

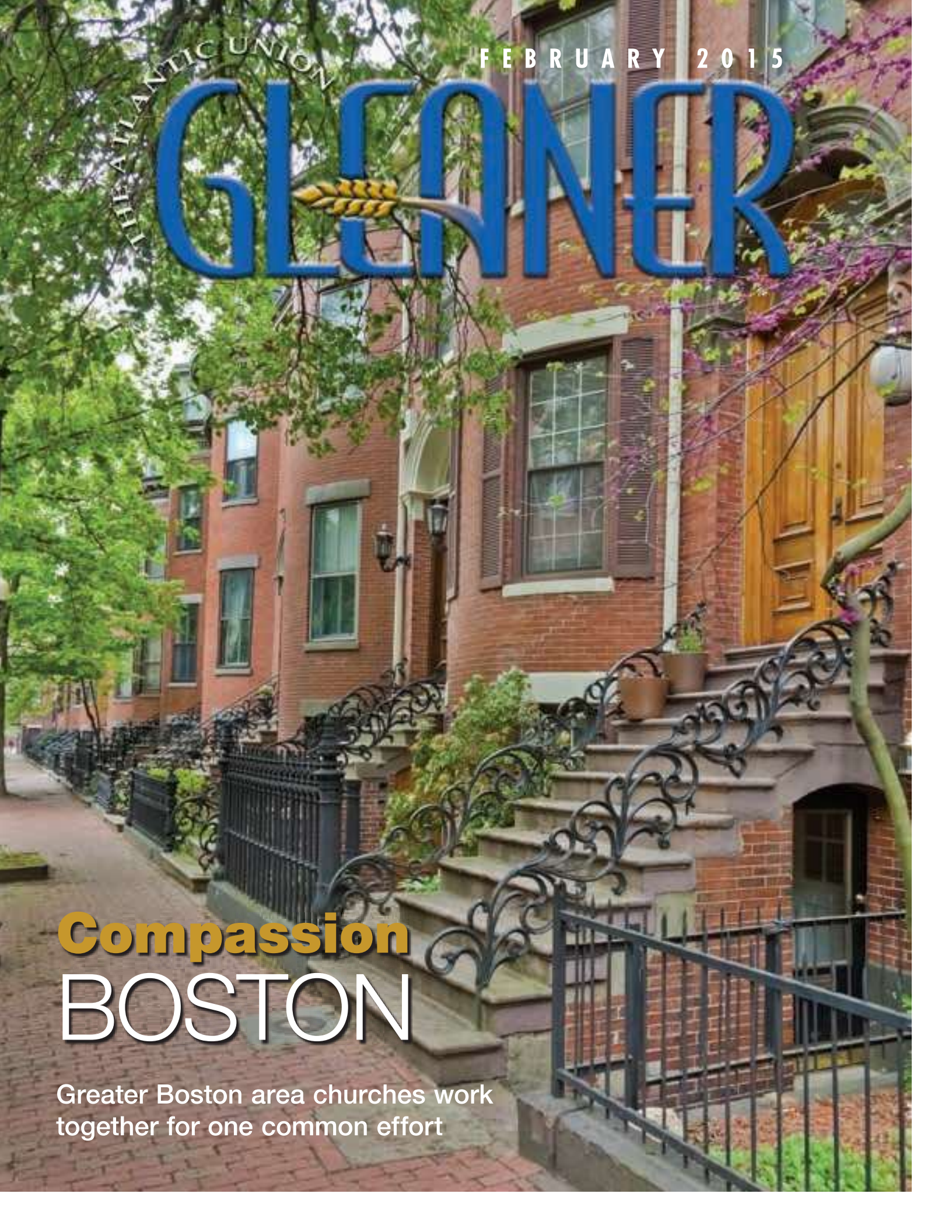
THE ATLANTIC UNION

FEBRUARY 2015

# GLEANER

## Compassion BOSTON

Greater Boston area churches work together for one common effort





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**Cover:** The photo on the cover of brownstone homes in the Back Bay area of Boston, Massachusetts, is from iStockphoto.com.

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## Compassion More Than A Word

**M**atthew 9:36, NIV, says that on Jesus' third Galilean tour, "When He (Jesus) saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." The previous verse of Matthew 9:35 lets us know what Jesus did on His second Galilean tour. The Bible says Jesus was teaching, preaching, and healing the sick. Now when Jesus saw the crowds He was moved because they were like sheep with no shepherd.

The nature of a shepherd toward his sheep is one of the best ways to describe compassion. The word compassion brings to our senses a suggestion of kindness, care, good treatment, concern, and yes, even love. So I envision Jesus looking caringly and lovingly on the crowds because He sees their weaknesses, their great needs. The crowds in Jesus' day needed His compassion—we, today, need it even more.

I am very happy that there has been an emphasis on hosting compassion marches and special compassion emphasis days throughout our union territory. The Adventist Youth Ministries has taken these initiatives to create and demonstrate this unique Christian quality in our cities. This is something every follower of Jesus should do—daily demonstrate Christ-like compassion. But the chal-

lenge with such an undertaking is great. Only by being a new creation in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17) can we truly model the depth and breadth of Jesus' compassion.

Seeing that the forces of evil have created such havoc and desperation among our young people, communities, and senior populations, our world is very much in need of genuine care. Do we really need a reminder that our world needs compassion, that our world needs the Christian graces, acts of forgiveness, acts of mercy, and love from and among us human beings? The answer is a resounding Yes!

Our world needs all the compassion, all the unselfish love and concern it can see and experience. But who will give it? I hope you will decide to join that march, or that personal endeavor as a Christian and demonstrate by your words, your looks, and your gestures those wonderful graces of Christian compassion. When we demonstrate instead of merely speaking about compassion, we move the witness of Jesus' love to a reality which is more than just words.

May God's Spirit be allowed to transform our lives daily so that we can model His compassion every day of 2015. ☺

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*Carlyle C. Simmons is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and director of the Health Ministries, Human Relations, and Prayer Ministries departments.*

*“Our world  
needs all the  
compassion, all  
the unselfish  
love and concern  
it can see and  
experience.”*





# COMPASSION BOSTON

*Because Actions Speak Louder than Words*

Over the past several months an army of mission-focused lay evangelists have embarked on a multi-year commitment to evangelize one of the most influential cities on the planet—Boston, Massachusetts. Our Greater Boston area churches are working together in their sphere of influence and in their strength for one common effort—Compassion Boston.

Compassion Boston ministers to practical needs and celebrates the joy, peace, and hope that is found in the gracious love of Jesus. Compassion Boston is fashioned after the example of Christ Himself because we recognize that “Christ’s methods alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then he bade them, ‘Follow Me’ ”—THE MINISTRY OF HEALING, p. 143.

It has been said that ‘people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.’ Person-to-person interaction and community engagement create evangelistic opportunity. This is the hallmark of Compassion Boston. The people of Boston will be much more likely to hear biblical truth in our churches when we have shared the love of Jesus in their community.

Boston offers a challenging and exciting evangelistic environment. There are approximately 4.5 million people residing in the Greater Boston area. Boston is the largest and most culturally-diverse city in the six New England states, generating the strongest economic and cultural impact.

Boston is a globally-recognized leader in healthcare and medical research. Hospitals such as Massachusetts General Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham

Because of the city’s prominent role in the American Revolution, several historic sites relating to that period are preserved as part of the Boston National Historical Park System.

The city is also home to several prominent art museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Institute of Contemporary Art. The John F. Kennedy Library, the Boston Athenaeum, the Boston Children’s Museum, the Museum of Science, and the New

*"The people of Boston will be much more likely to hear biblical truth in our churches when we have shared the love of Jesus in their community."*

and Women’s Hospital, and many others are at the forefront of medical innovation and patient care.

There are dozens of world-renowned and very prestigious colleges and universities in the greater Boston area. Schools such as Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, Northeastern University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the New England Conservatory of Music attract students from all over the world.

Within this cutting-edge, youthful vibrancy is also a proud heritage.

England Aquarium are included among the famous landmarks.

Boston lies within the territory of the Southern New England Conference and the Northeastern Conference. There is a strong base of support from pastors, skilled Bible workers, and an energized laity.

Recently the American Bible Society and the Barna Research Group reported an assessment of the 100 most Bible-minded cities in America. Boston was not in the top 10, or even the top 50. Boston was 98th out of the 100

major metropolitan areas in America. This is the mission field.

Every day there are new experiences in witnessing. Recently the Boston Temple hosted a block party for the Fenway neighborhood. Residents came out to enjoy food, friendship, singing, and loving service offered by local organizations and agencies. One of our lay evangelists offered hand massages and paraffin dip treatments. She ministered in a unique, beautiful, and powerful way through human touch. Others provided school supplies and backpacks to local area children.

An army of Compassion Boston lay evangelists were dispatched to local hospitals and universities to encourage, share hope, and offer prayers. One thousand red roses were given as a gift of love. Others ministered similarly at train stations and on busy streets.

Several groups of Compassion Boston lay evangelists from more than 25 Boston area churches united efforts to deliver hundreds of hats, gloves, socks, coats, and blankets to the homeless during our Winter Warmth Campaign. Many of us had the amazing experience of volunteering in local shelters and pantries, preparing meals for those in need.

Hundreds of members across the conference have enthusiastically joined the movement. Christ is the energy and inspiration of Compassion Boston. This effort has ignited a passion among our members and has created an unprecedented unity of purpose among our Boston area churches across cultures and language groups. This is good for us.

Enthusiasm and support are growing for our plans to reach into the city with a coordinated health and wellness initiative this winter and in the spring. We have a battalion of mission-focused medical evangelists in the Boston area. From cooking school instructors, to



**Mission-focused lay evangelists and members of Greater Boston area churches are reaching out to the people of Boston through Compassion Boston. In the photo, tourists and locals walk through the famous Quincy Market in downtown Boston.**

personal fitness trainers, to medical doctors, our people are fired up for service.

We have been particularly blessed by the enthusiastic support of volunteer ministries, including Prayer Ministries, Women's Ministries, and Adventist Community Services. José Cortés, the former Atlantic Union Youth Ministries director, has provided invaluable guidance, inspiration, and support. We are blessed by the fine skills and dedication of local supporting ministries that have been placed in close proximity—perhaps for such a time as this.

STRIDE Ministries has been reaching out to the 300,000 students attending more than 100 colleges and universities in the area. STRIDE is marvelously positioned to introduce these young energized individuals to the liberating truth of Jesus. Hundreds of students are being positively impacted for Christ through organized Bible-based and Christ-centered events on various campuses.

The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) and Tekoa Missions

have provided strong guidance and support. They began focusing specifically on the Boston area, in January 2015, providing laity training, Bible work, cooking schools, seminars, evangelistic meetings, and much more.

Looking forward to 2016, the It Is Written team will be joining with us for a multi-church, unified reaping campaign. We couldn't be more excited! John Bradshaw, speaker/director for It Is Written, and his team bring a wealth of experience in major city evangelism. Their guidance, participation, and leadership in this effort have been an inspiration.

We invite your prayerful involvement in sharing Jesus in the hospitals, universities, boardrooms, households, pantries, shelters, on the busy streets, and in our churches. ☺



*Tom Murray is the trust services and Compassion Boston director for the Southern New England Conference.*



# Engaging Youth and Young Adults in Evangelism

**M**any years ago in the church a theme was heard: If you are old enough to be baptized, then you are old enough to win souls. Who better to reach one youth or young adult for the Lord than another youth or young adult? There is no higher work than this. “The work above all work,—the business above all others which should draw and engage the energies of the soul,—is the work of saving souls for whom Christ has died. Make this the main, the important work of your life”—THE YOUTH’S INSTRUCTOR, May 4, 1893.

To do this requires some fundamental principles. Here are four tips to energize the youth and young adults in your congregation into becoming that “army . . . rightly trained” who will help finish the work of the gospel and hasten Christ’s coming.

- 1. Give them a reason** (2 Corinthians 5:14). In its most basic application, youth should want to witness for Jesus because they want their friends to experience what they themselves have experienced. Help them grow in their own relationship with God and provide opportunities for them to share their faith. Encourage them to become personally involved and develop friendships with non-believers while maintaining supportive relationships with other Christian youth who are committed to sharing God’s love.
- 2. Improve their identity.** Former North American Division youth ministries associate director, Manny Cruz, calls it, “building their Adventist self-esteem.” Many youth don’t invite others or share their faith because they don’t feel positive about being a Seventh-day Adventist. Help them feel proud about their church by involving them in a program, or supporting something they are interested in by sponsoring or hosting an event. They will be more inclined to invite their

friends and be able to point with pride and say, “Yeah, this is something my church is doing.”

- 3. Discover their individual spiritual gifts, interests, talents, and abilities—then use them.** We need to encourage our youth and young adults to ask themselves, “How can I use my love for \_\_\_\_\_ in a ministry?” Whether sports, art, or music, the possibilities are endless for ministry if we allow them to think outside of the box and be open to their ideas—ideas which may be a bit unconventional to some of us, but may in fact open doors to creating relationships and opportunities for youth to witness to those they might not have met otherwise.
- 4. Overcome personal obstacles.** Being transparent is not an easy thing to do. Disclosing a relationship with Jesus Christ—something that is very deep and personal—can be extremely difficult for some. Many feel inadequate about sharing scripture or giving Bible studies. Experience is the best teacher, and some suggest that information should be provided as necessary, parallel with involvement. Youth “must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. . . . Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help”—GOSPEL WORKERS, p. 210.

Presenting the gospel does not need to be complicated. In fact, the more simplistic and plain the better, and it is something in which everyone—young and old—can participate. <sup>④</sup>

*The Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries Department.*



## Adventist Youth Leadership Perspective



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



## Hamilton Church Hosts Farewell Celebration for the Manders

Members of the Hamilton church prepared a farewell celebration worthy of a president. Kenneth Manders has served as the pastor of the Hamilton church for 13 years, baptizing more than 433 new members.

Keeping with the spirit of the holidays, members and friends were invited to show their expressions of love, gratitude, and blessings, as they honored the Manders family for their years of dedicated leadership and service. The Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Center was decorated in black, white, silver, and a splash of red for the December 28, 2014, event.



Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, and his wife, Claudette, enter the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Center for a special farewell celebration.

The young people served as waiters. Guests were entertained with dinner music by the Hamilton House Band church musi-

cians, Melvin Mapp, keyboard; Miles Manders, saxophone; and Shane Smith, drums. Special musical selections were performed

by vocalist Tracey Spenser-Richardson, Hamilton church's four praise teams, and Aaron Spencer, Jr.

The farewell celebration will long be remembered for a pastor who showed his congregation that "worship is a joy" at the Hamilton church. More than 250 guests attended and celebrated the Manders' ministry.

Although there was sadness in seeing the pastor and his wife, Claudette, leave Hamilton church, there was a reason to rejoice—Manders is the new president for the Bermuda Conference.

—Gwen Mapp, communication director, Bermuda Conference and Hamilton church

**COMPASSION**  
Because Actions Speak Louder Than Words

**BERMUDA 2015**  
MARCH 27 & 28, 2015  
SAVE THE DATE!

We invite the youth and young adults of the Atlantic Union to join us in Bermuda for this weekend of community service thru...

- Random Acts of Compassion throughout the island of Bermuda
- Distribution of clothing and food
- Partnering with local charities in beautification and building projects
- Sharing care cards and 1,000 flowers of hope
- The procession and rally for a more compassionate Bermuda

Sponsored by Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Hosted by Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Youth Ministry Department  
www.bermudaconference.org

## ? What's Happening in Your Church?

We are looking for news and other inspiring stories from your church to share with our readers. How are you sharing evangelism outside the walls of your church?

E-mail your stories with the photos attached as separate files to the Bermuda Conference communication director. Be sure and include a caption with each photo and the name of the photographer.

For information on submitting articles, visit: [atlantic-union.org/writing-guidelines](http://atlantic-union.org/writing-guidelines).



**Gwen Mapp**

Communication Director  
Bermuda Conference

E-mail: [gwenmapp@bermudaconference.bm](mailto:gwenmapp@bermudaconference.bm)



## Haitian Elders Attend Retreat in Pennsylvania

Haitian church elders from three conferences convened for a weekend of spiritual renewal and training October 24-26, 2014 at the Chateau Resort and Conference Center in Pennsylvania. A biannual event organized by the office of the vice president of Haitian Ministries for the Atlantic Union Conference, more than 215 elders, pastors, Haitian coordinators, and their spouses attended, representing territories and churches within the Greater New York, Northeastern, and the Southern New England conferences.

Focusing on the theme “The Elder: His/Her Ministry and Mission,” the participants were blessed by presentations from Agniel Samson, Oakwood University religion and theology professor; Steve Cassimy, Greater New York Conference English Ministries director; and



Haitian church elders from three conferences in the Atlantic Union convene for a weekend of spiritual renewal and training in Pennsylvania.

Elie Pierre, Northeastern Conference Stewardship Ministries associate director.

“The local elders were so satisfied and so happy with the training that they want to have it every year,” said Yves Francis, Southern New England Conference Haitian Ministries coordinator. Each participant also received copies of the 2015 sharing health book, *HEALTH AND*

*WELLNESS: SECRETS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.*

Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Haitian and African Ministries, gave the final charge to the elders after presenting certificates of attendance. In addition to counseling the participants to be more patient with the youth and intentionally look for ways to reach young

adults, Omeler challenged them further. “Go and practice what you have learned this weekend. Go and be the best elder you can be and work collaboratively with your pastor. Go and prepare your church for the soon return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

—Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference

## 14 Graduate from NETS Fall 2014 Program



Standing on the left side of the NETS 2014 graduates are Kevin Sears, NETS assistant director, Donald King Atlantic Union Conference president, and Avis Hendrickson, Ph.D., Atlantic Union College president, and on the right are Lois King, Ph.D., NETS assistant director and registrar, and Eric Flickinger, NETS director.

Fourteen students graduated from the Northeast Evangelism Training School's (NETS) fall 2014 program. NETS is a certificate program of Atlantic Union College and sponsored by Atlantic Union Conference. This is the third NETS graduation, the second to be held on the campus of Atlantic Union College (AUC). The event was held on December 14, 2014, at the Chan Shun Dining Commons. Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, brought greetings to the graduates, their families and friends, and other supporters who attended the graduation.

A brass quartet of students from the Thayer Performing Arts Center (TPAC), led



by Earl Raney, the center's director, presented the prelude and processional for the program. Marcio Candido, violin and viola faculty member, presented special music. TPAC is a community music school of AUC that offers music of many genres to musicians of all ages in the community.

Recently-elected Atlantic Union College president Avis Hendrickson, Ed.D., drawing from the class aim: "Led by His Spirit, live by His Spirit, guided by His Spirit," gave the commencement address entitled "Strength From Within." She encouraged the graduates to, "Draw your strength from the Holy Spirit."

During his response on behalf of his classmates, Ricardo Sanchez reminisced about God's help during some difficult moments. "His Spirit has been our guide. When challenged to excel through the many Bible doctrine classes and tests, we praised the Lord to see how He brought things to our remembrance and got us through."

The graduating class, comprised of six females and eight males, received cross-training in Bible work, public evangelism, and health evangelism in preparation to better serve their local church or to begin an entry-level career in ministry. Students com-

ing Ukraine, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and other states in the U.S., including within the Atlantic Union territory, received certificates and medallions to commemorate completion of the four-month intensive training program. Awards were presented by NETS director, Eric Flickinger, assistant director, Kevin Sears, and assistant director and registrar, Lois King, Ph.D.

Timothy and Erin Cronin were presented with a plaque in recognition of their support and donations to the NETS program. The Atlantic Union Conference Women's Ministries director, Lois King, pre-

sented a flowering plant to Hendrickson, the first female to serve as president of Atlantic Union College in its 132-year history.

The fall 2015 program for NETS begins August 20 with graduation set for December 13. Visit [netsatlanticunion.org](http://netsatlanticunion.org) for more information, e-mail: [registrar@netsatlanticunion.org](mailto:registrar@netsatlanticunion.org), or call (978) 368-2638.

—Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference

## Atlantic Union Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Recently the Atlantic Union Conference recognized the more than 490 years of church service given by 20 workers. The purpose of hosting the Employee Service Recognition program for these workers was to express appreciation and gratitude for the faithfulness and commitment of these men and women who have given continuous service to the Adventist Church and its mission. The event was held in the Miller Chapel of Founders Hall on the campus of Atlantic Union College.

Joel Swanson, General Conference Human Resources associate director, was the special guest speaker for the award ceremony. Administrators from the six local conferences in the Atlantic Union participated in the program. Service pins were presented to employees who completed five years to as many as 45 years of service. Several family members were also present for the ceremony.

From preaching to church administration, secretarial to



Atlantic Union Conference employees, some of their family members, and administrators from the six local conferences, stand up front in Miller Chapel of Founders Hall following the Employee Service Recognition program.

departmental service, the workers have distinguished themselves for the cause of Jesus. Coming from different countries of the world, the Atlantic Union has been blessed with workers with many talents and diverse training and today the Atlantic Union

Conference benefits from such diversity. To God be the glory for His love and mercy, and for the opportunity to serve Him and fulfill His mission until He comes.

—Carlyle C Simmons, executive secretary, Atlantic Union Conference

## Vinette Elizabeth Walker Celebrates 100 Years of Living

Mommy, Muey, Grandma, Vin, Aunt Vin, Vinnette, Aunt Vinnie, Betty, Gmaw—you name it, Vinette Elizabeth Walker responds to all of these at any given time. In November 2014, she celebrated one century of life with her daughters; grandchildren; her only remaining sibling, Marjorie; with her husband, Hermon, and their four children—Michael, Avery, Yale (Tony), and Rhonda; great-grandchildren; and other long-time friends at Miami Temple church in Miami, Florida.

Walker was the first of seven children (Edna Bernard, Winifred Harris, Samuel Walker, Herman Walker, Marjorie Douce, and David Walker, Jr.) born to the late David Elisha Walker and Miriam Maud Walker in Kingston, Jamaica, on November 15, 1914. Her father loved the country, so he moved the family to Guy's Hill, St. Catherine, Jamaica. His



Vinette Walker is surrounded by her family.

children attended public school and then West Indies College, now Northern Caribbean University, in Mandeville, Jamaica.

Walker attended West Indies College for four years; however, a financial crisis kept her at home to aid her parents until 1945, when she was invited to join the staff of the East Jamaica Conference. "During that 11-year stint, I legally adopted two beautiful girls who were sisters, Lurline Williams Anthony and



Vinette Walker when she was in her twenties.

Beverly Williams Donegan. In 1968, we migrated to the United States, and I was employed at the Northeastern Conference in Jamaica, New York," Walker said.

"In 1971, I was invited to join the staff at the Inter-

American Division in Miami, Florida, where I worked until retirement in 1979. By this time my daughters had completed their nursing course and were married. The two families gave me eight grandchildren: Winston Donegan, Melissa Nelson, Sophia Donegan-Hill, Eddie Anthony, Lorraine Anthony, Jennifer Donegan, and Naomi Anthony, and seven great-grandchildren: Madison Nelson, Andre Rainey, Duane Nelson II, David Nelson, Aliyah Anthony, Anthony Rainey, and Aniyah Hill."

Walker added, "God's instruction for us is to help others unselfishly, eat healthfully, exercise regularly, and He determines the manner and length of your reward." Walker resides in Long Island, New York, and attends Huntington church in the Greater New York Conference.

—Lorraine Anthony, granddaughter, and Rhonda Douce, niece

## Macedonia Members Meander Down Memory Lane

Should old acquaintances be forgotten and never brought to mind? Not at Macedonia church, where the last Sabbath of 2014 was a nostalgic trip down memory lane, where treasured original members celebrated along with burgeoning "newbies."

They reflected on their ascent from worshiping in a contained storefront to their very own building, replete with a social gathering room and comfort facilities newly-refurbished.

In keeping with the focus of the day, the "Golden Girls," a quintet of "ladies of a certain age" consisting of

Ruth Reid, Joy Towler, Mary O'Garro, Elise Durban, and Margaret Brewster (an endearing new member affectionately known as "Sister B"), sang; donned in seasonal red. Clive DeSouza, the first elder, presented fruit baskets to all golden agers, and assured them that they are still treasured and vital to the growth and stability of Macedonia.

Kevin Brown, the church's pastor, introduced a visitor from his home Parish in Jamaica, Elder Blackwood. A surrogate father to him, Blackwood took Brown to church



Heather O'Garro

The "Golden Girls," from left, Elise Durban, Margaret Brewster, Delores Clarke, Mary O'Garro, Joy Towler, and Ruth Reid, sing during the worship service at Macedonia church on the last Sabbath of 2014.

every Sabbath from the time he was six years old. Blackwood beamed as he saw the fruit of his patient persistence now pastoring his own church.

Brown recalled to the congregation the series of sermons designed to introduce the gospel to neighboring persons and stressed the importance of welcoming

potential new members with words “seasoned with salt,” uplifting, edifying, and above all, loving. During his tenure, Brown has notably been mindful and even protective of his senior

members and their personal well-being, and often carves out time during the week to drop by their homes to check on their well-being.

The departure of 2014 culminated that night with

a gala social where all ages were interwoven in festivities, frivolity, and food. They said goodbye to the old year’s sacred days with fond thoughts of old times, old friends, and with fer-

vent hopes that 2015 will be the one in which they’ll never part again.

—*Colsome Miah-Logan, communication secretary, Macedonia church*

## Grand Concourse Church Celebrates Founders’ Week

Grand Concourse church held its first annual Founders’ Week last fall with many visitors, special guests, and members attending. This celebration stemmed from the 42nd anniversary of their move for more space in 1972 from the Mt. Eden church.

Their very first pastor, Trevor Fraser, associate professor at Oakwood University, preached the first Sabbath; D. Robert Kennedy, a pastor in the Allegheny East Conference, preached the following Sabbath; and Hugh Maynard Reid, director of pastoral care at the Health and Hospital Corporation North Brooklyn Health Network, presided over the Wednesday-evening service.

The theme for the first Sabbath “These Are They,” lent itself well to introducing and reminiscing about the founding members. The music and the sermon all reflected praise and thanksgiving to the Father in heaven who had done all things well in leading them to their current location. Fraser’s sermon, “Behold, I Do a New Thing” looked back to what happened in 1972 and the years of his ministry at Grand Concourse, and about what needs to happen in the members’ lives and hearts as followers of God in order to make the final move to their heavenly home.

The second Sabbath’s theme was “Lest We Forget,” once again highlighting fond memories of the first years at Grand Concourse. Kennedy’s sermon, also entitled “Lest



Desmond Haye, Grand Concourse church’s associate pastor, left, and Burnett Robinson, Grand Concourse church’s senior pastor, right, stand with the honorees at the Founder’s Week celebration.



A few of the founding members stand on the front steps of the Grand Concourse church.

We Forget,” pointed to the solid faith of their Adventist forefathers, and the need to stay strong in faith as the journey continues. “Faith of Our Fathers” was the perfect

closing hymn to remember the faith of those who have gone before.

Fellowship lunch, afternoon services, and get-togethers after sundown

rounded out both Sabbaths. Many of the original members still attend Grand Concourse, and others are now scattered across the five boroughs of New York City and beyond. As a result, there was a lot of greeting and hugging of old friends and introducing spouses and children who had been added since the members were all together.

Burnett L. Robinson, the church’s senior pastor; Desmond C. Haye, associate pastor; Barbara Mitchell, elder and chair of the planning committee; and the rest of the committee members are to be commended for their meticulous planning for this week of celebration.

—*Ann Slaughter, communication director, Grand Concourse church*

## Union Springs Academy Home to Student Learning English

Aeny Layce arrived in Union Springs, New York, from her home in Brasilia, the capital city of Brazil, in early March 2014. Layce is a student at Sao Paulo Adventist University who took a break from her college studies to fulfill her lifelong goal of learning English. She shared some of her thoughts about learning a second language and experiencing American culture over the past months with the assistance of her host family, the Lairds, the Union Springs church, and Union Springs Academy.

“My name is Aeny Layce and I’m from Brazil. I have a close friend in my college, Benjamin Laird, who graduated from Union Springs Academy and invited me to spend a year with his family, so I could attend the academy and learn English. My major is journalism, so learning a second language is not an option. However, I have learned so much more. At the beginning I attended English classes. I never felt so welcomed in a school as I was here. All students and teachers were super friendly and receptive to me.

“As days have passed, I have learned to love each part of this institution. Many



Union Springs Academy vice principal/English teacher Loralee Muhlenbeck, left, works with student Aeny Layce.

things could have prevented me from coming, but I did not give up trying, because something told me that this would be the best experience I could ever have, and I was right. With every step forward that I took to get to the USA, I saw clearly that God was working with me. Today I know there is no other place that He wants me to be.

“At first I did not want to talk much with people because I was afraid they would laugh at my attempts to speak English. But, in

fact, they taught me and corrected with the greatest love and patience that a person could have. Today, my English is not fluent yet, but thanks to all of the students, staff, and my adoptive family I am now at an intermediate level in English. Reaching this level makes me already comfortable to talk with everyone here and better understand their way of expressing love.

“I do not know if I will leave a mark on the hearts of everyone that I have had

contact with here, but surely each person won my heart in a different way. Each day creates in me the desire to go to heaven and live in that constant celestial climate that I have every day here.”

Layce quickly became involved in the local church and at the academy, making friends with the church members and students. She joined the Union Springs church collegiate Sabbath School class and volunteered at the academy’s inaugural Renovation Week in March 2014. She helped in the academy cafeteria whenever she could lend an extra hand, and she cheered our soccer teams on all season long.

She joined the academy students for recreation times on a regular basis, and learned to play kickball last fall while taking part in the academy’s intermural program. Planning to graduate in December 2015, Layce headed home to Brazil in January to resume her studies. Her bright smile and warm personality will be missed at Union Springs.

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

## Schools Receive Assistance with Grant Writing

The leaders at the New York Conference (NYC) desire for all its church schools to prosper as they seek to fulfill their mission of educating students for eternity. It is their prayer for each school to grow its enrollment and to become financially stable. Seeking alternative resources to help sustain our schools has been a growing focus for the education department this

past year. Schools currently depend on tuition from parents, support from local churches and the conference, and individual donations. To lessen the financial strain from these areas, the NYC has decided to explore grant opportunities among private and local foundations.

To help in this endeavor, the NYC has partnered with Janica Caster, a professional fundraiser and grant writer,

to help seek out and write grants for NYC schools. Several grants have already been written and were submitted in 2014. Caster has been working with the education department and with teachers, forging a collaborated team effort for success.

In early December 2014, the staff and students of Parkview Junior Academy received exciting news from the Jim and Juli Boenheim

Foundation. A grant written in October was fully funded in the amount of \$5,000 for student aid scholarships. This is the private foundation for Jim Boenheim, head coach of the men’s basketball team at Syracuse University. Praise God for blessing one of the NYC schools with funding from this prestigious foundation.

As they await news on other grants submitted,



Students from New York Conference are benefitting from funds that will provide student aid scholarships.

continue to pray for the decision makers reviewing these applications. May God impress upon them to help the schools in need. As more foundations and companies are researched, NYC will continue to seek God's leading. If you have any knowledge or connections for

grant opportunities or would like more information about the new task force commission for philanthropic efforts in New York Conference, please contact Janica Caster at [janicakp@gmail.com](mailto:janicakp@gmail.com).

—Communication department, New York Conference

## 7,000 Pieces of Literature Shared at State Fair

For the fourth year in a row, the Westvale church sponsored a booth at the New York State Fair under the title "Secrets of Longevity." At the booth people were able to fill out a health assessment that was then entered into a computer program to tell them their true health age. The assessment also pointed out areas where they could improve in their health habits. This year, 1,385 surveys were completed, which was more than any other year.

Literature on health was available to the visitors to the booth, including special pamphlets for children. Seven thousand pieces of literature were given out this year, which was more than last year, when 4,800 pieces were distributed.

Right after the fair a CREATION Health Seminar was held at the Westvale church that included three participants who heard about the seminar while at the church's booth at the State Fair. Two people who attended some of the meetings were Robert Epstein, M.D., and his wife, Cheryl. Epstein is with the Gastroenterology and Hematology Group of Central New York.

Each of the letters of Creation in the CREATION Health acronym stands for a health topic that was presented during the eight-week meeting—Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition. When Epstein saw this program advertised



Church member Denise Strachan assists a visitor at the fair with a health survey while others wait to have their information entered into the computer.

at the State Fair booth, he immediately offered to do the nutrition lecture. So, on the last night of the program, there were about 14 present to hear his talk on nutrition. The attendees were also able to ask him questions.

Epstein was impressed with the syllabus from CREATION

Health that he was given to guide him in his presentation. The Health Ministries team was so pleased that he offered to do the presentation. They plan to have him do the nutrition lecture again at the next CREATION Health seminar.

—Joan Payne, Health Ministries leader, Westvale church

## Academy Students Present a Walk Through Bethlehem

If you could get into a time machine and visit any day in history, which time would you pick? I think I'd pick the day Jesus was born. Can you imagine it? Wise men riding in convoys of camels under the midnight moon of desert sands. Shepherds keeping watch on the chilly, windswept hills around Bethlehem. The blood-thirsty Herod sitting on his throne, scheming, grasping, treacherously sending his henchmen to do his murderous bidding. Angels joyfully singing the glad tidings of a baby that would bring a new dawn in history. And of course, Mary and Joseph having to settle for a smelly, straw-strewn stable as a delivery room for the precious Son of God.

If you had been at Union Springs Academy on Friday night, December 5, 2014, you would have witnessed all this. The students treated the visitors to a Walk Through Bethlehem, an inspiring Christmas pageant that was played out in seven locations on the Union Springs Academy campus. This is an annual event, and like every other year, the pageant gave visitors a chance to experience the rush of that first Christmas all over again.

We can be proud, and so thankful that our young people have the opportunity to attend Union Springs Academy. We can be grateful that God has given us dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators who are showing our sons and

daughters the reason for the season. We can thank our parents and faithful members in every church who are making it financially possible for our children to have a Christian education. We can prayerfully celebrate that time so long ago when God sent His only Son to live among us, that He might point us back to our heavenly Father and then die on a cruel cross so that we could be redeemed and be with Him where He is.

We have much for which to be thankful. Let us rejoice and be glad for Union Springs Academy, and for the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Bradley Booth, superintendent of schools, New York Conference



## Church Leaders Attend Leadership Retreat

Setting the churches, its leaders, and members ablaze through the power of the Holy Spirit was the overarching theme of the “Rekindling the Flame” Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses Retreat held at Camp Victory Lake on October 31 through November 2, 2014. More than 270 elders, deacons, and deaconesses from the Northeastern Conference attended this second annual leadership retreat to learn innovative methods and skills for effective ministry in their local congregations.

Ainsworth E. Joseph, Northeastern Conference ministerial director, coordinated the event. Dan Thomas, newly-elected secretary and vice chair of the Elders General Council, said that the weekend was a “Spirit-filled,



**Gordon Jones, former Northeastern Conference Pathfinder president, standing, leads out in one of the seminars at the conference's second annual leadership retreat.**

inspiring experience, which surpassed all expectations.”

Steve Case, president of Involve Youth, presented a series of workshops on such topics as “Relational Ministry,” “Signs of a Healthy Church,” “Bringing Back Missing Young People,” and “How to Lead Discussions.” Gordon Jones, former Northeastern Conference Pathfinder president, led sessions on the role of the diaconate in ministry.

Through his messages and in plenary session presentations, Ivan Williams, North American Division ministerial director, reminded leaders that only through unity of the body would the mission of the church be accomplished. Paula Olivier, pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair; Reginald Guerrier, pastor of the Beulah and Riverdale churches; and Mirielle

St. Pierre, Northeastern Conference Women’s Ministries director, also shared invaluable advice and information with the participants to increase their effectiveness as leaders.

Acknowledging that elders, deacons, and deaconesses are one of the church’s greatest assets, Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, paid heartfelt tribute to the large group of elders who have been serving in that role for more than 25 years and recognized the new phenomenon of husband/wife elder teams serving in the conference. Each qualifying elder received a silver award plaque highlighting their years of dedicated service.

—Kay Edwards, elder, Kingsboro Temple church

## Northeastern Pastoral Families Take Time for Self-Care

Pastors and their families from the combined English, Hispanic, Portuguese, and French branches of the Northeastern Conference joined together for spiritual, physical, and social self-care on October 3 to 5, 2014. Using the theme “Strengthen the Bonds,” the retreat was held at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hayannis, Massachusetts.

Ainsworth Joseph, Northeastern Conference ministerial director, hosted a thoughtfully planned retreat that provided ministerial families with the rare opportunity of temporary withdrawal from the demands of ministerial labor. Segments were designed to meet the needs all age groups—the younger PK’s (preacher’s kids), teens, and young adult PK’s, and the single and married pastors and spouses.

Curtis Fox, professor and chair of the Department of Counseling and Family Science at the Loma Linda



**Northeastern Conference pastoral families participate in Sabbath worship at a weekend retreat.**

University School of Behavioral Health, led thought-provoking sessions surrounding the often unexpressed realities that are inherent within the ecology of ministry.

The bonds of friendship and collegiality between the ministerial families of the Northeastern Conference were refreshed, renewed, and revived. The ministerial director confirmed that plans

are under way to provide more opportunities for the continuation and extension of the initiated dialogues. This blessed experience brought colleagues and families closer and also further deepened within their hearts the conviction of their calling to ministry.

—Norika Blackman-Richards, member, Ministerial Spouses Association

## The Bakers Receive Honorary Doctoral Degrees

Honorary doctoral degrees were conferred upon Trevor Baker, South Ozone Park church pastor, and his wife, Eunice Senior-Baker, during the worship service at the church in New York. The Honorable Phillip Phinn, chancellor of the Canadian International Chaplains Association University and Seminary (CICA), was on hand to admonish and award Eunice Senior-Baker with a Doctor of Philosophy in Humane Letters degree and Trevor Baker with a Doctor of Divinity degree.

The Bakers graduated from the CICA Chaplaincy program and



The Honorable Phillip Phinn, chancellor of CICA, left, presented Trevor Baker, pastor of the Ozone Park church, and his wife, Eunice, with honorary doctoral degrees from the chaplaincy program.

are equipped to minister the gospel beyond the four walls of their church, to reach out and minister to sports teams, banks, hotels, hospitals, schools, and prisons.

CICA International University & Seminary has full accreditation with the World-Wide Accreditation Commission of Christian Education Institutions, which is one of the largest non-governmental evangelical/full gospel accreditation agencies, and has been in operation for more than 30 years.

—Lorraine Archie, communication secretary, South Ozone Park church

## Village Church Breaks Ground for New Church

Great were the expressions of joy on their faces, as approximately 100 members of the Village church, along with Ainsworth E. Joseph, the church's pastor and Northeastern Conference ministerial director, assembled on the site of 121-06 Merril Street, Jamaica, New York. The long-anticipated day had come when on Sunday, September 14, 2014, the members celebrated God's blessings and broke ground for their new church building project.

Joining them for this grand occasion were Northeastern Conference officials Daniel Honoré, president; Oswald Euell, secretary, and Edson Bovell, treasurer. Winston Stephenson, conference evangelist, and his wife, Geraldine, who were instrumental in starting this congregation, were present,



Village church members, along with Northeastern Conference officials, center, and friends participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for their new church building.

along with the project manager, Lesford E. Duncan, the contractor, Mohammed Basheer, and several friends and well-wishers.

The service was brief, but inspiring. Durlon Smallhorne, the Village church's music director, composed a fitting song which he enthusiastically rendered. The members chimed in with melodious harmony that reverberated

throughout the neighborhood. It was an evangelistic moment and a true testament of God's leading, power, and blessings upon His people. Some residents looked on from their windows while others drew nearer to the street corner.

Aleen Bryan, building committee chairperson, gave a synopsis of the journey from the site and back. The obstacles and roadblocks

were mentioned, but recognized as stepping-stones in preparation for the inevitable challenges ahead.

There were prayers and exhortations from Ainsworth Joseph, and the conference administrators. Honoré emphasized God's profound goodness and reminded the group never to forget that all glory belongs to Him. Then, under the direction of project manager, Lesford E. Duncan, Ainsworth Joseph and the conference officials geared up with shovels, gloves, and helmets, each taking their designated position. Encouraged by the cheers of the excited Village church family, the ground was broken, signaling the intent to build on a sound foundation—on Christ the mighty rock.

—Communication department, Village church



## Northern New England Conference Celebrates First NETS Graduate

Ask Doug Berrill what his experience in the NETS program has been like and he will give you a huge smile and a one-word summary: “Awesome!” NETS is the Northeast Evangelism Training School, and it is located on the campus of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Doug is the first person from the Northern New England Conference to attend the four-month residential program, designed to prepare people for skilled lay evangelism work. The intensive program immerses students in classes and field work, where they conduct door-to-door evangelism, Bible studies, and assist with public outreach efforts. Doug had never done anything like this before and, when asked how he felt on his first day in the field, he gives another one-word response: “Petrified!”

Doug had long served in his home church in Rochester, New Hampshire, first as a deacon and then as an elder, but he kept feeling that he was being called to do more. He kept feeling that he was being called “to the front lines of the great controversy” as he put it. He considered ministry, but felt he lacked training. Then he heard about NETS, which is specially designed to equip warriors for God with the tools they need to be skilled at winning souls for Christ in their area.

Doug told his wife about the program and pointed out the disadvantages—they didn’t have the more than \$4000 tuition, he couldn’t work during the program, so they would



NETS graduate Doug Berrill, left, and NETS director Eric Flickinger pose in front of the NETS logo.

lose income, and they would be separated a great deal for four months. But despite the hurdles, his wife encouraged him to join the program. Lacking money, he stepped out in faith and registered.

“I was absolutely amazed,” he says, “at how financial

work.” He started out his fieldwork in a depressed area of Fitchburg that has high crime and drug-use rates. “I was really, really intimidated and scared—not so much of the community, but of witnessing. But it only took a few days for me to overcome that fear

Doug is already planning his evangelism activities, including how to recruit more warriors from his church. “I have had an incredible spiritual growth through this program,” says Doug, “and I want others to experience the same joy and growth that I have had.”

For those who feel they are being called to be fit for battle through the intensive training of a four-month residential program at NETS, Doug has some advice. “Do it,” he says. “And if you don’t have money, then put the Lord to the test. We need more people on the front lines of the great controversy. We need to remember that we are a church-planting and church-growing movement, period. If the Lord is calling you, answer His voice.”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

**“I was absolutely amazed at how financial help spontaneously came once I stepped out in faith.”**

help spontaneously came once I stepped out in faith. It came from places I certainly did not expect and it came in sufficient volume for me to make it into the program.”

Doug describes NETS as “Lots of studying, lots of learning, and lots of field-

and now witnessing seems normal. In fact, what does our church exist for if we are not putting all available energy into witnessing? The entire focus of every church should be on winning and keeping souls, and everyone should play some part in that battle.”



## Harvest Follows Labor in the Manchester District

The Manchester, Nashua, and Derry churches received a rich blessing this fall. Each in turn prepared for and then hosted a two-week long evangelism series, and each has seen the Holy Spirit working on people's hearts as they have attended.

The Manchester church was the first to open its doors for the nightly evangelism series. Preceding the series at Manchester, and in fact at all three churches, was an intense door-to-door literature campaign carried out by church members. Door-to-door campaigns can be intimidating, but they can also be very effective. The members of the Manchester District churches are today cel-

ebrating because the evangelism campaign has thus far brought 11 new members into the faith, with several more studying and preparing to make a decision.

The evangelism campaigns were led by Carl Behrmann, pastor of the Manchester District. He and his wife, Jeannette, invested profound amounts of energy into every step of the preparation for and presentation of the evangelistic series. The Lord used the Behrmanns and the members of the district churches in a powerful way, rewarding the labor invested with a rich harvest of souls.

—Robert McMurray, communication secretary, Manchester church



Carl Behrmann, pastor of the Manchester District, baptizes Sofia Niyifasha following an evangelistic series.

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## First Springfield Church Celebrates Baptisms and a Wedding

On Sabbath afternoon, December 6, 2014, at the First Springfield church, all heaven watched and rejoiced with the church members and friends as three individuals publicly professed their love for Jesus, accepted Him as their personal Savior, and were buried in the waters of baptism.

Victoria Auguste, who is a part of the Springfield Tyathira group, was baptized by Wilbir Guirand, an elder. Estevao Monteiro and Sundarii McGrigg, from the Florence church, were baptized by Mihail Baciu, pastor



First Springfield church's newly-baptized members, front row, from left, Victoria Auguste, Estevao Monteiro, and Sundarii McGrigg, with, back row, from left, Mihail Baciu, the church's pastor, and his wife, Viorica, and Wilbir Guirand, elder, and his wife, Berline.

of the First Springfield and Florence churches.

But the story does not end there. The following

day, Monteiro and McGrigg, in an afternoon ceremony, before God, family, and friends, vowed to each other their committed love in holy matrimony. The marriage service was performed by the pastor Mihail Baciu and Felix Monteiro, an elder. At the conclusion of the wedding, Baciu had the privilege of introducing the newly-baptized and newly-married couple publicly, for the very first time, as Mr. Estevao and Mrs. Sundarii Monteiro.

—Belinda Behnava, member, First Springfield church

## Bread of Life Ministry Thrives in the Lancaster Community

Volunteers at the Bread of Life Ministry in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, worked hard to serve their community during the 2014 holiday season. As a result, they collected 200 toys, cooked for 180 families, and prepared gifts and food baskets for distribution.

On December 18 about 85 adults and children from the community attended a program at the Village Church sanctuary. They heard about the birth and love of Jesus through music and videos. J. P. O'Connor, the church's pastor, and his wife, Anibel, participated in the event. In addition, dinner was served to about 142 people from the community. After the program the children received toys that were prepared especially for them.

The Bread of Life Ministry opened its doors at the Village Church in June 2014. Prior to its arrival there, the ministry was first established at the Lancaster Portuguese church in Lancaster, Massachusetts, where members saw the



The Bread of Life Ministry volunteers pause from their work to take a group photo.



Children wait patiently after the program at the Village church to receive their gifts.

opportunity to develop a place where people could be helped every day. The program lasted two years, but God opened the doors to a new opportunity at the Village Church.

The Bread of Life Ministry is open to the community once a week, on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and

are serving about 200 families a week and about 600 families once a month from all ethnic groups. The ministry also extends to other establishments, including nursing homes, shelters, and other churches around the Lancaster area. The program offers resources, activities, and services, including nurs-

ing assistance, social worker assistance, music and crafts for children, Bible studies, prayer consulting, and free books and Bibles.

The goal for this project is to continue to grow and expand, not only assisting those with food needs, but also helping those with health needs, educational difficulties, and a need to increase their quality of life.

The Bread of Life Ministry volunteers are to be commended for their hard work and commitment to making this ministry a blessing for the Lord. The Village Church is to be commended for its vision to love, accept, and save people who are in need of compassion. God has big plans for this ministry. One day Jesus will return and the hope is that many will hear the King say, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"—Matthew 25:40.

—Information provided by Sandra Mendes, Bread of Life Ministry leader

## Bridgeport Church Wins Grant for \$20,000

On December 12, 2014, the First Bridgeport Spanish

church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, won a grant in the amount of

\$20,000 from Walmart. They ended in the 44th position out of 75 winners.

The money they won will be used to remodel the church's food pantry, which will allow them to provide better services to the their community, which is in the largest city of the state of Connecticut.

The check was received on January 6 and the church members are excited about the many outreach initiatives that will take place, thanks to this funding. The church members want to thank all those who supported this initiative by voting during the 10 days of the contest.

—Glorimar Texeira, Master Guide coordinator, Southern New England Conference



Gloria Texeira

Members of the Bridgeport Spanish church hold the \$20,000 check they won from Walmart that will be used for outreach initiatives in their community.

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March 2015	Eastern Daylight Saving Time			
	6	13	20	27
Bangor, ME	5:30	6:38	6:48	6:59
Portland, ME	5:36	6:45	6:54	7:02
Boston, MA	5:41	6:49	6:57	7:05
South Lancaster, MA	5:43	6:51	6:59	7:07
Pittsfield, MA	5:49	6:57	7:06	7:14
Hartford, CT	5:47	6:55	7:03	7:11
Providence, RI	5:42	6:50	6:58	7:06
New York, NY	5:53	7:01	7:08	7:16
Albany, NY	5:50	6:58	7:06	7:14
Utica, NY	5:57	7:05	7:14	7:22
Syracuse, NY	6:00	7:09	7:17	7:25
Rochester, NY	6:06	7:15	7:23	7:31
Buffalo, NY	6:11	7:20	7:28	7:36
Hamilton, Bda	6:19	7:24	7:29	7:34

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW YORK

**The annual New York Conference Elementary Music Fest** is February 26-28, at Union Springs Academy, Union Springs, New York, for grade 5-8 students from New York Conference elementary schools. Music selections are sent out to all schools and students practice their parts in preparation for the musical event. Breakout activity sessions will be provided for students during the recreation time on their Thursday and Friday schedules. Last year these activities included ceramics, whittling, wood burning, making blowguns, crocheting, gymnastics, volleyball, drama, and sign language. We look forward to seeing all our students at the fest. Homeschoolers are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Bradley Booth, superintendent of schools, at [bradley@nyconf.org](mailto:bradley@nyconf.org) or (315) 560-4122.

## OUT-OF-UNION

**Spring 2014 Medical Missionary Convention March 20-22, 2015:** This year's theme: **FINDING BALANCE**—Commercialism, Professionalism, Spiritualism, Legalism, Fanaticism, and Separatism. Speakers: Dr. Norman McNulty, Harold Lance, Wilbur Atwood, Lew Keith, and more. Meetings, limited accommodations, and meals are free. For more information or to register online: [www.butlercreekhealth.org](http://www.butlercreekhealth.org) or call Lew Keith (931) 724-2443.

**Union College Homecoming**, April 2-5, Honor classes are '45, '55, '60, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, and '05. Special tribute to business/computer graduates and Gymnasts. For more information, con-

tact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68506, or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

## OBITUARIES

**CONTOIS, Eugene J.**—79; b. Apr. 25, 1935, in Leominster, Mass.; d. Nov. 10, 2014, in Worcester, Mass. He was a member of the Leominster church in Leominster, Mass. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia Smith Contois of Leominster, Mass.; his sons, Michael Contois, Mark Contois, Jon Contois, James Contois, and Jeffrey Contois; his brother, John Contois; 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**FLEISCH, Edward E.**—69; b. Jul. 2, 1945, in New Jersey; d. Dec. 14, 2014, in Bangor, Maine. After graduating with a degree in theology from Atlantic Union College, he moved to Maine in 1979 and began pastoring the Calais and Whiting churches. Following the death of his wife in 2009, he retired from ministry. He remarried March 10, 2014, and is survived by his second wife, Diane Plant Fleisch of St. Stephen, New Brunswick; a daughter, Christina Sufficool of Okeechobee, Fla.; and one grandson.

**LEHTO, Henry Arnold Robert**—89; b. Jun. 5, 1925, in Brooklyn, N.Y.; d. Dec. 29, 2014, in Arden, N.C. He was a former member of the Fitchburg church in Fitchburg, Mass. An active member, he served the church for many years as an elder and Sabbath School teacher. Survivors include, his wife of 57 years, Helvi Lehto; four children, Mark Lehto of Asheville, N.C., Matthew Lehto of Cresskill, N.J., Nancy Niemi of Fitzwilliam, N.H., and Michael Lehto of Ashburnham,

Mass.; six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

**LOVE, Jack, Sr.**—77; b. Oct. 2, 1936, in Tulsa, Okla.; d. Aug. 5, 2014, in Pasco, Wash. He was the pastor of the Crossroads church in New York, N.Y., from 1978 to 1987. He also pastored several churches within the North Pacific Union. Survivors include, three children, Jack Love, Jr. of Livingstone, N.Y., Michael Love of Burbank, Wash., and Teresa Baxter of Bend, Ore.; three grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, six step-great-grandchildren; a sister, Barbara Bauder of Spokane, Wash.; and one brother, Phillip Love of Kennewick, Wash.

**MEJIA, Michael B.**—52; b. Dec. 28, 1961 in Stockholm, Sweden; d. Oct. 29, 2014 in Clinton, Mass. He served as head deacon of the Framingham Centre church in Framingham, Mass. He is survived by his wife, Keila Baia Mejia; two daughters, Emily Mejia and Lilli Ana Mejia; a step-son, Christopher Andrade, all of Clinton, Mass; his par-

ents, Oscar and Ursula Mejia of South Lancaster, Mass.; a brother, Mike Mejia of Clinton, Mass.; and a granddaughter.

**RUSH, Linnie Welch**—80; b. Mar. 22, 1934, in Rygate, Vt.; d. Dec. 13, 2014, in Apopka, Fla. She was a member of the Middletown church in Middletown, N.Y. In 1956, she graduated as a nurse from the New England Memorial Sanitarium and Hospital. She served the Middletown church as a deaconess, kindergarten teacher, assisted with Vacation Bible School and was an active member of the Home and School Association. In 1990, she was one of the first teachers for the pre-school/kindergarten program for the Middletown Christian School. She also helped organize a hot lunch program for the school and Adventist Community Services. Survivors include, three children, Robert J. Rush of Montgomery, N.Y., Jonathan Rush of Thompson Ridge, N.Y., and Linnie LaBrun of Apopka, Fla.; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



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