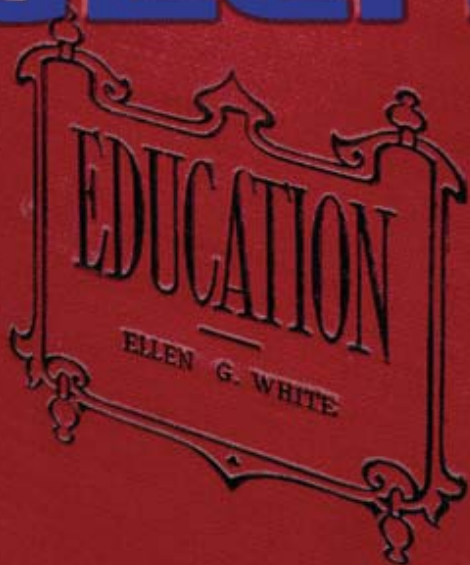


THE ATLANTIC UNION

APRIL 2004

GLEANNER



Reclaiming
the Vision

2004 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

¿Qué Está Pasando?

Quoi de Neuf?

inside **APRIL** 2004

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ABOUT THE COVER: In this special education issue, the Atlantic Union focuses on “Reclaiming the Vision” of Adventist education and making it the blessing it is intended to be. The cover design includes a composite of images from PhotoDisc and Review and Herald stock photos.

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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April 2004 Vol. CIII, No. 4 The Atlantic Union GLEANER is published monthly by the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. Printed by Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Standard postage paid at Hagerstown, MD 21740. Annual subscription price, \$8.00. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

The Faith of Our Fathers Reaffirmed

I was sitting at my desk, a few years ago, deep in thought about a sermon I was to deliver that Sabbath in New York City. I was having a silent conversation with God, and my question to Him was, "What message do you have for the people?" The silence was broken by the shrill ringing of the telephone. I hesitated to answer it, since it had not been screened by Millie, my administrative secretary, who had taken the afternoon off.

After a moment's pause, I answered. The conversation lasted for about one hour. The person on the other end of the line was an international sales representative for one of the leading textbook publishing companies in the nation. She said she was taking time to re-contact her "other sister," me? I really didn't know her very well. We had been introduced at the National Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Convention in San Francisco, California. It was a brief encounter.

During the conversation, there were three significant things she expressed:

1. If I had known about Seventh-day Adventist Christian education when I was growing up, I would have insisted that my parents send me to one of their schools.
2. I wish I had known about your schools when I was raising my children. They went to good schools and have done very well professionally, but they would have done even better if I had known about Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.
3. I told my brother he needs to send his four-year-old grandson to a Seventh-day Adventist school.

So, she was calling me to get the name of a Seventh-day Adventist school in her hometown. She went on to say she had spent some time the week before in St. Maarten, and attended a Seventh-day Adventist church and visited the church school. A member who had been sharing her faith in the street invited her to church. She said, "I couldn't wait to get back to my church to tell them how the Seventh-day Adventist church school in St. Maarten had something special. They delivered such a positive message to their young people. They give them a vision of heaven while preparing them to do well in this life here on earth. A life that focuses on service. I liked that."

This publishing house representative was

the daughter of a Baptist minister and she along with her family attended the Baptist church every Sunday that she was at home. She said, "I now call myself a Seventh-day Adventist Baptist." What she experienced in her introduction to our education system, excited her. It excited me!

Today Seventh-day Adventist education "appears" to be under attack. Many question our need to continue to exist. For many, the excitement has waned. Many have forgotten, and others through lack of exposure, are not aware of our commission to provide a *redemptive* atmosphere in our schools that will truly reveal the character of Christ. In *COUNSELS ON EDUCATION*, p. 56, Ellen White tells us that through the study of the patriarchs and prophets, as we read and share with our students these precious experiences, the spirit that inspired the patriarchs *will kindle a flame of holy emulation* in their hearts, so much so that they will desire to be like them in character. The purpose of Seventh-day Adventist schools, in the Atlantic Union, is to add the names of our students to the list that begins in Hebrews 12 and ends in Central Vermont, Bethesda, Bayberry, Bermuda Institute, Whispering Pines, or Kingsbury. The list that goes on through our 70 schools, and student enrollment of almost 5,000. The list that suggests that by faith Mary, Keisha, Sean, or whomever, will be counted amongst the faithful and blessed of God.

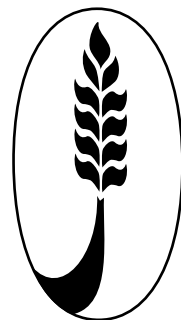
The challenge is great, but if you pray that our teachers, through the integration of faith with learning, may be the *change agents* through whom God will work to *make good prevail over evil*, the students who attend our schools will acquire the *grace and courage* to want to be like Jesus and reflect His character, and will be excited about the promise of His soon return. They will embrace the "dignity of labor" and be committed to "unselfish service."

Just a glimpse of this, excited my 'Baptist sister.' What will it take to re-excite you? The telephone call that day reaffirmed my faith in Seventh-day Adventist Christian education, and it is even stronger now. ☺

Rosemary Tyrrell is director of education for the Atlantic Union Conference.



"Today Seventh-day Adventist education 'appears' to be under attack....but my faith in Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is even stronger now."



Reclaiming the Vision



“Embracing the Philosophy of Seventh-day Adventist education in developing the whole person, Bermuda Institute has implemented a vigorous

committee structure that integrates the efforts of the staff and students for accommodating the various needs of our students: spiritual development, academic excellence, health and safety, comfortable and attractive surroundings, and social activities. The goals and objectives of the various committees are directed at reclaiming the vision to build lifelong relationships with our students and their families, enjoyed during this present time and culminating in eternity.”—*Sheila Holder, Bermuda Institute superintendent of schools.*



“Energized by the living word of God, and propelled by the power of the Holy Ghost, the Greater New York Conference education ministry is capitalizing on a century-old heritage of dedication and quality, striving for academic excellence, professional development, increased enrollment, financial stability and spiritual growth in all its schools, while continually ameliorating the strong partnership between the homes, schools, and churches.”—*Bordes Henry Saturné, Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools.*

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“At the teachers’ convention held at the beginning of the school year, I had an in-service of several hours with the elementary teachers titled, “Why Should I Send

My Student to Your School?” We looked closely at the philosophy that should be driving our schools from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, asking ourselves what education that is truly centered on Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy looks like and the results we should see in our students.”—*Stan Rouse, New York Conference superintendent of schools.*



“This year the Northeastern Conference Department of Education is focusing on **CARE: Christ—**Our goal is to prepare 100 students for baptism at the Rally in

April. A week-of-prayer for parents was held in September 2003. **Accountability**—Administrators, educators, and students are counted on to produce unprecedented results. **Recognition**—We celebrate administrators, educators, and learners’ successes throughout the school year. As a way of acknowledgment we have instituted principals, teachers, and parents appreciation weeks. **Excellence**—Excellence is the bottom line. We’re committed to putting forth our best and let God do the rest.”—*Pollyanna Barnes, Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools.*



“Northern New England Conference is reclaiming the vision of Adventist Education through each and every school’s commitment to biblical principles and Spirit of

Prophecy counsel in areas of academics, physical education, social development, and spiritual growth. We are using non-traditional methods in areas of the arts, extra-curricula activities, outdoor education, nature studies, vocational education, work ethics, and manual labor. We are also working to find ways of providing Adventist education to students presently in public and NonAdventist Christian schools and ways of supporting and enhancing Adventist home schools.”—*Trudy Wright, Northern New England Conference superintendent of schools.*



“The Southern New England Conference Office of Education strongly promotes a school improvement initiative that will provide a quality

Adventist instructional system that is affordable and accessible to any family desirous of attaining an Adventist education. The office of education searches for innovative, caring teachers who are not only energized to providing relevant and meaningful instruction, but have a strong desire to provide their students the opportunities and experiences of unselfish ‘service’ for their fellow man.”—*Carl Moeckel, Southern New England Conference superintendent of schools.* ☉

Adventist Education – Burden or Blessing

A year ago I attended an Education Leadership Seminar. Humberto Rasi, former General Conference director of education, shared alarming statistics. He reported that in 1945 the ratio of Seventh-day Adventist church members to student enrollment in Seventh-day Adventist schools was 100 members to 25 students. However, in 2000 for every 100 members there were nine students enrolled and half those students came from non-Seventh-day Adventist homes.

He stated that among the challenges facing Adventist education in the twenty first century are unresolved tensions between academic and spiritual goals among some Adventist parents and educators. This is compounded by the fact that some teachers, administrators, and leaders have a limited understanding of the philosophy and goals of Adventist education.

As I listened to this presentation, I recalled a teacher in the Atlantic Union explaining that it was only as an adult she realized the reason her family ate lentils every day and her father worked nights and weekends was so he could provide an Adventist education for his children. I thought of a friend whose

parents fled communist Ukraine, lived in the humble quarters provided by the academy for its janitor, and faithfully maintained the school so their children could have a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.

I would like to suggest that our vision determines our priorities. If only we could catch the vision of how essential it is to ensure the salvation of our youth! Think for a moment the degree of importance a palatial home, car ownership, a sleek wardrobe, or electronic devices, would have to a drowning person. Our young people are being tossed about by the waves of misguided opportunities. They must be given a lifeline of principles that will not only ensure Christ-centered survival in this world, but guarantee eternal life.

The Atlantic Union in “Reclaiming the Vision” of Adventist education is emphasizing the life long principles of redemption and restoration. What it means to model Christ and serve unselfishly, pro-

viding teachers with strategies to integrate faith with learning, and to promote the virtues of the dignity of labor. We solicit your prayers and assistance as together, sensing the urgency, we “Reclaim the Vision” for Adventist education and make it the blessing it is intended to be. ☺



Astrid Thomassian, associate director of education for the Atlantic Union Conference, writes from her office in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.



Artist: Bertis Regis is an eighth grade student at Hebron Bilingual school.

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Mission Statement

Training to Lead
Empowering to Serve
Inspiring to be Ready



Principle: **Redemptive**

Redemption

The summer was boiling hot. It was so hot that I didn't want to be bothered anymore by anyone. My brother came out of his room. I could tell by the look on his face that he intended to bother me. I, in return, gave him a look to warn him that if he bothered me, I would lash out at him and unleash my wrath like a hurricane and a tornado combined would do to a state. Yes, it's sad to say that he succeeded. He ignored the warning signs and started to ask me annoying and stupid questions about things he already knew. He found it very amusing to see me angry. I tried very hard to keep it in, but my brother became so annoying to the point that I was forced to erupt like a volcano. I was spewing words like lava everywhere. I screamed so loud that I was sure he would be deaf when I was done with

him. I felt so much better after I let out all of my frustrations on him, at least for the moment. My brother just stood there with a blank expression on his face. I wondered what he was thinking and why he would not just go away. Suddenly, he came over and just hugged me and told me that he loved me. I quickly realized that what he was trying to do was to show me a different way to act, the Christian way. You would think that, after my awful behavior towards him, he would have left me alone. He just does not know how to leave people alone.

This incident reminds me of how God treats us. He teaches us in His word and instructs us how we should behave. However, the devil knows which things can make us erupt, lose our cool, and do the wrong thing. He

pushes us to the limit and takes great pleasure to see us do the wrong thing. God, however, gives us fair warning when it looks as if we are going to do the wrong thing. His Holy Spirit speaks to us in a still small voice and we act as if we don't understand. Then, when we do wrong He still stands there with His arms open wide waiting for us to return to Him. He opens His arms and hugs us. My brother redeemed me because, although I treated him wrong, he turned around and did not return evil for evil. God forgives us like my brother forgave me and lets us know that He loves us in spite of our behavior. That is true redemption. 0

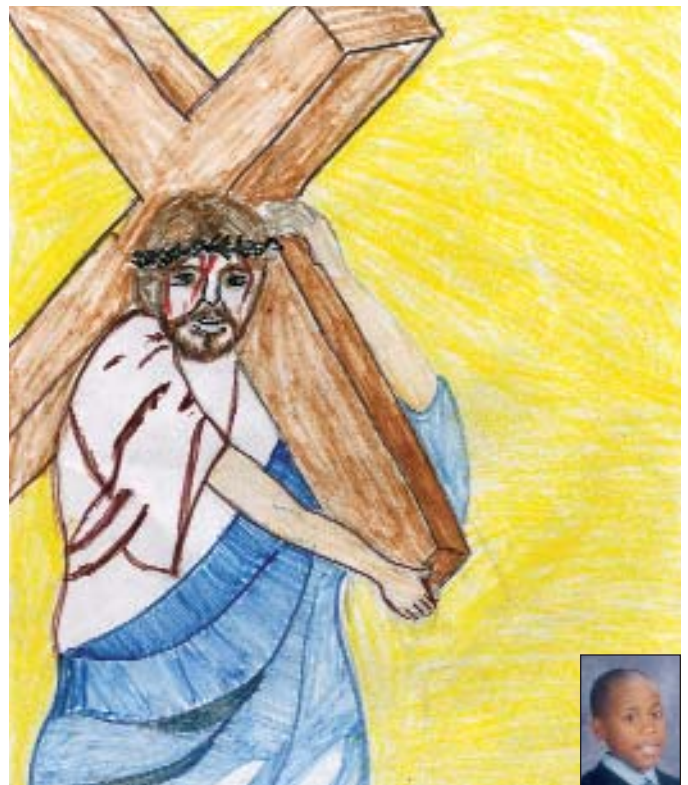
Kimberly Solages is a seventh grade student at the Hebron Bilingual school.

A Christian Education Can Redeem Our Children

A Christian education, should be a very big part of our nation. It teaches children how to be strong through thick and thin. It also tells us that it's not good to sin. We learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost. Those are the people who mean the most. We learn about every subject in school. We even learn not to be fools. We learn that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, We learn that we can do ourselves a favor, By opening our hearts to Him. If we let Jesus come in, If we have faith in Him, It won't be as easy to sin. We learn to put God first in our lives; If we do, we will get blessings that will make things all right. A Christian education has benefits you see, Eventually, we may be with God, the Almighty.



Jessica Hawkins is an eighth grade student at the Linden school.



Artist: Jeffrey Verneus is a seventh grade student at Hebron Bilingual school.

Principle: Restorative

Growing to Be like Jesus

Preschool and kindergarten students in Worcester are growing to be like Jesus.

Adam* found it difficult to make changes, so he would hide under a table. Now, as he grows in Jesus, he no longer hides under a table. He joins in group activities and plays cooperatively.

John* pestered people who came near him. Often, he would walk

behind his classmates and step on their heels. As he grows in Jesus, he is learning to protect personal spaces and does not step on classmates' heels.

Eli* frequently pushed classmates away. He did not like to share. As he becomes like Jesus, he is learning to play with others, to share, and to take turns happily.

Noah* wants to do everything by himself. By growing in Jesus,

he is willing to be guided by his teacher and to seek help when things do not come out the way he wants them to.

The students have learned to encourage each other. They do not wait for their teacher to initiate a prayer to ask God to help them grow to be like Jesus. They solicit each other to pray. ☺

Glorie King is a teacher at the Worcester school.

** Not their real names.*

Becoming More Like Christ

In the world in which we live there are so many things the devil places in our path to lead us away from Christ. Because this is so, we need to ask Christ daily to help us do the things that will make us become more like Him. God's character can be restored in us as we seek to make the following decisions in our lives and allow God to guide us:

- 1) Accept Christ as our personal Savior.
- 2) Be willing to surrender oneself to Christ and be baptized.
- 3) Trust God with all our soul, might and strength. By doing this we can be sure to develop a strong relationship with God.
- 4) Spend time daily studying God's word to keep connected to God.
- 5) Think more about helping others by visiting the sick, weak, aging seniors and others. By doing this we can bring happiness to them.
- 6) Teach our friends, relatives, and neighbors about God's love for us. Give a Bible as a gift to them and share a Bible study with them.

As we make decisions mentioned above and carry them out, we can surely become more like Christ as we help others do the same. In this world that is rapidly changing, these six steps will help us to arm ourselves against Satan and prepare us to be saved in God's kingdom. ☺

Christopher Gonzalez is a fifth grade student at the Lincoln Seventh-day Adventist School.

More Like Christ

One of the most important ways in which we can become like Christ is if we place ourselves completely in His hands.

"A basket with two fishes and five loaves in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches, but two fishes and five loaves in Jesus' hands fed 5,000."

Placing ourselves in Jesus' hands means that we will allow Christ to guide us into being better Christians, learning to love people around us, and sharing the good news of His love to others. In our words and our actions we will reveal God's love.

"Nails in my hands would probably be used to make a bird house, but nails in Jesus' hands paid for our sins."

Depending in whose hands we are in, we will be more like Christ. ☺

Vasti Ubiera is a sixth grade student at the Lincoln Seventh-day Adventist School.

Principle: Modeling Christ

Grateful for Adventist Education

I have seen so many changes in my son since last fall. I'm very thankful for the influence that some teachers in the Greater New York Academy have had in his life.

My son mentioned in the beginning of the school year that Mr. Patterson had encouraged the students to do their Sabbath school lesson and study their Bible. Mr. Patterson told the students that if they put God first and apply themselves, they will be successful in their classes. His new year's resolution was to read the Bible every day. He's been faithfully keeping this resolution by God's grace.

My son is always quoting Mr.

Patterson. He looks up to him and looks forward to his class each week. The kindness and Christianity of some of the teachers are obvious to our son and his classmates. Young people can't be fooled and they appreciate the transparency of a teacher. What a privilege and awesome responsibility these teachers have every day to influence the youth of Greater New York for Christ!

Another day, my husband and I were talking to my son about the Bible when he said, "The more I read the Bible, the more I think God is cool." As parents we're grateful to God that we can send our son to an Adventist

school. We know the same principles, values, and morals that we teach him at home are being echoed in the academy. That is very important to us. It's wonderful to watch our child grow in the Lord. We wish that parents in our conference could see that the greatest gift they could give to their child besides the training at home is an Adventist education.

Please let the teachers in the Greater New York Academy know how thankful we are for their dedication to Adventist education and to our son. ☺

Written by a parent who wishes to remain anonymous.

Christian Education

Coming closer to God
Holding onto God
Reading His word
Inspiring other children
Singing praises to Jesus
Teaching the gospel
Investigating God's word
Abiding with God
Never letting go of God

Enrolling God in my life
Directing the lonely
Understanding the love of God
Caring for others
Absence of the devil
Teamwork
I love you Lord
Operating appropriately with God
No, to the devil

Nolan Roy is a fifth grade student at the Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School.



Artist: Marianne Catangay is a senior at Greater New York Academy.

Principle: **Integration of Faith with Learning**

Your Word is a Lamp to My Feet

My mornings in school begin with music. My favorite songs often fill my ears, as my classmates and I sing praises to God. After praying, studying my Bible, and sharing with my teacher and friends, I start my daily studies knowing that Jesus is my best friend. I know that He is there for me. I know that He will help me with my studies,

and that He is creator of everything that exists. My teacher frequently reminds me that God loves me.

While studying, I learned science magnifies the power, creativity, and organization of God. I learned that creation was an act of divine love, not an act of chance.

My teacher is more than someone who transfers information found in our

textbooks. She inspires me to read, to watch movies, and to listen to music that expand me spiritually, as well as intellectually. She reminds me that the Bible is the center of everything I learn. The Bible is “a lamp to my feet,” and with Jesus, learning is fun. ☺

Aaron Boyd is an eighth grade student at the Frontenac school.



How God Works Our Schools

God plays a special part in our school day,
He's with us when we work and when we play.
He's the center of our lives.
He tells us not to criticize.
He's with us every point of the day.
He chases all the clouds away.
We learn about His great power, and His love for us.
All day long He's with us, even on the bus.



Briana Clark is a sixth grade student and Victoria Ahles is a fifth grade student at Parkview Jr. Academy.



Artist: Emily Walter is a fourth grade student at the Kingsbury school.

Integration of Faith with Learning

In school we learn about things from the Bible and our faith increases. In our worship room every morning, we pray, read the Bible, and talk about God. We get smarter when we read from the Bible. In the afternoon we read from our Bible books. On Tuesday, Mrs. Hurd comes in and we sing songs about God and Jesus. It is fun because we get to learn more about the Bible.

We share about our life experiences. Our faithfulness and faith increase even more when people talk about our school, churches, and even about God. Our teacher shares his life experiences about finding Jesus and asking Him into his heart. It is neat to hear about other people's life experiences

about finding God. When we pray things that are bad become weaker and we get stronger. Our character gets stronger and also friendships and trusting people more.

Even though we have a small class, we have stronger faith. We also have posters with the ten commandments, the names for Jesus, and the text that says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). This is how we have integration of faith with learning. ☺

Jessica Jones is a sixth grade student at the Kingsbury school.



Principle: **Unselfish Service**

Every Sacrifice I Make Will Be Rewarded

I give of myself and receive much more than I bargain for. When I give of myself freely I don't expect to be rewarded, but it always works out that way.

I volunteered at the Bermuda Aquarium for two years giving up my Sundays to contribute to my island. From that experience I have decided what field of work I want to enter – marine biology.

The most recent time that I gave of

myself for service was during the Impact 10/40 community trip to Thailand. The conditions were not bad, but they were not like home. I gave up my Christmas and New Year celebrations, a time that I always spend with my family.

The people I helped made the trip worth it with all the thanks I received. They clasped their hands together and bowed their heads in a gesture called “a way.” They called us names that

were respectful in their language. We were given a fireworks show and a Christmas party to help us feel at home. Just the experience of being there was worth all the hours of fund raising. I have learned that every sacrifice I make will be rewarded. ☺

Stefan Smith is an eleventh grade student at Bermuda Institute.



A Time **to Give**

In December 2003 I had the opportunity to learn the real meaning of Christmas because I was in Bangkok, Thailand, on a missionary trip. It was a different experience for me because Thailand is a third-world country. The majority of the people in Thailand are Buddhists. Even though the people there are not from my religion, I still had a willing heart

and caring smile towards all of them. While my family and friends were having a good time at Christmas, I was doing community service by helping the Thai children to learn English. In Thailand they don't celebrate Christmas.

We also went to a refugee camp near the border of Burma. In the refugee camp the children did not have parents and clothes. Their parents were in Burma (The Military Government) and were not allowed to come to Thailand. Because of that, they did not have any food or clothing.

It was an eye-opening experience for me because I don't live like the people of Thailand and I had the opportunity to realize that I need to appreciate what I have. It was a time to give and not to receive. I hope that my article will encourage you to help others, whether in the mission field or in your community. ☺

Asia Daniels is a tenth grade student at Bermuda Institute.



Unselfish Service

To give of ourselves unselfishly
Is how God wants us to always be.
This is the example that He has set
And also the criteria that some have met.
To be unselfish in every task
Is to do a job without a mask.
To do a job without any expected reward,
Is something that we all should work toward.
Helping people in the community
Can be a prize for you and me.
To tell others about our Lord
And watch them sing in one accord.
To have young ones hug you tight
Makes this type of service feel so right.
To put food on the table of a starving family
Should be enough incentive for all to see.
Unselfish service is something that all of us should love
As did our Jesus, who now lives up above.



Michelle Y. Spencer is an eleventh grade student at Bermuda Institute.



Artist: Ziara Campbell is an eleventh grade student at Bermuda Institute.

Principle: The Dignity of Labor

The Dignity We Find in Labor

Riverview Memorial school has a reputation. The students welcome and accomplish any kind of work. I have heard educators refer to Riverview as a “country school,” which is true, but the essence of Riverview is beyond that label. The teachers and students have always understood the dignity of labor, a type of work that is above and beyond the rigors of daily assignments, reading, note taking, and other mental duties. The students of Riverview have been involved in the construction of two functioning greenhouses, a barn that is separated into a robotics shop, wood-working shop, and storage for the school tractor. The students currently plant a three-acre vegetable garden and start one thousand flower and vegetable seedlings every spring that are sold at the school farm stand. Each student has a specific responsibility for the upkeep of the school. The last fifteen minutes of the school day are devoted to cleaning and maintaining the facility.



Artist: Nathan Stoll is a ninth grade student at CVA.



Blend the physical with the mental. That is a reoccurring theme Ellen White stresses to both educators and parents. White counsels that “Work is the very best discipline they can have.... Blend the physical labor with the mental, and the powers of the mind will develop far better”—CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 126. The benefits of such a program are numerous. The hard work our students exert will develop practical everyday skills, establish a good work ethic, and give the students a sense of accomplishment. Jesus, our perfect example, showed us the dignity of labor by working with his earthly father as a carpenter.

That precious early training helped prepare Him for the greatest work of all—saving humanity. As we strive to build up our young people, let us as educators not forget the dignity we can find in labor. ☺

Trevor Schlisner is a teacher at the Riverview Memorial school.



The Dignity of Labor

Over the years I have heard the complaints of employers. It is difficult for employers to find employees with good work ethics and common sense.

Northern New England Conference is striving to address these issues through work and habits taught in school and other conference-sponsored events such as Outdoor School, Art Clinic, and Music Clinic. Our philosophy is based upon principles Ellen White declared a “blessing” (EDUCATION, p. 214). She also declared that manual training should be in every home and school (EDUCATION, p. 217).

I interviewed Kirk Strassberger, a senior at Central Vermont Academy. From my observations Kirk cheerfully and strategically attacks any task in which he is involved. He has attended Central Vermont Academy most of his school years, first through third and sixth through twelfth grade. I recently observed his industry building the Adirondack log lean-to at Camp Lawroweld during Outdoor School.

TW: How has the school program positive-

ly affected your work ethics?

KS: Mrs. Wall always has us doing something to help. Mr. Knowles works hard to find us job training apprenticeships that are based on our interests. It helps us to know what we want to do or don't want to do in the future.

TW: What apprenticeships have you participated in?

KS: Aviation, peace officer, hospital maintenance, construction, and plumbing.

TW: Have your apprenticeships led to a paying job?

KS: It has for some students. I already work for myself.

TW: How has the job training program positively affected your academics in the school?

KS: It helps me focus when I am here at school. It gives me variety working with my hands.

TW: How do you feel we should go about helping students develop good work habits?

KS: Work should be enjoyed. If kids don't want to do something they don't do it. The

job training program helps kids learn to grit their teeth and get through doing things they don't like doing.

TW: Has the job training program helped you decide what you wish to focus on in college?

KS: Yes, I plan to enter the Aviation program at Andrews University.

TW: Has the job training program blessed your spiritual development?

KS: It has provided a real place for me to witness. Many people have asked me about our school and religion. ☺

Trudy Wright, superintendent of schools for Northern New England Conference, writes from Portland, Maine.



Kirk Strassberger is a senior at Central Vermont Academy.

Sports —

A Winning Combination

I have always been an avid sports fan. As a young boy my best friend Charlie Simmons and I would put our little Crosly radio under a pillow to mute the sound and listen to Brooklyn Dodgers baseball late at night when we were supposed to be asleep.

My Boy Scout troop traveled to Syracuse, New York, to see the old Syracuse Nationals play the Boston Celtics. What a thrill it was to see Dolph Schayes verses Bob Cousy. I knew then that I wanted to play professional basketball.

My love for basketball and my skills both grew as the years passed. My brother Irvin, who is five years older than I, also loved basketball. Playing “horse” against him regularly made me stronger and better than most of the guys my age!

When I finally worked my way up to the Penn Yan Central High School Varsity, I was a sophomore. Penn Yan, New York, where I grew up, is located on Keuka Lake in western New York state.

Playing on the high school varsity team was a big thrill for me, even though I had to miss the games played on Friday night because of the Sabbath. During my junior and senior years, the coach tried his best to arrange our schedule with as few Friday night games as possible. Imagine, my coach arranging the schedule to accommodate his best player and, in the process, help his team defeat theirs. I chuckle inside as I now understand the “bill of goods” he got them to buy. Coach Ed Pond really had guts!

My dream of playing professional

basketball seemed right on course because during my senior year I was offered scholarships to Alfred, St. Bonaventure, and Syracuse universities. I was so excited, and even though the offer from Syracuse was the best, I immediately chose St. Bonaventure so I could play point guard with my friend Bobby Lanier. He was already at St. Bonaventure and we used to play in our church league together. His home

“It was on a May evening, a month before graduation, when dad looked straight at me and said, “Conrad, I want you to go to Atlantic Union College (AUC) for one year.”

church was in Buffalo and mine was in Rochester. We called him “Big Bobby” because he was already 6’6” and wore size 16 sneakers when he was in the ninth grade.

Little did I know that dad had contacted all three universities and obtained written promises guaranteeing their scholarship offers to me the following year provided I didn’t get injured as a freshman. My dad, Robert (Bob) Gill, was a carpenter and boat builder by trade, and his hobbies were

mechanics, cross word puzzles, and inventing things. He knew everything, and I really admired him. He patiently taught me everything I know and can do with my hands even to this day.

It was on a May evening, a month before graduation, when dad looked straight at me and said, “Conrad, I want you to go to Atlantic Union College (AUC) for one year.”

He quickly read the disappointment on my face and went on to explain the guarantee letters he had obtained for my sophomore year. He then added, “Please do this ‘one favor’ for me, and next year you can go anywhere you want to.”

I remember well the day we drove to AUC. We talked for hours about good grades, choices, girls, cars, and sports. Dad never told me that he loved me, but I knew without a doubt that he did!

The next day dad helped me unpack, get registered, prayed with me, hugged me, and he left for Penn Yan.

The rest is history. I never went to St. Bonaventure where I would have played on Sabbath. I never played for the Milwaukee Bucks or the Detroit Pistons like Bobby Lanier, but my dad’s request for “one favor” and my Christ-centered experience at AUC shaped my future. Adventist education and a life without Sabbath compromise are always “A Winning Combination!” ☺

Conrad L. Gill, Southern Union Conference director of education, writes from Decatur, Georgia.



PO Box 777

Our Testimony about Christian Education

It all started when our youngest son was in kindergarten at a public school. He was asked to give his opinion on Santa Claus. When he answered that Jesus provided his gifts, he was accused of quenching the Christmas spirit for the other kids. That was the day we got serious about Christian education. Unfortunately for us, the local Adventist school shut down after my older son completed first grade. We home schooled our two boys the next five years while proactively seeking a church school.

Our local church was very supportive of Christian education. That positive attitude was a blessing to us the day we and several church families came together to prayerfully work out plans for a church school. With the support of several churches, Astrid Thomassian, then conference school superintendent, and a lot of “good works” from many church members, the Maranatha school opened. For three years God made provision for our every need and the needs of other parents and always at the right time.

With our oldest son starting eighth grade and our pursuit of a ninth grade at his school not in God’s plan, we prayerfully considered our next move. Little did we know that prayers were being lifted up on our behalf several hundred miles to the north of us. We were also impressed that where our boys wound up was where we wanted to be. It wasn’t long before God spoke to us through our oldest son Jacob’s former first grade teacher. She called us to tell us she found a match for our boys. It was Central Vermont Academy (CVA) in Vermont.

We had never heard of CVA, which officially opened in 2002. Now all God

had to do was to sell our home, find my husband a job, find us a house, and make financial provision for the boys’ education. I can recall when we prayerfully set a price for our house and were not sure we had made the right decision. God led me to a passage in Leviticus 27:14,15 which gives a formula for “redeeming” or selling a house. When my husband and I worked out the formula, the price we prayed about was the same as the formula. Our house eventually sold for that price! When by faith my husband gave five weeks notice to his employer, God honored that with our home closing the day after his last working day which was three days before the start of school. God led my husband to a job in his specialty area. When we couldn’t find a house to live in, He made provision for us at a lakeside cottage as dorm parents to four other academy students.

Working with our dorm children to provide a safe, warm environment in a family type setting has been a unique experience. Besides providing transportation and nutritious meals, we are available for questions about homework and to address their concerns. For all the boys but one this was their first time away from home. Having parents at hand certainly eases the homesick feelings. What also may have helped was that all the boys became fast friends.

CVA has a challenging academic program as well as a work study program where they team up with local businesses allowing the students opportunity to seek out possible interests in certain job fields. They have a wonderful outdoor program that allows them to be out in nature. The academy weekends are a time of fun and fellowship with a spiritual emphasis.



Since we’ve been here, we suffered a fire at our cottage and our kids lost most of their clothes. Our oldest son suffered a potential life threatening illness. My husband was involved in an automobile accident. There were the emotional adjustments at a new church and job and yet through it all we believe God has a purpose for us because we “purposed in our heart” to follow Him. The benefits throughout have outweighed the risks! At this writing we have a seventh academy student who lives with us, our two boys plus five, we are complete!

When we first realized we were a few weeks before arriving my husband and I went to the local Post Office during a trip to Vermont and purchased a PO Box. We were surprised when the clerk gave us the keys to box number 777. Seven is a complete number in the Bible (Genesis 2:2). We saw this as a reminder that God was with us. We haven’t performed perfectly in our endeavor to educate our children in a Christian setting, but we have stepped out willingly and I believe God is honoring that commitment. ☺

Sue and Don LeBlanc, their sons, Jacob and Zachary, their dorm children David, Seth, Maxum, Nathan, and Jason reside in Barre, Vermont.

From Searching Bodies to Searching Scriptures

Seventh-day Adventist Education = An Enriched Life

When one envisions becoming a teacher, many exciting ideas come to mind. Going to work each day to a job that one likes, working closely with children in their educational pursuits, doing one's best to cultivate young minds to be lifelong learners, are only some of the reasons one may have to enter this noble profession.

When I first entered the public school system, I told myself that the experience would be meaningful. I worked hard. I enjoyed working with the students and they reciprocated toward me. Then it happened! I changed job sites. My diurnal chores conflicted with my inner convictions. I would happily go to work each day but I did not experience the fulfillment I sought. There was a struggle within me. You see, I have come to believe that my *raison d'être* is to affect young people in a positive, holistic manner. Then I looked again at the equation: Man = Physical, Mental and Spiritual.

If we do not develop the spiritual nature of man, then we are not catering for the whole man.

In the public school system I viewed, with trepidation, the abyss that students were entering. You must understand that before my students entered the "halls of learning" each day, they had to be searched for possible illegal items. Every pocket had to be turned out, head gear removed and checked, backpacks emptied and scanned, and footwear

searched. Students lost their privacy, their individuality, and their dignity—some without even being cognizant of the fact. At times body searches had to be executed. This act would remove the last vestiges of dignity that the students hold dear.

It was at that point I began to talk to the Lord, or maybe it was at that point I began to listen to His voice. Then His plan began to unfold. In September 2001 I joined the faculty of Rochester Junior Academy (RJA). It has been a pleasure working there. The atmosphere is warm and friendly and a family-like tone pervades the school. The principal is a man of God who does not allow us to forget that our purpose is to evangelize. He is always available to assist the students, faculty, and staff with any concerns that may arise. He also is a man of prayer.

What better way is there to start the working day than in prayer with your co-workers? Each morning, before we meet with our classes, the faculty and staff gather for devotion. The empowerment which we receive we transfer to our students as we lead them in daily devotion. This act we could not perform in the public school system.

RJA students look much like other students. The school, however, has a uniform policy, and so students attend school smartly dressed in their uniforms. This uniformity of dress, is nonexistent in the public schools where students may feel pressured to conform to questionable dress codes.

After teaching for four months at RJA, my heart overflowed with joy as five students from my class were baptized. Three weeks later, another student invited me to his baptism at one of our constituent churches.

Singing in church choirs has always been a part of my church experience. Nothing could top the experience I had recently when the RJA choir performed with the church choir in a Christmas cantata. I felt a great deal of pride, as my students sang in a mass choir with me. The fact that these students were trained by our very own teacher, Marilyn Duncan, made it an even more special occasion. Another poignant moment was when the RJA school principal, James Duberry joined in the church choir as we sang the Hallelujah Chorus at Christmastime.

I mentioned these experiences because I could never enjoy them while working in the public school system. The Lord has a purpose for my life. When the students enter RJA each morning, they are ready to learn. We do not need to search their possessions. They are equipped with only the supplies necessary for the school day. As I juxtapose pictures of public school activities with those of Rochester Junior Academy, I am truly grateful to God that instead of searching the bodies of my students, I now search the Scriptures with my students. ☉

Glasmine Ellis teaches Grades 5 and 6 at Rochester Junior Academy.

What Must I Do? Relational Youth Ministry

I recently attended a youth ministry training convention sponsored by one of our conferences in the Atlantic Union. Part of the weekend was a time for local youth leaders to come and ask questions of the “youth ministries professionals” in their midst. One question that kept coming up was “How can we keep our young people in the church? What can we do to keep them coming?” A thought that struck me in discussion was this is not the first time this concern has been raised. In fact youth leaders have been expressing this concern for generations!

Studies reveal that young people are abandoning the church at an alarming percentage. I would also like to suggest that young people are remaining in the church. One interesting observation I noted was that one of the individuals who was asking this questions had also left the church as a young adult but has returned. Another point which needs to be emphasized is that there are many who are returning and becoming actively involved.

I believe one of the imperatives (keys) to keeping young people in the church and returning is building relationships—a relational ministry. This is not complicated. It is the essence of getting along with the youth, becoming their friend, showing interest in their daily activities, and being there for them in times of stress. Relational ministry is usually understood as meeting the young people “where they are,” building trust, earning the right to be heard, and getting on their level. Relational ministry means that we minister to them on a spiritual and social basis. This calls for a gift (trait) that recognizes and honors the young peoples’ need for spiritual guidance. This is done not only in the Sabbath school class, small group Bible studies, and informal discussion groups, but also in the halls of the church, on the sidewalks, or in the corner.

A part of relational ministry that operates beyond the spiritual aspect is the importance

of attentive listening. Sometimes adults have all the answers and want to give all the answers without guiding the discussion, without asking the right questions, and without responding in a realistic or valid way. Jesus taught us how to listen in his interaction with the rich young ruler. Jesus responded in a caring, thoughtful way to the question of the young man. Jesus gave him His undivided attention. That is the secret in building a relationship with young people. They need our undivided attention!

Young people today are sensitive to the authenticity of adults—especially their spiritual leaders. In order for adults to maintain their credibility with them they must respond in such a way that they know the leaders have an intimacy with God. The fruit of intimacy is the capacity to listen with the ears of Christ, to see with the eyes of Christ, and to guide and challenge with the power of the Holy Spirit. When this happens, young people will want to remain in the church because the members and its leaders are responding to authentic spiritual needs.

Obviously, to retain our young people other ministries need to happen such as active youth programs, interactive Sabbath schools, dynamic outreach activities which make for balanced youth ministries. However, “get going” with building relations!

Bill Wood is the youth ministries director for the Atlantic Union Conference.

Send questions you would like answered about Pathfinder, Youth, or Young Adult Ministries to the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department.

YouthConnections

Atlantic Union Conference
Youth Ministries Department
PO Box 1189
So. Lancaster, MA 01561
Phone: (978) 368-8333
Fax: (978) 368-7948
E-mail: youthministries@atlanticunion.org
Web Site: www.atlantic-union.org/youth.htm

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE

SUMMER CAMP



SCHEDULE

BERMUDA

Bermuda Conference

Blind/Deaf Camp.....July 4 – July 11

CAMP BERKSHIRE

Greater New York Conference

Summer Camp Staff TrainingJune 27 – July 3

Summer Camp.....July 3 – July 25

CAMP CHEROKEE

New York Conference

Adventure Camp.....July 4 – July 11

Junior/Tween CampJuly 11 – July 18

Teen Camp.....July 18 – July 25

Footie and Friends.....July 25 – Aug. 1

Family Camp I.....Aug. 1 – Aug. 8

Family Camp IIAug. 8 – Aug. 15

Home School Camp.....Aug. 15 – Aug. 20

Hispanic RetreatAug. 20 – Aug. 22

Single's RetreatAug. 26 – Aug. 29

55+ Retreat.....Aug. 29 – Sept. 2

NY Conference Church Retreat.....Sept. 3 – Sept. 6

Adventurer/Pathfinder

Leadership WeekendSept. 10 – Sept. 12

Outdoor School.....Sept. 14 – Sept. 17

New Member's RetreatSept. 17 – Sept. 19

Men's RetreatSept. 24 – Sept. 26

Collegiate/Young Adult RetreatOct. 1 – Oct. 3

CAMP VICTORY LAKE

Northeastern Conference

Summer Camp 1st Session.....July 4 – July 18

Summer Camp 2nd Session.....July 18 – Aug. 8

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

“Faith on Fire” Camporee

Oshkosh, Wis.....Aug. 10 – Aug. 14

CAMP LAUROVELD

Northern New England Conference

Pathfinder Spring Camporee.....April 30 – May 2

Single's RetreatMay 28 – May 31

Junior Camp I.....July 4 – July 11

Junior Camp II.....July 11 – July 18

Teen Outpost Camp.....July 18 – July 25

Blind Camp.....July 18 – July 25

Teen CampJuly 25 – Aug. 1

Family Adventure Camp.....Aug. 1 – Aug. 8

Motorcycle CampAug. 6 – Aug. 8

Family Weekend.....Sept. 3 – Sept. 6

Pathfinder Fall CamporeeSept. 24 – Sept. 26

Teen Prayer ConferenceNov. 19 – Nov. 21

CAMP WINNEKEAG

Southern New England Conference

Wakeboard Camp (*High School & College*)June 6 – June 11

Staff Training WeekJune 11 – June 20

Teen Xtreme & Youth Adult

Xtreme Camps (*Ages 13+ & 18+*)June 20 – June 27

Teen Camp (*Ages 13+*)June 27 – July 4

Blind Camp (*Ages 10-60*).....July 4 – July 11

Junior Camp (*Ages 10-12*)July 11 – July 18

Adventurer Camps &

Junior Xtreme (*Ages 8-9 & 10-12*)July 18 – July 25

Family Camp #1 (*All Ages*).....July 25 – Aug. 1

Family Camp #2 (*All Ages*).....Aug. 1 – Aug. 8

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

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



¿Qué Está Pasando?

EN LA IGLESIA MUNDIAL

Méjico: Clínica de salud en Ensenada, proyecto misionero de Loma Linda University

20 de Enero del 2004, Loma Linda, California, Estados Unidos [ANN] — Una niña con trenzas se aferra al brazo de su madre con una mirada de tristeza. Un hombre inclina la cabeza mientras se frota las sienes. Una anciana se enjuga los ojos con un pañuelo de papel. Estas personas de Méjico son parte del 60 por ciento de la población de la región que no puede acceder a la atención médica. Es por eso que esperan pacientemente para recibir atención primaria de los Estudiantes de Loma Linda en Servicio Misionero Internacional (SIMS, por sus siglas en inglés).

La Universidad de Loma Linda ha estado brindando atención médica en Méjico desde la década de 1960. Todos los meses, un grupo de estudiantes, médicos y otros profesionales de la salud pasan un fin de semana en Ensenada, Méjico, y ayudan a los que no pueden pagar por atención médica. Sin embargo, las ubicaciones temporales de la clínica han impedido la expansión y un establecimiento permanente para los pacientes.

“Por muchos años se nos ha prestado una propiedad del gobierno que usamos como clínica,” dice el Dr. Juan Carlos Belliard, profesor asistente de salud internacional en Loma Linda. “Sin embargo, cuando se produce un cambio en el gobierno, a menudo nos quedamos sin un lugar para la clínica.”

Ahora existe la posibilidad de resolver ese problema. Este año se completará una clínica permanente si el grupo de estudiantes misioneros logra recolectar 10,000 dólares.

“La gente que ayudamos allí en Méjico no puede acceder a la atención médica si no es en clínicas sin costo como la nuestra,” explica el Dr. Belliard.

“Especialmente si pensamos en la odontología, la atención de los servicios odontológicos en realidad no existe. En lo que respecta a la atención médica, recibimos a gente que jamás ha ido a un médico.”

El edificio, que en la actualidad se encuentra en construcción, pertenece a la Iglesia Adventista de Maneadero, cerca de Ensenada, Méjico.

“Una vez que se construya, podemos desarrollar planes a largo plazo para la clínica y las actividades relacionadas con la misma,” dice Belliard.

Junto con SIMS y los miembros de la Iglesia Adventista de Maneadero, la Iglesia Adventista de Van Nuys está colaborando en la construcción de la clínica.

“Estaba hablando con uno de los miembros de la iglesia de Méjico; me dijo que anhela cumplir el sueño de contar a otros acerca de Dios por medio de esta clínica,” dice Mike Kim, pastor de la Iglesia de Van Nuys.

En la actualidad, SIMS proporciona atención médica en las salas de Escuela Sabática de la Iglesia Adventista de Maneadero. “Como no tenemos una clínica real y permanente, la atención médica es limitada,” dice Maxine Newell, coordinador de los viajes de SIMS a Méjico.

Si desea más información acerca de este proyecto, visite la página electrónica de SIMS en www.llu.edu/llu/sims.

*Patricia Thio
Adventist News Network
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi*

Una publicación combina la familia y el evangelismo

27 de Enero del 2004, Silver Spring, Maryland, Estados Unidos [ANN] — “Evangelismo familiar,” un pequeño libro preparado para el Año de Evangelismo Mundial de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, acaba de ser publicado por el Departamento de Ministerios Familiares de la iglesia mundial. La publicación, de 150 páginas, “incrementa la probabilidad de que toda la familia acepte a Jesús,” dice Karen Flowers, codirectora de ministerios familiares. “Jesús dijo que el evangelio era radical, que dividiría a las familias, pero no dijo que era lo ideal. Si una persona está sola, una iglesia no puede apoyarla

como lo haría una familia.” El libro enfatiza el fortalecimiento del matrimonio y de las relaciones con los hijos y los parientes. Actualmente está siendo enviado a aproximadamente 12.000 pastores adventistas, y cada región mundial de la iglesia tiene su propia versión del mismo. Si usted es de Norteamérica puede conseguir una copia contactándose con AdventSource en el sitio www.adventsource.org.

*Ansel Oliver
Adventist News Network
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi*

Quoi de Neuf?

A TRAVERS L'ÉGLISE MONDIALE

Une adventiste marque de sa présence l'industrie du spectacle en Australie

3 Février 2004, Silver Spring, Maryland, États-Unis [ANN] —

Originaire de Brooklyn, à New York, Francine Bell est partie pour Paris en 1980 avec un aller simple et 52 dollars (41 euros) en poche. Elle s'est produite dans les églises de France, y chantant des negro spirituals. Un autre déplacement, jusqu' en Australie, lui donna l'occasion de chanter à l'opéra de Sydney et sur d'autres scènes des antipodes.

Elle donne maintenant des cours de représentation contemporaine au Conservatoire de musique de l'Université de Newcastle (Newcastle en Australie) et a obtenu un rôle dans la suite du film «Matrix»: «Matrix Revolutions.»

Mannequin, actrice et chanteuse de gospel, Francine Bell est aussi chrétienne adventiste du septième jour.

Quand se rencontrent la religion et le monde des beaux arts et du spectacle, les adventistes sont connus pour un certain style de vie dont bien des gens pensent qu'il les tiendra purement et simplement à l'écart de ce secteur d'activité. Mais nombreux sont les adventistes pour qui

foi et travail peuvent donner des résultats à leur convenance.

«Ma foi détermine tout ce que je fais, dit Francine Bell. Je prie au sujet de chaque offre de travail et je ne fais rien qui puisse compromettre ma foi.»

Les adventistes du septième jour tirent le «du septième jour» dans leur nom du quatrième commandement de la Bible, intimant aux croyants de tenir pour sacré le septième jour de la semaine, et donc de ne pas travailler le Sabbat, ou samedi.

Au départ, F. Bell a vu dans le Sabbat un obstacle à l'activité qu'elle s'était choisie. Désormais, elle le voit comme un critère pour déterminer si Dieu veut ou non qu'elle fasse un travail donné.

«Si le Sabbat pose problème à un employeur potentiel, c'est tout simple, je ne prends pas le travail en question, dit-elle. Je me dis qu'il pourrait bien y avoir un problème avec ce travail ou avec sa situation et que c'est ainsi que Dieu m'en protège.»

Néanmoins, si on lui demande de faire pendant le Sabbat quelque chose dont elle estime que cela «aidera vraiment quelqu'un» (comme trouver des fonds pour

la recherche sur le cancer), elle le fera.

«Il faut prier et faire preuve de discernement,» dit-elle.

Francine Bell pense que Dieu l'a placée là où elle se trouve actuellement pour qu'elle parle de sa foi à la radio, au cinéma et à la télévision ainsi qu'avec les équipes techniques du secteur.

«N'est-ce pas formidable? dit-elle.

Souvent, je n'ai même rien à dire du tout. Le gens savent qu'on est chrétien et ils nous observent. Mon boulot, alors, c'est de marcher dans l'amour, en tant qu'exemple.»

F. Bell a offert son CD, intitulé «Jésus Told Me I can Fly,» («Jésus m'a dit que je peux voler») à Larry et à Andy Wachowski, à Laurence Fishburne, à Keanu Reeves, à Olivia Newton-John et à Nicole Kidman. «Même s'ils se contentent de lire la jaquette et n'écoutent même pas le CD, le mot «Jésus» est parvenu à leur cerveau,» dit-elle.

Ses sources d'influence spirituelle sont Jésus-Christ, l'apôtre Paul, feue sa grand-mère, Billy Graham et Joyce Meyer.

Ansel Oliver
Adventist News Network
Traduction: Claude Fivel

Une brochure allie famille et évangélisation

27 Janvier 2004, Silver Spring, Maryland, États-Unis [ANN] — «Family Evangelism,» brochure préparée pour 2004, année de l'évangélisation de l'Église adventiste du septième jour, a été publiée par le département des ministères de la famille de l'Église mondiale. Avec ses 150 pages, cet outil documentaire «renforce la probabilité, pour nous, d'amener toute la famille à Jésus,» dit Karen Flowers, co-directeur des ministères de la famille. «Jésus a dit que l'évangile était quelque chose de radical – qu'il diviserait les familles, mais il n'a pas dit que ce résultat était idéal. Si une personne est isolée, l'Église ne peut la soutenir

comme le pourrait une famille.» Ce petit livre met l'accent sur le renforcement du mariage et des liens avec les enfants et les parents au sens large. Il va être expédié à quelque 12 000 pasteurs adventistes, et toutes les régions mondiales de l'Église en ont leur propre version. Les personnes habitant l'Amérique du nord peuvent en obtenir un exemplaire en prenant contact avec AdventSource à www.adventsource.org.

Ansel Oliver
Adventist News Network
Traduction: Claude Fivel

Relational Intimacy Seminar Conducted At Pembroke Church

In was during the December 2003 Board meeting that a member of the church board shared he was going through an awful time in his life and very few members of the church were there for him. Others began to share their pain and it became evident that this was a church in pain and in need of comfort.

The church board decided to enlist the services of Detroy and Saadia Bean of the Family Life Intimacy Centre, to conduct a Relational Intimacy Seminar at the church from January 10–17. As a result, the church has embarked upon some aspect of relational intimacy each time it meets.

Some of the topics included: *A Picture of True Intimacy, Be Set Free for Loving Intimacy, Make Room for Intimacy, Naked & Intimate, The Sufferings of Christ, and Intimacy's Healing Power.*

“We do pretty well on our spiritual side and we attempt to carry it into our relational side and that’s where we mess up,” shared Saadia Bean. “We are more comfortable with our spiritual

side than with our relational side, therefore we need to get in touch with our relational side.”

The Beans shared that the ten top needs of men and women are: acceptance, affection, appreciation, approval, attention, comfort, encouragement, respect, security, and support. When these needs are met, behavior changes from negative to positive.

At the final session held during the Adventist Youth program on January 17, the Beans responded to questions placed in a question and answer box during the week, and agreed to meet again to finish answering questions

they were unable to get to in the program.

At the end of the week, we resolved to include some aspect of relational intimacy in our services. During divine worship and prayer meetings members are invited

to share their need for encouragement, comfort, or rejoicing. This has proved an enriching experience and the members are sharing.

Prayer meeting attendance has jumped from single digits and is consistently in the mid thirties. The goal is to bring prayer meeting attendance up to about 100 for the year.

D. Randolph Wilson, correspondent BDA



Saadia and Detroy Bean of the Family Life Intimacy Centre conducted a Relational Intimacy Seminar at the Pembroke church.

Ordination Service at Southampton Church

The first Sabbath of 2004 got off to a good start at the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist church with a very special Ordination Service for one elder and seven deacons.

Lester Clarke was ordained as an elder and there were seven deacons: Daniel Darrell, Eric Bean, Albert Carter, Eckford Hamilton, Alvin Goulbourne Jr., Reginald Paynter and Bob Smith.

In addition, their wives and family members were present and watched as hands were laid



The elder and deacons ordained on the first Sabbath of 2004 seen here with pastors Donnieval Walker and Carlyle Simmons include: Eckford Hamilton, Alvin Goulbourne, Albert Carter, Eric Bean, Lester Clarke, Danielle Darrell, Reginald Paynter and Bob Smith.

on the heads of the candidates in dedication.

Officiating in the service were Atlantic Union Conference secretary, Carlyle Simmons, along with the church pastor, Donnieval Walker.

Walker challenged the men to remember the importance and responsibility associated with the title and position of elder and deacon. He admonished each one of their solemn calling which should not be taken lightly.

D. Randolph Wilson, correspondent BDA

Walking with God

Fall week-of-prayer was held at the Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School on October 20-24, 2003. The theme was *Walking With God*. The speaker for the week, Pastor Bill Wayne Jamal, talked about *who*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* we should walk with God.

On Monday he talked about *why* we should walk with God. He told us a story about a man who was walking. When he looked down in the sand, he only saw one set of footprints. One day he asked God why he was not walking with him. It turned out that God had carried him the entire way.

On Tuesday, Jamal talked about *who* can walk with God. He said that Enoch's walk with God was so close that God took him to heaven. He also spoke about David who sinned many times, but repented. He also talked about Moses, Noah, and others who also walked with God.

On Wednesday, the pastor spoke about *how* we should walk with God. He showed us a devotional book, hymnal, quarterly, and a Bible. He said that they were spiritual shoes for walking with God. He wanted us to have each one of those.

Thursday, he spoke about *when*, we should walk with God. He said

the best time to walk with God is in the morning. He further explained that John Wesley, John Quincy, and Josh Taylor were famous men who also spent time with God. He emphasized that we should spend time with God every day.

On Friday, the final day, he talked about *where* we should walk with God. He reassured us that we can walk with God anywhere.

Week-of-prayer has helped me to be a better person and has motivated me to spend more time with God.

*Rebekah Monize, Grade 5
Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School*

CHRISTIAN MEN'S

10th Annual Prayer Conference

May 14 – 16, 2004

*"Brothers For Christ:
Preserving Family Relationships"*

at the
Hudson Valley Resort & Spa
400 Granite Road, Kerhonkson, NY

Keynote Speakers

Ron Smith
Editor, MESSAGE Magazine

José H. Cortés, Jr.
Youth Director, Greater New York Conference

Single Occupancy	\$336.00
Double Occupancy	\$205.00
Triple Occupancy	\$176.00
Quad. Occupancy	\$166.00

No refunds after April 30, 2004

Sponsored by:

Men's Ministries Department
Greater New York Conference

The 16th Annual Women's Prayer Retreat

Covered By His Love

April 30 – May 2, 2004

at the
Nevele Grand Resort, 1 Nevele Road, Ellenville, NY

Featured Speakers

Wanda Davis
Chaplain of Florida Hospital, East Orlando, Florida

Rose Otis
*Former Women's Ministries Director
General Conference*

Gricer Diaz
Principal, North Mission Seventh-day Adventist School

Prayer Focused Seminars
A Weekend of Spiritual Enrichment
Qualified and Enthusiastic Presenters

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Triple Occupancy	\$210	Youth	\$185

No Refunds after March 31, 2004

Take this opportunity to have a
mountain top experience with the Lord

Sponsored by the Women's Ministries Department
Greater New York Conference



Week of Prayer and Blessings at Brooklawn

Members of the Brooklawn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, had a spiritually uplifting week on October 11-18, 2003. Each day, for eight days, Maurice Vargas, pastor of the Riverhead and Patchogue churches in Long Island, N.Y., traveled to Bridgeport to share principles of prayer, which transformed many lives. Tears and blessings flowed as hearts were touched by God's healing hand. Several also made commitments for baptism. Space doesn't allow for all the testimonies which resulted from this special series, but following are a couple from those who shared:

According to Luna Ebanks, "As a Personal Ministries assistant leader, my desire is to encourage people and help them to find peace and joy within themselves and to trust in Jesus. I also like to share how God answers my prayers. But I didn't really know how to find peace and joy within myself until Pastor Vargas prayed and showed me how to find the peace that I have been searching for all my life. Regardless of my trials and

temptations from day to day, God has given me the peace and joy and faith to make it. I also was experiencing loneliness, but now I can say God has changed my life through a prayer ministry group that I recently joined. I thank God for sending Pastor Vargas to help me open the door to a new life."

Another individual shared that "God has miraculously healed me. I was invited to attend a week of prayer conducted by Pastor Vargas. I knew I needed prayer as my relationship with God was waning. I was deeply hurt, full of anger and resentment that could last several lifetimes. After 24 years of a rocky marriage, I had made up my mind that divorce was the answer to my healing and peace of mind. Throughout the week of prayer the pastor spoke about sin, forgiveness and letting go of hurt, anger, and feelings of resentment. We prayed for healing. The pastor prayed individually for those who requested prayer. I was beginning to feel different, happier, but the enemy had a hold on me. As I was

slipping from his grasp, he tried to enslave me through a different sin. I cried out to God and He heard my prayer. Thursday I wrestled with controlling my thoughts and temptation. The last Friday night, the pastor taught about David's temptation and sins as well as Joseph's temptation and dream. God was speaking directly to me. The Pastor asked, "What dream have you forgotten?" All of a sudden a dream that I had over 15 years ago flashed before my eyes. A building was engulfed in flames and I was

searching frantically for my spouse. Suddenly an ancient man with long white hair and beard appeared to me and spoke to me in a soft, yet powerful voice and assured me that he was taking care of my spouse. I remember the significance of that dream. God had spoken to me, I believe, in answer to my daily prayer for conversion of my spouse. He assured me that He was working on my spouse's salvation. I knew once again that God was speaking to me at that moment.

"Our group gathered for prayer and we sang "I Surrender All." I lifted my face to God and sang to Him from my heart. As I did, I felt a tremendous burden lift from me and immediately the sanctuary became brighter. I cried tears of joy because I knew that my God had healed me emotionally. I no longer felt angry, resentful, or hurt. I found peace of mind. Divorce was not God's plan for my joy and peace of mind after all. He supplied those needs. I am also convinced that my Savior is going to do something with and for my spouse and I want to be around when He does."

The members of Brooklawn are grateful for the special blessings received during these meetings and pray that each one who attended will continue to grow in the path of God's perfect will.

Angela H. Weir and Mark Leonard, communication staff, Brooklawn church

Pastor Maurice Vargas (right) who presented the week long series of meetings seen here with Winston Sargeant, an elder, and Adam Williams (front).



140th Anniversary Commemoration

1864 – 2004

South Lancaster, Massachusetts
Village Seventh-day Adventist Church
75 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA

April 30 and May 1, 2004

Guest Speakers:

George P. and Fern Babcock



Friday, April 30, 2004, 7:30 p.m.
Fern Babcock, speaker

Sabbath, May 1, 2004, 9:15 a.m.
Sabbath School

10:50 a.m.
George P. Babcock
President of Atlantic Union College

6:00 p.m.
George P. Babcock

Fellowship dinner at noon

For more information call:
Geraldine I. Grout (978) 365-5165

BulletinBoard

Sunset Table

May 2004	7	14	21	28
Bangor, ME	7:49	7:57	8:04	8:11
Portland, ME	7:52	7:59	8:07	8:13
Boston, MA	7:52	7:59	8:06	8:12
South Lancaster, MA	7:54	8:02	8:08	8:15
Pittsfield, MA	8:00	8:08	8:15	8:21
Hartford, CT	7:56	8:04	8:10	8:17
New York, NY	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:19
Albany, NY	8:01	8:09	8:16	8:22
Utica, NY	8:10	8:18	8:25	8:31
Syracuse, NY	8:14	8:21	8:28	8:35
Rochester, NY	8:20	8:27	8:34	8:41
Buffalo, NY	8:24	8:31	8:38	8:45
Hamilton, Bda	8:03	8:08	8:13	8:17

Eastern Daylight Saving Time

ATLANTIC UNION

ATLANTIC UNION

Attorney's Conference—On October 15-17, 2004, a conference will be held for the attorneys and law students in the Atlantic Union. Those making presentations will include attorneys from the legal and religious liberty departments of the General Conference. The venue will be in the New York City area. For further information contact Charles J. Eusey, Esq., 42 Main St., Leominster, MA 01453. Phone (978) 534-1414. E-mail: ceusey@euseyawl.com.

NORTHEASTERN

Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School Homecoming – May 14-15, 2005 at the Bethel church 457 Grand Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. Friday night Vespers speaker—Mary Mead. Sabbath, divine worship speaker, Pastor Timothy Nixon. All alumni please contact the school at (718) 789-1259 for more information.

Northeastern Academy Alumni (NEA)

Weekend—June 4,5 and tentatively the 6th. Friday Night Service conducted by: NEA student body at 7:00 p.m. Sabbath school: Pastor Philip M. Wesley II. Sabbath guest speaker: Pastor Lecroft Green. Special Music: "Faith" from Virginia/ Maryland area. Afternoon Sympo-sium: Pastor Ali Sinclair. Topic: "Interpersonal Relationships." NEA Alumni Weekend...More Than A Reunion...It's A Blessing...So Come Get Yours.

OUT-OF-UNION

Adelphian Academy Class of 1974 will be meeting in Holly, Mich., June 11-13 for their 30th year class reunion. We'd also love to see our friends from other classes and faculty from those years. For information, contact Mitzi Lipscomb, 4324 Springdale Dr., Timberville, VA 22853, (540) 896-3207, lb1koolmon@aol.com.

Alumni of Plainview Academy, formerly

of Redfield, S. Dak., please make plans to attend our annual Alumni Reunion get together which has been set for the weekend of June 25-27, 2004. It will be held on the campus of Dakota Adventist Academy in Bismarck, N. Dak. Honor classes are those who graduated (or attended) the classes ending in 4 or 9. For information contact PVA Alumni Secretary Charlene (Scholl) Binder (402) 489-1702 or e-mail: rdbinder@juno.com.

Breath of Life Count Down to NET 2004—

Walter L. Pearson, Jr., director and speaker for Breath of Life Television Ministries will be the featured speaker for Net 2004. Net 2004 which is scheduled for the October 2-30, 2004, is the premier evangelistic event during the Year of Evangelism. <http://www.bolministries.com/newbol/home.htm>.

ComputingAndMissions.net 2004,

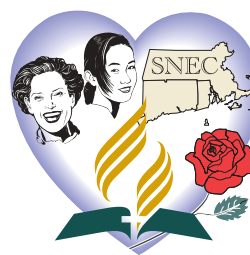
a weekend of meetings to encourage innovative use of computing technologies in all areas of local ministries and global missions will be held on the campus of Southern Adventist University April

16-18. Details at www.computingandmissions.net. No registration fees.

Grand Rapids Junior Academy (Michigan) celebrates its 100th birthday and Alumni Homecoming, October 1-3, 2004. Information 1-877-261-6353, www.grja.org, or brice@misd.org. Please come and spend a wonderful weekend! RSVP if possible.

The Association of Adventist Women (AAW)

is soliciting nominations for its 2004 Women of the Year Awards that will be presented at the annual AAW conference to be held at Andrews University, October 13-17, 2004. Nominees should be Seventh-day Adventist women who have made outstanding and unique contributions to home, community, and/or professional life. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 24, 2004. Request a nomination form by e-mailing (preferable) or writing: Women of the Year Awards Coordinator, Association of Adventist Women, PO Box 25025, Seattle, WA 98165-1925. E-mail: vkwiram@comcast.net.



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(978) 365-5985 - Rfrias1@hotmail.com

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Religious Liberty — Important Web Sites

Adventist Public Affairs & Religious
Liberty North American Division . . . <http://www.nadfreedom.org>

Liberty Magazine <http://www.libertymagazine.org>

Office of Legislative Affairs <http://ola.adventist.org>

Other Religious Liberty Links <http://ola.adventist.org/Links.htm>

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty
General Conference <http://parl.gc.adventist.org>

The Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL) director in the local conference is also available if information is needed (see page 31 for the conference office numbers).



ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE 117th Annual Spring Graduation

Consecration Service

Friday, May 7, 2004
7:30 p.m.
College Church

Nurse's Pinning Service

Sabbath, May 8, 2004
4:00 p.m.
College Church

Baccalaureate Service

Sabbath, May 8, 2004
11:00 a.m.
College Church

Commencement Exercise

Sunday, May 9, 2004
10:00 a.m.
Campus Mall

Northern New England Conference Annual Single's Retreat

Single's Memorial
Day Retreat
May 28-31, 2004.



Our annual Single's Retreat offers a warm, accepting fellowship with a strong spiritual emphasis. We also offer health information and wonderful vegan meals.

Singles, this is a very special weekend prepared **just for you!** Why not make this the year **YOU** experience the joy of this blessed, spirit-filled time together? Speakers will be Mike and Lynn Ortel, and Byron and Janice Saavedra.

Camp Lawroweld is located in the beautiful western Maine mountains and on Lake Webb. Get your reservation in early to avoid missing out on the blessings awaiting you. **Deadline is May 14** (no refunds after that date). For more information call: Northern New England Conference, Single's Ministry (207) 797-3760, ext. 15.

Please bring your own bedding. Cost is \$75.00. Make checks payable to: Northern New England Conference, attention: "Single's Retreat," Northern New England Conference, 91 Allen Ave., Portland, ME 04103.

SINGLE'S RETREAT APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____

Date of Birth: _____

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the first regular quadrennial Constituency meeting of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the twenty-fourth regular Constituency meeting (first regular quadrennial) of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, June 6, 2004, at Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York. The meeting of the Corporation will convene at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and trustees for the ensuing quadrennium and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates to the first regular quadrennial meeting of the Conference are the delegates to the first regular quadrennial meeting of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

Trevor H.C. Baker, President
Larry J. Bailey, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the first regular quadrennial and twenty fourth regular Constituency meeting of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 6, 2004, at Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York.

The purpose of this meeting is for the receiving of reports for the past quadrennium, the election of officers, departmental directors, and pertinent committees for the ensuing quadrennium, and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each organized church within the conference is entitled to be represented by duly appointed delegates chosen on the basis of one for the organization, and one additional delegate for each 70 members or major fraction thereof.

Trevor H.C. Baker, President
Larry J. Bailey, Secretary



Atlantic Union College **Alumni Weekend** April 16-18, 2004

Honor classes: '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99

Registration and Meal Ticket Purchase

Friday, April 16, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Thayer Conservatory

Friday, April 16

- | | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. | Van tour of historic and literary sites with David Knott | 1:30 p.m. | Honor Class meetings - location TBA |
| 4:00 p.m. | Roundtable discussion with President George Babcock – Thayer Conservatory | 2:30 p.m. | Music, Testimony, and Praise – 3ABN live broadcast with Danny and Linda Shelton |
| 5:30 p.m. | Honor Class Banquet - Chan Shun Banquet Hall | 8:00 p.m. | Atlantic Union College Symphony Orchestra Concert
Stephen Tucker, guest conductor |
| 7:00 p.m. | Vespers featuring Robert Farley '69 and the New England Youth Ensemble | | There will be a social immediately following the concert – Chan Shun Dining Commons |

Sabbath, April 17

- 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School presented by the Class of '94
Lesson Study – Roy Branson '59
- 10:50 a.m. Divine Service
Speaker - William Knott '79

Sunday, April 18

- 8:00 a.m. Rose Planting Ceremony
Honoree – Dr. N. Clifford Sorensen
- 9:00 a.m. Alumni Business Meeting – Important proposed amendments to the constitution will be presented, discussed, and voted

All events, except where noted, will take place at the College Church



YAHA Convention 2004

You are the Church!

July 7-11, 2004

Friar Tuck Resort • Catskill, New York

Speakers/Guests Include:

Pastor Gregory Nelson

Youth Pastor
Kingsboro Temple
Brooklyn, New York

Pastor Sheldon Cooper

Youth Evangelist

Paula Fils-Aimé

Associate Minister of Pastoral Care
New Life Adventist Church
Berrien Springs, Michigan

Pastor Paul Graham

Macedonia and Uniondale Churches
Long Island, New York

For more information contact:

Luc F. Homicile, Haitian Ministries vice president
(978) 368-8333 ext. 3012
E-mail: lhomicile@atlanticunion.org

Margaret T. Voyard, office secretary
(978) 368-8333 ext. 3013
E-mail: mvoyard@atlanticunion.org

Web site: www.yaha.org

Sponsored by the: Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries Department

ADVERTISEMENTS

This That

Adventist Education

Parent Information and Resources for Educators

The staff of the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education, in conjunction with the superintendent of schools for the six conferences, provides leadership and coordination for the 63 elementary schools and 7 academies (high schools) in the Northeast United States and Bermuda with approximately 379 teachers and 4,756 students.

Information for Parents:

Are you interested in finding out more about Seventh-day Adventist Christian education and enrolling your child in an Adventist school?

Here are several avenues through which you can obtain information:

- 1) Talk with the education secretary, pastor, clerk, or head elder of your local congregation.
- 2) Contact the Office of Education in your local conference. The names, addresses, phone numbers, and web sites are listed in the box on page 31 of this magazine.
- 3) Visit this web site for a listing and contact information of all elementary schools and academies in the Atlantic Union: www.atlantic-union.org/schools.htm.
- 4) Contact the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education at (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020.

Resources for Educators

If you are an educator here is a list of resources that might be of interest to you.

Adventist Education Forum: This special forum is intended to address the specific needs of Seventh-day Adventist educators and to give them an opportunity to discuss issues related to professional and personal growth. Web site: edforum.adventist.org.

Adventist Education Net is a service of the North American Division Office of Education. Web site: www.nadeducation.adventist.org.

CIRCLE is the online clearinghouse of Adventist teaching materials, linking educators to quality resources. Web site: circle.adventist.org.

Crystal Springs Books: professional books for PreK-Grade 8 Educators. Web site: www.crystalspringsbooks.com/store.

Elementary Textbook List 2003-2004: The textbooks listed in this publication have been officially adopted by the Atlantic Union Conference K-12 Board of Education for the current school year, and are to be used in elementary schools in the Atlantic Union Conference unless specific arrangements have been made for alternatives. Web site: www.atlantic-union.org/education4.htm.

Infoplease 4 Teachers: a combined reference and teacher resource. Web site: teachers.infoplease.com.

Journal of Adventist Education a professional journal for Seventh-day Adventist teachers from kindergarten through university level, as well as educational administrators at all levels. Web site: education.gc.adventist.org/jae.

NAD Technology and Distance Education Committee K-12: Designed to assist Adventist educators navigate the rapidly changing and expanding field of educational technology and to learn how to integrate technology into the curriculum to enhance student learning. Web site: nadtdec.org.

Teacher Bulletin: The Atlantic Union Teacher Bulletin is a CD offering classroom resources of integrated multi-age/multi-grade units for Seventh-day Adventist Christian educators. Web site: www.teacherbulletin.org.

Send your questions and comments to the Editor, Atlantic Union GLEANER, PO Box 1189, So. Lancaster, MA 01561 or fax to: (978) 368-7948, or e-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

at www.atlantic-union.org



The Official Publication for the Constituents of
the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the
Northeast United States and Bermuda

Established January 1, 1902

Atlantic Union Conference
400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561
Phone (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948
Web site: www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff

E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor Ednor A. P. Davison
Layout & Design Haziel Olivera
Cover Design Bill Tymeson

Correspondents

Bermuda D. Randolph Wilson, drwilson@northrock.bm
Greater New York Alanzo Smith, aljune77@aol.com
New York Chare Gallimore, chare@nyconf.com
Northeastern Clement A. Murray, cmurray@northeastern.org
Northern New England Lynn Ortel, lorcel@nnec.org
Southern New England Frank Tocherman, ftochterman@sneconline.org
Atlantic Union College Carolyn Woods, cwoods@atlanticuc.edu
Parkview Adventist Hospital Elizabeth Knowlton

Atlantic Union Conference Departments

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Youth Ministries William L. Wood

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Greater New York: Dionisio Olivo, President; G. Earl Knight, Secretary; Richard Marker, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Web site: www.greaternewyork.org

New York: Steven Gallimore, President; Stan Rouse, Secretary; George Wheeler, Treasurer. Office Address: 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215. (315) 469-6921. Web site: www.nyconf.com

Northeastern: Trevor H. C. Baker, President; Larry Bailey, Secretary; Seth Bardu, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434. (718) 291-8006. Web site: www.northeastern.org

Northern New England: Mike Ortel, President; John G. DePalma, Secretary; Robert Sundin, Treasurer. Office Address: 91 Allen Ave., Portland, ME 04103. (207) 797-3760. Web site: www.nnec.org

Southern New England: Frank Tocherman, President; _____, Secretary; Merle Greenway, Treasurer. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 365-4551. Web site: www.sneconline.org

Atlantic Union College: George P. Babcock, President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-2000. Web site: www.atlanticuc.edu

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