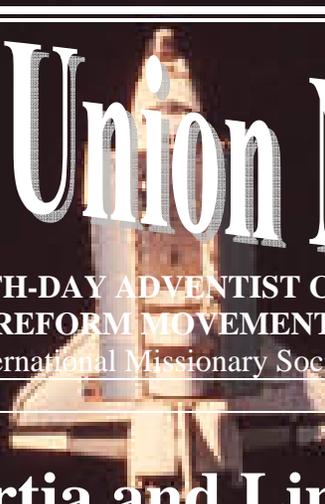

American Union Newsletter



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
REFORM MOVEMENT
International Missionary Society

Volume 23, No. 6

June 2007

Inertia and Limbo

Pastor Idel Suárez, Jr., Ph.D., AU President

“Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.” Isaiah 62:10

The Bible says that without a vision the people perish. We need a vision to carry the gospel message throughout this great country of America; and that vision is to lift the standard of truth, the platform of truth, as it says in Isaiah, in these last days!

Some believe it is by increasing our numbers that we will have a greater influence in being a light to the world and spreading the truth. But it is my conviction, based upon the Scriptures, Testimonies, and personal observations throughout the years, that it is not so much the number of members that will speed the return of Christ as it is the *consecration* of those who are part of the body of Christ. It is a matter of faithfulness—a matter of holiness and not of numbers.

We need to lift the standard. We must seek to be holy, seek to be pure, and seek to do the will of God wherever we are;

then we will be a light. Then the Holy Spirit will open the way. He will prepare the hearts of others to contact those who are faithful, and then doors will open that we have never before imagined. But there are two things that stand in our way—inertia and limbo.

Inertia

Inertia is a concept studied in physics. By definition, inertia is “the tendency of an object to resist being moved, or if it is moving, to resist a change in speed or direction.” —*NY Public Library’s Science Desk Reference*, Chapter 7, “Physics,” p. 272.

I want to relate the principle of inertia to our Christian experience. Inertia is the accumulated resistance to change. It is the desire to keep the status quo; and in so doing, we become suspicious of those who present ideas that may seem new to us, even though they are not new in light of the

gospel message. Many times we resist change because we have forgotten the simple old gospel message. By doing this we condemn ourselves.

One area in particular that seems to meet with a lot of inertia is in dividing our larger congregations into several smaller groups. We have been proclaiming this idea that we learned from Peru, where the work is growing so much, and yet we continue to remain in large churches. We have forgotten the counsel given to us in the Testimonies: “Brethren and sisters, why hover about the churches? Study the parable of the lost sheep, and go forth as true shepherds, seeking the lost one who is in the wilderness of sin. Rescue the perishing.” —*Review and Herald*, Dec. 12, 1893 (Christian Service, p. 178.4)

“The lay members of our churches can accomplish a work which, as yet, they have scarcely begun. None should

move into new places merely for the sake of worldly advantage; but where there is an opening to obtain a livelihood, let families that are well grounded in the truth enter, one or two families in a place, to work as missionaries. They should feel a love for souls, a burden of labor for them, and should make it a study how to bring them into the truth. They can distribute our publications, hold meetings in their homes, become acquainted with their neighbors, and invite them to come to these meetings. Thus they can let their light shine in good works.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 245.

We need to move into new areas, two families at a time, to start home churches that will eventually grow into established congregations.

Will you help to overcome spiritual inertia in your local church? Will you seek to uplift the standard of righteousness, of holiness, of faithfulness in our diet, of faithfulness in our dress, of faithfulness in dollar management (tithes and offerings), of faithfulness in our day observance by keeping holy God’s Sabbath?

God has called us at this time to do the work of Nehemiah, to bring a thorough reformation in the church—starting with ourselves and extending it outward.

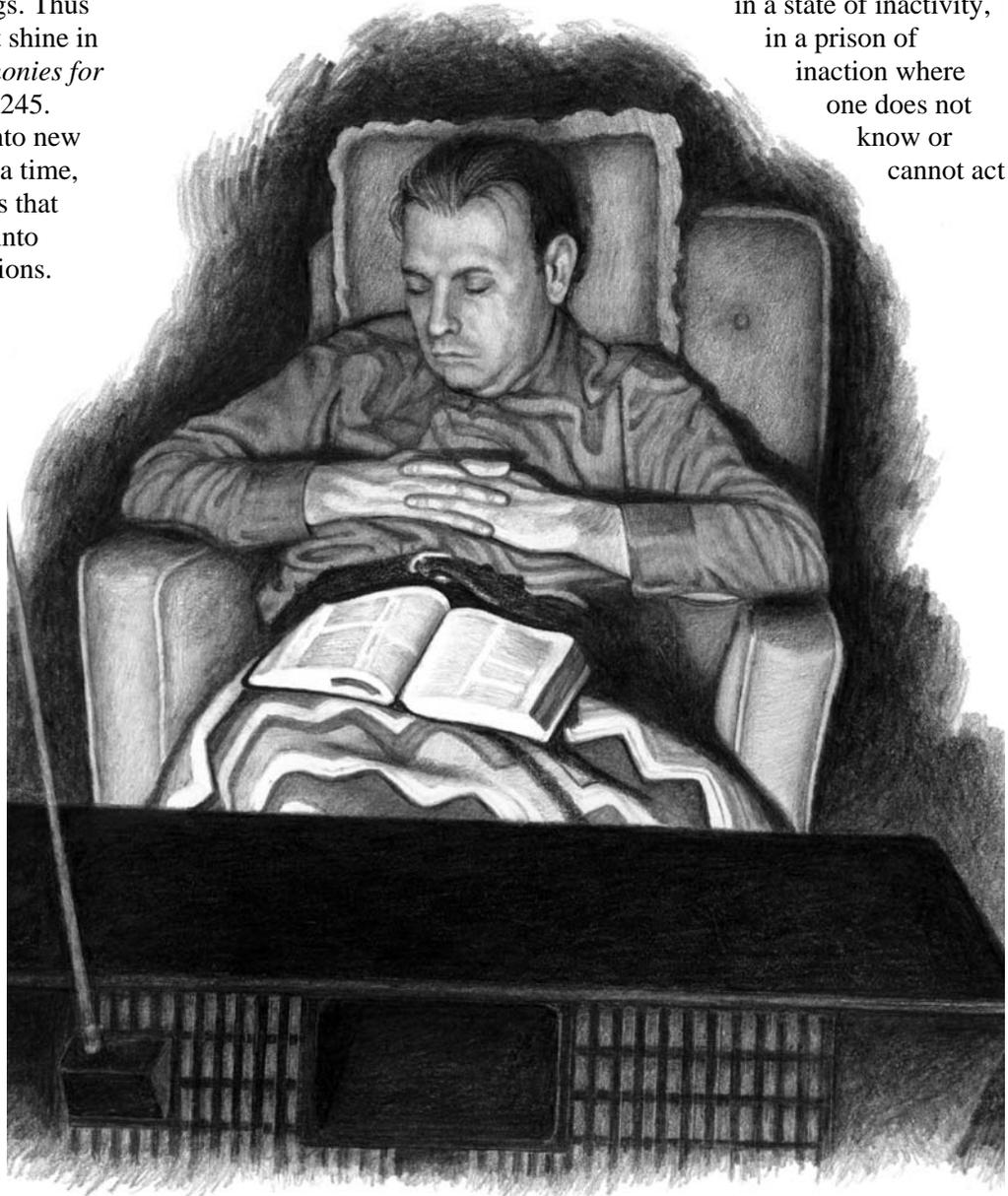
May God grant us the willingness to study to do the will of God, no matter who presents it or in what manner. If it is truth, then we are obligated to accept it, to believe it, and to follow it, according to the grace that God bestows upon us.

We need to overcome spiritual inertia. We need to be placed in motion by the Spirit of God to share this gospel with the entire world, starting with ourselves, then extending to our families, our local churches, and the world beyond.

Limbo

The other obstacle to raising the standards is the concept of limbo. “Limbo, a name applied in Roman Catholic theology to a place of detention for such souls as are incapable, through no fault of their own, of entrance into heaven.” –*The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, Vol. VI, (1950), edited by Samuel Macauley Jackson, et al, p. 490.

Limbo is, socially speaking, a concept that refers to being in a state of inactivity, in a prison of inaction where one does not know or cannot act



according to one's wishes. Many are in this valley of decision, eternally waiting for certain things to happen. Some wait because they are sick and lying in bed. They desire to be made whole so they can do the work of God and become more consecrated Christians. Others wait to do God's will because they are incarcerated. They pray, "Lord get me out, and I will carry out the mission you want me to do." Others simply wait for their retirement. They promise, "Oh, when I retire, then I will have free time to work for Jesus, to do His will and to share the gospel freely!" Still others wait to do God's will because they are busy taking classes. They convince themselves that only upon graduation can they do gospel work. Even in the ministry there is limbo. Ministers may wait for new elections at the General Conference or the American Union delegates' meetings to see who gets what position.

But the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Whatever comes to your mind to do for God, do it with all your might. Don't do it to please men, but as servants of Christ Jesus, do the will of God from the heart as to the Lord, and not to men. (See

Ephesians 6:6, 7 and Colossians 3:22.)

There is a work for us to do now! As the song says, "Work for the night is coming." We do not know when the night will come. There are some proclaiming that the Sunday



law may come next year. Others say that Jesus is going to come in the year 2031, exactly 2000 years after Jesus died on the cross. But all these theories contradict what the Spirit of Prophecy says. In *Early Writings*, p. 75, Sister White clearly wrote that "time has not been a test since 1844 and it will never again be a test." She also warned that,

"anyone who shall start up to proclaim a message to announce the hour, day, or year of Christ's appearing has taken up a yoke and is proclaiming a message that the Lord has never given him." – *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 61.

I'll quote Jesus. He said, "Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matthew 24:42. When He is least expected, He will appear. He will come as a thief in the night, especially for those who are not prepared to meet their Lord. There is a danger in setting a date for Christ's second coming; namely, you do not know your date with death. Your life may end before He returns. We need to be ready now! Watch!

Do not look to a future date to work but work now and pray to God to help you overcome

inertia, to leave your state of spiritual limbo, and to follow His revealed will. Pray to God to give you a new heart, a new spirit, and a new mind. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and

cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

Oh, may His Holy Spirit instill in you the desire to be a witness to the world in your words, in your actions, in your obedience, and in your faith. May He help you not to tear down the standards of righteousness by seeing how closely we can walk with the world and yet attain salvation. Those who maintain this position, this liberal worldly lifestyle, will be lost, miserably lost.

Our only confidence is in holding on to Jesus—staying close to Him, confessing our sins, believing in His words, searching the Scriptures to see where we may grow in righteousness, how we may attain to holiness, and to live that life that is hid in Christ. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20. Hence, with “the joy that” is “set before

us” (Hebrews 12:2), I can go through not just the baptism of water, not just the baptism of the Spirit, but even the baptism of fire.

Oh, may the Lord help us all to know the laws of the gospel and live a life of practical godliness—having not just a theory but a true faith which works by love.

May the peace of Jesus be on the entire little flock of this American Union is my desire in Christ.

Amen.



Important AU Conference Updates

Due to a change in management at Camp O-AT-KA, there have been some changes in pricing for the upcoming AU Conference. (Please see the updated registration forms on page 9 of this *Newsletter*.) The daily rate is determined by age and by how many nights you will be staying on the conference grounds. Meals are included in the rate. Rooms will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis only, and linens are available for an extra \$16.00 fee. Please read the following carefully:



Choice #	Lodging Facility	Number of Beds per Room or per Cabin	Bathing Facilities	Adult Rate per Night (ages 8+)	Child's Rate* per Night (ages 4-7)	Spaces Available
1	Cabin	6-8 (bunk beds)	Outside bath	\$36.00	\$23.00	100
2	Private Rooms (women only)	1-3	In-house bath	\$47.00	\$34.00	6 beds
3	Cabin	2-3	In-house bath	\$55.00	\$42.00	23 beds

* Children under age 4 are free.

State of the Union

Pastor Idel Suárez, Jr., Ph.D., AU President

▪ **Review & Herald and Signs of the Times Articles**

For the past few months, the Upper Room of the American Union has been busy compiling all of the articles that were published during Sister Ellen G. White's time in the *Review & Herald*, *the Signs of the Times*, *the Youth's Instructor*, and many other periodicals.

We have been able to compile not just the writings of Ellen G. White but the complete issues of every single volume of the *Review & Herald*, *the Signs of the Times*, and *the Youth's Instructor*, from the period of their inception up to and even beyond 1950. This will soon be available to all our workers and ministers so they can research and read from the writings of our pioneers and be encouraged to lift the standard of righteousness. These writings will also show where the Reform Movement is in pushing the car of reformation forward.

▪ **Pastor Joel Barnedo**

We praise the Lord that Pastor Joel Barnedo is rapidly recovering from his surgery. The Lord has blessed our dear minister with new souls. He is scheduled to be in Mexico for the General Conference as a Committee delegate. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless him and that he may be present to give his report and share his testimony for the glory of God.

▪ **Immigration Papers**

We are in the process of bring several new workers into the American Union. First and foremost is Pastor Neptali Acevedo, who was already granted an R-1, Religious Visa, to work in the states of New York, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. He has been assigned as pastor to the Bronx Church and will be incorporated into the pastoral staff of the American Union immediately following the General Conference.

He is a past President of the Venezuelan Union, is proficient in English and Spanish; and is capable of preaching in both languages. The church in New York has already recommended that he be accepted as a



full-time, permanent employee of the American Union. I hope that together we may warmly welcome Pastor Neptali Acevedo as he and his wife reside at our Middletown Church in the Bronx. May the Lord bless him with many new souls.

Papers have also been completed for Pastor Humberto Ajucum, who is the present leader of the work in Puerto Rico. As was reported in the March 2007 edition of the AUNL, Puerto Rico was joined with the American Union last August 2006, and we accepted that field as is. In December 2006, we proceeded to file papers for Pastor Humberto Ajucum. We have recently responded to the Department of Homeland Security with a document of 34 pages, including

66 documents showing that this Reform Movement is a bona fide, nonprofit, religious organization, as well as a national organization with churches and groups now numbering 25 in the United States.

Last, but not least, is our dear Brother Gabriel Porras. He is also fluent in English, Spanish, and Dutch and presently resides in Colombia. He has been requested to immigrate to the United States to possibly take on the work of the Religious Publishing Association. He is a second generation member of the Reform Movement. His mother served as the publishing leader in Colombia, one of the biggest publishing houses in South America. Gabriel has been serving in foreign missions both in Eastern Europe and in Guayana. We are

at this time submitting papers to the US Embassy in Colombia requesting that he also be granted an R-1, Religious Work Visa. If this is approved, he will be able to help us develop new literature here in the United States, both in English and in Spanish, to help spread the gospel news of this present truth.

▪ **American Union Conference in Maine**

Plans are under way for the American Union Conference, our national meeting, which will convene near Portland, Maine, this August 2007. The Conference will be held at a Camp O-AT-KA. It is a rugged area. Attendees are encouraged to bring your own necessities, including sleeping bags, sheets, pillows, and toiletries. We also encourage you to bring a flashlight, your Bible, hymnal, Sabbath School Lessons, and a spirit of gratitude, worship, and prayer in order to praise the Lord. The rented campground provides only very crude and basic facilities. Attending this conference will be an experience that may make us feel a little as if we were living in the days of Israel during the feast of tabernacles—sleeping in tents, little cabins, and bunk beds, and sharing God’s message of love through our testimonies, songs, and prayers. The surrounding area is absolutely beautiful, but the facilities are quite crude.



A message to the delegates: We recommend that you book your tickets so that you arrive on time and that you study the proposals, which will soon be sent out.

A message to the workers and employees of the American Union: Please remember that there will be have a workers’ seminar during the Conference. You are encouraged to attend. A travel stipend will be offered to ministers’ wives and workers’ wives who also attend.

My wife, Linda, my girls, and I, look forward to traveling along the picturesque East coast as we go up to the Conference in Maine, where we will present reports of what has occurred and how the Lord has blessed during these past two years.

▪ **Birmingham, Alabama**

There is new interest in Birmingham, Alabama. Pastors *Ciro Arevalo* and *Uldarico Alejos* have made contact with interested souls there. Let us pray that soon there will be a need for baptismal robes to be shipped to Birmingham.

▪ **Canadian Conference**

The Canadian Field warmly invites the members of the American Union to attend the Canadian Field Conference, which will be held the week before the American Union Conference in Maine. Their meetings will be held from Friday, August 17, through Sunday, August 21, 2007, at the Bloor Street Church in Toronto. Those who are interested in attending are encouraged to call the following numbers: 905-876-2518 or 416-453-8916, so that arrangements can be made for your lodging, meals, and transportation. All workers of the American Union are encouraged to attend at their own cost but may report that time as work time. The Lord willing, my family and I will attend, since it has been a number of years since we last visited Canada. We pray that it will be a blessing and may serve to encourage the bond of Christian love between the Canadian Field and the American Union—a bond which dates back to the founding of this Reform Movement in the North American continent in 1918 and 1919.

▪ **Special Prayer Request for a Headquarters**

Since the middle of last year, the Upper Room has been actively searching for a place to set up the American Union headquarters and a conference center. We traveled to Virginia in the months of October and December 2006 and placed a bid on a beautiful campus, but it was not in the Lord’s will that we purchase it. We have

also looked at properties in Florida, Georgia, and Maryland. We are presently making inquiries in Alabama and South Carolina and will also look at some potential property in Maryland.

Ideally, the location we are looking for should have several buildings. The main building should have more than 3000 square feet plus a good amount of land—10 acres or more. It must be within a one hour driving distance from an international airport, which major airlines use frequently.

We are not planning to build a huge “Battle Creek-type” center, but we need a place where a sufficient number of workers can come together to counsel and pray for the uplifting of the gospel message for this time. This should be a permanent home, where pastors and Bible workers can be flown in and lay members



can come for seminars, weekend conferences, and family seminars, and where meals, lodging, and an educational facility can be established. Hopefully, a primary school will also be opened there. A health clinic may start there as well, in due time.

In *Our High Calling*, Sister White tells us: “The cause of God needs men and women who will stand on the platform of truth without wavering, and who will hold the banner of truth firmly aloft, so that no man can fail to see on which side they are standing. Their position is to be clearly defined. Their hearts are to be pure and holy, free from pretense or deception.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 32. We cannot lower the platform of truth. We must be better organized than in Ellen G. White’s day.

In unity there is power. There is not just power, but synergy. It has been more than twenty-five years since the American Union had the President, Secretary, and Treasurer working in the same office building. During the last two years, we have taken a small step toward this goal by renting an office to meet our current needs. We have obtained two toll-free phone numbers. We have also hired permanent staff that will not change with the election of new AU officers. We are living at the end of time, and it is crucial that we become better organized and more strongly united. We must improve our literature. We must reach out to new areas where the Adventist message has never been heard. This is our calling. This is our mission.

I ask you to join me in praying that by the time of the upcoming AU delegates’ meetings we will already have located a place where God desires a tabernacle to be established and where the future President, Secretary, and Treasurer would be willing to move.

We need your help. We need your prayers. We need your financial support. We need you to fast and pray with us that the Lord will bless the American Union with a national headquarters and conference center.

May the Lord bless the American Union!

CALENDAR

• **July 15–22, 2007: International Youth Conference, Mexico**

• **July 22–29, 2007: Youth Cultural Tour around Mexico**

• **August 17–23, 2007: American Union Youth Outing on Mount Desert Island, Maine**

See details on page 7 and registration form on page 8 of this *Newsletter*.



• **August 17–21, 2007: Canadian Field Conference, Toronto, Ontario**

If you wish to attend, please call: **905-876-2518** or **416-453-8916** for information regarding meals, transportation, and lodging.

• **August 21–23, 2007: American Union Delegates’ Meetings, Sebago, Maine**

• **August 23–25, 2007: American Union Conference, Sebago, Maine**

• **August 26, 2007: Tour of historical Adventist sites in Portland, Maine**

Maine AU Youth Outing Update

All youth from the ages of 16 to 35 are invited to attend the AU Youth Retreat at the Bar Harbor Youth Hostel on Mount Desert Island near Acadia National Park in Maine. (Young people under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The Hostel does not allow residents under the age of 12.) This will take place August 19–23, just prior to the AU Conference.

Our theme is “What Does It Mean to be Like Christ?” We will study this topic during our morning and evening workshops, while the middle of each day will be filled with a variety of recreational activities.

The cost for the entire Youth Retreat is **\$145.00** per person. This price covers the cost of food and lodging but does not include the activities listed below.



Date	Activity	Estimated Cost
Sunday, August 19:	Fly into Portland International Jetport, Maine. A shuttle will be leaving the airport at 3:00 pm. There will be no other shuttle service from the airport to the Youth Retreat. Those who arrive after 3:00 pm on Sunday will need to provide for their own transportation.	No cost for shuttle
Monday, August 20:	Spend the day on the Atlantic Ocean. Activities may include kayaking, swimming, or a hike out to Bar Island at low tide.	\$50.00 – Ocean kayaking (must be 18 years or older) \$40.00 – Harbor kayaking
Tuesday, August 21:	Take a rock climbing course at Acadia National Park. You can also spend time hiking or swimming. There’s a lot to explore on Mount Desert Island!	\$40.00 – 4 hours rock climbing (Includes instruction) Hiking/swimming is free
Wednesday, August 22:	This is our catch-all day. Bicycle along one of the old carriage roads on Mount Desert Island, tour a historic light house, or do a little shopping. Take in the beautiful scenery and history of this very special place.	\$18.00 -- Bike rental
Thursday, August 23:	It’s time to pack up, say good-bye to Mount Desert Island, and head to the AU Conference!	No cost for shuttle.

If you will not be staying for the entire Youth Retreat but would like to join us for just a day or two, the price per day is **\$40.00** plus the price of the activity in which you choose to participate. If you plan to attend, prompt reservations are requested. Please fill out the Reservation Form on page 7 and mail it in with your payment as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact:

Brother Christian Nelson, AU Youth Leader
(916) 212-6468 or imapilgrim1@juno.com



The *American Union Newsletter* is the official organ of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union. It is published monthly, is complimentary for our members and friends, and carries items of interest submitted by church members. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary and to refuse to print certain items. **The deadline for article submission is the 10th of each month.**

To submit news, write to *American Union Newsletter*, Margie Seely, Editor, 318 Quailhollow Dr., Ione, CA 95640-5217.

Phone/FAX: (209) 274-6240, E-mail: nutstwigs03@yahoo.com.

AU Youth Retreat Reservation Form

Please mail this form, with payment, to:
 Christian Nelson
 12434 Pear Lane, Wilton, CA 95693

Personal Information:

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Street Address					
City		State	Zip	Phone Number	
Age	Sex (Circle one) Male Female	Food allergies (if any)		Email address	

Travel Information:

Method of Travel (Circle one) Car Plane		Arrival/Departure City:			
Flight #:		Airline:		Arrival Time:	
Departure Date:		Departure Time:		How many are traveling with you?	

Emergency Contact Information (for all attendees under the age of 18)

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Phone Number			Relation to minor		
Medical Insurance Company		Group Number		Medical Identification Number	

Emergency Treatment Authorization:

If my son/daughter _____ should need medical treatment or hospitalization, I hereby authorize the AU Youth Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement to make such arrangements as he/she considers necessary, including transportation. I authorize any licensed medical physician or surgeon to treat my child. I, the undersigned, hereby agree to bear all costs incurred as a result of any medical treatment deemed necessary for my son/daughter.

 Printed name of Father/Mother/Guardian

 Signature of Father/Mother/Guardian

ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON, PLEASE!

Registration Form

American Union Conference (August 23 – 25, 2007)

Name	Mr. Mrs. Miss	Please check all boxes that apply:
Address		Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
City, State, Zip	Phone	Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/>
Age (at Conference)	Arrival Date	Time (if known)
		Adult (8+) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (4-7) <input type="checkbox"/> Infant (0-3) <input type="checkbox"/>
Manner of travel (car, plane, train, etc.)	Airline & flight # (if applicable)	Shuttle service is available from Portland only. Will you need shuttle service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I need accommodations for the following nights: <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Sabbath		Choice of Lodging Facility: <input type="checkbox"/> Choice 1 (\$36.00/night adult or \$23.00/night child) <input type="checkbox"/> Choice 2 (\$47.00/night adult or \$34.00/night child) <input type="checkbox"/> Choice 3 (\$55.00/night adult or \$42.00/night child)
Adventist Historical Tour Registration: (Please check one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I will be attending the FREE tour of historical Adventist sites in Portland, Maine.		
<input type="checkbox"/> No, thank you. I have other plans.		
Total amount enclosed:		

Mail your reservation form(s) & check or money order to the reservation coordinator:

Erica Morán, 30 Saint John St., Skowhegan, ME 04976

Email your registration form(s) to: erimurua@hotmail.com

Questions about your reservation? Phone: (207) 474-6075 or (207) 512-0724

ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON, PLEASE!

Registration Form

American Union Conference (August 23 – 25, 2007)

Name	Mr. Mrs. Miss	Please check all boxes that apply:
Address		Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
City, State, Zip	Phone	Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/>
Age (at Conference)	Arrival Date	Time (if known)
		Adult (8+) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (4-7) <input type="checkbox"/> Infant (0-3) <input type="checkbox"/>
Manner of travel (car, plane, train, etc.)	Airline & flight # (if applicable)	Shuttle service is available from Portland only. Will you need shuttle service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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