristiana comienza en el hogar y beneficia

nuestro esfuerzo de hacer de nuestras escuelas adventistas, centros de entrenamientos donde los niños puedan ser educados para tomar su lugar en la sociedad y ser testigos para Cristo. Una preparación académica rigurosa no debe ser comprometida. Además, la meta final de la educación cristiana es que sus estudiantes busquen primeramente el reino de Dios (el cual es duradero), y todas las demás cosas temporales les serán añadidas a aquellos que pongan su salvación como foco principal en sus vidas. Elena G. de White nos dice que “ésta constituye la mayor evidencia del cristianis-

La meta final de la educación cristiana es que sus estudiantes busquen primeramente el reino de Dios.

la vida familiar. Como el *Cognitive Genesis Study* demuestra, las familias que participan del culto familiar juntas tienen una vida familiar más sólida. Los estudiantes aprenden mejor debido al culto familiar. La educación cristiana extiende sus beneficios hacia la sociedad, aumentando el nivel económico, social e intelectual, además, la educación cristiana enfatiza el crecimiento de carácter. Un título universitario puede añadir un millón de dólares al ingreso de una persona en el curso de su vida”. Y yo añadiría . . . que también incrementaría el ingreso de los diezmos.

Amigos, no echemos a un lado la información que estos estudios nos brindan. Yo quisiera apelar a cada lector, que mientras tenga la oportunidad, se comprometa a unirse a

mo que pueda darse al mundo”—LA CONDUCCIÓN DEL NIÑO, p. 149.

Además, la Sra. de White nos aconseja: “El Señor ha designado a la juventud para que acuda en su ayuda”—TESTIMONIOS SELECTOS, vol. 5, p. 28. “Con semejante ejército de obreros como el de nuestros jóvenes, bien preparados, podrían proveer, ¡cuán pronto se proclamaría a todo el mundo el mensaje de un Salvador crucificado, resucitado y próximo a venir!”—LA EDUCACIÓN, p. 272. Que podamos todos comprometernos a fortalecer nuestras escuelas y asegurarnos que cada joven y niño de nuestras iglesias asista a una escuela adventista.

Astrid Thomassian es la directora de educación y ministerios de niños en la Unión del Atlántico.

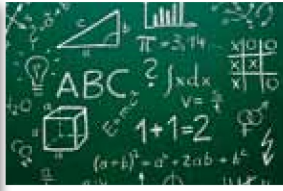
Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 6 of this issue.



Atlantic Union Conference

2012 Music Clinic



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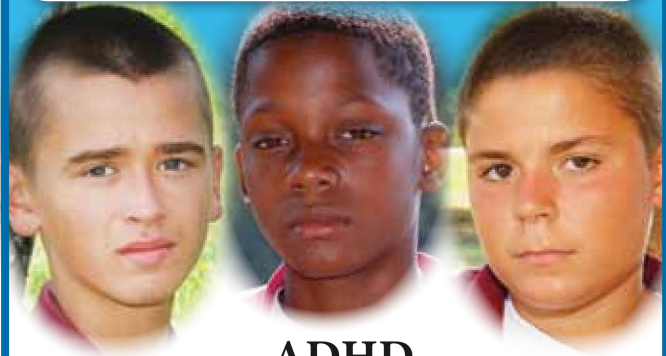
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Theme: **"Delayed No Longer"**

Speakers: **Ty Gibson and David Asscherick**

Children's Meetings

April 20-22, 2012

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Newport, Rhode Island

Hotel Registration: <https://resweb.passkey.com/>
or call 1-800-233-1234. Code GASI

Meeting Registration: <http://www.plusline.org>

Contact person: Andi Hunsaker (617) 974-0147

For more info visit: <http://asiatlanticunion.netasi.org>



Sunset Table

March 2012	2	9	16	23	30
Bangor, ME	5:26	5:35	6:44	6:53	7:02
Portland, ME	5:32	5:41	6:50	6:58	7:07
Boston, MA	5:37	5:45	6:53	7:01	7:09
South Lancaster, MA	5:39	5:47	6:56	7:04	7:12
Pittsfield, MA	5:45	5:54	7:02	7:10	7:18
Hartford, CT	5:44	5:52	7:00	7:07	7:15
New York, NY	5:50	5:57	7:05	7:12	7:20
Albany, NY	5:46	5:54	7:02	7:10	7:18
Utica, NY	5:53	6:01	7:10	7:18	7:26
Syracuse, NY	5:56	6:05	7:13	7:22	7:30
Rochester, NY	6:02	6:11	7:19	7:28	7:36
Buffalo, NY	6:07	6:16	7:24	7:32	7:40
Hamilton, Bda	6:17	6:22	7:27	7:32	7:37

*Eastern Daylight Savings Time begins on March 16.

OUT-OF-UNION

"Transforming Lives Through Libraries."
Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2012 Conference, Jun. 19-24,
 Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies; Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Librarians and Information Professionals are invited to visit asdal.org for confer-

ence information or contact Christy ScottChristy.Scott@wallwalla.edu (509) 527-2153.

Washington Adventist University celebrates Alumni Weekend, Apr. 13-15. Join us for the grand opening of the Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, Apr. 14, at 8:00 p.m. Visit www.wau.edu/alumni for a list of events and activities or call (301) 891-4133 for more information.



North Country Snow Weekend

February 17-19, 2012
 Saranac Lake SDA Church
 44 St. Bernard St., Saranac Lake NY 12983

Aaron Purkeypile, speaker

We invite all youth and young adults to come and share fellowship and fun times as we enjoy the last days of winter

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EMPLOYMENT

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks graduate faculty to join our mission-focused team as we launch a new DNP program. Candidate must hold current family/adult NP certification. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Doctorate required. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, hgadd@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor of film to teach directing, screenwriting, and film theory. M.F.A. in film production preferred. Broad knowledge of field, advanced technical skill, professional production experience, and strong storytelling abilities are requisite. Must be Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good and regular standing. Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, Dean, School of Visual Art/Design, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Department of Biology/Allied Health, Fall 2012. Prefer biology Ph.D. teaching upper and lower division classes and has a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and 3 references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; Phone:

(423) 236-2929; Fax: (423) 236-1926; e-mail: kasnyder@southern.edu.

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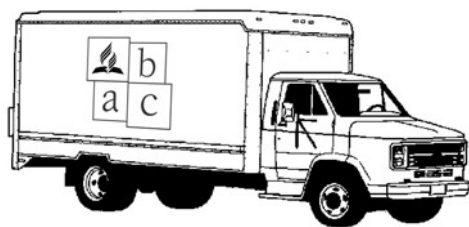
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The Adventist Book Center® will be visiting a church or school near you!
Locate the stop closest to you and call in your order by the deadline shown!

March 4 – Orders due February 27

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

March 11 – Orders due March 5

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

March 18 – Orders due March 12

9:30-10:00 a.m.	Bennington Church, Vt.
11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Rutland Church, Vt.
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Morrisville Church, Vt.
5:30-6:00 p.m.	South Newbury Church, Vt.

March 25 – Orders due March 19

9:00- 9:30 a.m.	Calais Church, Maine
12:30-1:00 p.m.	Presque Isle Church, Maine
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Oakfield Church, Maine
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Lincoln Church, Maine

Spring Open House

South Lancaster, Mass.

Thursday, March 29	9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30	9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 1	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Stoneham, Mass.

Thursday, March 29	10:00-4:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 1	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, March 29	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 31	After the Concert
Sunday, April 1	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

April 6-8 – Southern New England Conference Spanish Women's Retreat, Devens, Mass.

April 15 – Orders due April 9

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

Call 1.800.435.0008 to place your order!
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THE ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

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