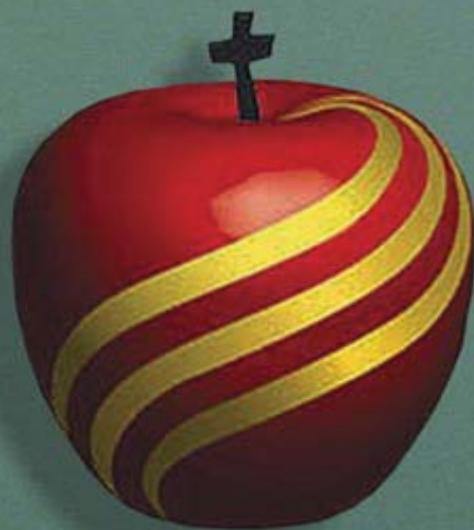


THE ATLANTIC UNION

APRIL 2003

GLEANER



Adventist Education: Miracles and Conversions

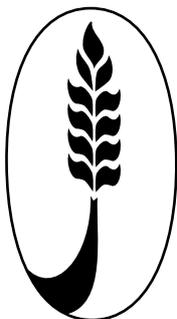
**2003 Summer
Camp Schedule**

¿Qué Está Pasando? Quoi de Neuf?





It is easy to understand why homeland security has gripped our attention. We want to be safe from those outside our country who desire to hurt us. We want our families to be safe.



Homeland Security

Homeland security has become a primary issue of concern for the public and within our government since 9/11. Just recently a new Department of Homeland Security was set up in Washington, D.C. Anyone who travels by air or across borders has experienced the outcome of this growing concern. Immigrants entering the U.S. undergo careful scrutiny. The Coast Guard has stepped up patrols along our coasts.

It is easy to understand why homeland security has gripped our attention. We want to be safe from those outside our country who desire to hurt us. We want our families to be safe. All these new security measures are in place not only to keep out those who threaten, but to reassure us that the government cares about our safety.

Homeland security was an issue for many of us long before 9/11. It took center stage the day our first child was born. We covered our outlets and locked cupboards containing harmful products as soon as crawling began. Our eyes never strayed far as soon as climbing commenced. Teaching them to look both ways before crossing the street, admonishing them never to talk to or go with a stranger, denying requests we felt weren't in our child's best interest, all these and more were part of our "homeland security" measures.

Why, for some, does this primal need to protect our children not carry over into our choice of education? Do we really think it doesn't matter where our children spend the better part of their days? Is it really of no concern with whom they are forming friendships or what they are being taught? Is there no connection between education and heaven? "In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one..."—EDUCATION, p. 30. Ellen White's philosophy of education was distinctly religious, followed by preparing for life, service, and citizenship. Where we

choose to send our children to school reflects our priorities.

"In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that *it is no longer safe* to send them to the public school, and should endeavor to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a Scriptural foundation. Upon every Christian parent there rests the solemn obligation of giving to his children an education that will lead them to gain a knowledge of the Lord..."—COUNSELS TO PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS, p. 205 (italics added).

No longer do the old excuses for sending our children to public school apply. Seventh-day Adventist educators are held to high standards and our schools provide a quality education for our children (far surpassing some public schools). Cost should not be an excuse. Sacrifice and faith should be our answer to cost. Isaiah 54:13 (NIV) speaks to us, "All your sons [and daughters] will be taught by the Lord and great will be your children's peace." Will they be taught by the Lord in a public school setting? Isn't our child's peace and eternal security our deepest desire?

Just as there is no guarantee that all the homeland security measures taken by our government will keep us 100 percent safe, so Adventist education doesn't guarantee salvation. However, homeland security is our responsibility and at stake is our children's eternal lives.

Perhaps we should rethink some of our security choices. ☺

Judith Hodder is the principal of Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York.

Miracles are Happening

Purposefully he stepped down the aisle, his eyes set on a certain pew. Even though no one recognized him, he was at ease with the routine of the worship service. He sang the hymns, knelt for prayer and listened, absorbing every word of the sermon. Then came the call for testimonies. Tears flowed freely. He seemed too absorbed in thought to be embarrassed. Then he stood as if propelled by an invisible force. He explained that he had attended the adjoining church school for eight years. He had drifted into a life of gambling, alcohol, and drugs. He tried everything in search of happiness, but he was enshrouded with restless anxiety. He wandered into town that day and thought of his childhood school. Was it still there? Could he still capture the peace he felt at assemblies and weeks of prayer? He decided to take a look. Now he was standing before the congregation thankful for his years in church school. Sitting in the pew that Sabbath morning rekindled memories but most of all brought the realization that there are



Many
Incredible
Reasons
Affirming
Christ
Leading in
Education throughout
Seventh-day Adventist schools in the Atlantic Union.®

Astrid Thomassian is the associate director of education for the Atlantic Union Conference.

**For information on upcoming events, news items,
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www.atlantic-union.org**

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ABOUT THE COVER: In this special education issue we share stories of "miracles and conversions" experienced by the students, staff, teachers, and administrators of the K-12 schools in the Atlantic Union. The cover design includes a composite of images from PhotoDisc and the Michigan Conference office of education.

ASI: For information about ASI contact your local conference ASI director or visit the ASI web page at www.atlantic-union.org/asi.htm.

It Was a **Miracle**

It was September 1970. I was on my way to West Indies College (Northern Caribbean University) in Mandeville, Jamaica, with about seven other grubs, the tease for all new students at the college. I was so excited. It was my first time outside of Bermuda. My first time on an airplane. My first passport. My first shot at real independence. I can remember every aspect so vividly because it was my first real encounter with what I termed a “miracle.”

We were all seated near the back of the airplane chatting up a storm when all of a sudden someone broke out in song, “I love to go a wandering,” and everyone joined in. The harmony was rich and I guess not offensive to the other passengers on board because no one complained, and the stewardesses didn’t seem bothered. We sang one song after another and then hit on a song that we sang over and over, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.”

Three hours later we touched down in Kingston, Jamaica. The sun had set and there was an airy glow over the city. The scenery was different from anything I had ever before observed. About fifty miles outside of Kingston, and not far from the college, we encountered a serious accident. Someone said a truck had jackknifed and blocked the main road. All traffic was detoured inland along an unpaved route that was blacker than night. You couldn’t see your hand if you held it up to your face.

We had gone about a mile up the side of a mountain when the car we were driving in stalled. The driver tried everything, but could not get it started, so we all jumped out and started to push it. Out of nowhere people speaking an unfamiliar language appeared. We dove back into that car in the most ungraceful manner. We were terrified to say the least. The driver managed to turn the car around and we began coasting back down the side of the mountain. We came to a level area and the car would go no further. What to do? Simultaneously we began to sing the song we had practiced on the airplane, “We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord.” In an instance the car engine roared to life. A Miracle! We were able to drive back to the main road. There again the car promptly died.

It was at that moment that a man came by in his truck. He stopped and offered to tow us to a petrol station. He said he had never stopped before to assist anyone because people were not always to be trusted, but he stopped to



help us. Another Miracle! At the station when we told the attendant that the engine had started for a short time just sufficient to carry us back to safety, the mechanic couldn’t believe it. He said that it was impossible since the battery was completely dry.

We knew that we had experienced miracle after miracle. We also knew that, just as the Lord had taken care of us on that dark mountain road, He would continue to keep us safe during our sojourn at West Indies College. We formed a singing group that performed all over the island. That song became our theme song and our witness for that year.

We have encouraged others in this issue to share miracles they have experienced. We trust you will read and be blessed. ☺

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

Making a Difference—

by Merle Greenway

A Big Difference!

Meet Deborah, an eleventh-grade student at Greater Boston Academy. From a single-parent family of several children, she works multiple jobs, both on campus and off, to help pay the rent and keep up with tuition. Deborah also volunteers in Pathfinders at her church and takes part in the “student church” programs conducted once a month on campus—and she does all of this while maintaining a B average in her classes.

Faithe DesChamps, Deborah’s Bible teacher, describes her student as a “wonderful positive influence in class. She is among the first to volunteer, to positively respond to questions and ideas, and to raise the sights of students around her.” And others on the staff confirm that Deborah is constantly seeking to “influence those about her for the right.”

One day the principal thought to share a simple message of encouragement with Deborah, “Do you know how much you are appreciated here?” She thought for a moment, then replied in her winsome way, “Mr. Norcliffe, can I give you a hug?”

Meet Theresa — Raised in the Catholic faith, she was a committed and seeking Christian well on her way to a distinguished career as a public school teacher. It happened that Kathleen Fitzgibbons, school principal, was a Seventh-day Adventist. Theresa and her husband studied the Bible with



Deborah Torres and her Bible teacher, Faithe Deschamps.

Kathleen and, in time, they were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Approximately five years later, when their eldest daughter reached school age, Theresa came under the conviction that an Adventist classroom was where she belonged despite a \$10,000 annual pay cut, which is big money even today! She is now in her seventh year as upper-grade teacher and principal at our Worcester school. “I have never regretted my decision,” Theresa says. “I can pray with my students and have so much more impact on their lives. For example, on 9/11

when we learned that the Trade Towers had come down, we immediately knelt together in our class and prayed. You could never do that in public school.”

As far as I know, Deborah and Theresa have never met, but they have a great deal in common. They are in love with Jesus, they have a deep

concern for others, and they are having a positive impact in their little corners of the world. Deborah Torres and Theresa Robidoux exemplify the scores of students and teachers in our schools who are making a daily difference—a big difference—the difference called Adventist Christian education! ☺

Merle Greenway is the superintendent of schools for the Southern New England Conference.

God Knew I Would Learn

by China Silverstein

from this Experience

When I was in the fourth grade, I considered myself dumb. My report card consisted of Cs, Ds, and Fs. I went under my desk and cried anytime I made a mistake. Then my teacher told my mom I would have to repeat the fourth grade. To make matters worse, my family had to move? I went to a new school and found that the work was

easier for me. Repeating the fourth grade helped me and now I’m getting As and Bs. I think God knew I would learn from this experience. ☺

China Silverstein is a student in the seventh grade at Rochester Bay Knoll school in Rochester, New York.

In God's Hands

by Karen Blankenfeldt-Tucker and Judith Spenser

A miracle may be described as an event in which God Himself steps in and intervenes on the behalf of His children. In a year when, within the first few months, the Bermuda Institute family suffered the loss of loved ones—we needed a miracle. In spite of our grief, we continue to praise God for His wonderful movement in our lives.

On October 11, 2002, the unexpected happened. It was Friday afternoon, and the children were dismissed and waiting at the bus stop across the street from school. This bus stop is located across a supermarket parking lot in a very busy area. Oftentimes, drivers have been known to zoom out of the lot at breakneck speeds.

It was shortly after 2:40 p.m., and one of the buses had already left. There was still a group of middle and high school students gathered under a large tree for shade from the heat. All of a sudden, there was a muffled shout, or a gasp, and then a sickening thud. There, lying on the pavement, was Rahnere Douglas, an elementary student in the first grade. Those who know this boy know how active he is. It was unnatural to see him in this condition. The unthinkable had happened—he had been run over by a huge truck. There were tread marks on his body and very little blood. Students

and onlookers in the vicinity were concerned about internal injuries.

The teachers on bus duty tried their best to help Rahnere to lie still. He was thrashing around in tremendous pain. He was unable to focus and we prayed for the ambulance to come quickly. By the time the emergency technicians arrived, the police were on the scene trying to get all the details. The truck driver was so distraught that it was difficult to obtain his view of what had happened. The students were upset as well and were asked to join in prayer for Rahnere.

By the time he was taken to the hospital Rahnere was unconscious and the extent of his injuries uncertain. He had internal injuries which included a punctured lung and bleeding in the brain along with some swelling. The entire community rallied around the Douglas family while the doctors worked feverishly to ascertain the magnitude of Rahnere's situation.

Representatives from the Bermuda Institute stayed at the hospital with the family during their agonizing wait. As the doctors recited a litany of his injuries, we

were overwhelmed with a sense of helplessness. All we could do was pray. The accident occurred on Friday and all the teachers were scheduled to leave on Sunday for the Atlantic Union Educators Convention in Massachusetts.

Each day was spent trying to keep in touch with the family and to get news of Rahnere's condition. Amazingly, every day we received encouraging information about his progress. In fact, within a month of the accident Rahnere was back in school running around with the other children just as if nothing had happened. There are only a few scars to remind anyone of his acci-

dent. The speed of his recovery was nothing short of miraculous. Each day we thank God for His swift action on behalf of this child. All we had to do was put him in God's hands.

We have entered into a new year and you can be sure that his family and the Bermuda Institute family thank God daily for this restoration of Rahnere. ☺

Karen Blankenfeldt-Tucker is a Grade 2 teacher and Judith Spenser is a Grade 1 teacher at Bermuda Institute.



Rahnere's family and the Bermuda Institute family thank God daily for his restoration.

Studying About God Is Important

by Josephine J. Whyte

Christian education means both spiritual and academic growth. It brings a certain comfort to see that Christ is involved in my education. While I learn academics, I also learn about Christ.

Some schools do not include Bible in the curriculum but I feel that studying about God is important. I sometimes forget to

have worship but I know when I leave Linden school I will still have worship and I love that feeling. ☺

Josephine J. Whyte is a student in the eighth grade at the Linden school in Laurelton, New York.

Going the **Extra Mile** for a Student

Life was tough for the Dezotell family. Dad was no longer a part of the family. When he left, that was it—the end of his time and his money. Martha, mom, held two jobs and Gordon took on a third job rising at 4:00 a.m. every morning to deliver newspapers. Cecil Adu-Damoah, a member of the Williston Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vermont worked with Martha and invited her to attend the Net '98 meetings at the church. While attending the meetings they noticed the sign for the Brownell Mountain school and inquired about Gordon, Angie, and Josh attending in the fall. This seemed like a good alternative to public school since Gordon was experiencing difficulty and placed in a class for failing students.

Gordon entered the seventh grade at Brownell Mountain school and went from a failing student to a successful student even excelling in mathematics. While in the eighth grade, Gordon completed: Algebra I, part of Algebra II, and tutored other students in math and algebra.

Gordon loved football and played on a local team. Sabbath became a problem for him. Mrs. Selena Trott, his teacher, told Gordon there was more to life than football. It was Gordon's goal to enter Burlington High and play football. Mrs. Trott talked to him about attending a Seventh-day Adventist academy and encouraged him to attend Pine Tree Academy (PTA). Field trips were taken to visit the school during conference events. Gordon thought the cost of Pine Tree Academy

prohibited his attendance. Mrs. Trott encouraged Gordon to work, pray for God to provide, and make plans to attend.

Gordon worked all summer for a landscaping business pulling weeds. The church family backed Gordon going to PTA. Many families committed from \$10 to \$100 per month toward his tuition. Northern New England Conference (NNEC) has a policy that subsidizes students who stay in the dorm at PTA and don't have access to an Adventist academy in their area.

Gordon is now in his second year at PTA and he lives in the dormitory. He has worked for the school and local businesses to help pay his school bill.

Over Christmas vacation Gordon was the Sabbath speaker at his home church and he thanked the members for the opportunity they have given him to have a Christian education. He told them about his spiritual journey and his visit with his great-grandmother, "G.G." for short, in Florida just prior to her death. He rarely had any contact with his great-grandmother, but during his visit she encouraged him in his spiritual walk. He felt this was very providential. He told the church members about his involvement with the NNEC Extreme Teen Prayer Ministry under the leadership of Elizabeth Boyd. He also revealed his faithfulness in holding early morning personal devotions. Gordon excitedly shared with them about how his friend, who did not have an interest in spiritual things, now joins him each



Gordon worked for the school and local businesses to help pay his school bill.

morning in devotions.

Gordon is involved in Sword Fish, a PTA program that meets one day per week with academy students giving Bible studies to elementary students. Pastor Gary Blanchard was substitute teacher one week when Gordon was away on a field trip. Gordon's five students were very concerned about him returning. Pastor Blanchard told them not to worry he would make sure Gordon returned to teach them.

Gordon is not alone. There are many young people like him that need your support in getting a Christian education. They need your encouragement, prayers, and funding. ☺

Trudy Wright is the superintendent of schools for the Northern New England Conference.

An Answered Prayer

by Sheraon Hozier

One of the many challenges that teenagers face in their life is where they want to continue their education. I was not exempt from answering this question. This question plagued me from the beginning of eighth grade in 1998 to midsummer 1999. During this time I was attending Intermediate School 383. My list of options was laid out before me. All I could do was stare at the one school I wanted to attend. I made no effort to apply there because I knew that my parents were experiencing serious financial difficulties. Our family's financial problems were also the reason I was placed in public school for two years. My mother had lost her job and was recuperating from an injury to her knee. Up to this point, except for the two years in Intermediate School 383 in Brooklyn, New York, I had attended only Seventh-day Adventist schools. I longed to go back to a Seventh-day Adventist school. I shared with my parents my wish to go to Greater New York Academy. Each time I spoke to them about it, their reply was to pray about it and that was exactly what I did.

I must admit, I was convinced that God had already answered my prayer,

but I was not paying attention. My senior year at Intermediate School 383 had ended, summer vacation had begun, and I still did not know where I would be in the fall. Of all the schools I had applied to during the past year, I was forced to make a choice.

That summer I unwillingly trudged over to Samuel Tilden High School in Brooklyn, New York, with my mother. I waited in a large auditorium with other teenagers to register for the new school year. I dreaded every second spent in that auditorium and all I longed for was to attend Greater New York Academy. My prayers increased since it appeared that my fate to attend Tilden High School was sealed. A few weeks later my mother and I bumped into a fellow-member from the church I attended and they began to talk. Somehow the conversation changed to which high school I would be attending in the fall. My mother explained that I would be attending Tilden High School, unwillingly, because she was unable to send me to Greater New York Academy. The church member indicated he knew a way by which I could attend Greater New York Academy. This was a sign to my mother and me that God had

answered my prayer. The next thing I knew, my mother and I were in the main office of Greater New York Academy completing an application form and finding out where we could go to purchase a school uniform.

This year will be my fourth and final year at Greater New York Academy and I thank God for every moment I have spent in this school. I have to admit that the only logical reason I am still able to attend Greater New York Academy is that God has continued to answer my prayers over the years. The friendships I have made, the teachers I have met, and the spiritual aspects of this school I will never forget as I continue my journey through life in obtaining higher education. This incident has cemented my conviction that God does answer prayers. Although the response I anticipated did not come when I wanted, the important thing is that it came. ☺

Sheron Hozier is a senior at Greater New York Academy.



Teachers Believe the Same Things My Parents Teach

by Jordan W. Daley

Before I came to the Linden school I went to a private school in Long Island. My teachers were very good. My science teacher was one of my favorite teachers. She taught us about electricity and about the phases of the moon. Each year, she taught us how to make crystals and we brought them home. She was very smart, but she did not believe in God. She did not understand why I prayed before a test and she told me I could not prove that God exists. She believes in evolution.

Now that I go to Linden, my teachers pray with us and we have chapels and class worships just like we do at home. It is better to go to a school where my teachers believe the same things my parents teach me at home. ☺

Jordan W. Daley is a student in the sixth grade at the Linden school in Laurelton, New York

At **Peace** with My Decision

by Susan Caleb

At first I was a little reluctant to attend high school at Northeastern Academy (NEA) because of the rumors that the quality of education was low. Many of my friends would tell me that the only difference between NEA and public school was that we had Bible and they didn't. Little did I know at the time, that "small" difference would become the difference that would have the biggest impact in my life.

The conversion that took place for me at NEA was in my sophomore year. Pastor Ronald Edmonds was the speaker for our week-of-prayer. I went into the office for a counseling session after the meeting. I was overwhelmed. I started to cry because I felt as though I was the only one who was doing right. Everyone

went to the movies but me. Students sometimes would not care what they uttered. It seemed that I was the only one reading the Bible. Even now, as a senior, people at school refer to me as Ellen G. White. My two middle initials don't help me a bit.

I told Pastor Edmonds that I hated being the only one who wanted to live right and being alienated from some of my peers for doing so. The people whom I called friends were not acting as friends should. This was overwhelming.

Pastor Edmonds' response was that God called me to be a "Daniel." He let me know that it's okay to stand alone. He also informed me that in a few years I would have a testimony, and he was right—I do. After my experience

that day I went home and prayed that God would give me the strength to stand for Him no matter what and, although I did not notice it at first, I began to change my way of thinking. I realized I could do more for God by relying on Him alone not my peers. God became my friend. That's when I became successful with my communication with my classmates and other students. More respect for me and others was demonstrated.

The funny thing is that I felt like this since seventh grade, but it wasn't until coming to NEA that I found peace with my decision. ☺

Susan Caleb is a senior at Northeastern Academy

God, Good Morals, and Good Study Skills

by Linwood Jackson

I was not sure how a Seventh-day Adventist education impacted my life because I have been attending Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy since preschool. I have also been raised as an Adventist so that is all that I know.

One thing I notice is that my parents and my teachers say the same things—they want the best for me and encourage me to do well in school.

The teachers expect me to be respectful and to treat others the way I would want to be treated. They expect me to do my homework, turn my assignments in on time, and do my best.

They also expect me to respect myself and take pride in the way I look and behave. They want me to think for

myself and make the right choices. They want me to be honest, stay out of trouble, and choose my friends carefully.

Worship during the week teaches us about God and Jesus' life. We hear what is expected from us. We get lessons on respect, obedience, friendship, and responsibility. We learn why we observe Saturday as the Sabbath. During Bible classes we learn about the importance of the ten commandments and learn about Jesus and how we should try to live like him.

We also learn about foods that are good for us and what we should not eat. We learn about drugs and the effects of drugs.

An Adventist education teaches me

about God, good morals, and the importance of education and good study skills.

These lessons that I am learning now will be helpful as I go through high school and college. I am learning to be the best I can be and I can see that it will impact me for the rest of my life. ☺



Linwood Jackson is an eighth grade Student at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Mattapan, Massachusetts.

Four Important Years of My Life

by Jonathan Alexandre

I have been attending a Seventh-day Adventist school for four years.

Those four years have been some of the most important years of my life. In that period I learned so much from the teachers and staff. Because of a Seventh-day Adventist education, I have been able to strengthen my walk with Jesus Christ.

The atmosphere of a Seventh-day Adventist school is much different from most regular schools. For instance how many schools begin and end the day with prayer? How many schools have teachers willing to take time out of their

busy schedule to help you understand certain issues? How many schools have Bible classes, weeks-of-prayer, chapel every week, and other things that help you walk closer to Jesus?

Another great thing about a Seventh-day Adventist education is the lifelong friendships you make with fellow students—friends that are there for you whenever you need them, friends that won't get you into trouble, and friends that love and care for you. Not only do you make friends with the students but you also make friends with the teachers. The teachers of Seventh-day Adventist

schools do not only have a student-teacher relationship with the students, but they also treat you as if you were their own child.

Without a Seventh-day Adventist education I don't think my life would be the same. Being a Seventh-day Adventist has taught me to be strong, courageous, honest, truthful, loving, caring, sharing, and most of all to have faith and trust in God. ☺

Jonathan Alexandre is an eighth grade student at Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy, in Mattapan, Massachusetts.

Seventh-day Adventist Education

by Devon Doughlin

Impacted My Life

Seventh-day Adventist education impacted my life in various ways. I love coming to school in the morning and learning about the love of God and His word. I love to know that at the beginning of each of our sessions we start off with a prayer. It has greatly impacted my life by helping me physically, mentally, and spiritually.

When I was in public school in fifth grade. I was always getting Ds and Fs. I wasn't doing the work because it was too easy. Now I am getting As and Bs. I am also getting challenged with homework and class work.

The thing that had the most impact is the teachers. They are strict—down to work when it is time to work, and play when it is time to play. They do prepare you for the real world. They let you know that things are not always going to go smoothly.

They inform me that sometimes I will be rejected.

On the first day I came to this school I felt left out. I did not know if the kids at this school would like me. I did not talk to anyone for the first week but then on the second week the teachers saw that I was not talking to anyone so they talked to me as a friend. They told me I could tell them anything. On the third week I started talking to kids and some even came to me and talked. Now I have more friends to talk to and play with. I do not only play with them, I can also be serious with them and talk to them when I am troubled and they would understand. ☺

Devon Doughlin is a sixth grader at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Mattapan, Massachusetts.

A Long Journey to an Adventist School

Probably no two students took a longer journey to arrive at Union Springs Academy (USA) than Maria and Theresa Mamah. From a Catholic background, the twin sisters grew up in their dad's native Nigeria, although they spent a brief time in Hungary—the homeland of their mother. At the young age of thirteen, while traveling to another part of Nigeria, the family experienced a serious car crash. Both parents were killed.

The girls had older siblings—twin brothers attending medical school in

Hungary and a sister in college in the United States. It was hoped it could be arranged for them to attend a British school in Hungary and live with family. Busy with their studies, however, their brothers had little time or resources to look after two young girls. It appeared they would have to stay with more distant relatives. Finally, their elder sister, Catherine, volunteered to have them come and live with her in the U.S.

Catherine was about to begin medical school so she began looking around for

a boarding school near her university that would provide her sisters with housing and food as well as an education. They came across the name of Union Springs Academy in a reference book and applied. With the arrangement of some financial assistance Maria and Theresa were accepted.

"I knew nothing about Seventh-day Adventists or the Sabbath before we came here," says Theresa. "I'd heard that this was a Christian school and thought, 'Oh, that's nice,' but knew nothing else." She went on to say that attending the academy has impacted her life tremendously. "I've learned to be more responsible, to fix my own problems. I've done things I never dreamt I could do, such as trying new sports like basketball and gymnastics and being yearbook editor. I even gave my testimony." She believes God led her to the school because it was here that she has gotten to know Him better—"like a close friend."

Both girls were baptized by their Bible teacher in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at a nearby park. Theresa plans to continue her education at an Adventist college. "I've often wondered why I survived when the person next to me was killed," she says. "I believe God has a plan for my life." ☪

Robyn Rusenescu is the librarian, English teacher, and guidance counselor at Union Springs Academy.

Theresa and Maria Mamah participated in the Music Festival—sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference and Atlantic Union College—held on the campus of Atlantic Union College on the weekend of February 26 - March 1.



God Provided the Funds

by Becky Fraker

There have been real miracles that have impacted my life—like the Buick LeSabre that went 240,000 miles without a repair and got 32 mpg after we, jokingly at first, told God we would donate an average car payment to other students' tuition. Or the year that we decided to give four students some small tuition assistance (\$50 each month per student) and extra money kept showing up on our daughter's bill. Each month we would go over the accounts and each month no one could find any error. That year we ended up donating not only our original \$2000 pledge but an additional \$4000 to other students. No one ever solved the mystery of where the extra money came from. It didn't show as a donation—there would just be a credit.

And, our children's tuition was paid.

Ten years ago, our son came to us after attending an Elementary Music Festival at Union Springs Academy (USA) requesting that he be allowed to attend USA for his freshman year. For years we had lived in an area of "underemployment" and our entire household income was barely above the cost of just one year at Union Springs Academy. I had worked for four years as teacher of an Adventist school in exchange for my children's tuition and a little more than gas money. So we had no savings. Our son had planned to home study until his junior year. Very upset that by sacrificing for other children I might have jeopardized my own son's future, I dropped to my knees beside my bed. After a short season of prayer, I received

the assurance that my son would be able to attend USA and that all three of my children would be provided for. By the next fall I had been offered a fully paid position which involved a move for the family. After two years, my husband came to USA as a mission worker. After a few more years he became the maintenance man at USA.

This spring our third child graduates from the academy. Not only have we been able to pay for our own children's tuition, but God provided the funds to pay for a year's tuition for a niece and enabled us to assist 14 other students. ☺

Becky Fraker is the principal/head teacher of the Frontenac elementary school in Union Springs, New York.

An Amazing Gift

by Jonathan Borne

Diane Clifford was a little reluctant when her daughter, Doris Caponey, asked if she could attend Union Springs Academy (USA). The 2002-2003 school year was approaching and an application needed to be sent. Besides, how could she afford it? Doris, with help from her older sister Patricia, finally convinced their mother to request an application from USA.

Doris originally heard about USA by attending church with her sisters, Ada and Carolyn. They live in Endicott, New York, and are members of the Abundant Grace Seventh-day Adventist Company. When Diane and Doris first moved to Endicott, Ada suggested they both attend church with her. Diane went along a few times but Doris continued going. Soon Doris began Bible studies for baptism with Pastor Kevin Dunn.

Doris prayed on her own that her mother would want to attend church with her and her sisters. She continued praying for the next four months that Diane would have a change of heart. Eventually, Doris was baptized in February 2002.

At the end of the school year Diane became convinced that she did not want to send Doris back to the local public high school.

In late July 2002, even though she didn't think she could afford it, she took a chance and requested an application from USA.

Because Doris was a member, Diane contacted Russell Crerar, an elder at the Abundant Grace company, and inquired about church sponsorship for Doris to attend USA. Soon after, and unexpectedly, a church member from Binghamton contacted her about sponsoring Doris. What an amazing gift!

Diane sent in the application to USA and Doris arrived in Union Springs last August. In December, Diane called Doris at USA and told her that she was planning to be baptized. She had decided to give her life to Jesus and was about to begin Bible studies. Doris thinks that her mother wanted to be baptized because of the change she saw in Doris and her sisters' lives through their association with the church.

Diane was baptized on January 11, 2003. She has adjusted her work schedule to accommodate the Sabbath and now attends church with all four of her daughters. ☺

Jonathan Borne is the vice principal at Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York.

Our Schools

by Bob Lehrer

Do Make the Difference

It has been two years since I heard, over the phone, the voice of a distraught father. He asked to see me on behalf of his twelve-year-old daughter. The appointment was made for the following afternoon.

The next afternoon, as I dismissed my students from school, a tall handsome man about 32 years old, came to the door and introduced himself as Nicholette's father.

As we sat and spoke to each other, it became apparent how distraught he was. With a pleading voice he asked if we would take his daughter as a student. He stated that he was at his wit's end with her. Her behavior in the public school was filled with disobedience, beligerence, and a definite no care attitude toward education and authority. She had, with a friend, started using drugs as a means of rebellion and escape.

I asked if I could meet her, and he proceeded to call her into the office. She was tall and attractive for her age. She was dressed on the order of other young people today.

The school board met, and it was agreed to allow her to enter on a trial

basis. Her records from the public school revealed she had accomplished nothing in her classes. Her teacher's comments were: Science—She sits and disturbs the class with crass comments about body parts. English—She is doing nothing and therefore receives zeros. Math—Does none of the work, etc. I told her that in order to remain in our school she would be required to do all she was asked and if she didn't she would not be allowed to participate with the other students in the fun things that all youngsters enjoy.

She knew that I meant business! I treated her kindly, but firmly. She told me that she wanted to cooperate. At first, she would do things against the rules of the school and have to be suspended. This happened three or four times. As time passed, her attitude began to soften. She was, because of her experimentation with drugs, required almost weekly to see Social Services, a probation officer, a counselor, and a community service worker. Many times these agencies would send a representative to our school to see how she was doing.

Nicholette began to enjoy school more and more. She started to ask questions,

especially about God and the Bible, and kept up with her work. She was becoming more honest and trustworthy. I could see the Holy Spirit was wooing her to do well. Her grades were improving.

Her attitude has changed completely. She loves going to our school because she feels safe, loved, and cared for. Her grade average is now between a B and B+. She treats others with consideration and is a big help to all around her. She dislikes missing school and always wants to be involved with us. Her actions, in all facets of her school life, are delightful for a youngster of fourteen. Now, she no longer has to see any of the government agencies.

Do our schools make a difference? I, a teacher of 35 years, absolutely believe they do. Christian education is an integral part in the saving of our youth. Her parents are delighted with her progress and her attitude. Nicholette's comment is and has been, "Mr. Lehrer, I hope this school doesn't close because I want to come here next year!" Our Christian Schools must go on! ☺

Bob Lehrer is principal/head teacher of the Kingsbury school in Kingsbury, New York.

Jesus is Always There for Me

by Erik Downes

Seventh-day Adventist education has impacted my life in many ways. It has brought me closer to God and it has shown me how to be more like Him.

Being a student at a Seventh-day Adventist school has many benefits. Unlike other schools, we pray and have music classes which glorify the God of heaven. Almost all of our classes show reflection to God and have a spiritual application which points to Him in every aspect of life.

Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy, my school, gives us not only indoor activities, but also outdoor activities. Very often our school plans trips to various locations, such as churches and



hospitals, to sing, perform, and read numerous pieces of manuscript for large crowds of people. This gives us experience in speaking in front of people—which is what Jesus did very often.

A Seventh-day Adventist education has affected me in one major way. It has helped me to find Jesus as my personal Savior. Without this school's education I would probably be one of those depressed people without hope in the world. This education has allowed me to realize that Jesus is always there for me. ☺

Erik Downes is a seventh grade student at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Mattapan, Massachusetts.

Summer Camp Schedule 2003

Atlantic Union Conference



Bermuda

Bermuda Conference

Junior Camp July 17 – July 27

Camp Berkshire

Greater New York Conference

Summer Camp June 29 – July 13

Camp Cherokee

New York Conference

Memorial Day Work Camp May 23 – May 26

Work Camp May 29 – June 5

Adventure Camp June 22 – June 29

Junior/Tween Camp July 6 – July 13

Teen Camp July 13 – July 20

Family Camp 1 July 27 – Aug. 3

Family Camp 2 Aug. 3 – Aug. 10

Home School Camp Aug. 10 – Aug. 15

Hispanic Retreat Aug. 15 – Aug. 17

Pastors and Teachers Retreat Aug. 17 – Aug. 20

Single's Retreat Aug. 20 – Aug. 24

55+/Retiree's Retreat Aug. 24 – Aug. 28

NY Conference Church Retreat Aug. 29 – Sept. 1

New Believer's Retreat Sept. 5 – Sept. 7

Adventurer, Pathfinder,
Youth Leadership Weekend Sept. 12 – Sept. 14

Outdoor School Sept. 15 – Sept. 19

Men's Retreat Sept. 19 – Sept. 21

Columbus Day Work Camp Oct. 10 – Oct. 13

Camp Victory Lake

Northeastern Conference

Summer Camp 1st Session

July 13 – July 27

Summer Camp 2nd Session

July 27 – Aug. 17

Camp Lawroweld

Northern New England Conference

Pathfinder Spring Camporee

May 2 – May 4

Single's Retreat

May 23 – May 26

Junior Camp I

June 22 – June 29

Junior Camp II

June 29 – July 6

Teen Outpost Camp

July 20 – July 27

Blind Camp

July 20 – July 27

Teen Camp

July 27 – Aug. 3

Family Adventure Camp

Aug. 3 – Aug. 10

Motorcycle Camp

Aug. 8 – Aug. 10

Teen Prayer Conference

Aug. 15 – Aug. 17

Family Weekend

Aug. 29 – Sept. 1

Pathfinder Fall Camporee

Sept. 26 – Sept. 28

Camp Winnekeag

Southern New England Conference

Wakeboard & Wakeskate Camp June 8 – June 13 (Teens +)

Staff Training Week June 13 – June 22

Teen & Youth Xtreme Camps June 22 – June 29 (Teens +)

Teen Camp June 29 – July 6 (Ages 13-17)

Blind Camp July 6 – July 13 (Ages 10-60)

Junior Camp July 13 – July 20 (Ages 10-12)

Junior Xtreme &

Adventurer Camps July 20 – July 27 (Ages 8-12)

Family Camp #1 July 27 – Aug. 3 (All Ages)

Family Camp #2 Aug. 3 – Aug. 10 (All Ages)

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.

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



Here I Am Lord, Send Me

“Here I am Lord, send me.” That was the response from the forty-one New York Conference Mission team members when they were asked if they would go on a mission trip to an island called Bimini. Most of us didn’t even know where the island was, but we soon learned it was in the Bahamas.

Our first challenge was to raise the money for the trip. Some collected cans and bottles; others did baby-sitting. Bake sales were held, and spaghetti din-

ners added to our goal. Best of all were the donations from faithful church members and friends.

Conference youth director, Dan Whitlow, in speaking to the group stated, “If you want to see God work miracles, go on a mission trip.” His words proved to be prophetic as we began to see God’s hand at work even before we left the Syracuse Airport in New York.

The plane tickets had been purchased far in advance of the trip. When handing out the tickets at the airport, we found we were missing a ticket for the pastor who would accompany us on the trip. Somehow he had been overlooked when the tickets were ordered. We had been informed when we received the tickets that no exchanges, refunds, or substitutions could be made, but the youth director and pastor decided to see what they could do. As they went to the ticket counter some of the teens and staff members gathered in small groups to pray. We had an extra ticket that was purchased for a young man who was unable to go. We prayed that the Lord would intercede for us. We needed our pastor and he needed a ticket. When the youth director and the pastor returned, the pastor had a ticket that had been transferred from the unused ticket and we knew beyond any doubt that with God all things are possible.

Facts About Bimini

- A few Seventh-day Adventists live on the island of Bimini. They are members in the Bahamas Conference.
- Bimini is the Bahamian island closest to the United States, sitting approximately 40 miles east of Miami on the edge of the Gulf Stream.
- Two islands comprise Bimini—North and South Bimini.
- Most visitors stay in North Bimini which is more densely populated.
- Bimini has an area of nine square miles and a population of about 1,638.
- The waters of this little chunk of The Bahamas spawn some of the largest game fish in the world.
- The Lost City of Atlantis is believed to be in the shallow waters off Bimini.



Forty-one team members from the New York Conference went on a mission trip to the island of Bimini.

New York Conference team members go on a mission trip to the island of Bimini.



The wonders of God's creation can be seen in the water which is crystal clear and the color of turquoise and emerald.

The island of Bimini has been devastated in the past by drugs and alcohol, but an effort is being made to reclaim it. The wonders of God's creation can still be seen in the water, which is crystal clear and the color of turquoise and emerald. The beautiful beaches surrounding the island and the abundance of sea life was ours to enjoy as we went snorkeling and swimming each day for recreation.

We conducted Vacation Bible School (VBS) each weekday morning using the theme "Bible Heroes." The teens studied each lesson and spent the mornings teaching the island children. The children are sweet and love to be held. The teens were "awe-

some." The Lord worked through each one as they were patient and kind while working with the children.

Evenings were spent preparing for the next days VBS and the teens had



The youth on the mission trip were kind and patient while working with the children.

both a morning and evening devotional time with the trip pastor. We were invited to use the Methodist church to hold our Sabbath services and we were also invited to give the message on Sunday to their members. God truly blessed our efforts to spread the gospel on the island.

In the afternoons, throughout the two weeks, we split up into groups under the direction of our work project director and went out into the community to work on different tasks. We renovated a garden at the all age school, assembled a playground, painted the school bathrooms—adding Bible verses to the walls as well as murals of God's creation, and cut down trees for a neighboring church and some nearby neighbors. Working to help finish what the Gulf States Conference group had started was all part of the Lord's plan and the time went quickly.

God continued to protect and guide us as we retraced our route to New York. It was a happy bunch that arrived back in Syracuse where we were greeted by the conference president, Steven Gallimore, and our families.

It bears repeating—"If you want to see miracles, go on a mission trip." Our team is planning on returning to Bimini in 2003 to continue the Lord's work there. We will be participating in an evangelistic event aimed at establishing a church on the island as well as having VBS and helping with work projects in the community. Applications can be obtained from the conference office. We need both teens and staff willing to say, "Here I am Lord, send me!" ☺

Stewart and Dawn Miller are members of the group that traveled to Bimini.

Children on the island attended Vacation Bible School each weekday morning.



Dr. N. Clifford Sorenson Appointed Interim President of Atlantic Union College

The Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. N. Clifford Sorenson as interim president of the college beginning March 5.

Sorenson, who is no stranger to higher education, was president of Walla Walla College in Washington State for ten years. In 1996 he was interim president at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. Sorenson, who has been retired for more than ten years, was also president of Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, from 1990-1992 and interim president at Walla Walla College in 2002.

Dr. Sylvan A. Lashley left the Atlantic Union College presidency on March 4, after seven years, the longest stint in his eighteen-year three-college presidency career. Lashley was slated to complete his service as president of the college on May 31 but graciously agreed to move up the date to allow the interim president to meet with the Commissioners of the New England Association of Schools

and Colleges (NEASC) on March 6. Atlantic Union College appeared before the NEASC accrediting body concerning its ongoing accreditation and Sorenson will lead AUC in the implementation of any NEASC recommendations.

When asked about what his next step will be, Lashley simply says, "I have no regrets and I welcome this opportunity to complete my law degree which I began about a year ago. I feel that higher education law will utilize my eighteen years of experience in higher education and will also provide me with a new challenge for the future."

The board of trustees, faculty, and staff of Atlantic Union College, a Seventh-day Adventist church-sponsored institution of higher education that was established in 1882, are committed to the long-term success of the college and its future graduates. ☺



Dr. N. C. Sorenson

*Office of the chairman of the board of trustees and the public relations department
Atlantic Union College*

Congressman Martin Meehan Visits AUC

Congressman Martin Meehan and Representative James Eldridge of the Fifth and Thirty-Seventh Districts of Middlesex County in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were on the campus of Atlantic Union College on February 10, 2003, to attend a meeting with Sylvan Lashley, former president of AUC, Carlyle Simmons, executive secretary of the Atlantic Union Conference, and other college officials. The meeting was held to discuss a proposal currently supported by the congressman regarding the establishment of an Urban Education Institute at Atlantic Union College.

The institute would support the education of minority individuals currently within the urban school systems while at the same time preparing the next generation who will enter the workforce and be in a position to successfully assist the growing number of minority students in the cities.

The work of the institute will be to support the urban school systems in Worcester County and the Merrimack Valley by offering supplemental support in the areas of tutoring, mentoring, and MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) preparation. Students from Atlantic Union College who currently are enrolled in the fields of education and social work would provide on site support within the urban schools located in Worcester, Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill.



Congressman Meehan (center), Representative Eldridge (fifth from right), and former college president, Sylvan Lashley, join some of the students in the ELI lab.

The proposal seeks funding support of \$1.5 million dollars over four years to enlarge what is already a very successful program at Atlantic Union College. The college administrators are working along with Congressman Meehan and Representative Eldridge to bring this proposal to the appropriate leadership in Washington, D. C., and the statehouse.

Following the meeting Lashley gave the distinguished guests a brief tour of the college and took them specifically to meet with the director of the English Language Institute (ELI), Andrew Rivera. ELI tradi-

tionally attracts students interested in learning English from locations throughout the globe. Congressman Meehan was able to talk with students from Japan, Chili, Venezuela, Mexico, and Brazil regarding their experience at Atlantic Union College. Many of these students will complete their English language education and enter the regular academic program at AUC for further training in the areas of education and social services.

Meehan expressed enthusiasm in Atlantic Union College as an obvious site for the proposed Urban Education Institute. The college boasts a diverse population of students from 45 countries and ELI is a proven leader in the English as a Second Language (ESL) arena. ☺

*Linda Gay ('00), associate director for advancement
Atlantic Union College*

Bullón Speaks at Spanish Dyckman Church

International evangelist, Alejandro Bullón, was the speaker for an evangelistic event held at the Spanish Dyckman church in Upper Manhattan on January 19. To open the event pastors Carlos Aragones, Nixon Thomas, Gilberto Alvis, Abel Rosario, and Angel Luis Rodríguez gave reports on the ongoing evangelistic efforts in their regions.

Bullón addressed the auditorium of more than 500 church members eager to hear the word of God. He presented a very interesting mes-



Felipe Barrientos

Bullón addressed the auditorium of more than 500 people.

sage that deeply touched the hearts of each person. The attendees were blessed with special music performed by a duet "Armonía de Dos." They recently arrived from the Dominican Republic.

On hand to participate in the event were pastors David Merino, José Hernández, Jeremías Feliz, Gonzalo Monroy, and Julio Ureña. Present to show their support were Manuel Vásquez, vice president of Multilingual Ministries for the North American Division; Dionisio Olivo,



Felipe Barrientos

On hand at the meeting was Dionisio Olivo, president and Santiago Mejía, director of Hispanic Ministries for the Greater New York Conference.

president and Santiago Mejía, director of Hispanic Ministries for the Greater New York Conference.

Felipe Barrientos, member Spanish Dyckman church

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Triennial Session of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the Triennial Session of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, convening at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.), Sunday, June 22, 2003, at Camp Berkshire, Wingdale New York 12594. The delegates to the Conference Session are also delegates to the Corporation Triennial Session

The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Board of Trustees for the coming triennial period, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Dionisio Olivo, President
G. Earl Knight, Executive Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifty-Second Triennial Session of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) on Sunday June 22, 2003, at Camp Berkshire, Wingdale, New York, 12594.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and departmental directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization, and one for every 40 members. Each church is entitled to elect alternate delegates who may be seated at the Conference Session in place of any regular delegate not present.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee is being called for Saturday night, June 21, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. at Camp Berkshire, Wingdale, New York, 12594. All members of the Organizing Committee should plan to be present.

Dionisio Olivo, President
G. Earl Knight, Executive Secretary

9th Annual Christian Men's Conference Prayer Retreat

Brothers Building Bridges For Eternity

May 16–18, 2003

Hudson Valley Resort & Spa
400 Granite Road
Kerhonkson, New York

Keynote Speaker
R. Clifford Jones
Andrews University

Special Guest
June Smith
Long Island University

For more information contact the
Men's Ministries Department
Greater New York Conference
7 Shelter Rock Road
PO Box 5029
Manhasset, NY 11030
Phone: (516) 627-9350
Fax: (516) 627-9272
E-mail: aljune77@aol.com

"Prayer is Power"

Greater New York Conference
15th Annual
Women's Prayer Retreat
May 2–4, 2003

Nevele Grand Resort & Country Club
One Nevele Road
Ellenville, New York

Keynote Speakers
Chris Rucker
Abundant Life Ministries

Juanita Kretschmar
Key West, Florida

Maria Felisa Rando
International Speaker
Family Life and Women's Ministries

Registration must be done through
PlusLine.Org, PO Box 5005
Westlake Village, CA 91359-5005
1-800-732-7587 • www.plusline.org

Natural Bridge Eager Beaver and Adventurer Club a Great Success

The members of the Natural Bridge church could not have predicted the overwhelming community response to the new Adventurer and Eager Beaver Clubs. A consistent attendance of 25 children each week has been a true blessing, especially since the population of our little Hamlet is only 600! Of the 25 children, only five are members of our church! In addition to working hard on their badges, they have performed several community service projects. Last fall they raked the leaves for two senior citizens. They made favors for the annual community senior citizens dinner that is sponsored by the local Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. They also made favors for the second annual Community Thanksgiving, which has become a new tradition for the church. Pray for the children's ministry programs.

*Kelly Lawton, member
Natural Bridge church*



Members of the Natural Bridge Eager Beaver and Adventurer Clubs.

One Big Busy Body

"Busy" is the million-dollar word to describe the past months at Union Springs Academy.

For example, in December, the students and faculty put out a successful effort to make our Walk Through Bethlehem as realistic and insightful as possible. A guide led the way getting our guests involved—from paying taxes, to

heating their hands near a live fire, down to a market thriving with people and action. Each visitor was given three shekels; two with which to pay their tax, and a third to buy a recipe from the baker or give to the beggar. According to Tim Foote ('04), one of the three kings who came to greet the different groups, "From where I was located, what I saw seemed very enthusiastic."

While encircling the fire, four

angels appeared to spread the message of the baby Jesus who had been born in a manger. The guides tried to get our visitors a room at the inn, but unfortunately there were no vacancies. After a peek at Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus, our visitors were invited to enjoy hot cocoa and cookies while a live wind ensemble performed. Although it was cold and many got wet, the bad weather became no obstacle for us that night. It's amazing what we can accomplish through God's strength.

In addition to preparing for our long winter break, the school was also wrapped up in getting our last weekend shows and concerts together. The choir, chamber choir, band, and bell choir combined efforts to put on a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for parents and friends during the morning Sabbath service, many stayed for our afternoon drama, Bethlehem's Big Night. About one third of the academy's students are involved with drama club, combined with another third who make up the choir. With little time to work, the musical came together well and was a hit entertainer.

Innkeepers, Katrina Landa and Emily Moore (in red), are fighting over this traveler, played by Kelly Chambers.



Ed Humals

The birth story was told from the unusual angle of the town itself while its "residents" sang about God's plan for the little town.

"It's a pleasure to be involved with the music and drama this year. It's been a blast because it seems that our ministry is growing," says Scott Kabel ('03).

Overall, the students of Union Springs Academy are working together to promote spirituality within the school and community while having fun at the same time.

*Kelly McClurg, student, class of 2004
Union Springs Academy*

Welcome to Ministry in New York!

Samuel Indreiu accepted the call to pastor the Jamestown District in the New York Conference beginning February 2003. Three churches, Jamestown, Brockton, and Perrysburg are the sister churches comprising this district. Samuel has a strong desire to recreate the caring Early Church community in the area surrounding the local church by sharing the love of Jesus, making disciples, and proclaiming the gospel of the Three Angels' Message. Samuel recently graduated from Andrews Theological Seminary. He previously received a bachelor of science in management. Samuel is organized, detail oriented, trustworthy, has excellent listening skills, is effective under stress, eager to learn new things, and able to do them quickly.

Samuel grew up in an Adventist family in Bucharest, Romania, where his family instilled a strong work ethic led by "quality motivation, rather than quantity motivation." "When the Word created me," Samuel says, "God gave me good parents. They had been born and raised in Adventist Romania and they provided a Christian environment for me and my brother, a home where we could grow up in security and peace." Samuel's view of life is effectively communicated by his words, "I can say that all I am, I am because of God who sent Christ to die for me on the cross. God truly works in wonderful ways." During his early

years he learned that to be a Christian meant to live a life of sacrifice. "My parents never went to work on Sabbath; they never attended schools or any exams on Sabbath and, if it was not for God's hand, one could argue that they suffered professionally, financially, and socially because of this."

Yet God was wonderful to Samuel, always right behind him, ready to intervene when he would allow Him to do so. Texts like Ecclesiastes 2:26 (RSV), "For to the one who pleases Him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and heaping, only to give to one who pleases God," made Samuel realize the blessings that God's plan contained for those who want to do His will.

Samuel is married to Sladjana, his "best friend," a nurse who is committed to a life of ministry. Samuel is musically talented and has toured internationally, singing with the Andrews University Singers.

As Samuel and Sladjana move into their new home and face a new year, Samuel states, "In my experience with God, I have learned not to make plans and be rigid about them." "I know," Samuel continues, "that God will lead me step by step, just as He has in the past. I thank God for His patience with me and for His faithfulness and love."

The New York Conference welcomes Samuel and Sladjana, and looks forward to working together for a finished work.

Charé Gallimore, correspondent NYC

A Room for God

Mr. Landa pondered his situation. He had recently purchased a small nursing home. Now he was just finishing an untimely stretch. Some clients had left because they needed more critical care, and in a short period of time several patients had died. This left his home with too few clients to meet his financial obligations.

Then he remembered God's promises to take care of us if we put Him first. Choosing one of the vacant rooms, Mr. Landa dedicated it to God's work. His youngest daughter, Katie, was attending Union Springs Academy so this was where he committed the income from the room.

God rewarded his faith. Immediately, that room was filled. Shortly thereafter he had a full nursing home. Now he has to turn away people who are inquiring about rooms. God truly keeps His promises.

*John Baker, math and physics teacher
Union Springs Academy*

UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY Alumni Weekend May 2-4, 2003

Friday, May 2

Registration

Union Springs Church

3:00 p.m.

Vespers

Class of 1983

7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Sabbath School

Class of 1978

9:30 a.m.

Church Service

Class of 1953

11:00 a.m.

Sabbath Vespers

Class of 1993

7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 4

Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

8:00 a.m.

For more information contact USA at (315) 889-7314.

A Very Special Ministry

There was record attendance at the Freeport Seventh-day Adventist Church on November 16, 2002, for the *Hands Up Puppet Ministry*. Many commented they really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the program and desired to learn how to start such a ministry. In an afternoon meeting Sandy Fliesch, the team's director, gave a training session for those interested.

Hands Up Puppet Ministry has had the privilege of representing the church in a puppet convention in Rhode Island where they won a bronze medal. They have also had the honor of witnessing for Christ in various churches and public schools.

The team is led by Sandi Fliesh, director; Pastor Ed Fliesh, assistant director; Lance Cook, assistant director, and Nicole Klein, producer. Student team members are Justin Chaput, Jared Cook, Lauren Cook, Shane Cook, Christina Doughty, Anthony Dow, Felica Dow, Courtney Hartin, Ben Hopewell, Elliot Ramseys, and Sammy Ramseys.

We praise God for these dedicated leaders and the work they do training our young people for ministry. We are also thankful for our youth who are willing to step out for Jesus.

For more information regarding *Hands Up Puppet Ministry*, contact Lance Cook at (207) 538-9214



Members of the *Hands Up Puppet Ministry* witness for Christ in churches and schools.

or e-mail 6cooks@ainop.com.

Gary Blanchard Sr., elder
Freeport church

“IT’S BEGINNING TO RAIN”
A Prayer Retreat for the Sincere Seeker
Northern New England Conference
May 2-4, 2003
Camp Lawroweld, Maine

The Holy Spirit is being “poured” out on individuals and it is time to seek the promised outpouring. If you are longing for a deeper prayer experience and time with others who are “calling on the name of the Lord” then you won’t want to miss this retreat.

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Ages 13 and up

For more information including a registration packet, please contact the Northern New England Conference at (207) 797-3760 or write 91 Allen Ave., Portland, ME 04103. Due to the nature of this retreat ALL ATTENDEES MUST PRE-REGISTER – No Exceptions!

**Friends of Camp Lawroweld
Reunion**

June 20-22, 2003
Held at Camp Lawroweld
Cost: \$40 per person \$60 per couple
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Come and enjoy great spiritual food, stories around the campfire, renewing old friendships, making new friends and Lawroweld's wonderful natural atmosphere. For information call Linda at (207) 797-3760 ext. 15.

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ATTENTION SINGLES!!

Plan now to attend the Annual Northern New England Conference

**Single’s Memorial
Day Retreat
May 23-26, 2003.**



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? See you there.

Beautiful Camp Lawroweld is located in the western Maine mountains and on Lake Webb. Come enjoy a Christ-centered weekend. 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: Northern New England Conference, Single’s Ministry (207) 797-3760, ext. 15. Please bring your own bedding. Cost is \$70.00. Make checks payable to: Northern New England Conference with a memo of “Single’s Retreat.” Mail application and check to: Northern New England Conference, Attn.: Single’s Retreat, 91 Allen Ave., Portland, ME 04103.

SINGLE’S RETREAT APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____

Date of Birth: _____

A Job Well Done

Virginia Jencks who served as treasurer of the Fitchburg church from December 1983 retired in November 2002 after almost 19 years of service

there. Virginia has been an active member of the Adventist church for 68 years and with the exception of several years spent in Stoneham, she has been an active member at Fitchburg for 53 years.

Pictured are James Scarborough, pastor of the Gardner and Fitchburg churches, and his wife, Althea, with now-retired church treasurer Virginia Jencks and her husband, Andrew.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church has many committed members like her—we call them “giants!” They are those to whom the Lord will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and

share your master’s happiness!”—Matthew 25:21 NIV.

Thank you, Virginia, for your service to the local church, and thank you to all of you who so faithfully serve. The work of the Lord depends on your commitment to Him.

Judy A. Thomsen, former correspondent SNEC

139th Anniversary

VILLAGE CHURCH

75 Sawyer Street
South Lancaster, Massachusetts

Featured Speaker

Theodore T. Jones, II
General Conference Associate Secretary

Friday, April 26

Vespers 7:30 p.m.

Sabbath, April 27

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.

Divine Worship 11:00 a.m.

Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is cordially invited.

**Southern New England Conference
Festival of Faith Camp Meeting 2003
June 20-28, 2003 Camp Meeting Reservation**

Mail With Deposit To: Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
34 Sawyer St., P.O. Box 1169, South Lancaster, Massachusetts 01561

For information: Phone (978)365-4551, Fax (978) 365-3838, E-mail: SNEConference@sneconline.org

EQUIPMENT

___ Tent with floor	\$80 ⁰⁰
___ Double bed—spring and mattress	30 ⁰⁰
___ Single bed—spring and mattress	17 ⁰⁰
___ Table	5 ⁰⁰
___ Chairs—each	2 ⁰⁰
___ *Per night private tent or small trailer—no hook-up	10 ⁰⁰
___ *Full-time private tent or small trailer—no hook-up	70 ⁰⁰
___ *Full-time 24-foot trailer or motor home elec./water	130 ⁰⁰

Please contact: Lenheim Hall (men’s dorm) (978) 368- 2900 or Preston Hall (women’s dorm) (978) 368-2700 at Atlantic Union College to make your reservations for dormitory rooms.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Emergency # while at camp meeting (____) _____

July 31, 2002 was the deadline for reserving the same accommodations as last year. After July 31 all reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Application MUST have a deposit of \$20.00. DEPOSIT IS NOT REFUNDABLE AFTER JUNE 1, 2003. (*) Every order change after June 6 will require a \$5.00 charge.

On site for private tent or trailer, only one family permitted per site. An adult is required to stay in each tent or trailer. Tents in RV spaces may be moved to private tent sites if the space is needed for an RV.

Private tents in section E are now on a reservation basis. Those registered in a site have priority. All other regulations will apply.

*Senior citizen discount of ten percent (10%) will be given upon request with this application for those 60 years and above.

Number of adults staying on grounds _____

Number of children in:

Beginners _____ Juniors _____

Kindergarten _____ Earliteens _____

Primary _____ Youth _____

Christian Fellowship Pathfinders Share Joy With Children

Pathfinders along with Dr. Winston Lawrence, director of Christian Fellowship Pathfinders Club, went into the neighborhoods of Brooklyn, New York, last December to distribute gifts to the children whose parents are incarcerated.

The effort was initiated by the Personal Ministries department under the leadership of Eastlyn Thorpe. The Personal Ministries department had linked up with the Angel Tree program of Prison Fellowship Ministries. The members of Christian Fellowship church donated the gifts that were taken to the homes of the children.

The Pathfinders were so excited at this opportunity to witness that they volunteered to participate. They dressed in their class "A" uniforms and went proudly to serve. As freezing rain poured, and gusting winds pried the umbrella from their hands, they went from one location to another to present the gifts to the children. Taking their pledge, "I will be a servant to God and a friend to man," literally as they should, they walked through dark hallways and traveled up smelly elevators as they visited huge apartment buildings and abandoned houses. This did not deter the Pathfinders from making their deliveries. They knew the reward would be great when they saw the smile on the faces of the children and the gratitude in the eyes of their guardians and parents. When asked what motivated such a thoughtful and generous act, the Pathfinder's response was that everyone participated because of love.

Being a Pathfinder is not just about drilling, marching, and going camping. It is a ministry in which the love of God can be reflected by young people to fellow young people.

*Winston Lawrence, Pathfinder director
Christian Fellowship church*

First Baptism of 2003 at Pilgrim Tabernacle

On Sabbath, January 4 the Pilgrim Tabernacle church of Hempstead, Long Island, had its first baptism of 2003. After the worship service members joyfully traveled for about twenty minutes to Bethany church in Elmont, Long Island, to witness their friends and families begin a new life in Christ for the new year.

Four persons were baptized: Steven and Shanel Tarrant, brother and sister, and Pamela Dixon and Mercedes Smith, mother and daughter. Iris James, who is a member of Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church, shared words of encouragement with the newly baptized members. She reminded them, and referred to Steven, Shanel, and Mercedes, that Jesus was only 12 years old when he told his parents that "He must be about His Father's business."

It was evident that the spirit of the Lord was present and working on the hearts of others. Two additional persons indicated that they too would like prayer and to be baptized in the next baptism.

*Clifton Golding, communication secretary
Pilgrim Tabernacle church*

Treasury and Secretariat Combine for Training

About 250 local church clerks and treasurers gathered at Victory Lake during the weekend of February 7-9 for the annual clerks and treasurers training under the theme "God and God Alone."

The meetings began with a Friday night vesper message by C.A. Murray, communication, Sabbath school, and Religious Liberty director, entitled "The Aroma of Adventism." Saturday's schedule began at 8:00 a.m. and featured a succession of messages designed to emphasize the mission aspect of the work performed by clerks and treasurers.

Recently elected treasurer, Seth Bardu was commended by many attendees for the high spiritual

tone of the day's proceedings which left most of the "nuts and bolts" of the work done by local church treasurers until after the Sabbath. It was emphasized that the work of the local church treasurers and clerks is a spiritual one that is service rendered to God more than just the church. The work is as important to the mission of the church as a Bible study or sermon.

Larry J. Bailey, conference secretary, set the same spiritual tone in a separate track outlined for the clerks. For the clerks workshop, subject areas included: the clerk's relationship to the church, clerk duties, clerks Sabbath duties, membership auditing, reconciling membership, timely reporting, church directory, church officers lists, recording minutes, processing transfers, and funeral protocol.

Subject areas for the treasurers included: "The Little Lady"—Faithfulness, "The Dead Sea"—Giving, and "The Master Who Went Away"—Stewardship.

Participants included, Seth Bardu, Swani Borge-Grewal, Nicole Bailey, Raymond Baynard, Jr., Edson Bovell, Anne Marie Fraser, Leon Henry, Monica Jackson, Cynthia Williams, Larry J. Bailey, Rosemarie Brady, and Lorraine Archie.

C.A. Murray, correspondent NEC

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Constituency meeting of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 1, 2003, at Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, New York.

The purpose of this meeting is to address the financial concerns of the Northeastern Conference, and related 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

Young Adult Friendly Churches

Valentine's Day weekend was a memorable weekend for the approximately 150 young adults of the Atlantic Union attending the first-ever Young Adult/Collegiate Retreat sponsored by the Youth Ministries department of the Atlantic Union. Why so many? What was it that sparked their interest in coming to a camp in the middle of winter to worship, hang out, attend workshops, and listen to a young adult speaker? I believe there is a hungering among this age group for other unique opportunities for worship, service, and interaction with other young adults.

Young adult ministry needs to happen in each conference and each of our churches. It is a neglected ministry. You might say this is a neglected generation in our church. Why should it be? It was this age group that were the founders of this church. God has always used this generation to do special things for Him. Think about it. How did God use individuals such as David, Mary, Samuel, Joseph, Timothy, and Daniel. He empowered them to do great things for Him. He used young adults like James and Ellen White, John Andrews, and Harry Fenner to help take the good news of the Sabbath and the saving love of Jesus to their generation. God can still use young adults to do great things for Him.

What are some characteristics of an effective, successful congregation that we need to find in a church to grow "young adult ministries." Review these ingredients as suggested by the book *YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY* by Terry Hershey.

Congregations that successfully incorporate young adults into the church body have this in common: *The churches do not ask for responsibility; they give it away.* Giving away responsibility means letting your young adults dream about the ministry and direction of the church. It also means *using* your young adult's input and ideas.

Churches that have an effective young adult ministry are churches where the young adults are free to ask questions. These are congregations that focus on a "faith that matters." Give the young adults opportunities to practice what this church teaches. Planning a

young adult mission trip would be a great example of putting our practice to work.

Young adults need churches that create opportunities for belonging. They need to feel a part of the church! Young adults need places to belong and the most effective churches are those that provide "belonging opportunities." One place to start would be small groups.

Young adults need churches that show sensitivity to newcomers. They want to make sure their friends would

be accepted whether they are members of the church or not. We need to practice a "theology of welcoming."

Congregations that are "young adult friendly" will be congregations that give young adults ownership. Unless young adults own and are a part of building a young adult ministry, the ministry is destined to serious anemia or even failure.

A congregation that supports a dynamic effective young adult ministries is one that is affirming of diversity.

This is the ability to recognize differences in appearance, culture, ways of thinking, their choices of music, and how they spend their time. Is there a theology of affirming diversity in the church?

May we see "young adult friendly" churches throughout the Atlantic Union. There is an "army of youth" out there that is ready to help finish God's work on this earth. ☺

Bill Wood, Youth Ministries director
Atlantic Union Conference



Editor: A. P. Dawson

Young adults from across the Atlantic Union joined together in worship at the GODencounters Collegiate/Young Adult Retreat at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts.

If you have questions about any aspect of Pathfinder, Youth, or Young Adult Ministries you would like answered in this column, please refer them to the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department. We hope you find this column useful as you reach out to the youth of all ages in your church and local community.

YouthConnections

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



BULLETIN BOARD

Sunset Table

Eastern Daylight Saving Time

May 2003	2	9	16	23	30
Bangor, ME	7:42	7:50	7:58	8:06	8:12
Portland, ME	7:45	7:53	8:01	8:08	8:14
Boston, MA	7:45	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:13
South Lancaster, MA	7:48	7:55	8:03	8:10	8:16
Pittsfield, MA	7:54	8:02	8:09	8:16	8:22
Hartford, CT	7:50	7:58	8:05	8:12	8:18
New York, NY	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:14	8:19
Albany, NY	7:55	8:03	8:10	8:17	8:23
Utica, NY	8:04	8:11	8:19	8:26	8:32
Syracuse, NY	8:07	8:15	8:22	8:29	8:36
Rochester, NY	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:36	8:42
Buffalo, NY	8:17	8:25	8:33	8:40	8:46
Hamilton, Bda	7:59	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:18

Out-of-Union

Attention Spring Valley Academy Alumni—An exciting Homecoming Weekend is being planned for April 25-27, 2003. Honor classes are '73, '78, '83, '88, '93 and '98. Alumni Golf Tournament is on Sunday, April 27. For more information check our website, www.springvalleyacademy.org; call (937) 433-0790; or e-mail: dahill@sva.pvt.k12.oh.us. Your friends are coming, you should too!

Fellowship of Adventist Missionaries (FAMA) to Africa 2003 Retreat—Jul. 24-27, Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Virginia. Registration information on FAMA website: www.tagnet.org/fama. For more info call Dorothy Jean Salhany at (931) 829 4608, e-mail: dsfama@mycidco.com, or Duane Brenneman, (979) 846-6116 or e-mail: duanebrenneman@hotmail.com.

Someone You Know Deserves A Woman of the Year Award! The Association of Adventist Women is soliciting nominations for its 2003 Women of the Year awards which will be presented at the annual AAW convention to be held in Loma Linda, California, October 16-19, 2003. 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 applications is May 20, 2003. Should you wish to nominate someone, please request a nomination form. Toini Harrison, Women of the Year Coordinator, Association of Adventist Women, 24414 University Ave., #167, Loma Linda, CA 92354. Phone: (909) 799-5448, e-mail: kaynelson@earthlink.net.

Spot News

Atlantic Union Conference Youth Congress 2003 — "Hangin' Round or Heaven Bound," April 9-12, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Turf Hotel, Albany, New York. For information on registration, workshops, visit our web site at www.atlantic-union.org/youthcongress2003.htm or call the Atlantic Union Youth Ministries Department at (978) 368-8333 ext.3016.

Northeastern Academy Alumni Weekend — The next annual alumni weekend will be held on June 6-7, 2003 at Northeastern Academy. Visit the alumni web site for additional information: www.neaalumni.com or e-mail neaalumni@hotmail.com.

60th Anniversary
Celebration 1943 – 2003

*"A Legacy of
Excellence"*

Bermuda Institute
Alumni Weekend

May 15-18, 2003

For more information contact
Frigga Simmons, director of
development for Bermuda
Institute

Phone: (441) 238-1566

Fax: (441) 238-1309

E-mail: bidevelopment@ibl.bm

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

Open House

Master of Education

Wednesday, April 16, 2003, 5:30 p.m.

Chan Shun Dining Commons
Banquet Room

For more information contact
Carmen Rodriguez
Continuing Education Program
(978) 368-2490
ce@atlanticuc.edu
www.atlanticuc.edu

¿Qué Está Pasando?

ALREDEDOR DE LA IGLESIA MUNDIAL

Ghana: La mayor participación de la iglesia se da en educación y salud

4 Febrero, 2003, Accra, Ghana [ANN] — Los Adventistas del Séptimo Día continuarán asociados al gobierno en áreas de educación y salud, afirmó Peter Mensah, Presidente de la iglesia en Ghana, al dirigirse a los líderes eclesiásticos con motivo del Segundo Congreso Trienal de la iglesia en el este de Ghana el pasado 29 de Enero.

Mensa asimismo dijo que la iglesia está incrementando sus esfuerzos para educar al público y sus miembros acerca del HIV/SIDA.

Según informes de prensa, Anne Nyamekye, Ministra Asociada de medio ambiente y ciencia, dijo que la iglesia debería continuar orando por los países vecinos que atraviesan por guerras. Ella felicitó a la iglesia adventista por asociarse con el gobierno en sus esfuerzos de desarrollo, mencionando la primer universidad privada de Ghana que recibió la acreditación en Oyibi.

El ministro asimismo destacó la participación de las mujeres en la iglesia y dijo que es de importancia su participación en el intento de frenar la epidemia del HIV/SIDA.

En Ghana hay más de un cuarto de millón de adventistas que se reúnen en alrededor de 730 congregaciones.

ANN Staff

Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

La iglesia evalúa procedimientos para situaciones de emergencia

28 Enero, 2003, Silver Spring, Maryland, Estados Unidos [ANN] — Los líderes de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día están preocupados por la creciente tensión en Medio Oriente, dijo Larry Colburn, asistente del presidente de la iglesia adventista mundial.

“Somos una organización cristiana internacional, establecida en casi cada país del mundo,” dijo Colburn. “Es natural que una comunidad cristiana se preocupe acerca de la dimensión humana de cualquier conflicto, nuestros propios creyentes, y cualquiera que pudiera verse afectado. Cuando se desarrolla un conflicto, los inocentes se ven afectados.”

La iglesia adventista tiene personal internacional, lo que incluye a muchos voluntarios involucrados en las actividades misio-

neras de la iglesia, el trabajo humanitario y la administración. Algunos viven en áreas consideradas de alto riesgo debido a las luchas intestinas o regionales.

Al hablar con ANN, Colburn dijo que ante una escalada del conflicto con Irak, los líderes de la iglesia están evaluando procedimientos de emergencia, incluyendo evacuación de personal y otros efectos potencialmente adversos para la iglesia y sus actividades internacionales.

Colburn dijo que como cada emergencia presenta diferentes opciones que deben ser consideradas, “un equipo internacional, incluyendo representantes de las cuatro divisiones mundiales, se ocupará de cada situación. A menudo efectuamos consultas y consideramos con cuidado qué respuesta dar y qué procedimientos seguir.”

“Nosotros oramos, pero también planificamos con el fin de estar listos para situaciones de emergencia que podrían requerir de una atención especial,” dijo. “Aunque hacemos bien en estar preparados, como comunidad cristiana deberíamos continuar orando para que los vientos de conflicto se calmen y que no produzcan consecuencias trágicas, a menudo más allá de control. La guerra siempre constituye la peor opción.”

“Como adventistas del séptimo día continuamos expresando nuestra posición de resolver los problemas por medio de procedimientos no violentos. Como cristianos, estamos llamados a ser pacificadores,” añadió.

El año pasado el Comité Ejecutivo de la Iglesia Adventista publicó una declaración titulada “Un llamado adventista a la paz.” La declaración condena toda forma de violencia y terrorismo, y llama a los adventistas a ser “agentes de paz” y a promover una cultura de paz y reconciliación en este mundo cada vez más violento. “Los métodos violentos no pueden lograr respuestas duraderas para los profundos problemas de división en la sociedad,” concluye la declaración.

Ray Dabrowski/ANN

Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

Los adventistas afirman su posición en relación con los niños combatientes

21 Enero, 2003, Nueva York, Nueva York, Estados Unidos [ANN] — El pasado 14 de

Enero, se efectuó una protesta en contra de la continua utilización de niños de hasta ocho años de edad como soldados combatientes. La protesta fue presentada ante el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, e incluyó la representación de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día.

Como asistente a la reunión pública en relación con este tema y en representación de la Oficina de Enlace de las Naciones Unidas de la iglesia, Mindi Rahn presentó la perspectiva de la iglesia ante los otros grupos presentes. La iglesia a menudo ha efectuado declaraciones al respecto y ha hecho públicas declaraciones explicando su posición en relación con los niños, el abuso y la violencia.

En una “Declaración en relación con el bienestar y valor de los niños” presentada en el 2000, la iglesia habló acerca de la explotación y la vulnerabilidad de los niños cuando se los utiliza en conflictos armados.

“Defendemos firmemente nuestros principios cristianos. Como una organización cristiana dedicada a los valores de la tolerancia, la protección y la no violencia, nos oponemos a la utilización de niños soldados, destruyendo su inocencia y negándoles una niñez verdadera,” dice el vicepresidente general de la iglesia Ted N. C. Wilson, quien también preside la Comisión de Declaraciones Públicas y Oficiales de la iglesia mundial en su sede central de Silver Spring, Maryland, Estados Unidos. Wilson asimismo reafirmó la posición adventista de “buscar el camino de las resoluciones pacíficas de los conflictos.”

En su alocución durante la reunión del Consejo de Seguridad, Carol Bellamy, directora ejecutiva del UNICEF (el fondo para la niñez de las Naciones Unidas), afirmó que en el mundo “hay 300.000 niños soldados. Debemos pedir cuenta a los países que someten a los niños a esta actividad. Los niños representan las generaciones venideras del mundo, y debemos cuidar de nuestro futuro.” El Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas Kofi Annan se dirigió al consejo y nombró una lista de países que en el presente utilizan niños combatientes.

Jonathan Gallagher/ANN Staff

Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

Quoi de Neuf?

A TRAVERS L'ÉGLISE MONDIALE

Des congrès de jeunesse tenus dans des zones ravagées par la guerre

21 Janvier, 2003, Soudan et Ouganda, Afrique [ANN] — En plein milieu des zones du Sud Soudan et du Nord de l'Ouganda ravagées par la guerre, deux congrès de jeunesse ont été tenus le mois dernier, rassemblant plusieurs centaines de jeunes. Bénéficiant du soutien de l'Union (ou région géographique) du Moyen Orient de l'Église adventiste, ces rencontres ont eu pour thème l'aide à apporter aux jeunes de ces régions afin qu'ils puissent prendre leur vie en main et partager leur foi.

«Les jeunes sont, dans une certaine mesure, découragés et impuissants,» explique Amir Ghali, directeur de la jeunesse de l'Église dans la région. «En de telles circonstances, avec une pareille situation, comment donner sens à sa vie? Avoir un but dans la vie, tisser des relations qui comptent et atteindre ses objectifs furent nos sujets de discussion.»

L'amour, les fréquentations et le mariage ont aussi fait l'objet de débats avec les jeunes. «De nombreuses questions d'ordre culturel ont été mises sur le tapis et même la polygamie, sujet brûlant, a fait l'objet de débats,» indique Beat Odermatt, président de l'Église du Soudan. «Dans le Sud Soudan un très grand nombre d'hommes ont plus d'une épouse. La polygamie est source, pour notre jeunesse, de nombreux défis... et tentations en matière de rapports humains.»

«L'organisation de pareilles manifestations à grande échelle exige d'énormes sacrifices, l'acceptation d'une prise de risque certaine, beaucoup d'endurance face aux désagréments qu'il faut supporter et énormément de dur labeur,» ajoute Ghali. Parlant du congrès de la jeunesse du Sud Soudan, tenu à l'école secondaire adventiste d'Eiera (Bahr Naam), il précise : «À tout instant notre lieu de réunion aurait pu subir un bombardement aérien ou une canonnade. Par la grâce de Dieu, rien de tel ne s'est produit pendant le déroulement du congrès.»

Il dit qu'en dépit de ressources extrêmement limitées, un nombre impressionnant d'activités ont eu lieu dans le cadre des deux congrès. Les jeunes ont pris part à des représentations théâtrales et à des moments de sport, mais l'activité la plus populaire fut la musique – à laquelle on s'est adonné toute la journée et durant la nuit. «Il nous fut difficile de nous endormir à cause de leurs chants. Je crois qu'ils ont la musique dans le sang,» raconte A. Ghali. Les instruments dont se servaient les jeunes congressistes étaient

fabriqués à la main à partir de branches d'arbres, de poils d'animaux et de cuir.

Parvenir jusqu'aux lieux des congrès ne fut pas chose facile pour un grand nombre de participants. Certains ont mis plusieurs jours pour venir à pied ou, pour les plus aisés, à bicyclette. Les routes du Sud Soudan sont des chemins de terre dont la guerre empêche l'entretien. Les conditions d'hébergement, là où avait lieu le congrès tenu dans cette région, étaient des plus primitives, sans eau courante ni électricité (hormis un groupe électrogène ne fonctionnant que trois heures par jour). «Les gens devaient porter de l'eau sur leur tête et sur une longue distance, se rappelle Ghali. Et ils devaient le faire plusieurs fois par jour. L'eau était en général toute brune et pleine d'insectes.» Les conditions étaient un peu meilleures dans le camp de réfugiés d'Adjumanin dans le Nord de l'Ouganda, où s'est déroulé le second de ces deux congrès de jeunesse.

«Suite à mon passage dans ces zones durement éprouvées, ma vie a changé, déclare Ghali. Nulle part ailleurs n'ai-je rencontré autant de foi. Aucun doute, Jésus était bien là.»

Un autre congrès de jeunesse pour le Moyen Orient est prévu pour juillet prochain à Sharm El Sheikh en Égypte.

Il y a au Soudan près de 6,000 adventistes et en Ouganda, plus de 120,000.

Wendi Rogers/ANN
Traduction: Claude Fivel

Nigeria: les adventistes font le forcing pour obtenir la reconnaissance du Sabbat (samedi)

4 Février, 2003, Ikeja, État de Lagos, Nigeria [ANN] — L'Église adventiste du Nigeria poursuit ses efforts pour obtenir du gouvernement qu'il reconnaisse le Sabbat (samedi) comme jour de culte des adventistes.

«Voilà sept ans que nous présentons notre cas au gouvernement,» raconte Joseph Ola, président de l'Église dans ce pays, où les examens et les scrutins nationaux continuent d'être organisés le samedi. Or les étudiants ne peuvent s'inscrire dans une université nigériane s'ils n'ont pas passé d'examen.

en. Les demandes d'inscription à la Babcock University, seule université adventiste du pays, excèdent le nombre de places dont elle dispose. «Nous ne pouvons inscrire tous nos enfants,» commente J. Ola.

Une des approches régulièrement adoptées par l'Église vis-à-vis du grand public consiste à dialoguer avec les médias sur des questions d'actualité. «On [apprécie] notre souci de vérité et notre préoccupation pour la communauté,» explique Joseph Ola.

À l'entendre, l'Église de cette région a attiré l'attention de plusieurs éminents leaders de la société. Le président, ainsi que plusieurs gouverneurs d'États, se sont rendus dans des églises locales. Le chef de l'État, Olusegun Obasanjo, est venu assister à un culte du Sabbat à la Babcock University.

«Il y a des années que je n'ai entendu un message aussi puissant que celui-ci. C'est bien la vraie Église du Seigneur!» a déclaré le gouverneur de l'État d'Ondo State, venu assister au culté dans une église locale, à Akure.

«Les gens croient que quand ils nous rendent visite, ils trouvent réponse à leurs prières,» dit Joseph Ola.

Wendi Rogers/ANN
Traduction: Claude Fivel

Haitian Men's Ministry Retreat

May 30 – June 1, 2003

Friar Tuck Resort & Convention Center
Catskill, New York

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