

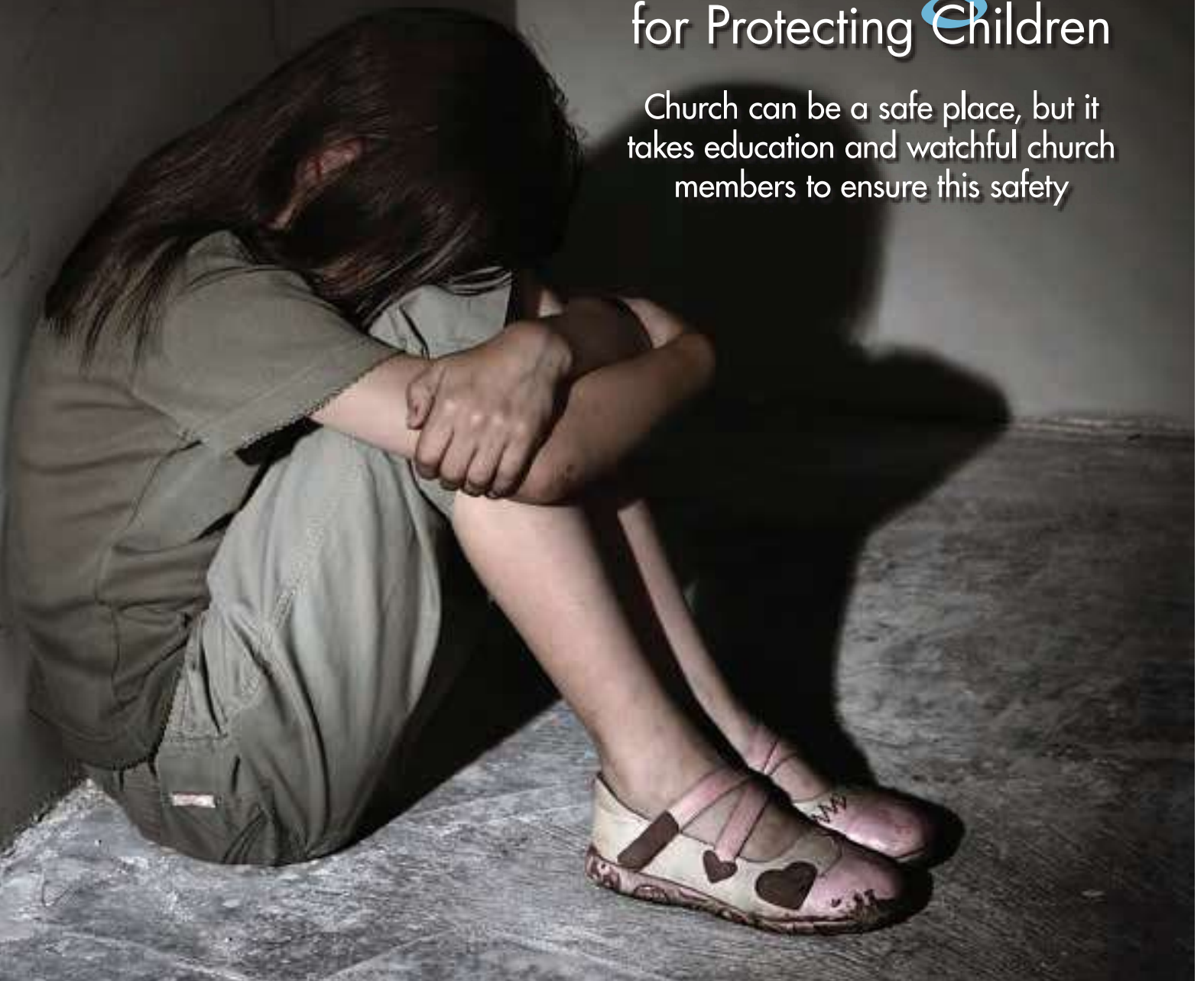
THE ATLANTIC UNION

AUGUST 2015

# GLEANNER

## *Strategies* for Protecting Children

Church can be a safe place, but it takes education and watchful church members to ensure this safety



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August 2015, Vol. 114, No. 8. The Atlantic Union GLEANER is published monthly by the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing, Inc., 14 Jefferson Street, Barre, VT 05641. Standard postage paid at Montpelier, VT 05602. Annual subscription price, \$10.00. NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Mail new or renewal subscriptions to Atlantic Union GLEANER, P.O. Box 1189, South Lancaster, MA 01561. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.



# CHILDREN —

## Their Safety, Our Responsibility

**S**olomon says, “Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate”—Psalm 127:3-5, NIV.

We all know about the unique wisdom of Solomon, given to him by the Lord. Now, embodied in these verses are elements that call our attention to the blessings, worth, value, and care required by children. It is no secret that we are living in times when the safety and welfare of our children is requiring our highest attention.

Foundations, churches, schools, government programs, and several other institutions, are promoting programs and guidelines to ensure the safety and protection of our children. Children’s safety—from general accidents, abuse and neglect, child slavery and sex abuse, exploitation within the drug communities, violence of peers and adults, and even homelessness—is constantly being publicized on the television, billboards, and in newspapers.

While, as a church, we participate in the efforts and programs of our society to protect our children, we recognize there is a greater protection program we are called upon to provide for children’s care and safety. That safety net/safety program, or that protection plan has to do with children’s spiritual, physical, social, and mental development.

God has given us a blueprint for the protection and development of our children. At its basic level, it calls for

the working together of the home, the church, and our schools. In the Christian context, there is no greater place than a Christian home with Christ-centered parents who will not only model Christian values but also provide an environment where the children will feel their parent’s love and that their potential is valued.

Recently the North American Division hosted a ministerial convention in Austin, Texas. More than 5,000 ministers, their spouses, and many family members were present. I was very impressed with the many seminars that were presented. The children’s programs and presentations caught my attention. Every day, for two-and-a-half days, hundreds of children were dropped off to a particular area in the convention hall. In order to access the area, a special pass was required. It seems that all measures for the safety of these children were implemented. I believe God expects and requires us as a family and His church to provide a safe environment at all times. Thank God for the careful efforts displayed by the organizers of the NAD ministerial convention.

Providing safety for our children must not just mirror the efforts of our society, but we must try by the grace of God to keep children safe from the efforts and temptations of Satan, whose influence is affecting our whole world. As a church family, we can thank God we are not alone in this endeavor. ①

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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.*

*“God has given  
us a blueprint  
for the protection  
and development  
of our children.”*



# Strategies

## for Protecting Children

By Candy DeVore

Sam slipped into the back of the church and waited for the service to begin. A handsome man in his early thirties, he was the kind of visitor members appreciate. Several members greeted him and invited him to stay for potluck. Sam eyed the children sitting on the stage for the children's story. When they ran back to their seats, Sam noted which children were accompanied by a single parent. By the time the service was over, he knew whom he would sit with during the meal.

Dan straightened the sash on his uniform as he prepared to receive his Master Guide designation. He had spent years helping in Pathfinders and had lost count of the young boys

he had "befriended." He was so well loved by the adults that even if a boy tried to tell on him, no one believed what they had to say.

Sally was tired of staying in the children's division on Sabbath, but it was the only way Sally could keep her girls from saying something that would let the teacher know what was going on at home. It happened once, but Sally was relieved when the teacher shared with just her what the girls told her was happening at home. The teacher was worried that what they shared would cause a problem for Sally, so Sally assured the teacher it would never happen again. Sally's daughter paid for the comment when she got home.

These are chilling scenarios—ones we seldom think about or even consider, but they are true stories. We assume that God's house is a safe place; somehow we feel we are protected from things like this happening in our congregation. Church can be a safe place, but it takes education and watchful church members to ensure this safety. Here are a few things you can do to make sure your church is secure and your children are safe.

- **Understand Abuse**

Abuse comes in many forms: physical, mental, spiritual, sexual, and even neglect. Churches need to be a safe place for children against any form that abuse might take. Abusers can be adults or children. Many adults who abuse children started at an early age abusing other children. Keep a watchful eye.

- **Manage Your Volunteers**

Shield the Vulnerable provides an application that anyone who works with children is required to complete. This is a precaution, however, it does not relieve you of the responsibility of managing your volunteers. One study suggests that less than three percent of perpetrators are ever caught. This application will only reveal a registered offender. You must remain vigilant.

- **Review Your Facility**

Make sure all doors have windows



Photos: iStockphoto.com

in them; none of your children's rooms should be completely private when a door is closed. While it is often a common practice to put our children's classrooms in the basement or in the less convenient locations at the church, consider moving them front and center. Make sure the hallways are lit and free of obstacles.

If the children are required to be in outbuildings, make sure the parents or an adult accompanies them to and from. Consider fencing in the area around the back of your church or locking any ancillary doors to discourage people from entering through doors without greeters.

- **Train Regularly**

Train your teachers to keep a close eye on the children. Educate them about effective parent pick-up techniques, and encourage them to never be in a room alone with just one child. Offer training in recognizing the signs of abuse and what to do when it is identified.

- **Work Closely With the Pastor and Church Members**

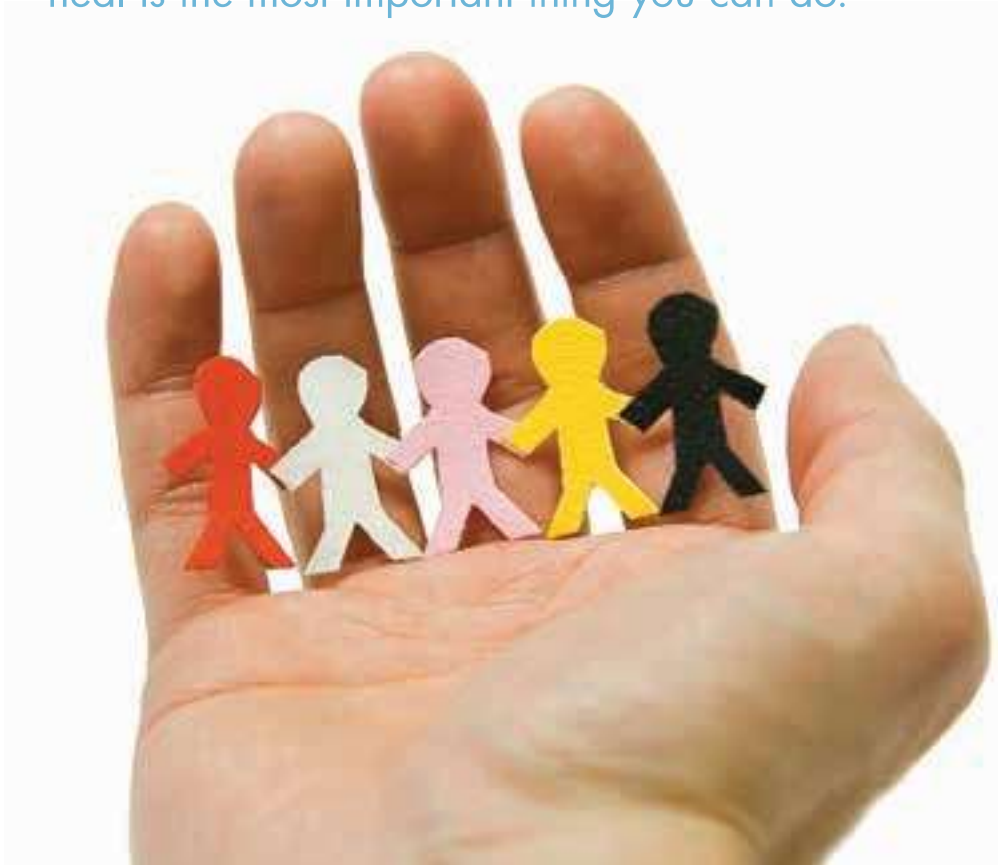
It is important that your pastor and church members know about the systems and protections you have in place and the laws that are binding. Have a discussion with your pastor and be sure he supports and leads efforts to keep your children safe.

- **Listen to the Children**

Studies have shown that children can rebound from abuse, but the thing they have greatest difficulty recovering from is not being heard or believed. Take it seriously if a child tells you they have been approached or hurt. It's a scary situation, but it is important to listen.



“Protecting children from harm, and helping them heal is the most important thing you can do.”



- **Have a Plan in Place**

There are two actions if you suspect a child is being abused: call the police or call social services—this is the law. Unfortunately, a child shared with her teacher at church that an adult was abusing her. The church member felt it best to let the mother know—and the mother and her brother, the girl’s uncle, rushed to the child’s side. It was unknown that the uncle was the abuser, and the well-meaning church member who didn’t follow the law unwittingly put the little girl in harm’s way once more. Remember, call the police or call social services. To do anything less or more is against the law.

“None of your children’s rooms should be completely private when a door is closed.”

There is nothing comfortable about dealing with abuse. It can literally tear a church apart. Remember, however uncomfortable it is for you, the child may have endured much worse.

Protecting children from harm, and helping them heal is the most important thing you can do. God requires this of us, and He will bless the efforts taken to protect the little ones He holds so dear. ①



*Candy DeVore is the editor of KIDS' MINISTRY IDEAS magazine, a resource for those working in ministry to children. She is completing her education to be a licensed marriage and family therapist.*

## Resources for Understanding and Reporting Abuse

- **Adventist Risk Management: Child Protection**

[www.adventistrisk.org/prevention-resources/child-protection](http://www.adventistrisk.org/prevention-resources/child-protection)

This Web site will help acquaint you with a series of child protection resources that can be implemented at the local church and school level.

- **enditnow**

[www.enditnow.org](http://www.enditnow.org)

[www.enditnownorthamerica.org](http://www.enditnownorthamerica.org)

A global campaign to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence against women and girls around the world.

- **Shield the Vulnerable**

[www.shieldthevulnerable.org](http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org)

Educates adults and young people about child abuse, predators, bullying, proper boundaries, healthy relationships, respect, the perils of cyberspace, elder abuse, life skills, and protects the most vulnerable members of society from maltreatment.

- **Other Church and School Resources**

[www.adventistrisk.org](http://www.adventistrisk.org)

A wealth of information has been provided by Adventist Risk Management to help to ensure the safety of local churches and its members and schools and its students. Church and school leaders are encouraged to visit the Web site to view the available resources.



## Revelation Seminar Reaps More Baptisms



Allison Thomas, Vivian Taylor, and Kevin Richardson with Bible worker Loretta Gibbons as they prepare for baptism at the conclusion of the Revelation Seminar at the Warwick church.

Five baptisms are confirmed following a five-week series of prophetic seminars at the Warwick church and the number is expected to rise on the back of that old evangelistic warhorse, the biblical book of Revelation.

Initially set to run for only the four weeks of May, the principal speaker, Kenneth Manders, extended the meetings by a week in order to incorporate even more of the gems of truth

that abound in Jesus' apocalyptic disclosures to His only remaining apostolic prophet, John, on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea two millennia ago.

Before attentive audiences of 43 to 66 people, including 11 visitors, on each of the four nights per week, the interim Warwick church pastor, who is also the Bermuda Conference president, presented clear Bible-based explanations of the application of

Revelation's content across time and purpose.

Punctuating his delivery with cries of "Talk to me!" "You're not listening to me," and "I wish I had a church in here," Manders detailed an unfolding interpretation of the otherwise bewildering thicket of prophetic symbols, beasts, times, and other figures that spell out the final destiny of planet Earth as Jesus Christ's return draws ever closer.

Integrated into his presentations on such topics as the second coming of Jesus, the seven seals of God, and the seven last plagues, the former Rastafarian adherent explained the unconscious state of the dead and destruction of the finally impenitent (truths designed by God to protect people from demonic deception), the origin and eternal validity of the seventh-day Sabbath, the thousand-year reign of God's people in heaven during the judgment of the lost, and the blessed renewal of Earth as

the capital of God's universe.

The pastor's enthusiasm was infectious, and his audience remained engrossed in his discussions far beyond the ordinary limits of human attention as he illustrated subjects from a large store of pastoral experience.

On Sabbath, June 6, Manders baptized three people who had faithfully attended the seminars, two more baptisms are scheduled for later, and there are several more people on the verge of a decision to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Attendees have been effusive in their appreciation for the meetings. "Pastor, thank you for the seminars," Neline Doe, personal ministries leader, said following the baptisms. "They were a real blessing and we need more of them."

The church is now eyeing the autumn for further seminars from Revelation's sister book, Daniel.

—Coggie Gibbons, communication secretary, Warwick church

## DeShield Ministers to Seniors

"An Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile," were the words spoken by Jesus Christ about the commitment and dedication of Nathaniel before calling him to be a disciple. The words "commitment" and "dedication" can also be used to describe Pauline DeShield, former Bermuda Conference Disabilities Ministries director. Although no longer holding the position she held for seven years, DeShield continues to actively share her time with senior citizens.

Currently pursuing a degree at the Bermuda College, DeShield must

record volunteer activity times that she spends with the seniors. So far, more than 2,000 hours have been documented. She devotes at least three Sabbaths each month transporting seniors to church and other special events using the conference's 15-passenger van. Some days she picks up individuals from their homes or a senior care facility as early as 9:30 a.m. and often does not get them back home until after 5:00 p.m., and occasionally as late as 10:00 p.m. Additional activities that DeShield has transported seniors to include Christmas parades,



Pauline DeShield volunteers her time to help seniors.

Christmas light tours around the island, evening and/or outdoor talent shows, and evangelistic meetings.

Struck with a vocal impairment in early 2000, DeShield experienced a disability first-hand when she was no longer able to speak and sing. After several trips to Lahey Clinic in Boston, DeShield has regained the use of her voice, although it is not as strong as it was previously. DeShield was recognized during the North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention on January 12, 2014, for her dedicated and outstanding service in the field of disabilities.

—Communication staff, Bermuda Conference

## Brooklyn Church Bridges Gap with Community Against Gun Violence

The Maranatha church, with the support of Greater New York Conference Brooklyn area churches, local community groups, and government leaders took a public stand against gun violence in a community that has been rocked by deadly shootings in the past few months with an anti-violence rally in late Spring.

The “Bridging the Gap Between Church and Community” event kicked off with a march in East Flatbush. Hundreds of youth and adults from churches in Brooklyn, as well as Queens and Staten Island, marched with hand-made signs, a drum corps, and chants of “Stop the violence.” As the crowd made its way through the streets, curious bystanders came out of buildings or stopped on the sidewalk to see what was going on.

Following the march, a rally convened at a nearby school with Shane Vidal, pastor of Maranatha, providing opening remarks. The two-hour rally featured performances from local gospel artists, including the Greater New York Brooklyn Area Youth Choir and the Majestic Heights Seventh-day Adventist Steel Pan Orchestra. Approximately 600 people participated in the march and the rally.

This was the second annual Bridging the Gap rally. Event coordinator and Maranatha member Karmisha Superville lost a cousin to gun violence and wanted to bring awareness while connecting churches and community members. “There are dire issues affecting communities where our churches are, and just



Members of the Maranatha Lightbearers Pathfinder Club hold up an anti-gun violence banner.



Gaspar Colón, director for the Center of Metropolitan Ministry, right, participates in a panel discussion.

like Jesus met the needs of people before sharing the gospel, so should we,” says Superville.

“The truth is the gun violence is merely a symptom of deeper issues that are widespread,” says Vidal. “God is calling the 21st century church to be a vehicle for change in the community.”

The rally featured a panel with U.S. Representatives Yvette Clarke and Hakeem Jeffries; Cory Provost, a community liaison for the NYC Comptroller’s office; Gaspar Colón, director for the Center for Metropolitan Ministry; Joe Alexis, assistant district attorney in Brooklyn; and



Pathfinder clubs from Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island joined the anti-gun violence march.

James Brodick, director of Brownsville Community Justice Center. The speakers discussed how faith-based organizations, government, and the community could address the problem of violence and proliferation of guns locally.

Colon said churches need to reclaim their identity as instruments of peace and transforming influence by working with youth and providing services.

Maranatha knows the

rally is just the start of helping a neighborhood that is grappling with violence. “I hope [we have] more collaborative events in the community,” said Kamille Patrick-Bennett, director of a nearby afterschool program. “The way to heal . . . is to come together. If everyone comes together, something can happen.”

—Kaara Baptiste, communication secretary, Maranatha church



## North Bronx Celebrates Disability Awareness Month

In difficult times, humans possess an innate ability to tap into their God-given inner resources. Persons with disabilities often have to dig deeply into this storehouse to keep from becoming castaways in our society. Earlier this year, North Bronx church observed Disability Awareness Month by highlighting the achievements and progress of persons living with disabilities, as well as educating and promoting greater awareness and sensitivity for the needs of the disabled.

The sermon, given by the Honorable Floyd Morris, president of the Senate of Jamaica, focused on disabled individuals not pitying themselves, but living full lives for the service of the Lord and their fellow men. Born with normal vision, Morris was diagnosed with glaucoma at 14 years old.

This once thriving young man began a six-year descent into blindness and was completely blind by the age of 20. Despite this disability, God had a plan for his life. Encouraged by a Seventh-day Adventist nurse to relocate to the city of Kingston to attend the Jamaica Society for the Blind, Morris learned to type and read Braille. Morris went on to complete a degree in teaching at the Mico University College. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and a Master of Philosophy in Government from the University of the West Indies (UWI). He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Government.

Twenty-four years ago, Morris was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His wife, Shelley-Ann, has been a tower of strength in his spiritual walk.



The Honorable Floyd Morris, president of the Senate of Jamaica, and his wife, Shelley-Ann, spend Disabilities Ministries Sabbath with the members of the North Bronx church.

His sermon, “Living with a Disability in a Disabled World” encouraged people with disabilities to serve the Lord with gladness and be witnesses for Christ. Morris also provided instruction on how to lovingly interact with the disabled. He reminded the congregation that Jesus

cared deeply about individuals with disabilities, as evidenced by the numerous miracles He performed on them. He also challenged the leaders to always include members with disabilities in the services of the church so that they can also actively participate in the ministry of soul winning.

Morris believes that, like Moses (who is believed to have had a speech impediment), God is preparing him for a tremendous task ahead. He reminded the group that in spite of Moses’ disability, God was able to utilize him in a tremendous ministry. Morris truly believes that God wants to use disabled people to help deliver a dying world into spiritual Canaan.

—Dahlia Reid, youth director, North Bronx

## North Bronx Youth Embrace Change

“We Will Change,” was the theme of the North Bronx church youth revival, which took place earlier this year. During these spirit-filled weeks the young people and their invited friends were reminded of the need to serve God with every fiber of their being.

The youth were blessed by a wide range of gifted speakers who charged them to be the change that God wants to see in the world. Greater New York Conference pastors Duddley Francois, Olric McPhoy, Gregory Carrol, and Nicardo Delahaye, plus youth members Gary Chang and Diandra Brown, all reiterated that true change requires them to stop being spectators and to become full participants in the army of Christ.

During this vibrant youth revival, two people were led to Christ and scores of others rededicated their lives to God.

Like the early Adventist pioneers, the youth can be the driving force

unless room is allowed for youth to take on the challenge.

Just like Moses, youth are given specific instructions on how they should serve the Lord. The hope is to see the day when young people

“Like the early Adventist pioneers, the youth can be the driving force for the church in these last days.”

for the church in these last days. The North Bronx Adventist Youth Society (AYS) encourages youth to “Be the Change.” The AYS department has a vision for youth leadership to be one that allows young people to be fully active in ministry. Unfortunately, this cannot be done

will fully realize their calling in the church and take their rightful place in church leadership. Faith, humility, and knowledge will allow them to serve and one day take their place beside the king, Jesus Christ.

—Dahlia Reid, youth director, North Bronx church



## USA Renovation Week Makes a Difference

For the second year in a row constituent volunteers converged on the campus of Union Springs Academy (USA). Any visitor to the campus who came between June 7 and June 12 would have seen people hard at work replacing windows and doors, patching concrete, remodeling bathrooms, and so much more.

Around the North American Division many of our schools are faced with aging facilities that are in desperate need of tender, loving care, and Union Springs is no exception. The volunteer work, spearheaded by USA alumni, has helped to not only bring much-needed improvements to the physical plant, but has also helped to bring much-needed encouragement to staff and students.



Volunteers converged on the campus of Union Springs Academy during Renovation Week to help with the much-needed renovations.

Some projects, such as replacing all the windows and doors in the girls dorm, provide improved comfort, safety, and warmth during the winter months. The boys dorm has a newly-remodeled bathroom, sidewalks have been repaired, and the school chapel was repainted.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to bless the campus at Union Springs Academy. Students returning to campus in the fall will thank you, the teachers thank you, and God is smiling.

—Jeremy Garlock, communication director, New York Conference

## Fulton Church Members Share Their Faith

It all started in the spring of 2013 when two members from the Fulton church, Duane Ingersoll and Dan Honeycutt, were studying their Bibles and reading the Spirit of Prophecy. They felt a burning desire to get out and to share the many blessings they were receiving from church and in their personal studies. Ingersoll even made a deal with God, saying he would give Bible studies to whom-ever wanted them once he retired from his painting business. This was a pretty big step, considering he could hardly read, especially in front of people.

Ingersoll and Honeycutt didn't feel qualified for

the task, so they continued studying and praying together, saying, "Lord, if you will guide us and lead us through this, we will go through any door you will open." So they began asking people if they were interested in studying the Bible and/or if people wanted to know Jesus.

It took some time, but God is faithful, and before long a couple, Jeff and Dawn Ostrander, agreed to have studies. Honeycutt had been encouraging them for some time to study the Bible, but the answer was, "No, we're not interested." It wasn't until Dawn Ostrander suffered from a major medical condition,

which could be fatal at any moment, that they decided to give God a try.

After a few lessons, Dawn's medical aide, Roxanne Green, was there attending to her and also became interested in the lessons. Part-way through the studies Roxanne said she had been to a few churches and was searching for a church that was teaching the truth. All Ingersoll and Honeycutt could say was "Praise God!"

The study sessions have grown, with Roxanne inviting her son Mike, who has also invited his friends. Roxanne and her son have been attending church each Sabbath, while the

Ostranders attend when Dawn is physically able to do so.

As additional studies are being generated elsewhere, Ingersoll and Honeycutt have asked for assistance from additional church members and the pastor to fill in and to allow the study interests to make more connections with the church body. It's truly amazing to see how the Holy Spirit is able to transform people's lives, for not only those who are taking the lessons, but also for those who are giving them.

—John Livergood, pastor, Fulton church

## Members and Friends Witness First Baptism in New Church

In 2011 members of the Westvale church felt the Lord's calling to plant a new church in the Baldwinsville, New York, area. In the following years the church grew with baptisms, transfers, and professions of faith, all while meeting in tents and houses, growing from 10 original members to almost 30.

In 2014, the Baldwinsville church was able to secure a more permanent worship location, and on June 6, 2015, the church members had their first baptism in their new home. The church was crowded as family and

friends gathered to see cousins Autumn Peters and Sierra Trombley commit their lives to Jesus in the waters of baptism. Jeremy Garlock, former elder for the Baldwinsville church and current New York Conference superintendent of schools and associate youth director, officiated the baptism.

While these are the first baptisms in the new church facility, they are not the first individuals won during the church's four-year ministry. They may, however, be among the most remembered, both because of the joy of seeing cousins bap-



Jeremy Garlock, former elder for the Baldwinsville church and current New York Conference superintendent of schools and associate youth director, officiates at the baptism of two young people.

tized together, and because they are first to be baptized in the new church home.

—Communication staff, New York Conference

## Fulton Church Reaches Out In Love

The Fulton church experienced a royal coming together through the effort of one couple's use and implementation of R.O.I.L. (Reach Out In Love) gifts and banquets. Will and Vanessa Comely were introduced to this program when Will worked at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pennsylvania.

"In an effort to bring the Fulton church together and provide healing among the members, they decided to "Reach Out In Love."

In an effort to bring the Fulton church together and provide healing among the members, they decided to "Reach Out In Love."

The Fulton church had recently been through some difficult times and faced challenges as a congregation in loving one another as Christ has loved us. The Comleys decided to anonymously deliver gifts to two church families. After send-

ing three or four gifts over about a week, they invited the families to a candle-lit dinner for the "revealing." Once the dinner and revealing took place, those two couples were then recruited to join along and "Reach Out In Love" to three or so other families and deliver gifts secretly to them, then partake of another meal.

This process continued to grow. After about three banquets, the pastor and his family were recruited through the same process, which allowed them to be able to assist the Comleys and other families in putting on the dinners and serving. Needless to say, this created quite a buzz in the church as people were trying to figure out who sent the gift bags, and what in the world R.O.I.L. stands for.

The final banquet was attended by more than 80 people. Toward the end of the banquet one person relayed to the pastor that his fiancé was really impressed with the love that had been shown in the church. A new spirit was kindled within the church, families that didn't talk were now communicating, and strained relationships have been mended and strengthened.

The banquets have temporarily taken a hiatus for the summer, but plans are being made for the church to continue to "Reach Out In Love" to missing members and friends. Church members pray that "Through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to the 'principalities and powers in heavenly places,' the final and full display of the love of God"—THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, p. 9.

—John Livergood, pastor, Fulton church



## Village Church Partners with New York City Parks

Youth and Pathfinder leaders from the Village church in Jamaica, New York, participated in the New York City “It’s My Park” program on Sunday, May 31. The program engages more than 400 groups annually in hands-on service projects and events throughout the five boroughs in New York. Partnerships for Parks invites organizations to get involved in “It’s My Park” volunteer projects and free cultural events in their neighborhood parks.

Representatives from the Village church’s AYS department and the Pathfinders ministry assembled at the Nautilus Playground in Queens (adjacent to Roy Wilkins Park). The park is just one block away from where the church worships.

The volunteers cleaned up litter and painted benches, fencing, and other playground equipment. The project was led by “Gaining Our Dignity with Parks,” a local park’s Friend



Youth from the Village church in Jamaica, New York, partner with the New York City “It’s My Park” program to clean up local playgrounds.

Group founded by Earnest Flowers III, an elder at City Tabernacle church.

NYC Parks coordinator Delicia Davis thanked the participants and says she looks forward to working with more church groups in the future. Most of the “It’s My Park” projects take place

on Saturday, but this was one of the few that are held on Sunday. There is a great opportunity for churches to participate in many more of these volunteer events in the near future.

Individuals or organizations who are currently working with



The park fence gets a new look after a Village church youth finishes painting it.



A Village church youth gives back to the community by painting playground equipment in a local park.

a Partnerships for Parks coordinator can apply to plan and lead a volunteer service project and/or event in their local park. If you would like to volunteer with a large group (10+ people), please submit a request to Partnerships for Parks, [Delicia.Davis@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Delicia.Davis@parks.nyc.gov).

A relationship with parks not only engages members in naturalistic stewardship but also forms a path toward better communication with NYC parks when it comes to facilitating events such as evangelistic efforts and sporting events.

—Communication staff, Village church

## Improvements Ongoing at Camp Victory Lake

Nearly two years ago the Northeastern Conference administrators created the Northeastern Camp Development Committee to ensure that refurbishing the camp would become and remain a high priority on the agenda. Comprised of dedicated laypersons and workers, this body is committed to transforming Camp Victory Lake (CVL) in Hyde Park, New York, into a modern retreat destination for the conference's 56,000 members.

Recently, the conference administrators have implemented the following improvements on the campground:

- The interior/exterior of the boys dorm (Baker

Hall) has been completely remodeled.

- The Irons Motel is undergoing renovation and will have individual bathrooms in each room.
- The George and Vernelle Earle Cafeteria has been remodeled, including the air conditioner and furniture.
- The basement of the George and Vernelle Earle Cafeteria has been transformed into a modern conference meeting hall.
- The Bland House has been remodeled with guest suites and air conditioned cooling stations.



The Northeastern Conference Camp Development Committee shares the master plan for improvements to Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York.

- A wrought iron fence has been installed around the perimeter.
- The picnic areas and landscaping have been enhanced.

For more information, interested individuals can speak with the Northeastern Conference treasurer, Edson Bovell.

—JeNean Lendor, communication director, Northeastern Conference

## Riverdale and Beulah Churches Organize Fun Day

Members, families, and friends of the Riverdale church in Yonkers, New York, and Beulah church in Mount Vernon, New York, joined together for a fun-filled day of food, games, and fellowship at the FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights, New York.

After prayer, a sack race, lime and spoon race, and domino tournaments were some of the games enjoyed by all ages. The main attraction was the volleyball match between Riverdale and Beulah church members.

The participants enjoyed food previously prepared, as well as a barbecue done by Christopher Newell and Jeffroy Simpson.

As the day drew to a close, the participants cel-



Members, families, and friends of the Riverdale and Beulah churches enjoy a fun-filled day together.

brated with Michael Reid, an elder whose birthday fell on the same day of the picnic, Sunday, May 24.

The group ended with prayer and thanked their Heavenly Father for the beautiful day that will be

remembered for a long time.

—Communication department, Beulah church



## Estabrook Christian School Is Growing

Estabrook Christian School in Plainfield, New Hampshire, will begin its 82nd year on Wednesday, August 26, 2015. The school's motto, "Building Character Through Learning," describes the steady and careful process that is at the heart of faith-based learning.

The school has now completed four years nestled in its new location and its rustic 74-acre campus provides a backdrop for nature and environmental studies, hiking, snowshoeing, and other recreational activities. Volunteers from the town of Plainfield have helped the school to develop walking

trails, and local residents appreciate the invitation to enjoy them year-round.

The school has also managed to develop a successful habitat for the Eastern Bluebird with the help of a generous grant from the state of New Hampshire that supports school yard wildlife habitats.

Estabrook is growing, with grades nine and 10 being added to the existing elementary program and further expansion to include grades 11 and 12 anticipated by fall of 2015.

Estabrook fosters excellence in an environment that is spiritually rich yet practical. Academic merit is emphasized and infused with opportunities for spiritual growth and understanding; fostering the virtues of edifying communication and teamwork. Outstanding instruction in music and fine arts is available for all students. Private lessons in strings, piano, and voice are offered through The Charlestream School of Music.

Witnessing is part of everything Estabrook does, including its evening spring concert and year's end program, held in early June. Choral readings from Job chapter 12 and 1 Corinthians 13 were included among a variety of musical selections, and the audience, including many community members, was invited to sing along with this year's theme, "Everlasting." Certificates recognizing character development, now a long-standing tradition at Estabrook, were also presented to each student.

Please support Estabrook Christian School through your prayers. Applications for the 2015-2016 school year are now being processed, and families inside and outside of the church are considering sending their children to this growing school for an education that can make an eternal difference.

—Ellen Busl, principal, Estabrook Christian School



Estabrook Christian school emphasizes music and fine arts as an essential part of its curriculum.



Students and guests of Estabrook were able to experience dog sledding, and some students were later harnessed in a "human sled" team as a learning exercise.

# Parkview Adventist Medical Center Files for Bankruptcy Protection, Seeks Sale

In mid-June, Parkview Adventist Medical Center announced that the Brunswick, Maine, hospital had filed a petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code with the United States Bankruptcy Court in Portland, Maine. Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code is designed to provide companies with the time and opportunity to reorganize, by restructuring their debts or by obtaining new investment capital.

In the case of Parkview, the hospital presented the court with a proposed pre-packaged bankruptcy plan that would include entering into a transaction with Mid Coast Health Services of Brunswick, Maine.

The proposed transaction includes the purchase of certain assets, the assumption of certain liabilities, and the preservation of the Adventist mission on the Parkview campus.

The common vision proposed by Parkview Adventist Medical Center and Mid Coast Health Services is designed to ensure the continued availability of high quality, locally-delivered care to the patients of the Bath-Brunswick-Topsham communities. This approach will also preserve all full- and part-time jobs at Parkview.

“After years of change in the healthcare industry and increasing financial challenges, Parkview has reached a point where it can no longer serve its mission as a stand-alone hospital and is now seeking a



Parkview Adventist Medical Center has presented the court with a proposed pre-packaged bankruptcy plan that would include entering into a transaction with Mid Coast Health Services of Brunswick, Maine.

new opportunity with Mid Coast Hospital to advance a common vision to serve the local care needs of Mid Coast Maine long into the future,” said Bob Cundiff, chair of the board of directors at Parkview Adventist Medical Center and president of the Northern New England Conference. “Praise the Lord, one of the things that Mid Coast found attractive about Parkview was its effective combination of medicine and spiritual support, and our chaplains and other ministerial staff will be working with Mid Coast to try to duplicate that environment throughout the combined entity.”

Before its bankruptcy filing, Parkview was the last independent Adventist community hospital in the North American Division

(NAD). All other similar hospitals in the NAD had long since been sold or banded together with other Adventist hospitals to form the various divisions of the Adventist Health System (AHS). The conference tried to integrate Parkview into an existing AHS structure but could not. According to Cundiff, “After multiple unsuccessful attempts at developing such a partnership we realized that Parkview was too geographically removed to become an attractive partner.”

Cundiff looks at how the dramatic change in the operating status of the hospital presents an opportunity for the conference to review the proclamation of the gospel through the health ministry. “This is an opportunity to ask some

searching questions: Has each church in our conference territory thought and prayed about what they can do locally to include the health ministry in their community services and evangelism? Has each church considered forming a Ministry of Healing study group to help answer this question? Have those churches with radio stations considered producing (or procuring) health messages for their local audiences? Together we need to seek out and evaluate health ministry efforts that comprise ‘best practices’ and see what the Lord wills for us.”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



## New Principal Hired at South Lancaster Academy

Jeffrey Lambert is the new principal for South Lancaster Academy (SLA) in Lancaster, Massachusetts. Lambert, who grew up in the area, was the first person in his family to attend an Adventist school when he was enrolled in kindergarten at SLA's Browning elementary. He later graduated from SLA and Atlantic Union College. Lambert has been teaching history and journalism at SLA since 2007 and is currently completing his master's degree in education administration at Andrews University.

"[Jeff] has SLA's blood running through his veins," says Pat Giese, Southern New England Conference superintendent of schools. "He is young, energetic, talented, and ready for the leadership role at SLA with enthusiasm."

Lambert envisions both the high school and elementary school becoming a model in academic excellence for other schools. His goal for the elementary curriculum is to focus on supporting various learning styles, and he plans to work closely with Adventist colleges to provide dual-enrollment and college course opportunities for the high school students. "The world economy and job market are changing fast, and students need a learner-centered curriculum and facility to cultivate twenty-first century skills," Lambert says. "I want our school to be a place that allows students to ask questions and build their understanding of the world around them in a safe, personalized environment." Recognizing that students learn in different ways and at different paces, Lambert



Jeffrey Lambert, the new principal of South Lancaster Academy, is pictured with his wife, Milca.

wants to incorporate a wide range of academic tracks and a more individualized experience "for students to uncover and hone their God-given talents."

A strong believer in Adventist education, Lambert desires to utilize the scriptures in each classroom to cultivate a deeper love and understanding

of God, while encouraging students to think for themselves. "Christian education has the responsibility of making sure our lessons teach Christ and His word through human events and understanding, not as two separate fields of study," Lambert said. "We must ensure our students are gaining the skills necessary to become independent thinkers, students who will go out into the world as action-oriented leaders, who can be strong reflectors of Christ's character."

Lambert and his wife, Milca, recently celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary. He enjoys cheering for his Boston sports teams, and is an "avid tech enthusiast" and "prolific reader."

—Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference

## SNEC Says "Thank You" to Senior Members

For five years, the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) has shown its gratitude for the support of its senior members by hosting an annual dinner. This year, more than 102 people attended the Trust Services and Stewardship Senior Banquet held on June 20 in the Chan Shun Dining Commons at Atlantic Union College.

"In a single word, it's about gratitude," says Tom Murray, SNEC stewardship and trust services director. "This is not a fundraising or promotional event. It's an opportunity to show appreciation for the seniors' faithful service and support of conference ministry."

Born from a desire to better serve and form intentional relationships with the older members of the con-



David Dennis

Southern New England Conference shows its gratitude for the support of its senior members by hosting an annual dinner.

ference, the event provides opportunity for spiritual encouragement, fellowship and, of course, good food. W. Robert Daum, planned

giving consultant for It Is Written ministries, was the guest speaker.

—Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference



## Annual Adventurer Spring Escape a Success

Approximately 1,000 Adventurers from around the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) arrived at the campgrounds in Lancaster, Massachusetts, for the annual 2015 Adventurer Spring Escape. Held from May 29-31, the theme for the weekend focused on the fact that the Adventurers can overcome obstacles in life with the power of Jesus in their lives.

Many area Adventurer leaders worked for weeks to make the event possible. A special "thank you" to all the leaders and to the leaders of the SNEC Youth Ministries department for their planning.

—David Dennis, communication director, Southern New England Conference



▲ Adventurers from around the Southern New England Conference attend the annual 2015 Adventurer Spring Escape in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

▶ Southern New England Conference Adventurers sing along with the praise team at the annual Adventurer Spring Escape.



Photos: David Dennis

### GREATER BOSTON ACADEMY REUNION OCTOBER 2-4, 2015

**Stoneham Memorial Church**  
29 Maple St., Stoneham, MA

<b>Friday:</b>	6:00 p.m.	Light Supper
	7:30 p.m.	Vespers
<b>Sabbath School:</b>	9:30 a.m.	Greater Boston Academy Students
<b>Worship Service</b>	10:45 a.m.	Guest Speaker, Cleveland Wilson '65
<b>Greater Boston Academy</b> 108 Pond St, Stoneham, MA		
<b>Sabbath Afternoon:</b>	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Luncheon
	5:00 p.m.	Rose, Thorn & Fiddle/Kathy Kalmanson
<b>Saturday Night:</b>	6:30 p.m.	Light Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Special Program – Old Movies of GBA
	8:30 p.m.	Class Reunions
<b>Sunday:</b>	10:00 a.m.	Annual Alumni Golf Game Pastor Cesar Perozo, Coordinator Call (781) 454-7321 for details
	5:30 p.m.	Supper at the Old Mill Contact Al Deiningner '65 for Reservations at Deiningnera@juno.com

**Questions:** Contact Arthur Barnaby at (951) 359-4344 or Afbarnaby@juno.com

### SOUTH LANCASTER ACADEMY *Alumni Weekend*

**October 9–11, 2015**

Registration will begin at South Lancaster Academy (SLA) on Friday, Oct. 9, at 3:00 p.m., followed by a Spaghetti Supper, sponsored by the SLA senior class. The Friday night program at 7:30 p.m. will be a musical event by the SLA choir and the New England Youth Orchestra.

The keynote speaker for the worship service on Sabbath is Linda Mills Farley '65. A luncheon will be held at the Chan Shun Dining Commons, with tickets available in advance or at the door. Please make your meal reservations and purchase your tickets in advance on our website at [www.slaalumni.org](http://www.slaalumni.org) or if you have questions, contact us at [contact-us@slaalumni.org](mailto:contact-us@slaalumni.org).

After lunch at 3:00 p.m. honor classes will have the opportunity to take photos, visit, and update each other. Vespers will be at the Village Church with a musical program, including an original composition by Earl Raney '80.

The Saturday evening program will be a "Back to the '60s" theme with music from the '60s. Alternatively, the traditional basketball game of students vs. alumni for women, followed by the same for men. Make your travel plans to include the banquet on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. to get all the information about the SLA building project.

Honor classes are years ending with 5 and 0. We are looking forward to seeing you there and catching up with all our classmates.

# 2015 Caring Heart Award Recipients

**C**ongratulations are in order for eight academy students from the seven academies in the Atlantic Union who are the recipients of the 2015 Caring Heart Award.

The Caring Heart Award for Christian Service was established to give recog-

nition to students attending Adventist academies who have “demonstrated a personal commitment to active participatory service and witnessing activities and programs.”

Students in their junior or senior year are nominated by staff members, pastor/

campus chaplains, student leaders, or the school’s witnessing/outreach coordinators. The final screening and selection is made by a committee at the individual’s school.

The award is given at the same time all other scholarships and awards are

presented during graduation weekend at the school. Each recipient receives a scholarship award of \$500 and a plaque.

## This year’s Caring Heart Award winners are:



**Azzi Mayes**  
Junior  
Bermuda Institute



**Nirvana Walton**  
Junior  
Greater Boston Academy



**Areana Roberts**  
Junior  
Greater New York Academy



**Kendi Callender**  
Senior  
Northeastern Academy Brooklyn Campus



**Theresa Danvers**  
Senior  
Northeastern Academy Manhattan Campus



**Kaitlynn Cancel**  
Junior  
Pine Tree Academy



**Cassandra Fuller**  
Senior  
South Lancaster Academy



**Hailey Anne Hornbeck**  
Senior  
Union Springs Academy

# Younger Church, Aging Leadership (Part One)

I sat almost in the nosebleed section of the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, the morning of July 4. There for the 60<sup>th</sup> General Conference Session, I listened to the newly-elected treasurer of the General Conference, Juan Prestol-Puesán, make a very passionate appeal to the more than 50,000 attendees and delegates there for that first Sabbath. His tone was full of emotion, his voice spurred with conviction, and the room was filled with applause when he was through making his speech. As I sat there and listened while the congregation broke out in applause, my heart felt broken and the tears welled up in my eyes.

Under the theme, “Give them the Keys,”<sup>1</sup> Prestol-Puesán appealed for the attendees to dig deep into their pockets and give of their financial resources so that the church could put the young people to work. He shared the story about his daughters learning to drive and told how the day finally came when they got their driver’s licenses and no longer needed driving lessons. “They came and took the keys to the car and drove,” he reminisced. To him this was a great achievement for his daughters. “It was a vote of confidence indeed,” he said, “an empowering action.” Then, to the resounding sound of applause he announced, “The time has already arrived for the young people to take the keys and drive the car of evangelism.”

Somehow, as a youth leader I should have been encouraged by the speech, but I wasn’t. It was a great speech indeed, but why did I feel so sad? The answer was evident as I looked around the stadium, considered the activities taking place, and observed the program participants of the day. On stage were seated several church leaders and none of them were under the age of 50. Except for three little girls, who stood in the corner prepped to read the scripture during the Sabbath School lesson review, they never participated in the discussion.

Someone speculated that young people under the age of 35 made up just about two percent of the delegates. That would be about

51 of the 2,571 official delegates. It has even been estimated that 77 percent<sup>2</sup> of the membership of our church is under the age of 50. Yet, over the course of the GC Session, it was evident that a large percentage of the church leadership are older than the majority of the church. For example, six vice presidents were voted, with three newcomers; 13 division presidents were voted, with six newcomers; and 11 departmental leaders were voted, with two newcomers. I cannot report that one young adult was voted among them. A stranger might easily assume that we are an aging church because of its aging leadership.

It may appear as though the young people are disinterested in the business of their church and many have contended this to be the case. Some would argue that the majority of young people chose not to attend the session because they didn’t see the relevance.

Others may say that for those who did attend, it seemed more worthwhile to participate in the activities that the planners of the event seemed to believe would be of greater benefit to them, such as giving concerts in the Lila Cockrell Theatre or to be out on the streets painting murals, handing out water bottles, and eating haystacks at the Impact San Antonio event. In my view, I would venture to argue that perhaps the youth and young adults were not involved because of lack of opportunity, or they may have also been overlooked in the planning as well as the execution stages of the various programs.

I do not doubt that the church wants to give young adults the keys. I just feel that it does not have an intentional plan for how to make the transition; and even further, perhaps the church doesn’t feel that they are ready to drive the car. However, the question is, Will they ever be ready? 🙏



Ryan Simpson is the director of Adventist Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union.

<sup>1</sup>See the entire speech by Juan Prestol-Puesán at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJEt1UfqagQ>

<sup>2</sup>Seventh-day Adventist Church Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, [www.adventistarchives.org](http://www.adventistarchives.org)



## Adventist Youth Leadership Perspective



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



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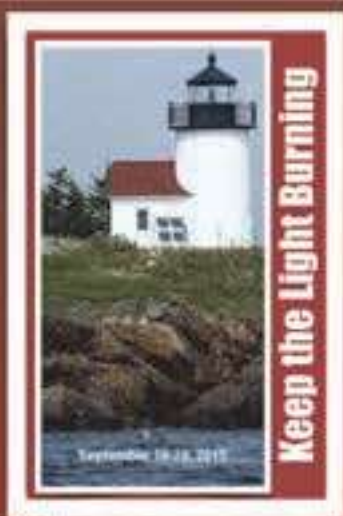
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41-32 58<sup>th</sup> St., Woodside, NY 11377.

## Sunset Table

September 2015	4	11	18	25	Eastern Daylight Saving Time
Bangor, ME	7:05	6:52	6:38	6:25	
Portland, ME	7:09	6:57	6:44	6:31	
Boston, MA	7:11	6:59	6:47	6:35	
South Lancaster, MA	7:14	7:02	6:49	6:37	
Pittsfield, MA	7:20	7:08	6:56	6:43	
Hartford, CT	7:17	7:05	6:53	6:41	
Providence, RI	7:12	7:00	6:48	6:36	
New York, NY	7:22	7:10	6:58	6:46	
Albany, NY	7:21	7:09	6:56	6:44	
Utica, NY	7:29	7:16	7:04	6:51	
Syracuse, NY	7:32	7:20	7:07	6:55	
Rochester, NY	7:38	7:26	7:13	7:01	
Buffalo, NY	7:43	7:30	7:18	7:05	
Hamilton, Bda	7:37	7:28	7:18	7:09	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ATLANTIC UNION

**Atlantic Union Attorneys Conference**, Oct. 16-17 Stamford, Conn. Speakers: Art Lindsley, Ph.D., vice president of Theological Initiatives, The Institute for Faith, Work and Economics and Senior Fellow, C.S. Lewis Institute; and Gerard Damsteegt, Dr. Theol., Andrews University and associate professor of Church History. To register and for information, contact Charles J. Eusey, (978) 534-1414, or e-mail [ceusey@euseylaw.com](mailto:ceusey@euseylaw.com). Sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL). Web site: [atlantic-union.org/religious-liberty](http://atlantic-union.org/religious-liberty).

## OBITUARIES

**AASTRUP, Alfred P. —86**; b. Jan. 26, 1929, in Brooklyn, N.Y.; d. May 7, 2015, in Phoenix, Ariz. He served as principal or principal/teacher for the following schools: Portland Junior Academy, Portland, Maine (1952-55); Brooklawn Junior Academy, Bridgeport, Conn. (1955-59); Hatboro Junior Academy, Hatboro, Penn. (1959-64); Dayton Junior Academy/Spring Valley Academy, Centerville, Ohio (1964-71); Greater Boston Academy, Stoneham, Mass. (1971-76); and South Lancaster Academy/Browning elementary school, Lancaster, Mass. (1976-89). He was a member of the Faith Chapel church in Saco, Maine. He is survived by his wife, Winona Kellogg Aastrup of Phoenix, Ariz.; three daughters, Rondi Aastrup of Phoenix, Ariz., Lauren Rittenhouse (Jerry) of

Stoneham, Mass., and Martha Ban (Gerard) of Bismarck, N.D.; one brother, Alvin Aastrup (Evie); and four grandchildren.

**FORD, Martha Evelyn Knowles—83**; b. March 25, 1932, in Stoneham, Mass.; d. May 4, 2015, in Greenwich, N.Y. She graduated from Atlantic Union College with degrees in nursing and music. She was a member of the Joy of Troy church in Troy, N.Y. She is survived by her husband, Cleo Ford; their five children, Marvin, Danny, Holly, Doug and Ron; one sister, Dorothy Knowles Kline; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.


**GRIFFEY, Eric C.—71**; b. Oct. 25, 1943, in Mobile, Ala.; d. Apr. 29, 2015, in Lewiston, Maine. He graduated from Loma Linda School of Medicine. A member of the Auburn church, he had a private practice and was the head of the adolescent psychiatric department at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, Maine. He is survived by his sister, Susanne Wolfe of Florida; two sons, Eric Griffey and Peter (Nora) both of Auburn, Maine; and six grandchildren.

**TYLER, Betty Lavena—64**; b. Jan. 27, 1951, in Kokomo, Ind.; d. Apr. 18, 2015, in Auburn, Maine. A member of the Auburn church, she volunteered with the food pantry and the local Boys and Girls Club. She is survived by her son, Daniel Tyler (Rina) of Virginia; three daughters, Susan LeBlond (Brian) of Lewiston, Maine; Lynnette Tyler of Auburn, Maine; her sister, Mary Wyatt of Florida; brother, John Weaver of Indiana; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; 13 nieces, and six nephews.

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## September 25-26, 2015

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## EMPLOYMENT

**ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS A VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:** The applicant must possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education and successful record of academic administration. Values consistent with the Seventh-day Adventist mission and tradition of the college. Classroom experience, preferably at the college level. Submit cover letter, including a statement

addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit: www.auc.edu.

**ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.** The applicant should have at least a bachelor's degree in business or a related area. Professional designation and master's degree preferred. Computer business applications skills essential. Candidates should have a proven record of management of non-profit organizations and/or businesses. Values consistent with the Adventist mission and tradition of the college. Submit cover letter, a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcripts and three professional letters of references to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit: www.auc.edu.

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ment addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, a copy of transcript, and three professional letters of references to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit www.auc.edu.

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certification to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience and multi-grade teaching experience essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu. Effective summer 2016.

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks Adventist nursing instructor with teaching experience, excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills, and an MSN. Experience in Mental Health, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology preferred. Please submit cover letter, curriculum vitae or résumé, and three references to Nicole Orian at niorian@ucollege.edu.

**MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR SOUGHT BY UNION COLLEGE,** Lincoln, Neb. Doctorate or ABD required for tenure track position. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching, and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and CV to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair, Division of



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The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

Established January 1, 1902

Atlantic Union Conference  
400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561  
Phone (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948  
Web site: [www.atlantic-union.org](http://www.atlantic-union.org)

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Member, Associated Church Press  
Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

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ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE  
P.O. BOX 1189  
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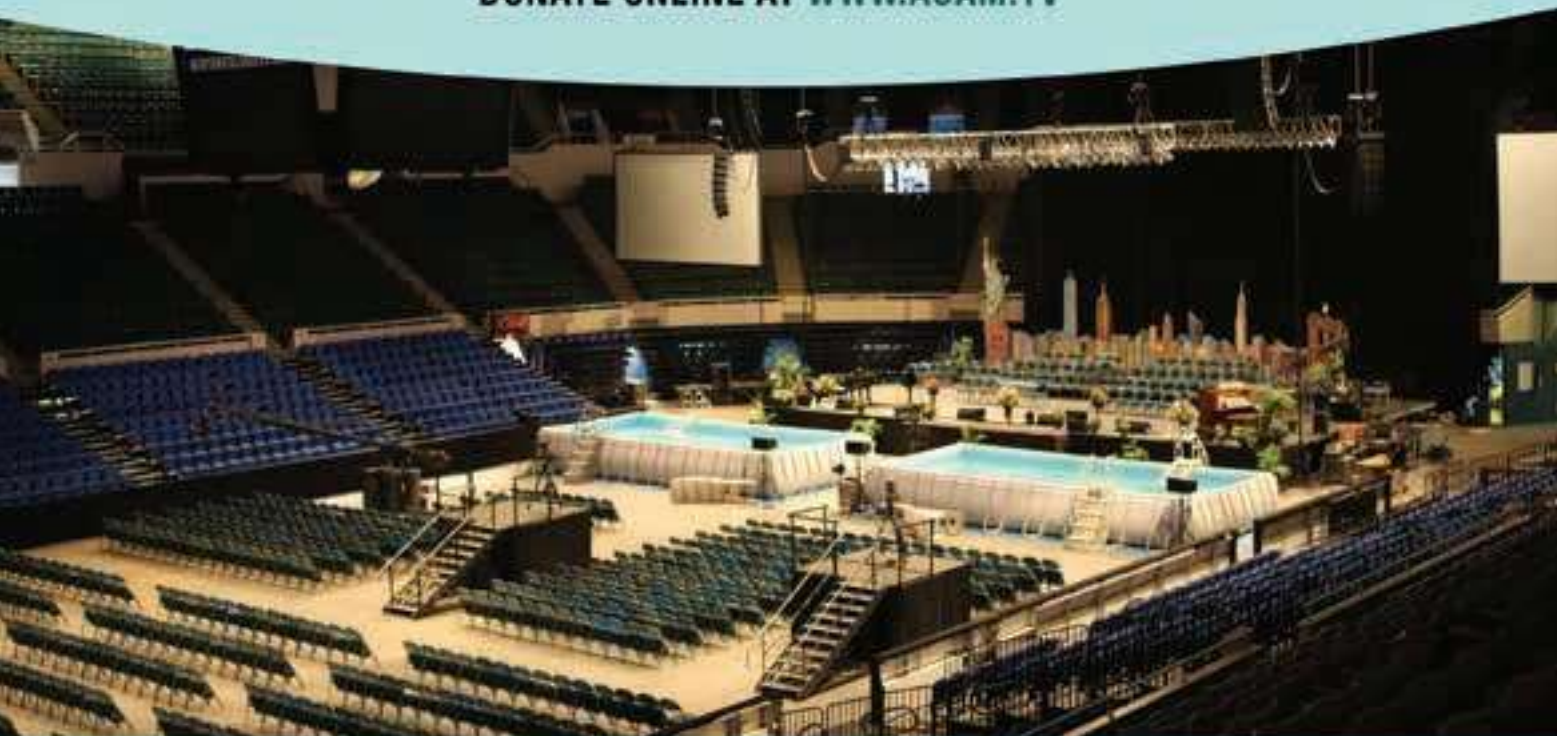


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