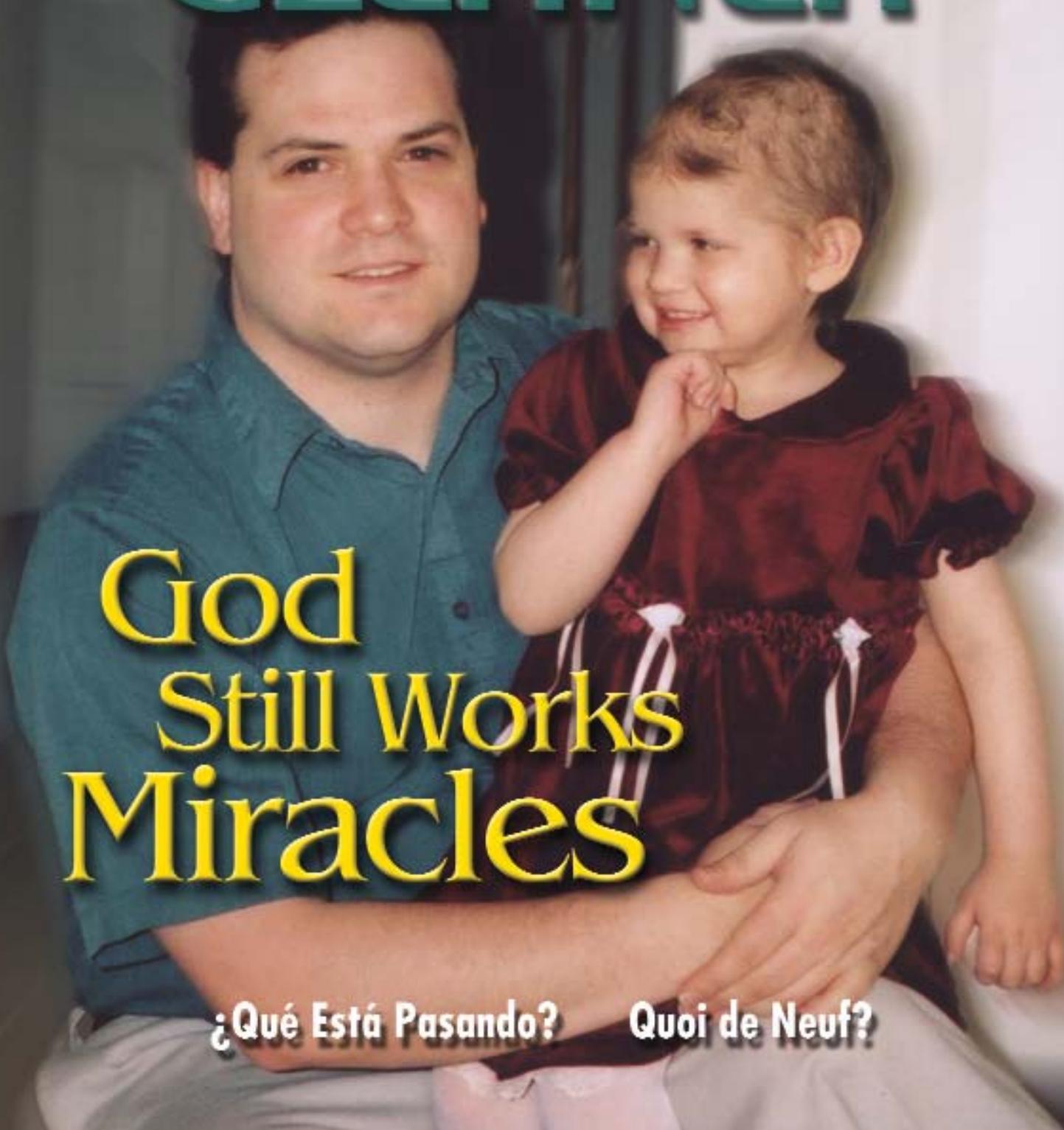


THE ATLANTIC UNION

JULY 2003

GLEANNER



God
Still Works
Miracles

¿Qué Está Pasando?

Quoi de Neuf?



Of Anxiety and Guitar Strings

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you”—1 Peter 5:6.**

Stress is an unseen enemy that exacts a high price at times. Spiritual warfare is nothing new. God never promises a calm passage, but He has promised a safe landing in the place He’s gone to prepare for the faithful.

In moments of anxiety, we can take a cue from the apostle Paul, who could see God working in the midst of challenges and difficulties. For Paul, stress provided an avenue for God’s solution. “We are under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure,” he wrote. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God”—2 Corinthians 1:8-9. Paul acknowledged “being hard pressed on every side,” but he took pains to clarify the fact that in spite of the pressure, he was not “crushed” (2 Corinthians 4:8). He was confident of God’s bigger plan. He knew God would guide him through the difficulties. Tension is not all bad. Guitar strings need the correct amount of tension to produce melodious music.

Over the last several months, we have seen many changes and transitions occur in the Atlantic Union College community, especially as it relates to matters of continued accreditation and leadership for the College. But we believe God is firmly in control. As I write, our accreditation continues to be fully intact even though we have lots of work to do to keep it firmly in place.

The College’s Board of Trustees has recently appointed Dr. George P. Babcock as the new president of Atlantic Union College. We congratulate him. He replaces Dr. N. Clifford Sorensen who briefly served as interim president while the Board searched for a new

president. Dr. Babcock, who has served at Southern Adventist University and arrives with a wealth of experience in higher education and in matters of accreditation, comes at a time of many challenges and hurdles to overcome. We believe, however, that with the support and resolve of the Board of Trustees, the faculty, staff, students and college community, Atlantic Union College will clear its hurdles and continue to press forward in a strong and decidedly upward way.

Make no doubt about it, AUC is God’s institution to prepare, enrich, and save our young people for God’s eternity. We need the prayer support and financial support from every alumnus and friend of the College. Recently, a *One Million Dollar Scholarship Drive* was launched to help provide financial aid to our students. If God places it on your heart to help in this endeavour, I encourage you to contact my office today (978) 368-8333, talk with my secretary, Premila, and tell her you’d like to help. She’ll send you the information you need. Our students will be enormously blessed by your support.

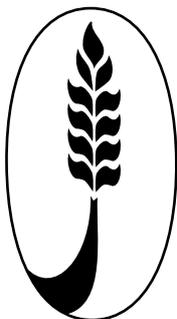
It is no wonder the Apostle could write encouraging words for those weighed down by struggles and strains: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”—2 Corinthians 4:16-17.

Prayer: Dear God, if tension can create something good in a guitar string, then use the anxiety in my life to do something good today. ☺

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

** Scripture texts in the editorial are quoted from the New International Version.*

“God never promises a calm passage but he has promised a safe landing in the place he’s gone to prepare for the faithful.”



To **SERVE** the Local Community

by Astrid Thomassian

Part of the Atlantic Union Conference's mission is a commitment to serve the local community. Last March, the union formed a committee to craft plans for serving neighboring residents. The committee's first project was hosting an evening get together for the families of military personnel serving or scheduled to serve overseas.

For the occasion a plant, rambling through a trellis was purchased. It was named, the prayer plant. Attached to the trellis were cards. Each card had the name of a local resident serving in the military. At the meeting light refreshments were set on yellow dressed tables decorated with yellow mums. Huge yellow bows were tied to the columns at the front and back entrances of the union office. Conversation flowed freely as families of the military shared tidbits about loved ones, concerns, anxieties and emotional needs. The staff offered their personal strategies for coping with anxiety. Just before the meeting ended the staff circled the guests as prayer was offered.

A couple weeks later a picture of the prayer plant was sent to each family letting them know that our office staff was thinking of them. In addition, the prayer plant was placed in the union's worship room. Each morning at 8:00 a.m. prayer is offered for military personnel and their families.

It's much too early to declare positive outcomes, but on a recent Sabbath at the Village church a union employee was introduced to a young boy, by a family member who attended our evening meeting, as a person working in the office which is praying for your Dad. My neighbor, who has a son preparing to leave in July to serve in the military, came over to inquire if my office was responsible for the cards he was receiving. He thanked me for the prayers and added, "All my life I've passed by the Village church but never set a foot inside. Friday was the first time I went in for a funeral. It was a good experience. The minister did a great job!"

Please add the union's future efforts in the area of local evangelism to your prayer list. ☺

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



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ABOUT THE COVER: "God Still Works Miracles" will cause you to rejoice and shed tears at the same time. It is the story of the conversion and baptism of Robert Gehrlein and the battle for life of his precious little girl, Brittany.

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

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

ON THE MOVE

Dr. George P. Babcock Appointed President of Atlantic Union College

The Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees appointed Dr. George P. Babcock as president of Atlantic Union College (AUC) on May 29, 2003. He was selected after a national search was conducted for a qualified individual to take over the leadership of the 121-year-old institution. Babcock has a terminal degree and a wealth of experience in higher education, educational leadership, and consulting. On June 9, 2003, he succeeded Dr. N. Clifford Sorensen who was serving as



interim president since March 2003.

Babcock comes to AUC from Southern Adventist University, in Collegedale, Tennessee, where he

spent thirteen years serving in various capacities including senior vice president for academic administration. He has been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church working in the United States and internationally. Some of his additional professional work experience includes spending twelve years at the General Conference, world headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as associate director in the education department (senior education administrator for the Asia-Pacific area), and as president of Griggs University (formerly known as Home Study International), a distance educational institution with branch offices around the world. His earlier experiences include working in various educational capacities in institutions or offices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Virginia, Georgia, and as president of the Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College.

Through the years, he has been a consultant for a number of colleges and Ministries of Education in several countries. He is also active in local and state educational organizations in Tennessee and Florida, has served on regional accredita-

tion commissions, and holds a number of community and board memberships.

Babcock completed his undergraduate degree in history at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, his master's degree in educational administration, supervision and instruction, and curriculum development, and his doctorate in educational administration and educational facility planning at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Babcock's wife, Fern, is a professional educator who established the Teaching Material Center at Southern Adventist University, which is now one of the best in the United States. She has also authored many books and numerous articles. They have two adult children, Sherri and David.

In an interview with Babcock, he says, "Atlantic Union College is starting fresh. It's a new beginning and a new day for AUC." In addition, rebuilding AUCs credibility is one of his goals. When asked what he would like to accomplish, Babcock said, "I would like Atlantic Union College to become a premier Christian educational institution in the Northeast."

Southern New England Conference Elects New Treasurer — Merle A. Greenway

Merle A. Greenway has accepted an invitation from the Southern New England Conference Executive Committee to serve as conference treasurer. Beginning July 1 he will literally "move downstairs" from his current position as conference superintendent of schools.

Merle came to Southern New England last August from a six-year stint as superintendent of schools and treasurer in the Alaska Conference. He is no stranger to the joys and challenges of denominational employment. Greenway is completing his thirty-third year as a teacher, dean, principal, superintendent, college department chair, graduate school professor, and conference treasurer. His doctoral training is in educational administration and supervision. He also holds a master's degree in business administration.

The Greenway family consists of Merle, wife Ruth, and two

adult children. Ruth is a business and special education teacher by training and experience, daughter Alanna is employed as a registered nurse in Portland, Oregon, and son Geoffrey works for a Christian radio station in Southern California.

When asked why he accepted his initial call to Southern New England and what he thinks of the current change, Merle responded that he "felt compelled to come. I wanted to say no, but saw in myself a bit of Jonah. The Lord wouldn't let me rest. Now, as then, the needs are great, the people a delight, the challenges endless. Those things have not changed. Even though my duties will shift, the opportunities for service remain."



On behalf of the church members, employees, and administrators of the Atlantic Union Conference we pray for God's guidance for George P. Babcock, Merle Greenway, and their families in their new assignments.

Ednor A. P. Davison, editor

AUC Alumnus Receives Honorary Degree

The life and career of Anthony J. Romeo attest to his belief that good graphic design and the Christian life have much in common, that responsible professionalism and pastoral ministry can blend blessedly. Recognizing the power of the visual image, Romeo infuses a philosophy of service with a passion for design. He is equally at home in the advertising design studio and in the pulpit, and through both venues Romeo has experienced notable accomplishment.

Currently the creative director at DDB Worldwide Communications Group, Inc. in New York, Romeo has worked on such advertising accounts as Michelin Tires, CIGNA Insurance, and Hershey Foods. He has most recently developed television commercials for Merck Pharmaceuticals' consumer division for the medication Vioxx. Romeo has also been employed by Lord Geller Federico Einstein and there served as group creative director with creative responsibilities for Saab, IBM, and NBC. His work has been noted in many advertising award books, most recently in *The Graphics Advertising Annual* for his work on Hershey's York Peppermint Pattie.

Romeo, who grew up in New York City, attended the School of Visual Arts. Upon his graduation in 1963, he worked as an advertising designer, and it was at this time that he became involved with evangelistic work in Greenwich Village at the Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church, helping

to establish The Catacombs, a Christian coffee house in the church's bricked basement. The Catacombs (named for the basement's catacomb-like architecture) offered visitors an alternative worship experience that included Christian folk music.

His work with the church in Manhattan prompted him to attend



Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in religion in 1973. Romeo worked for the Review and Herald Publishing Association and served as a youth pastor at the Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. In each of these church-related settings, Romeo combined his advertising and design experience with church ministry. He has created advertising materials to reach various markets with the Gospel through newspaper ads, and he has created a series of print ads for the *It Is Written* telecast that appeared in TV Guide. Over the years Romeo has pastored

churches in New York and presented design seminars at various Adventist colleges and universities, including Andrews. In the 1980s he participated in a seminar exploring art, advertising, and racism held in Kenya under the auspices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Along with his current responsibilities at DDB and with New York churches, Romeo teaches at the School of Visual Arts. He is also a member of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Marlene, an Andrews alumna who is principal of The Bronx-Manhattan Elementary School, have two children, Jennifer and Anthony, who claim Andrews as their alma mater.

Romeo's passion for responsible leadership and the creative spirit distinguishes him as a man of vision. It is for these qualities and his contribution to society that the faculty of Andrews University honored Anthony J. Romeo and [recommended] him for the degree Doctor of Fine Art, honoris causa.

Romeo is an active supporter of the One Million Dollar Scholarship Drive at Atlantic Union College. The Atlantic Union College, Atlantic Union Conference, and Greater New York Conference congratulates Dr. Anthony Romeo for his outstanding accomplishment. ☉

Reprinted from the May 2003 Andrews University Commencement Program. Written by Dr. Douglas A. Jones, professor of teaching and learning, Andrews University School of Education.

Continuing Education Program had much to Celebrate

The students, faculty, and staff of Atlantic Union College (AUC) had two important reasons to celebrate on Sunday, May 11, 2003. First, they celebrated Mother's Day. Second, they celebrated the academic accomplishments of one hundred and eighteen graduating students. Fifteen students from the total graduating class were master of education students who completed their degrees through the Continuing Education evening program.

In September 2001 under the initiative of Dr. D. Robert Kennedy, associate dean for alternative college education programs, AUC started a master's of education cohort under the coordination of the Continuing Education Program. Students complete the master's of education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction or

administration. We congratulate the first graduates. They have been a pleasure to work with and we are assured of their continued success in the field of education.

We are continuing to expand and offer this program to anyone seeking to advance their educational path. If you are interested in learning more about completing your master of education at Atlantic Union College through this flexible program, contact Carmen Rodriguez in the Continuing Education office at the college:

CE/Online Office, PO Box 1000,
South Lancaster, MA 01561, Fax (978)

368-2514, e-mail: Crodriguez@atlanticuc.edu.

*Carmen Rodriguez, director of Continuing Education and online programs
Atlantic Union College*



Atlantic Union College's Online Community Moves to AUC Website



After a year of being hosted by another company, Atlantic Union College (AUC) has brought the college's Alumni and Friends Online Community home to the AUC website. You can become a member of this community by logging on at <http://www.atlanticuc.edu/alumni.login.php>. After you become a member you can easily seek out friends, classmates, favorite faculty members — anyone you might remember from your time at Atlantic Union College. The online community is your access to everything that is happening on campus now. Check it out for current news, special events, and alumni happenings.

Log on today and tell your friends we have moved the Online Community home!

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Celebrates 20 Years of Successful Graduates

Continuing the legacy of educating undergraduate students for careers in social work, the Atlantic Union College Social Work Department honored its largest class of graduates this year. A total of twenty-two students received a bachelor of science degree. Students who complete the course work for a degree in social work are prepared to pursue professional careers in areas such as adoption and foster care, gerontology, nursing care, health and mental health. Graduates find employment in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, colleges, court systems, prisons and social service agencies, as well as in private practice.

Additionally, some of the social work majors went on to graduate with certificates in gerontology and minors in criminal justice. The bachelor of science in social work

continues to be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education until 2008. Because the program is accredited, students who finish the program with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to earn a master of social work on a fast track, completing that degree in one year rather than the usual two.

Atlantic Union College congratulates this recent class of graduates from the Social Work department. For the past 20 years, students from this department have made a significant contribution in the communities they serve.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about the bachelor of science degree in social work may visit www.atlanticuc.edu for more information.

*Sandra Hinds '91, assistant professor
Atlantic Union College Social Work Department*

AUC Affirms Accreditation in Nursing Department until 2008

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission has affirmed the accreditation of the Associate Degree Nursing Program offered at Atlantic Union College. The Nursing department continues its successful education of young people with a graduating class in May 2003 of nineteen with associate of science degrees and twelve with bachelor of science degrees. Atlantic Union College is considered to be one of the best nursing programs in New England and our graduates continue to find many job opportunities in their field. Congratulations to our graduates and best wishes in your service to communities throughout the world.



*Linda Gay, associate director for advancement
Atlantic Union College*



God Still Works Miracles

Robert (Bob) Gehrlein is a quiet, but observant individual who saw in a fellow worker “something” he was looking for in his life. That “something” led him to Christ and on the second Sabbath in January 2003 he was baptized at the Rochester Bay Knoll Seventh-day Adventist Church. The events leading up to his baptism are an indication that God still works miracles.

It was the birth of Bob's daughter, Brittany, on October 14, 1999, and the hurt of not being able to be with her that started his pursuit for a better relationship with God. Bob was raised a Catholic so, as he started his search, he began attending the Catholic Church. His journey was slow. He moved to a new home. It was further away from the church so he stopped attending. At that time the court was settling disputes regarding the custody of Brittany. Bob was awarded visitation rights every other weekend. Through all this, his faith continued to grow and he sought

out Christians at his work place who could answer his questions. Midyear 2000 Bob was given a Bible as a gift and began reading.

When Brittany was about twenty-two months, she was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. It was the size of one-third of her skull. With such a large tumor the doctors were amazed she was able to function. She had brain surgery. In the weeks that followed she recovered nicely. She began chemotherapy. It lasted four months followed by radiation treat-

ments that ended in February 2002.

Through this time Bob's relationship with Jesus grew. As he understood more about the beliefs of some of his coworkers, answers to his questions would lead to further questions and eventually the pieces would seem not to fit and be contradicting in nature. He began to doubt and question some of the answers he received. Soon, it appeared that the questions were beyond the persons he relied on for answers.

“The best gift I can give Brittany is embracing the best gift Jesus gave me.”

Brittany with her dad, Bob, in December 2002.





Members at Bay Knoll are blessed by Bob's musical talent.

In March 2002 Brittany's MRI revealed re-growth of her tumor. She was operated on again in early April and recovered nicely. She was then scheduled for high-dose chemotherapy treatment with stem-cell rescue to take place mid-summer.

In the spring of that year Bob became friends with Connie Leach, another co-worker. Knowing she was a dedicated Christian, he approached her for the first time with a biblical

question—one for which he had not received a satisfactory answer. It was not just an idle curiosity behind Bob's search. He was

simply trying to balance his life that was overflowing with more than its share of problems. Connie also had her share of problems but was not burdened by them. Bob quickly learned that Connie had quite a different perspective of the Bible. She seemed to have that "better life" for which he was searching. He observed her willingness to share the faith behind that "better life" with anyone who could appreciate it. The more Bob saw her Christian love and concern for others, the more

"When Brittany was about twenty-two months, she was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor."



Coworker, Connie, with Bob, and Pastor Wolfe.

his interest grew. She gave him a CD, *Panorama of Prophecy*, from Amazing Facts. He eagerly took it home and began what became a new biblical journey learning the truth of the Bible. Within weeks, a foundation of understanding was framed in his mind and his many unanswered questions were answered or simply became irrelevant. He immediately found joy in learning more and gained the confidence to receive answers to further questions by

reading the Bible on his own.

Brittany's high dose chemotherapy with stem-cell treatment began in late July and, due to many

complications, her hospital stay lasted seven weeks. She suffered seizures, low blood pressure, incurred several infections, and there was one very scary moment where she stopped breathing. It seemed that every known risk that could impact her happened to Brittany during her hospital stay. The toll on Brittany and her family was more than words could describe.

It was Bob's growing faith in Jesus that gave him the strength to get through this time. Many prayers were



Pastor Terry Wolfe (right) spent time studying the Bible with Bob.

said on Brittany's behalf. It was mid-September when she showed signs of recovery and healed well enough to go home. In the weeks that followed Brittany recovered nicely. Rather than being bed-ridden, she once again was doing all the things a child her age should be doing. It brought great joy to see her smiling face.

In the months to follow Bob's relationship with the Rochester Bay Knoll church grew. He began attending every other weekend without Brittany. He also began receiving Bible studies from Pastor Terry Wolfe. Bible studies and weeks of church attendance eventually

Brittany poses for the camera.





culminated in Bob's baptism on January 11, 2003. As he came to church that Sabbath, a picture emerged that spoke volumes about

a life with more than its share of heartaches and problems, a life coming to Christ for the joy of His salvation.

Three-year-old Brittany accompanied him to witness his baptism.

As he arose from the watery grave of baptism, he could face the same old problems from a new perspective.

Just two days after his baptism, on January 13, 2003, Brittany was scheduled to have surgery again because another MRI completed on December

31, 2002, revealed the tumor was once again showing signs of growth. This time she had the special preparation of

being anointed and the prayers of her new church family. The members of Bay Knoll rejoiced to have Bob and Brittany worshipping with them on January 25, 2003. But, God has other

plans for little Brittany. Another MRI scan done in late February revealed that the tumor was again growing.

Since Bob's baptism, the members of Bay Knoll have had a little peek into a different side of Bob. He knows the language of music! They learned that as he provid-

“Bob is still looking for answers to this problem in his life and is confident that God will lead him to the right ones.”

ed special music in the form of a piano solo for the church with the skill of a professional and the message of an artist.

The road for Bob and Brittany is very rough. Bob is still looking for answers to this problem in his life and is confident that God will lead him to the right ones. As of this writing, Brittany has had a fourth operation which has left her weak. She is experiencing some very challenging moments. Your prayers along with the prayers of the Rochester Bay Knoll church members will help strengthen her and her family.

Bob says, “The best gift I can give Brittany is embracing the best gift Jesus gave me. By accepting Him as my Savior, both of us can be accounted righteous and by the promise be given life.” ☺

Robert Allen is the communication secretary for the Rochester Bay Knoll Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rochester, New York. Information for this article was also provided by Robert Gehrlein.

*“It’s time to rejoice,
Oh family of God
For we’ve a new
member to meet with
arms open wide
He’s been measured
for the robe of
God’s redeemed
As he joins the
Lord’s battle on His
winning side!”*

Preparation for Footprints of Hope Evangelistic Meetings

There's a buzz in the air, and it's coming from bees—members who are busy in preparation for Footprints of Hope 2003. Footprints of Hope is the name of the evangelistic meeting to be conducted at the Whitney Institute Auditorium beginning July 5 and concluding July 26 with Evangelist Glen O. Samuels from Jamaica, West Indies.

Preparing for Footprints of Hope

The Bermuda Conference has conducted a number of activities, including two rallies, one on March 21-22 with Dr. Emil Peeler of Los Angeles, Calif., and the other on May 2-3 with Dr. James Doggette. Both of these meetings were spirit-filled and the members were highly charged.

Dr. Peeler thrilled our hearts with practical witnessing techniques. He told of how he witnessed to his shoe shine man without him knowing that he was talking with a preacher. That young man is a member of the church today.

During the meeting the pastors and churches pledged to do all they can to make this meetings a success. Each pastor committed himself to working for fifteen souls. They also committed their churches to the work of salvation.

Dr. James Doggette shared with us "The Echo Principle." Using Matthew 7:12, he shared in simple

Dr. Emil Peeler conducted the March rally held in preparation for the Footprints of Hope evangelistic meetings.



terms, that "you get what you give."

Other activities included health seminars conducted by Dr. Anthony Espinet who thrilled our hearts with the health message. Many individuals attended his presentations at the St.

David's Primary School, Bermuda Institute Auditorium, and the Hamilton church at the end of February.

Husband and wife team Calvin and Paula Eakins from Huntsville, Ala., shared their knowledge in the area of health during the last week of April. They completed their workshop with a one day cooking class.

What else is in store before this evangelist effort begins? Many churches have ongoing activities in preparation for this event. Midland Heights is conducting several activities which impact their community—one is the neighborhood watch program. Pastor Gordon Jones states that more than eighty non-Adventists showed up at his church as they pulled together a neighborhood watch program in their community. The church is also conducting a 10,000 steps a day exercise program for the community.

Pastor D. Randolph Wilson shares that the Pembroke church has

already begun their 10,000 steps a day exercise program. The church looks forward to opening their Community Services building in May.

Live Radio Broadcasts and Delayed Cable Presentations

Something different is planned for this year's



Dr. James Doggette was the speaker for the rally held the first week in May.

meetings. Not only will it be held in a new location—the Whitney Institute, but for the very first time it will be aired live nightly, except Sunday nights, over radio ZFB 1230.

In addition to the live radio broadcast, cable viewers will be able to see the nightly program delayed by 24 hours. The scheduled time is from 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. nightly. This means that individuals can attend the meeting each night and be at home in time to view the previous night's program.

The JOY television crew along with other personnel from our audio-visual departments will be on hand nightly to videotape the meetings. New television equipment has been purchased to enhance the quality of the production.

Youth Outreach

What's being planned for our youth? We're glad you asked. The location at Whitney Institute auditorium will house six hundred persons, making it problematic for the Sabbath hours in particular. Special arrangements have been made to call the young people together each Friday and Sabbath at another location. A guest speaker will work with the young people in this time of evangelism to go into the community with their special blend of ministry to reach other young people. We want to see persons saved in the kingdom of God, including young people. Let's pray for the success of these meetings.

D. Randolph Wilson, correspondent BDA



The nineteen-voice Bayanihan Choir was directed by Casmelyn Quicoy.



Eddie Carr directs the fourteen-voice choir from Shalom church.

Lifting Their Voices to God

Crossroads Seventh-day Adventist Church in Manhattan, N.Y., had a beautiful Youth Day Concert on March 23 with choirs from throughout the city lifting their voices to God.

Among some of the highlights was the Bayanihan church from Queens, N.Y. The nineteen-voice Filipino choir, under the direction of Casmelyn Quicoy, delivered the lifting gospel "When the Day Comes," among others.

The Amazing Grace Youth Choir from East New York church in Brooklyn, performed a powerful,

"C'mon Everybody Let Us Praise God," and was brought back for an encore where musical director Chelton Thorpe led them in an audience-pleasing "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel."

The voices of Shalom church from the Bronx made good on a December 7 snow-out by providing their Exodus Youth Choir and a soloist. Under the direction of Eddie Carr, the fourteen-voice choir sang "How Many Times (So You Would Know)." Later, their soloist, Kim Louis, ended the concert with a scorching "He'll Do It Again."

*Neil Graves, communication secretary
Crossroads church*

Gethsemane French Church Welcomes New Pastor

The Gethsemane French church in Brooklyn, N.Y., welcomed Pastor Jean-Marie Charles, its new spiritual leader on the first Sabbath in January. Charles was called to suc-

ceed Pastor Yves Pierre who served an extended term of five and one half years, and left a flourishing ministry behind.

In the summer of 2002 while Charles was preaching at an evangelistic effort in the Brooklyn area, Dionisio Olivo, the president of the Greater New York Conference, was present. Olivo was so pleased to see this man of God preaching under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He said, "This is the man we were looking for." Louis B. Metelus, the coordinator for Haitian



Yves Desorme

"Beyond the Looks" PROJECT

"Beyond the Looks" is a short term mission experience in which the expedition members will build Sabbath school classrooms, lay tiles on the floor, and also paint the walls of the church. They will put together a Vacation Bible School and evangelistic series in the poor neighborhood of region 103 Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cancun, Mexico.

This Mission Trip is for:

Youth and young adults (15-35).

Professionals are also needed such as: builders, barbers, medical doctors, and nurses

Date: August 6-14, 2003

Cost: \$775.00 (students: high school and college)
\$825.00 (adults and professionals)

Make Checks payable to:

Greater New York Conference
Department of Youth Ministries
Cancun Mission Trip.

Ministries, was instrumental in the appointment process.

When G. Earl Knight, the executive secretary of the conference, introduced the new pastor to the congregation, he was warmly welcomed. Although his curriculum vitae is impressive, the focal point was his spirituality, his love for God and his people. Pastor Charles came to the Greater New York Conference directly from Haiti with a vast experience in the field of evangelism. He is also known for his administrative talents. Before leaving Haiti, he served as chairman of the theology department at the Adventist University. He is presently a doctoral candidate. His wife, Gina, a registered nurse, their two sons Jean-Gerald and Jean-David keep him happy and busy. There is no doubt that a congregation of nearly 900 members will keep Pastor Charles busier.

With open arms and sincere hearts Gethsemane, as one, welcomes Pastor Jean-Marie Charles and his family and wishes them a successful ministry in the Lord's vineyard.

*Daniel Beauzil, communication director
Gethsemane French church*

The Rest is History

Alberto Ortiz was baptized on Sabbath, April 12, 2003, in the



Pastor Charles Possenreide gives the baptismal charge just before Alberto Ortiz is immersed.

Middletown church. Baptisms occur all the time. However, how Alberto became interested in the Seventh-day Adventist church is what makes this story unusual.

Early last year Alberto was rummaging through the trash receptacle at the Post Office in downtown Middletown. Halfway through he noticed a colorful brochure depicting scenes of the end of the world. Alberto was fascinated and began reading. It was an Amazing Facts brochure advertising some upcoming meetings and a card to fill out requesting more information. Alberto filled out and returned the card to Amazing Facts in California. Over the next seven

months, he completed each lesson and faithfully returned it to Amazing Facts.

Upon completion and receiving his certificate, Amazing Facts contacted the Middletown church. Richard Mills, Jr. and Tony Pinero visited Alberto to see if there were any questions about doctrine and church affiliation. Alberto decided to receive a few more months of preparation from them.

In March 2003 Alberto began attending church. Everyone made him feel welcome. Then Alberto requested baptism, and the rest is history.

*Richard Mills, Sr., communication leader
Middletown church*

Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Eager Beaver Recognition Day

More than six-hundred Pathfinders, Adventurers, Eager Beavers, and staff members attended the Greater New York Conference Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Eager Beaver Recognition Day on March 9. The First Ghana Seventh-day-Adventist Church hosted the event. A drum corps from the Grand Concourse's Vanguard of Orion Pathfinder Club commenced the colorful pageantry. All the directors and coordinators marched in with all their stars and stripes.

The technicians for the event were Sir Jonas Apau II, Elas Griffith, and Violent John. Sir Jonas Apau II and Veronica Williams were the master and mistress of ceremony. It was an honor to give the challenge entitled "So Send I You!"

Recognition was given for the following categories:

Pathfinder Club of the year:	Jackson Heights church
Adventurer Club of the year:	Spanish Convent church
Pathfinder Directors of the year:	Jacquelin Hector <i>Ebenezer church</i>
	Elsie Juarez <i>Spanish Dyckman church</i>
Adventurer Director of the year:	Teresa Moore <i>Spanish Convent church</i>

1st Place for the 2002 Pathfinder Camporee: Spanish Dyckman church

Many awards were presented to the Pathfinders and Adventurers for their outstanding work during the year. It was a grand time for all present. The Recognition Ceremony was brought to an end by the French Gethsemane's Le Phare Drum Corps, leaving us with high spirits and with anticipation for next years ceremony.

*Pastor José Cortés, youth director
Greater New York Conference*



Pastor Bill Hrovat and his wife, Jennifer received a warm welcome from the members of the Westvale church.

New Pastor Leads the Church in Reaching Out to the Community

Bill Hrovat is pastor of the Westvale church in Westvale, New York. His goal with the church since his arrival there has been to increase involvement and create a positive image with the surrounding community. He wants to move the church into a direction that will impact the community, not only in helping members develop strong personal evangelism through friendship evangelism, but by directly having contact with those in the community so they might know who Seventh-day Adventists are and have that knowledge be encapsulated in positive feelings.

Hrovat and his wife, Jennifer, were officially welcomed to the Westvale church on Sabbath, August 24, 2002, and there were a few surprises for them that day. A fellowship luncheon was held after church and a group from a church in New York City joined them to also welcome him to his new church. It seems that last summer, on their way to the William Miller Chapel service, the group from New York City had gotten lost. They were by the side of the road studying their road map when Pastor Hrovat came along. He asked if he could be of help to them. He was also on his way to the William

Miller Chapel and was able to help them with directions. In appreciation of his help that day, the group presented the Hrovats with a lovely picture of Niagara Falls.

Since his arrival at Westvale, Hrovat has encouraged the members to become active in Habitat for Humanity, where a simple gift is presented to those who are new in the community. In the fall he held a Personal Evangelism workshop once per week for six weeks. The focus was on how to develop new friendships with non-Adventist community members. He has also been very active with pastors from other denominations in the area. He held the Preach Seminar, offered through MINISTRY magazine, for ministers in the community. He meets every Wednesday with the Pastors' Prayer Alliance for Central New York and visits churches in the surrounding area every Sunday nurturing friendships with the pastors, churches, and their members.

The Westvale church is very happy to welcome the Hrovats into their family.

*Joan Payne, communication secretary
Westvale church*



The Master's Touch Chorale performing at the Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church on April 12.

The Master's Touch Chorale

Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church members were fortunate to have the Master's Touch Chorale in concert on the second Sabbath in April. Nearly 40 dedicated Christian singers from at least 19 denominations, including Westvale, make up the choir. Their music extends from Beethoven to Bluegrass. This choir had the privilege of performing for President Bush at the White House in December.

Those who attended the concert on Sabbath afternoon were truly blessed and look forward to the choir returning to the church again.

*Joan Payne, communication secretary
Westvale church*

Adventurer Fun Day

April 27 will be a day to remember for many young Adventurers in the



New York Conference. For these little ones the day began with a presentation from New York Conference president Steven Gallimore. He shared with the group a personal experience illustrating how the Lord watches over us and preserves our lives. The event was held on the campus of Union Springs Academy. The theme for Adventurer Fun Day centered on the butterfly. The butterfly and its dynamic conversion allowed those present to visualize the glorious changes that each



Christian experiences as the Spirit fills their lives.

Charé Gallimore, correspondent NYC



Members of Westvale's Adventurer Club.



Dan Whitlow, back row right, and members of Westvale's Pathfinder Club.

Westvale Investiture

The Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church Pathfinders were rewarded for their hard work on April 26 with honors and graduation. Proud parents joined the Pathfinders in remembering the importance of growing in Christ and developing young talent for Him. Pastor Dan Whitlow, youth director for the New York Conference, led the group in a rededication to service. The Westvale Pathfinder staff are dynamic and hardworking, dedicated to working with the youth of their church weekly and on many weekends. The April 26 Investiture allowed all to view the fruits of their labor.

Charé Gallimore, correspondent NYC

**ADVENTIST SINGLES
MINISTRIES RETREAT**

**Camp Cherokee
August 20 – 24, 2003**

Special outings are planned plus the use of camp facilities.

Join other singles throughout the union for both fun and fellowship in the great Adirondack mountains. For more information, call Carmen Gonzales (315) 468-6915 or (315) 435-3230.

Activities Will Include:

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- ✓ Horseback Riding
- ✓ Sailing
- ✓ Tennis
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Fees:

August 20–24: \$125.00 August 22–24: \$65.00

Register now. Bring a friend or meet a friend.

Name: _____

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Mail Registration to:

Singles Ministries, New York Conference, 4930 W Seneca Tpk, Syracuse, NY 13215. Make checks payable to New York Conference – Singles Ministries.

Adventist Singles Ministries is active in New York!

Good News for Prisoners and Rescue Workers

BY NKARLO ALEXANDER

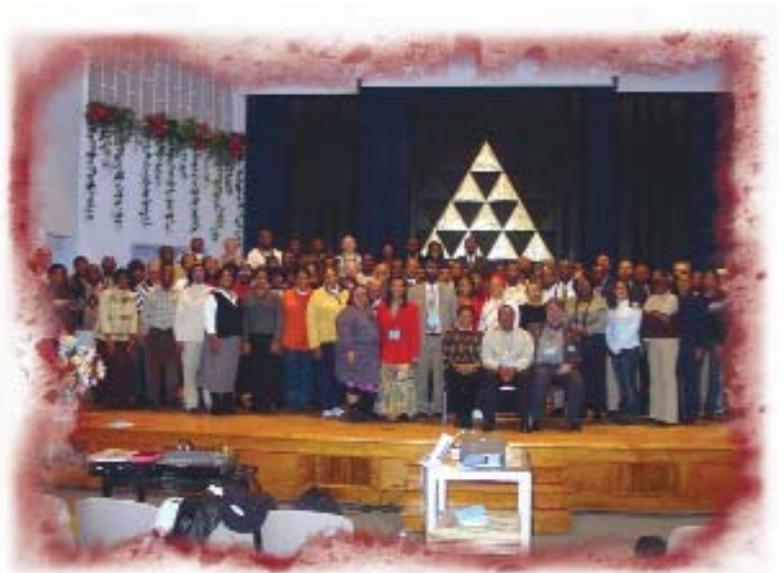
"This is a spiritual warfare; this is God's business; we are marching towards the devil's field" were some of the phrases used when Luc Homicile, vice president of Haitian Ministries for the Atlantic Union Conference, welcomed the participants to the Prison Ministry Training and Certification Seminars, held March 7-9 on the campus of Atlantic Union College (AUC). The training was a collaborative effort sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Prison Ministry Department and the Atlantic Union College Social Work Department. The event started on Friday evening filled with promise and fueled by the resounding theme taken from Matthew 25:36 (NIV), "I was in prison and you came to visit me."

The vesper speaker, Mike Ortel, president of the Northern New England Conference, urged the participants to ask for a double portion of the Holy Spirit before they undertake prison ministry. "You need all the God you can have," he said, "to fight all the Satan... in those prisons." Ortel informed the participants that God had a plan to love the prisoners through them.

On Saturday, Ruby Graves, a full-time volunteer in prison ministry, co-host of Abundant Health and host of the Bible Truth Prison Ministry radio broadcast, presented "How to Start a Prison Ministry." Michael Antonucci, a professor at AUC, presented "Prison Statistics."

Dr. Donald G. King, president of Atlantic Union Conference, delivered God's message "Good News for Inmates and Rescue Workers." He referenced the demon possessed men rescued from the tombs by Jesus and reminded the listeners that "Jesus is still rescuing people from the graveyard of evil and the prison-house of iniquity and sin." Speaking about Jesus being raised from the tomb King said, "Jesus is the good news from the other graveyard... because He lives we can live."

The Certification Seminars were conducted by Dr. Cleveland Houser, prison ministry consultant and trainer for the North American Division. As he began the first session, he made it plain that we may be locked up, but we don't have to be locked in. "Jesus liberates you," he said, "but the prisoners won't know until we go and tell them. They will not be free until we go." He established that the reason we must become involved in prison ministry is because Jesus commissioned us to do so. "Jesus died on death row," he said, "and still did prison ministry on death row." As Houser went through the dynamics, essentials, and reality of prison ministry, he shared stories, related experiences, made comments, and gave explanations to help



Participants of the Prison Ministry Training and Certification Seminars.

the trainees better understand the world of prison, prisoners, and prison ministry.

The weekend ended with the presentation of certificates, special recognition to Frank Barton, chaplain coordinator for Florida Prison Ministries and vice-president for the Adventist Prison Ministry Association (APMA) and Dolby Knott, APMA president. Thanks and tributes were extended to all participants and the planning committee which included the Atlantic Union Prison Ministry director, Luc Homicile; Dr. Susan Willoughby, chair of the AUC Sociology and Social Work department; Bob Hellewell, Prison Ministry coordinator for the Southern New England Conference; Roberto Reyna, vice president for Hispanic Ministries in the Atlantic Union, and Margaret Voyard, secretary for the Prison Ministry department in the Atlantic Union.

When speaking about the weekend event, Ruth Delossantos from the Berea church in Boston, Mass., said, "I found the training to be very enlightening. It helped to equip us with a solid foundation to move forward and know that we must put the Lord first before we go to do the Lord's work. Also, to know how valuable these people are, and that the Lord loves them just as He loves us. I am blessed that I [attended], very blessed."

Plans are already on the way for even a bigger and better training in 2004 as God continues to prepare His people for His work. ☉

Nkarlo Alexander is a biology and theology student at Atlantic Union College.

Jesus

Came to Fix Our Connection to Heaven

By Michelle Sabo

“I haven’t sat in this seat since 1983.” This comment came from a former student of Atlantic Union College (AUC). He shared his story about why he left church to the group gathered on Sabbath afternoon January 11 for the Reconnecting Ministries workshop. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss how members can make the church atmosphere more welcoming for people who have stopped attending for one reason or another and help reconnect them to church. The stranger who shared his testimony told a touching story of how, because he had “rough speech” and asked a lot of questions such as, “Why do we believe what we do?” he had conflicts with some members of the church and no longer felt welcome. His attendance stopped in 1983. It was due to the invitation sent by the College church that he returned.

Although the workshop began in the afternoon, the morning services were also centered around the theme. AUC Adult Degree Program students Gail Lasher and Roger Trott shared Christ’s reclaiming work in their own lives during Sabbath school. Pastor Mark Gagnon of the Cape Cod and Middleboro churches then presented “Connecting.” He discussed parallels of God’s search for each of us found in enumerated Bible stories.

During the worship service Karen Silverthorn, library supervisor for the periodical and inter-library loan department at AUC, gave a powerful testimony of how she came to the Lord, left the church, and years later was “loved back in.” Senior Pastor Patrick Morrison then preached a sermon entitled “Jesus Came to Fix our Connection to Heaven.” His theme centered around the grace of God amplified on earth by the life of Jesus Christ.

Paul Richardson, North American Division (NAD) Reconnecting Ministries coordinator, began the first afternoon session with “Reconnecting 101.” Included was the video “The Rendezvous,” depicting two acquaintances who drifted apart. One remained in the church while the

other left to live the good life. Only it isn’t so good anymore, and she is left broken and in need of help. She decides to give church one more try, but will they accept her? Dressed in a revealing outfit, wearing garish makeup, and reeking of alcohol, she approaches the church door timidly just as her other acquaintance happens to arrive. The story ends at that point with the question left to the audience, “What kind of welcome will the church member give this woman?”

Following Richardson’s presentation came the most powerful moments of the workshop—testimonies. Each speaker gave a simple, yet often heartbreaking sketch of their lives, how they left their spiritual walk for a time, and finally returned. By the time the testimonies were finished, an atmosphere that can only be described as in the presence of the Holy Spirit pervaded the room. There were tears, laughter, and hugs.

Mark and Pam Gagnon presented a seminar entitled “Church Alive.” They expressed many ideas about how the church can better model the first churches of the apostles, thereby reviving the church experience for its members.

Pastor David Asscherick’s seminar was entitled “The Divine Prescription for Revival.” In his four-part series he builds a strong case from Bible passages about what revives people or reconnects them to God. He gave three simple principles—prayer, Bible study, and ministry in and out of the church.

As churches are moved to reconnect members and also to bring in new members from the community, it is important to remember that the real power comes from God. The power to change a life lies in prayer, the word of God, and the preaching of God’s word. The privilege to participate in this great work is what each church may claim as they make a commitment to reconnect people to Christ. ☉

Michelle Sabo is a member of the Reconnecting Ministries team.



L. to r.: Dennis Rampersaud, Larry Bailey, Trevor Baker, Seth Bardu, Pollyanna Prosper-Barnes, Monique Glover-Alves, Bennie Ruth Alves, Nehemiah Johnson, and Llewellyn Williams prepare to break ground for the new Bethesda school.



Conference official and members of Bethesda church show support for the building project.

Bethesda Begins Construction of New School

"So many have had this dream for so long and I'm so excited too that I'm here when it's finally happening," gushed energetic principal, Monique Glover-Alves. Her enthusiasm was echoed by each member of the staff and student body of the school that has existed in the basement of Bethesda church since its inception. Its humble dwelling aside, the school boasts of graduates who have gone on to distinguish themselves in medicine, law, arts, business, and ministry.

Bethesda's first elder, Nehemiah Johnson, noted that "over the years this little school in the basement has produced some very fine young people that have made us proud." He spoke from experience as two of those outstanding graduates were his own children. Former principal Bennie Ruth Alves and church communication director, Dennis Rampersaud, agreed, beaming over the prospects for success and growth that the new building will bring.

During the ceremony, Llewellyn Williams, pastor of the church, thanked God for bringing the church to the point where dreams, hopes, and prayers were becoming a reality. The prefabricated school building that was being shipped from Canada had been loaded onto 18 flatbed trucks days before and was already on the way to Amityville. This type of building costs less to construct and can be erected in a shorter time. The foundation was poured later on May 1 and was ready for the buildings expected arrival some two weeks later.

It is anticipated that the construction of the school will be completed in time for the opening day in September 2003. What a day of rejoicing that will be. Not only for the members whose sacrificial giving for nearly thirty years has proven worthwhile but for the students who will study in a brand new aboveground facility.

"We've always been close to God here at Bethesda, now our kids will be aboveground and a little closer to Him too," smiled one joyful parent.

On hand for the celebration were Northeastern Conference president, secretary and treasurer, Trevor Baker, Larry Bailey, and Seth Bardu. Accompanying them were superintendent of schools, Dr. Pollyanna Prosper-Barnes, Pastor Baldwin Barnes, Eunice Senior-Baker, Suesianna Shields-Bennett, Cynthia Williams, and communication director, Clement A. Murray.

Clement A. Murray, correspondent NEC

Students, teachers, and parents of Bethesda school pose for a picture with Officer Peck (kneeling center front).



Children of the East New York Church Say, "We Care"

During the first quarter of this year, the children and Sabbath school teachers of the East New York church learned about the people of Brazil and Chile from their mission stories. In one of the mission stories they learned about a young girl who was unable to attend church because she did not have clothes to wear. Some of her friends decided to help her and began a "We Care" project to help others who are less fortunate.

After listening to the story of this girl in Brazil, the children of the lower division decided they too would like to start their very own "We Care" project. Sabbath school teachers and students discussed whom they wanted to help and made a list of things they would collect.

To avoid having everyone bringing the same things, the items needed were written on papers and put in a grab bag. During the first week many children fulfilled their responsibility and asked if they could put more things in the box. On Thirteenth Sabbath they extended the invitation to the adult Sabbath school to be a part of the "We Care" project and many people brought in additional articles of clothing. The box will soon be ready for delivery to the shelter chosen.

The children are really excited about having their own project. They are looking forward to additional outreach projects and are planning for them throughout the year.

*Simone English, children's Sabbath school superintendent
East New York church*

Veteran Adventist Broadcaster Dies



Funeral services for Ferdinand (Fred) Facey were held at the Linden church in Laurelton, Queens, New York, on Monday, April 21, 2003.

Fred, as he was called, was a

native of Panama. He later attended the then West Indies College in Jamaica, West Indies. He served for a number of years with distinction in the music department of the City Tabernacle church and was loved and respected for his dedication to the choirs and his love for great Christian music.

Although he was a dedicated member of the church, Fred's voice was also a familiar one on many local and national commercials, news, and entertainment shows on both radio and television. He worked for some 36 years as an announcer for NBC. His voice was heard on such shows as NBC News, Sunrise, Today, WNBC's News 4, New York Meet the Press, and the News with Brian Williams.

During his early career, he freelanced for WGLI, SHLI, and WQMD in Washington, D.C. and WNEW and WINS in New York. He served as spokesman for American Home Products, Prudential Insurance, AT&T, UNCF, and many others.

Many of his coworkers from the media attended the services accompanied by a camera crew from NBC. The funeral was mentioned on a number of news broadcasts and NBC anchor, Sue Simmons remembered Facey at the close of 11:00 p.m. newscast on April 21.

Fred is survived by his wife, Merle; son, Brian; daughter, Erika; daughter-in-law, Sherline; son-in-law, Oliver; grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

Clement A. Murray, correspondent NEC

Growing in the Spirit

The Northeastern Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting 2003 convened during the Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25. The theme for the encampment was "Creciendo En Espiritu" (Growing in the Spirit). The unusually cold and rainy weather did little to dampen the enthusiastic worshipers whose Sabbath attendance was more than one thousand.

Evaristo Gomez, Hispanic/Portuguese director for the



Evaristo Gomez, Hispanic/Portuguese director for the Conference, welcomed the worshipers.

Conference, welcomed the worshipers to the end of the cold weather and the beginning of spring and reminded them of the warmth of the love of Jesus. This love and presence were felt throughout the encampment.

The principal speaker for this year's meeting was Hugo Gambetta, director of Hispanic Ministries for the Lake Region Conference. Gambetta's energetic and clear sermons set a high spiritual tone throughout the meetings. The weekend's activities included a Festival of Talent on Sabbath afternoon and a special mention in the camp meeting program of the two recently fallen Northeastern Conference heroes—former Hispanic Ministries director, Pastor Irenio Martinez and Noble Alexander, the Cuban born pastor whose twenty-five years of imprisonment was detailed in the best selling book, I WILL DIE FREE.

Special thanks to all those who were directly involved in planning the Hispanic camp meeting. To God be the glory for the many blessings received.

C. A. Murray, correspondent NEC

**Northeastern Conference
Haitian Camp Meeting 2003**

Theme:
A Sa Ressemblance (In His Likeness)

August 22 - 24

Venue:
Camp Victory Lake,
Hyde Park, New York



Roy Willard with four of his children: Maurice, Andrew, Joyce, and Beverly.

**Barre-Montpelier Church's
Oldest Member**

Roy Willard was born April 2, 1902. He recently celebrated his 101st birthday. He is the oldest member at the Barre-Montpelier church and has held membership there the longest of any member of the church.

He was baptized in 1941. His

that time, serving as deacon, lay preacher, director of a four-church choir and a small band.

He was born in East Montpelier, Vermont, and is the son of Charles K. and Eula May Willard. He had three brothers, Ralph, Arthur, and Stanley, who are all deceased.

He was married to Mary E. Irwin on February 14, 1924, and to that union eight children were born.

Phyllis and Earl, now deceased, Maurice, a member of the Barre-Montpelier church, Arlene, Joyce, Andrew, Beverly, and Clarence. There are nineteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Roy worked as a farmer and plumber. He operated his own plumbing business. They eventually moved from their East Montpelier home to Stoneham, Mass., where they worked at

the New England Sanitarium for twenty years. While there, Mary fell and broke her leg first and then her ankle. What they didn't realize at the time was that she had osteoporosis. They returned to their home in East Montpelier and in 1965 she was confined to a wheel chair. For a time she did the housework and the cooking from her chair. Eventually they had to sell their home in East Montpelier and move into Montpelier. She continued doing the cooking and Roy helped with the housework. He took wonderful care of her until her death on December 27, 1981, at 79 years of age.

Roy loved ice-skating and at age 50 took up roller-skating. When he was 99 years young, he fell and broke his hip. He recovered nicely from that. In July 1985 he married Helen Knutson and they now reside in Weston's Trailer Park in Montpelier. Up until the first of May, Roy was still driving himself and his wife to church and to get groceries.

His health has failed in the past month. His daughter Joyce and her husband, Red, have moved their motor home next to Roy's mobile home to be there to care for him and his wife.

Roy Willard is respected and loved by his church family. He is a faithful church member and loves his Savior very much.

*Virginia Eckson, church clerk
Barre-Montpelier church*

**100th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

1903-2003

Barre-Montpelier Seventh-day Adventist Church
297 Vine Street-Berlin
Barre, Vermont

Join us on September 27, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. for
Sabbath School, Worship Service, Fellowship
Dinner, and Afternoon Program

For more information call:
Ginny Eckson – (802) 433-5881
Barbara Rolland – (802) 223-6454

**Norridgewock Bible
School Revived by God**

Recently Martha Howard, a long time member of the Norridgewock Seventh-day Adventist Church, felt that the Discover Bible School (DBS) needed to be started again. She had been part of the original DBS that operated out of Norridgewock years earlier. At the same time, I heard about DBS and with the funding from the Personal Ministries group of which I was a member, I decided to pursue it.

After I received the initial information from the Voice of



Smiling Faces Tell the Story

Smiling faces tell the story of the joy of commitment and claiming a new life in Christ.

Last winter Pastor Ben Sosa (top left) baptized three individuals. Angela and Joshua Dezotell, students at the Brownell Mountain Adventist School in the Williston, Vt. Enthusiastic and helpful at the school, the church, and also to their pastor at evangelistic and youth programs, they follow their older brother Gordon's steps in baptism. Gordon was baptized in 2001 and attends Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine.

Valerie Wheeler is a mother of two little boys and a helicopter pilot for the Vermont National Guard. She is a third generation Adventist, who loves the Lord and her church. She is also a valuable assistant in the Cradle Roll Division. We feel so blessed to have all these wonderful individuals as part of our Williston church family.

*Connie Hallock, communication coordinator
Williston church*

Prophecy, I went into "mull it over" mode wondering how to start, when would be the best time, etc. At the same time I was moving a few towns away. One day my mother-in-law, who cleans the post office, asked if I had already started DBS because the PO Box I had for eleven years now had the name Adventist Bible School. As it turns out, Martha had gone in to get a box for DBS and was assigned the PO Box I had just given up. Shortly after that the word was getting out and our beloved member and colporteur, Norman Cropley, was distributing enrollment cards. Then, we began

to receive requests for Bible study. God obviously did not wait for me to get the gumption or courage to get going. He wanted this project off the ground! So announcements were made in church and members had the opportunity to view a video from DBS. God was moving in others too! Many readily responded to an avenue through which they could share their Savior. I watched in awe as God brought a group of more than 20 passionate people together. Although we all have different ideas and methods, we all work toward the same goal—introducing our community to a saving rela-

tionship with Christ. Our newly revived school currently has 40 studies and is growing!

In our group we have some who are interested in a door-to-door ministry, others in one-on-one or group Bible studies, many willing hearts and hands to handle the correspondence studies, and those who are pursuing lessons they can share via video or the Internet. The help from our prayer warriors and people working behind the scenes, with such things as labels on enrollment cards, is essential. With this diverse yet unified group, God's direction, and prayers, we hope to make a significant impact for God.

If you would like more information about our DBS program call me at (207) 474-7222, I will be glad to help if I can.

*Karena Cochran
Norridgewock church*

Northern New England Conference Introduces S.A.V.E.

The Northern New England Conference introduces S.A.V.E. (School of Adventist Vermont Evangelism), a new school of evangelism. Classes begin in the fall during the 2003-2004 school year. A two-year associates of arts degree will be offered along with colporteur and Bible worker training. Pastor Jack Baker, a long time successful literature evangelist, will be the principal instructor. The program will consist of two-weeks of class work and two-weeks of supervised fieldwork selling God's message. Sales will be used to reduce the student's tuition, which is comparable to the tuition of boarding academies. Central Vermont Academy located in Barre, Vermont will host the activities. Any inquiries should be directed to Pastor Al Cyr at (802) 763-5257.

*Al Cyr, pastor
Barre church*



Young people at the organization service of the Hartford Portuguese Company.

Hartford Portuguese Company Organized

It is comforting to see how the work continues to grow and expand in the greater Hartford area. For a number of years Portuguese-speaking believers in central Connecticut have been working and wishing to have a church established in that area. On Sabbath, March 15, the core group was organized into a Company. That brought a sense of accomplishment and reassurance to those who have been working diligently to see a new church established in Hartford. For Nilton de Oliveira, the group's leader, it was a day of celebration as it was for the nearly one-hundred people in attendance.

Esther Toussaint, correspondent SNEC



Pastor Maurice Vargas was the facilitator of a special seminar and prayer service at Brooklawn church.

church to share principles of the "Spirit of Prayer" ministry which has brought spiritual, emotional, and physical healing to many people throughout his years in ministry.

Several in attendance expressed their appreciation for the rich spiritual blessings which they received through these meetings and seasons of prayer. Christine McCallop noted that she received three answers to prayer as a direct result of this seminar. Winston Sargeant stated that he was "filled with joy overflowing."

Maxine Seabrooks expressed, "Pastor Vargas' weekend at Brooklawn was a tremendous blessing to me physically, mentally, and spiritually. My attitude and outlook on life have changed dramatically." Maxine was unable to come to the first night's meeting because she was in the hospital with chest pains. The doctor told her that the pains would continue for the next two or three weeks before subsiding. However, they were gone in just two days. Maxine experienced the blessing of God's healing power as a result of a special season of prayer during the meetings. The spiritual and emotional cleansing she received through this prayer precipitated the blessing of physical healing.

We are so thankful to God for the spiritual feast we enjoyed through these meetings and look forward to

Called to Discipleship

Our Teen Prayer Conference held at Camp Winnekeag on the second weekend in March attracted 180 attendees including students from Pine Tree Academy (PTA). "Called to Discipleship" was the theme of the conference. Teens learned how to

share faith with their non-Christian friends. The guest speaker, Pastor Gary Blanchard Jr., Bible teacher at PTA and pastor of the Freeport church, reminded them that their salvation cannot be earned nor is it deserved, but is a gift from God.

The conference had a strong spiritual impact on the young people as evidenced by the powerful testimonies shared on Sunday morning. They departed excited, equipped, and ready to proclaim the gospel.

*Bob Saunders, youth ministries director
Southern New England Conference*

Showers of Blessings at Brooklawn

It was a cold, rainy Sabbath in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on March 28 and 29, but the warmth of God's love bathed those who attended a special seminar and prayer service presented by Pastor Maurice Vargas.

Vargas, who pastors the Patchogue and Riverhead churches in Long Island, N.Y., graciously accepted the invitation to come to the Brooklawn

Centennial Commemoration

1903-2003

Athol Seventh-day Adventist Church
3200 S. Athol Rd.
Athol, Massachusetts

August 30, 2003

All past members, friends, and those who have ever attended the Athol church, are especially invited to come for worship, food, and fellowship.

For more information contact:
Denise Corrigan (978) 544-7066

continued blessings as we walk even closer with our Lord.

Angela Weir, assistant communication secretary
Brooklawn church

Hispanic Youth Federation Spiritual Retreat

Last fall a number of youth leaders from Hispanic churches gathered with the purpose of initiating a Youth Federation. The goal of the Federation is to plan and organize events that will cater to the spiritual, social, and physical needs of conference youth. After months of careful planning, the culminating event, a spiritual retreat at Camp Winnekeag, took place on the weekend of April 4-6.

In spite of the un-spring like weather, 127 young people from all across the conference registered and attended the event. The program featured powerful preaching by youth evan-



Members of the Hispanic Youth Federation shown here with Gilbert Vega (third from right), president of the Southern New England Conference.

gelist César Cárdenas, group activities, a volleyball and basketball tournament, music, and wholesome fellowship. As the event concluded both organizers and attendees felt the program had been a total success

and that it had met and surpassed all expectations. Amen!

Esther Toussaint, correspondent SNEC

East Providence/New Bedford Portuguese Churches Welcome New Pastor

Weeks of anticipation were met with happy fulfillment as Pastor Paulo G. Vieira and his family were warmly welcomed and introduced on April 5 at the East Providence and New Bedford Portuguese churches by responsive and affectionate church members. Vieira has a wide scope of experience having pastored in Brazil, South Africa, and Canada. While in the Ontario Conference, in addition to his pastoral responsibilities, he was associate speaker for the Portuguese language version of *It is Written*.

Both churches are extremely pleased to have this talented and gifted individual as their pastor. He was accompanied by his wife Dausele and their two young daughters: Silzie and Karize.

Esther Toussaint, correspondent SNEC



Pastor Paulo G. Vieira shown here with his family.

Staying for Dinner

Generation X has been given such epithets as: aloof, uninvolved, and the MTV Generation. Additionally, many of us may also have our own labels based on our interactions. I am one of those. As I entered the meeting place of the Hartford Portuguese Company, I was struck by the youthfulness of the worshipers. Sabbath school, special music, and the praise service were led by the teenagers and young adults. Throughout the entire morning the young people were fully engaged in every phase of the program.

During the fellowship dinner that followed, again their involvement was noticeable. After the meal, as I was ready to leave the premises, an attentive young man, Matheus da Luz, approached me and invited me to stay for the early evening Adventist Youth meeting. Honestly the entire day had felt like an AY meeting! As I drove back, I couldn't help but grapple with the question as to why these Generation Xers were so plugged into that congregation. I recalled a phrase stated at the 1990 General Conference Session, "Give the young people a piece of the pie and they will stay for dinner." At Hartford Portuguese not only are they staying for dinner, but also for supper. That is my most recent and close interaction with Generation Xers—and it was wonderful!



Gilbert Vega, president and communication director
Southern New England Conference

¿Qué Está Pasando?

ALREDEDOR DE LA IGLESIA MUNDIAL

Iglesia Mundial: Debemos enfrentar los cambios

29 de Abril, 2003, Silver Spring, Maryland, Estados Unidos [ANN] — Cada día, alrededor de 2.600 personas se unen a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, es decir, alrededor de dos personas por minuto. Para la membresía actual de alrededor de 13 millones, esto representa un rápido crecimiento y muchos cambios para toda la iglesia.

En una evaluación que analizó en Marzo pasado cómo los cambios afectan a la iglesia actual, Lowell Cooper, Vicepresidente de la iglesia mundial, explicó las realidades cambiantes de la organización eclesial mundial: “Los miembros de una organización producen cambios, pero también son atrapados por cambios sobre los que tienen poco o ningún tipo de control,” dijo.

En una entrevista con Adventist NewsLine en Adventist Television Network, Cooper afirma que algunos cambios pueden ser anticipados, pero otros se dan naturalmente. “El cambio es inevitable [pero] podemos influir sobre algunos de ellos. Los feligreses pueden afectar la calidad de vida espiritual en todos los niveles [de la iglesia].” También afirma que los miembros pueden concentrarse en la unión y la misión de la iglesia mundial.

A partir de una iglesia nacida en territorio norteamericano, los adventistas se encuentran establecidos en la actualidad en 203 de los 228 países del mundo. ¿Está equipada la iglesia para manejar el enorme flujo de nuevos miembros en todo el mundo, así como la diversidad que esto conlleva?

“Pienso que la Iglesia Adventista, quizá más que muchas de las iglesias del mundo, fue establecida para enfrentar la diversidad debido a su estructura organizacional,” dice Roy Adams, editor asociado de Adventist Review. “En todas las esferas se entrenan a los líderes, de manera que con el tiempo, es posible tener líderes entrenados en todas las áreas de la iglesia.”

En los comienzos de la iglesia, dice Cooper, los misioneros iban de Norteamérica a Europa. Para 1960, las dos regiones tenían un total combinado de 43 por ciento de la feligresía mundial. En 2001, ese número había descendido a tan sólo 11 por ciento. Sin embargo, la feligresía en esas regiones no ha declinado, sino que la iglesia ha crecido significativamente en muchas áreas del mundo donde tenía pocos o ningún miembro. Los misioneros ya no provienen exclusivamente de Norteamérica y Europa, sino que van y vienen de y hacia cada una de las 13 divisiones o regiones administrativas de la iglesia.

“En la actualidad tenemos misioneros [que van y vienen] por todos lados”, dice Agustín Galicia, Secretario Asociado de la iglesia mundial. Ya no se los llama “misioneros”, sino “empleados interdivisión.”

“En lenguaje coloquial todavía les decimos

‘misioneros’. Pero la nomenclatura que utilizamos oficialmente es ‘empleados interdivisión,’” dice Galicia.

Cooper señala las áreas del mundo con gran concentración de feligreses adventistas. Más de una tercera parte de la feligresía mundial se encuentra en África, y otra tercera parte está en América Central y América del Sur. En Asia se encuentra alrededor de un 19 por ciento, y un tres por ciento está en el Pacífico Sur. Con un crecimiento tal, el 25 por ciento de la feligresía actual han sido miembros de la iglesia por menos de cinco años, dice Cooper, lo que quiere decir que una porción significativa de la membresía total aún se está adaptando a la historia adventista, a sus valores, estilo de vida y procesos organizacionales.

Otra área principal de cambio en la iglesia es la distribución de los recursos. Los miembros están aportando de manera diferente, en especial debido al rápido incremento de entidades con fines específicos. Estas entidades han tenido un gran impacto en la actividad mundial de la iglesia, pero al mismo tiempo, el cambio de patrones en la entrega de recursos (si lo comparamos con algunas décadas atrás) presenta un desafío para poder continuar con la obra establecida de la iglesia, dice Cooper. “Es relativamente fácil hallar donantes para proyectos de evangelización exitosos y de resultados visibles, pero es más difícil obtener apoyo sistemático para entrenar a los pastores y líderes eclesialísticos locales que se necesitan para atender a los miembros recién bautizados. Si esta tendencia histórica continúa, es probable que existan dificultades crecientes para que la iglesia pueda atender de manera adecuada el crecimiento de miembros.”

La iglesia de Norteamérica aún proporciona más de la mitad de todo el diezmo de la iglesia mundial. En 1960, Norteamérica recolectaba el 76 por ciento de los diezmos; en 2001, la cifra descendió al 60 por ciento. Esto no refleja la fidelidad comparativa en la mayordomía, dice Cooper. “Una información tal sólo podría presentarse con justicia en el contexto de las economías y monedas locales.”

A pesar de que los feligreses tienen poco control sobre los cambios y los problemas relacionados con el crecimiento, los miembros pueden producir los cambios, afirman los líderes eclesialísticos.

“Creo que los feligreses subestiman la influencia que pueden ejercer, simplemente al escribir cartas a la persona correcta... expresando algo que deseen que cambie en la iglesia,” dice Adams.

“Sólo a medida que nuestra iglesia haya alcanzado mayor diversidad étnica, toda su estructura, en todos sus niveles, podría celebrar realmente esta diversidad, antes que tratar de manejarla,” agrega.

“Simplemente celebremosla [y] permitamos que se arraigue en todas partes.”

Iglesia Mundial: Se establece la Comisión de Evangelismo Mundial por Internet

22 de Abril, 2003, Silver Spring, Maryland, Estados Unidos [ANN] — Las tareas de evangelización por Internet que desarrolla la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día y sus ministerios de apoyo serán coordinados por una nueva Comisión de Evangelismo Mundial por Internet, según fue votado por los líderes de la iglesia. La iniciativa fue recomendada por el Concilio de Evangelismo y Testificación de la iglesia mundial y establecida por la Comisión Online en la sede central de la iglesia en Silver Spring, Maryland.

“La Iglesia Adventista siempre ha adoptado las nuevas tecnologías para compartir el mensaje del evangelio,” dice Ray Dabrowski, director de comunicaciones de la iglesia. “Hoy en día estamos siendo testigos de una proliferación de iniciativas, muchas de las cuales se concentran en el evangelismo. Este [grupo] de coordinación facilitará [los esfuerzos de manera] que la presencia online del adventismo sea internacional, creíble y auténtica.”

El establecimiento de la nueva comisión se da luego de la realización de un foro por Internet que reunió a laicos involucrados en el evangelismo por Internet y a líderes de tecnología y comunicación de la iglesia en Las Vegas, Nevada.

Los miembros de este nuevo cuerpo se apoyará fundamentalmente en los laicos y los ministerios de apoyo de la iglesia, y tendrán el apoyo de varios dirigentes así como de los recursos de la sede central. Al enfatizar la participación de los laicos, la iglesia espera dar energía a los esfuerzos individuales de evangelismo online, a la vez que se asegura de que esos esfuerzos estén coordinados.

“La Internet es un lugar donde se reúnen millones de personas. La gente mala pone malos contenidos allí. Depende de los cristianos el llevar las buenas nuevas al ciberespacio. Es allí donde la iglesia debe ver su realidad y tornarse relevante con su mensaje,” añade Dabrowski.

Se ha establecido asimismo un equipo técnico que se ocupará de los asuntos y preocupaciones relacionadas con la tecnología en los varios programas de evangelismo por Internet. Los puntos principales de la agenda de la nueva comisión serán la eliminación de la duplicación de esfuerzos de individuos y entidades misioneras de la iglesia, así como un enfoque intencional que permita conectar los variados sistemas de entrega, tales como TV satelital, radio, impresos y la Internet.

Wendi Rogers/ANN
Traducción: Marcos Paseggi

ANN Staff
Traducción: Marseggi

Quoi de Neuf?

A TRAVERS L'ÉGLISE MONDIALE

Nations-Unies : nouveau statut international accordé à un groupe qui milite pour la liberté religieuse

6 Mai, 2003, New York, États-Unis [ANN] — La cause de la liberté religieuse a été grandement encouragée aux Nations-unies grâce au « statut consultatif spécial » accordé le 1er mai dernier à l'Association internationale pour la liberté religieuse (International Religious Liberty Association ou IRLA).

Les avocats de la liberté religieuse ont vu dans la décision des Nations-unies un « développement [d'importance] historique » et une promotion des efforts fournis pour donner dans l'agenda international une place prioritaire à la cause de la liberté religieuse. « Que ce statut ait été accordé à l'IRLA par le Conseil économique et sociale (ECOSOC) des Nations-unies lui ouvre la voie pour faire progresser encore plus la cause de la liberté religieuse », a déclaré Denton Lotz, président de l'IRLA et secrétaire général de l'Alliance baptiste mondiale (Baptist World Alliance).

Lotz a aussi dit que cette décision « célèbre les succès obtenus à ce jour sur la scène internationale, comme par exemple le grand congrès mondial organisé aux Philippines l'an dernier et auquel s'est rendu le rapporteur spécial de l'O.N.U. sur la liberté de religion et de foi. »

Cette reconnaissance de l'O.N.U. signifie que désormais l'IRLA est en position de contribuer officiellement, par des déclarations orales et écrites, aux réunions d'organes des Nations-Unies tels que la Commission des droits de l'homme, de participer pleinement aux conférences organisées par l'O.N.U. sur des thèmes pertinents et d'entretenir des rapports d'interaction avec les délégués nationaux des missions permanentes de New York et de Genève.

Formée en 1893, l'association s'est d'abord avant tout consacrée aux États-Unis, avant d'évoluer pour devenir, au milieu des années 1940, une organisation internationale de défense de la liberté religieuse partout dans le monde.

À l'origine, l'IRLA fut mise sur pied par les responsables de l'Église adventiste afin de « protéger, de promouvoir et de défendre » la liberté religieuse, mais son objet, disent ses responsables, est universel et non sectaire. De nos jours, l'Association est un organisme international qui n'est affilié à aucune dénomination et qui joue un rôle fédérateur pour plus de 50 associations nationales de lutte pour la liberté religieuse réparties dans le monde entier. Des traditions religieuses diverses sont représentées à son Conseil d'administration.

« Il s'agit là d'une étape très significative dans le progrès de l'Association », commente John

Graz, secrétaire général de l'IRLA. « Dès ses tous premiers pas, en 1893, l'IRLA s'est attachée avec constance à faire progresser la liberté religieuse en tant que droit fondamental de l'homme et nous sommes maintenant bien placés pour que nos contributions sur la scène internationale soient encore plus importantes. »

« Je tiens à féliciter Jonathan Gallagher et son équipe pour le travail incessant qu'ils ont réalisé ces deux dernières années et demi, travail de contact aux Nations-Unies pour s'assurer que la demande de l'IRLA réponde aux exigences du Comité économique et social de l'O.N.U », conclut John Graz.

ANN Staff

L'Église est jeune, dynamique et en pleine croissance, déclare un dirigeant d'ADRA

16 Avril, 2003, Silver Spring, Maryland, États-Unis [ANN] — L'Église adventiste du septième jour, qui compte actuellement 13 millions de membres dans le monde entier, est un corps vivant composé de croyants chrétiens, jeune, dynamique et en pleine croissance, si l'on en croit Charles Sandefur, président de l'Agence adventiste d'aide et développement (ADRA).

« Plus de la moitié des membres de l'Église ont rejoint cette communauté depuis les années 90. Nous sommes une Église de membres tout neufs, d'adventistes de première génération, d'adventistes jeunes, d'adventistes du monde entier, » commente Charles Sandefur, qui termine sa première année à la tête d'ADRA, après avoir dirigé la région centre-américaine de l'Église. Il s'est exprimé ainsi lors du culte de la première matinée de la réunion de printemps de l'Église, conférence rassemblant les responsables mondiaux du mouvement adventiste.

Sandefur dit que ses voyages dans 43 pays — et les expériences de culte du Sabbat (samedi) qu'il a vécues en des lieux très écartés, dans vingt de ces pays — l'ont amené à se faire une image de l'Église mondiale bien différente de ce que l'on pouvait penser en Amérique du Nord ou en Europe Occidentale.

« Nous sommes plus représentatifs des populations de cette planète que nous ne l'avons jamais été, a dit Sandefur. Nos débuts furent ceux d'un mouvement, nous sommes devenus une dénomination et nous voici maintenant à nouveau un mouvement, » ajoute-t-il, remarquant qu'en certains endroits le développement de l'Église se fait si rapidement que les dirigeants ne peuvent dénombrer leurs membres et doivent se contenter de « célébrer » les changements en cours.

« Pour ces membres d'Église, dont un grand

nombre sont pleins d'enthousiasme à l'idée de faire partie d'un groupe d'ampleur planétaire et dont les racines sont fermement implantées dans le sol américain, les préoccupations quotidiennes sont bien différentes de celles de leurs frères et sœurs « yankee, » » continue Sandefur.

« J'ai adoré le Seigneur dans des églises de cinquième génération et dans d'autres encore toutes mouillées par les baptêmes de la semaine d'avant, dit-il. [L'Église adventiste] est avant tout une Église toute neuve. Les deux tiers de tous ceux et celles qui ont été baptisés par l'Église adventiste depuis ses débuts sont bien vivants. »

« C'est aussi une Église qui a des défis à relever qui lui sont propres, note-t-il. Il y a au moins 1 million d'adventistes qui ne savent pas lire, et des milliers qui souffrent du VIH/SIDA. Il en est d'autres — jusqu'à 250 000 peut-être — qui souffrent de la famine. » Et il ajoute que la plupart des membres nouveaux sont « pauvres dans leur écrasante majorité. »

« La rapide croissance de l'Église adventiste, qui amène des membres nouveaux à un rythme à peine inférieur à deux par minute, signifie que ce qui fut jusqu'à présent une organisation mesurable est en train de dépasser sa capacité à surveiller sa propre croissance, » estime Charles Sandefur.

Mais cette croissance fait apparaître aussi des expressions de foi chrétienne toutes neuves et pleines de vie. Il se souvient d'un homme qui lui avait demandé à parler avec lui à propos d'argent, après un culte du Sabbat. Mais au lieu de demander qu'on l'aide, l'homme a posé cette question à Sandefur: « Qu'est-ce que cela veut vraiment dire, « vendre tout ce que j'ai et le donner aux pauvres »? Comment dois-je interpréter ce texte? »

« Nul ne m'avait jamais posé cette question durant toutes mes années de ministère pastoral, » commente-t-il.

Il cite un autre cas, celui d'une femme d'un pays d'Asie du Sud qui lui a demandé de venir chez elle et de prier aux quatre coins de la maison pour la protéger des esprits locaux. Quand il a demandé à cette femme pourquoi elle était devenue chrétienne adventiste, elle répondit qu'elle s'était rendu compte que « le Dieu d'Abraham, d'Isaac et de Jacob était plus puissant que les dieux de mon village. »

Cette croissance explosive, exponentielle, peut troubler ceux qui pensent qu'il faut contrôler une telle expansion. Mais, pour Charles Sandefur, une meilleure réaction consiste à ne pas avoir peur, mais à se réjouir. « Je veux me sentir comme un fier parent, [fier] que l'esprit de Dieu soit en mouvement parmi son peuple. »

Mark A. Kellner/ANN
Traduction: Claude Fivel

YOUTH Relationships

Makes No Sense to Study the Bible!

My exboyfriend was a very spiritual person. We prayed together, went to prayer meetings together, and discussed the Bible very often while in our relationship. Recently he told me that since we broke up he hardly prays anymore, he does not study his Sabbath School Lesson or his Bible anymore and he does not see any sense doing it. How can I help him?

According to your description, a very spiritual person is one who does things, like pray, attend prayer meetings, and discuss the Bible very often. It could be that he was not spiritual, but religious. A spiritual person has a personal spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ and a religious person focuses on form, formalities, rituals, and traditions.

During the course of your relationship with your ex-boyfriend, would you say that he possessed conviction, commitment, ethical values, and did he see himself a sinner in need of a Savior? Did he talk about Jesus like they were friends and did he have a desire to be like Him?

It could be that you had a tremendous amount of influence on the young man to the point where he did all of those things with you while he was in the relationship. Now that he is no longer in the relationship, he probably does not see them as important. This must be a very difficult time for you and maybe you are even experiencing guilt and blaming yourself for his not doing all of the things he did when he was in the relationship!

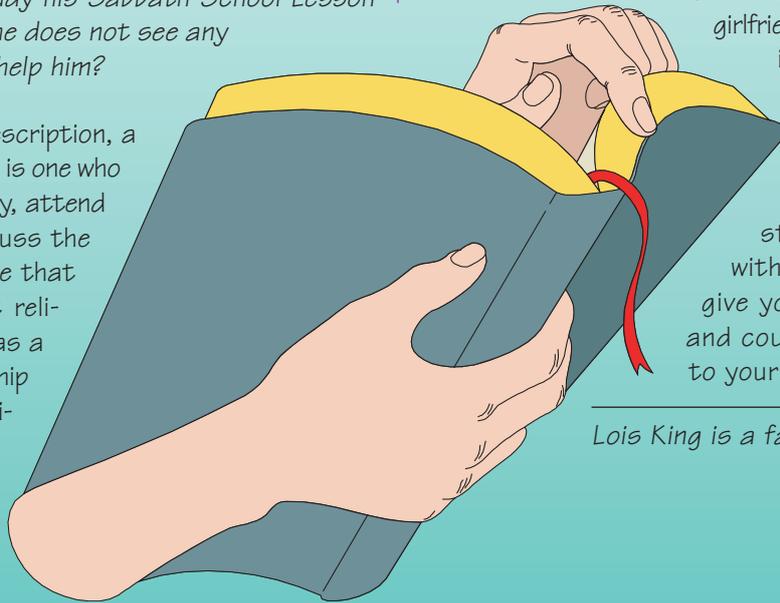
Sometimes it is very difficult to help people who are close to you. If the young man has indicated he desires your help, one thing you could certainly do is pray for him. Because you were once involved in a relationship with him, it might be best to seek out the assistance of someone

who could be more objective. Perhaps you could speak with the pastor, Bible worker, or an elder in your church about working with him. If he is looking to develop a closer relationship with the Lord then he will most likely appreciate their interest in working with him.

You see, spirituality is rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not in a boyfriend or girlfriend. In fact, not even in a loving, dedicated, Christian husband or wife of 50 years.

Continue to pray for your ex-boyfriend that He will truly develop a strong spiritual relationship with Jesus. God bless you and give you the fortitude, stamina and courage to choose to hold on to your best friend, Jesus.

Lois King is a family life educator.



The "Youth Relationships" column will discuss aspects of our youth and their relationships that will help them in their spiritual growth and development. If you have questions you would like answered in this column please refer them to the Atlantic Union Conference GLEANER Office. We hope our youth of all ages will find this column useful.

These are questions being posed by the youth, therefore, it is also our hope that those who are involved in training youth will utilize the material printed in this column as a "springboard" for discussion in their youth groups.

YOUTH Relationships

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Out-of-Union

Events occurring outside the Atlantic Union territory

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.

Yakima Adventist Christian School will be celebrating its 100th birthday September 26-27, 2003, in its new facility at 1200 City Reservoir Road, Yakima, Washington. Alphonso McCarthy, North Pacific Union assistant to the president will be the main speaker. Richard Parker, Upper Columbia Conference youth director will be leading services for the youth and earlites. Call the school at (509) 966-1933 for more information or to share some memories.

Spot News

Events occurring in the Atlantic Union territory

Computers and school bus needed for a new Adventist school: The South Bay Junior Academy, established in 2002, would deeply appreciate donations from supporters of Christian education. The most urgent needs are computers for the lab, and a small school bus. If your heart is touched by this call for assistance, contact the school board chair, Karleen Edwards or the principal Veronica Quinones, at: South Bay Junior Academy, 150 Fire Island Ave., Babylon, NY 11702. Phone: (631) 321-0857, fax: (631) 321-0021.

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) 814-9408. All GNYA alumni are invited.

Missionaries needed: You do not have to go overseas to share Christ. You are needed close to home.

The Boston Temple church, the N. Quincy ESOL Center (English Speakers of Other Languages) need ESOL volunteer teachers, and Middle/High school tutor to reach out to Chinese non-Christians. One and one-half hours twice a week. Reply to: Pttan@msn.com or call (617) 536-5022.

Thayer Performing Arts Center 1st Annual Instrument Drive! We are accepting any new or old instruments you would like to donate to the center. Cellos, tubas, violins, banjos, violas, flutes, trombones, drums, pianos (we need to inspect all pianos before they are dropped off), clarinets, piano stools, oboes, guitars, etc. (any instrument in your closet). They will be used or sold to benefit students and the building. Drop off instruments at the Thayer Performing Arts Center Office, 438 Main St., So. Lancaster, MA 01561 or call Debbie Gifford at (978) 368-2100. E-mail: mail@thayerarts.org. Website: www.thayerarts.org.

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REMEMBERING *Marian Rose (Bakker) Bidwell*

Marian Rose (Bakker) Bidwell—77, of Athol, Mass., died in a car accident in Sylvania, Ga., on April 14, 2003. She was born in St. Paul, Minn., the daughter of Jacob and Florence Lucille (Archer) Zummach. Upon graduation from Union College in Lincoln, Nebr., in 1952 she went as a missionary teacher to East Africa. She met her first husband, P. Daniel Bakker in Kenya and they were married in March 1953. They spent 15 years as missionaries in Kenya and Uganda. Both their children Ronald and Rosanne were born during that time. After Marian returned with her husband and children, she continued teaching and doing treasury work or held administrative positions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the following conferences: Minnesota, Nebraska, Northern New England, Bermuda, and Atlantic Union. Her first husband passed away in April 1988 from cancer. Upon Marian's retirement in 1991 she settled in Raymond, N.H. for a couple years. During that time she met her second husband Dewey Bidwell. They were married in August 1993 in Nashua, N.H. They lived in Athol, Mass. and wintered in Fla. for the past nine years. She was very active in her church leading out in many activities including prayer seminars, cooking schools, health and fitness classes, etc. during the years. Survivors include her second husband, Dewey Bidwell of Athol, Mass.; her son, Ronald Bakker of Sterling, Mass.; her daughter, Rosanne Bakkerwind of Derry, N.H.; stepdaughter, Starr Bidwell of College Place, Wash.; stepdaughter Holly Mager of Galeton, Pa.; stepsons, Deane and Carl Bidwell of Athol, Mass.; brothers, Paul and James Zummach of Pendleton, Ore.; brother David Zummach of St. Paul, Minn.; sister Joyce Lampson of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; sister Arden Schwab of Lexington, Nebr.; sister, Mary Parrett of Berea, Ky.; sister, Dorothy Redmon of Beltsville, Md.; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Rosanne Bakkerwind and Violet Bidwell

Sunset Table

Eastern Daylight Saving Time

August 2003	1	8	15	22	29
Bangor, ME	8:00	7:50	7:40	7:28	7:16
Portland, ME	8:03	7:53	7:43	7:32	7:20
Boston, MA	8:03	7:54	7:44	7:33	7:22
South Lancaster, MA	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:36	7:24
Pittsfield, MA	8:11	8:03	7:53	7:42	7:31
Hartford, CT	8:07	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:27
New York, NY	8:10	8:02	7:53	7:42	7:31
Albany, NY	8:12	8:03	7:54	7:43	7:31
Utica, NY	8:21	8:12	8:02	7:51	7:39
Syracuse, NY	8:25	8:16	8:05	7:55	7:43
Rochester, NY	8:31	8:22	8:12	8:01	7:49
Buffalo, NY	8:35	8:26	8:16	8:05	7:53
Hamilton, Bda	8:14	8:08	8:01	7:53	7:45

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 Roberto D. Reyna
 Plant ServicesManfred Suckert
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 Sabbath School/Personal Ministries/
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