

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JUNE 2004

GLEANNER



American Adventist Youth Reach Out to Ukrainian Youth

*Mary Myers
Honored at Capitol
Hill Ceremony*

¿Qué Está Pasando?

Quoi de Neuf?

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ABOUT THE COVER: Seven young people from the Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church in Foxboro Massachusetts, recently traveled to Evpatoria, Ukraine, to volunteer for a local program that cares for homeless children and also participate in youth meetings held by the Evpatoria Seventh-day Adventist Church. Read their story on page 8. On the cover are Kelly Bogler, Heather Coan, and Sara Coan on their hiking trip to Bakhchisarai. Photo taken by Pastor Ben Bilan.

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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Kindling Fires For Others

“The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it” —Acts 28:2, NRSV.

Our planet is a cold place. Sin abounds in no small quantity these days. Indeed, the angels depicted in Revelation 7:1 are working overtime holding back the winds of strife by sea, land and air. Because of our inbred sinfulness, our planet’s inhabitants are cold subjects, frozen, and lukewarm at best. Even in the church, spiritual icicles abound. The chilling influences of worldliness and the so-called New Age Movement, have held humanity captive in the vise-grip of godlessness, swear-filled language, and TV’s substance-less glitter. As we yield to the power of cold, we first become uncomfortable, next inactive, and then ready to die.

The good news, however, is “... where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”—Romans 5:20. Indeed, warmth is still available in this time of global chill. The word of God is as a fire. Heard or read, it tends to warm the heart.

In the fall—October 2-30—the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will conduct one of the most aggressive soul-winning thrusts ever—NET 2004, conducted by Walter Pearson, speaker-director of the Breath of Life Television Ministries. This gospel fire will be hosted at the Miracle Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in

Baltimore, Maryland, and uplinked by satellite to the entire continent.

How can you kindle fire for others—as the natives did for the Apostle Paul on the island of Malta many years ago? Invite someone to attend your church or home to hear the word of God preached with biblical and soul-stirring passion. All you need is a satellite dish, a receiver, and a desire to invite others to be warmed and welcomed.

Shipwrecked, exhausted, and hungry, the Apostle Paul and company found a gracious welcome by the island natives who built a roaring fire to warm the water-soaked travelers. Notice they kindled the fire even though it was raining and cold. It is not easy to make a fire in such circumstances, and yet it must be done. In the midst of a cold world, we still have work to do to help save souls for eternity.

So won’t you join the NET 2004 evangelistic meetings by kindling a fire for others. As you try to get the fire going, you may need to get down on bended knees to nourish the flame, by breathing upon it your warm and hearty supplications. The power of private, social, and family prayer will bring tangible results. Souls will be born for the kingdom.

Truly, then, you will kindle a flame for others and say like the two disciples on their way to Emmaus, “Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way...?”—Luke 24:32. ☉

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.



“As you try to get the fire going, you may need to get down on bended knees to nourish the flame by breathing upon it your warm and hearty supplications.”



MARY MYERS HONORED AT CAPITOL HILL CEREMONY

By James Standish

Mary Myers, a member of Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton, New York, whose refusal to compromise her faith in the workplace resulted in an important court decision in favor of Sabbath keepers in the workplace in New York State, was honored during a ceremony held in the United States Senate Caucus Room on April 7. In attendance at the event were members of the U.S. Congress, representatives from the White House, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of State, members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, representatives from the Commission for Security & Cooperation in Europe, Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders, and diplomats from nations as diverse as the Ukraine, Ethiopia, Burma and Uzbekistan.

Barry Black, U.S. Senate chaplain, gave the evening's keynote address. U.S. Senator Brownback, Professor Jean Bauberot of the French Presidential Commission on Laicity and Professor Krasikov of the Russian Academy of Sciences also spoke. The event was organized by LIBERTY magazine and the International Religious Liberty Association, in cooperation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Charles Eusey, religious liberty director for the Atlantic Union, nominated Meyers for the award. Eusey states that "Ms. Myers is an inspiration to people of faith across the nation. Her case was featured in a video produced by LIBERTY magazine and sent to every Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North American Division. Her fidelity to God, and willingness to stand in the face of enormous pressure is an example to all of us."

"The event highlighted our ongoing commitment to encouraging religious freedom," notes Lincoln Steed, editor of LIBERTY magazine. "LIBERTY magazine has been on the forefront of this struggle for ninety-nine years. Recognizing the contributions of those who join us in the cause is a privilege."

John Graz, secretary general of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) and leader of the General Conference's Religious Liberty Department, comments that

"We are delighted leaders in the field of religious freedom from around the world and across the nation joined us as we placed a spotlight on religious liberty in the heart of Capitol Hill. They are individuals who have dedicated themselves to the frontline of struggle to advance the cause of freedom."

Our Capitol Hill Liberty Awards dinner has become an important annual event. It brings together representatives from the U.S. Government, the international community, and representatives from diverse faith communities to recognize the importance of religious freedom and to discuss current challenges to religious liberty both at home and abroad. All the members of the North

American Religious Liberty Association (NARLA) were invited to the event. Diana Czajkowski was recognized during the evening for her outstanding contribution to advancing the cause of religious freedom as a NARLA member and religious liberty leader in the Fredrick Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The United States Senate Caucus Room where the ceremony occurred has been the scene of many historical events. Hearings on the sinking of the Titanic were held in the Caucus Room, as were the Watergate hearings. The room was also the location in which John F. Kennedy announced his candidacy for U.S. president. For additional information, visit the following sites:

North American Religious Liberty Association: www.religiousliberty.info (includes membership information), LIBERTY magazine: www.libertymagazine.org, Adventist Religious Liberty Work on Capitol Hill: ola.adventist.org, International Religious Liberty Association: www.irla.org.



▲ Barry Black, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, gave the evening's keynote address.



Sharing some thoughts at the event was John Graz, secretary of the International Religious Liberty Association and leader of the General Conference's religious liberty department. ▼



James Standish is director of legislative affairs and represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the U.S. Government. He is executive director of the North American Religious Liberty Association, a regional chapter of the International Religious Liberty Association.

Fitness for the **Mind, Body and Spirit**

Adventist Church Hosts Health Certification Week and Summit

By Vivian Raitz

“**Y**ou can’t tell people about salvation and Jesus Christ until you address their practical needs,” stated George Vigneron, Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) director of the Oklahoma Academy church.

Vigneron was among the 450 pastors, health ministries directors, community service directors, and others attending the Health Certification Week, February 1-7, at the Hilton Orlando Hotel in Altamonte Springs, Florida. “Preparing the Soil for the Year of Evangelism” was the theme of the conference.

“Let’s start a wellness epidemic,” challenged DeWitt Williams, the director of Health Ministries for North America and sponsor of the conference. “With the knowledge and inspiration you have gained here, I want each of you to return to your homes, churches, and communities and do something in health in this the year of evangelism.” The Summit was covered by Orlando’s NBC television affiliate station WESH, a cable station Channel 52 and three newspapers, THE ORLANDO TIMES, the ADVOCATE, and the SENTINEL.

NAD Health Ministries contracted with David White, to coordinate the event and partnered with Elie Honore, director of the Inter-American Health Ministries Department. “We had delegates from Puerto Rico, Antilles, Jamaica, Barbados, Brazil, St. Croix, St. James, Virgin Islands, Nassau, and even one pastor from Zambia,” said Honore. “We only wish materials were in Spanish, French, and other languages.”

Attendees participated in a special health screening sponsored by LifeLong Health and Florida Hospital. “Two delegates had to be rushed to the hospital when the screenings revealed abnormalities. One was put on blood pressure medication and the other was hospitalized. The health fair probably saved their lives,” said Don Hall, founder of Lifelong Health. Twenty workshops were offered, including

Hydrotherapy, Vegetarian Cuisine Instructor, Diabetes, Depression, Celebrations Lifestyle Training, Regeneration, Eight Weeks to Wellness, Forgiveness, Health Ministry Teams, Puppets, Fitness, Stress Management, CHIP, StepFast, Breathe Free, Lifelong Weight Management, Seven Steps to Financial-Freedom, Community Health, and Grief Recovery. Other program features included afternoon and evening lectures, a panel discussion on putting health in the Year of Evangelism, and an update on the Adventist Health Study.

Three individuals received the award of excellence for lifelong service in Health Ministry from the General Conference. Ronald Lightbourne, who once served as Health Ministries director for Bermuda Conference, John Scharffenberg from California, and 85-year-old Charlotte Hamlin who, beginning at age 68, has biked across America twice, also across Canada, and many miles in India, China, Europe, and Antarctica.

Sylvia Ellis of Bermuda attended the conference and reported that her church is actively teaching basic first aid, CPR, cooking classes, and has a health screening van ministry in the community.

A weary, but excited, group left the Orlando Hilton, eager to go to their churches and share the materials and inspiration which they gained. “I think they really will start a wellness epidemic,” stated Williams. A fourth summit is planned for January 30 to February 5, 2005, in the same location and a new annual Health Summit-West is on the drawing board for Portland, Oregon, September 22-27, 2004. In an effort to put greater emphasis on tying health outreach in with public evangelism, Pastors Mark and Teenie Finley will be featured in 2005. ☺

Vivian Raitz is the volunteer lay assistant to Georgia-Cumberland Conference’s Adult Health Ministry director, E. W. Dempsey.



Doreen Thomas (left), a resident of Orlando, learns how to measure her body mass index from volunteer Autumn Woustele. Photo by George Johnson, Jr.



Margarita Merriman Honored as AUC's Outstanding Woman of the Year

Margarita Leonor Dietal Merriman, professor emeritus of music, was honored for her commitment of excellence in education during Atlantic Union College's (AUC) Women's History Week. Women's History Month, a national celebration each March, was observed by the college March 22-26, 2004. Merriman, whose career at AUC began in 1959, spoke during the Tuesday morning Chapel program. Other participants in the program were current music department faculty, Erick Parris, Kaestner Robertson, and Karin Thompson, as well as the vice president for student services, Orlando Moncrieffe.

Merriman's presentation entitled, "What Makes a College Good?" focused on the various factors that have shaped the institution. She particularly expressed the positive tradition of a liberal arts education at AUC. Additionally, she pointed out the influence of female teachers upon the college. As a colleague of Otilie Stafford, professor emeritus of English, and the deceased Mabel Bartlett, Merriman articulated how she and the wider college community benefitted from the intellectual stature of both these female faculty members.

As a vital part of the college for more than forty years, Merriman's personal and professional contributions to AUC have been significant. She graduated with her bachelor of music in piano performance from the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. Both her master of music and doctor of philosophy degrees were awarded from the Eastman School of Music in music theory. At AUC, she taught in the music department, chaired the music department for six years, and was the Honors Core coordinator for six years. She is also a composer. Karin Thompson

noted in her tribute that "Dr. Merriman has written works for choir, solo voice, piano, organ, chamber ensembles, and orchestra." In addition, Thompson conveyed her admiration of Merriman, the individual. She stated, "I have had the distinct privilege of becoming acquainted with Dr. Margarita Merriman as a friend, colleague, and mentor.... I have benefitted from her keen insights and have appreciated her friendship."

Although she officially retired in 1990, Merriman still maintains an active connection to the college. She plays her cello in the AUC Symphony Orchestra and teaches piano in the Thayer Performing Arts Center. She and her husband, Houston Merriman, have two children and three grandchildren.

Merriman is the second recipient of the Atlantic Union College Outstanding Woman of the Year Award. Otilie Stafford received the honor last year.

*Ruth Prakasam, assistant professor of English
Atlantic Union College*



The award was presented to Margarita Merriman by Orlando Moncrieffe, vice president for student services at AUC.

Pro Arts International Performs at Carnegie Hall



The Pro Arts International Choir from AUC performed at Carnegie Hall in March 2004.

Since its inception, the Pro Arts International Choir from Atlantic Union College (AUC) has been blessed to perform in venues across North America, ministering to thousands of individuals with the gift of music. On the evening of March 2, 2004, the choir was granted one of its greatest opportunities as they participated in a performance at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York.

The invitation to perform was extended by Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, whose work *The Vision of the Apocalypse* was having its world premiere that night. In tandem with the Columbia Union College Collegiate Choir, Pro Arts performed a groundbreaking work that tells the Three Angels' Message in symphonic form.

We had a roller coaster of events leading up to the performance. What seemed like an impossible event for

the Pro Art members became a reality after several personal pleas. The event occurred during our mid-term week and without the cooperation of George P. Babcock, president of AUC, we would never have been able to participate in this great experience.

What followed were extended practices to learn the material for the performance in the week that was available. Director Francisco de Araujo '55 was strict in his discipline and the result was a sound that Rittenhouse personally complemented.

On the night of the performance, Pro Arts was privileged to perform this incredible message to a packed house at Carnegie Hall. The composition, which Rittenhouse worked on for more than four decades, begins in the space where time began, rapidly switches to our day and time, and finally concludes in the future occurrence of the resurrection and ascension to heaven. Consisting of words

such as "We shall not all sleep, but in the twinkling of an eye we shall be changed," set to an amazing orchestral arrangement, it truly was an amazing instrument of ministry. Many hearts were touched by the message the work conveyed.

This was one in the course of many events in which God has used the Pro Arts International Choir for His service. Already, the General Conference has invited them to perform at the General Session in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2005. The choir is also set to perform at the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 4-7, 2004. Carnegie Hall has even invited the choir to return to participate in a performance with other choirs for the coming season. Truly, God has continued to bless this unique ministry.

Adam Carnegie '04
Atlantic Union College





The Voroncov Palace, Alupka, Crimea.



This was the first time the group met the homeless children in Evpatoria.



Three of the homeless children with whom we worked stopped to smile for the camera.



The group took time out to go hiking in Bakhchisarai.



The homeless children enjoyed walking the group home at night after the meetings.



Both groups spent time playing games together.



Evpatoria youth participated in the music segment of the meetings.



Some of the homeless children wearing the crafts they made.

American Adventist Youth Reach Out to Ukrainian Youth

Seven young people from the Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church recently had the opportunity to travel to Ukraine. The group went with the goal of volunteering for a local program in Evpatoria that cares for homeless children, and to attend and speak at youth meetings held by the Evpatoria Seventh-day Adventist Church as an outreach to non-Christian youth in the city.

The idea of going to Ukraine was brought to the Foxboro church in January by our youth pastor, Ben Bilan. Bilan, his wife, Viola, and son, Vlad, moved to the U.S. from Ukraine in 2003. The mission trip opportunity was presented when a pastor from a church in Evpatoria, Ukraine, who knew Bilan asked him to bring a group of American young people to Evpatoria. Members of the team included Kelly Vogler of North Easton, Mass., Kenron and Cliff Washington of Mansfield, Mass., Heather and Sara Coan of Stoughton, Mass., and leaders Ben and Viola Bilan of Foxboro, Mass.

Plans were made to go from March 14-26 and after flight delays, missed connections, and an unplanned stay in Amsterdam, we arrived in Kiev to catch our train to Evpatoria. The train ride was an experience different from any I have ever had before. It was a 15-hour ride to the city where we would be staying, and we spent one night on the train. Because we had missed our train the night before, we were not able to share the same rooms as originally planned.

I was fortunate to share a room with

individuals from our group, but one of the other adults had to share a room with drunken men, and he did not get any sleep that night. The rooms were crowded with two bunk beds on opposite walls and only enough space to stand up between the beds. The rooms had no air conditioning and the small window did not open. Although there was a rule that prohibits smoking on the train, many people were smoking and the conductor did nothing to stop them. Our choices were to have the door to our room open in hopes of cooling the room off, or keep the door closed and have a somewhat smoke free environment. We alternated between both choices.

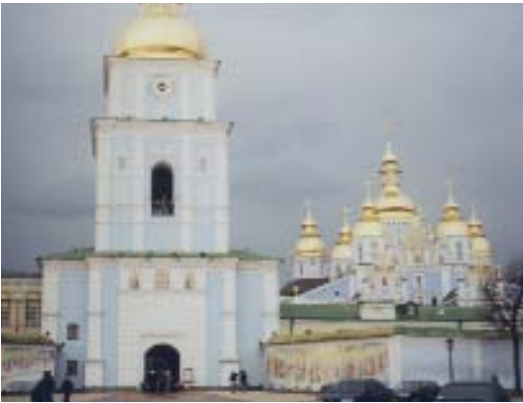
Once we arrived at our destination, we unpacked and showered. It was then we realized what a nice feeling it

was to be clean. That night we attended the youth meetings for the first time, and we loved it. We were introduced to the crowd and welcomed with rounds of applause and deafening cheers. It was confusing for us at first because the meeting was in Russian, but once the translators began doing their job, we were able to understand most of what was being said.

It was impressive to see the youth from the city perform their various styles of music each night. The games we played were also very entertaining. While some games required patience, others required endurance. They ranged from carving an apple to resemble a chess piece using only your teeth, to picking up a plastic cup on the floor with your mouth while balancing on only one foot.

Young people from the Foxboro Adventist church seen here with youth from the Evpatoria Adventist church.





Included in the trip was the opportunity to visit the Michailov Monastery in Kiev.

However, not everything went according to plan. A government agent also attended the meetings each night, and the leaders were told that if the name of God was mentioned, the meetings would be shut down. Therefore, we were not able to hold our small group discussions with the city teens, but instead the leaders focused the meetings on discussing Christian principles.

For example, when we focused on the topic "Conscience," groups were given a situation, such as stealing. Each group was in charge of writing a speech or performing a skit where they would play the conscience trying to convince the person dealing with the situation to do the right thing. Clips were also shown from several movies depicting the char-

acters battling with their consciences. It was a great time for everyone.

It was interesting to observe that, while the meetings were in progress, some of the youth could be seen leaving the meeting. Each time the meetings were held there was always a crowd outside of the door to the building. The youth that left would go out to drink and smoke before coming back in again.

At the end of the meetings, the leaders started a club for the youth and invited the young people to attend the church. Approximately 200 came to that week's service. They are making plans to start a youth church.

While there, we also had the opportunity to work with homeless children at a program run by Nadya Vasok, and immediately I fell in love with them. Using the craft supplies we brought with us, we worked on several projects with the children. We also ate lunch with them, shared stories about ourselves, and distributed lots of candy to the children.

Although not all of the children were homeless, many of them preferred to live on the street rather than sleep at home with their alcoholic parents.

They ranged in age from four to nineteen. There was a group of six siblings who were there for lunch during the day. They had a home, but their single mother was an alcoholic. We also saw children as young as ten-years-old smoking cigarettes. We discovered that in Ukraine it is legal for children as young as ten-years-old to pur-

chase and smoke cigarettes.

The children loved the fact that we ate lunch at the same tables with them, and some of them started coming to the meetings at night as well. Some of the children came to join us after school. They enjoyed our stories about our lives back in the U.S. and even made some crafts as gifts for us. At the end of the day when it was time to leave, the children always enjoyed walking with us back to our house, but we never found out where they were going after they left us. It seemed as though they just disappeared.

Even though to us life seems hard for people in Ukraine, they were so friendly, hospitable, and always had a smile for us. While at first our language differences kept us all from talking much to each other, by the end of the trip we were all communicating with the limited amount of English the youth learned in school. I now have many friends there.

While our Russian may never be spoken well, we had fun trying to learn new words as well. We all had fun teaching each other new games and trying new and interesting foods. The country is beautiful, especially where we were by the Black Sea.

When the time came to say goodbye, it was hard to believe our trip was over. My favorite part of the trip was meeting all the wonderful people. Although we were around them for only two weeks, we grew close during the time we were there. I wish I could have stayed longer, but for now I will have to settle for e-mailing my friends and hoping for another chance to go back to Ukraine. I hope I will have that chance soon. ☺



Kelly Vogler, a 15-year-old freshman, is a member of the Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is her second mission trip. Her first trip in August 2000 was spent in Romania.



The pastor's wife, Olena, (left) and her seven-year-old daughter, Katya (far right), seen here with the group from Foxboro church, Ken, Heather, Kelly, Sara, Cliff, and Pastor Ben Bilan.

The Power of Prayer

January 16, 2004, was a bitterly cold night but the members of the Devonshire Seventh-day Adventist Church held a Prayer Vigil from 7:30 p.m. through midnight. This was truly a celebration of prayer.

The evening was filled with learning about and exercising prayers of all types: Prayer and Praise, Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercessory Prayer, Prayers of Confession, and Inspirational Prayer. Pastor D. Randolph Wilson, director of communication for the Bermuda Conference and pastor of Pembroke church, also blessed us with his presentation entitled, "Be Still and Know God." He emphasized the need for taking time to come aside to "be still." And he took time to share the how, where, and whys of "being still and hearing God's voice."

Just before midnight we were encouraged to write a prayer, poem, or inspirational note to God and share it with those present. Everyone was moved by the experience and it was evident why each and everyone had remained in that place. It was because we value prayer and the power of prayer. We believed, we expected, we claimed, but most of all we thanked God for His love and His mighty works.

The next morning, God poured out a special blessing on Pastor McLean's sister who had been battling an ill-



Douglas Tucker, one of the elders, gave a presentation on prayer.

ness for some time. After much daily prayer by the pastor and the members of Devonshire, McLean received a call from his sister saying that after more tests, she is "cancer free." God, the healer of all things great and small, once again delivered on His promises.

*Laureen Bassett, communication director
Devonshire church*

Heightened Activity

There has been "heightened" activity at the Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church ("The Heights")! One of our aims is to be able to reach people on a more personal level, and we've been doing just that.

On February 14 we came closer to our seniors with a special presentation on our annual "Appreciation Sabbath." There were gifts to give out, certificates to present, fantastic decorations to admire, and food to eat! We were at church the entire day, and I must say that it was one of the most enjoyable Sabbaths I've exper-

rienced. It is always a pleasure to tell someone how much you appreciate them, and as one husband put it (in reference to his wife), "Especially when you get to display your appreciation in public"

At the end of February, "The Heights" was represented at the Women's Ministries Conference with one of the highest turnouts based on membership. We got closer to each other and to God.

During the month of March we've had two major events that have been tremendous blessings. Our very own Ivy Richardson turned 90 years old. With about

300 guests and relatives in attendance at her party, plus overseas phone calls, there was not only food to enjoy, but music as well. The revised Diamonds in the Rough Quintet and the angelic voices of Ruth and Joy Barnum gave us a taste of heaven.

Also, on March 20 we had a triple baptism! Shayne Trott, Jordon Trott, and Danae Tucker were baptized in front of a full church of friends and family. Our young people continue to declare their stand for the Lord.

*Krystal Smith, communication director
Midland Heights church*

The Greatness of Service

On March 5-7 more than three hundred elders, deacons, and deaconesses assembled at the Marriot Hotel and Resorts for a spirit-filled leadership retreat. The event was designed to equip and train leaders for serving with greatness in the work of the church.

The retreat had both breath and depth. Breath as in the moving of the Holy Spirit through the preached word, and depth as in the rich reservoir of materials presented in the eight seminars of choice.

Pastor Jean-Luc Lezeau opened the retreat with a message from the heart. Citing Psalm 119:1-3, he craftily devel-

oped his theme on "Integrity" and challenged the group to be in good standing in the eyes of men, but more so, in the eyes of the Lord. He charged the leaders to be honest and diligent in the execution of duties. He further encouraged the group to remember they are ultimately accountable to God.

Samuel Bulgin, Bermuda Conference president, stimulated the audience with his spirited and pinpointed preaching. He stated that, "Leaders are called to lead in the greatest institution in the world, the church, established by Jesus himself." He pointed out that ten characteristics of leaders are to be:

1. Consecrated
2. Disciplined
3. Servant-leader
4. Visionary
5. Compassionate
6. Trustworthy
7. Decisive
8. Wise
9. Courageous
10. Passionate

Dr. Alan Parker was the speaker for the divine service. From Exodus 3:1-3, he developed the theme "Using the Ordinary to Do the Extraordinary." He asked the quizzical question, "Have we lost our sense of what it means to be called?" He stated that the task of the church is not to comfort the afflicted but to afflict the comfortable. Three thought-provoking questions he asked were: Can you hear it? Do you believe it? Will you obey it?

Pastor Gerson Santos promoted the basic goals of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries departments. One is to place in the hands of one billion people a small tract that tells them of hope in Christ and invite them to study the Bible. Different



Sylvester Q. Case challenged everyone to serve God faithfully.



Pr. Jean-Luc Lezeau opened the retreat with a message from the heart.



Gerson Santos promoted the basic goals of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries departments.



Samuel Bulgin stimulated the audience with his spirited and pinpointed preaching.



Dr. Alan Parker was the speaker for the divine service.

members promoted and testified about their opportunities to witness.

Pastor Roberto Reyna received repeated “Amens” which were indicators of the effects of the message upon the hearts of the listeners. Leaders were challenged to be godly and to make a difference in their lives and in the church. “The Holy Spirit is there to bless God’s people as we work for the master,” said Reyna. The

passion and power in his voice was captivating and at the end of the Vesper charge the members were satisfied they had enjoyed a full day of God’s blessing.

Dr. Alanzo Smith gave the Sunday morning devotional using the topic, “What’s in thy Hand?” He developed the theme from Exodus 4:1-5. He highlighted Moses’ attempt to make excuses and challenged leaders to stop making excuses for evangelism. He chal-

lenged them with the question, “Why should the church evangelize?”

1. Because God has commanded it.
2. The lost condition of mankind requires it.
3. The return of Christ is contingent upon it
4. The consummation of history cannot come to pass without it.

Sylvester Q. Case challenged everyone to serve God faithfully. There must be faithfulness to God before there can be faithfulness to man. Leadership is a spiritual responsibility. Just as how God poured out His Spirit upon ancient Israel, so He is ready to pour out His Spirit upon His people. Case’s presentations to the assembled body were well received and well timed.

With smiles on their faces, the members of the retreat wended their way to the different seminars. In between each session, you could hear them discussing key concepts they gleaned from the presenters. The positive reactions of the people told a great story, that they were fed and blessed.

Special thanks to the administrators for putting together such a Spirit-filled weekend. The members of the constituent churches in attendance were blessed. Thanks to President Dionisio Olivo for being the brain-child of this retreat.

Alanzo H. Smith, correspondent GNYC

Greater New York Conference Fulfilling the Mission

New York City is like the whole world in a small geographic area. People coming from different countries are looking for a better life and a better education. In the midst of their searching, thousands are finding Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The Greater New York Conference has more than 21,000 members worshiping in 137 congregations and in 19 languages. It is one of the fastest growing conferences in North America, and has accepted the challenge of “Sow 1 Billion.”

We are distributing one million brochures, offering hundreds of Bible studies, and anticipate 20,000 new Bible study requests. In order to accommodate the thousands of new interests, we have decided to implement the Certification Program suggested by the International Institute of Christian Ministries of the General Conference. This program is designed to equip leaders in the following areas: Sabbath School Leadership, Home Small Groups, Group-Related Activities, Door-to-door Visitation, Conducting Evangelistic Meetings and Seminars, Giving Bible Studies, Distributing Literature, Discipleship Training, Obtaining Decisions for Christ, and other evangelistic areas.

The program consists of ten workshops which are three to four hours per session. Training sessions are

being offered each month around the conference at various locations and in different languages. We have six training centers in English, six in Spanish, one in French and one in Portuguese. During the first two months of the training, the attendance was approximately 1,200.

The Certification will be offered in the area of Personal Evangelism – Lay Bible Instructor and Small Group Leaders, and Adult Religious Education – Sabbath School Teachers. We expect to have one thousand certified leaders by the end of the year.

Following the instructions of our Lord about making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20), the conference leadership is challenging each church to fulfill God’s purpose by becoming an “agency for the salvation of men” (ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, p. 9). We understand that the challenges are immense and the task will “never be finished until the... membership... unite” in the work (GOSPEL WORKERS, p. 352).

Our concern is to fulfill the mission, and we believe that God will send the Latter Rain to finish the work, but it will not come while “the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God” (REVIEW AND HERALD, July 21, 1896).

*Gerson P. Santos, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director
Greater New York Conference*

Emphasizing The Health Message at USA

Since the days of Ellen White, the Adventist Church and Adventist education have focused much attention on the importance of wellness, and living a healthy lifestyle. Quite often we will read in the news of a new study that has been done proving the importance of something that, we as a church, have known for years. Unfortunately, in today's sedentary society, even Adventists can easily disregard these ideas and forget one of the most important messages that God has given us. This is why it is imperative that we teach our young people the healthful philosophies of being active, eating properly, and avoiding all substances such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and drugs.

The Union Springs Academy (USA) Health and Physical Education Department teaches students in each grade level how to develop and maintain an active lifestyle through the use of proper eating and the right

amount of exercise. The curriculum incorporates cooperative games, team sports, individual sports, outdoor/adventure sports, and individual fitness programs.

Beginning in the ninth grade, students are taught the importance of activity and working together through the use of cooperative games and team sports. These games include trust activities and group problem solving initiatives. This part of the curriculum is meant to develop each student's awareness of their skills/talents and how they can be used to make the whole group better.

The tenth grade students are introduced to the outdoors and the contributions nature can bring to health and physical activity. Rock climbing, canoeing, camping, and mountain biking are done during this time. Individuals that find the typical team sports, (soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc.) uninteresting, quite often excel in these classes. Health is also intro-

duced as a formal class where the topics of nutrition, stress management, and exercise are discussed.

In the eleventh grade students are introduced to the types of sport activities that can be done throughout their lifetime. Golf, tennis, and badminton are covered giving the students an even larger variety of activities that can be done to avoid sedentary living.

Finally, the twelfth grade students are introduced to the concept of Wellness, which incorporates five aspects, Spiritual, Physical, Mental, Social, and Emotional health.

Throughout a student's academic career at USA, the focus is on God's plan for our health and well-being. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship"—Romans 12:1 (NIV).

*Mike Boyd, dean and physical education teacher
Union Springs Academy*

NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2004 CAMP MEETING APPLICATION JUNE 25 – JULY 3, 2004

Please Check Accommodations Desired:

	Full-time Fee	Daily Fee:
<input type="checkbox"/> Dormitory Room (2 single beds, no cooking) \$5 per additional bed.	\$133	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Tent/Trailer Site on Hill (includes electricity)	\$75	\$8
<input type="checkbox"/> Trailer Site off Hill (includes electricity and water)	\$81	\$9
<input type="checkbox"/> Trailer Site off Hill (w/air conditioning and water)	\$112	\$12
<input type="checkbox"/> Tent/Trailer Site lower ballfield (no electricity)	\$37	\$4
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Cabin	\$164	\$17
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Cabin	\$133	\$15

Cabins: Cabins are pre-assigned. Furnishings in the cabins are the sole responsibility of the cabin user. We usually do have some cabins available for specific nights and will try to accommodate you if we can.

Pets: For health reasons and for the consideration of others, pets are not allowed on the camp grounds. There are dog kennels in Auburn. This will be strictly enforced.

Minors: Accommodations are made available on the basis that the person applying for them will provide proper supervision of any minors under his/her jurisdiction.

Stay: If you are staying part of the time please indicate below which nights you will be on campus. Everyone staying overnight must register at Locating:

<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, 6/25	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, 6/28	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, 7/1
<input type="checkbox"/> Sabbath, 6/26	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, 6/29	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, 7/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, 6/27	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, 6/30	<input type="checkbox"/> Sabbath, 7/3

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail completed application and payment to:
New York Conference, Attn: Priscilla English, 4930 W Seneca Tpke, Syracuse, NY 13215.

¿Qué Está Pasando?

EN LA IGLESIA MUNDIAL

Ecuador: Un comunicador de TV Adventista ayuda a los necesitados

23 de Marzo del 2004, Guayaquil, Ecuador [ANN] — Henry Avelino Rodríguez no tenía idea que el invitar a su jefe a escuchar una de sus predicaciones lo llevaría a ganar el mayor premio televisivo de su país. En Noviembre del 2003, Avelino recibió su segundo Premio a las Artes y Ciencias de la Comunicación por su excelencia en los programas de asuntos comunitarios.

En los últimos seis años, Henry, de 28 años de edad y miembro de la Iglesia Adventista de Guayaquil, Ecuador, ha sido el conductor de un programa televisivo nacional llamado “SOS: Solidaridad para Obras Sociales.” SOS es un telemaratón que en Ecuador se ha transmitido en vivo todos los Martes en horario vespertino durante los últimos 11 años. Su objetivo es recolectar fondos para ayudar a los pobres, y para los enfermos.

Todas las semanas, el trabajo de Henry es motivar a los televidentes a contribuir con su programa, que presta ayuda financiera a los física y económicamente marginales así como a las víctimas de desastres naturales. Según el Canal 7, SOS recolecta en promedio 4,000 dólares por semana desde que Henry lo dirige. El récord es de 24,000 dólares en una sola noche.

Henry dice que comenzó a dirigir el programa después de que invitó a su supervisor a escucharlo predicar en su iglesia. Varios días después surgió una oportunidad en el canal. “Mi jefe recordó mi sermón y dijo:

‘Henry puede hacerlo. Él es adventista. El cree en Dios y tiene fe en él’. Y es así que me propusieron trabajar en ese programa y esa ha sido una de las más grandes bendiciones en mi vida.”

En su discurso de aceptación en noviembre Henry dedicó el premio no solo a su equipo y familia, sino “a los que necesitan ayuda, a los más necesitados; este premio también les pertenece.”

Dos semanas después de recibir su último galardón, el Congreso de la Nación otorgó a Henry un reconocimiento oficial por su labor en SOS en favor de los más necesitados de Ecuador. La diputada Sylvan Ibarra le entregó el galardón en el edificio del Congreso.

“He visto el trabajo de cerca y he visto que el mayor componente de esta labor ha sido el amor y la solidaridad,” dijo Ibarra. “Como ecuatoriana, estoy orgullosa de poder contar con una institución como SOS, que cuando un niño, cuando un joven extiende su mano y pide ayuda, ha estado para ayudarlos.”

“El recibir esto del Congreso es un gran honor,” respondió Henry durante la ceremonia. “Representa un compromiso para salir a trabajar. En realidad, es la obra de los televidentes, de los que trabajan en SOS, de la gente que envía donaciones a SOS, y todos los necesitados ya que representan el estímulo para continuar ayudándolos..”

Cada día puede verse a Henry en los hogares de la gente que recibe la

ayuda de su programa, en los hospitales con los enfermos, o en los sitios de desastre para escuchar sus historias. Entonces, relata estos tristes relatos a la audiencia de todo el país los martes por la noche. Según las estimaciones de Henry, el programa ha ayudado a 7.000 personas en sus 11 años de existencia.

Muchos dicen que la transparencia de su labor es la razón por la que los televidentes siguen contribuyendo semana tras semana. Henry cree que está siendo utilizado por Dios en cada programa.

Los miembros de iglesia dicen que, gracias a la obra de Henry, la iglesia adventista está bien representada en la sociedad. Henry también asiste a la Iglesia Adventista en el sur de Guayaquil, donde es un predicador laico así como el fundador de la única iglesia joven de Ecuador, con 190 personas.

A pesar del éxito personal de Henry, él continúa humilde y está listo para dar un consejo: “En todo lo que hagan, en toda tarea que emprendan, en toda acción, háganlo siempre sabiendo que es para Dios. No lo están haciendo para otras personas. Nuestra vida debe ser un testimonio. Somos cristianos y deberíamos trabajar y comportarnos como tales, amando y ayudando a todos. Si lo hacemos tendremos éxito cuando caminamos junto con Dios.”

Julio Muñoz
Adventist News Network
Traducción: Marcos Pasegi



Those who attended the meetings walked or rode in a large metal tractor wagon.



▲ The team has almost raised \$3,000 which is what it will take to build a church in Pusulura.



286 were baptized as a result of the meetings.



▲ The NNEC team included Judy and Harry Sabnani, Rick Kuntz, Natanya Berhmann, Heather Frigon, and Adrie Crooker.



Words of encouragement were shared with the women at separate meetings held for them.



▶ Tent meetings were held in Ulanda Kunda with evangelist Rick Kuntz.



One of the females being baptized as a result of these meetings.

Evangelistic Group Shares Christ in India

By Judy Sabnani

286 baptized as a result of evangelistic meetings conducted by a team from the Northern New England Conference

Six members of the Northern New England Conference conducted a three-week series of evangelistic meetings in six rural villages in Andra Pradesh. Harry Sabnani, conference youth and church ministries director, planned the trip and led the group that left on January 19 for South India.

Andra Pradesh has opened up to the gospel in a huge way. Just one year ago there was no Adventist presence in the Kurnool area. Now there are 10,000 members! In a predominately Hindu state, where people worship idols and burn incense to a pantheon of gods, the Holy Spirit is leading them to embrace the one true God and Savior. To have been a small part of this miracle was a life-changing experience!

After being introduced to their native pastor/coordinator and pastor/translator, the group embarked on a daily routine of visitation in the villages in the morning and early afternoon. Every night an evangelistic meeting was conducted with songs, children's stories, health talks, special music, and the spoken word presented by Pastor Rick Kuntz.

In each village the elders would greet the team with garlands of fragrant flowers and a drum procession through town. People eager for the gospel asked for prayer in their simple, tiny homes. The poverty was shocking but the joy of the spirit on their faces was a profound and humbling experience. In America, we are quite abused if our microwave is on the blink. In this part of India, there are no kitchens, no refrigeration, and cooking is done by placing a pot on large stones over a small fire!

Those who attended the meetings walked or rode in a large metal tractor wagon for one hour over dirt roads to the large tent pitched in a field. How they loved to sing! Their enthusiasm was contagious! It is a new, exciting experience telling Bible stories to children who have never heard them!



A Bible was presented to each individual after his or her baptism. Joining some of the women are Adrie Crooker (2nd from left), Heather Frigon (3rd from left), and Natanya Berhmann (3rd from right).

After the meeting each night hundreds of men, women, and children waited in line for one of the team members to pray for them individually.

Two hundred eighty-six individuals, including the team's driver, were baptized during that time in just those six villages. As each one came up from the water they were given a new Bible printed in their native Telegu language. In an economy where the average worker makes \$0.50 to \$1.10 for a 10-hour workday, this was a wonderful treasure.

It was very hard to leave all the new friends made in India, but prayer and our Savior bind them together. Now the team, composed of Rick Kuntz, evangelist, Judy Sabnani, Adrie Crooker, Heather Frigon, and Natanya Berhmann, is working towards raising money for full-time Bible workers and churches for these villages. ①

Judy Sabnani is a member of the evangelistic team that traveled to India.

Loved to Love

The 24th Annual Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Music Clinic for approximately 250 elementary and academy students culminated four days of practice with an original work titled, *God Is Love*, by Melvin West, the tune editor for our current Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal. For the past six years, the Grand Finale, including the band, choir, piano and strings, has rendered great pieces such as *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *The Hallelujah Chorus*, *God Bless America*, *The Heavens Are Telling* and, *This is My Father's World*. However, for the first time, the Grand Finale was a commissioned piece, composed by West. He based his inspiration on Scripture, I John 4:7-14 and Matthew 22:36-38, which was the theme of the Clinic, *Loved to Love*.

More than 1,000 guests listened to this harmony of all the musicians as the honored Grand Finale conductor, Doris Kruger, directed the student participants. At the end of the piece, *The Doxology* was majestically played. The guests, who packed the house with standing room only, stood to pay tribute to God, the altogether lovely One. This work was dedicated to Doris Kruger and the Northern New England Conference Music Clinic of 2004.

This collaborative effort included Rob Griffin, a faithful supporter of the NNEC Music Clinic, who computerized the song for all the students. Robert Wilson was commissioned to write the orchestration for the piece. Our students rose to the challenge of this high level creation and performed this masterful piece with tremendous inspiration.



More than 250 elementary and academy students attended the four-day clinic.



Students had the opportunity to showcase their musical gifts for more than 1,000 guests.

Jamie Trott, youth pastor for the Atlantic Union College Church, presented at the two clinic worships and the three concerts. He gave a picture of God's love through personal applications and practical advice on how we are to use that love to interact with others.

The 2004 Music Clinic was hosted at Pine Tree Academy, with Brendan Kruger, principal, conducting the 75-member band. Three guest artists shared their talents. Gale Jones Murphy directed the choir of 149 members. Murphy is a minister of music for a large church in Florida and gives professional time to her own compositions. Peter Cooper, music department chair and piano teach from Andrews University, directed the 30 pianists. Laurie Redmer Minner, Southern Adventist University professor and conductor for SAU's Orchestra, directed our 52 students in strings.

There seemed to be a sweet spirit amongst all the participants. Perhaps the words of *Loved to Love* were visibly demonstrated through the positive interactions throughout the arduous four days. Perhaps His love did make the difference the students and volunteers experienced.

Many people asked how we could possibly top this year's music clinic. My answer, "I always feel that way the morning after." God's creativity and love are new every morning.

Thanks to the 90 sponsors who worked to make it happen and the hundreds of others who support Music Clinic in a myriad of ways. You are invited to attend Music Clinic 2005, March 31-April 2.

Trudy Wright, superintendent of schools
Northern New England Conference

A Simple Yet Powerful Life

The tears bubbled in my eyes and gently rolled down my cheeks. After I hung up the phone, they tumbled free flowing. Why, Lord? Why did I think I had to make a perfect-just-right birthday card? Why did I wait so long?

You see Brother Jones was turning 100. Mike and I received the invitation to his party to be held in Berrien Springs, Michigan. We were so excited to know he was still alive. We couldn't go, but we could send a message. I wanted it to be a meaningful, personalized out-of-the-ordinary message. After all, not many folks have 100 birthdays and are still active, of sound mind and enjoy life! No ordinary card would do for Brother Jones.

John C. Jones was a cook during my teen years at the Southern New England Camp Meeting. I worked with him in the kitchen. I can still see him sweating from the pans of boiling potatoes—no instant packages for him. I can see him wiping his forehead, keeping a smile on his face and a determination to get the stressful tasks done. Yet, Brother Jones didn't let the program come before people. He didn't allow the pressures to push away the young people who needed him. He had time to care for growing hearts. Although working in a hot, sticky camp meeting cafeteria didn't have as much appeal as being with my teen friends, I liked working with this kind, Christian gentleman.

More than the inviting fragrance of his home-cooked meals, Brother Jones seemed to send messages of understanding and encouragement. It seemed like everything would be okay when Brother Jones was cooking! He combined a level of excellence and pride in one's work, with the understanding that mistakes happen. Like the time I was serving the camp meeting guest speakers and conference officials like H.M.S. Richards and the Herald's Quartet, William Fagal, his wife, Virginia, and the Faith for Today Quartet, Merle L. Mills and Arthur Harms, then conference president and treasurer. In my nerv-

ous excitement and awe, I spilled a bowl of hot vegetables, splattering the guests I was serving. Embarrassed, I ran out of the room and tearfully exploded to Brother Jones. "Let's go clean it up," he calmly responded. After his soothing support, I asked him, "Will I be fired now?" His forgiving chuckle assured me, "Everyone has times like this."

As a teen, I really thought Brother Jones was ancient. I am almost the age he was then! His grandfatherly spirit always left a warm spot in my heart.

Throughout the years, I would see Brother Jones at youth rallies. When Mike and I decided to marry, we asked Brother Jones to cut our cake. I am honored that he and his wife attended our wedding. We stayed connected through holiday greetings.

Although my birthday greetings would be very belated and I was quite embarrassed, I had to know about Brother Jones. I wanted to speak to the man who had quietly made a powerful impact in my young life.

I phoned the number on the invitation, now many months old. Would I be able to speak with Brother Jones? I explained who I was. The tone of his daughter's voice sent the sad message before I heard the actual words. "Dad died March 16." My heart's sadness spilled out tears. Just three weeks ago. "My Dad kept up with you and Mike through the GLEANER. He really thought a lot of you both."

My procrastination has become a painful passage. Maybe I didn't have to send the perfect greeting. Maybe I just needed to connect my heart with Brother Jones' heart and let him know I cared. No fanfare. Just a simple yet appreciative message, like the simple yet powerful life Brother Jones shared with me over forty years ago.

I hope to see him at the great Camp Meeting in the sky. In the meantime, maybe I can share with at least one teen at my camp meeting this year, like he did with me.

Lynn Ortel, correspondent NNEC

Historic Day at Berea Church with E.E. Cleveland

February 28, 2004, was indeed a high day in the history of Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church and will be remembered for many years to come thanks to the presence of E. E. Cleveland.

The multitude flocked to the services to hear E. E. Cleveland, professor emeritus, preacher extraordinaire, and black history author. The sanctuary was filled to capacity and the overflow crowd was accommodated by an electronic feed on the third floor of the building. Cleveland, a well known evangelist who has traveled the world preaching the gospel and baptizing thousands, spoke at the morning service and the Adventist Youth Society (AYS) service in the afternoon. His ability to weave history, spirituality, and motivation into his delivery was fascinating. His morning text was Joshua 10:12 and his sermon topic was "The Lord Listening to the Voice of a Man." In his staccato style delivery he explored the ways in which

man looks at things and reasons as opposed to how God sees things. He gave a history lesson around the Battle of Jericho, Jehovah's victory at Jericho, Achan's sin and judgment, the attempt of Emperor Constantine to change the Sabbath, and the social mores of today that were also prevalent in Sodom and Gomorrah.

In addition, he reminded the congregation that we must not be bound by the five senses because what we might perceive may not be as it seems, but the children of God have a sixth sense (faith). He offered hope in the fact that repentance from sin leads to eternal freedom.

His lecture at AYS was on religious liberty. He covered issues regarding the papacy, the United States in history, and the system of slavery. He traced the religious movement from Africa to Europe and ultimately to the United States. Cleveland offered insight into the relationship between the Native Americans and the Puritans

and the link between civil and religious liberty. The depth of his knowledge as well as his stamina again captivated the capacity crowd.

During the morning service three members of the church were recognized for their devotion, benevolence and service to the church and community: Nora Lee Singletary, Weda Johnson, and Delores Richardson (in absentia).

Musical renditions were presented by the Berea Inspirational Choir under the direction of Alan Rias and guest soloist, Kali Wilder, a master's degree candidate presently enrolled at the University of Kentucky.

This celebration was a fitting culmination of the events held during the month of February which, historically, has been set aside for the commemoration of the contributions of African Americans.

*Barbara J. Defoe, member
Berea church*

Giveaways And Trips Highlight Albany Meetings

A feature that added an air of excitement and anticipation to this year's Northeastern Conference Albany departmental workshop was the addition of a number of special drawings.

In addition to the normal favors like mugs, pens and books given to the attendees, this year the Sabbath school and communication departments combined to give away two Dish Network satellite systems. The drawings held in corporation with KSBN Safe TV, an Adventist owned and operated broadcast network located in Springdale, Arkansas, was held on Tuesday evening during a special meeting that featured the inaugural viewing of the new television program, *Pathway of Hope* and a presentation by KSBN chief engineer and satellite coordinators Rudy and Bernie Dolinsky.

During their discussion, the Dolinskys stopped to

present C.A. Murray with a special commendation given on behalf of KSBN president and CEO, Carlos Pardeiro. Murray has collaborated for a number years with KSBN Safe TV and with Bonnie Dolinsky in particular as they worked to supply Dish Network/Sky Angel Satellite systems to those desiring Adventist television in their own homes. The beautifully carved wooden jade and black colored box contains hand printed scriptures that can be wrapped around a scroll that rests on top of the box. The presentation apparently took Murray by surprise and his response was little more than a smile and a polite thank you.

The evening's program also included the selection of ten finalists from those who turned in their names to win a trip to 3ABN broadcasting in southern Illinois.

*Eunice Baker, communication staff
Northeastern Conference*

Ten Finalists Selected for 3ABN Trip

The Northeastern Conference Communication Department in cooperation with the Atlantic Union and the recently formed Atlantic Union Adventist Productions, the entity that will operate the anticipated and soon to be delivered Atlantic Union/3ABN production truck, chose ten finalists for a trip to 3ABN. They will be interviewed by Danny and Linda Shelton on the station's flagship show "3ABN Presents." The Northeastern finalist will join those selected from the Greater New York and Southern New England conferences on a show to be taped and broadcast later in the year.

Each finalist will write and submit their testimony and one will be chosen to take the trip to the 3ABN studios in West Frankfort, Illinois.

The air fare is being paid by the conference, while lodging and meals will be extended courtesy of 3ABN.

As of this writing, the ten finalists are busy writing up their testimonies for submission. They will be evaluated on areas such as television worthiness, appeal to a general and non-Christian audience, and the ability to uplift and inspire. Some of these areas are intangible, and we have to go by feeling. I have had my own talk/interview show on Trinity Broadcasting WTBY since 1993, and after doing thousands of interviews, I know what makes a good television story. I will be calling each of the candidates to help them write their stories in a TV appropriate fashion. The ten finalists are Sylvia Robinson of Jamaica church; Lynette Thompson, Mt. Sinai; Caroline

Alexander, Patmos; Barbara Sweeney, Shiloh Mass.; Eunice Powell, Brooklyn Faith; Cornett Oakly, Gordon Heights; D. Trim, Solid Rock; Marcia R. Grant, Mt. Sinai; Lorna Maule Ottley, Shiloh Brooklyn, and Rebecca Videll, Real Truth Mission.

The excited finalists admitted that as hard as it might be to write their testimony, sitting in front of a camera, talking to a world wide audience might be tougher still. Even so, no one wanted to back out. Perhaps they know that they "can do all things through Christ," (Philippians 4:13) even speak to the little one eyed monster with the red light on top.

C. A. Murray, correspondent NEC

Pathway of Hope Pilot Program Received Enthusiastically

Approximately five hundred attendees to the Northeastern Conference Albany departmental meetings watched the initial public showing of the pilot for the proposed television series "Pathway of Hope" with speaker Abraham Jules.

The thirty-minute program, produced by ministers from the Greater New York and Northeastern Conferences, was well received by the viewers who broke into spontaneous applause as early as the opening scenes of the show. The chorus of applause and amens that filled the air at the broadcast's conclusion assured producers Rohann Wellington and Clement Murray as well as the speaker and broadcast host Steve Cassimy that the show, which is based in New York, will be a welcomed addition to its sister

broadcasts which lift up Jesus in the light of the Three Angels Messages.

Tapings of additional shows will take place at the City Tabernacle and Grand Concourse churches. To date, "Pathway of Hope" has gotten a positive response from KSBN Safe TV and 3ABN as well as ATN (Hope Channel), the denomination's new 24 hour broadcast network, who are desirous of carrying the program.

The ministry also received additional support from Northeastern Conference president, Trevor H. C. Baker, who stepped forward to say that he endorsed the initiative and was proud to see a cooperative effort that was resulting in such a quality product for television.

C.A. Murray, correspondent Northeastern Conference

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

Town Helps Greater Boston Academy Raise More than \$22,000

For the third consecutive year, local businesses have donated gift certificates, food, and other items to Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy's (GBA) Home and School Association for the elegant dinner they put on for their major spring fund raiser. Local musicians also donated their talent to serenade guests as they ate their gourmet meal prepared by the officers and other volunteers.

Edgewood/GBA is a private PreK-12 Grade Christian school that has been located in Stoneham for many years—the high school since 1967 (originally on the grounds of Boston Regional Medical Center) the elementary school decades longer. Even though the majority of the students do not live in Stoneham, they have been involved in numerous community service projects around the town for more than a decade. GBA is currently in the middle of its spring project involving elementary schools, the Stone Zoo, and some nursing homes. As a result of these bi-

annual excursions out of their school as well as trips to the Stoneham Theatre, the library, and Dairy Dome, the students feel a connection to the town.

The elegant dinner raises money for the school's tuition assistance fund among other things, so the young people benefit directly from the generosity of the town merchants and service providers who donated so much to make the evening a success. Nearly \$100,000 has been raised over the last three years, with \$22,000 plus of that coming in this year.

Aside from the money raised, perhaps the most amazing thing to see was the magical transformation of the school gymnasium into a beautiful banquet hall. With the walls decorated with cloth, the ceiling camouflaged with tiny electrical lights, flowers and candles adorning the tables, a beautiful cityscape backdrop, and sharply-dressed, polite, well-behaved student waiters on hand to greet and assist the guests, it is small wonder that the event was considered a success.



Merle Greenway, treasurer for the Southern New England Conference, and his wife, Ruth, represented the conference at the dinner.

This year's evening saw the usual silent auction of local services turned into a raucous old-fashioned auction. Pastor Dennis Farley, of the Stoneham Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church did the honors as auctioneer and induced ordinarily decorous mothers and business men to go a little crazy for a good cause and a good time. As a result, Edgewood/GBA are now benefiting from their generosity.

*Rondi Aastrup, English teacher, vice principal, and recruiter
Greater Boston Academy*



Greater Boston Academy Alumni Weekend

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Quoi de Neuf?

A TRAVERS L'ÉGLISE MONDIALE

Afrique: l'Église appelée à devenir plus visible aux yeux de tous

17 Février 2004, Nairobi, Kenya
[ANN] — L'Église adventiste de huit pays d'Afrique orientale et centrale entend multiplier par deux le nombre de ses membres d'ici 2008. «Nous avons actuellement à peine plus de 2 millions de membres d'Église et nous nous sommes fixé, parmi cinq objectifs essentiels de notre Église ici, le doublement du nombre de nos membres,» a dit Geoffrey Mbwana, président de l'Église adventiste du septième jour de la région.

S'adressant aux participants d'une réunion de consultation sur la communication, tenue à Nairobi, G. Mbwana a déclaré que «garder avec nous les membres d'Église qui la rejoignent par millier est aussi notre priorité.» Il a lancé un défi aux communicants : aider l'Église à être «mieux informée» sur sa propre vie et sur ses propres activités et, en matière de communication, être «à jour, dans le coup et agressifs» en s'attachant à rendre l'Église plus visible dans la société.

Le pasteur Mbwana a cité aussi la gestion de la croissance de l'Église comme l'une de ses grandes priorités dans cette région, qu'il faut traiter par l'évangélisation publique et par des programmes spéciaux diffusés par satellite, organisés en différents pays. Ces dernières années, les technologies de pointe en

matière de communication ont permis de rendre l'Église plus visible quant à ses activités missionnaires. Geoffrey Mbwana estime que l'Église doit suivre le rythme des besoins qui s'expriment en son sein tout en s'attachant aux opportunités nouvelles de prêcher l'évangile.

Les trente cinq participants à la réunion de consultation sur la communication ont évalué le besoin d'une plus grande visibilité de l'Église dans la société. Steve Apola, nouveau directeur de la communication au Kenya, a dit que «nous devons, en tant qu'adventistes, faire preuve d'initiative dans la société au quotidien et rejeter les soupçons et les craintes que nous inspirent l'interaction avec le monde.»

S. Apola a dit qu'il rêve, quant à lui, que l'Église adventiste devienne «l'Église du siècle.» Il voudrait voir son Église «se montrer professionnelle dans son approche des relations publiques et [la voir] sortir de son cocon.»

Catherine Ontita, directeur de la programmation du Centre de médias adventistes à Nairobi, a repéré des questions précises telles que la participation aux activités communautaires, le traitement des problèmes environnementaux et l'approche de la pandémie du VIH/SIDA de manière pratique, dans le cadre d'une visibilité et d'une

activité croissantes de l'Église dans la société. «Nous avons aussi besoin de faire sentir notre présence dans les médias,» a-t-elle ajouté.

La réunion de communication s'est terminée sur plusieurs recommandations portant sur l'élaboration d'une stratégie pour informer les membres d'Église de la situation relative au VIH/SIDA, tout en prenant et en mettant en œuvre des mesures pratiques pour faire des congrégations locales autant de centres d'accueil où les victimes et leurs familles rencontreront, comme l'a dit l'un des participants, une attitude pleine de sollicitude, mais aussi de l'aide médicale.

G. Mbwana a aussi exhorté le ministère de la communication à aider l'Église à donner une dimension plus volontaire à son message. «Comment nous y prenons-nous pour attirer le monde vers notre message? Il faut qu'il y ait plus d'intentionnalité dans ce que nous disons et faisons. Il se peut qu'il nous arrive d'en faire trop. Mais nous ne parviendrons pas à réussir beaucoup, parce que nous voulons tout faire,» a-t-il conclu.

*Ray Dabrowski
Adventist News Network
Traduction: Claude Fivel*

Purpose Driven Youth Ministry

YouthConnections

Anyone walking into a Barnes & Nobles, Books a Million, or a Christian book store will notice a series of what has become best sellers — “the purpose driven” books by Rick Warren. Warren is a very successful pastor of the Saddleback Valley Community Church in Southern California. Warren’s youth pastor, Doug Fields, has written a book *PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY* (PDYM). The late Mike Yoconelli said this about the book, *PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY* “is packed with learn able concepts that do more than educate, they stimulate.” It wins us over to ways of doing youth ministry the way it ought to be.” Chapter 11 of PDYM highlights five characteristics of healthy youth programs.

Programs Need to Put Relationships First — The Youth Connections column in the April 2004 issue of the *GLEANER* (p. 15) highlights this important characteristic. According to Fields, “A healthy youth ministry is committed to becoming a relational youth ministry. The adult leaders make building relationships with [young people] a high priority, and these relationships quicken the ministry’s effectiveness and enhance [their] spiritual maturity” (p. 195). This characteristic cannot be overemphasized!

Along with this is the ability to act as role models and practice acceptance of all the young people in your youth group or those that should be in the youth group.

Programs Need a Fresh Source of Ideas — The saying holds true “there is nothing new under the sun.” Many youth leaders don’t feel they are very creative or can come up with good ideas. This characteristic highlights the importance of developing a resource library for your church. Thirty plus years ago Mike Yoconelli and Wayne Rice produced a set of *Ideas* books. I still have and use one of those original sets. The set of books, the new editions, would be a great asset in any youth ministry library. Those that are Internet savvy can also log onto www.youthspecialties.com. This web site contains many links you can visit for fresh ideas. Also log onto www.adventistyouthministries.com for more ideas. Your local conference or union youth department can also assist.

Programs Need Strength Beyond a Personality — The secret of a successful youth ministry is the “team” approach. You can’t do youth ministry by yourself. It should be your goal to work yourself out

of a job by training those that can continue your ministry. That is not to say you should retire anytime soon. The point is to develop leaders that can continue your ministry in your absence.

Programs Need an Ongoing Follow-Up System — Do you know who your youth are and where they are. If someone is missing on Sabbath, what kind of plan do you have in place to follow-up on that absence? Do you stay in touch with those who attend school in another area?

Steps that can be taken are: (1) If a youth is absent from your AY meeting or Sabbath give them a call and let them know they’re missed. If you cannot do this, assign it to another youth. (2) If more than one meeting is missed, maybe a visit by you or your pastor would be helpful. As you do this, your youth will know that you love and are interested in them. (3) For those away at school connect with them through e-mail, phone calls, or cards from the home youth group.

Programs Need Clarification of Their Purpose and Potential Audience — Within a healthy youth ministry there should never be any question as to why your program exists. Do you have a mission statement? For help in writing a mission statement for your youth group refer to Chapter 2 of Field’s book.

Take time to review these characteristics to see how you measure up. If you need help, contact your local conference or union youth ministries offices. We are here to assist you in developing a youth ministry program that will help save our youth for Jesus.

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

Resource: PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY, Doug Fields, Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

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

YouthConnections

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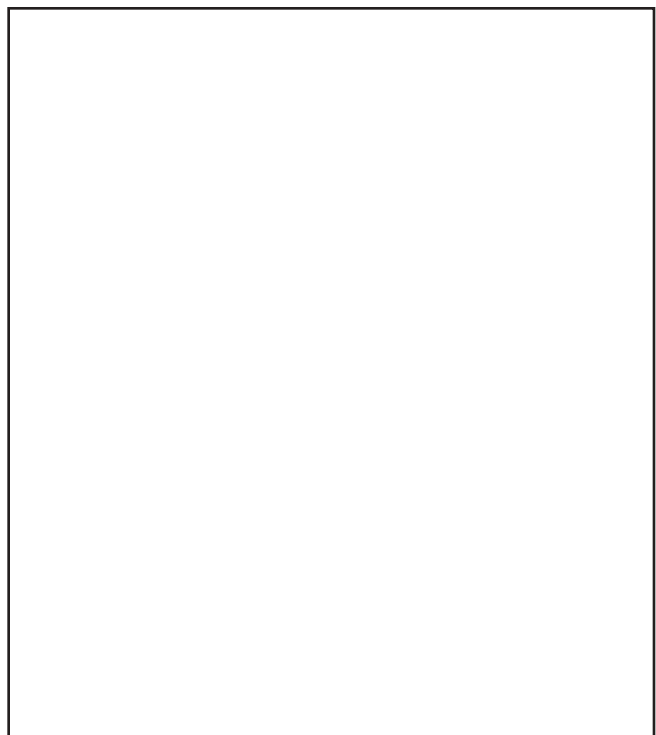
Web Site: www.atlantic-union.org/youth.htm



Sunset Table

July 2004	2	9	16	23	30
Bangor, ME	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:09	8:01
Portland, ME	8:25	8:23	8:18	8:12	8:04
Boston, MA	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:04
South Lancaster, MA	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:14	8:07
Pittsfield, MA	8:33	8:30	8:26	8:20	8:13
Hartford, CT	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:16	8:09
New York, NY	8:30	8:28	8:24	8:18	8:12
Albany, NY	8:34	8:31	8:27	8:21	8:14
Utica, NY	8:43	8:40	8:36	8:30	8:22
Syracuse, NY	8:47	8:44	8:40	8:34	8:26
Rochester, NY	8:53	8:50	8:46	8:40	8:32
Buffalo, NY	8:57	8:54	8:50	8:44	8:36
Hamilton, Bda	8:28	8:26	8:24	8:20	8:15

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 conference will be held at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, Conn. For further information contact Charles J. Eusey, Esq., 42 Main St., Leominster, MA 01453. Phone (978) 534-1414. E-mail: ceusey@euseylaw.com. Or visit www.atlantic-union.org/conference1015.htm.

academy students, Sabbath services with U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry C. Black. Saturday evening mini-concert and Gala Social including awards ceremony. Sunday morning Alumni Constituency meeting. Call (410) 664-0384 for more information.

Pine Forge Academy's Alumni Weekend, September 3-5, 2004. The weekend features an alumni career fair, Friday vespers with Phyllis Pelote Edmonds ('64), Sabbath services with Charles Cheatham ('54). Awards program honoring former NPFAAA presidents and Peter McGalleria. Spotlight classes: '54, '64, '74, '79, '84, '94, '99, '04. Visit www.pfaalumni.org.

Mission Project Ecuador: Evangelism with Wayne Dull and Pastor Rojas of Ecuador. Build the 1st church in Jipijapa. Needed willing hearts & hands to work. Oct. 24-Nov. 7. Call Lorraine Hansen (828) 697-2409, e-mail: lorrhans@peoplepc.com or Rachel Dull at 1-800-777-6701 for details.

OUT-OF-UNION

Baltimore Junior Academy's 89th Alumni Weekend "Revitalize, Revamp, Restore" September 24-26. The weekend features Friday vespers with current

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).

ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE

First Attorney's Conference in the Atlantic Union

October 15 - 17, 2004

at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, Connecticut

Friday Night Keynote Speaker



Donald G. King
President
Atlantic Union Conference

Presenters



Mitchell Tyner
Associate Counsel
Office of General Counsel
General Conference



James Standish
Director of Legislative Affairs
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Question and Answer Session

Saturday Evening

Informational Session

Addressing Secular Legal Issues

Sunday Morning

Registration

There is no registration cost to attend the meeting.

To register contact:

Charles J. Eusey, Esq.
42 Main Street
Leominster, MA 01453
Phone (978) 534-1414
E-mail: ceusey@euseylaw.com

Lodging

Lodging is at the Attendees expense
\$99.00 per night

Contact the hotel directly to reserve your room:

Sheraton Stamford Hotel
2701 Summer Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06905
(203) 359-1300
1-800-325-3535

Meals

The Atlantic Union will provide Sabbath lunch and dinner. Attendees are on their own for other meals.

Sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL)
www.atlantic-union.org/conference1015.htm



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Atlantic Union Treasurer Awarded CFE Designation

Leon D. Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, was awarded the designation of CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner) and became a member of ACFE (American Certified Fraud Examiners). To achieve this professional standard, he concentrated on four major areas: Criminology/Ethics, Financial/Accounting, Law, and Fraud Investigations. Before the CFE Certification could be conferred, he was required to pass a two and a half hour examination in each of the major areas, and exhibit professional and leadership qualities. We are happy to declare that Leon Thomassian passed all four parts of the examination in one sitting. This by itself is an excellent achievement. Congratulations!



South Lancaster Academy Graduate Receives Presidential Freedom Scholarship

South Lancaster Academy is proud to announce that 2003 graduate, Joyanna J. Currie, has been awarded the Presidential Freedom Scholarship. She is receiving this award in recognition of her leadership through community service by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Joyanna will receive a letter of congratulations from President George Bush, a gold award pin, and a \$500 award check.



Majoring in physical therapy and exercise physiology, Joyanna is currently a freshman at UMASS Lowell. She completed her first semester on the Dean's List. Joyanna is the eighth sibling in a long line of Curries attending South Lancaster Academy. Her family's attendance spans 30 years.

SLA congratulates Joyanna and wishes her well in her continued studies! ☺

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.

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