

THE ATLANTIC UNION

DECEMBER 2014

# GLEANER

Teamwork

Concern

Compassion

Prayer

Kindness

Ministry

Love

Service



The  
**GIFT**

Keeps on Giving

# inside **DECEMBER** 2014



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# Precious Moments With Jesus

I am sitting in the stillness of the early morning. The sun is not up yet. There is definitely a chill in the air. All the lights in the house are still off, except in the room where I am sitting. No electronic devices have been turned on yet. There is peace and quiet all around.

I cherish these special moments early in the morning with just Jesus and me. It is the time when I gain strength and encouragement for what I will face in the day ahead. Taking this time helps to remind me to keep my focus on the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), and not lose sight of Him, regardless of what is going on all around.

In *THE MINISTRY OF HEALING*, p. 58, the author, Ellen White, says this: “All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Psalm 46:10. This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God. Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, he who is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts.”

Against that background, we cannot help but notice the drama on the world stage is intensifying. Service men and women are engaged in wars around the world; medical personnel and researchers are fighting wars against diseases that are killing

people by the hundreds daily; experts in the world of technology are in a battle to stop viruses and hackers; family members, and sometimes entire families, are being destroyed because of domestic violence; and the list goes on and on.

The drama on the Seventh-day Adventist Church stage is also intensifying. The General Conference Session in July 2015—the business meeting of the church that is held every five years—will have items on the agenda for discussion that will have the attention of members of the world church and beyond; leaders continue to grapple with how to hold on to the youth population who are leaving the Adventist Church; and the list also goes on.

As individual members of the “body of Christ” (1 Corinthians), regardless of what is going on in the world and the church, we need to be fortified and ready to be placed wherever God wants to place us to be effective witnesses for Him. Spending time alone with Him will help to put our lives in perspective so that the words we speak and the actions we take will reflect His grace, mercy, and love in the time when it is most needed, and help to effectively reach the hearts of all whom the Lord brings under our influence.

As 2014 winds down, I trust that we are all intentionally finding the time each day that is most conducive to spending those precious moments in communion with the Lamb of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend. I encourage you to keep in mind some counsel from Scripture: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”—Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NKJV). ①

*Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.*



FROM THE EDITOR

*“All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God,”*

*THE MINISTRY OF HEALING, p 58.*



# The GIFT Keeps on Giving

It has been more than two years since Hurricane Sandy left its mark in many places along the Eastern seaboard, including New York City, where residents are still recovering from the storm's impact. Two years later, Adventist church members continue to serve the communities in the impacted areas.

In spite of the fact that church members were dealing with their own issues from the damages caused by the hurricane, on the day following the storm, many left their homes and walked or drove around the city surveying the damage, talking to families, and sharing their assessments with the Adventist Community Services (ACS) departments of the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences.

Fitzgerald Kerr, Northeastern Conference ACS director, and Ruben Merino, then Greater New York Conference ACS director, spearheaded a two-pronged action to support the victims of the hurricane. The training of ACS staff and lay people paid off as they mobilized at their respective conference offices.

Community services teams that included dedicated workers and volunteers prepared and distributed care packages to Hurricane Sandy victims at York College (the main shelter in Queens). Batteries and bottled water were distributed at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, one of the hardest hit areas.

Unique partnerships were formed as the Northeastern ACS, using their truck, partnered with Manhattan's God's Love We Deliver. They lost power in their facility and had 3,000 meals that would have spoiled if help had not been received. The truck was used to bring the meals to the freezers in the Northeastern Conference office

and from there they were distributed to families in Far Rockaway.

Many local churches got involved in making a difference in their communities. Linden church members braved the cold and distributed hot soup and food to hundreds of individuals and families at a shopping center in Far Rockaway. Members of Queensboro Temple church used their van to make many supply trips that included moving one woman who had bronchitis to her family in the Bronx. Northeastern Conference ACS paid the transportation costs.

No area was off limits for providing care and support. The conferences were in many areas before the Red Cross or FEMA arrived. One such area was the Dix McBride apartments that are known for the plague of drug-dealing and drug-based violence. Hot meals were provided by members of the Linden church and supplies, including blankets, from the Northeastern Conference ACS center were distributed. Roger Wade, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, supplied much-needed generators to charge cell phones.

South Lancaster Academy students joined the mission along with members of Linden, Bethany, and Elmont churches. Supplies and hot food were distributed throughout the Rockaways. All the volunteers were wonderful, especially the large group of eager youth.

The Queens Adventist Youth Federation, spearheaded by Carlene Harris, distributed Thanksgiving meals at the community center on 41st Street in Far Rockaway and in front of the Far Rockaway library. They gave out hundreds of hot meals and made many friends. Charles Fisher and Randy Fisher provided

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By Earnest Flowers III

extra turkeys and brought Daymond John from the ABC television show *Shark Tank* to lend support.

The Far Rockaway Spanish church became a hub for service and supplies for everyone from ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to local and out-of-state donors. Solid Rock church was closest to the rising tide and members were displaced for months. However, the faithful membership led out in many efforts and they have since rebuilt the church.

Hundreds of other families were displaced from their churches and their homes and were moved from hotel to hotel in Manhattan. Corona church members made holiday fruit baskets for the homeless residents. They also went to the Ocean Village Houses in Far Rockaway and delivered more than 100 holiday fruit baskets. Queens Faith got involved for the holidays, as well. Members made, delivered, and served food fit for a king to hundreds of children at the Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School.

Everett Samuel from the Greater New York Conference ACS supplied the dessert. She was one of the most consistent workers during the clean-up efforts. Samuel spearheaded many initiatives, including a holiday party at the Far Rockaway library that included more than 400 gifts for children. She said, "The most amazing thing was to see how God supplied all our needs. If we needed clothing, we were given clothing. If we needed furniture, we were given furniture. God provided all, no matter how big or small." Samuel continues to serve some of the same families from two years ago. They pray every Tuesday and meet every Thursday.

José Cortés, Jr., former Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth

Ministries director, said, "Our Atlantic Union Adventist youth and young adults were always there for New York City and the affected areas. They were mobilized to set up shelters across the city the night before the storm hit and have literally not left the area since. When television crews left the disaster area, as did the donations, and many of the volunteers, our youth and young adults stayed and continued to show compassion, embracing the affected communities through



Hurricane Sandy left devastation in many places along the Eastern seaboard, including New York City.

Back2School compassion bashes in Far Rockaway and Coney Island, the Academy Compassion and Leadership Missions, and partnering with the Clinton Foundation for Days of Action. They were the largest volunteer group at the New York City marathons, as well as through the constant and nonstop work of the Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps (AYES), the One Year in Mission team, academy senior mission trip groups, the





**From top:** Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services workers and volunteers distribute much-needed items; Northeastern Conference workers and volunteers distribute food, clothing, and more; Youth from AYES (Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps) help with the clean-up; and academy students from the Atlantic Union Conference offer mission service in Coney Island.

compassion rally, the Greater New York Conference Mission Trip group, and the Northeastern Conference iServe Movement. I am grateful to God for youth and young adults who have decided to model a now global movement of compassion by saying “We are the eyes, heart, hands, and feet of Jesus in New York City and its surroundings. That is awesome!”

Yes, that is awesome, and one of the most significant remnants of the event is the goodwill the church has received from these efforts. Goodwill does not last forever—it depreciates. That is why initiatives in the hurricane-impacted areas of Queens, Brooklyn, and Long Island are still ongoing.

Speaking of the continuing work around the field, G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president, said, “Greater New York Conference continues to be active in the rebuilding process after Hurricane Sandy. Our Adventist Community Services building in the Bronx continues to be used as a warehouse for construction materials that are distributed and used in the rebuilding of homes and churches in Coney Island.”

Reflecting on the work being done by members following the storm, Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, said, “When Sandy struck, our believers understood that the most effective witness at the moment was not a Bible study on the Sabbath or the mark of the beast, but rather, extending a helping hand in a time of need. This proved effective a year later when several individuals who had been helped during the crisis took a stand for the Lord and joined our church.”

Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, said, “Two years ago, Hurricane Sandy exacted a heavy toll of devastation on the citizens of the United States on the east coast. However, two years later we are reminded of the opportunity and precious privilege we have as a Seventh-day Adventist community of faith to reach out to those in need to lend a helping hand. By offering assistance of food, shelter, comfort, warmth, and cleanup tasks to our brothers and sisters, what an opportunity to demonstrate the love and compassion of God, our heavenly Father.”

**“Two years later, Adventist church members continue to serve the communities in the impacted areas.”**

The Greater New York and Northeastern conferences and the Atlantic Union will be facilitating events in December. However, there are still unique opportunities for members to get involved. A couple of the housing projects are willing to start a community Pathfinder club.

This is the true gift of discipleship. It’s a gift that keeps on giving. ①



*Earnest Flowers III, an elder, is a member of City Tabernacle church in New York.*



# Reclaiming Young Adults: Be Like the Father

In previous articles we saw how Jesus provided some key insights through the Parable of the Prodigal Son on why young adults leave the church. Let's explore Luke 15:25-30 and draw some practical solutions on how to reclaim them:

- **Pray for them.** I imagine the father praying for his son, at morning and evening worship. To keep them in our consciousness it is useful to have posters of missing young adults on the foyer of the church, slide presentations with photos and names of our missing sons and daughters during church prayer time, followed by invitations to constant prayer. These would also empower churches to intercede more on behalf of our prodigal children.
- **Love them and let them know you love them.** The expressions of the father when he first saw his son were not expressions of judgment and condemnation, but expressions of love. He hugged him, kissed him, and assured him of his love—no questions asked (Luke 15:20). Young adults don't want to come back to a place where they are not loved. For years many of us in the church have looked as if our hearts are cold and our hands and feet are amputated. Love and compassion are never overdone. God is love.
- **Invest in them.** The father gave his son the best robe. Having active youth and young adults in the church can cost money; the alternative should not be an option. Sponsor them during their "broke student years" so that they can have meaningful experiences through which their love for God and loyalty for the church can be strengthened. Mentor them through the transition years. Cut other expenses and invest money and time in them. You may be surprised at the return of those investments (Luke 15:22).
- **Trust them.** The father did not wait a year to trust his son and reestablish his

paternal relationship. He gave him the family ring (credit card) and put shoes on his feet right away, making it clear that He accepted and trusted his son (Luke 15:22). Slaves, at that time, did not wear family rings nor were they allowed to wear shoes, so this gesture by the father showed a total restoration to sonship. Young adults who sense their relevancy in the church community usually stay.

- **Celebrate with them.** Celebrations can provide positive reinforcement. They help to make life happier, more enjoyable, and more memorable. The father wanted his son to remember that day for the rest of his life (Luke 15:23). When life is celebrated and you are appreciated, it is hard to leave. Welcome them back to church parties, graduations, promotions, and anything else that marks an accomplishment in the lives of our young adults must be celebrated.
- **Praise God and sing with them.** While the older brother was outside complaining about the music that was loud and happy (Luke 15:25), the father, although from a different generation and perhaps with a different preference, was inside the house with his son. When different generations worship God together allowing different expressions of music and praise, the spirit of cooperation and understanding brings a blessing to God's church.

The parable ends with the father inviting the older son to join the celebrations. If you don't want young adults to leave the church, do not be like the older brother. If you want them back, be like the father. It's that simple! ☺



*José Cortés, Jr., former director of Adventist Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union, is the North American Division associate ministerial director for evangelism.*



## Adventist Youth Leadership Perspective



[www.AUYouth.com](http://www.AUYouth.com)

# NNEC's 2014 Constituency Meeting:



The Northern New England Conference administrators and directors, who will serve the conference for the next four years, along with several of their spouses, are pictured with the Atlantic Union Conference administrators. From left are Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union executive secretary; Donald King, Atlantic Union president; from the Northern New England Conference Bob Cundiff, president, and his wife, Tanique; Ted Huskins, executive secretary, and his wife, Cynthia; Scott Christiansen, trust services and communication director; Daniel Battin, treasurer and his wife, Allesandra; Trevor Schlisner, superintendent of schools, and his wife, Amanda; and Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union treasurer.

**Y**ou have probably been to at least one, big, extended-family reunion. If so, then you pretty much know what happens: lots of people show up, including some memorable personalities. There is lots of talking and catching up. Stories are swapped. There is some friction between strong personalities with strong visions and opinions. There is some drama. There is some food. The planned schedule of events is absolutely not adhered to. At the end of the day, everyone goes home a little tired, having accomplished little or nothing and wondering how they could ever have ended up in this family.

If you attended the recent Northern New England Conference (NNEC)

2014 Constituency Meeting, then you know that the constituency meeting was pretty much the same as an extended-family reunion, but with a couple key differences. Yes, the interesting people and the socializing and the strong personalities and the food were all there. Yes, there was a little drama. Yes, the carefully-prepared schedule was pretty much for reference purposes only. And yes, at the end of the day, everyone went home a little tired (or very tired). But there the similarity ends. For in fact, much was accomplished at this family reunion, and everyone—everyone—knew that they ended up in this family by choice. There is, of course, one more key difference, and it is an overwhelmingly



# One Big Extended-family Reunion

important one: The NNEC extended family has Christ as its head.

Representatives from the sisterhood of churches from the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine only get together for an extended-family reunion—a constituency meeting—once every four years. It is a day that the office of the executive secretary plans for long in advance. It is, in fact, the culmination of a deliberate and drawn-out process that involves members of the executive committee (mostly drawn from local churches in each state), as well as members of the articles and bylaws committee (again, mostly drawn from local members from each state).

These grass-roots committees are the primary force in bringing up issues of sufficient significance that representatives from every church in the region are called to vote on them in constituency meeting. In addition to the committees, there are two other ways for agenda items to be proposed: through year-end “town hall” meetings held in each state, and, through dialogue with members of the administrative team. Ultimately, each of these alternative pathways must go through the executive committee for approval.

With the agenda in place, the Pine Tree Academy gymnasium (in Freeport, Maine) set up, and with supporting audio-visual and electronic voting systems in place, some 400 delegates from across the conference, as well as officials from the Atlantic Union, the North American Division, and the General Conference, began showing up shortly before 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 26.

Almost immediately, the gathering became an extended family reunion,

with delighted greetings between separated friends, storytelling, and praise and prayer sessions. From almost the very start, the activities were behind schedule. Song Service and worship proceeded apace, and were followed by introductions, procedural instructions, and test votes to familiarize delegates with the unfamiliar electronic voting equipment. Then the long agenda of issues to consider got started, punctuated with frequent comments and motions from the floor.

Strong personalities, impelled by sincere concern over issues for which they had a burden, made strong statements. Administrators struggled to address issues from the floor while also trying to keep to the agenda. There was drama as contentious issues were raised for which the outcome was uncertain. But through it all, a Christ-centered spirit of unanimity prevailed.

Guests from outside the conference—guests who had attended several previous constituency meetings in other areas—marveled at the courteous debates and orderly voting. They marveled anew when the slate of officers and department heads presented by the executive committee and personnel committee went on to garner an approval rate in excess of 90 percent for each individual candidate presented. Guests said they had never seen an entire slate of candidates garner such overwhelming support.

If questions and motions from the floor are used as a gauge, delegates were patient and attentive and approached each issue thoughtfully and with a resolve to be thorough. The new executive committee was elected, as was the new articles and bylaws committee. Still, despite their steady

progress through the agenda, not all the work slated was accomplished.

With evening coming on the delegates still had the education department report, the report from Parkview Adventist Medical Center, and the quadrennial vision development (a key effort) to go through, as well as any questions, discussion, or motions that arose from the floor. But that work was not done because a motion was made from the floor to adjourn and, as meeting chairman Bob Cundiff explained, the motion was non-debatable. An immediate vote showed that some 60 percent of delegates were ready to call it a day, and so the constituency meeting ended with prayer. The education report and Parkview report will be disseminated in brief form through the CONNECTION and the conference Facebook and Web sites. The quadrennial vision development may be combined with the year-end town hall meetings planned in each state.

The extended family of the sisterhood of Adventist churches in Northern New England got together, acted quite a lot like the big extended family that it is, but in the end buckled down and got a great deal of work done, all the while modeling the patient, loving character of Christ. This family that they have chosen to be part of is one of which all can be proud. ☉



*Scott Christiansen is the Northern New England Conference trust services and communication director.*



## Leaders Discuss Conference Fundraising

Conference administrators and departmental leaders joined together on September 8 for a special interactive session on philanthropy and conference fundraising. Lilya Wagner, director of the North American Division Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI), facilitated the training discussion.

Conference leaders analyzed giving trends and strategies for building stronger support for mission and ministry. Wagner also delivered a powerful keynote address on her visit with the Planned Giving and Development advisory members entitled “Building an Intercultural Culture of Philanthropy.”

The Planned Giving and Development office opened a year ago in November 2013 to revamp and expand the traditional trust services ministry with a broader focus on both future and present giving.



▲ Janice Da Silva, Greater New York Conference Planned Giving and Development associate director, facilitates a seminar with the administrators and departmental leaders.

◀ Lilya Wagner, North American Division Philanthropic Service for Institutions director, facilitates a training session with the Greater New York Conference leaders.

Greater New York Conference has been invited to meet with other representatives across the North American Division to discuss the need for and

best practices of conference-level fundraising. The department recently participated in the Adventist Learning Community course on fundraising for pastors, coordinated by PSI.

Working in collaboration with the conference’s stewardship department, Planned Giving and Development seeks to equip members with a range of giving vehicles, and to ease the relationship between individuals and their financial support of conference ministries. The office has primarily served as a resource to local churches, schools, and community services by conducting workshops on fundraising. The department recently launched an online portal at [www.GNYCgives.org](http://www.GNYCgives.org) for individuals seeking to organize their estate plans.

For more information about planned giving and development services, please contact Janice Da Silva at the Greater New York Conference office.

—Janice Da Silva, Planned Giving and Development associate director, Greater New York Conference

## 10 Baptized Following Canaan French Church Evangelistic Campaign

In 2007, after a long stretch of moving from location to location, the Canaan French church decided to purchase a building where eventually they would build a sanctuary to worship. Although it’s a very small building, the membership fluctuates around 140 members with a growing youth class of about 50 children. The space is becoming smaller and smaller as new members transfer in and the newly-baptized are added to the records.

Under the leadership of Brian Ladiny, the church’s pastor, the church decided to launch an evangelistic



Pictured, from left, are Gabriel N. St. Louis, Canaan French church’s event coordinator, and Carlos Reveil, international evangelist from Haiti, who was the speaker for the church’s evangelistic campaign.

outreach campaign for the French-speaking community as well as the larger community. They started with several Bible study groups throughout Brentwood,

Central Islip, and Bay Shore. The Bible study groups operated on weekends, followed by 21 days of prayer.

International evangelist Carlos Reveil from Haiti

preached the whole 21 days. Every night, services were conducted and, with the help of the Lord, the Word was preached, demons were cast out, the sick were healed, and deliverance was granted.

The 21 days ended with an all-night prayer watch from 8:00 p.m. on Saturday night to 6:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Several other churches, including the Kerith, Emmanuel French, and Ephraim French churches were there to support this event, and several pastors attended. Pastors Pasteur Joseph and Carlos Reveil from Haiti, as well as local evangelist

Thomas Milien, and Jean Marc Saint Fort, a pastor from Brooklyn. It was the first time that such a powerful prayer event has been recorded in the Long Island French community. "This was the best 21 days of

prayer ever," church member Lena Cribe said.

Although small as David, through many prayers Canaan church defeated the Goliaths that were holding hostage God's children. By the end of the 21 days, the

church baptized 10 people for the glory of God. This church wants to continue this battle of winning souls. However, one more Goliath stands in the way. There is a need for a building where the church can worship and con-

duct community outreach to serve the Brentwood, Central Islip, and Bay Shore communities. Your prayers and support are appreciated.

—Richard Vergin, interim communication director, Canaan French church

## GNYC Youth Held First-ever Youth Bible Prophecy Training



Participants at the Youth Bible Prophecy Training Weekend pause for a group photo.

The Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department held its first-ever Youth Bible Prophecy Training October 10-11, and organizers say it was a tremendous success. By 5:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, the participants were already checking in at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, for this historic event. The par-

ticipants knew they were in for an exciting, information-packed weekend and they were not disappointed.

Thanks to the presenters, experts in their respective fields, it was a weekend of sharing in-depth knowledge, analysis, and expounding on the prophecies. Richard Aguilera, seminar presenter, covered subjects pertaining

to creation and evolution. He gave new information regarding the certainty of the flood and dispelled any doubt with unquestionable evidence as to who is the author of creation. Hermes Taveras, pastor of the Bayshore Spanish church, dealt with the Sanctuary and the investigative judgment. Rohann Wellington, pastor and Greater New York Conference communication director, completed the presentation team and he focused on the mark of the beast and the little horn.

The participants had a chance to have their questions answered with a special open question-and-answer session.

It was a blessed, enlightening, and spiritually-uplifting weekend. By the end, many participants left with eager anticipation of the next training seminar.

—Teddy Williamson, assistant to the youth director for AY ministries and public relations officer, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries



Andres Peralta, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries director, left, with the presenters at the Youth Bible Prophecy Training Weekend: Richard Aguilera, seminar presenter; Rohann Wellington, Greater New York Conference communication director; and Hermes Taveras, Bayshore Spanish church pastor.



## New York Conference Works to Advance the Mission

The New York Conference continues its ministry to the community under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the clear mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in making disciples of all nations.

On July 27, the conference executive committee appointed Miguel Crespo to serve as executive secretary. Crespo was selected from the ranks of the ministerial staff and is currently the pastor of the Westvale church. The committee also appointed Priscilla English to serve as treasurer. She has been a longtime employee of the conference and served as associate treasurer for the past five years. We welcome our new team and also thank those who have led and served in the past.

Our vision is to advance the work by emphasizing the role of the pastors and the members in the work of discipleship. We believe the health of the conference derives directly from the health of the local churches. Our commitment is to facilitate and provide resources and ministerial personnel to strengthen the local churches in the areas of pastoral representation, leadership, training, evangelism, and support



The New York Conference administrators are, from left, Priscilla English, treasurer; Elias Zabala, Sr., president; and Miguel Crespo, secretary.

for Christian education. We covet your prayers as we seek to advance God's work in this part of His vineyard.

Recently, the New York Conference regained accreditation from the General Conference Trust Services Department to establish a Wills and Trusts program. This will enable the conference to provide ministry to all of our members in this important aspect of their lives.

The year 2014 proved to be a challenging year for our educational system; however, God has provided the number of students for each of our schools to continue operating. Union Springs Academy, the only full-time boarding school in the Atlantic Union, continues to open its doors to members

from all conferences who wish to send their children to our campus. In spite of the financial challenges of our church members, the school kept a substantial enrollment this year.

Another exciting news item from our conference relates to Camp Cherokee and our youth summer program. Many children attended this year, along with family and friends. The camp celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the staff, sharing great memories, wonderful stories, and meaningful fellowship. We had the privilege of welcoming and recognizing many of those who have served as camp or youth directors in the conference. We were pleased to have as guest speaker Mike Ortel, a former conference president,

former youth ministries director, and now a retired minister of the gospel.

We would like to take the opportunity to invite everyone to be a part of the ninth annual Lay Training Institute and Elders Training Weekend, scheduled for February 20-22, 2015, at the Holiday Inn in Auburn, New York.

This year the presenters include Balvin Braham, Human Resources and Leadership director for the Inter-American Division, and Melvin Santos, discipleship field liaison for the North American Division Ministerial Association. They will both be presenting powerful seminars on "Growing Healthy Disciples." Feel free to contact the New York Conference office for more information on this event.

We are confident of the many blessings that our brothers and sisters in our conference territory have experienced in the past. We will continue to advance the mission of the proclamation of the gospel given to us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We look forward to His second coming as we prepare people to meet Him.

—Elias Zabala, Sr., president, New York Conference

## From Fundraisers for Students to Fishers of Men

In late August, the village of Union Springs, New York, hosted the annual Bassmaster Elite Fishing Tournament, which drew some of the biggest names in professional bass fishing to Cayuga Lake. Months before, the village administration had asked Union Springs Academy (USA) for assistance with participant parking on campus, but the dates of the tournament, August 21-24, coincided with the start of school. The academy staff



Adam Boyd, Union Springs Academy assistant boys' dean, stands with professional bass fisherman Morizo Shimizu at the 2014 Bassmaster Elite Fishing Tournament.

would be preparing for registration day, and would be unable to oversee such a project.

A willing group of volunteers took on the challenge of organizing paid parking for the tournament. Established in 2012 by parents of academy students—current, former, and future—the Union Springs Academy Home & School Association has grown to include not only parents, but also alumni and church members who want to take

active roles in supporting the students at Union Springs Academy. The opportunity to provide parking for the tournament participants and spectators was an excellent means to raise money, which the Home & School could use to fund special activities for the students throughout the school year.

The four-day tournament ended on Sunday, which meant that parking needed to be available during Sabbath. As they planned for the event, the USA Home & School group was committed to using the Sabbath hours for a witnessing opportunity. On Sabbath, instead of charging for parking spaces, the volunteers shared the peace of the day by giving attendees a "Welcome to Union Springs Academy Campus" brochure. The handout answered the question "What is the

Sabbath?" with simple Bible verses. Most people were pleasantly surprised by the free parking, several asked questions or insisted on giving donations, and all expressed thanks.

For their stay in Union Springs, some of the competitors rented RV sites on the academy campus, allowing volunteers to visit with the fishermen and their families while managing the RV area. The resulting conversations introduced the academy and some of the unique beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. Many of the campers expressed gratitude for clean, peaceful sites so close to the lake and for the hospitality of the volunteers.

The group's next fundraising mission adventure will be Florida citrus sales within the southern Cayuga county area, as well as to the Union

Springs Academy family of church members and alumni. Through the bass tournament, fruit sales, and other mission-driven fundraising activities, the Union Springs Academy Home & School Association seeks to connect church members within the New York Conference to their academy and to introduce the Union Springs residents to the Lord of the school that has been part of the community since 1921.

Interested in becoming a Union Springs Academy Home & School liaison for your local church or joining us in planning activities for the academy students? Contact Connie Froehlich at (315) 317-1367 for more information about supporting our children together.

—Rachel Laird, member, Union Springs Academy Home & School Association

## Game Time Helps Students Develop Good Character Traits

The students at Bayknoll Adventist school in Rochester, New York, have discovered a secret. There are plenty of ways to learn good habits, but making a game out of it is fun, and can be very rewarding. The school has two new teachers this year, Sharon Pitcher and Jeffrey Crisp. Together with Cindy Kowski, the kindergarten teacher, they have come up with an innovative program of incentives to help their students to respond to the rules of the classroom, and be more polite in the process. This helps the students develop good character traits and become more like Jesus.

How does it work? When the teachers ask students to do something, it is expected that they will obey. If students respond immediately in a positive and polite manner, then points are logged on a chart that gets credited

toward a one-hour game period. Points can be given to individuals, groups of students, or entire classrooms.

When the school has accumulated 1,000 points, the teachers set aside their regular program and participate in educational games. Game Time usually happens about once a month, and the students are responding well to the program.

Some of the educational games the students enjoy playing include Geography Bingo, Wheel of Fortune, and pictorial puzzles. Students from all the classrooms meet at tables in the hallways to work in teams made up of representative students from all three classrooms: kindergarten, grades 1-4, and grades 5-8.

The program is working well for everyone. Students love the sense of community that is achieved when everyone works together to



Students from all the classrooms at Bayknoll school meet at tables in the hallways to work in teams during game time.

achieve their goals, and they enjoy playing together in teams of older and younger students. Older students explain the rules, and younger students learn by example how to play the games. Teachers also love the school spirit that comes with such a program, and they are excited about the camaraderie that this program of

behavioral modification has brought to their school.

The school has been blessed by this new program, and students have learned that following the rules can be fun. Most importantly, God is honored when children learn to become more like Jesus.

—Bradley Booth, superintendent of schools, New York Conference



## My Trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina — An Opportunity of a Lifetime

A trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina for three weeks is what I consider to be an opportunity of a lifetime. I always wanted to travel to Europe, but I never thought I would have the privilege of going so soon. Since I had the chance, I decided to seize the moment.

I hoped for the best since many applicants were interviewed for the 20 spots. I was selected to be a part of this exciting endeavor. I was so excited when I received the call and could not wait to travel right away. The Bosnia and Herzegovina trip was led by the American Youth Leadership Program (AYLP), as well as Global Kids, Inc., a program with which I am associated.

The trip was one that opened my eyes to a different world and a new culture. I learned a lot of interesting things about the Bosnian culture, language, and history.

While I enjoyed my three weeks there, my main focus was to help prepare a group presentation for the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

The major focus of the presentation was a global topic of our choice that we



The American Youth Leadership Program participants pause for a photo during their visit to the Face TV television station.

felt very strongly about. My group, made up of Americans and Bosnians, decided to pick the topic of world hunger. After we picked a topic, my group created a Prezi slideshow, a video, and a blog post. It was a challenge at first, but then it became easier as

the days went by. I believe we were well-prepared for our project, because the 20 Americans and 22 Bosnians participated in workshops beforehand. This helped us shape our final presentations.

When I was not participating in workshops or working on my project, I explored Bosnia as much as I could. I visited the waterfall, saw a motorcycle show, went to an amusement park, ate at many restaurants, and did much more. Also, I stayed with a

host family for almost two weeks, which was challenging because of the language barrier, but I never gave up trying. It was interesting living with another family and I enjoyed it, mostly because they welcomed me with open arms. I visited the many cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Banja Luka, Mostar, Sarajevo, and Sanski Most.

My trip this summer was a life-changing experience for me and I learned many new things about Bosnia, including the language, and built a lot of friendships. I hope to have more international travel opportunities like this because it can really change one's perspective of the world. As they say in Bosnia, "Volim Bosnia i Herzegovina," which means, "I love Bosnia and Herzegovina."

—Francine Burns, member, River of Life church

## Berea Nyack Indians Attend Camporee

Twenty-two members of the Berea church Nyack Indian Pathfinder Club from Nyack, New York, loaded a chartered bus headed to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on August 10 to attend camporee. The Pathfinder club spent two years fundraising by having monthly movie nights at the church, hiring the club members out for yard work, and hosting various other fundraising events to raise money for the trip.

The club collected donated items to sell at a flea market in Dutchess County. The club was also blessed to be sponsored by several members of the Berea church, including the church's board of directors, the NAACP Nyack branch president,

and several local business owners who wanted to make charitable contributions to the youth of the Nyack community.

The Nyack Indians Pathfinder Club was able to represent their church, along with about 46,000 other Pathfinders from around the world. The Pathfinder club hosted four Pathfinders from England and one Pathfinder from Jamaica, West Indies, during the camporee. The Pathfinders learned



Some of the members of Berea church's Nyack Indian Pathfinder Club from Nyack, New York.

how being forever faithful to God is the best way to live. The club is making plans to attend the 2019 international camporee in Oshkosh.

—Frances E. Pratt, communication chair, Berea, Nyack, church

## Spring Valley New Horizon Adventurer Club's Trip to the Farm

The Spring Valley New Horizon Adventurer Club set out on their first trip of the new year on Sunday, November 2. They traveled to the Wright Family Farm in Warwick, New York, for what promised to be a fun-filled experience with hay rides, pumpkins, corn maize, farm animals, pedal carts, pumpkin bowling, and more.

They were excited as they drove further and further up the mountain to their destination. But the higher they went, the more violently the winds blew, and the colder it felt. Because of the weather and the lateness of the season, not all the activities they expected were available to them.

The adults began to complain as well, but you had to admire the spirit of the children. They made the most of the trip and had a blast. Though the wind threatened to blow them away and their bodies shivered, they ran, they jumped, and they laughed. Despite the limited activities, they played, ate cake, and carried on as joy-



The children from the Spring Valley New Horizon Adventurer Club visit the animals at the Wright Family Farm in Warwick, New York.

ful children do. The adults, seeing their smiling faces, had no choice but to get on board the fun train. Matthew 18:3 says, "Verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted, and be as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

We need to follow the lead of the children and find joy in the midst of the storm. As

the adventurer pledge states, because Jesus loves me, I will always do my best. We should do our best each day

to make the best of any and every situation.

—Cindy-lee Dorcely, Adventurer club director, Spring Valley church



The children from the Spring Valley New Horizon Adventurer Club spend an afternoon on the farm riding pedal carts.

### SAVE THE DATE

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## 150 Years Old and Growing Again

The Bordoville church in Vermont is the oldest known purpose-built Adventist Church. That is to say, it is the oldest church that was built as an Adventist church\*. On Sabbath, October 18, the 150th anniversary of the church was celebrated in what could only be called a “high Sabbath.” The church’s pastor, the Northern New England Conference president, the Atlantic Union Conference president, the Adventist world church president, and some 280 guests from far and wide were on hand to participate in the celebration.

But only 20 years ago, such a celebration seemed unlikely. The historic Bordoville church closed in 1995, because of the need for a complete new floor in the building as well as other renovations. The small congregation meeting there just did not have the funds to complete renovations. The treasured pews and the podium from which Ellen White and other pioneers spoke were all sent to Andrews University to become part of a historic display. But then, in 1999, a core group of volunteers decided that

such a historic church needed to be preserved and restored, and they set about to do just that, working slowly but steadily. Over the years they have made excellent progress, though they still have much more work to do before the building can be used year round, including insulating the walls and installing a new heating system.

On the Sabbath of the celebration though, the weather was warm enough that no heat was needed. The crowd present for the celebration overflowed the limited seating in the church and filled a tent that had been set up on the lawn, participating in the service via speakers



The Bordoville church in Vermont is filled to capacity for the 150 anniversary celebration.

and video monitors. The slight rain was ignored by all. People focused instead on the joy of fellowship, the inspir-



Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, third from left, presents Cornel Preda, Bordoville church pastor, right, with a plaque at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary services. From left also are Bob Cundiff, Northern New England Conference president; Lois King, Atlantic Union Conference Women’s Ministries director; Ted Wilson, Adventist Church president; second from right, and his wife, Nancy, third from right.

ing messages, and the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit.

Preparations for the day began in 2011, when the

prepared for 300. A nearby field was “borrowed” and mowed for overflow parking. Using volunteers from around the district, a team to handle parking was set up. A team to provide food was set up. Chairs were brought in.

For Preda and the volunteers from his district, there was some pressure that accompanied having three presidents attend. Preda admits that, if he stopped to think about it, he would have felt considerable pressure. “But,” he says, “I just focused on the tasks at hand and enjoyed the blessing of working with the leaders in the church. Each of the presidents was very appreciative. Praise the Lord that everything went smoothly!”

Preda said about the message delivered by Wilson, “It was a biblical message—a message of encouragement and optimism. The message made the district feel that they could have a strong Bordoville church in this secular area. It encouraged and emboldened us. Now we feel even more strongly that Bordoville is living

core group working on the church—led by Virginia and Erwin Eckson—decided that a real celebration in 2014 was needed. In late 2012, the Ecksons sent an e-mail to church president Ted Wilson, and in early 2013 he accepted. Preda and his core Bordoville team moved into a higher gear, making further repairs to the building and making a detailed plan for the events of the day.

The logistics planning was difficult, since there was no way of knowing how many people would attend. They



Members and friends commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Bordoville church in Vermont, the oldest known church that was built as an Adventist church.



history—history that has a future.” The Bordoville church has seen three baptisms and one member added by profession of faith in the past three years and currently has several prospects preparing for baptism. The goal is to have a year-round, fully functioning

church made up of people who are eagerly awaiting the coming of Christ.

Preda and the core Bordoville group plan to keep working on the church, which needs a heating system for winter months, as well as insulation and fresh paint. An

organized group is forming to work on the church next year, including people not just from the district or conference, but also outside of the conference. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Pastor Preda at [cornelpredasda@yahoo.com](mailto:cornelpredasda@yahoo.com).

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

\*The Washington, New Hampshire, church is older still, but it was not originally built as an Adventist church—it was purchased from another denomination by early Adventists. The Northern New England Conference is fortunate to have these two historic churches in its territory.

## Fall Prayer Retreat a Success Before it Started

Northern New England Conference’s fall prayer retreat was sold out more than a month before it took place. In the end, the rooms at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, were completely filled. The capacity crowd had high expectations of this prayer retreat, and from all indications, they were not disappointed.

“Refreshed” and “empowered” are the words that seem to describe the net result for the participants, but those terms fall far short in describing the retreat as a whole. The fall colors were spectacular and the weather for the October 9-12 retreat was the best experienced in the history of prayer retreats at Lawroweld.

Some 148 people attended this three-day prayer retreat experience, which had as its theme “Flame of Living Fire.” Presenters included Colin Hone from Australia and Bob Cundiff, Northern New England Conference president. God used both men to speak to hearts and to baptize the participants with the flame of His Holy Spirit.

Hone’s messages focused on the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Experiencing God’s Love and Healing” in our lives. He also shared how God is blessing around the world through the book *10 DAYS—PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONS TO EXPERIENCE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT* by Dennis Smith. More than 400 of the books were sold at the



Prayer retreat participant Jay Neil prays for Colin Hone from Australia, one of the speakers.



Rick Kuntz, Northern New England Conference evangelist, prays for Northern New England Conference president Bob Cundiff, one of the speakers at the prayer retreat.

retreat, and many participants left empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin a small group in their home.

Cundiff presented workshops on “Spiritual Formation” and “Biblical Spirituality.” The Spirit of Christ was visible as Cundiff shared from his heart and gave biblical examples

of scripture meditation and creative ways to pray using scripture.

Some of the participants commented on the love, acceptance, and Christian camaraderie they felt all weekend. The retreat was blessed to have participants from seven conferences, including a large group from the Maritime Conference in Canada. Thirteen pastors, some with spouses and children, also attended the retreat. The prayer retreats always include a children’s program—a reflection of the joy and blessing that children are to us.

Sabbath evening included a time for testimonies that was the highlight for many. The Northern New England Conference Prayer Ministries also formed a new co-op focused on praying for our children. There were many seasons of prayer with large and small groups. Lives were changed, people were healed, and captives were freed.

The messages from the prayer retreat are available on the Northern New England Conference Prayer Ministries audio Web site: [www.inverity.org](http://www.inverity.org). For more information on the Praying for Our Children Co-op, contact [kellyv@inverity.org](mailto:kellyv@inverity.org). Even more to the point, consider experiencing your own prayer retreat experience in 2015—May 21-24 or Oct. 8-11.

—Kelly Veilleux, prayer ministries director, Northern New England Conference

## First Springfield Church Holds Harvest Homecoming Celebration

It was early 1890 and in Massachusetts a small group of just seven Seventh-day Adventists requested and received permission from the Southern New England Conference to establish a church in Springfield. So, on May 30, 1890, the First Springfield Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized. The current church structure on Sumner Avenue was completed years later in July 1954.

On the weekend of October 10 and 11, members and friends gathered for a Harvest Homecoming Celebration to commemorate 124 years of Sabbath-keeping in Springfield, 60 of them in the First Springfield church.

Invitations for the celebration were sent to all current and prior church members. Ellen Crossfield, church historian, coordinated this endeavor to ensure that all members who have not attended church for a long time were cordially invited. The

guest of honor and keynote speaker for the weekend was Lonnie Melashenko, evangelist and formerly Voice of Prophecy director/speaker. Accompanying him was his wife, Jeannie, and his younger brother, Joedy Melashenko, and his wife, Judy.



The Melashenko Four, from left, Joedy, Judy, Jeannie, and Lonnie, praise God in song at the First Springfield church's Harvest Homecoming Celebration.

It was in August 1957 that Melashenko and his four brothers, with their parents, emigrated from Canada to Springfield. Shortly thereafter, at age 11, Lonnie Melashenko

was baptized by evangelist Garnet Williams in the church baptistery.

The homecoming began with vespers Friday night and Melashenko's message about the six words that will take us to glory. Those attending were blessed that evening by the music of both

continued with music by the "Melashenko Four" comprised of Lonnie and Jeannie and Joedy and Judy.

The highlight of the worship service was the baptism of Nathan Guirand and Fleurette Laguere, now officially the newest church members. After Luisa Cabana, Warren school principal, spoke about each candidate, Melashenko performed their baptism in the same baptistery where he stood more than 55 years ago as an 11-year-old boy, publicly beginning his life-long walk with God.

Afterward Pastor Baciu and his wife, Viorica, welcomed Nathan and Fleurette into church membership and presented their baptismal certificates. Melashenko's sermon "The Missing Piece" and his appeal song "Lead Me Gently Home, Father," concluded the worship. The celebration continued with lunch provided for all members and guests.

Another special guest was a former school teacher, Carolyn Mowry-McWilliams from Topsham, Maine. She well remembered all five Melashenko boys. In 1957 she was Lonnie Melashenko's sixth-grade teacher and her classes were taught in what is now the Beginners room.

In addition, at the celebration Sabbath were such longtime church members as Leslie Serra, who said that she grew up attending the church school and sang with the Sunshine Band. Serra has been a member of the church for more than 50 years.

Also, Clemont Ball, a member of the church for 48 years, says he has attended the worship services every Sabbath, knowing that it is a



Members and friends gather for a Harvest Homecoming Celebration to commemorate 124 years of Sabbath-keeping in Springfield and 60 years in the First Springfield church.

little taste of heaven, where we will have the privilege to continue forever worshipping our God.

Joseph McPherson, elder, has been an Adventist for 60 years and acknowledges that First Springfield church stands out as one of the most loving and caring of all.

Evening vespers featured a Heritage Reflection, a time to sit back and listen to more of the Melashenko Four praise God in song. They shared a sound track of their father, Joe Melashenko, singing. He sang bass with the King's Heralds Quartet for two

years beginning in 1949. Church elder Donald Moore presented the chronological events and a slide show depicting church events over the past 124 years.

After the vesper program and to complete the celebration, an anniversary cake was served in the fellowship

hall. God is abundantly blessing the First Springfield church. This milestone event has renewed the members' enthusiasm for the future and they are looking forward to the Lord's soon second coming.

—Belinda Behnava, communication secretary, First Springfield church

## Alice Jacobson Recognized for Her Service as SNEC's Women's Ministries Coordinator

The Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Women's Ministries team took time on October 5 to recognize Alice Jacobson for her six-and-a-half years of service as volunteer coordinator for the conference. She began her ministry during the conference's 2008 camp meeting.

During that time Jacobson says it was a blessing to see the women of SNEC develop a closer relationship with Jesus, and to see how God worked miraculously to bring people with needs to hear just the right message. She appreciated getting to know the different cultures, looking over the audiences and seeing them together as it will be in heaven. "What a wonderful picture of His promise to come," Jacobson says. Her hope is that the women will continue to be supportive, and to organize and participate in outreach to women in need in the communities around their local churches.

Alongside Jacobson during her years of service has been her husband, Dale, who served as her technology consultant and volunteer. He set up the PA system, took photographs, helped with the physical set up, and tended to her emotional support. "I



The Southern New England Conference Women's Ministries team, along with Lois King, Atlantic Union Conference Women's Ministries director, third from right on front row, take time to recognize Alice Jacobson, center front, for her six-and-a-half years of volunteer service.



The women attending the 2014 Fall Retreat in Devens, Massachusetts, recognize Alice Jacobson for her years of service.

couldn't have done it without his hundreds and hundreds of hours of help. And our daughter Nancy's assistance in preparation for the retreats. It was a family ministry for us," Jacobson says.

As she passes the baton, Jacobson says, "I want to thank the women of SNEC

for responding in such a positive way to the programs that the Women's Ministries department has sponsored. My prayer is that they will continue to attend the retreats and support our new director, Joy-Ann Nosworthy. I also want to thank the confer-



Alice Jacobson with her husband, Dale, beside her, passes the baton to Joy-Ann Nosworthy, a member of the Danbury-Bethel Church, who will be the new Women's Ministries volunteer coordinator for the Southern New England Conference.

ence leadership for their unending support of this ministry. I'd like to mention Tom Murray, who was especially supportive of this ministry. I especially thank my advisory team for their total and complete support over the past six-and-a-half years. Lastly, but not least, I want to thank God for His guidance, wisdom, and love bestowed on me throughout this journey."

At the October 5 event, the entire Southern New England Conference administration thanked the Jacobsons for the "wonderful spirit and dedication they brought to the women of the conference."

—GLENER editor



## Bermuda Conference School of Evangelism Renamed WAVES

The Bermuda Conference school of evangelism that was officially launched in February 2013 was renamed WAVES, an acronym for five fundamental values of the school. The name symbolizes the island life and making waves for Jesus across Bermuda:

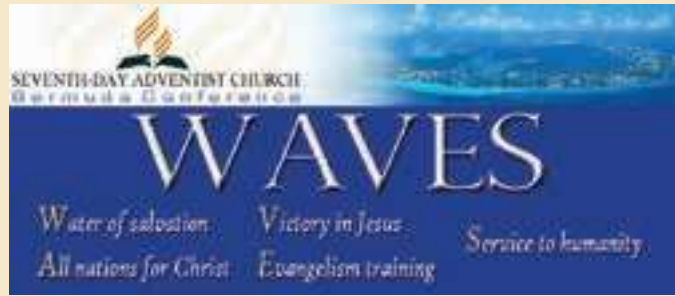
1. Water of salvation
2. All nations for Christ
3. Victory in Jesus
4. Evangelism training
5. Service to humanity

WAVES functions as the evangelistic training arm of the conference's Personal Ministries department. The goal of the Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries Department is

to reach Bermuda with hope and wholeness by training church members to unite their efforts with

the ministry and church officers in the final proclamation of the gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus.

The courses are available to all constituent members of the Bermuda Conference. WAVES is designed to help acquire knowledge about evangelism, develop skills to do evangelism, and challenge its students to make disciples for Jesus Christ.



For more information about WAVES, contact the Bermuda Conference headquarters at (441) 292-4110 or visit the Web site: [schoolofevangelism.adventistbermuda.org](http://schoolofevangelism.adventistbermuda.org).

—Gwen Mapp, communication director, Bermuda Conference

## Bermudians Give Thanks for God's Protection Through Two Storms

Tropical Storm Fay battered Bermuda on Friday, October 12, and became a Category 1 hurricane before leaving the island. Residents did not see or expect this devastation.

On the following Friday, October 17, as islanders waited and prepared for Hurricane Gonzalo, the eye passed directly over the island, causing flooding and damage to many structures. The remnants of Gonzalo also pounded the islands with wind gusts exceeding 135 mph.

Homes, trees, and power lines proved vulnerable to Gonzalo, with more than 80 percent of the island without power from two days to two weeks experiencing interruptions or being out of service. Damage to the island exceeds \$100 million.

One week later, on October 25, the Hamilton church hosted a Praise Explosion. The island-wide program, open to the public,

was an evening of singing, praise, and testimonies of what the residents experienced. They thanked God for allowing them to endure Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricane Gonzalo.

Damon Hendrickson, pastor of the Midland Heights church, stirred the hearts of the participants as he opened the service. Church members Wayne and Dwayne Caines were the masters of ceremonies and gave their testimonies of how God blessed them and their families through the storms. They invited everyone to an old-fashioned, "Throw Back MV-type (Missionary Volunteers) AYS Service."

Praise leaders Michael Spenser and Conrad Roach led the congregation in songs of praise. The Hamilton church praise teams blessed the hearts of those in the audience as they all joined in to give God praise.

Many people gave their favorite Bible verses of thanksgiving, including:

- "God is my shield, saving those whose hearts are true and right"—Psalm 7:10, NLT.
- "The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in Him"—Nahum 1:7, NLT.
- "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever"—1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV.
- "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song"—Psalm 28:7, NIV.
- "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and

praise His name"—Psalm 100:4, NIV.

Young Aaron Spencer, saxophonist, made a joyful noise with his rendition of "Glorious" by Martha Munizzi. The Inspirational Choir of Southampton church, under the direction of Owen Simons, ended the day with a moving medley of praise and thanksgiving.

Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, closed the evening with worship thoughts of God's goodness and mercy. He reminded the congregation that they should not take life for granted and they should use the opportunity to witness to their neighbors and remind them of God's greatness.

Thank God, no life was lost during these massive storms.

—Gwen Mapp, communication director, Bermuda Conference



## Sunset Table

| January 2015        | 2    | 9    | 16   | 23   | 30   |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bangor, ME          | 4:05 | 4:14 | 4:22 | 4:31 | 4:41 |
| Portland, ME        | 4:16 | 4:23 | 4:31 | 4:41 | 4:50 |
| Boston, MA          | 4:24 | 4:31 | 4:39 | 4:47 | 4:56 |
| South Lancaster, MA | 4:26 | 4:33 | 4:41 | 4:49 | 4:58 |
| Pittsfield, MA      | 4:32 | 4:39 | 4:47 | 4:56 | 5:05 |
| Hartford, CT        | 4:32 | 4:39 | 4:47 | 4:55 | 5:04 |
| New York, NY        | 4:40 | 4:47 | 4:55 | 5:03 | 5:12 |
| Albany, NY          | 4:32 | 4:39 | 4:47 | 4:56 | 5:05 |
| Utica, NY           | 4:38 | 4:45 | 4:53 | 5:02 | 5:11 |
| Syracuse, NY        | 4:42 | 4:49 | 4:57 | 5:06 | 5:15 |
| Rochester, NY       | 4:47 | 4:54 | 5:02 | 5:11 | 5:21 |
| Buffalo, NY         | 4:53 | 5:00 | 5:08 | 5:17 | 5:26 |
| Hamilton, Bda       | 5:25 | 5:31 | 5:37 | 5:43 | 5:50 |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ATLANTIC UNION

**Adventist Youth Ministries Leadership Congress**, January 23-25, 2015, at the Providence Convention Center, 1 Sabin St., Providence, RI 02903. **Register by December 16, 2014, to receive the early bird registration rate of \$169.00.** Registration includes admission to the convention center, access to all general sessions, access to workshops, five meals, and a registration packet. All those attending must register for the hotel room on their own at the Omni Providence Hotel, 1 W Exchange St., Providence, RI 02903, (800) 843-6664, use the code: Atlantic Union. The rate for hotel room is \$129.00 plus tax (up to four people per room). All hotel information will be available at the same time as the registration begins. The event is sponsored by the Atlantic Union Adventist Conference Adventist Youth

Ministries in partnership with the North American Division.

## OUT-OF-UNION

**10 Days of Prayer**, January 7-17, 2015. The theme for the 10 Days of Prayer is, "Experiencing the Fruits of the Spirit," based on Galatians 5:22-25. Each day participants will be praying for and learning about the 10 attributes of the Spirit. To register yourself or your group, visit [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org). There, you will find promotional materials as well as downloadable guidelines for leaders. Follow it on Twitter at #10DaysofPrayer2015, and watch special episodes of Let's Pray—10 Days of Prayer at [www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org).

## OBITUARIES

**JOHNSON, Dorothy M.**—89; b. Apr. 26, 1925, in Stratton, Vt.; d. Aug. 28, 2014,

in South Lancaster, Mass. She was a member of the Village Church in South Lancaster, Mass. She graduated from South Lancaster Academy in 1943 and took pre-nursing and nursing classes at New England Sanitarium and Hospital in Stoneham, Mass. She also worked at the New England Memorial Hospital. She is survived by two daughters, Doreen Moody of Caribou, Maine; Linnea (Tom Davis) Mesaric-Davis of Sterling, Mass.; a son Ed (Diane) Johnson of Winterville, Ga.; seven grandchildren, Randall Moody of Old Town, Maine; Crystal Levesque of Presque Isle, Maine; Seth Moody of Eddington, Maine; Kellie Moody of Portland, Maine; Cathy Mesaric-Rocha of Guilford, Maine; George Mesaric of Unity, Maine; and Sarah Wallis of Duluth, Ga.; three brothers, Charles Hurd of West Paris, Mass., and Floyd Hurd of Bryant Pond, Maine; two sisters, Doris Richmond Paquette of Cornwall, Vt., and Marion Beaver of Milton Freewater, Ore.; and several great-grandchildren.



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A photograph of a vibrant red cardinal perched on a thin, snow-laden branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus winter scene with more snow-covered branches and a pale sky. The cardinal is the central focus, facing left.

*Wishing our readers  
a happy, healthy, and  
prosperous season!*

—Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff

“God has made  
everything beautiful  
for its own time.”

—Ecclesiastes 3:11, NLT