Youth, Leadership, and the Church

Skip Bell

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Youth, Leadership, and the Church

The cliché is used a thousand times. “Youth are the future of the church.” Often it is corrected; “Youth are the church of today.” Too often the words mean nothing.

Are we a youth oriented church? Perhaps. We do invest heavily in Christian education. And I believe Adventists over 30 earnestly want youth to grow spiritually and share ministry. However, some changes are needed before our churches can truly claim the distinction of youth orientation.

1. Some elders, deacons, clerks, and other church leaders should be teens and young adults. I am not referring to “junior deacons.” As positive as those apprentice­ship positions are for juniors and earlitens, they are not a substitute for investing leadership in those who reach 15 or 16. Why is it that junior deacons disappear at 16 and do not reappear again until they are 25? Is the scripture opposed to a 19 year old being ordained as a deacon? Give leadership in our churches to youth.

2. Be sure there are at least three youth on the church board. We may object that difficult issues demand life experience. Would you agree that evangelism, church growth and spiritual nurture are the most important issues for your church board? Who is better prepared to understand the unique spiritual issues of teens and young adults than others their own age? Who can plan for youth evangelism better than youth who are living as disciples of Jesus? Who better can assure that your worship is meaningful for youth and young adults?

3. Revise the constitutions of local conferences to mandate at least three people on the conference executive committee who are teens or young adults. Our conference has made provision for one such member—I hope the provision will be expanded. The church should not plan and develop policy without a generation represented. If we do we will become stagnant and irrelevant.

4. In about two years we will meet again as a Union Constituency. Let’s revise our constitution to seat three youth or young adults as members of our executive committee—for the same reasons.

Deeper issues guide our response to these and other suggestions. Let me address just three.

Trust—Are we able to trust a generation with different life experiences than ours with responsibility?

Fear—We value the church. We are afraid of what might be lost if inexperienced people make mistakes.

Understanding—Culture and experience constantly change. Language, dress, music, attitudes; they can all seem strange to observers separated by 15 or 20 years.

Since I am a parent I have had the privilege of observing many young people in our home, on family trips, and in casual gatherings at our schools in the past 10 years. I have been impressed by their commitment, their insights, their love for Jesus. I have learned from them. We should listen to them. They are valuable competitors for our church. They are not our enemies.

The Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, PA provides higher education in a Christian environment. The challenge is to make the college accessible to the children of all our churches. We should train these youth to enter into the church when they graduate from Atlantic Union College.

I am not talking about a church where youth spend their time sitting in the balcony and then go home. I am speaking of a church that includes youth in all its activities. We should not leave it to the youth workers to do this. We are the youth workers.

It is time for Adventists to wake up and realize that our youth are our future. And our future is now. The youth and young adults today have the capacity for deep and authentic spirituality.
years. My impressions are clear. Youth and young adults today have the capacity for deep and authentic spirituality. They enjoy life most when they are serving. Their discernment for spirituality in worship is exceptional. They place a high value on devotional life. And they eagerly anticipate Christ’s return. Not all Adventist young people, of course, share these attributes. But probably a higher percentage do than my generation, and at their age they are more likely to turn their hearts to Jesus.

Adventist young people can be trusted. They will lead our church to a more authentic spirituality. Our church will be a better church if they insist that our ministries become relevant. We do not have to fear losing what is essential. While the music or expression of youth may vary from my generation it will not lack in true devotion. When given the responsibility they will renew foundational beliefs.

I hope these words challenge your thinking, stir conversation, and create some change.

Skip Bell is president of the New York Conference

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Special Offering Appeal for Haiti

SABBATH, JULY 31, 1999

As part of its mission outreach the Atlantic Union has approved the taking of a special offering for Haiti on Sabbath, July 31, 1999.

The Haitian Union Conference is among the fastest growing unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Organized in 1989, it comprised two missions, 300 churches, and 136,026 members. By the end of 1998, due to incredible growth, it was necessary to restructure the union into four conferences. The number of churches jumped to 948, the membership to 214,031. The total growth in nine years is 78,000 members.

However, the fast growth makes it very difficult for church housing. About 200 churches are housed. There is a need to house 748. These churches are between 100 and 1000 members. They meet everywhere: under tents, under trees, in private homes, etc.

Maranatha International has offered a package deal. If the Haitian Union would come up with US$300,000 it will build 50 churches, which is US$6000 per church. What can you do to help?

We trust that the Lord will impress your heart to give generously as did the people of Israel at the construction of the Temple: “The people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord . . .”—1Chron. 29:9.

If you are moved by the Holy Spirit and feel that you should share some of the blessing that you have received by sponsoring some churches, please give generously for this Special Offering Appeal for Haiti.

Thank you and may the Lord continue blessing as you willingly give for His cause.

The Officers of the Atlantic Union Conference
Theodore T. Jones II, President
Donald G. King, Executive Secretary
Leon Thomassian, Treasurer
Luc Homicile, Vice President of Franco-Haitian Ministries
Francisco Ramos, Vice President of Hispanic Ministries
ADRA Sponsors Camporee
Celebrating 50 Years of Pathfindering

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND—In response to the Kosovar refugee crisis, up to 17,000 campers will have the opportunity to pack donated relief items for refugees in Albania through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) Pack-A-Box event at the Pathfinders 50th Anniversary Discover the Power Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, August 10-14. As the major sponsor of the camporee, ADRA will also have the opportunity to educate thousands of children on its humanitarian mission through other special activities.

At the Pack-A-Box section of “ADRAs Adventure Land,” children from more than 12 nations will be able to pack donated clothing and other small items that are being collected from surrounding communities prior to the event. The packed boxes will later be sent to Albania to be delivered by ADRA, where its Albania office continues to be the World Food Program's largest implementing partner in food distribution throughout Albania.

“We are also encouraging Pathfinders to bring extra packed items such as bars of soap, wash cloths and towels, hand lotion, deodorant, shampoo and other personal care items that they can include in the boxes,” says Norma Sahlin, ADRA marketing and development assistant for development education and the ADRA coordinator for the camporee.

The Pack-A-Box activity is a component of ADRAs Global Village, the one-of-a-kind traveling, educational exhibit, which most recently appeared on the Capitol Mall in Washington, D.C. last April. Approximately 160,000 school children, families, adults and VIP representatives from prominent organizations journeyed “around the world” at the two-week appearance.

Also for the Kosovar refugee children, campers currently are making special hand-made quilts that they will bring with them for the Pack-A-Box activity. Before being placed in the boxes for the refugees, all of the individual quilts will be temporarily stitched into one large quilt display (44 feet by 35 feet) stating, “ADRA and Pathfinders Cover Refugee Children of the World With Love.”

Beth Schaejer is News & Information officer at the ADRA headquarters in Maryland
On Sabbath, May 1, a Boston 2000 Rally was held at the Boston Berea church. The event was sponsored by the Boston Adventist Health Network Committee, composed of representatives from the NAD, both Southern New England and Northeastern Conferences, and pastors and lay members from the Boston area churches. Dr. Donald King, Health Ministries director for the Atlantic Union and chair of the committee, spoke to a packed audience Sabbath morning on the topic, "A Touch of Health" taken from Mark 5:25–34.

The group "Undivided" from the Temple Salem church presented messages in song throughout the day.

The purpose of the Rally included the following objectives:

- To increase awareness of the presence and activities of the Adventist Health Network Committee in Boston,
- To announce two Health Lifestyle Certification training events that were held in June at the Stoneham church (SNEC) and at the Berea church (NEC), and
- To network with other departments such as Family Life and Community Services of both conferences in an ongoing effort to deliver outreach programs to the Boston community in preparation for evangelistic thrusts in the area for 1999 and 2000.

The Rally itself took place in the afternoon with about 300 people from various churches in Boston attending. Dr. David White from the NAD Health Ministries department described what Lifestyle Certification Levels are about, followed by more in-depth information in the form of a PowerPoint presentation of the same. Also participating in the event were the Health, Family, and Community Services departmental directors of both Northeastern and Southern New England Conferences.

The audience was blessed by special music from the Boston Temple and Berea churches. About 150 people signed up to participate in one of the two scheduled training seminars at $32 per person. Follow-up will include further training in health, family, and community services and the setting of a timeline for the implementation of seminar programs throughout the city.

The bottom line for the Network Committee is soul-winning. Everything is done with a view of sharing the love of Jesus and expanding His kingdom. The outstanding attendance at the afternoon meeting coupled with their enthusiastic feedback were indicators, I believe, of support for the thrust of taking Boston for Christ as we close in on a new century.
The idea of a YAHA congress originated out of a sense of self-identity, self-actualization, and belonging.

It was a time of great rejoicing and celebration when many Young Adventist Haitians in America (YAHA) came together March 31 – April 4 for the first YAHA Congress in the Atlantic Union. Among a picturesque and elegant scenery the historical event, “Empowering YAHA for the New Millennium” took place at the Clarion Plaza, a resort hotel located at the hub of many famous attractions in Orlando, Florida.

The attendance was beyond our expectation. There were 850 regular delegates among the more than 2000 individuals that attended. Twenty-one seminars and eleven general sessions were presented by a variety of pastors and professionals. They touched on various topics that impact the youth today: religion, career, health, substance abuse, the New Age Movement, Y2K leadership, self-esteem, sex, dating, racism, lasting relationships, stress, science, religion, prayer, music, and the church.

The Sabbath message entitled, “Standing for a Cause” was presented by Baraka Muganda, youth director of the General Conference. He was a great inspiration. The Orlando Mass choir, the YAHA Mass Choir, and the YAHA band made a
tremendous impact on the entire program.

The idea of a YAHACongress originated out of a sense of self-identity, self-actualization, and belonging. With the new millennium fast approaching and the 90's environment with its high tech internet access to all sorts of information, our young people are faced with more challenges than ever before that makes it more and more difficult for them to build and keep a close relationship with the church and the Lord. It was intended that the Congress would give YAHACtile the power to face the challenges, power to love, power to serve, and to know that the future can be brighter, spiritually, emotionally, physically, culturally, and socially with Jesus as their friend.

The success of this YAHACongress was due to many factors and especially to the support of Manuel Vasquez, vice president of Multilingual Ministries in the North American Division; the Atlantic, Southern, and Lake Unions; the Florida, Greater New York, Northeastern, Lake Region, South Atlantic, Southeastern, and Southern New England Conferences; and a host of other individuals. The prayers, words of encouragement, and more tangibly the financial support also greatly contributed to the realization of this unprecedented event.

The friendly, cordial spirit has bound YAHACtile, the conference leaders, pastors, youth leaders, presenters, and parents together as a family. It was that spirit that made it very difficult for most people to leave after the congress was over. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is certainly blessed with many talented leaders. It is anticipated that the next YAHACongress will be held in the year 2001.

Luc F. Homicile, vice president for Franco-Haitian Ministries Atlantic Union Conference
AUC Ministers Through Music and Prayer Conferences

Constituents from all over the Atlantic Union came to Atlantic Union College to be blessed through the music and prayer conferences held on campus this spring. Guest speakers were brought in to inspire the crowds, as well as to teach smaller group seminars.

By Faith Beall, Public Relations Assistant, Atlantic Union College

Band Clinic

Band students and teachers from Bermuda Institute, Greater Boston Academy, Pine Tree Academy, South Lancaster Academy, and Union Springs Academy joined those from home schools and public schools, including Brunswick High School (Maine), in workshops, rehearsals, and performances under the direction of Thayer Symphony Orchestra Maestro Toshimas Francis Wada, associate professor of music at AUC.

Band Clinic was hosted during the first weekend in March by Atlantic Union College and sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference through the auspices of Paul Kilgore, director of education. Next year, AUC will host a Choir Clinic, March 2–4, 2000, followed by a Band Clinic in 2001.

"By alternating band and choir, we are able to reach most academy-age music students to enhance their musical training and to give them a preview of college," said Doris Krueger, AUC's director of choirs and the coordinator of the Band Clinic.
Prayer Conference

Songs of praise rang out at the Second Annual Prayer Conference, held in March in the historic Miller Chapel in Founders Hall in the center of the AUC campus. Dr. Ron Clouzet and Randy Maxwell were flown in to challenge and inspire participants to develop powerful prayer lives. Prayer warriors Elizabeth Boyd and Kathy Hayhoc drove down from Maine to share their insights and encouragement. AUC students participated and also provided special music for this spiritually uplifting weekend. Participants from around the Union were enthusiastic and said that they looked forward to bringing other church members to AUC for the next Prayer Conference, which will be held March 10-12, 2000.

Hymn Festival of Choirs

The sound of music from church and school choirs from across the Union could be heard at the Hymn Festival of Choirs, also held in March. Dr. Vernon Andrews, minister of music for the Caribbean Union Conference, conducted the Festival Choir, accompanied by William Ness, minister of music for the College church. Both men led out in workshops and provided resource materials.

At the end of instruction and rehearsal time, the choirs performed together and separately over the weekend and during the Hymn Sing Vespers at the College church. Joining AUC's Collegiate Choir (under the direction of Doris Krueger) and the Black Christian Union Choir (under the direction of Kelly Danticat), were the Bayanihan Filipino Fellowship Choir from Queens, NY. Worshipers joined in singing with the choirs on some of the hymns. Mark your calendar for next year's festival scheduled for March 23-25, 2000.
There was an air of excitement in the crowded congregation as sixty-four people signed the roll on Sabbath, April 24, as charter members of the Bridgeport Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church. In two years the work among the Portuguese speaking people of the Southern New England Conference has grown from six churches and one company to eight organized churches, one company, and four new groups.

Hal Thomsen, Southern New England Conference president, challenged the congregation to let nothing distract them from the work of spreading the gospel—"If the work progresses as it has recently, two years from now perhaps we’ll have twenty-five churches!"

The new church under the leadership of Pastor Claudio Dias meets at 470 Laurel Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut—visitors are welcome!

Judy Thomsen, Southern New England Conf.
church for outreach programs and to establish a new
church in Worcester. Additionally, we look forward to
having the group in Lowell organized into a church,”
stated Pastor Emmanuel Joseph. He went on to say,
“We thank God for all His blessings to us and we look
forward to spreading the gospel everywhere we can.”

Theodore T. Jones II, president
Atlantic Union Conference

Some of the participants at the Youth Church service include (l. to r.) Nathan
Forsmore, Pastor Scarborough, and A. J. Burrington.

Youth Church Is A Privilege at South
Lancaster Village SDA Church

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly
trained, might furnish, how soon the message of the
crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be
carried to the whole world! How soon might the end
come,—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How
soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of
sin and pain, our children might receive their inherit­
ance where ‘the righteous shall inherit the land, and
dwell therein forever’. . .”—MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE,
p. 196.

What a challenge these inspired words present to
all parents, teachers, and pastors of our youth. Hum­
bly accepting all it entails, Associate Pastor James
Scarborough, youth director of the South Lancaster
Village church, makes a quarterly youth church ser­
vice available to its young people. They present each
segment of the service, including the message.

During the February 13 youth church service, at
least 85 youth attended, approximately one third of
them participated actively in scriptures, songs, special
music, prayer, readings, and the message of the day.
During their formative years as they develop Christlike
characters for the kingdom of God, this is a solid
training ground for the youth when actively guided
and supervised by a caring youth director.

Dr. Geraldine I. Grout, communication secretary
South Lancaster Village SDA church

David and Marian Lewis
at Berkshire Hills Church

On Sabbath, March 13, David and Marian Lewis
appeared in concert at the Berkshire Hills church
to present their own dramatic story of deliverance
through music and testimony. David and Marian,
both stars in their own right, have teamed up in
one of the fastest growing ministries to emerge in
the Christian community.

David was co-founder of one of America's num­
ber one Pop/R&B groups, "Atlantic Starr" where
he wrote and performed the #1 million selling hits,
"Always" and "Masterpiece." Marian was a high-
fashion print and runway model for the "Ford"
modeling agency in New York and worked for
some of the world's top designers.

In 1994, at the top of their professional careers,
they left the world of celebrity status to tell their
deeply moving story of how Jesus rescued them
from a dark past and brought them into the light
to use their talents for His glory. Many guests from
the community were blessed by attending this
special concert and by the vegetarian meal that
followed the service.

Barbara L. Suriner, communications secretary
Berkshire Hills SDA church

Communion Day Baby Dedication

Sean and Eva Parker presented their young son, Jer­
emy Sean, for dedication on March 27, Communion
Day. It was appropriately attended by both maternal
and paternal grandparents and Jeremy's "big" sister,
Kayla Marie.

Dr. Geraldine I. Grout, communication secretary
So. Lancaster Village SDA church
Linden Principal Honored

Veteran educator and Linden School principal, Gwendolyn Wesley, was honored at the Queens New York Councilwoman Juanita E. Watkins’ Special Awards Dinner held on Sunday, April 18, 1999, at Antuns in Queens, New York.

Wesley, who came to Linden after serving as principal of the Jackson Heights school and with many years of teaching in the classroom before that, has distinguished herself for placing an emphasis on art, music, athletics, and Christian values, as well as academics at the Laurelton, Queens school.

“In response to the recent floods experienced by the South Jamaica community Wesley and the Linden school collected food stuffs and clothing for distribution,” noted the awards spokesperson.

A math professor from a local college sitting next to Esmee Bovell, Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools, commented on what a fine school Linden was and that she intended to place her child there. Perhaps that is the highest praise of all for the work done by Wesley, the teaching staff, and the school.

C.A. Murray, NEC Correspondent

Goshen Hosts Projector Banquet

On Sunday afternoon, March 28, members, friends, and supporters of the Goshen Temple Communication Department gathered for a banquet to raise funds for a video projector for the church.

The event, hosted by Yvonne Daley, the Communication Department leader, and assistants, drew representation from the conference office, area churches, and local officials, including area city councilwoman representative, Una Clark, and Donald Holloway representing assemblywoman Rhonda Jacobs.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Alma York, vice president of Student Affairs at Atlantic Union College. The program included testimonies, musical selections, and a skit. “We like to think that we are an active and progressive department,” said Daley. That sentiment was echoed by many during the evening.

C.A. Murray, NEC Correspondent

Yvonne Daley, Communication Leader, Goshen Temple

10th Grand Annual Family & Adventist Singles Retreat

at the Nevele Grande Resort Hotel in the Catskills, New York

November 19-21, 1999

Come with your spouse and your children and enjoy biblical messages and workshops with Dr. Charles D. Brooks, Dr. Barry Black, Dr. Ian Chand, Dr. Kembleton Wiggins, and many others. Special sessions for children, teenagers, singles, the married, the unmarried, and the tired.

For more information call the Family Ministries Department of the Northeastern Conference (718) 291-8006, ext. 247 or 254.

Website at www.northeastern.org

Home, more than a filling station!
QUESTION: What did Ellen G. White know about the Constitution and Bill of Rights that is unknown to the Justices of the United States Supreme Court?

The answer to this question is involved with the latest Supreme Court case concerning religious liberty. On June 25, 1997, six of the nine supreme court justices declared that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was unconstitutional.

In her dissenting opinion, Justice O'Connor set forth the history of the First Amendment. "Neither the First Congress nor the ratifying state legislatures debated the questions of religious freedom in much detail, nor did they directly consider the scope of the First Amendment's Free exercise protection.... It is not exactly clear what the framers thought the phrase signified.... It is astonishing to discover that the debate on a bill of rights was conducted on a level of abstraction so vague as to convey the impression that Americans of 1787-1788 had only the most nebulous conception of the meanings of the particular rights they sought to insure."

Could it be that the writers of the Constitution and Bill of Rights were ignorant of the protection they were giving to religious liberty? What does the prophet say? On pages 295 and 296 of The Great Controversy we find these words: "The framers of the Constitution recognized the eternal principle that man's relation with His God is above human legislation, and his rights of conscience inalienable. Reasoning was not necessary to establish this truth; we are conscious of it in our bosoms. It is this consciousness which, in defiance of human laws has sustained so many martyrs in tortures and flames. They felt that their duty to God was superior to human enactment's, and that man could exercise no authority over their consciences. It is an inborn principle which nothing can eradicate."

We see then that what was written by the founders of our nation was inspired by God. The wisdom of the laws of heaven is so apparent that man's reasoning cannot oppose it. There is no need for debate.

And where did Mrs. White find her insight into the Constitution and Bill of Rights? She found it in a place, strangely enough, available to the Supreme Court Justices—the Congressional Document of the United States of America. It is quite amazing what truth may be found in The Great Controversy. Perhaps 1999, the "Year of Religious Liberty," would be a good time for you to discover or rediscover this outstanding book.

Charles J. Eusey is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Atlantic Union Conference.

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Charles J. Eusey is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Atlantic Union Conference.
Cliff Island Church Centennial

I stood in the massive church sanctuary looking up at the familiar picture of Jesus kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane. I clutched the coins Mama had pressed into my hand. Heaven forbid I should drop them and rob this regal residence of its reverence! Worshipers sat ramrod straight on the polished wooden pews nodding a welcome at each other. No one said anything—no one whispered. God’s Shekinah glory was here—everyone knew it and, at my young age, I knew it too.

The place appeared mystically magical. Here was where I came to meet my Jesus every Sabbath. And though reverence demanded a code of silence, there was nothing forbidding about this place, because I had learned from my mother and teachers that Jesus loved me so much He gave His life for me. I came to understand too, that there is no tension between reverence and my love for Christ because He was God and I owed Him that. These are my early recollections of the Cliff Island church, my church, and though the dimensions have diminished, the sanctity remains.

The Cliff Island Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized on December 24, 1877. Some records show that Cliff Island was the first officially organized church in Maine. Members met in homes and at the public school house.

Prior to 1870, Cliff Islanders were Christians, predominantly Methodists. But about 1870 the teaching on the state of the dead was brought to the Island by an Adventist couple by the name of Hersey. The islanders, being diligent Bible students, wholeheartedly accepted this teaching after thorough study. A short time later, the Sabbath message was brought and readily adopted.

As membership increased to more than fifty prior to 1899, (all but one islander were Adventists) circumstances dictated that a church be built. And so, through the prayers and efforts of many, the present structure was erected in the spring of 1899. In 1903 an ell was added for a Christian school which existed until 1934. Over the years the membership dwindled caused by the exodus of students to academies and parents to new jobs on the mainland.

August 14, 1999 has been set as the date for the annual Cliff Is-

Women’s Ministries at Jay SDA Church

The women of the Jay, Maine Seventh-day Adventist Church have been busy with their inreach and outreach programs. They have successfully had two yard sales. Items and freshly baked goods are donated by the members. Pastor Sica has his sports cards and children who can quote a Bible verse receive a free card. This table was frequented by the neighborhood children continually throughout the day. The proceeds from these events were used to support the renovation of the youth room and contribute to the new bathrooms.

Last summer the women made plans to produce a cookbook. The project came off the press in December 1998 and is available for $5.00 through the Adventist Book Center in Freeport, ME or Linnea Klouzek, RR#2 Box 4414, Farmington, ME 04938.

They produce a newsletter which continues to inform members and missing members of the news and upcoming events of the month.

The members of the Jay church are praising God for His blessings on the projects and the improvements to the church building. They have grown in number and are excited about the future.

Theo A. Walker, correspondent
Jay, Maine SDA church

Annual Cliff Island Day
AUGUST 14, 1999
Centennial Celebration of the Church Building

SPEAKER: Benjamin Schoun, NNEC President
1:15 p.m. Song Service
1:30 p.m. Sabbath School
3:00 p.m. Worship Services
4:30 p.m. Musical Vespers

FERRY Leaving Portland
6:30 a.m. Returning
10:00 a.m.
2:15 p.m.

ROUND TRIP FARE:
Adults $8.60
Children (ages 5-9) $5.40
Under age 5 Free

For more information on the Ferry call Casco Bay Lines (207) 774-7871
(located on Commercial Street)

Bring a picnic lunch and spend a Spirit-filled day!

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
TRUDY WRIGHT, CORRESPONDENT

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land Day. At that time there will be a centennial celebration commemorating the one hundred years since the church was built.

Many individuals who can trace their family ties to Cliff Island have departed from this tiny place to become mighty workers for God. Today membership stands at four but God has used this small church as a beacon of light. Recent years witnessed a baptism resulting in a "LISTEN magazine" worker for God.

God’s Spirit still resides with this church. He may be found skipping across the water, dancing in the sunlight, enticing and wooing all who embark upon this tiny spot of tree-lined beauty in the alternately choppy, and calm Atlantic. As one enters the hallowed doors of this historic church, the past is inextricably woven into the present. Memories fade in and out like the weaving of a delicate thread in the sampler of time. And through God’s Spirit no one ever leaves the same. Gloria DePalma
Northern New England Conference

Farmingdale Church Sets Goal to Become Debt Free

As Farmingdale church members held a business meeting to discuss plans to renovate the church and have a church school, Al Stearns made the statement, “I don’t think we should consider any new projects until we have paid off what we owe from our addition in 1992.” Everyone agreed. All projects were put on hold and a plan was put in place giving all members an opportunity to participate.

Sue Wallen put together a plan where members and friends have an “IT COUNTS” jar. In it members drop their spare change. A directory was put together listing all the goods and services for sale. Some had crafts to sell, others baked goods, yard care, housecleaning, woodworking or anything church members could buy from other members and the proceeds put into the “IT COUNTS” fund. One family sold a car and gave the money to the fund.

Every three months there is a get together for an “It Counts” update. Jars are brought in, the treasurer gives a total of what has come in since the last update. Old and young participate in playing games, singing, and eating popcorn. Now, only six months later $13,000 has been given. If the loan is paid off this year $20,000 in interest will be saved.

The picture (in the photo) of the church has been cut into pieces. As the money comes in, pieces are put into a frame. When the debt is paid, the picture will be complete and will be laminated and hung as a testimony of what can be done when all God’s children work together.

Edye Cronk, communication secretary
Farmingdale church

VIBRANT LIFE WELLNESS CAMP
AUGUST 8 – 14, 1999
Sponsored by:
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Make Lifestyle Changes

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- Personalized exercise program
- Group stretching and exercise
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- Daily cooking school
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- Morning and evening worship

Cost per person is $395, and if your spouse attends his/her cost would be $295.

To register call Robert Granger, Wellness Director at:
Telephone (207) 373-2162 • Fax (207) 373-0918

Register soon as space is limited!

Church members and friends get together at the first “IT COUNTS” night. Note the huge container of money under the picture of the church.

Church members and friends get together at the first “IT COUNTS” night. Note the huge container of money under the picture of the church.
Union Springs Academy Hosts Music Festival

The Union Springs Academy family grew by 63 young people in one day. The academy served as a host for the annual USA Music Festival, and students came from Buffalo to Albany to participate.

USA’s director of Choral Music, Mrs. Shelley Taylor, did a superb job of directing this year’s participants, who were students from grades 5–8 in elementary schools within the state of New York.

Students arrived on campus on Wednesday afternoon, April 14, 1999 and registered. At 7:30 p.m., rehearsals began. They also practiced on Thursday for eight hours and again on Friday morning.

Sabbath morning during church service the music festival choir and the USA choir joined and sang two songs. None of these 100+ students used any music during the program. All songs were memorized, both words and music.

Sabbath afternoon the music festival choir performed a sacred concert. They sang nine selections, all memorized, including one song completely in the German language.

Students enjoyed this experience and are anxiously looking forward to participating in the USA music festival next year.

Phil Taylor, director of band music
Union Springs Academy

Passion Pageant at USA

Few dry eyes but many hearts longing for the soon-coming of their Savior filled the gym of Union Springs Academy at the close of their second annual Passion Pageant. In two programs on April 3 students, faculty, and friends of USA depicted the life, death, resurrection, and second coming of Christ in pantomime to music.

Most of the student body was involved in all aspects of the production—acting, creating props and costumes, or running the lighting and special effects. This year’s theme was “Love Defined.” Laila and Ranen, beings from another planet who had followed the unfolding of the great controversy on earth, struggled to understand the human concept of love. Through their eyes the audience witnessed the true meaning of this elusive word as revealed by one man.

During the divine worship hour students shared the story of Christ’s life, beginning with the announcement of his birth and continuing to his death on the cross.

Senior, Michael Hafner did an outstanding job for the second year in a row with his portrayal of the compassionate Jesus healing the sick, reaching out to the fallen Mary Magdalene, suffering in the garden, and dying in agony on the cross. The first act closed with a stunned soldier realizing that he, and all others present, were guilty of killing the king.

The heartbreaking burial of Jesus opened the afternoon program. This sorrow was short-lived, however, as, in one of the most spectacular scenes in the play, Christ emerged victorious from the tomb and soon thereafter ascended to heaven, promising to return to collect His children. Sadly these glorious moments contrasted sharply with the following piece which depicted the horrible effects of sin on humanity—the senseless death of children, poverty, murder, terrorism, indifference. Each successive vignette drove home the urgent need of the world for its Savior.

The pageant came to a close with the arrival of Christ, accompanied by a host of angels. In what many considered to be the most moving moment of the entire program a young couple hesitated to join the throngs rising to meet their Lord. Although her husband gently urged her on the woman scanned the audience. One Pageant attendant was later heard to say “I thought something had gone wrong—I didn’t know what she was looking for.” When he understood, that is when his eyes finally gave in to the urge to mist. The mother was looking for her child who had been hit and killed by a car. As she joyfully caught up with the young boy, and the newly reunited family met with their eternal Father, participants and audience alike caught a glimpse of the excitement and wonder that will be evident at the true Second Coming of Christ.

Robyn Wheeler Rusenescu
Union Springs Academy

Women in History

Union Springs Academy hosted a “Women in History” pageant in February. This was one of several events for Women in History month. A. J. Smith Elementary and Frontenac SDA Elementary schools joined them in the USA gymnasium for this presentation.

Women that were featured were: Ada Byron Lovelace (Kristina Blanchard); Eleanor Roosevelt (Yaisa Jones); Elizabeth Blackwell (Emily Shortslef); Phyllis Wheatly (Erica Morrow); Willa Cather (Bonnie Jo Foote); Mother Teresa (Jessie Gibbons); Joan Benoit Samuelson (Ashley Foote); Lucille Ball (Dori Pack); and Fannie Crosby (Lindsay Edgerton). Each student dressed in appropriate costume and spoke for 15 minutes about her character.

Diane Gruesbeck
Public relations & recruitment director, USA
A highlight of the recent alumni weekend at USA was the dedication of the academy library as the Oscar R. Schmidt Library. Hundreds of alumni gathered on the weekend of April 30 – May 1 to renew friendships and to pay tribute to their former teacher, Oscar R. Schmidt, who taught and was librarian at the academy from 1943–1951.

The Alumni Association had raised the $8,375 to computerize the circulation system of the 7,000 volume library, and in so doing chose to name the academy library in honor of Oscar R. Schmidt. The dedication service was conducted Sabbath afternoon of alumni weekend. William Hinman, superintendent of schools for the New York Conference, issued the proclamation. Remarks of appreciation were given by Judith Hodder, academy principal and Robin Rusenescu, librarian and English teacher.

Following their years of service at USA, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt moved to Atlantic Union College where he served as librarian and professor of English until retirement. They reside in South Lancaster, MA.

Other features of the weekend included Friday evening vespers conducted by the class of 1979; Sabbath school—Class of 1974; and the church service—class of ‘49. Elder David Prest of Apopka, FL was the Sabbath morning speaker.

After the alumni banquet, vespers were held by the class of ’89. An alumni business meeting was followed by a Grand March led by Oscar Schmidt. The men’s basketball game, won by the alumni, concluded the day’s activities. A golf tournament was held Sunday morning, organized by Jerry Pack.

Oscar and Madeline Schmidt received a plaque for the library, an “Oscar” for his years of service, and a tribute book of letters from his former students.

**USA Students Participate in 30-Hour Famine**

Students from Union Springs Academy participated in a 30-hour fast on February 26, 1999 to raise money for world hunger. They drank only water and fruit juice from 9:00 a.m. Friday to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Students found sponsors that would donate up to $30 each to support this cause, providing the students completed the 30-hour fast. Fifty students participated in this event and almost $500 was raised for World Vision.

This is the third year that USA participated in World Famine Day. Sponsored by World Vision, a non-denominational, Christian-centered organization which distributes monies, educational and health products, as well as food and clothing to needy nations.

Diane Gruesbeck, Public relations & recruitment director, USA
Fellowship, Joy Divine

Spring was ushered in at Hempstead at a “Meet to Greet” fellowship luncheon, where the emphasis was on making new church friends and greeting the old. Signature seasonal pastels of aqua, pink, and yellow embellished the tables. Guests were served comes-
tible concoctions that ran the gamut from hors d’oeuvres of picture perfect crudities to a cornucopia of entrees, followed by an encore dessert of fruit, pound cake, and ice cream.

Congregants “table hopped” and conversation flowed freely, which realized the objective of the event. To that end, Elders Matthias Patrick and Clifford Owusu greeted each guest individually, which enhanced the “church family” atmosphere. The spirit of Christian conviviality spilled over into the reception with entertainers, some of whom participated spontaneously, evoking recollections of Caribbean culture, familiar to most members. “Miss V,” (Veronica Henry), a folk artist and oral historian presented a wittily arch dramatization of what not to do when visiting the sick.

Kudos are offered to hostess Myra Valeris who created the theme, organized the food preparation, and, in the spirit of Christ, literally served seated guests! She and her hospitality committee (whom she generously described as fellow chairpersons) gifted church members with a flawlessly presented, elegant Spirit-filled afternoon, a “first” at Hempstead, sure to be replicated.

Faces of guests registered their first hand experience of “how good and pleasant it is” for brethren to break bread together.

Christian Education
Sabbath at Middletown, New York

Sabbath, April 17, was Christian Education Emphasis Sabbath at Middletown, NY Seventh-day Adventist Church. The school board of Middletown Christian School of Seventh-day Adventists presented a plaque to Mr. Richard Mills, Sr., teacher of Grades 5-8 for the past eight years, in recognition of being chosen to be in the 1998 edition of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.”

Seventh-day Adventist Christian Education does make a difference. In 1994, Philip Dah graduated from Middletown Christian School having completed eight years and graduating with Highest Honors. He has since gone on to distinguish himself as an outstanding student and was chosen to be listed in Who’s Who Among High School Students during 1998. He selected Mr. Richard Mills, Sr., his former church school teacher to be honored.

As part of the program the church school presented special music sung by the school choir using sign language and accompanied by chime tones.

The guest speaker for the worship hour was Dr. Henry-Saturne, superintendent of schools for the Greater New York Conference who challenged the church, parents, and students with his sermon entitled, “Educating for Eternity.”

Yvonne Lazaroff, communication leader
Middletown SDA church
Youth Week of Prayer at Hempstead
A series of “now” sermons were presented during the Youth Week of Prayer at Hempstead by guest speaker and youth pastor of the Brooklyn SDA church, Steve Wright. While the colloquialisms of “Generation X” may ring hollow to those of greater years, judging by the attendance and responses, the young people at Hempstead got the messages which were Christ centered with the emphasis on prayer power. These messages identified specific lifestyle events of young people today and offered Christian alternatives to address problem solving situations.

The series of four talks with evocative titles (So You Want to Be Like Mike and Home Improvement) included parenting tips as well. The week culminated in a mass circle of rededication, with congregants renewing vows to live for Jesus.

Wright gives notice at the beginning of each sermon that his target audience is church youth. Acting on the admonition young people have given him to “keep it real” when talking to them, Wright delivers relevant messages sprinkled with personal colorful experiences of his conversion from a gun selling drug pusher to a “new man, without a Master’s degree, but one who knows the Master.” Wright literally “gets with” his audience. He is lissome, agile, and leaps from the pulpit to the aisles, speaking all the while in a vivacious style that underscores his “street smarts” and deep concern for the youth.

His messages to the young are best summarized in verses from Proverbs 1:6 and 3:7 (NIV): “Listen my son to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and shun evil.”

Colosme Logan, communication secretary
Hempstead SDA church

An Evening of Classical Music
On April 24, 1999, the Mamaroneck SDA church enjoyed an evening of Classical Music. Directed by Patrice Douglas, this very talented group of young people played such instruments as the violin, saxophone, cello, flute, piano, along with various other instruments. Photo includes the participants of this lovely evening and their parents.

Community Services Day at Livingston SDA Church
At their last Annual Community Services Day the staff of the Livingston SDA church Community Service Society (CSS) were inspired by keynote speaker, Carolyn Morgan, director of the Greater New York Conference Community Service department. Her candid and vital message outlined the perspective goals of the CSS ministry with a harvest for the Master.

She was accompanied by individuals from her staff who spoke at various times throughout the day. A “Show and Tell” display of numerous picturesque Arts and Crafts adorned the elementary school rooms. They were uniquely created by the CSS members and volunteers.

Present at this event was Mrs. Ermie Chandler, past honorary CSS director of the Northeastern Conference, and current CSS treasurer and assistant leader at the Livingston SDA church.

The motto for the Community Service Society is “We wear the Crest of Service Excellence.”

Vivian C. Austin, communication secretary
Livingston SDA church
Acceptance into Worcester Consortium a “Giant Step” for AUC

Atlantic Union College has been formally accepted into the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Inc. This distinction will enable AUC students to supplement their studies at AUC with courses from other colleges in the Consortium at reduced cost. These courses will be transferable to their AUC transcripts. In order to avail themselves of this advantage, they must be fully registered (a minimum of 12 hours) at AUC. Such students will at all times be responsible for maintaining the standards of ethics and behavior outlined in the AUC handbook.

The libraries of other colleges in the Consortium will be accessible to AUC students, as the AUC (G. Eric Jones) library will be to other members. Further benefits include the posting of AUC signs on the Interstates with no cost to AUC, workshops open to all faculty and staff, the ability to purchase conjointly with all other Consortium colleges, and the privilege of participating in grant requests by other colleges.

The acceptance into the Consortium is a significant milestone for AUC, expanding its ability to offer the finest education to its students at a financial saving to both the student and the College. Says President Lashley, “This is a giant step for the College. It will allow AUC students to access classes in several fields that AUC does not offer, and allow AUC to operate relatively well with a small teaching faculty. AUC will gain a competitive advantage, since it is one of the smaller Consortium colleges, both in student size and tuition costs.”

Other colleges in the Consortium include: Clark University (Ph.D. offered), University of Mass Medical Center, Tufts University — Veterinary School, Worcester State College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Ph.D. offered), Holy Cross College, Assumption College, Anna Maria College, Quinsigamond Community College, Fitchburg State College, Becker College, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

God does continue to bless Atlantic Union College.

Ruth Redding Brand, director
Alumni & College Relations at AUC
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EVANGELISM TRAINING

September 6–25, 1999
Southwest Michigan Institute of Lay Evangelism

Southwest Michigan Institute of Lay Evangelism (SMILE) is an exciting new training program designed to equip today's church members with tools to become more effective witnesses for Christ. This resident school, located on 1,200 beautiful acres are just 50 minutes north of Berrien Springs, MI offers:

- experience in conducting public evangelistic campaigns
- experiencing in soliciting and giving Bible studies
- experience in literature evangelism
- coaching on how to make public health presentations
- improvement in preaching skills
- instruction from visiting professors of Andrews community
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- housing in newly remodeled dorms
- access to the new student library

Longing to improve your soul winning skills and techniques? This program is for you. Limited space is available. Featured instructor is George Knight, noted Adventist author and professor of church history at Andrews University. Don’t miss this life changing experience!

Call or write now for more information.

S.M.I.L.E.

Keavin Hayden — Director of Lay Evangelism, PO Box 489, Pullman, MI 49450 (616) 236-8330 or fax (616) 236-8311, e-mail: smile@i2k.com

Hispanic Ministerial & Evangelism Council

JULY 25–31, 1999
at Atlantic Union College, So. Lancaster MA

Sponsored by the North American Division Multilingual Ministries and Ministerial Departments

For more information contact the NAD Multilingual Ministries Department at (301) 680-6412 or the Ministerial Department at (301) 680-6475

Convention for Hispanic Youth Leaders

JULY 23–25, 1999
at Atlantic Union College, So. Lancaster, MA

Sponsored by the North American Division Youth Ministries Department

For more information contact Chary Torres at the Florida Conference (305) 225-0528

AUC Accredited—Twice

Not only has Atlantic Union College received re-accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges for 10 years, the maximum granted, but it has recently earned re-accreditation by the Adventist Accrediting Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The AAA also bestowed its maximum term of accreditation to AUC—five years.

While the NEASC scrutinizes every aspect of a college in its evaluation, looking at everything from academics to the physical plant, the AAA looks at these components and more. The thrust of the AAA evaluation is to measure a college’s performance in all the myriad responsibilities of a college in light of a distinctively Adventist mission. Part of AUC’s mission and objectives statement submitted to the accrediting committee contained these words.

Specifically, the mission of Atlantic Union College is that of developing in its students:

- Respect and love for intellectual pursuits
- Personal, ethical, and social responsibility
- Faith in a loving and beneficent creator God
- Understanding of and appreciation for human diversity
- Dedication to a life of service

For well over a hundred years Atlantic Union College has maintained and fulfilled these aspirations. And it is proud to have its quality recognized by the accrediting organization of the world church.

Ruth Redding Brand, director, Alumni & College Relations at AUC

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Redding Brand, director, Alumni & College Relations at AUC
CLASSIFIEDS

All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. The rate is $3.50 for each insertion of forty words or less, and 50 cents for each additional word for advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union; $5.00 for each insertion of forty words or less, and 75 cents for each word over the 40 with a 80-cent maximum. Check or money order should be made payable to Atlantic Union Clar or Atlantic Union Conference. Advertising in the Atlantic Union is not solicited and appears as a service to the membership of the Atlantic Union Conference. Advertising in the Atlantic Union Gleaner is a privilege, not a right. The Atlantic Union Gleaner reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved.

MEDICAL POSITIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF SURGICAL SERVICES (Surgery, Day Surgery, Pre-Op, PACU, 30-bed Short Stay Unit, Endoscopy Lab, Laser, Pre-Surgery Orientation Program, Pain Clinic, Patient Scheduling, and EKG.) Registered nurse; master’s degree preferred. Two years experience in a leadership role and knowledge of management principles required. The department did 8,000 surgeries in 7 main operating rooms and 2 day surgery rooms in 1997 with 75 FTE’s. Please call (503) 251-6130 or send/fax résumé to Adventist Medical Center, Human Resources, 10123 SE Market Street, Portland, OR 97216; fax (503) 251-6845.

NON-MEDICAL POSITIONS

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE has openings for the 1999-2000 academic year in a number of areas. College Administration positions: Vice President for Enrollment Management and Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Applicants must have successful experience in the areas for which they are considered, master’s degree preferred. College Faculty: individuals who qualify as assistant professors, or above, in the following disciplines: Business or Accounting, Computer Science, English, Music, and Social Work. Faculty members must have at least a master’s degree, a doctorate is preferred. Successful college teaching experience preferred. For further information or to send applications: contact James M. Norcliffe, Office of Human Resources, Atlantic Union College, PO Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561. Phone (978) 368-2370, fax 978-368-2013, e-mail: jnorfic@dclucc.com.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE is accepting applications for a licensed electrician. A minimum of five years experience is required. Applications should be sent to Robert Brand, Plant Director, Atlantic Union College, Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561.

BLIND RECORD SERVICES FOR BLDJ seeks manager for major fund. Experience, travel required; supervise personnel. Send résumé: Larry Pitcher, President, CRS, Box 6097, Lincoln, NE 68506, (402) 488-0981 or CRSnet@compuserve.com.

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE Communications Department seeks applicants for teaching position beginning September, 1999. Responsibilities: approximately two-thirds teaching in public speaking and one-third in area of expertise such as drama, interpersonal, rhetoric, or speech pathology. Ph.D. or MFA with teaching experience preferred; advanced degree in speech communication or related area required. Contact: David Bullock, Chair, Communications Department, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. (509) 527-2212. Fax (509) 527-2253. E-mail: copra@wwc.edu.

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE announces tenure track position in EDUCATION and PSYCHOLOGY beginning September, 1999. Qualified applicants will hold a doctorate in Psychology of Exceptionality or Special Education and teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Special Education and Psychology. Those interested should contact Dr. Ralph Coupland, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. (509) 527-2212. Fax (509) 527-2253. E-mail: copra@wwc.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEeks POlITICAL SCIENCE TEACHER with commitment to undergraduate teaching and research. Ph.D. or AB in political science required. Applicants send résumé and recommendations to Gary Land, Chair, Department of History and Political Science, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49014-0010.

ADVENTIST CARE CENTERS, the long term care division of Adventist Health System, is seeking resumes from well-trained, experienced long term care administrators and directors of nursing who are dedicated to the SDA healthcare mission: ACC currently operates long term care facilities in Texas, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Please forward your résumé to: Charlene Barrett, Director of Human Resources, Adventist Care Centers, Dept. A, 602 Courtland Street, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32801; e-mail: charlene@adventistcare.org.

MISSIONARIES NEEDED IN KOREA

SDA NATIVE English speaking volunteers between 20 and 50 years of age: singles or couples (without children) who are college graduates with bachelor’s degrees to teach conversational English and Bible for one or more at SDA Language Institutes of Korea (Training provided). Volunteer missionaries are approved by the General Conference. Benefits include: round-trip ticket, housing, utilities, insurance and stipend. Please contact Ray James, phone (209) 267-0416, fax: (209) 267-0342, e-mail: jamegr@cedeXet.net.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST (SDA) SENIOR CITIZEN is seeking a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment in Brooklyn, New York. Would consider sharing with another SDA who is an Excellent health. Please call (718) 624-3386.

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Ashley is guided by Christian principles while making investigations. Donna holds community cooking schools when she’s not busy with her homemaking. Willard provides honest contracts for his auto purchasers. Sharon opened a health club where her husband’s patients may practice what he preaches. Michael talks of a heavenly Father’s care as he dispenses veterinary medicine. Don leads conversation around to introduction of the Owner of his business. Barbara loves the residents in her housing care. Byron grows and packages the best produce in his state.

Even though you may not have joined the ASI supporting-ministry group, they invite you to help recreate a lay movement by developing a meaningful workplace witness.

Because

“The Lord has assigned to each his task.” 1 Cor. 3:5

“Not alone from the pulpit are the hearts of men and women touched by divine truth. Christ sought them at their daily avocations and manifested an unfeigned interest in their temporal affairs.” My Life Today, 186

If you’re in business for yourself or are employed in certain other careers, you may qualify for membership in ASI. Write for details to:

Atlantic Union ASI Office
PO Box 1189
South Lancaster, MA 01561
Or call 978-368-8333

Experience a Division-wide ASI Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 4-7.

Request details from the National ASI Office, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 or 301-680-6450