

THE ATLANTIC UNION

DECEMBER 2003

GLEANNER



**Boston Church Responds to
AIDS Orphan Crisis in Kenya**

ACCREDITATION ASSURED TO AUC

¿Qué Está Pasando?

Quoi de Neuf?



Don't Despise the Day of Small Things

"Who hath despised the day of small things?"—Zechariah 4:10.

When Gideon was faced with 135,000 armed Midianites, God directed him to select an army but limited it to only 300 men. "Foolishness," man would say. When the Philistines threatened to wipe out the Israelites, God steps in and chooses a young man fresh from the sheepfold who has only a stick and a sling and five stones. "Do you mistake me for a dog?" thundered the giant Goliath. Nevertheless, the big giant, Goliath, was taken down with one small stone, and four small spare stones were left over! With God, smallness is bigness. So don't despise the day of small things (Zechariah 4:10).

On the other hand, Satan uses tricks of grandeur and largeness to tempt and deceive the world. In the battle between Christ and Satan—the most important battle of all ages—it is of interest to note God's techniques in this battle. Satan leads man to always seek the biggest—the biggest airplane, aircraft carrier, or WMD bomb. In the church, the highest position, the biggest car or home, the biggest church building, the most educated preacher, or the biggest income. But God's logic works differently. Though He uses big things, He uses small as well. The evangelistic meeting may be small and the baptismal results may be few—one or two only, but think what the many "small" meetings may add up to in the end. Yes, something big.

As I write, there are numerous evangelistic meetings happening all over the Atlantic Union territory. More than one year ago, my colleagues and I forged a shared vision (subsequently voted by the Atlantic Union Executive Committee) of realizing a net discipleship in the Atlantic Union of 100,000 by 2005. I believe by God's grace with the

numerous small, as well as big, efforts put forth, we will realize our goal.

The Apostle Paul wrote many years ago, "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are"—1 Corinthians 1:27, 28, RSV. The wisdom of God is as foolishness to the world, but the wisdom of the world is as foolishness to God. Personally, I'd rather stick with the wisdom of God—as small as it may be, especially when I know He's always got some "spare stones" left over.

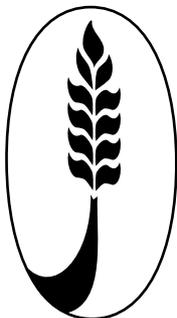
Do you feel as one of the weakest of God's creatures? Then take courage as you face the new year, for God can use you. It was only when Moses had laid aside the glory of Egypt and was humble before God that God could make him one of the world's greatest leaders.

Of John the Baptist, Jesus said he was the greatest of prophets. But note this "He looked upon the King in His beauty, and self was forgotten. He beheld the majesty of holiness, and felt himself to be inefficient and unworthy. He was ready to go forth as Heaven's messenger, unawed by the human, because he had looked upon the Divine. He could stand erect and fearless in the presence of earthly monarchs, because he had bowed low before the King of kings"—THE DESIRE OF AGES, p.103.

Prayer: *Dear God, as we embrace this holiday season, may we remember that your bigness dwells in smallness even as You live within our hearts. May we never despise the day of small things realizing that with You, when self is forgotten, everyone is a majority. Amen. ☉*

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

"...the big giant, Goliath, was taken down with one small stone, and four small spare stones were left over in David's pouch. With God, smallness is bigness."



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EDITORIAL

Atlantic Union Makes Contribution to Local Community

It has been 350 years since the Town of Lancaster, nestled in the Northeast region of the United States, was established. For one year, Lancaster town selectmen hosted a number of events which culminated with a large parade in June 2003. Representatives from the Seventh-day Adventist Church at its Atlantic Union and Southern New England headquarters, the Village and College churches, the elementary school and academy, and Atlantic Union College participated in several of these events with full representation at the parade. In an effort to foster an ongoing relationship with various service entities in the local community, administrators from the Atlantic Union Conference paid a visit to the Lancaster Town Hall Meeting on October 20 to make a special presentation on behalf of the town's 350-year celebration.



Representatives from the Town of Lancaster are appreciative of the equipment presented to them by the Atlantic Union. L. to R. Carlyle Simmons, Donald King, Bob Wilmot, Leon Thomassian, Captain Everett Moody, Alex Turner, Joann Foster, and Steve Hilliger.

Donald King, president, Carlyle Simmons, executive secretary, and Leon Thomassian, treasurer, presented the town selectmen with a plaque in recognition of Lancaster's 350th anniversary. In addition, Captain Moody of the Lancaster Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was presented with a Stair Pro ABS seat to be used to transport individuals in medical crisis, and a Life Pak 500 Automated External Defibrillator. These items will be a valuable addition to the town's EMS supply inventory.

The Atlantic Union Conference continues its 102-year commitment to serve the local community and seeks to help improve the quality of life of individuals whenever and wherever possible. The selectmen and EMS officials expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Adventist church for such a display of goodwill and participation. ☺

Carlyle C. Simmons is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary.

**For information on upcoming events, news items,
and the GLEANER online visit our website at:
www.atlantic-union.org**

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ABOUT THE COVER: The cover photo, taken by Martin Owino, is of two orphans left without parents as a result of the AIDS epidemic in Malela, Africa. Read about how a Boston church responds to this crisis in the cover story on page 8 of this issue.

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

Remembering the Call and the Cause

Whitecoat Volunteers Attend 30th Anniversary Reunion

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Jan Paulsen, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, were featured speakers on the weekend of October 3-5 when a group of veterans returned to Frederick, Maryland, to hear they were heroes. Hosted by the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church, the weekend included a forum on bioterrorism, commendations and proclamations and a health study/survey on all Whitecoat members.

DeLay spoke of the war against terrorism and said the nation was once again turning to Fort Detrick to protect us against the terrible outcomes of biological and chemical attacks. "Freedom will once again win," he said, referring to previous battles and to the contributions that soldiers made while in Fort Detrick's unique medical programs. "We will not rest until the last terrorist on earth is either in a cell or a cemetery."

Fort Detrick hosts the U.S. Army's programs that create defenses against biological and chemical attacks. For 20

A trumpet trio played taps during the reading of the names of those Operation Whitecoat participants who died in the 30 years since the medical research program ended.



House Majority Leader Tom DeLay spoke at the Congressional Forum on Bioterrorism Defense during the Whitecoats 30th anniversary reunion and the 60th anniversary of the founding of Fort Detrick, where Operation Whitecoat was held. DeLay said that Operation Whitecoat and Fort Detrick have been essential to our ability to fight terrorism.

years Operation Whitecoat was a key program at the fort. It tested and developed defenses for anthrax, yellow fever, Q-fever, Tularemia and several forms of Encephalitis.

Of the 2,300 Operation Whitecoat volunteers most were members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Paulsen challenged the veterans to continue giving of themselves unselfishly. "The Lord finds ways through you to express compassion," he said. "Look for ways to give your time and energy to reach out to the lives of others."



More than 150 veterans returned to the Adventist church in Frederick, Maryland, where they worshipped when they volunteered in Operation Whitecoat between 1954 and 1973.

Most of the veterans didn't think of themselves as heroes. Many said they were just guys in the army. "They make too much of us," said Marnelle McNeilus, a Whitecoat veteran from 1969 through 1971.

"In the army, I was just serving my time," said Dallas Pfeiffer, a Whitecoat in the 1960s. "Only afterward did I get to find out we did great things that affected the whole world, military and civilians." More than 150 veterans from 32 states came to celebrate both the 30th year of the end of the Whitecoat program and the 60th anniversary of Fort Detrick.

"You have been called human research subjects. You also have been called heroes," said Dr. Frank Damazo, who hosted the reunion. Colonel James Romano, deputy director of Fort Detrick and a medical researcher for 30 years, said that medical research will always involve people, and

"the safety procedures used today are derived from the Whitecoats program." However, the primary contribution of the Whitecoat research program was to develop vaccines and treatment regimens for the biological warfare that was just arising in the 1950s.

Some of the Whitecoat volunteers worried about being in a dangerous program. "There was a certain fear factor while I was being tested," said John Wilson, who still lives in Frederick. "But I trusted the scientists that tested us." The trust wasn't misplaced, according to a study released this month. The army surveyed the Whitecoat volunteers and found virtually no long-term negative effects on the health of the veterans.

Dominic Dibiase from Silver Spring, Maryland, was part of the program in 1959. "We worked with anthrax. Now it's back in the spotlight." Ted Swain was drafted off the



Frank Damazo (right), member of the Frederick church and Operation Whitecoat board, received an award for his service to Operation Whitecoat servicemen during their years at Fort Detrick and for his efforts to create the Whitecoat Foundation.

farm in Okeene, Oklahoma. He felt that he was taking the easy way out, serving in Operation Whitecoat instead of

some foreign theater. “I didn’t feel important until we recently heard about anthrax and the other forms of chemical and biological warfare.”

Linda Werman Brawner’s husband died in May in Ohio, 30 years after leaving Whitecoats. She came to learn about his legacy and is thankful. “This country has done more for us than he did by his two years,” she said.

Richard Schimp hadn’t been back in Frederick since he left in 1971. “I made a lot of friends in the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church. They made us feel welcome, a long way from home.”

Colonel Arthur Anderson from Fort Detrick attended the Whitecoat reunion in 1998 to tell the veterans about the fruits of their Whitecoat service—the treatments and vaccines for some of the deadliest diseases known to man. “But I came away with a lot more, your stories of your bravery and courage. Thank you.” ☺

George Johnson writes from Silver Spring, Maryland, where he is media relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

A Brief History

During the 1950s, hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist men aged 18-26 were being drafted into military service. They wanted to serve their country and cooperate with compulsory military service but still be obedient to the Scriptures which as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian included Sabbath keeping and noncombatancy. In late 1954 the U.S. Army Medical Unit (USAMU) and the office of the surgeon general of the U.S. Army met with officials of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a highly unusual request. The two entities wanted to see if the Seventh-day Adventist Church was willing to support an Army proposal to use Adventist draftees as volunteers for human trials of defensive vaccines and antibacterial medicines.

A subcommittee was formed and within weeks a favorable endorsement was given and entitled “Statement of Attitude Regarding Volunteering for Medical Research” and was forwarded to the USAMU. The four-paragraph statement concluded that “any service rendered voluntarily by whomever in the useful necessary research into the cause and treatment of disabling disease is a legitimate and laudable contribution to the success of our nation and to the health and comfort of our fellowmen.” Thus Operation Whitecoat was born.

Soon after USAMU personnel began interviewing draftees for Operation Whitecoat. During the basic training at Fort Sam

Houston, meetings were held that gave an overview of the research program along with a description of its benefits and risks. Seventh-day Adventist Church representatives were also on hand to describe its relationship with the Whitecoat program. USAMU based selections of the draftees on overall general health and skills acquired in civilian life. Most who were chosen to participate had also completed one or more years of college and 27 percent having completed a bachelor’s degree. Whitecoat members were then assigned to Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, or to the Center Annex in Forest Glen, Maryland, as medical research volunteers. Their duties included medical technicians, medical corpsmen, clinical aides, or animal caretakers.

During its 19-year-long existence, Operation Whitecoat members were tested with some of the world’s most dangerous biological agents such as Queensland (Q) Fever, Tularemia, Sandfly Fever, Typhus Fever, Typhoid Fever, Rift Valley Fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Yellow Fever, Plaque and Eastern, Western and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis. The “Eight Ball,” a huge, spherical chamber at Fort Detrick, was a chamber in which scientists would discharge bacteria or viruses. Whitecoat volunteers wore breathing apparatus that allowed them to inhale the affected air. USAMU records maintain that although the volunteers were made seriously ill, none died during the studies nor was there documented permanent health damage.

Boston Church Responds to AIDS Orphan Crisis in Kenya

Hopelessness is the second lethal epidemic that kills 6,000 AIDS victims daily in sub-Saharan Africa. In Kenya, AIDS kills 700 people daily leaving many helpless orphans and widows. Bringing hope to the hopeless through the word of God, and sharing food, clothing and medicine was the mission of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church when they visited Kenya this summer.

When the Owino family moved to Boston from Kenya they described

how HIV/AIDS had devastated and continues to devastate their home village of Malela. The Malela area has the second highest recorded HIV/AIDS cases in Kenya. AIDS prevalence stands at 24 percent according to Dr. Richard Otieno Muga, the Kenyan Director of Medical Services. Alarmed by such suffering, under the direction of then pastor, Horatius Gittens, the members of the Berea church adopted the Malela Seventh-day Adventist Church as a sister church.

In 1999 an educational and food program was started to care for 50 orphans. One year later the program was expanded to provide clean water, clothing, counseling, and medical kits on the Malela church grounds. These facilities were later named the Hope Center. In 2002 the Africa Health Foundation (see sidebar article on page 10) was organized in order to acquire alternative resources to support the growing need. Today the program supports 450 orphans.

Some of the widows from Dunga, Kamata, Malela and Suba who need assistance in raising children and grandchildren. Some of them have sick children.





Pastor Horatius Gittens, the evangelist for the meetings, encourages an orphan to continue with his education.



A widow with her four children also requests help with education and basic needs.



School children were encouraged to attend the afternoon youth workshops.

In May 2003 a container of much needed supplies was shipped to Kenya, and in July 2003 an evangelistic and research team led by Gittens conducted a two-week series of meetings in Malela. Before proceeding to Malela the team met with the government and religious leaders in Nairobi to solicit their support for this initiative. The meetings held with Hon Orwa Ojode, Assistant Minister for Lands, Richard Otieno Muga, the director of Medical Services in Kenya, and Paul Muasya, the Executive Director of the East African Union, were very productive. The team then

moved to Malela along the shores of Lake Victoria where they conducted successful meetings that resulted in 208 baptisms. During the morning hours the team traveled by foot visiting and praying for the sick in many villages and the hospital. In the afternoons they conducted separate seminars for the youth and adults focusing on topics such as family life, health, and AIDS education. The Malela elementary school gave the students the afternoons off to attend the daily youth seminars.

The newly built Hope Center was officially launched at the end of the

meetings. It consists of a soup kitchen and water-well which are both still under construction, a dispensary, small industries—poultry, brick making, and cooking oil press, an elementary school, and a baptismal pool. There is no secondary school in the Malela area. Ninety-five percent of the students cannot afford to attend beyond the eighth grade because funds are not available for school tuition and boarding fees. The foundation for the secondary school has been laid and funds are urgently needed to complete a local secondary school for the community. A good education for the children

Malela Elementary School children assembled to welcome the visiting American evangelistic team.



Malela church members preparing the pool for its dedication and first baptism.



was the desire of every parent and grandparent the team met.

Building and launching the Hope Center prototype in Malela has proven that, with empowerment and motivation, families affected by the AIDS epidemic can still live and care for their own orphans in their villages. The Hope Center services have helped to reduce the stigma, shame, denial, fear, and rejections in the care of AIDS victims.

The holistic approach of providing spiritual, emotional, nutritional, education, counseling and other physical needs has helped to win souls for God's kingdom and also changed lives dramatically in the area. Orphans are able to attend school. Their health has improved. They are gaining skills with hands-on-activities. And, their spiritual and emotional needs are being met, bringing hope to a once hopeless situation. The Hope Center model reignites the original African coping mechanism in difficult times by coordinating volunteers and other community resources to be available for the afflicted and weaker members of society. Because of this Hope Center many orphans do not migrate to urban centers to further batter their bodies as commercial sex workers in order to acquire food and other basic necessities.

Words cannot express the joy in which the team was received or how well they were treated in Malela. Nor can the right words be found to thank the Malela evangelism committee and the community for their love and care. The women of the Malela church and Dunga and Kamata Sabbath schools (mission in the U.S.) cooked daily and washed and cleaned for the team. The men brought water and guarded them at night and the

chief and assistant chief provided overall security and joined in the mission trip to Malela. Even contracting Malaria did not stop the team as Dr. Ochola was always available for care at no cost to the them.

The Berea church family and other Boston collaborating churches and organizations will continue this life saving ministry. It is their hope that others will become involved in helping to replicate the Hope Center Initiative in the Kenya Lake Region and beyond to countries of sub-Saharan Africa

where, according to Dr. Richard Otieno Muga, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is more than 30 percent.

For more information about the work being done in the Malela community contact Martin Owino, PO Box 1774, Framingham, MA 01701, (508) 626-0256, or email: TheIHSolutions@aol.com. ☺

Patricia Maycock and Martin Owino write from Boston, Massachusetts, and are members of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Africa Health Foundation Lifts up the Hands of the Community

In sub-Saharan Africa it is a common occurrence to find a grandparent surrounded by young orphaned children, children attending to dying parents, or children as young as ten years old being heads of household. They must work their farm before going to school in the morning in order to provide the basic foods like maize and millet. This situation calls for support of both children and adults to continue providing care and love for one another. Respectively, this will develop the needed competence for self-support. The need is great as many children are on the waiting list for basic needs and education sponsorships. The generational gap is evident since AIDS is wiping out so many of the youth and middle-aged workers. The goal is to strengthen the African extended family system of rearing AIDS orphans and caring for widows within the community which will help prevent the institutionalization of orphans. Hope, solidarity, and empowerment are key in the fight of the AIDS menace.

The mission of the African Health Foundation (AHF), a Boston-based nonprofit organization established in 2002, is to empower African communities to overcome problems of disease, orphans, homelessness, and poverty. It uses a holistic approach to empower the impoverished and disfranchised communities to build effective sustainable solutions to disease, poverty, and other social ailments. Collaborating with the Kenyan local community leaders and U.S. community-based organizations, AHF has established three pilot Hope Centers in the Homa Bay District in Kenya. The focus is on the rural communities where the majority lives below the poverty level and have no access to healthcare, water, and food.

The Hope Center is not a hand-out center, but is designed to lift up the hands of the community enabling them to become self-sufficient in their care for their less fortunate members. It discourages isolation and institutionalization of orphans and attempts to maintain the family structure, social identity, responsibility and culture. The only way that family structures can be restored is to maintain orphans in the communities and train them to assume responsibilities and roles that bond families and communities together. ☺



Accreditation Assured to AUC

As I write this, AUC is experiencing a most beautiful day with blue skies, flaming red and gold leaves, and the sunshine of God's love all around us. I'm happy to report that God is blessing AUC and the gloom of past times has given way to a renewed spirit of optimism.

- The really good news is that the accrediting agency (NEASC) has granted our request for continuation of accreditation. We have been praying and working for this. In September, 2004 NEASC will send a small team of individuals to check on specific items with special focus on our finances. We call upon all members in the Atlantic Union to dig deeply into their resources to help AUC get out of debt and to repair its buildings and aging infrastructure. Only with everyone's financial support can AUC meet its obligations and fulfill its mission.
- I believe that the greatest asset of any college is its faculty. When I arrived at AUC, the one area that I was happy to find is that there was an excellent faculty. I have been particularly pleased with the quality of instruction. The professors are well prepared academically and have a talent for teaching. The students are getting a good education and are definitely not being short-changed scholastically. There are 45 full-time professors, 32 (71 percent) of whom have doctorates or terminal degrees.
- AUC was delighted to receive an unexpected and positive mention in the September 1, 2003, issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, page 112. We were listed as the number two school of our category in the North for selectivity and the number one school in our category in the North for student-faculty class size ratio. As a result of that rating, AUC was favorably showcased throughout

the six-state New England region on NECN's "News Night" higher education program with Chet Curtis.

- The Board of Trustees has voted to reduce tuition by seven percent for 2004-05. AUC will probably be the only Adventist college to reduce its tuition! Currently, the total estimated cost for one year's attendance at AUC is \$17,948. With the approved additional reductions in dormitory and other fees taking effect in the upcoming 2004-05 school year, estimated attendance costs will be reduced to \$14,960. This news will be advertised widely and is sure to increase enrollment.
- The current administration is committed to a realistic, conservative and balanced budget. Further, the college is committed to operating wholly within the voted budget.
- A new a la carte (rather than the "all-you-can-eat" flat-rate plan) has already proven to be a blessing to students and the college. Food wastage and board bills have been drastically reduced. A new contract to serve meals to Browning Elementary School students has also improved the cafeteria's financial position.

We continue to be amazed at how God is leading and blessing AUC. Please join Him and us by providing special funds to help Atlantic Union College develop into the finest Christian college in the Northeast.

George Babcock is president of Atlantic Union College.





Members of the Junior Bible Bowl team made a stop in Atlanta on their way to Kansas City.

Greater New York Youth Bring Back Three Bible Bowl Trophies

The Greater New York Conference Bible Bowl Team returned to the Big Apple with big news and a great smile as a result of attending the Black Adventist Youth Directors (BAYDA) National Bible Bowl Finals in Kansas City, Kansas, on October 24-25. The Greater New York Conference was represented with a full team in each category—Juniors, Senior Youth, Young Adults, and Veterans.

The Veteran Team with members Allan Rocque, Nadege Lazarus, Beckman Charles, Ruth Reid,

The Young Adult Team brought back a second place trophy after playing seven games with very strong contestants. This team was head-



The Veteran team celebrated their undefeated record and championship win.

ed by its captain Stephanie Elpenord and Cathy Mae Anderson, Dawn Huggins, and the only gentleman of the team, Trevor Roberts.



The Young Adult team received the second place trophy.

Lucasta O'Garra, and Marcia Rocque, coach, took the championship in this category which was introduced in the BAYDA Bible Bowl for the first time. They went through the entire event undefeated.

team came back from a difficult defeat to obtain second place.

The Junior Team placed fourth after losing by ten points to the Lake Region Conference. The team players were Victor Berenice, captain, Telissa Thompson, Shane Duncan, Karyl McCarthy, Travis Wilson, and their coach, Marina Rogers. Though they did not place among the first three teams, they are an experienced team that won second place at the competition last year.

Congratulations to the teams, their respective churches, Hempstead and Macedonia, and the adults who supported them wholeheartedly. The conference leadership also recognizes the leadership team of the Greater New York Conference Bible Bowl which is in the hands of Kemly McGregor, conference coordinator, Ike Carl, and Odetta Ellis for their commitment to the young people and to the Bible Bowl. Their commitment results not only in trophies won, but also in young people who know the word and are willing to share it with others.

*Pastor José H. Cortés Jr.,
youth ministries director
Greater New York Conference*

From Hip Hop to Hip Hope

The Senior Youth Team also came back with a second place trophy due to the great participation of Melody Gayle, Kimone Johnson, Jenene Warner and once again the only gentleman of the team, Ian Duncan. This

Youth Fest 2003 took South Bronx, N.Y., by storm on August 9 as more than 2,000 individuals marched under the banner *From Hip Hop to Hip Hope*. The event was organized by Pastor Shane Vidal in conjunction with the youth and Pathfinder departments of the Grand Concourse church. The event kicked off with a march against drugs from 161st Street and Grand Concourse to Mount Eden Avenue. The group was escorted by police officers from the 44th Precinct. José Cortés Jr., Greater New York Conference youth director, joined Pathfinders from

more than 100 clubs throughout the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences, senior citizens from the Grand Concourse church, and members of other denominational churches in the community. Of course, we were joined at various points by curious onlookers who supported our theme.

The march culminated at the William H. Taft High School with a concert. The master of ceremonies for this event were Hugh Maynard Reid and Herbert Oreyana. Various artists performed before an audience of almost 2,000 people. The highlight of the evening was the message delivered by the keynote speaker, Mansfield Edwards, pastor of Apple Creek church in Toronto, Canada. Edwards took us through a popular theme from the Disney musical, *Lion King*. "Hakuna Matata," translated "No Worries" was a theme with which all age groups, especially the youth, could identify. We were reminded that the Christian is accountable to God, and that youth can overcome peer pressure and ultimately sin. The heart searching message emphasized our need to rescue the perishing from hip hop to hip hope. It was a tremendous message and several youth moved out of their seats in response to the appeal.

Youth Fest 2003 will go down in history as a successful event. The success could not have been realized without the help and support of Greater New York Conference personnel, Dionisio Olivo, president, G. Earl Knight, executive secretary, and José H. Cortés Jr., a source of consistent support and encouragement, and Steve Cassimy, senior pastor of Grand Concourse church, who has over time established strong relationships with community leaders that proved beneficial to us while planning this event.

History was indeed made at this event as Olivo in his remarks announced that Youth Fest is now a yearly event in Greater New York Conference and has been

added to the official conference calendar of events.

*Communication department
Grand Concourse church*

North Bronx... A Retrospect

Despite this past year's challenges the members at North Bronx under the leadership of Horace Russell, senior pastor, Rohann D. Wellington, associate pastor, and Trevor Patton, first elder, have proven that with God at the helm and a willing and praying membership all challenges can be overcome.

On September 12, 2002, a new chapter in the church's existence began with the demolition of approximately 25 percent of the facility as ground was broken for a new multi-million dollar worship center and multi-purpose complex. The sanctuary will have a seating capacity of 1,200 on the main floor and approximately 350 in the balcony. The multi-purpose complex will house the auditorium/gym. The facility will be outfitted to better serve its members and the community by providing a day care center, community outreach center offering youth intervention programs, educational and tutoring services, healthy living and many more life enhancing programs. This project is the largest of its kind by any church in recent times in the Greater New York Conference with a projected cost of 4.4 million dollars.

The harsh winter with its frequency of snow storms followed by the rainy spring delayed and even stopped work on *The Dream* as it is affectionately called by the members. Construction resumed but was followed by what could have been a catastrophic and almost fatal event. While shoring up the building last May the stairwell separated from the main building with the contractors working below.

Fortunately, no one was injured. For four months access was lost to an additional 25 percent of the facility.

In spite of the compromised worship site, planned special programs



Dewitt Williams, North American Division health ministries director, presented the message at the North Bronx church for their health emphasis weekend.

continued. On March 9 the women's outreach network cancer society mobile unit provided mammography screening for more than 40 women from the church and community. On June 1 more than 29 men received free prostate screening. Dewitt Williams, health ministry director for the North American Division, was the guest speaker at the health emphasis weekend on June 6-8. More than 200 people from the community attended the 4th annual health fair. They received a combination of free health screenings—blood pressure, cholesterol, hearing, diabetes, along with free distribution of clothing, booklets and books that will enhance their spiritual and physical growth.

The challenges continue, but as we face the dawn of 2004 we are encouraged by Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." For continual update on the progress of the church's building project visit www.northbronxsda.org.

*Germaine Brown and Rohann Wellington,
members
North Bronx church*

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will hold a special Constituency Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, 2003, at the First Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church located at 45 Goble Place, Bronx, NY 10451. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss matters relating to the Adventist Nursing Home and to deal with any other matters that might be duly brought before the constituency.

Dionisio Olivo, President
G. Earl Knight, Executive Secretary

USA Students Take a Break

On September 2 students, faculty, and staff from Union Springs Academy (USA) took a break from classes to meet together with Pastor Tim Bailey at the Wayland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wayland, New York. Pastor Bailey had planned a month-long evangelistic series set to begin on September 5. He and the church advertised the series in the local newspaper and mailed brochures to the town's residents. Coordinating his advertising efforts with USA, Bailey needed students to go door-to-door to personally invite people from the community.

Bailey met with the faculty and staff who would serve as student group leaders. He gave them each a map and five hundred brochures. Next, he instructed the students on the best ways to



Students from USA went door-to-door personally inviting people from the community to attend the evangelistic series.



give an invitation to the meetings. He also stressed safety. After singing a few songs and having small group prayer the students and staff split up and headed out to the community.

From 10:30 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m. the students were busy walking the surrounding neighborhoods. They returned to the church for supper provided by the local members.

Even though they were tired from their walking, the students

had a great time. "I had a lot of fun. It was interesting to meet the people. Some were mean and rude, but others were polite and helpful," said Doris Caponey, a sophomore from Binghamton, New York. Matthew Runnals, a sophomore from Hartford, Vermont, added, "I noticed that some of the elderly were just happy to have someone come to their door."

*Jonathan Borne, vice principal
Union Springs Academy*

Faith vs Reality

The AMERICAN HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL DICTIONARY defines faith as, belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence. It also defines reality as that which exists objectively and in fact. It is amazing to me how many times in our life we doubt that faith can bring about reality. We often look at our situation and see all the "facts" and get a feeling of hopelessness. I have done this so many times in my personal life that I have run out of fingers and toes counting them. Working here at Union Springs Academy has given me many opportunities to either become hopeless or remain "faith-full." In the October 2003 issue of the GLEANER (p. 14) you heard from one of our teachers about all the wonderful presents God has given us. And truly the most precious has been another year to serve Him and touch the lives of our students.

Throughout this year I have tried to remain full of faith and trust in God, however, there were so many times that problems seemed insurmountable that I would lose hope.

In the past month the Lord has opened my eyes to two simple truths. One is that Union Springs Academy is, above all else, His school. It does not belong to those of us that work here, it does not belong to the New York Conference or its constituents, and it does not belong to the Adventist church in general. This academy is God's in the sense that He sustains it, provides for it, and is ultimately in control of its past, present, and future. Oftentimes He uses the conference and constituents as the way to reach His ends, but sometimes He uses things that we can neither expect or comprehend to see His will through. The second truth is that God wants there to be a place for His children to come and be given the opportu-

nity to dedicate their lives to Him. The Lord has provided for us when there seemed no feasible way to go on and it is my belief that He will continue to do so until He has decided the work here is done.

We have a responsibility to use the capabilities and resources God has given us and make sound decisions that are both educated and well thought out. I also believe, however, we need to follow God's will and see His commands through even when the odds against such actions seem stacked against us. Discerning God's will is not always that easy. Sometimes we receive the proverbial handwriting on the wall, and other times we must act upon simple biblical standards that we apply to our everyday lives.

Union Springs Academy has been blessed to provide a quality education since 1921. It has imparted both knowledge of subjects and knowledge of God's

grace in the years gone by. God has shown through His blessings that He wants us to continue on as long as we can bringing the knowledge of Him and the grace of His Son to all the young people who come through our doors. For many years now the reality of Union Springs Academy has been one of struggles and hardships financially. Faith has been the anchor by which we have weathered the storm. Only the Lord knows what will happen tomorrow, let alone five years from now. Only He can give us the answers we seek. In the meantime the faculty and staff, and those who support Union Springs Academy go forward allowing God to use us to bless the lives of our students.

*Andrew Fish, senior accountant
Union Springs Academy*

New York Singles Retreat 2003

It was the extended weekend of August 20-24, when the annual Singles Retreat convened at Camp Cherokee, a secluded idyllic campsite hidden in the Adirondack mountains away from the humdrum of ordinary life in an almost unreal setting. A group of single Adventists, diverse in age, culture, and background gathered to enjoy the New York Conference Singles Retreat for 2003. Campers came from the surrounding New York area, other states such as Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and from as far away as Norway.

The theme for the weekend was *O Taste and See That the Lord Is Good*. The group listened to Pastor William McNeil's devotional sessions as he refreshed all with his experiences and creatively illustrated how God seasons each life. Pastor J.P. O'Connor continued on Sabbath with his presentation of God's truth equation: "Truth = Love + Facts." The take-home message was "when witnessing to others, if we say we have the truth, we

must have love as well." On Sabbath afternoon, O'Connor's wife, Ani, joined him with a musical testimony concert as they presented their story of their walk with the Lord. Some of the campers joined in a few of the items.

Forum time on Sabbath afternoon was a time of discussing some of the burning issues facing Christian singles in today's society. Learning from each other in a somewhat frank and informative way the group sat on the lake shore and listened to Carmen Gonzalez, singles ministries director, as she imparted much needed insight. Saturday night was Talent Show night and some original items of music were presented.

Outdoor activities included a trip and scenic climb to the top of Whiteface Mountain, an outing to the nearby picturesque village of Lake Placid, boat rides to nearby islands in the lake, horseback riding, volleyball, and swimming in the pool. Some campers took on more adventurous activities, such as sailing, water skiing and gliding, and tubing. There was never a dull moment. At nights, the group gathered around the fire for verses, with singing, fellowship, prayer, and lots of hugs. They ended the day in the cafeteria which was a place of laughter and games of Uno and Yahtzee. The weekend culminated on Sunday. Christen Adolphi, the assistant camp director, gave an unforgettable testimony of how God uses thousands of mechanisms and systems in our body to produce the protective red flag—pain, in order to keep us as healthy as possible.

The New York Conference Singles Retreat was indeed a fun-filled weekend, which led each to a closer walk with God and each other. The spirit of the camp was captured in this song written by me:

Cherokee, Cherokee,
On each morning you greet me,
Lakeside tides, horseback rides,
You seem joyful to meet me.

Fires aglow, May we live to grow,
In fellowship together,
In Christian love, May God above,
Bless your campsite forever.

(Sung to the tune of the song Edelweiss)

*Sandra Lynch, member and a university student
Albany church*

New Sign Donated to Kingsbury Church

Travelers on Route 4 will no longer have to strain their necks trying to read the sign for the Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist Church and school. Thanks to a memorial fund started by Marian Lee in memory of her late husband, Richard A. Lee, a new double-sided carved sign identifies the complex located on a hill just north of the hamlet of Kingsbury.

"Richard loved to hand out Christian literature and talk to people about the Bible," Lee said. "This beautiful sign, identifying the church and school he loved, is a fitting memorial." The sign was constructed and installed by Sign Craft of Glens Falls and features the new church logo.

Richard Lee, who died in November, operated Richard Lee Excavating for more than 34 years and was an active member of the church and supporter of the school which is celebrating 55 years of Christian education.

The main building, built in 1970, is the third location for the school, which began as a one-room school house on Mud Street, Hudson Falls, New York. The sanctuary was added to the complex and in 1984 when the Glens Falls and Granville churches merged.

Besides a large sanctuary and several classrooms, the facilities include a gymnasium, library, computer room, fully-equipped kitchen, playground and ball field. The school offers Grades 1 through 8. For more information contact Principal Jamie Newton at (518) 747-4424.

*Gary D Bombard, communication representative
Kingsbury church*

Pathway of Hope

Tapes Pilot Program

City Tabernacle church in Manhattan came alive on Sabbath, October 25 with lights, cameras, and action that added an element of excitement to the usual “hum” of Sabbath activity that takes place in so many Adventist churches. The “buzz” was caused by the taping of the pilot for the soon to be launched television ministry Pathway of Hope. This program will be a half hour evangelistic/pastoral preaching broadcast similar, though not identical in style, to existing broadcasts such as *Breath of Life* and *It Is Written*. Each broadcast will include a musical number and an occasional family life feature in addition to the preaching segment which is the staple of the program.

Although the broadcast is the brain child of lead producer/director, Pastor Rohann Wellington, it is also the fulfillment of the dreams of many on the program’s board of directors which doubles as the production group. The broadcast unites ministers from both the Greater New York and Northeastern Conferences.

Abraham Jules, pastor of City Tabernacle church in the Northeastern Conference, has been selected as the speaker and G. Earl Knight, executive secretary of the Greater New York Conference, will serve as the associate speaker. The production group include C.A. Murray, associate producer/director, Steve D. Cassimy, host, and Alanzo Smith, co-host. Smith will add the occasional family life emphasis. Attorney Maxroy Mitchell, a youthful singer from the Grand Concourse church, will provide legal counsel.

“Our goal is to put on our own denominational broadcasting outlets initially,” Wellington stated. Contact has been made with Adventist Communication Network, (ACN), Adventist Television Network (ATN), Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), Loma Linda Broadcasting Network (LLBN), and Safe TV KSBN. Each has shown interest in carrying the program.

The recently renamed Hope Channel is the new denominational 24 hour channel that began full-time broadcasting just a few months ago. Pathway’s producers see it as providential that the Hope Channel, like so many Adventist stations, is looking for new, fresh, relevant programming. Pathway of Hope seeks to exploit society’s need to put current events into biblical context as Jules and Knight will when needed. They will break into the regular preaching lineup to comment on significant current events that are of biblical or end time consequence which has an impact on the lives of the people of God.

Murray adds “We intend to go international and take our place alongside our sister ministries such as *It Is Written* and *Breath of Life*.” One major difference is that Pathway of Hope



Pathway of Hope Board of Directors include Rohann Wellington, G. Earl Knight, Clement A. Murray, and Steve Cassimy.

is east coast based. “We will be coming from New York,” notes Jules. Knight adds “We are not in competition with existing ministries but complementing.” “Everybody who lifts up Jesus is on the same team,” states Cassimy.

The Adventist television presence began in the middle 1950s in New York with the Fagals and the fledgling *Faith For Today* broadcast on ABC. One of the goals of Pathway of Hope is to resurrect the Adventist television standard in the East. The New York flavor is seen from the outset of the shows opening as the viewer reacts to scenes of New York and its environs in the broadcast’s title block.

The production group has met with Northeastern Conference president, Trevor H. C. Baker and Greater New York Conference president, Dionisio Olivo and received encouragement and endorsement from both leaders.

Baker noted that the board is composed of “solid” men of long standing in the church who would be able to represent Adventism and the work in New York and New England quite well. Olivo noted the dynamic nature of the church in this area and the cosmopolitan nature of the membership and he was glad to know that New York would be giving a media voice. Both administrators praised the cooperative nature of the show that combined the talents of members from both conferences.

The broadcast has a website and contact can be made with any of the board members at www.pathwayofhopeny.org.

The board has adopted Proverbs 12:28, NKJV, as a text that has become the watchword for the Pathway of Hope—“In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.” ☪

Clement Murray writes from Jamaica, New York, where he is the communication director for the Northeastern Conference.

COMMUNICATORS

Meet in Florida for Annual Convention

By Jeff Rogers

More than 175 Adventist communicators met in Orlando, Florida, October 9 to 12 to network, fellowship and learn at the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention. Attendees traveled from around North America representing almost every entity of the Adventist church.

The convention was preceded by *When Bad Things Happen to God Organizations II*, a special crisis management training program. This is the second year the training session has taken place. "I appreciated the experts brought together to train us in crisis management," said Michele Oetman, public relations manager for Adventist Development and Relief Agency. "They were proactive in their approach for when a situation arises so we can protect and preserve the quality image of our organizations."

A series of professional growth seminars on anything ranging from website development to marketing and advertising strategies were a highlight of the convention. However a main aspect of the convention that most attendees appreciate is the networking done within an Adventist community.

"You can get some of the same seminars at the larger conventions but you miss the networking with Adventists," Ryan Teller says. Teller is the communication director for Mid-America Union and is the newly elected president of SAC. "A primary benefit of the convention is networking and being able to help each other with solutions to similar problems."

A distinctive role that the SAC convention plays is in helping college students network with potential employers. Referring to the atmosphere that SAC provides to college students Teller says "They learn how to sell themselves and look for internships."

Priscilla Jones and Kim Eddy, upper classmen from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, personify the impact they see SAC making on them. "It is fun meeting people and getting their advice" Eddy says. "It is also important to know how they came to get their jobs."

Awards were handed out during the banquet on the evening of October 11. Celeste Ryan, assistant to the president for communication for the Columbia Union received the Young Professional Award, while Dr. Lorne Dickinson, professor at Walla Walla

College, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"I am so proud of this event," Ryan said during her acceptance speech. "It is important to mentor young people. If we don't mentor young people now where will we find communicators ten years from now?"

Another program running in conjunction with the SAC convention was SONscreen. SONscreen is an annual Adventist film festival, now in its second year, that features films produced by college aged and professional Adventists. The films are judged and awarded prizes. This year's award for Best of Show and Documentary/Promotional Category was *Chosin*, a film about the Korean conflict, by Marcel Eisele. The winner in the Feature/Narrative Category was *Inside Me* by Robert Escalante. Andy Hass won the Animation/Graphics Category with his film, *El Dunuto*.

Next year the SAC Convention will be held in Dallas, Texas in October. A significant challenge for the coming year is reaching out to Adventist communicators outside of denominational circles. "The initial purpose [of the organization] was to help connect non-denominational communicators with the church," Teller says. "We want to make it a value to all Adventist communicators." For more information visit www.adventistcommunicator.org. ☺

Jeff Rogers is the communication director for Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI).



Communicators from across the North American Division gathered in Orlando, Florida, for the 15th Annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention.



The 150th anniversary celebration of the first Sabbath school was held at the Jefferson Avenue church. The sanctuary which seats approximately 600 was filled to capacity.

Anniversary of Sabbath School Celebrated in Rochester, New York

Church members from the Northeastern and New York conferences, along with leaders from the North American Division and General Conference, assembled in Rochester, New York, the birthplace of Sabbath school on September 27 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the first Sabbath school. The event themed *Nostalgia for the Future* was held at the Jefferson Avenue church. The church's sanctuary, which seats approximately 600, was filled to capacity with members and well-wishers including a significant contingent from Union Springs Academy.

Faith Crumley, the SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP magazine editor, was the superintendent for the Sabbath school program. She



Jan Paulsen, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at its General Conference headquarters, presented the message on Sabbath morning.

introduced and led the celebrants in an original theme song which has been adopted by the Sabbath school department at the General Conference.

Included on the program was a heritage historical quiz, conducted by Gary B. Swanson, the collegiate Bible study guide editor, an expanded mission emphasis by Jonathan Kuntaraf, associate Sabbath school director. James Zackrison, the General Conference Sabbath school director, taught the lesson.

This historical celebration was accented by the presence of Jan Paulsen, General Conference president. Paulsen also presented the message for the worship service. Marcel Wip, pastor of the Jefferson Avenue church, led the worship service and gave Trevor H. C. Baker, Northeastern Conference president, Steven Gallimore, New York Conference president, and William Johnson, the mayor of Rochester, an opportunity to bring greetings. Music was provided by the Jefferson Avenue church Celebration Choir.

Following a tour of the Adventist her-



Mayor William Johnson brought greetings as the representative from the Rochester, New York, area.

itage sites in the area, the events of the day concluded with a special vesper service. Speaking for the service was Alfred Johnson, North American Division adult ministries director.

In his remarks, Zackrison highlighted the purposes for the Sabbath school—study of the word, community outreach, fellowship, and mission emphasis. He predicted a bright future for Sabbath school as a continual soul winning and discipling agency.

Clement A. Murray, correspondent NEC

Pine Forge Creative Arts Group
 Coming to the Boston, Massachusetts, area

on
Saturday, January 10, 2004
 at 7:00 p.m.

Roxbury Community College, Media Arts Building
 1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury, Massachusetts

The play is entitled: "9-1-1."

Sponsored by the
 Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy
 800 Morton Street
 Mattapan, Massachusetts

For more information and to secure tickets contact
 the Berea Academy at (617) 436-8301 or
 E-mail: berea_academy@hotmail.com.



Student from Grades 1-6 took part in the elementary outdoor school program on September 9-12.



Recreation time was included as part of the schedule.

Elementary Students Participate in Outdoor School

One hundred forty-five elementary students were at Camp Lawroweld on Tuesday evening September 9 to experience God in nature. After registering, eating sack suppers, and attending campfire worship, they got to know each other better through the school talent show. Worships using the book of Timothy were presented by Trudy Wright. Dana Waterman wrote and updated the nature curriculum.

Students in Grades 1-6 stayed at Camp Lawroweld. They took part daily in morning

nature studies exploring habitats, afternoon recreation, and evening group cooperative activities. The 75 in Grades 7-8 headed out in one of the following adventure groups: Mt. Blue State Park canoeing and kayaking, rock climbing, backpacking the Appalachian Trail, or outdoor survival.

Seventy-five adults helped supervise and instruct in this four day program for elementary students in the Northern New England Conference Adventist schools.

*Trudy Wright, superintendent of schools
Northern New England Conference*

Derry Church Remains Active in the Community after Five Years

A happy fifth anniversary to the Derry Seventh-day Adventist Church! It was five years ago on Sabbath morning, November 21, 1998, that a small group of Adventists officially met as an organized company at the Odd Fellows Hall in Derry, New Hampshire. After about a year of prayers, hard work, and donations, they were able to purchase the Knights of Columbus Hall. During the following years, the faithful membership has continually made building improvements.

Four years later, Gary Thurber, then conference president, present-

ed the official recognition of the company as an organized church. Additionally, the new fellowship hall was dedicated.

This active and exciting church, under the continued leadership of Pastor Carl Behrmann, serve their community. The church not only has services each Sabbath, with powerful sermons and delicious dinners, they also are sensitive to the needs of the community. Each Sunday at noon there is a SonShine Soup Kitchen serving delightful vegetarian meals to five to ten people. They also maintain a stocked Food Bank for help in times of emergency. Each month, the faithful members minister in the nursing home with songs and a mini-sermon. The children within

the Derry church are not left out! There is an active Pathfinder club teaching Christian living and Christian service.

The most recent outreach is the Revelation Seminar currently being offered. All of the members are involved in one way or another in this ministry. Prayer is the power behind all the effectiveness in this newly formed and active Seventh-day Adventist Church. You are cordially invited to visit and experience not only the inspiring sermons which invite a closer relationship to Jesus Christ, but also to share your talents. See you in Derry, New Hampshire, some Sabbath soon!

*Rhoda Watson, communication secretary
Derry Seventh-day Adventist Church*

Academy Students Attend Outdoor School in September

It was a privilege and pleasure to work with leaders, staff, teachers and 54 students at the 2003 Northern New England Conference Academy Outdoor School held September 23-26. There was a spirit of comradery as students working in teams learned about and accomplished conservation and restoration projects at Camp Lawroweld. Recreation produced a lot of screams and laughter during afternoon and evening events. Dana Waterman spoke each evening on our stewardship of the earth. She went from creation to the new earth—past, present, and future.

Mark Harris the project leader, Fred Hellenberg, a forester, and I were delighted with the teams accomplishments. They participat-

ed and accomplished much while working on the following: Forestry: Softwood Regeneration Project, Forestry: Hardwood Stand Project, Forestry: Pine Plantation Project, GPS Mapping, Trail Signage, Walking Bridge, Adirondack Lean-to.

Recreation for the students included waterfront activities, baseball, volleyball, soccer, basketball, low ropes, and bocce ball. A new tradition was started with our first annual LawrOlympic Waterfront Games as teachers and students contested for gold (Maple), silver (Poplar), and bronze (Pine) medals which were awarded at the closing ceremonies. Eric Enright was a multiple gold medalist.

I will never forget some events that left indelible pictures in my mind such as Wayne Harlow in the canoe tug-of-war churning the water with his paddle to victory,

Alexis Banks' amazing shots during Water-bottle Bowling, the long table including all the students playing Heads with the quarter and crushed cup, Trevor Schlisner sticking his elbow out his shirt sleeve hollering "She cut off my arm!" in the teacher's skit, Nancy Cutler's imitation of me, Nathan Knowles' tied competition to pick up the paper bag with Shaina Holiman, and the lead canoe dumping in the canoe race.

A nature center on our new property is a dream I hope can be realized in the near future. We would like it to include an indoor amphitheater, nature library, science lab, observatory, classroom, and outdoor school storage space. We are working on plans for a sustainable building and a suitable site.

Trudy Wright, superintendent of schools Northern New England Conference



As students work on the Walking Bridge Project, they are nearing completion of two spans across the West River.



Students worked on the Adirondack Lean-to project. It will be shingled at the 2004 Academy Outdoor School.



**MUSIC CLINIC
2004**

April 1-3, 2004
Applications due December 1, 2003,
for early registration
Final Application deadline March 1, 2004

**ART CLINIC
2004**

January 29-31, 2004
Applications due January 9, 2004

Applications available online at www.nnec.org or contact the NNEC Education Department at 207-797-3760, ext. 13.

\$7,300 Raised to Benefit Edgewood Elementary and Greater Boston Academy

The second annual Edgewood Elementary and Greater Boston Academy Benefit Golf Tournament was held at The Meadow at Peabody on Friday, October 3. Proceeds of more than \$7,300 will be used to enhance the program of the high-quality pre-school through Grade 12 institution located at 108 Pond Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts.

Seven foursomes participated in this year's prize-studded best-ball event. The participants had a number of exciting opportunities to win significant prizes which included a three-putt contest and several hole-in-one contests. Prizes were contributed by individuals from several local establishments. Many volunteers and sponsors made the event possible.

The tournament, held annually, assists Edgewood Elementary school and Greater Boston Academy in providing quality education for its students.

Ray Daniel, tournament coordinator

Boston Van Ministry Volunteers Help to Save Lives

For the last eleven years individuals from the Boston Van Ministry have operated a health booth at the Topsfield Fair in Topsfield, Massachusetts. Under the direction of John and Julia Ferraro, volunteers spent ten days this year from October 4-13 with the booth open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. They conducted blood pressure screenings and had literature available for distribution to the public. As a result of their efforts, 1037 individuals were screened. Volunteers know their work is important when those who have been helped share their stories. As was the case this year when one man returned to let them know that his life was



Cheryl McNulty of the Haverhill church, Dr. Eloise Edgings-Pryce of the Stoneham church, and Mary Breidenbach of the Amesbury church, volunteered to assist the Boston Van Ministry at the booth at the Topsfield Fair.

spared last year as a result of having his blood pressure checked at their booth. He was told then that his pressure was high and he immediately went to get medical attention. Now everything is under control. Volunteers in this ministry help to improve the quality of life for individuals by reaching out to as many people as possible as they travel from place to place with the van.

Frank Tochterman, correspondent SNEC

James 2:15 Kitchen Receives Donation

Frank Tochterman, Southern New England Conference president, and

Elizabeth Castle, associate pastor of the College Church in South Lancaster, Mass., recently presented a check to Don Owens, director of the James 2:15 Kitchen in Clinton, Mass. The James 2:15 Kitchen has been in existence for almost 20 years and is open six days each week—Sunday to Friday—to provide meals for those in need. Individuals from the College Church spend one day each month at the James 2:15 Kitchen providing food, serving, and cleaning up. In addition, each year, the Southern New England Conference holds a 5K Race at their camp meeting and the proceeds benefit the kitchen.

Frank Tochterman, correspondent SNEC



Frank Tochterman and Elizabeth Castle present a check for the James 2:15 Kitchen to the director, Don Owens.

Nineteen Baptized at Bethel Haitian Church Evangelistic Meetings

Hundreds of decisions for Christ were made during some ninety "A World to Win" evangelistic meetings held in the Southern New England Conference during September, October, and November. At the Bethel Haitian church in Clinton, Massachusetts, Youth Evangelist Sheldon Cooper conducted a series of meetings on October 4-18. As a result of that ministry, nineteen individuals were baptized on October 18 and studies are continuing with other individuals whose lives were touched by the message.

Frank Tochterman, correspondent SNEC



Sheldon Cooper conducted a series of meetings at the Bethel Haitian church during the month of October.

How to Keep Young People in the Church

An edited open letter from a concerned church member

Ask all the young people for open-ended anonymous feedback while they are children, teenagers, and college students. Don't just assume that they want to be entertained or else they'll leave. Ask them for feedback about what changes they want in the church, in the schools, in the youth camps and Pathfinder clubs, in the colleges, etc.

Listen to their criticism instead of rebutting it. Telling people that the church is the bride and shouldn't be criticized is cheap and young people are too intelligent to buy that line. It's time to face up to our mistakes as a church, and then do something about them instead of just talking about what we should do.

Do what they tell you in regard to their requests for change. When you don't, you lose them, plain and simple. Don't worry, they really don't ask for all that much, just that you be Jesus to them and do everything realistically possible to meet their needs as young people.

Create discussion-based Sabbath schools for ages 25-35 instead of putting that age group with people who don't understand them (anyone younger or older). Have those Sabbath schools led by peers, instead of older people who don't get young professionals at all. When there is not a place for young adults to meet just with each other, they usually leave for lack of fellowship with people who can empathize with their life-situations, not just sympathize at a distance. Also, remember, in regard to those who do stay, it's asking for trouble when 30 year-old men are put into Sabbath schools with 17 year-old women "because our local church is so tiny." Sorry, that's just not good enough, yet it happens on a regular basis. Keep older teens and young adults separate, or else do something other than judge the girls who get pregnant, and other than pressuring or even paying them to have quiet abortions to save face. (I've seen this happen, so don't think it doesn't on a regular basis).

Invite average young people (not just PKS [preachers' kids] or winners of "Leadership (popularity) Awards") to conferences where discussions about keeping young people in the church are being held. Ask them for feedback regarding their physical (real life) and spiritual (God-centered) needs and how the church can facilitate them in meeting those needs and bringing

those two areas of their lives together into one harmonious daily spiritual experience.

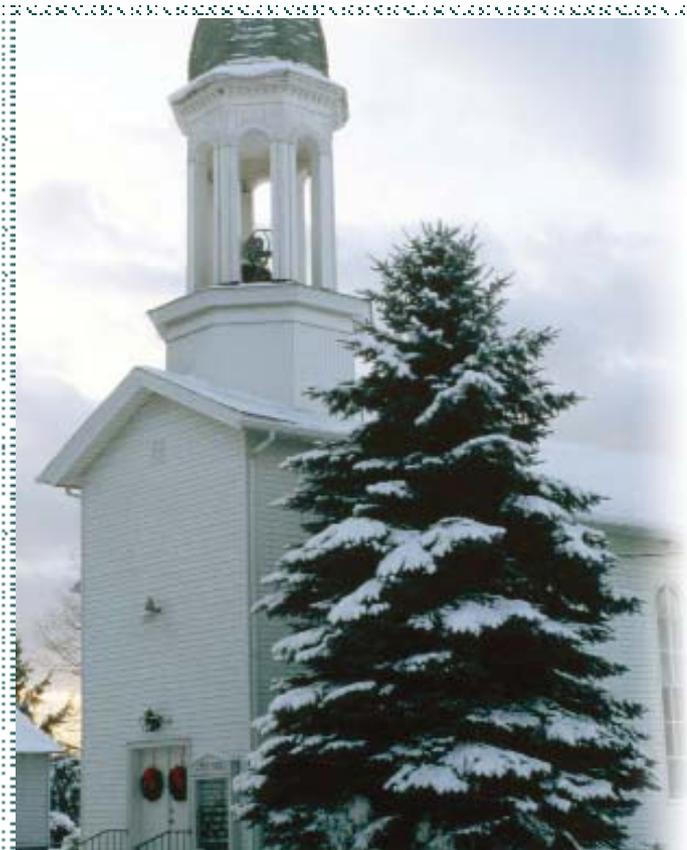
Have sanctuary services be prayer, worship, and ministry based rather than "lip service" based, i.e., leave theology in the classroom and bring the presence of our awesome God into His sanctuaries worldwide.

- A.** Prayer is a personal experience, and time for silent, non "directed" prayer should be given.
- B.** Worship is God-centered, not "woe is me the sinner" centered, and should last for at least an hour. It isn't just hymns. To believe it, short stories, original musical compositions, and other forms of expressing gratitude and appreciation to our God of wonders and mighty deeds! Worship needs to come alive!
- C.** Ministry is when the pastors ask for a show of hands of those who need personal attention in any particular way, and then go out to those who need help, praying with them first and then doing anything God has empowered them to do that will help those who need help. Those spiritual gifts shouldn't sit on the back burner! This means bringing retired pastors back into service (when possible) and calling young people who are able to join the ministry, because one or two pastors per church won't be enough!

Create diverse jobs for our working young people, who are struggling because we have not provided work for them. Not everyone was meant to go into ministry, teaching, or medical professions. We should not make Sabbath a burden for our other graduates by leaving it to the world to hire them. Also, we should not ask new members to start keeping the Sabbath and then say "Sorry we have no way of providing work for you that allows you to do this."

Most of all, our young people need the older church members to be Jesus to them, not just to potential new members (only to stop being Jesus to people once they have become members). Our church has been the proverbial head that told the foot "I don't need you." That really needs to change now. Just telling our young people what they shouldn't do in order to remain holy isn't enough. Leading them by example, showing them (not just telling them) what they should do to be Jesus to each other and to others, should be the goal of all older Adventist church members and pastors.

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*A Happy, Healthy,
and Prosperous
Season to all our
readers.*

From the Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff

E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Website: www.atlantic-union.org

BULLETIN BOARD

Sunset Table

Eastern Standard Time

January 2004	2	9	16	23	30
Bangor, ME	4:06	4:13	4:22	4:31	4:41
Portland, ME	4:16	4:23	4:31	4:40	4:49
Boston, MA	4:23	4:30	4:38	4:47	4:56
So. Lancaster, MA	4:25	4:32	4:40	4:49	4:58
Pittsfield, MA	4:32	4:39	4:47	4:55	5:04
Hartford, CT	4:32	4:38	4:46	4:55	5:04
New York, NY	4:40	4:47	4:54	5:03	5:11
Albany, NY	4:31	4:38	4:47	4:55	5:04
Utica, NY	4:37	4:45	4:53	5:02	5:11
Syracuse, NY	4:41	4:48	4:56	5:05	5:15
Rochester, NY	4:47	4:54	5:02	5:11	5:20
Buffalo, NY	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:17	5:26
Hamilton, Bda.	5:25	5:30	5:37	5:43	5:50

Spot News

Events occurring in the Atlantic Union territory

Greater New York

Greater New York Academy Reunion 2004 Spring spectacular 3-day Cruise boarding Royal Caribbean

Cruise Liner leaving Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Friday, April 23, 2004. Contact: Jake206@netzero.net or Leah Consuegra at (407) 814-9480. All GNYA alumni are invited.

New York Conference
Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church School's 90th-year Homecoming Celebration. Coming spring 2004. We want to contact as many alumni as possible. If you are an alumnus or know of one, contact Susan Caster (716) 661-9393 or sueka@usa.net with your current contact information as soon as possible.

Out-of-Union

Events occurring outside the Atlantic Union territory

The Bella Vista Hospital in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, will celebrate its 50th anniversary, March 11-14, 2004, and its administration is hereby inviting all its former missionaries, employees, and their families to this memorable celebration. Contact us by telephone (787) 652-6045, fax (787) 831-6315, or e-mail: btorres@bvhpr.com. Come and join us.

2004 North American Division Youth Ministries Leadership Convention — Denver, Colorado — February 19-22.— Adams Mark Hotel & Convention Center. Join 4000 Pastors, Youth, Pathfinder, Adventurer, Master Guide, Young Adult, Campus, and Camp Ministries leaders for all levels of leadership training. Theme: "Stand Still... See God's Salvation." For more information visit: www.adventistyouthministries.org.

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Articles Needed for SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP Magazine

SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP magazine needs your articles about programs or activities celebrating 150 years of Sabbath school.

Members of the SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP magazine lay advisory committee began celebrating the 150 years of Sabbath School early in 2003. Edna Jones, a lay consultant for SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, created a banner depicting the four goals of Sabbath school. Madia Law, a volunteer office worker, helped complete the project.

To assist in recording the event, Sabbath school directors at all levels of the church are invited to submit articles to SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP about the activities or programs held in celebration of 150 years of Sabbath school. In January 2004 the names of all who have sent articles with photos will be entered into a general drawing to receive the banner that now hangs outside the Sabbath School Leadership offices.

Deadline for receiving the 600-word article and one or more photos (300 dpi, jpg file) is January 5, 2004. Submit materials as e-mail attachments to the editor, Faith Crumbly, fcrumbly@rhpha.org. Or submit materials by mail to Irma Brooks, Sabbath School Leadership Secretary, 55 W. Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown MD 21740. Be sure to allow sufficient time for the materials to be delivered by the January 5 morning mail. SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, a 32-page, monthly magazine produced by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, was founded in 1997 to provide resources and a network for local church Sabbath school leaders, pastors, and other supporters of adult division Sabbath school.

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE Collegiate/Young Adult Retreat 2



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E-mail: youthministries@atlanticunion.org

¿Qué Está Pasando?

EN LA IGLESIA MUNDIAL

.....

Iglesia Mundial: Se celebran los 150 años de la Escuela Sabática en su lugar de inicio

.....

30 de Septiembre del 2003, Rochester, Nueva York, Estados Unidos [ANN] — “La Escuela Sabática no es una institución”, dice el presidente de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día mundial Jan Paulsen. “Es una experiencia.” Como principal orador del culto sabático el pasado 27 de Septiembre en la Iglesia Adventista de Jefferson Avenue en Rochester, Estado de Nueva York, Paulsen condujo la celebración del 150° aniversario del programa de Escuela Sabática de la iglesia.

En 1853 —unos pocos años después de que el primer grupo de adventistas guardadores del sábado se formara en Washington, Estado de New Hampshire, James White, uno de los fundadores de la Iglesia Adventista, organizó la primera Escuela Sabática en Rochester. En la actualidad, se estima que unas 20 millones de personas en todo el mundo utilizan las lecciones de la Escuela Sabática preparadas y publicadas por la iglesia adventista. El plan constituye unos de los programas de estudio continuo de la Biblia más grandes del mundo.

“Como herramienta para hacer discípulos,” añadió Paulsen, “la Escuela Sabática es un instrumento invaluable en las manos del Espíritu Santo.”

Un año antes, con un número estimado de miembros informales de cerca de 1,000 en el estado de Nueva York, White había escrito una serie de 19 lecciones que aparecieron en la nueva publicación periódica “Youth’s Instructor” (El instructor de la juventud). White fue el autor de algunas de estas primeras lecciones “en forma de preguntas y respuestas,” mientras viajaba a través de Nueva Inglaterra en un carruaje cubierto con su esposa, Elena, y Edson, su hijito de tres años de edad. La Sra. White describe la manera en que compuso gran parte del material durante las paradas de medio día: mientras el caballo se alimentaba, White utilizaba la “caja de alimentos” o su sombrero para apoyar el papel y escribir.

Ese día marcó la iniciación de una serie de grandes eventos planificados en todo el mundo para Octubre y Noviembre con el fin de celebrar el 150° aniversario de la Escuela Sabática. Bajo el lema “Nostalgia por el futuro: 150 años de Escuela Sabática”, estos eventos buscan destacar la rica

herencia del adventismo, así como su futuro prometedor.”

“Nuestra intención,” dice el director de la Escuela Sabática mundial James Zackrisson, “es mirar hacia los orígenes de esta importante obra y también hacia el futuro y sus enormes posibilidades”.

En recuerdo de este evento, el Departamento de Escuela Sabática y Ministerios Personales de la Iglesia Adventista mundial ha comisionado una reproducción de edición limitada del primer número de “The Youth’s Instructor,” en el que se publicaron las primeras lecciones de la Escuela Sabática.

Gary B. Swanson
Adventist News Network Staff
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

Sudamérica: La iglesia lleva a cabo el evento de evangelización más grande de todos los tiempos

.....

30 de Septiembre del 2003, Puno, Perú [ANN] — El evento más grande organizado alguna vez por la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día de Perú, la “Caravana del Poder,” culminó el 20 de Septiembre. Unas 100,000 personas asistieron a este esfuerzo de evangelización, que se llevó a cabo en 17 localidades de Puno.

Los alumnos de teología de la Universidad de la Unión Peruana habían estado participando en el proyecto desde el pasado 10 de Agosto, y continuarán trabajando en tareas de seguimiento hasta el 4 de Octubre.

Como parte del programa, el Hospital Sergio Bernales de Lima proporcionó atención médica y odontológica gratuita. Un grupo de pastores, médicos y enfermeras viajaron a las diversas localidades de la región para ofrecer asistencia espiritual, de salud y estilo de vida cristiana. Puno, y la región del Lago Titicaca, tienen un lugar especial en la misión adventista. Fue en esta parte del Perú donde Ana y Fernando Stahl establecieron escuelas en las dos primeras décadas del siglo XX. Este abarcante programa educacional llegó a ser la base de la educación en el país. La “Caravana del Poder” representa el último acontecimiento misionero de la iglesia en esta región.

ASN/ANN Staff
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

Quoi de Neuf?

A TRAVERS L'UNION ATLANTIQUE ET L'ÉGLISE MONDIALE

Neg LaKay Pou Kris Nos Hommes Pour Christ

Quel merveilleux moment! Quand le Sabbat 25 Octobre, accoururent de toutes parts les frères haïtiens accompagnés de leurs fils, se rendirent à l'Auditorium de Hyde Park, MA, à l'occasion de la journée des hommes. Cette journée a été patronnée par le Département des Ministères Haïtiens de l'Union Atlantique des Adventistes du 7e Jour.

En lieu et place de l'École du Sabbat, un panel composé des pasteurs E. Laguerre, C. Calixte, et Luc F. Homicile, présentèrent les sujets, respectivement: "La Genèse du conflit familial"; "Les Victimes du conflit familial"; "Époux et Père: Un Rôle assigné par le Créateur". Les présentations furent suivies d'une période de questions-réponses qui facilitait la participation de tous.

Au Culte d'Adoration, le sermon fut délivré par le Dr. Charles A. Ballard, Fondateur & Chef Exécutif de: "Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization." Son sujet fut à la fois profond et substantiel: "Ramener le cœur des pères vers leurs enfants et le cœur des enfants vers leurs pères" (Mal. 4:6). Environ 200 pères et fils furent présents.

Après un repas copieux, beaucoup d'épouses rejoignirent leurs époux et leurs fils pour la cérémonie de consécration. La charge du Dr. Ballard aux Pasteurs, Pères/Fils & Mères/Filles



Dr. Charles Ballard invité spécial de la journée.

fut la plus touchante du programme. Il enjoint Époux/Pères, Épouses/Mères, Fils et Filles - à être responsables dans l'exercice de leur rôle comme assigné par Dieu. Ce fut un appel à la conscientisation et à la consécration totale à Dieu.

Certains hommes ont regretté de n'avoir pas eu ces informations plus tôt dans leur vie conjugale. Contrairement, ils auraient été de meilleurs époux et pères. Ils insistent sur la nécessité de répéter ces programmes plus souvent.

*Luc Homicile, Haitian Ministries vice president
Atlantic Union Conference*

Nos Hommes pour Tchad: des donateurs membres de l'Église adventiste vont bâtir de nouvelles écoles et leur fournir des enseignants

23 Septembre 2003, N'djamena, Tchad [ANN] — Un projet de construction d'écoles, avec mise à disposition des enseignants, va débiter prochainement dans les villes et villages du Tchad, en Afrique centrale, grâce à un partenariat tripartite entre Mission globale, organisation de l'Église adventiste du septième jour, une autre organisation: Outpost Centers International (OCI), et des donateurs nord-américains. Les travaux de construction doivent démarrer avant la fin de l'année et dans la première phase du plan, quatre écoles au moins seront bâties.

Des responsables de Mission globale et d'OCI (ministère laïc de soutien) se sont rendus début septembre au Tchad, un des pays les plus pauvres du monde, afin d'évaluer les opportunités d'action et d'établir des plans de mise en œuvre de cette initiative. Ils ont parcouru la capitale, N'djamena, ainsi que plusieurs autres lieux où les pionniers de Mission globale ont créé des groupes de croyants. Les communautés environnantes auront plein accès aux nouvelles écoles.

Les pionniers de Mission globale sont des laïcs qui, bénéficiant d'une petite rémunération, fondent des congrégations adventistes dans ce que l'on appelle les «zones inexplorées» au sein de leur propre culture. «Ils ont l'avantage de connaître la culture locale, de parler la langue des gens du crû et de se fondre parmi eux,» explique Mike Ryan,

coordinateur de Mission globale au plan mondial. «Ce fut très encourageant de visiter les zones où ces gens ont apporté une formidable contribution spirituelle et humanitaire aux communautés locales. A chaque endroit, nous avons rencontré des responsables de collectivités locales, qui ont fait un accueil unanime à ces écoles et ont offert des terrains pour leur implantation.»

«Nous nous sommes rendus dans certaines villes où trois ou quatre cent enfants, devaient, pour aller à l'école, se réunir sous les arbres,» raconte Jabel Busl, constructeur de bâtiments au sein d'OCI, qui va diriger le projet de construction. «Nous allons pouvoir leur bâtir des installations permanentes afin que les écoles n'aient plus besoin de fermer quand viennent les pluies et aient la capacité de continuer avec un programme plus stable.»

Le projet du Tchad prévoit que chaque école soit financièrement autonome dans les trois ans. Le Tchad compte quelque 2 000 adventistes dans une population totale de 7 millions de personnes.

*Gary Krause
Adventist News Network
Traduction: Claude Fivel*

Une femme élue secrétaire de l'Église en Suède

30 Septembre 2003, Silver Spring, Maryland, États-Unis [ANN] — Audrey Boyle Andersson vient d'être nommée secrétaire de l'Église adventiste du septième jour de Suède et devient donc la première femme à assumer cette fonction de «numéro deux» de l'administration ecclésiastique dans ce pays. Pour Mme Andersson, originaire d'Angleterre et qui a travaillé comme consultante en marketing et communications dans ces deux pays, ce nouveau poste représente «la réunion de mes deux passions: travailler pour le Seigneur et travailler à développer les communications et l'usage des médias [pour l'Église].» Elle espère utiliser les médias pour atteindre les 8.8 millions d'habitants que compte la Suède, afin qu'ensuite «les Églises locales et des gens bien réels.» prennent contact avec les personnes intéressées.

*Équipe
Adventist News Network
Traduction: Claude Fivel*



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