

THE ATLANTIC UNION

NOVEMBER 2013

GLEANER



The
10-Second
Miracle

inside **NOVEMBER** 2013



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Cover: The cover photo of a small lake in Connecticut in October is from iStockphoto.com.

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A Time to **Pray and Be Thankful**

As president of the United States, George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide thanksgiving celebration in America, marking November 26, 1789, “as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God.”

More than 200 years later, we still have much for which to be thankful. For example, we think of the efforts by so many to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their friends and communities in 2013. We think of New York City (NY13) and the more than 4,000 persons who have come to accept Jesus in their hearts and have been baptized into Christ during the NY13 Revelation of Hope meetings in metro New York that have been ongoing since January 1, 2013.

We also thank God for the many metro New York evangelistic meetings that were conducted after many months of various outreach activities. These activities were sponsored by prayer ministries, community services, women’s ministries, education ministries, stewardship ministries, youth ministries, and health ministries.

We thank God for the many changed lives. We thank Him for the many stories of the way He stepped into the hearts of men and women, boys and girls through this citywide initiative, and led them to commit themselves to follow after Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

This apostate world is not only full of lost people who desperately need Jesus, but those who, under the influence of

the arch-enemy the devil, will bend and twist the biblical truth of God until it denies Him of His creative power, His redemptive power, and His soon-coming kingdom power. We must urgently pray for the lost, even as we are thankful for the opportunity to rescue the perishing and care for the dying!

In times like these, it is well for us to stop and reflect and think about what is really important to us in life. It is imperative to consider just how precious and fragile life is, and to use wisely the time we are given with the special people in our lives. Many of us have lost dear friends and loved ones this year, and our country as a whole has suffered great losses too. Albeit, we need to express gratitude for the time they lived and the precious memories they left.

The gifts of family and friends are treasured riches in our lives. Those precious moments we hold close to our hearts and memories and special times that can never be replaced, neither by time nor all the wealth in the world.

During this very special season in America (the most highly honored of all), please remember our Adventist missionaries serving globally as well as our men and women in uniform serving our country in foreign lands, away from family and friends.

Thanksgiving is a time to pause for prayer and give thanks to God as we anticipate the journey for the future. ①

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



“We must urgently pray for the lost, even as we are thankful for the opportunity to rescue the perishing and care for the dying!”



The 10-Second Miracle

God knew I
was right on
the precipice,
and it had
taken 10
seconds for
Him to answer.

When I was about 30 years old, sometime back in the 1970s, I was trying to run a small sign business in Hallowell, Maine. For three months I had not had a single commission and was growing steadily more frustrated as the bills piled up. During that time I

was able to live at my mother's house. God bless her.

One day, I found I needed exactly \$350.00 to pay off my most pressing bills, but had not been able to drum up any more work. I started to pray to God for work, and for that amount to come in. I told God I was not asking for a freebie, but was willing to work for it.

At this time, I was brimming over with frustration and doubt that my prayers were doing any good at all. While I prayed, I remember angrily saying out loud to God something like: "I don't know if prayers to You actually do any good, if they are listened to, or if they are some kind of psychological 'feel good' thing that manipulates us into feeling that a remote God cares." I've always trusted that God wants us to be absolutely honest with Him about how we feel. "Do you really answer prayer . . . or don't you?" I said.

I was right on the edge of deciding whether or not my faith was . . . "a whole pack of nonsense."

Count the seconds after the prayer. Zero-one, zero-two, zero-three, zero-four, zero-five, zero-six, zero-seven, zero eight, zero-nine, zero-ten. The phone rang.

It was a sign job for exactly \$350.00. Not a penny more, and not a penny less. Exactly what I had asked for. Cosmic service in 10 seconds is pretty good. When I put the phone down, I was so struck in the heart, I started bawling with gratitude. I looked up to heaven through my tears of gratitude and surprise and said, "You just don't fool around, do You?" It was a rescue, and in more ways than one.

God knew I was right on the precipice, and it had taken 10 seconds for Him to answer. And some of that time had to be used by the client in dialing the phone.

To this day I cannot tell this story without breaking out in tears. It is that powerful to me. I will never forget it. No one can ever tell me that this was mere coincidence. Three months without a commission, and then 10 seconds after I pray, I am answered with a job in hand.

Sometimes God just does not fool around. This is one of the most amazing experiences in my life. I call this the 10-second miracle. ☺

Robert Acheson is a member of the Farmingdale church in Maine.





GOD

Whispers to Us

iStockphoto

Every one of us, at one point or another in our lives, will face some type of crisis, difficulty, or unfortunate situation. We may even question why it is happening to us, or blame God. Things may be so rough that we may reach a point where we are not able to see clearly through the pain of our circumstance. It is during these times that we need to hold on to our faith in God, rise up beyond our circumstance, and reach for the promises placed in His Word as an encouragement for us. I share 10 of those precious promises:

- | And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. (Isaiah 65:24)
- | For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
- | Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6, 7)
- | He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31)
- | And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (Matthew 21:22)
- | My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (James 1:2, 3)
- | Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (Isaiah 41:10)
- | Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12)
- | Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- | Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

During those times when you are challenged the most, push the “pause” button, and take time to listen to God as He whispers to you. Remember, “he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13). ☺

Ednor A. P. Davison is the GLEANER editor.





By Trudy Wright

Leaving a Legacy Through Adventist Education

I had the honor of being the executrix of an estate for one of my mother's many first cousins. I was also in charge of her health care. I say it was an honor because she was like a sister to my mother who had only brothers, so she was like an aunt to me.

Growing up Merlene was in our home on a very regular basis, helping to raise us up "right" and taking us to Sabbath School and church before my mother became a member. I was not necessarily her favorite, but Merlene

Over the last 10 years, the Merlene O. Legare Scholarship Fund has awarded \$30,500 to help students attend Atlantic Union College and, since its closure, other Adventist colleges.

placed her trust in me because I helped her to live independently for the last three years she was in her own home.

Merlene was a Vermonter, an educator, an elder in the church, a Sabbath School teacher par excellence, a witness to friends and relatives, and a friend of young people. When it was time for us to consider what would happen to her funds, when all was said and done, I asked her what she wanted.

She decided that she wanted the Northern New England Conference to set up an endowment fund for scholarships from the interest. The scholarships were to be given to students attending Atlantic Union College, based solely on need. She insisted: solely on need.

Since 2004, over the last 10 years, the Merlene O. Legare Scholarship Fund has awarded \$30,500 to help students attend Atlantic Union College and, since its closure, other

Adventist colleges. What a blessing this has been to students and to the world. Praise God it will, by the grace of God, be given to Atlantic Union College students once again.

I want to share with you a few quotes from this year's worthy student recipients taken from their essays:

- "Adventist education is helping prepare me for life by keeping me grounded, and helping me strengthen my faith in God."

- "I would love to continue my path toward my goal of becoming a nurse and using my gifts to glorify Christ."
- "Life is all about service, and I want to learn how to serve individual needs. I want to bring others to the truth."
- "There is a hungering and a thirsting for Christ in the world, and we, as young people, need to be equipped to fulfill it."
- "I believe I will do well in this world with this degree, helping people come closer to Christ as I am spreading His love across the world."
- "The many good friends I have made at Adventist institutions inspire me to serve others."

I believe Merlene will have fun in eternity as she witnesses the legacy she left. What will your legacy be? ☺



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

Hamilton Church Members Encouraged to “Use It Before They Lose It”

The Hamilton church in Bermuda held its biannual Ministry Fair on Sabbath, September 7. Preceding the fair Kenneth Manders, the church’s pastor, presented the worship service sermon entitled “Use It, Before You Lose It,” based on the parable in Matthew 25:14-30. The Ministry Fair is held in the Hamilton church’s Youth Centre every other year after the worship service in conjunction with the nomination of officers.

The Ministry Fair is a highly effective tool that assists members in determining how to utilize their gifts in service to others and how to be good stewards of their lives. This event has proven to be beneficial in encouraging new members to seek more active involvement in the church community. Likewise, the seasoned members are given an opportunity to broaden the scope of their talents in other ministries, without feeling pressured to do so.



Church members visiting the ministry booths representing various departments in the Hamilton church.

Simply stated, the purpose of the Ministry Fair is to:

- Invite church members to volunteer their time and talents.
- Present the ministries, programs, and services of the church to the members of the congregation.
- Assist members in understanding the impact that their talents, and gifts of time and treasure have on the lives of others in the church community.
- Be a visible demonstration of the church stewardship process.
- Promote a better understanding of stewardship as a way of life.

The Hamilton church’s Youth Centre was overflowing with informational booths, giveaways, and abundant fellowship. There were more than 20 booths representing in-house and outreach ministries. Members were able to visit each display at their leisure and sign up for ministries that captivated their interest.

Each booth was staffed with knowledgeable team members who were ready to answer any questions that prospective new team members might have. On display were posters, pamphlets, hand-outs,

brochures and information sheets, PowerPoint presentations, and photos that gave specific information about the different groups, committees, and ministries. Church members and visitors were able to exchange new ideas and fresh perspectives while department leaders and team members shared what their department represents.

The atmosphere was filled with a sense of fellowship. It was definitely a fun way of letting everyone know about the outreach activities of the church. The church’s passion for and knowledge of the Father was celebrated by all, from youngsters to adults! The Ministry Fair undoubtedly underscored the church’s tagline, “Where Worship is a Joy!”

—Communication department,
Hamilton church



The Hamilton church’s Health Ministries department booth was one of more than 20 booths representing the in-house and outreach ministries of the church.



AUC Holds Strategic Planning Session and Constituency Meeting

Members of the Atlantic Union College (AUC) Strategic Planning Committee, conference presidents and their representatives, officers of the Atlantic Union Conference, as well as key individuals from the North American Division met together in a two-day strategic planning retreat (September 27, 28) in Devens, Massachusetts, to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate the direction of the “new” Atlantic Union College going forward.

The sessions, facilitated by Frederick Russell, strategic consultant, and Gina Brown, AUC academic consultant, were used to look for the next steps in moving the college ahead. The retreat group also sought to explore measurable outcomes and planning that would be used to propel the college forward toward the next five years of restarting, along with appropriate growth and development.

Members of the committee were excited and looked at such initiatives as planning for new degree offerings, as well as the types of individuals who are needed at the college to carry the

al to every new plan for the college’s vision and mission.

The session ended on Sunday, September 29, on the campus of the college, with a full-day constituency meeting of Atlantic Union College delegates from all parts of the Atlantic Union territory. At the meeting, a new vision for the college was cast by the officers of both the union and the college. Based on the newly-granted authority to offer baccalaureate degrees in theology and health science by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (MDHE), the constituency delegates voted to amend the bylaws in congruence with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education requirements.

—Donald G. King, chair, Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees



Editor A. P. Davison

Gina Brown, Atlantic Union College academic consultant, and Duane Cady, Atlantic Union College interim president, answer questions posed by delegates at the college’s constituency session.

mission and vision forward. The focal point of the session was to ensure that Seventh-day Adventist education is preserved and that the second coming of Jesus as well as all biblical aspects of Adventist education are foundation-

Ministerial Directors Meet With Female Pastors

The female pastors serving in various conferences in the Atlantic Union were invited to attend the Atlantic Union Ministerial Advisory held on September 12. One of the main items of discussion centered around the need for educating the members in the Atlantic Union about the role, function, and service contributions of female pastors currently in pastoral assignments throughout the territory. A fruitful discussion produced many excellent ideas that will be reported on in a future edition of the GLEANER.

—Donald G. King, president, Atlantic Union Conference



The female pastors who attended the advisory are, from left, Tiffany Tan (Southern New England), Julian Jones-Campbell (Greater New York), Collette Pekar (Northern New England), Brenda Billingsy (from the Columbia Union), Derry James-Tannariello (chaplain from Northern New England), Michelle Hill (Bermuda), along with Lois King (Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries and Ministerial Spouses Association director).

Editor A. P. Davison



135 Students Participate in NY13 Writing Workshop

A total of 135 students in grades 2 through 9 from four elementary schools in the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences converged on the Whispering Pines Seventh-day Adventist School campus in Old Westbury, New York, on October 1-3 to participate in a writing workshop. This experience was one of the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education initiatives as part of the NY13 evangelistic thrust. The themes for the three days were:

- In the Beginning
- How Great Thou Art
- How Wonderfully We are Made

Dale Slongwhite, the writing coach for the event and a published writer, provided the group with several prompts to match the theme for the day. At each table were five students and one table monitor. Slongwhite challenged both the monitors and students to think about the presented prompt and then write their thoughts. It was a challenging activity, but as a student commented, “I learned how to write sentences better.” Another student wrote, “I didn’t know I could write that long and I got to learn more about Jesus.”

Workshops were held during the day for children and in the evening for adults. A non-Adventist family on their way to the nursery across the street from the school saw the banner advertising the workshop and walked in. “We chatted over soup and sandwiches, which were served before the evening workshops,” said



Students from four schools in the Greater New York (Jackson Heights, South Bay Junior Academy, and Whispering Pines) and Northeastern (Bethesda) conferences participated in the NY13 Writing Workshop, sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education.

Astrid Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference education director. “While we ate, I was able to answer their questions about Adventist beliefs and our Adventist education system.” The wife beamed at the end of each writing assignment, sharing that she was experiencing a sense of peace. She wanted that feeling to linger. The following evening she brought a friend. The hope is that the seed planted will germinate and bear fruit.

In a letter written to the staff after the workshop, Slongwhite says, “My favorite part was my relationships with the coaches as well as students. A few of the students hugged me at the end of the workshop. That I will cherish. The dialogue with the students—the funny lines, the serious lines, the fact that they felt comfortable enough to ask me questions, and come to me between sessions and share their writing. One girl begged to bring her notebook home after the first day so she could finish a story. I whispered in her ear not to let anyone know I gave her permission. I especially think of the boy bending down and writing during a stand-up song. The memory of three little girls sitting in the grass writing during recess is unforgettable.”

“I loved the table with the five boys I collected along the way who were a little rowdy at their assigned tables. In the end, each of them actually wrote a lengthy piece that was very deep. Of course, how can I forget the prompt about color? I walked around the room after talking about color. When I returned to the table, several of my boys were not writing. Instead they were discussing ‘What color do you think God is?’ and proposing some answers to that question.”

“We each left with our cherished memories, but together we were lifting the participants in prayer,” Thomassian said. “Do join us in keeping the students and adults in your prayers.” Through their writings, it is evident that the Holy Spirit is working on their hearts and minds. More than anything the hope is that all present, along with their families, will once again reunite in heaven to be a part of the greatest writing workshop ever with the greatest of all writers as the coach.

—Office of Education, Atlantic Union Conference



Youth at New Life Church Choose to Let God Use Them

The young people from the New Life church in Bronx, New York, chose to let God use them during Youth Emphasis Month. Lincoln M. Smith, the church's pastor, assigned a group of youth to serve as shadow elders who took charge and carried out the tasks and roles of the elders, with the help of the pastor and elders.

Youth were also appointed as a shadow head deacon and shadow personal ministries leader. The purpose was to give the youth the experience of those who hold positions in the church and to prepare them for their time of doing so. In addition to other duties the youth had to perform, each youth was assigned to preach during the youth emphasis month, which also included the Youth Week of Prayer.

Sermons preached by the young people dealt with topics concerning their character, and about how Christians should



Lincoln M. Smith, New Life church pastor, far right, with youth from the church.

behave and act toward others. Using the theme "iSeek, iServe, iShare," the young people shared the humble truth, which is that Christians need to have compassion. Compassion allows them to freely and willingly share the love of God with others. Then they asked the questions "Where are you?" "Are you ready to act now and seek, serve, and share with others?" "Are you still planning

to be the bench warmers of the church?" This month the youth declared that they would seek, serve, and share the good news and also let the church know that they can too!

Each sermon was a blessing from God. The shadow first elder, Lawrence Anderson, and shadow elder, Patrick Williams, blessed the congregation as they each took charge of a Sabbath as they preached.

Shadow head deacon Kanniez Harris, shadow elder Jonathan Harris, shadow personal ministries leader Thellian Myers, and Ebony Paul were the speakers for the youth Week of Prayer. Chris Jane Currie also served as the shadow head deaconess.

The youth Week of Prayer ended with a Youth Day, which was also the culmination of the Youth Emphasis Month. The guest speakers for that day were Avery Mackenzie, who shared a message about how to seek, to serve, and to share as Christians, and Maurice Ojwang, Jr., who ended with a powerful message about 50/20 vision. Both young speakers lifted Jesus up and left the congregation charged, energized, and ready to go to seek, serve, and share the good news of Jesus and His love.

—AY department, New Life church



Shadow elders Patrick Williams and Chris Jane Currie; Lincoln M. Smith, New Life church pastor; shadow first elder Lawrence Anderson; Kelsey Pringle, and Jonathan Harris.

31 Baptized on Last Day of Evangelistic Meetings at Yonkers Church

The Yonkers Spanish church held a week of evangelism as part of the NY13 initiative. The meetings were led by Luis Fernando Manrique, a pastor from Colombia. While he preached, seven members from the prayer ministry team were in the prayer room praying. Manrique was able to touch the hearts of the children, youth, adults, and the elderly, something that not everyone is able to do.

The first baptism was held on the second night of the meetings, when three people decided to give their lives to Jesus. Each night a different group of people would stand up and go forward to the pulpit with their minds set on accepting Jesus and giving their lives to Him. Every night one could see tears rolling down people's faces.

Although they encountered bad weather during the week, it didn't stop people from attending the meetings. The members brought visitors, and the next day, those same visitors brought more visitors. Manrique gave advice based on the Bible for families, husbands and wives, youth, and children.

Two baskets were available during the prayer week; one for petitions and the other for answered prayers. The answered prayers basket was full by the end of the week. Each night there were more people



Baptismal candidates prepare for baptism following evangelistic meetings at the Yonkers Spanish church.



Luis Fernando Manrique, a pastor from Colombia, preaching at the meetings at Yonkers Spanish church.

attending than the night before, ready and longing to hear what the sermon would be about. On the last day, 31 people gave their lives to Jesus, from children to adults.

—Emely Mena, communication department, Yonkers Spanish church

Victory Church Hosts Just Shine Festival Evangelistic Meetings

With the blessing of the church board, and on behalf of the members, Ernie Wright, Jr., senior pastor of the Victory church in Bronx, New York, sent an invitation to Clive Dottin, a seasoned, international pastor with a passion for the youth, to be the speaker for the planned four-week NY13 evangelistic series, titled the "Just Shine Festival," and Dottin accepted.

Night after night, Dottin delivered such messages as "Dream the Impossible Dream," "Grace Unlimited," "Pull the Trigger," and "From India with Love," with so much intensity, that members brought others to hear and thus increased the attendance for every meeting.

Dottin's ministry was a blessing to many who attended the meetings. The

messages encouraged many to participate in evangelism in the surrounding communities by distributing flyers, arranging Bible studies, and inviting everyone to attend the nightly sessions. The sessions were highlighted by the music ministry of Shirley-Ann Laurencin and Angela Sobers.

The youth and young adults of the church, under the direction of Channa Smith, an elder and AY leader, also took part by leading out in the nightly meetings in such areas as song service, special music, the praise team, prayer, and the quiz section.

Joining the members, friends, family, and people from the surrounding community were Greater New York Conference representatives G. Earl Knight, president; Steve Cassimy, ministerial director; Bancroft M.

Daughma, English Ministries director; and pastors Lincoln M. Smith, New Life church; and Desta Zabolotney, Three Angels church. Their attendance helped to underscore the concept that we are one church under God.

The church has experienced a much-needed spiritual growth among the members. Through the many testimonies, it was obvious that prayers continue to be answered. At the conclusion of each meeting, an altar call was made. Many saw the need to commit and others to recommit themselves to Christ. As a result, a baptism was held on Sabbath, August 3, when many turned their hearts over to God.

—Jo Ann Ephraim, communication secretary, Victory church



New Acquisition Expands Camp Victory Lake Campus

On June 28, 2013, the Northeastern Conference purchased a 10-acre tract of land abutting Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. The conference administrators learned of the property during a March 21 meet-and-greet with the Town of Hyde Park Planning Board, and focused on the future development of Camp Victory Lake.

The property is situated on the southwest corner of North Quaker Lane and



Northeastern Conference pastors, principals, and office staff tour the newly-purchased 10-acre tract of land abutting Camp Victory Lake.

Cardinal Road and is accessible from the northern edge of the campus. The property includes a single-

family, three-bedroom home, five acres of pasture, and four wooded acres. The conference executive committee approved the purchase at a cost of \$450,000. In order to not increase the current debt load, the conference opted for a cash sale and took the title free and clear of encumbrance. The home on the premises is currently rented to the previous owner.

The Camp Victory Lake Development Committee is currently working on a master plan for redevelopment

of the campground and will incorporate the 10-acre tract into the plan. One possible future use for this site is the creation of a wellness center.

On July 7, the conference executive committee toured the site and expressed gratitude to the Lord for making the acquisition possible. Former Northeastern Conference president George R. Earle, who was visiting the campus for camp meeting, offered a prayer of dedication.

—Daniel Honoré, president, Northeastern Conference



Photos: Jeklean Johnson

The property includes a single-family three-bedroom home, five acres of pasture, and four wooded acres.

Jerusalem Hispanic Mission Organized as 177th Church in Northeastern Conference

The Jerusalem Hispanic Mission in Lawrence, Massachusetts, was organized with 55 members present on Sabbath, July 1, by the three conference administrators and the Hispanic Ministries coordinator, as the 177th church in the Northeastern Conference (NEC) sisterhood of churches. This is the second Hispanic NEC congregation in the City of Lawrence. The Lawrence Hispanic church, under the leadership of Domingo Francisco, the church's pastor, planted the mission three years ago.

Lawrence is an industrial mill town in the Merrimack Valley. Seventy percent of its population of 80,000 is Latino. Jerusalem

becomes the fifth area NEC Hispanic church in a 25-mile radius. The others include Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Because of continued growth, the administration saw fit to divide this district into two. Pablo Huerfano, was recently installed as pastor for the Lawrence and Methuen churches. Ruben Maldonado has been retained as pastor, on a stipend, to provide leadership for the newly-



The Jerusalem Hispanic Mission in Lawrence, Massachusetts, is the 177th church in the Northeastern Conference to be organized.

organized Jerusalem church, as well as the Haverhill and Manchester churches.

—Daniel Honoré, president, Northeastern Conference

Shiloh Church Connects With Springfield Community

The Shiloh church in Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted its first annual Community Fun Day, on the front lawn of the church on Sunday, August 25. The purpose of the event was to reach out to the residents of Springfield and to network with the various organizations that provide services in the city.

Representatives from the Springfield Fire Department, Department of Health and Human Services, Energizing 'N Touch Massage Solutions, and the Center for Human Development attended the event, giving vital information on fire and safety, health, and relaxation.

Shiloh's Health Ministries department provided free health screening. The Personal Ministries department and Adventist Community Services distributed spiritual information to those who attended.

There was music, free food, a bounce house, dis-

count massage sessions, games, face painting, distribution of back-to-school supplies, and other giveaways. There was also a Tae Bo demonstration on the steps of the church.

One of the highlights of the day was when the mayor of Springfield, Domenic J. Sarno, played



People from the community in line to get food at Shiloh church's Community Fun Day.



Walton H. Rose, Shiloh church's pastor, and Springfield's mayor, Domenic J. Sarno, participated in the Community Fun Day activities.

the balloon race game with the children. Of course, the children won. Mayor Sarno thanked Walton H.

Rose, Springfield church's pastor, for providing this day for the citizens of Springfield and for the

continued services that Shiloh church offers.

Rose was interviewed by the local television station, and was highlighted on the evening news. Shiloh has plans to make this an annual event so the church's neighbors can become more aware that the church is there to meet their needs.

—Janet Russell, communication assistant, Shiloh church

Solid Rock Church Renovated

Nine months after Hurricane Sandy gutted their church, members of the Solid Rock church, in Far Rockaway, Queens, are rejoicing to be back in their restored building. James Lamar, the church's pastor, has led the church through a month-long homecoming celebration, which culminated on August 31 with a visit from Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, and his wife, Fritze.

Five-foot waves came crashing through the church during the storm, com-

pletely gutting the church as displaced pews and musical instruments floated through the sanctuary. Members were saddened as they witnessed the destruction. They found shelter by renting a nearby Pentecostal church. Last December the church received a visit from Daniel Jackson, North American Division president, and his fellow administrators, who encouraged the congregation to endure in their hour of crisis.

Church members combined insurance proceeds with significant volunteer labor to create



The Solid Rock church held a month-long homecoming celebration following the restoration of their building that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

a stunningly beautiful sanctuary. During his visit Honoré announced a gift of \$10,000 from the conference to help put

some finishing touches on the building.

—Northeastern Conference communication



Newly-elected President Says There is a Strong Sense of Expectation in Northern New England

On Sunday, September 22, 2013, the Northern New England Conference Executive Committee voted to ask Bob Cundiff, who was serving as acting president and executive secretary, to serve as president of the Northern New England Conference with headquarters in Westbrook, Maine.

The appointment comes after a wide-ranging search process, which began in June of this year following the retirement of Mike Ortel. The final decision was made after an extensive interview of Cundiff and his wife, Tanique. The interview with the executive committee of the Northern New England Conference was the culmination of months of work



Peter Urbanski

Bob Cundiff, newly-elected Northern New England Conference president, and his wife, Tanique.

on the part of the search and executive committees.

Cundiff says, "My experience during the interview demonstrates that our executive committee is ready to move forward in

growth, unity, and leading our conference to understand the next phase of God's will for us. Enthusiasm is high and there is a strong sense of expectation for what God is doing in Northern New England."

Cundiff will oversee the work of the Seventh-day Adventist

Church in the states of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont, with its more than 5,200 members, 59 churches, seven companies, 14 schools, two academies, one hospital, and many

community service centers.

In a statement released after the meeting, Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, said, "We continue to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit's power in the hearts and lives of the members of the Northern New England Conference and for the soon and glorious return of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Cundiff has been married to the bride of his youth, Tanique, for 22 years. They have three children. Rachel (17) is a senior at Pine Tree Academy, Lauren (19) is a student missionary at an orphanage in El Salvador, and Joshua (21) attends school in North Carolina.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, *GLEANER* editor

Three Baptized at Bordoville Church

On August 14, a group of about 35 people gathered from Newport, St. Johnsbury, Morrisville, Barre, Williston, and the surrounding community to witness the baptism of Dominic Stanford, Dean Perry, and Don Dondero.

Cornell Preda, the church's pastor, had the privilege of studying with Stanford and Perry for many months. Several people have been praying for these individuals. Both men have been very active and supportive since the Bordoville church has been open for a weekly afternoon service. Friends and family were thrilled that Dondero also made his decision to be rebaptized after many years.

A special service was held at the historic Bordoville church after the baptism that included singing and testimonies, followed by a fellowship supper in honor of the candi-



On the front row, wearing baptismal robes, are, from left, Cornell Preda, Bordoville church's pastor, with baptismal candidates Dominic Stanford, Don Dondero, Dean Perry, joined by church members, family members, and people from the community who witnessed the baptism.

dates. God is continuing to work in the lives of people in this area.

These were the first baptisms since the 2012 reopening of the

church. There hadn't been any baptisms in Bordoville for decades.

—Katherine Johnson, communication staff, Newport church

Mike and Lynn Ortel Retire

Mike Ortel, a 47 year veteran of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, passed on the mantle of service as president of the Northern New England Conference when he retired in July. His wife, Lynn, announced her retirement in March.

The Ortels served the Northern New England Conference for more than 11 years, Mike as president, ministerial and health ministries director, and board chair for Parkview Adventist Medical Center (PAMC), and Lynn as director for communication, women's ministries, family ministries, and the Ministerial Spouses Association.

Bob Rice, pastor of the churches in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, district and Mike's college roommate and friend, was the master of ceremonies at a dinner and farewell program held in their honor on August 25. Staff, members, and friends spoke of the Ortel's ministry in the Northern New England Conference. One statement repeated many times was, "Mike is the real deal." Another statement that resonated with many people was, "It is a

blessing to know the passion they have in life and the way they bless people."

Among those present at the event and sharing their thoughts on working with the Ortels were former conference treasurers John DePalma and Bob Sundin. Others who shared memories included Alice Jacobson, Southern New England Conference Women's Ministries director, who said, "Mike walks with the Lord every day and sees no stranger."

Alice Cunningham, retired OB/GYN physician at PAMC, said she has "never seen anyone [like Mike] who never forgets a name."

Bob Dunn, Mike's brother-in-law, added that "Mike is not daunted by any hardships. One of the greatest shepherds in our denomination is Mike Ortel."

Dale Jacobson, long-time friend, said, "What you see is what you get."



Lynn and Mike Ortel.

Presentations were made by Randee Reynolds, president of PAMC and former treasurer of the conference; Leon Thomassian, treasurer of the Atlantic Union Conference, who attended with his wife, Astrid, education director for the Atlantic Union Conference; and Bob Cundiff, then Northern New England Conference executive secretary.

During his years working for the church, Ortel earned a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University and a Master of Public Health degree from Loma Linda University. He served as pastor for 16 years, including ministering as health evangelist in the New Jersey Conference, youth and church ministries director for the Kansas-Nebraska and New York conferences; as adult ministries director

for the Carolina Conference; and as police chaplain in Falmouth, Maine.

Mike and Lynn, who say they appreciate the privilege and opportunity to have served in NNEC, share these thoughts as they retire, "We pray God's richest blessings upon this great conference where Adventism has its roots. May its beginnings lead each one to the throne of grace, gaining strength for the day and hope for tomorrow. May we celebrate on that great day when Jesus comes. What a day that will be." The Ortels leave many memories for those they touched while serving in the Northern New England Conference, many of whom consider them to be "precious, precious people; one in a million."

—Ednor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor



Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, presents Mike Ortel with a plaque.



Members, workers, and friends at the retirement event for Mike and Lynn Ortel (center).



Randee Reynolds, Parkview Adventist Medical Center president, presents Mike Ortel with a plaque.

Union Springs Academy Students Learn in Nature

The beauty of the Fingerlakes Region of New York State in late summer was the setting for the students' arrival at the Union Springs Academy (USA) campus, and 78 students had many opportunities to form bonds of friendship with their classmates and to worship God as the Creator in the first month of the 2013-14 school year. From Friday evening vespers at the campus fire bowl to a weekend Senior Survival trip to harvesting apples from the academy orchard, students and faculty alike enjoyed fresh air, exercise, and fellowship while seeking spiritual insights through God's second book, nature.



Members of the student vocal group "One Voice, One Reason" sing at the Fingerlakes District church retreat. From left are Casey Woodall, Catherine Morris, Lexy DeCoteau, RhaeAnne Andrews, Moses Ntekereze, and Erick Ntekereze.

On Sabbath, August 31, the entire student body joined local church members at the annual six-church district retreat at Onanda Park, located on the shores

of Canandaigua Lake. This was an opportunity for the members of the Auburn, Cornerstone, Cortland, Geneva, Ithaca, and Union Springs Adventist churches to meet and interact with the USA students while everyone enjoyed Sabbath School and the church service in the park's main lodge.

Guest speaker Eric Flickinger, NETS director, presented the sermon, an afternoon testimony, and an evening worship service to close the Sabbath. Glenn Burks gave a powerful musical concert and also shared

his personal testimony. Students spent the afternoon visiting in the sunshine and fresh air, received gift bags put together by Netta Blakes, one of the retreat's organizers, and closed their day at the retreat by viewing the Ring of Fire, a traditional event in which flares and bonfires are lit simultaneously around the shoreline of the entire lake.

The second weekend of the school year found the students and faculty once again on their way to the wilderness. Camp Badger, a Lion's Club youth camp south of Ithaca, New York, was this year's location for a three-day academy retreat, during which students and staff bonded through recreation and worship. The USA student association officers announced the spiritual theme for the year, "Not my will, but His," and a beautiful outdoor candlelight consecration service on the camp's waterfront provided a special opportunity for participants to dedicate themselves to God.

—Andrea Starr-Tagalog, development and alumni relations coordinator, Union Springs Academy



The Union Springs Academy students participate in group games at Camp Badger.

Baby Dedicated at Rochester Bay Knoll Church

The Rochester Bay Knoll church family was blessed with the arrival of Thalon LeRon Ainsworth Sewell on August 11. He was born to Leroy Sewell, the church's pastor, and his wife, Thalia, the upper grades teacher at the Bay Knoll church school. A service dedicating little Thalon to God, and committing his parents to raising him to love and serve Jesus, was held on September 14. The service was officiated by the New York Conference treasurer, Elias Zabala.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference



Leroy Sewell, pastor of the Bay Knoll church, with his wife, Thalia, and their newborn son, Thalon.

72 People Participate in the Danbury-Bethel Church's Let's Move Day Program

The Danbury-Bethel church in Bethel, Connecticut, said yes to healthy kids and families on September 22 when they held their first annual Let's Move Day event at a local community park in Bethel. Securing a suitable location where they could draw the attention of the community was challenging.

After much prayer and persistence, the Health Ministries director, Dwayne Nosworthy, was successful in securing Meckauer Park. This location has a scenic 1.6 mile walking path, where they were able to hold a 5K run/walk, open fields where exercise stations were set up, and a gazebo where participants could take a respite and have a healthy snack, and get health screenings, and information.

God provided a perfect day with beautiful sunshine and ideal temperature for



Danbury-Bethel church members participate in their first annual Let's Move Day at a local community park.

the activities. The church received sponsorship from local businesses that provided fruits, number bibs, goodie bags, and giveaway items. Throughout the day, a total of 72 participants registered, include 42 from the community and 30 from the church. In all, the group contributed 195 run/walk miles and six

activity station miles, all of which will count toward the national two million mile goal for the Adventist InStep for Life program.

This is just the beginning. The focus is to use this program to get members and people from the community to be more engaged in healthy living and, at the same time,

through this initiative, minister to people physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. The members can't wait for 2014's Let's Move event, another opportunity to reach out and make a difference!

—Jacqueline M. Lynton,
communication director, Danbury-Bethel church

Gardner Church Prepares to Open “The People’s Place”

In August, the Gardner church seized an opportunity to reach out to the community to further the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel to the greater Gardner area. A vacated downtown building owned by People's Fuel became available for rent, and the Gardner church members voted to convert the premises into a community center, which has now been renamed The People's Place. Substantial renovations are ongoing to bring the center up to code and to make it 100 percent handicapped accessible. The goal is to have it up and

running by December 2013 or January 2014.

As yet in its infancy, church members are still in the process of assessing the more important and critical needs of the community to determine the church's capabilities and resources to meet the needs. The membership has been divided into smaller groups that will take ownership of the various topics to be presented. Progress is being made and the Holy Spirit is leading.

At the annual Gardner sidewalk sale in August, the church set up a booth and passed out surveys to the local residents about what needs they perceive to be

of greatest importance to the community. More than 150 responses to the survey were received and 16 people expressed an interest in participating in Bible studies. The interest in vegetarian cooking and health was overwhelmingly high, as well.

Gardner church members welcome others to unite in prayer with them for the success of their mission. For progress updates and future program scheduling, refer to the Web site that has been established

for this project: www.thepeoplesplaceofgardner.org.

—Dale Spencer, member and webmaster, Gardner church



Renovations are being made to a building purchased by the Gardner church that will house a community center named The People's Place.



Nouvelle Acquisition Pour Agrandir Camp Victory Lake

Le 28 Juin 2013, la Conférence de Northeastern procéda à l'achat d'un terrain de 10 hectares, attenante à Camp Victory Lake à Hyde Park, New York. Les administrateurs de la conférence ont été mis au courant de la propriété pendant une rencontre de salutation avec le Comité de Planification de la Ville de Hyde Park le 21 mars dernier, et dès lors, sont axés sur le développement futur de Camp Victory Lake.

La propriété est située au coin sud-ouest de North Quaker Lane et Cardinal Road et est accessible à partir de l'extrémité nord du campus. La propriété comprend une maison unifamiliale de trois chambres, cinq hectares de pâturages et de quatre hectares de terrain boisé. Le comité exécutif de la Conférence a approuvé l'achat au coût de 450,000 \$. Pour éviter d'augmenter le poids de leur dette actuelle, la conférence a opté pour une vente au comptant et a remporté le titre libre de charge. La maison située



Daniel Honoré, Président de la Conférence de Northeastern, accompagné de Pasteurs, directeurs d'écoles et le personnel de la Conférence de Northeastern ont effectué un tour de la parcelle de terre de 10 hectares nouvellement achetée, attenante à Camp Victory Lake.

sur le terrain est actuellement louée à l'ancien propriétaire.

Le Comité de développement du Camp Victory Lake travaille actuellement sur un plan directeur pour le réaménagement du camp et compte

intégrer le terrain de neuf hectares et demi dans le plan. Une utilisation possible de cette place est la création d'un centre de bien-être. Le 7 juillet, le comité exécutif de la Conférence a visité le site et a exprimé leur gratitude envers le Seigneur d'avoir rendu possible cette acquisition. L'ancien président de la Conférence de Northeastern, George R. Earle, qui visitait le campus durant la réunion du camp meeting, a offert une prière de consécration.

Daniel Honoré, Président, Conférence de Northeastern

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

English translation on page 12 of this issue.



Photos: JeNeen Johnson

¿Qué Está Pasando?

En la Iglesia Mundial

Nueva Adquisición Expande las Instalaciones del Campamento Victory Lake



JelNean Johnson

Pastores y personal de la oficina de la Asociación del Noreste visitan el terreno de 10 acres recientemente adquirido contiguo al Campamento Victory Lake.

El 28 de Julio del 2013, la Asociación del Noreste adquirió un trecho de terreno contiguo al Campamento Victory Lake en Hyde Park, Nueva York. Los administradores de la asociación supieron de la propiedad durante unas reuniones el 21 de marzo con la junta de planificación del pueblo de Hyde Park y decidieron

enfocarse en el futuro desarrollo del Campamento Victory Lake.

La propiedad está situada en la esquina sudoeste de las carreteras North Quaker Lane y Cardinal Road y la misma es accesible por la parte norte del campamento. La propiedad incluye una casa con tres dormitorios, cinco acres de pastizal y cuatro acres de

árboles. El comité ejecutivo de la asociación aprobó la compra a un costo de \$450,000. De modo de no incrementar la deuda actual, la asociación optó por una compra en efectivo y tomó el título de propiedad libre de cualquier impedimento. La casa en la propiedad está actualmente rentada al dueño anterior.

El Comité de Desarrollo del Campamento Victory Lake está actualmente trabajando en un plan maestro para renovar el campamento e incluirá estos nueve acres y medio en el plan. Uno de los posibles usos para este lugar es la creación de un centro de bienestar. El 7 de Julio, el comité ejecutivo de la asociación visitó el lugar y agradeció a Dios por haber hecho posible la compra. El pasado presidente de la Asociación del Noreste, George R. Earle, quien estuvo presente durante el campamento, ofreció la oración de dedicación.

Daniel Honoré, presidente, Asociación del Noreste

Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 12 of this issue

La Misión Hispana de Jerusalén ha sido Organizada Como la Iglesia 177 en la Asociación del Noreste

La Misión Hispana de Jerusalén en Lawrence, Massachusetts, fue organizada con 55 miembros presentes el sábado, 1ero de Julio, por tres administradores y el coordinador hispano de la asociación como la iglesia número 177 de la Asociación del Noreste. Esta es la segunda congregación hispana de la ciudad de Lawrence. La iglesia hispana de Lawrence bajo el liderazgo de Domingo Francisco, pastor de la iglesia, plantaron una misión en este lugar hace tres años atrás.

Lawrence es una ciudad industrial en el valle Merrimack. Setenta por ciento de su población de 80,000 son latinos. Jerusalén es la quinta iglesia hispana de la Asociación del Noreste en un radio de

25 millas. Las otras incluyen a Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill y Manchester, New Hampshire.

Debido al continuo crecimiento, la administración vio a bien dividir este distrito en dos. Pablo Huérfano, recientemente fue instalado como pastor de las iglesias de Lawrence y Methuen. Rubén Maldonado ha sido retenido, con un estipendio, para proveer liderazgo a la nueva iglesia de Jerusalén, al igual que a las iglesias de Haverhill y Manchester.

Daniel Honoré, presidente, Asociación del Noreste

Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 12 of this issue



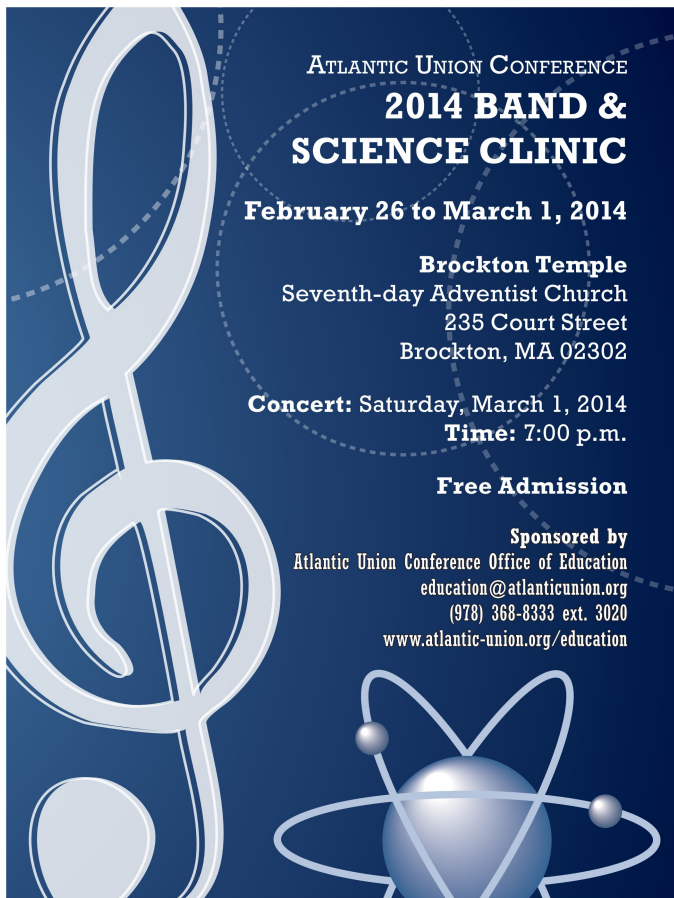
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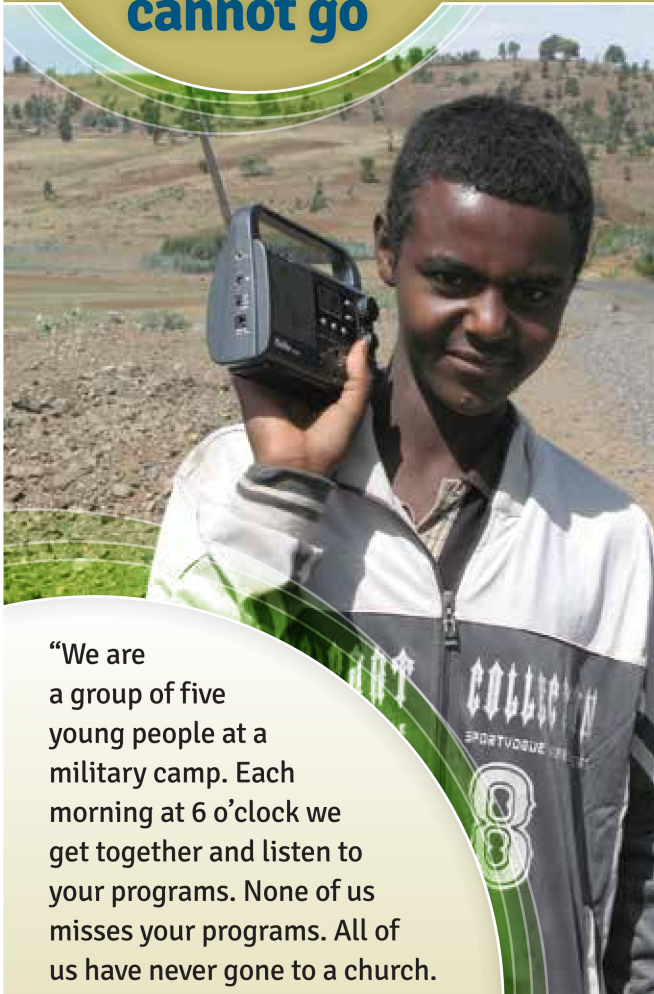


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Sunset Table

December 2013	6	13	20	27
Bangor, ME	3:54	3:54	3:57	4:01
Portland, ME	4:04	4:04	4:07	4:11
Boston, MA	4:11	4:12	4:15	4:19
South Lancaster, MA	4:13	4:14	4:16	4:21
Pittsfield, MA	4:20	4:20	4:23	4:27
Hartford, CT	4:19	4:20	4:23	4:27
New York, NY	4:28	4:29	4:31	4:36
Albany, NY	4:19	4:20	4:23	4:27
Utica, NY	4:25	4:26	4:29	4:33
Syracuse, NY	4:29	4:30	4:32	4:37
Rochester, NY	4:35	4:35	4:38	4:42
Buffalo, NY	4:41	4:41	4:44	4:48
Hamilton, Bda	5:12	5:14	5:17	5:21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YORK

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volunteer, visit the academy Web site at www.unionspringsacademy.org.

OBITUARIES

KING, Leon A.—70; b. Mar. 3, 1943, in Bailey's Bay, Hamilton Parish, Bermuda; d. Sept. 24, 2013, in Worcester, Mass. He was a member of the College Church in South Lancaster, Mass., where he served in many capacities, including as deacon and chair of the AUC finance committee. He was a graduate of Kingsway College Academy in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, and Atlantic Union College (1971) in South Lancaster, Mass. He is survived by three sons: Leon A. King, II, Esq., of Philadelphia, Pa., Major Kym-Cameron King, U.S. Army, stationed in South Korea, and Khrystian E. King of Worcester, Mass.; three brothers, David King, Walter King, and Richard King; and three sisters, Diane Steede, Myrnelle King, and Rosemarie Hollis, all of Bermuda; and five grandchildren: Tyesha,

Jailyn, Chloe, Arianna, Alexandra; and one great-grandchild, Tameron-Mulhern King.

LEWIS, Cyrus K.—b. Sept. 16, 1944, in Manchester, Jamaica, West Indies; d. Sept. 9, 2013; Jamaica, West Indies. He was a member of the Berea church in Boston, Mass., and served as an usher and deacon. He is survived by his wife, Eva Lewis; four children, Keteshia, Cyrus Jr., Joseph, and Narvel; three brothers, Dalton, Clarence, and Marvin; one sister, Mary.

CORRECTION

SUCKERT, Dorothy G. (Ketzner)—86; b. Jul. 18, 1927, in Woodside, N.Y.; d. Aug. 22, 2013, in Fitchburg, Mass. She was a member of the College Church in South Lancaster, Mass. She taught at Browning elementary school in South Lancaster until she retired. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Lothar Suckert; a son, Robert E. Suckert (Terry) of Waterbury, Vt.; a daughter Kathy A. Suckert of Lancaster, Mass.; a brother, Walter (Jean) of Riddle, Ore.; and three grandchildren, Maxwell, Madison, and Jackson.

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Web site: www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff

E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor: Ednor A. P. Davison
Copy Editor (off-site): Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design (off-site): Haziel Olivera

Contributors

Bermuda: Sheila Holder, sholder@bermudaconference.bm
Greater New York: Rohann Wellington, rwellington@gnyc.org
New York: Kim Kaiser, kim@nyconf.org
Northeastern: JeNeen Johnson, jjohnson@northeastern.org
Northern New England: Bob Cundiff, bcundiff@nnec.org
Southern New England: David Dennis, skypilot@sneconline.org
Atlantic Union College
Parkview Adventist Hospital: Public Relations

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Women's Ministries (Interim): Lois King

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