

THE ATLANTIC UNION

OCTOBER 2015

# GLEANER

## **CANCER** a Blessing? **Really?**

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**Where's the blessing in that?**

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**Cover:** The cover photo of sunrise on a fall morning at Acadia National Park in Maine is from iStockphoto.com.

October 2015, Vol. 114, No. 10. 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®.

## The Crown **Without the Cross**

**J**esus is confronted with three major temptations (Luke 4:1-13). These are the most basic temptations in life and they form the foundation for all other temptations (1 John 2:15-17). The first temptation was “Stone into Bread.” Satan addressed Jesus by saying, “If you are the son of God.” Satan was trying to get Jesus to question himself, to misuse His power, to turn stone into bread, and virtually to take the crown without the cross.

Jesus said, “It is written, man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Satan has misunderstood Jesus’ need. What he does not understand is that there is another type of hunger. It is the hunger of righteousness. Jesus is feeding himself on the Word of God. He lives in obedience to the Word of God. When we come to God we come because we belong to Him. We come because we want to be in His presence, not to satisfy our physical hunger.

The second temptation was “Throw Yourself.” The temptation to gain popularity by performance. The first temptation deals with Jesus’ physical needs, the second with His reputation. “Jump off” the devil says “for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you safe.” Satan, a fast learner, begins this temptation with the words, “It is written.” He shows Jesus that he can quote scriptures as well. Jesus refuses to jump, further quoting from scripture, “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” Satan says, “Would you not rather avoid suffering, or the path that requires patience? Would you not rather take the crown without the cross?”

The third temptation was “Serve Me.” In the third temptation, Satan finally comes out in the open. He no longer flatters Him by calling Him the Son of God. He shows Jesus all of the kingdoms of the

world and tells Him that all of this will be His, if, for a just moment, He will bow down and worship him (Satan). Again, Jesus quotes scripture, “You shall worship the Lord your God and He alone shall you serve.” Jesus will not be enticed by the glitter of the world. The trial is over. Satan has failed in his attempt to bribe Jesus with fame, fortune, and power. At this point Jesus says, “Satan, go away and do not return.”

The crucial question for us is, What does all of this mean to us? The ultimate temptation for Jesus was that He would have a crown without a cross. This is the temptation that we, His followers, still face today. We want victory with limited commitment. We want heaven without the cross. We want the crown without the cross. Some say that the life of a Christian is always beautiful, but the temptations of Jesus give another perspective. He is saying life is a struggle, life is a wilderness experience, life has many temptations and trials, and many twists and turns. You will be tempted by evil, but be strong and of good courage, bear the cross and at the end you will receive a crown.

In those times when you are in the wilderness, trying to find your way through, and when Satan comes and offers you the wrong choice, the wrong use of power, the way to popularity, the wrong kind of partnership, then you should remember that Christ was tempted as well. But He did not turn those stones into bread; He fed Himself the Word of God. He did not fling Himself upon the rocks; He wanted no man’s approval but God’s. He did not render service to Satan; He obeyed His father in heaven. Jesus was tempted to take the crown without the cross and He did not. Would I? Would you? ①

*Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.*



*“The trial is over.  
Satan has failed  
in his attempt to  
bribe Jesus with  
fame, fortune,  
and power.”*



# CANCER a Blessing? Really?

By Arnet Mathers

*Arnet Mathers is a special man. Pastor of the Calais district in northern Maine, he is a gentle, thoughtful soul who seeks to bless others. When he recently lost his wife of 25 years, Lorraine, he suffered about as big a blow as it is possible for a man to experience. But in his pain and suffering, he also saw a chance to bless others and to witness for the Lord. As it happened, Lorraine's passing came when it was Mathers' turn to write a column for the local paper (a privilege he shares with other pastors, so that his turn to write a column comes up every 10 weeks). The article he wrote is below, and it is an amazing testimony.—Scott Christiansen, NNEC communication director*

**W**hen my wife and I first heard the word “cancer,” our initial reaction was fear. She didn't want to die. I didn't want to lose her. Where's the blessing in that?

There are important life questions, however, that come into sharp focus when faced with an advanced notice of your demise. Not everyone is so fortunate as to have the time to prepare like that. With cancer there is time to set your affairs in order, time to make peace in all your relationships (as far as it lies in your power to do so), time to invest in those closest to you, and time to settle things with God.

As it turns out, my wife, Lorraine, and I had 10 months and five days from the first time we heard “cancer.” After the first flight of fear, we simply had to accept life as it came to us and deal openly and honestly with our Maker. The biggest question my wife realized she needed to settle was, In which resurrection will I be called forth? (John 5:28-29).

When the significant adults in your childhood have told you over and over again “you will never amount to anything,” when, rightly or wrongly, you were treated like the black sheep in

your family of origin, then confidence in your future is difficult to attain. For many of us, our faults and failings are much more apparent to us than any “good” that could offset them. But when facing one's imminent demise, the question has to be asked, and it must be answered: *Is it possible for someone like me to make peace with God? If so, then how?*

The human nature with which we are born has a perfectionistic streak in it. It manifests itself as either endless striving, or despair, or the utter

complacency of the overwhelmed, or somewhere on an uneasy continuum between. When eternity is staring us in the face, however, suppositions no longer cut muster. Where do we find the divine balance of security that is not founded upon presumption?

The Bible is clear, that God wants us to be secure in His love: “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written

► Lorraine Mathers was at peace and enjoyed each day of the 10 months and five days she lived after she was diagnosed with cancer.



“I am now on a new journey of discovery in what are for me uncharted waters—life without my partner of 25 years.”

to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God”—1 John 5:11–13, NKJV.

What does it mean to “believe”? What is the difference between those whose “believing” results in the possession of “eternal life,” and the believing done by “demons” (James 2:19)? While there is truth in the admonition: “Just believe,” it’s important that we know exactly what we’re talking about, lest we end up believing like the demons and sharing their fate.

Jesus explained the difference to Nicodemus this way: “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God”—John 3:17–21, NKJV.

Books could be written on this passage, but note first of all God’s attitude toward us—not to condemn, but to save. That is huge! When we know God is not against us, it gives us courage to come out from where we have been hiding into the light. Then, notice the difference between belief and unbelief—unbelievers want to continue under the delusion that they are “rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing” (Revelation 3:17) lest their evil deeds should be exposed; believers, on the other hand, confess they are “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17), and “come to the light” that they might discover their condition and



Arnet and Lorraine Mathers are on a whale watching trip (2003).

receive the help they need from Him who is their life.

Abraham was justified, not because he had a son by Sarah (that was the fruit of his faith), but because he believed God by His creative, life-giving power would do for him and Sarah that which their flesh could never accomplish. He came to the light and by faith received newly-created life (Romans 4:17–22). When we see God’s call to a standard of righteousness beyond our reach, we have the privilege of coming helpless and unworthy to the Life-giver who declares: “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities,

that the power of Christ may rest upon me”—2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV. When we know we are helpless, He can deliver us without risk of lifting us up in pride that would destroy us.

Jesus offers us these most encouraging words of promise: “The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out”—John 6:37, NKJV. We must learn to trust, to depend solely upon the merits of the atonement, and in all our helpless unworthiness cast ourselves upon the merits of the crucified and risen Savior. We shall never perish while we do this—never!

I am now on a new journey of discovery in what are for me uncharted waters—life without my partner of 25 years. There will be tears and heart-ache aplenty, I doubt not. Strangely enough, there will also be gratitude. Gratitude that for each day of those 10 months we had, I could enjoy her for that day. Gratitude for the opportunity day by day to demonstrate my love for Lorraine in small acts of kindness. Gratitude for the many little ways in which God demonstrated His faithful loving care for us through that time. Gratitude for the love, joy, and peace radiating from my wife in the last weeks of her life as she made her final peace with the Lifegiver. Oh, the mercy of God, that my grief may be tempered by gratitude and the blessed hope! (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

“We must learn to trust, to depend solely upon the merits of the atonement, and in all our helpless unworthiness cast ourselves upon the merits of the crucified and risen Saviour. We shall never perish while we do this—never!”—GOD’S AMAZING GRACE, p. 114 0

Arnet Mathers is the pastor of the Calais Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maine.



# Northeastern Conference Celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Amanda Fias

Members and guests gather at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Northeastern Conference.

**M**ore than 7,000 members and guests gathered at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Northeastern Conference (NEC) under the theme “Keys to the Past, Unlocking Our Future.” The Northeastern Conference was organized on October 3, 1944, and began operations on January 1, 1945. At its inception the conference consisted of 2,308 members in 15 organized churches; today that number stands at 55,766 members in 179 organized churches.

The day began with a special Sabbath School program led by the Bridgeport-based Calvary church followed by a service of praise and remembrance in which the churches of the conference were called in chronological order. As the churches were recognized, local members were invited to stand as the pastor brought up a special anniversary offering from the congregation. These funds totaled approximately \$150,000.00 and are earmarked for the

construction of a new pavilion at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York.

United States Senate chaplain and retired rear admiral, Barry Black, presented the worship service sermon entitled “Avoiding the Perils of Self-Confidence,” in which he challenged the churches to avoid becoming anonymous, self-absorbed social clubs that are indifferent to the needs of the surrounding communities.

Prior to the message, Bridgeport mayor, Bill Finch, brought greetings to the large congregation and read a proclamation declaring August 1 Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists day in the City of Bridgeport. He in turn received a deluxe gift edition of *STEPS TO CHRIST* jointly presented to him by Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, and David Dennis, Southern New England Conference president.

General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson also brought greetings via a pre-recorded video prepared for the occasion. From the North American

Division, vice-president Alvin Kibble saluted the assembly on behalf of the division officers. Prudence Pollard, Oakwood University vice president, congratulated the gathering on behalf of the university and her president-husband Leslie Pollard. Avis Hendrickson, Atlantic Union College president, did likewise for Atlantic Union College, while announcing the reopening of the college this fall. *MESSAGE* magazine editor Carmela Monk-Crawford thanked the Northeastern Conference for its steadfast support of the magazine over the decades.

Honoré recognized the three living former NEC conference presidents who were all present. They include Donald G. King, current Atlantic Union president, Trevor Baker, South Ozone Park church pastor, and George R. Earle, retired president. Earle recently celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday and traveled from Huntsville, Alabama, to participate in the festivities.

Present also were former executive secretary Larry Bailey, and former treasurers Ebenezer Agboka, who now serves as Greater New York Conference treasurer, and Seth Bardu, current treasurer of the Columbia Union Conference.

Other highlights of the program included an intercessory prayer conducted in the nine languages spoken by NEC congregations—English, French, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Portuguese, Yoruba, Igbo, Twi, Karen, and Mandarin. Participants also received a special 100-page commemorative booklet containing the history of Northeastern Conference and highlighting its current ministries.

A baptism ceremony followed the sermon, where 46 people gave their lives to the Lord. The purpose of the baptism was to accentuate the fact that, after 70 years, the primary purpose of the conference’s existence is the salvation of souls. Fifteen pastors took part in the

baptism in addition to the presidents of the Atlantic Union, Southern New England, and Northeastern conferences.

Following a lunch break, three pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—Frantz D’Haiti, Pierre Vincent, and Roger Williamson. Donald King delivered a special ordination sermon in which he called on the ordinands and fellow pastors to live a life of consecration and service to God.

The NEC Health Ministries department, led by Leroy Dailey, director,

conducted health screenings throughout the afternoon with the health van parked in the plaza. Concurrently, Roger Wade, youth ministries director, led the youth in three compassion activities to the City of Bridgeport. One group of youth ministered to residents of a local nursing home, another group prepared back-to-school backpacks for local children, while the third distributed roses to city residents.

The program ended with a multi-generational and multi-cultural

concert featuring choirs, soloists, and ensembles from the different geographic regions of the conference. Unfortunately, a few of the selections had to be omitted because of contractual obligations to the arena.

Official DVDs of the worship and ordination services are available for purchase from the Northeastern Conference Communication Department. ①

—Northeastern Conference president’s office



Elijah Hooker

The ordination candidates with their wives are, from left, Frantz and Yveland D’Haiti, Roger and Michelle Williamson, and Pierre and Rose Vincent.



Gohy Standifler

Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, right, and his wife, Fritze, left rear, present Bill Finch, mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut, with STEPS TO CHRIST.



Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, and his wife, Fritze (third and second from left, respectively), are presented with a plaque by Avis Hendrickson, Atlantic Union College president; also present are Lois King, left, Atlantic Union Women’s Ministries director; Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, second from right, and Oswald Euell, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, right



Neville Lendör

Barry Black, U.S. Senate chaplain and retired rear admiral, delivers the Sabbath morning message during Northeastern Conference’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.



Retired Northeastern Conference president George Earle, who recently celebrated his 97th birthday, is surrounded by Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, former Northeastern Conference presidents Trevor Baker, third from right, and Donald King, right, and Alvin Kibble, North American Division vice president, second from right.



# Younger Church, Aging Leadership (Part Two)

I do not support the popular notion that “the old people should abdicate and hand over the church to the young people.” I think that is tantamount to saying that wisdom and experience should surrender to the inexperience and the not too wise. There is no wisdom in such postulations.

However, I equally disagree with the notion that assumes that the young people are not yet ready to assume leadership roles in their church at the highest levels, when they are already leading the rest of the society. And further, not only do I denounce, but also detest the practice of making tokens of young people by reserving one out of many seats at the church board or putting one or two among the deacons and elders in training so that we can say “we are involving the youth.”

Juan Prestol-Puesán could not have been more direct in his appeal, “Maybe we have forgotten, perhaps we have forgotten that the Seventh-day Adventist movement began when young people took the keys and began the preaching of the gospel as we know it. . . . J. N. Andrews, Uriah Smith, James White, Ellen White, and who knows how many more.”

I was not hoping that all of the vice presidents and division presidents, and General Conference departmental directors be replaced by young people, however it was my hope that there would have been at least some among them. Let us not make tokens of our young people; they are capable of so much more than that. Let us not underestimate their potential and capabilities; we are the ones who have invested in them. Personally, I am not suggesting completely handing the keys over to the young people, but at least show them that we do plan to pass the baton on to them by starting with an intentionally drafted succession plan.

Thus, I would be remiss if I ended this discourse only with criticisms and not suggest some possible solutions. While I cannot dictate how the church should make this transition at the higher levels of the organization, I can say what I am going to do about it in my sphere of influence in the Atlantic Union, and there are at least five things that I will do:

1. Establish a youth ministry think tank comprised of individuals under the age of 35 who will advise me on all youth ministry matters in the Atlantic Union,
2. At my first meeting with my conference youth directors I will be enlisting their support in drafting a plan for our volunteer and support leaders at conference and union levels to be reflective of the large number of young adults in our church population,
3. I will explore and provide forums in the form of blogs and town hall meetings for young people, not only to discuss the topic of becoming more engaged in church leadership but to also say how they will make themselves available for the church to hand them the keys,
4. I will make it a priority to provide church leadership training in order to prepare them to receive the keys and drive, and
5. I will make it my point of duty to keep this subject alive and frequently addressed when I speak to churches and church leaders within the Atlantic Union.

I started the article\* citing Juan Prestol-Puesán, and I will also end with him, since my words could not have expressed it more precisely. He said, “I believe folks, that the moment is fast approaching for us to empower the ones that have the best energies among us. . . . They have the energy, let them take the keys and drive the car!” In other words, don’t just give them the keys, let them drive! ☺



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

*See the entire speech by Juan Prestol-Puesán at <https://goo.gl/VEWuf3G>.*

*\*See part one of the article in the August GLEANER, Vol. 114, No. 8, p. 19.*



## Adventist Youth Leadership Perspective



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





## ESL Classes Available at Atlantic Union College

**E**ven when I'm not in English class I am learning. Atlantic Union College is very beautiful and, even if I am very far from home, I don't feel lonely here," said Thomas Wang, who has a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and pastors two congregations half way around the world in China. "At AUC I feel like I am surrounded by Adventist history and culture. I can feel something special studying and worshipping here." With a big smile he added that he was happy and proud to be the first student attending English as a Second Language (ESL) classes this year.

Jootje Bajoh, a pastor who leads an Indonesian congregation in the Northern New England Conference, drove four hours each day to the campus of Atlantic Union College (AUC). When asked why he wanted to study English, he was quick to reply, "I communicate well with my members that came directly from Indonesia, but now I need to minister to their children and young people who speak mostly English. I need to increase my vocabulary and speaking skills to reach them. I have a master's degree from the Philippines that was taught in English and have been in the United States for 16 years, but I feel I need to be better."

During the first ESL session, July 14-August 13, these two students tested the curriculum and infrastructure at AUC and have reported a high level of satisfaction. Each one has a different reason for studying English, but both feel



Debra Knutson-Bezerra teaches pastors in the ESL program during the summer session.

closer to their goals. Both had planned to come for one session, but both are

"I felt it was a privilege to teach the [Adventist] pastors in the ESL program

*"We are working diligently to customize the classes to meet the student's personal and professional goals. . . . We have prayed for God to be with us and we can see that He is."*

—Evelin Harper Gilkeson, ESL director

returning to attend another session. These are some of their comments: "I learned so much about letter writing, now I can do it myself." "I have more than 1,000 new vocabulary words that I can understand and pronounce." "I am less shy about speaking." "I am blessed to be here and thankful to all who help me." "My experience with AUC has been good and I will register my daughter for the Health Science degree for the fall semester."

this summer," said Debra Knutson-Bezerra, who taught as a volunteer in the

ESL program during the summer session. "I enjoyed the sharing that took place in class as I taught students about American culture and they each connected the learning with their country's culture. I was thankful to be able to teach ESL in a setting where Christian songs and reading materials can be incorporated into the daily lessons."

"We are working diligently to customize the classes to meet the student's personal and professional goals. Clear objectives and lessons that are specifically designed will help the learner achieve their success. We have prayed for God to be with us and we can see that He is," said Evelin Harper Gilkeson, ESL director.

Atlantic Union College English language classes start each month. Sessions last four weeks and you have a choice of studying 16, 24, or 32 hours each week. If you are interested in attending, visit the Web site, [www.auc.edu](http://www.auc.edu), e-mail [eve.harper@auc.edu](mailto:eve.harper@auc.edu), or call (978) 368-2225.

—ESL department, Atlantic Union College

### Certificate Programs

Atlantic Union College has certificate programs including the NETS Evangelism Center program and the English as a Second Language (ESL/ESOL) program. For a full list of other certificate programs being offered, consult the college's Web site at [www.auc.edu](http://www.auc.edu).



## Bermuda Institute Prepares for the New School Year

Just what does it take to prepare Bermuda Institute (BI) for the new academic year? Lois Tucker, BI principal, shares two types of preparations—the preparation of the physical building and the preparation of the hearts and minds of the teachers.

There were a number of physical preparations to be carried out before the school was ready to open. Fortunately, volunteers answered the call for help. Tucker and her team are extremely grateful to teachers, parents, and others who stopped by and offered assistance—some of whom devoted their time and energy throughout the entire summer. “And to them we say a big ‘thank you,’” Tucker said.

Next comes the important preparation of the hearts and minds of the teachers. Tucker points out two major areas of focus: spiritual and academic preparation.

### Spiritual Preparation

While Bermuda Institute is “committed to encouraging its students to develop a personal relationship with God,” the school recognizes that Christian education saves teachers, too. BI set aside a special time at the beginning of the academic year to focus on the teachers. “We invite a speaker to speak to our needs, the needs of those who are always ministering to others,” Tucker said.

This year BI was more than fortunate to be blessed by John Boston, pastor of Central church in Columbus, Ohio. From



Lois Tucker, Bermuda Institute principal, speaks with the students, staff, teachers, parents, pastors, and well-wishers on the first day of school.

start to finish many teachers were asking themselves, *Who said something to the pastor? He is right on point!* Every day Boston met the spiritual needs of the teachers as only the Holy Spirit could have inspired.

### Academic Preparation (Elementary)

Under the auspices of Oakwood University, Rose Thomas, vice principal and teacher at the Forest Lake Education Center in Longwood, Florida, presented a two-credit academic course that helps to fulfill the requirements for teacher certification. Instead of sending the teachers abroad, BI was able to negotiate with Oakwood to deliver the course in Bermuda, thus providing the school a great savings.

For five days, BI teachers were enthralled as Thomas held their interest, explaining the pedagogy behind the “Daily 5,” a literacy strategy that the school will be instituting this year. Not only did the training include instructional presentations, but Thomas was able to demonstrate the strategies and thus make the experience an authentic teaching and learning exercise for the 10-12 students who attended every morning from nine o’clock until noon. Both the teachers and the children benefited from the exercises.

### Academic Preparation (Secondary)

After the five days of the reading workshop (mostly geared toward the elementary language arts teachers), the middle and secondary

teachers found themselves immersed in a workshop with Jim Roy, a teacher certification professor from Pacific Union College.

For two days, August 20-21, Roy delivered a workshop on classroom management based on the ideology of William Glasser’s book, *CHOICE THEORY*. He encouraged the teachers to work on building an atmosphere where children are not forced, but see the value of choosing to be responsible members of the group for the intrinsic value of their participation and camaraderie with their classmates.

### New Teachers

BI welcomed two new teachers into the family: Dwayne Foster and Dwayne Wescom. Foster, who comes from Jamaica, is the new music teacher. Wescom, a pastor and recent graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, will be Bible teacher and in charge of Student Services, a new post established this year.

As the school year opened with 259 students in grades K-12, Tucker is confident that the Lord will continue to pour out His Spirit on the teachers and students alike this academic year. Bermuda Institute is His school and this is His work. Tucker and her team of dedicated teachers and staff are committed to cooperating in the ethic of combining both education and redemption.

—D. Randolph Wilson, associate communication director, Bermuda Conference

## Mt. Zion Church Honors Graduates

The Mt. Zion church in Hamden, Connecticut, celebrated its annual Graduates Education Weekend on July 25-26. The two days of activities, under the theme “Journey to Excellence,” was highly inspirational for all.

Approximately 400 visitors and members witnessed the pomp and circumstance during Sabbath School and the church service. Dressed in academic regalia, 25 graduates—the largest amount in 10 years—marched in a processional while reciting a favorite Bible text as personal photographs were displayed on the screen.

The importance and value of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education resonated throughout the weekend as the host pastor, Gerome Leacock, reminded the congregation that true education begins in the home. Lily Grayce Carson and Rosaly Abigail Ramos, both students at Laurel Oaks school in the Southern New England Conference, read the scripture.

Chantal McHayle and Julia Leacock, students at Oakwood University and Andrews University, respectively, shared their experiences and confirmed that the transition from public schools to Seventh-day Adventist institutions better facilitated their spiritual growth.

Wayne Caines charged the graduates and urged the congregation to continue in the struggle toward excellence. Caines, who hails from Bermuda, is a lawyer, CEO, executive, and board member to several companies. He has also served in the military and Bermudian government and

is a product of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.

Caines also challenged them not to give up when all seems impossible. Anchoring his charge using the story of David at Ziklag, Caines drew examples from his own journey, and testified of the challenges he had in high school and the discovery of a learning disability while at Oakwood. Yet, through the power of God, he was able to overcome what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles.

The musicians enhanced the worship service by rendering uplifting songs of praise. A reception featuring healthy vegetarian cuisine was served to visitors and members.

The Sabbath activities ended with the annual oratorical and art presentations. Organized and facilitated by team member Randy Goldson, the afternoon featured students from grades K-12 who participated in speech writing, poetry and poster design around the theme “Integrity.” The presentations allowed the students to personalize and share their definition of integrity while building their confidence in public speaking.

The weekend celebration culminated with the annual banquet hosted by the Education department where special commendations were bestowed upon all the graduates for their dedication and hard work. More than 170 members, parents, and well-wishers attended, including state representatives and Toni Harp, mayor of New Haven, Connecticut. Three graduates representing kindergarten, middle

school, and high school were recognized for selling the most tickets: Thalia Lindo, Aaliyah Kerr, and Dashawnda McCullough-Harrison.

Pine Forge Academy principal and graduate of Yale University, Nicole Falconer, challenged the graduates to continue to pray, wait on the Lord, and listen to His voice on the journey to excellence. Wendy Clarke, an attorney and member of the Education department, joined in the congratulations and charged the graduates to be mindful of those who have helped them to reach this milestone and pay it forward.

The weekend celebrations were made possible under the leadership of education director Tamara Nathan-Oputa and home and school leader Tricia Tucker. Both were assisted by a team of 18 “cream of the crop”

members. Rave reviews were given for the weekend’s advertising and print materials created by team member Craig Brandon, a graphic designer and 2014 graduate.

Mt. Zion’s education ministries provides a plethora of activities, wholesome, creative programs, and services, including free tutorial sessions, read-a-loud programs, and art expos. The ministry also hosts youth Bible studies and special “Welcome to Zion” ceremonies to which neighboring college and university students are invited.

Andrey Gardner, a straight A student and the youngest member of the education department team, said “Mt. Zion believes in the promotion of Adventist Christian education and is committed to continuing to support our schools’ students.”

—Education department,  
Mt. Zion church

### 2015 Graduates Mt. Zion Church

#### Kindergarten

Alianna Claytor  
Kamari Golding  
Thalia Lindo

#### Middle School

Timesha Codner  
Peterline Gbanyah  
Shaniel Griffith-Waite  
Kion Gurley  
Aaliyah Kerr  
Brianna McCullough

#### High School

Gisselle Codner  
Ellington Lorpu-Gbanyah  
Kameron Holness  
Dashawnda McCullough  
Franklyn Wray, Jr.

#### College

Leandra Brown  
Anthony Bolden  
Brianna Curtis  
Ariel Golding  
Avanica Walker  
Postgraduate:  
Marva Bennett  
Randy Goldson  
Shaena Kanion  
Elroy O’Garro

## Carlton Byrd Speaks for Visitor's Weekend at Patchogue Church

Carlton Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life, was the guest speaker for Visitor's Weekend that began on Friday, June 12. That evening, the church was blessed with a powerful message entitled, "Put Your War Clothes On." Special music was presented by the Patchogue church choir, under the direction of Carmen Whitfield, and then a selection by Patchogue elder Earl Huie.

There was standing room only at the church on Sabbath, June 13. Rohann D. Wellington, Greater New York Conference communication director, brought official greetings from the conference. Byrd presented a riveting message entitled,



Patchogue church's Visitor's Weekend guest speaker Carlton Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life, right, stands with Michael Mirra, the church's pastor.

"What in Hell Do You Want?" As those attending expressed their appreciation with shouts of "Amen" and "Hallelujah," it was apparent that the church was moved. The sermon was followed by an appeal, and visitors responded for rebaptism or Bible studies. David Willis, retired Northeastern Conference pastor, said, "[What] a Holy Ghost time we had. You planned a great day with the help of God."

A concert was held in the afternoon, filled with music provided by musicians from a variety of churches. The Patchogue members give God the glory and the honor for such a wonderful event.

—Mark Armstrong, first elder, Patchogue church

## Children From North Bronx Church Visit Nursing Home

Earlier this year, the North Bronx church's Kids on a Mission for Jesus wondered what they would do for the residents of the Bronxwood Adult Nursing Home. The children have periodically visited the facility to cheer the men

and women living there and let them know that God loves them.

They decided to take a gift and the children would make their own cards to give to the residents. After getting their supplies, the room buzzed with enthusi-

asm and pride as the kids decorated cards and wrote their own greetings.

On the day of the visit, the children and their leaders went to the nursing home where the residents eagerly awaited their visit. The children presented an acoustic

about mothers and sang many songs, then they presented the women with their cards and pens as the gift. The men who were present were given pens, as well. The residents showed their appreciation and delight to know that there were people who cared about them—some even shed a tear.

The kids' reaction to the visit indicated they were happy that they went on God's mission. The nursing home residents asked the kids to return soon and they are already making plans for their next visit.

—Mazrine Martin, Children's Ministries department, North Bronx church



The North Bronx church children's choir, directed by Marilyn Smith, sing for nursing home residents.

## Carolyn's Dream Inspires Compassion for the Adventist Home

When Carolyn Morgan learned cancer had invaded her body leaving her just months to live, her mind started churning and she quickly focused on the Adventist Home retirement community where she lived. Carolyn led a game-changing career centered on Christian service and community outreach. She formerly served as the Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services director and led the Van Ministry during some of its most impactful years.

Carolyn's dream was to redevelop the Adventist Home into a facility that would be a blessing to seniors and to the surrounding community in Livingston, New York. Her diagnosis strengthened her determination and vigor to use everything within her to glorify God through this project of restoring the Adventist Home.

Visitors were greeted with a makeshift site map diagramming the 80-plus acres of Adventist Home property with masking tape on the wall directly in front of Carolyn's bedside. Bound to her bed the last few days of her life, Carolyn would speak of her dream with everyone who came to see her, constantly adding ideas for development in color-coded sticky notes to the map.

She was hoping she would have four months to develop a campaign to the point where others could take over and carry it on to completion. After just one month, Carolyn died peacefully in her sleep on Friday morning, August 14, 2015. She only had a few weeks but in that time, and with her limited energy, God enabled her to inspire people and to generate progress that



These are the volunteers who helped make Carolyn Morgan's dream become a reality.

no one else has been able to achieve. As she was making notes for her plan she wrote, "I cannot, you cannot, but together we can."

Together, many are uniting to make Carolyn's dream a reality. Her dream illustrates the Greater New York Conference's mission to reach the world by reaching New York. Working together with the Adventist Youth Ministries compassion team, young and old across the Greater New York Conference territory came together for a day of service in honor of Carolyn's dream.

The event had been planned and promoted just one day before Carolyn passed away. More than 70 lay members and pastors joined together on August 23 for a work bee, including such projects as power-washing resident housing, major clean-up of main buildings, and landscaping and installing new flower beds on the grounds. Care packages were also delivered to residents by teams of volunteers who prayed over each home.

Claude Morgan, husband to Carolyn for nearly 54 years, addressed the crowd of volunteers in an emotional expres-



Carolyn Morgan's dream was to redevelop the Adventist Home into a facility that would be a blessing to seniors and to the surrounding community in Livingston, New York.

sion of gratitude, thanking them for making Carolyn's dream their own. Memorial services for Carolyn Morgan were also held on the evening of August 23 at the Old Westbury church with an additional 119 friends and family members of Carolyn joining by live stream.

Family members spoke of Carolyn's dream, comforted by the blessing of a compassionate community carrying out the dream. Supporters of Carolyn's dream have made generous donations to the cause in Carolyn's honor, joining in the legacy of her dream.

Carolyn leaves behind her husband, Claude Morgan, Greater New York Conference Religious Liberty and Planned

Giving and Development director; her daughter, Connie; two sons, Brett and Dennis; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The Adventist Home has been in continuous operation since 1955 and currently includes independent housing units for Adventist retirees. Eager to do more, volunteers have organized subsequent work bees and major redevelopment plans are already underway to expand the facilities at the Adventist Home. To learn more about Carolyn's dream for the Adventist Home, visit [www.gnyc.org/pgd](http://www.gnyc.org/pgd).

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

## Members of the Capital District Make an Impact in Their Community

Most of us are too busy to find time to extend ourselves to friends, let alone total strangers. Yet we are called to show mercy to others, especially those less fortunate than we are. Indeed, if one were to seriously survey the landscape of the major cities they

would see the many needs that go unmet.

With this in mind, and following Jesus' example, the Capital District Council of the New York Conference committed to a Compassion Weekend on August 14-16. The goal was to take church members out of

their comfort zone and into the community, to reach people where they are. The Albany Capital District has numerous human service agencies that struggle to keep their doors open. Volunteers are essential to the continued viability of such agencies.

Members of the various churches in the Capital District were able to help the following agencies during the Compassion Weekend:

- The church cooked and served the lunch meal at the Schenectady Salvation Army. Nearly 25 church members waited on 170 individuals who came for the noon meal. Members sang hymns while the people ate. The youth who helped were a special blessing to those they served. They want them to return.
- Several members helped paint the main office and restroom at Girls' Inc., a non-profit organization that nurtures the growth of girls ages 5 to 18.
- More than 70 hygiene kits were prepared for distribution to local shelters.



Church members from the Capital District are serving food at the Salvation Army in Schenectady, New York.

## NYC Teachers Build Solidarity and Unity in Purpose

Seventh-day Adventist teachers from across the New York Conference gathered at Camp Cherokee in Saranac, New York, August 10-12 to prepare for the opening of another school year. Unlike past years, both elementary and secondary teachers were able to meet together in an effort to build solidarity and unity in purpose.

In addition to the topics usually covered at a teachers in-service training, such as CPR training and learning evaluation procedures, the teachers were encouraged to form meaningful spiritual bonds. Teachers formed



New York Conference elementary and secondary teachers at Camp Cherokee in Saranac, New York, for teachers in-service training.

prayer groups promising to pray for and with each other throughout the school year.

Adventist education is one of the strongest ministries of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church, and, as such, it is under direct and constant attack by the enemy. It is the prayer of these teachers that, as a result of their new prayer groups, they will have the increased strength and stamina needed to battle the enemy and successfully minister to their young people. Please join them in prayer as they venture out into a new school year ready to serve their Lord and their students.

—Jeremy Garlock, communication director, New York Conference

- Members gathered on Sabbath morning to physically clean the dining area and kitchen of the Salvation Army in Schenectady, New York.
- Prayer warriors were placed at Central Park in Schenectady where they offered free bottled water and prayer.
- A team of workers arrived at the Northeast Regional Food Bank in Latham, New York, where they assisted with packing boxes of food for distribution by the food bank.
- Others assisted with sorting and organizing items at Things of My Very Own, Inc., a non-profit organization that serves children in foster care.
- The Joy of Troy church ministered to individuals at Prospect Park on Sabbath afternoon, handed out bottled water, and provided prayer upon request.
- A yard sale was held on Sunday to raise money for a woman's shelter and children's home. More than \$230.00 was raised.

A neighbor gave a couch that was donated to Girls' Inc.

- A free Community Waffle Breakfast concluded the outreach on Sunday at the Greater Albany church.

Members who participated in the outreach reported joy and blessing in touching the lives of people in need. Mark 6:34 says, "And Jesus, when he came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd." There are thousands in cities

who are poor, brokenhearted, blind, and in bondage to poverty, drugs, and crime. It is our duty and privilege to go to them. Like Jesus we must first meet their needs, win their confidence and then bid them follow Jesus.

This was the first such endeavor, but it will not be the last. The members of the Capital District want to make permanent inroads into their community. The residents need to know that they care. Pray with the members for laborers in this great work.

—Pamela McKinney-Brown, secretary, Capital District Council

## USA Students Display Family Spirit

As a senior at Union Springs Academy (USA), I've had my share of excitement: mission trips, D.C. tour, choir performances, and class bonding. However, all these pale in comparison to the anticipation for a time that is both dreaded and longed-for by students worldwide: the first week of school. The first week is where you find your place, sign up for activities, and begin to make lifelong friendships.

This year we have 54 students. Although we are small in number, this allows the students to truly come together as a family, making USA unique. The Student Association's year-long theme of Ohana (Hawaiian for "family") highlights this and seeks to foster a close-knit, godly environment where no one is left behind or forgotten.

An illustration of this emerged during the first official team-building activity of the year: Class Clash. Each class competes to bring random items to a



Union Springs church members welcome Union Springs Academy students to the campus for the beginning of a new school year.

centrally located mat in the gym. Not knowing what will be called, everyone practically empties their dorm rooms in preparation. However, as with all games, it has its risks. One of our sophomores discovered this the hard way when he severely bruised his tailbone in an over-ambitious rush to the mat. Instead of booing and jeering him, everyone,

regardless of class, went down on one knee out of respect (a soccer tradition regarding players hurt on the field). Three other students assisted him to his feet to raucous applause, and his team was awarded the point for the round. In this simple act, our family spirit was displayed.

This is what I love and will miss most about USA;

no matter what your age, race, gender, or social status, you have a school-wide family who cares for you. There will always be a place for you at Union Springs Academy.

—Annelise Burghardt, senior, Union Springs Academy



## Vacation Bible School at Woodstock: A Team Effort That Worked

It takes a team to make Vacation Bible School (VBS) work. Some team members are tasked with transforming the church into something entirely different—an exotic beach or a dark jungle or a village on a far continent. Other team members concentrate on getting the word out to the entire community and setting up registration. Still other team members carefully plan out all activities and get needed supplies lined up. And, finally, there are the leaders who pull everything together and constantly stay on top of tasks and challenges.

The Woodstock, Maine, church recently held a VBS and it was a joyful experi-

ence. The team worked, in every sense of the word, and the outreach effort worked—the church was alive with kids and parents from the community all through the VBS program.

The kids who visited traveled back in time to “Hometown Nazareth” to learn about Jesus in His childhood setting. The kids were divided into “tribes,” and throughout the week the tribes visited Mary’s house to learn from her what it was like to be the mother of such a wonderful child. Mary designed such a realistic home that children could not wait to visit there! They sat in her house and listened as Mary (Monda Fasholz)

inspired them to help convince Eunice (Alexandria Bellamy) her skeptical friend, to give her life to Jesus.

Jesus (Greg Carlson, the church’s pastor, or Jerry Verrill) wandered through Nazareth, visiting with the tribes and offering warm hugs, which tribe members willingly returned.

Each tribe was led by the enthusiastic teens as they nurtured and inspired their tribes each evening. In fact, the 22 registered kids (and more who had not registered) were led by seven teen volunteers: Kelsey Mills, Lance Dorval, Ryan Slocum, Cassie Lane, Conrad Dorval, Robert Slocum, and Meagan Hodson. During tribe meetings, tribes learned memory verses, planned and designed tribe names, and shared “God sightings.”

As the tribes traveled through Nazareth, they enjoyed crafts designed to help them understand life in the time of Jesus. Their craft leaders, Kendy Lane and Faith Wilson, also helped them design elephant banks that were filled with their

offerings and will be used to provide Bibles to children in Thailand. During this time they also enjoyed simple, semi-authentic refreshments that were served to hungry tribes by Phil Merrill and Laurie Wilson.

Tremendous energy was expended as the tribes played games that children would have played with Jesus. Forestdale Christian school teacher Elizabeth Somers had boundless enthusiasm with the children and the school’s newest teacher, Cara Simonds, and her mom, Cheryl, assisted.

The tribes raised their excited voices and bodies in active songs, directed by Winnie Hodson and Kendy Lane, each night. Drama presentations by the teens emphasized each day’s learning, while at the end of each program the youngest children volunteered to lead and close the program with their spontaneous prayers.

The well-attended closing program highlighted the events of the week and allowed families to see the magnificent set created and hand-painted by Gina Poland and JoAnn Appleby. A beautiful wrap-up video, songs by Christie Hodson, Bible verses, and drama created a wonderful snapshot of Jesus as a child.

The entire program was the result of a great deal of work, but in the end it was worth it because it worked. Families who had never visited the church brought their kids and the families formed bonds of friendship. But of far greater importance, the kids were introduced to Christ and for everyone involved, that worked.

—Terry Merrill and Winnie Hodson, VBS team member, Woodstock church



Kendy Lane, left, and Winnie Hodson, right, assist some of the kids attending Vacation Bible School.



Kids swarm part of the village built for the Vacation Bible School program at the Woodstock church in Maine.



## Tabernacle Outreach During Northern New England Camp Meeting A Signal Success



Setting up the Messiah's Mansion exhibit near the road so that more community members would see it and be interested was an effective strategy.

There were an unusual number of community members walking around Northern New England Conference (NNEC) camp meeting this year, a fact that delighted camp meeting organizers. What drew the visitors was a singular opportunity to see something amazing—a full-scale model of the wilderness tabernacle.

The Messiah's Mansion exhibit was set up on camp meeting grounds at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, and more than 2,000 people took the 75-minute tour during the week it was set up. While many camp meeting attendees took the tour, there were also a significant number of community members who responded to radio and Internet advertising and drove as many as three hours to see the display.

“This is the first time that the Messiah's Mansion display has been in the Northern New England

Conference, and it created an immediate interest in the community,” said Bob Cundiff, conference president. “We sent posters to hundreds of churches in Maine, and also had a significant radio and Internet presence. The response was exciting. We had church groups come, as well as extended families that made a day of attending the exhibit, along with hundreds

of individuals and couples from the community. I think this is probably the single most effective outreach effort we've had in some time.”

The full-scale replica tabernacle arrived at Pine Tree Academy in a semi-trailer truck, and required a crew of more than 20 people who worked for two days to set it up. The exhibit included the fabric outer walls, the fixtures

in the courtyard, and the tabernacle itself, including all fixtures in the holy and most holy places. The fabric walls of the tabernacle were raised during the tour so that visitors could see and understand what went on in all parts of the tabernacle. Superbly trained Messiah's Mansion tour guides explained the relevance of tabernacle ceremonies to Christ's life and ministry. Of those who took the tour, more than 200 requested follow-up studies, including Bible studies, prophecy studies, and further sanctuary studies.

“We've taken the requests for further studies and have separated them by district in the conference and have sent them to district pastors for follow-up,” said Cundiff. “We are really excited by the way the Lord has opened so many doors, and we are being diligent in our follow-up efforts to go through those doors.”

The entire theme of NNEC's camp meeting centered on the sanctuary, and the evening speakers (Richard Davidson and Ty Gibson) delivered fantastic lessons on what the sanctuary meant and continues to mean to Christians. Camp meeting regulars and those community members who sat in on the evening meetings received a double blessing.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference.



A view of inside the courtyard of the sanctuary at the Messiah's Mansion exhibit.



## Churches Bid Farewell to Pastor

Members and many guests were welcomed to the last worship service preached by Mihail Baciu while serving as pastor of the First Springfield church on Sabbath, July 18. Baciu was pastor over three churches and one church plant, all located in Massachusetts—First Springfield, Warren, and Florence, plus the New Jerusalem of Springfield Haitian Group.

Baciu's sermon, "God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again," was preceded by the consecration vows and baptism of Marie Belizaire from the New Jerusalem of Springfield Haitian Group. After this final worship service with the pastor, members from all four congregations and visitors met in the fellowship hall for a farewell lunch.



Melinda Lajoie, First Springfield church clerk, from left, with Mihail Baciu, outgoing pastor of the First Springfield, Warren, and Florence, plus the New Jerusalem of Springfield Haitian Group, and his wife, Virocia Baciu, on their farewell Sabbath.

On behalf of the congregation, Melinda Lajoie, First Springfield church clerk, presented the Baciu family with a world globe representing their clear missionary spirit. They also received an accompanying plaque

bearing the First Springfield church name, thanking them for their love and service from 2007–2015. The plaque was engraved with the inscription: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,"

(Mark 16:15). In addition, a monetary "love donation" was presented to them from the church members.

Baciu will continue to pastor in the Southern New England Conference. His new churches include the Waterford, Wilimantic, and Norwich churches, all located in Connecticut.

Until they all meet again when Jesus comes back, and until they eat together again at the heavenly table that the Lord shall prepare for them, the congregation wished the Baciu family well on their new venture to which God has divinely called them. Together they all look forward to this earth when it is made new; a place where they will never again have to leave each other or say goodbye.

—Belinda Behnava, communication secretary, First Springfield

## North Kingstown Church Takes Music to the Community

A wonderful, free "Evening of Praise" Concert was hosted by the Wickford church of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, on Sabbath August 22. The Lafayette Band Stand at the North Kingstown Town Beach was the perfect site for this community event. The forecast called for rain showers, but instead they were blessed with bright sunshine, blue skies, and delightful ocean breezes off Narragansett Bay.

Colorful posters advertising the concert and inviting the community were placed in such public locations as the local YMCA, supermarkets, the Wickford Art Museum, and the North Kingstown Senior Center with whom they partner on Thanksgiving and Christmas programs supporting the needy. Church members,

guests, and visitors enjoyed the musical numbers, free literature, free DVDs, free water, snacks, and sandwiches. God blessed the event with several non-Adventists in the audience, who took literature stamped with the church's Web site and address.



Wickford church members host a community event at the North Kingstown Town Beach.



Many thanks to all those who gave so willingly of their time and talents. God blessed the program immensely.

—Denise McFarland, member, North Kingstown church

## South Lancaster Academy: Building for Eternity

New England is the home of Adventist history: pioneers J. N. Andrews, and James and Ellen White are from Maine; the first Adventist church and birth of the Sabbath is in Washington, New Hampshire; and, the first school is in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

In 1882, Adventists felt an urgent need to start a school to train missionaries and prepare students for a Christ-centered life. Most of our New England firsts are memories. Today, “That New England School” is South Lancaster Academy (SLA), a vibrant and growing school with more than 300 students. Those students are encountering Jesus every day, learning of His love and soon return.

“You are in an environment where you are allowed and encouraged to grow in Christ.”—Jared Allain, SLA Class of 2016

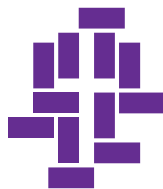
“SLA has caused me to have a greater appreciation for the Bible.”—Aaron Comley, SLA Class of 2016

“I like that we are able to have Bible classes with teachers who really make us think and study the Bible for answers, and once a month we can go

out and help serve the community.”—Giani Muchiutti, SLA Class of 2018

“SLA taught me the power of music and the importance of using my talents for God.”—Ilana Cady, SLA Class of 2010, Andrews University, BMUS: Piano, Class of 2015, Andrews University, MMUS: Performance, Current

“Our children have not only been educated by the best educators . . . they



### BUILDING for ETERNITY

*Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice*

have learned to put God first in all that they do. They have a strong relationship with the Lord and a dedicated prayer life. The school motto, ‘Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve’ has been our experience.”—Douglas and Barbara Fuller, parents of SLA Class of 2015 graduate and Class of 2017 student

SLA is following the blueprint of Adventist Christian education. Lives

are being impacted as students are challenged to Serve . . . Love . . . Achieve . . . every day of their life. But, SLA is at a critical crossroad—the current building, which is 50 years old, is in desperate need of renovation. A building committee of passionate and dedicated members has evaluated this project from a variety of angles and they, along with the constituent churches, have voted an environmentally and economically responsible plan to ensure the absolute best for the future growth and sustainability of this treasured link to the past.

To realize God’s vision, the constituent members, parents, alumni, and faithful friends are greatly needed. A capital stewardship campaign is underway entitled “Building for Eternity.” Join them in prayer as they seek God’s mighty blessings through the prayerful, sacrificial commitments of all who are moved by the Holy Spirit to preserve this treasured institution and assure that Adventist Christian education will continue in the heart of Massachusetts until Jesus returns.

—Cynthia Huskins, president, Coleman Stewardship Services

## Boston Temple Church Hosts Fenway’s National Night Out

Each year, the Boston Temple church hosts Fenway’s National Night Out. “It’s a fantastic time for the neighborhood to be out,” said Boston Temple pastor Orlando Hall. “It’s a great way to meet the neighborhood. As much as we don’t get all the neighbors out we certainly do get a nice cross section of neighbors. For me personally, it’s a great time just to meet people, network, get their numbers, give them mine, and introduce them to the Boston Temple.”

“It’s organized by Operation Peace, Fenway Family Coalition, and Wingate Management,” said Tenesha Patrick, who coordinated the Boston Temple side of things. “We provide

the space. For years we provided the parking lot, and this is the first year that it’s extended to a block party. We shut down the block between Jersey Street and Kilmarnock Street. We’ve taken it over.”

“When I came, Boston Temple would just provide the space,” said Hall. “Now we are providing the space and we are interacting with the community. The past three years we have been giving out books and things like that. Not just literature, not just tracts, we also have been giving out stationary and other school supplies.”

“Chrystine Amoah, Southern New England Conference Children’s Ministries coordinator, came



The block between Jersey Street and Kilmarnock Street is closed off for Fenway’s National Night Out, an event hosted each year by Boston Temple church.

and put together 200 bags of school supplies,” Tenesha said. “They’re all gone.”

“I’m hoping that next year we can expand a little bit [to] move into the realm of vegetarian cooking or vegetarian

options, and healthy living,” said Hall. “We’re saying that we care about your health, we care about your life.”

—Olivia Ruiz-Knott, communication manager, Compassion Boston



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## Sunset Table

November 2015	6	13	20	27	Eastern Standard Time
Bangor, ME	4:16	4:08	4:01	3:57	
Portland, ME	4:24	4:16	4:10	4:06	
Boston, MA	4:30	4:23	4:17	4:14	
South Lancaster, MA	4:32	4:25	4:19	4:15	
Pittsfield, MA	4:39	4:31	4:26	4:22	
Hartford, CT	4:38	4:31	4:25	4:22	
Providence, RI	4:33	4:26	4:20	4:16	
New York, NY	4:45	4:39	4:33	4:30	
Albany, NY	4:39	4:31	4:26	4:22	
Utica, NY	4:45	4:38	4:32	4:28	
Syracuse, NY	4:49	4:42	4:36	4:32	
Rochester, NY	4:55	4:47	4:41	4:37	
Buffalo, NY	5:00	4:53	4:47	4:43	
Hamilton, Bda	5:23	5:18	5:15	5:13	

## 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. Sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL). Web site: atlantic-union.org/religious-liberty.

## OBITUARY SUBMISSION

Obituaries are posted free of charge for members of the Atlantic Union. To submit an obituary, visit [www.atlanticunion.org/obituaries](http://www.atlanticunion.org/obituaries) and complete the obituary form online or e-mail the complete obituary to [gleaner@atlanticunion.org](mailto:gleaner@atlanticunion.org).



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Adventist Health



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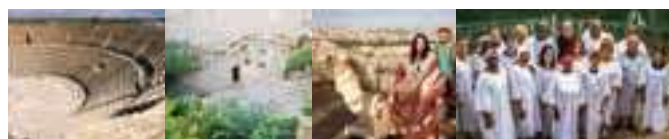
*Isaiah 30:15*



**Keynote Speaker:**  
Stephanie Sheehan  
Southern Adventist University

Watson Homestead Center  
Painted Post, New York

For further details, contact:  
**Website:** [nyconf.org](http://nyconf.org) for registration form  
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Or **Lynee Hamm:** (315) 391-6263 or  
**e-mail:** [abcshopgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:abcshopgirl@yahoo.com)



## BIBLE ENRICHMENT TOUR OF ISRAEL 2015

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

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**\$3,295**

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Los Angeles or Houston

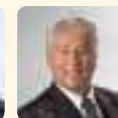
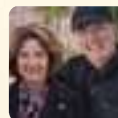
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Danny Shelton

Jim & Camille Gilley

J.D. & Shelley Quinn

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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

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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)

**Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff**  
E-mail: [gleaner@atlanticunion.org](mailto:gleaner@atlanticunion.org)

Editor: Ednor A. P. Davison  
Circulation/Back Pages/Proofreader: Debra McKinney Banks  
Copy Editor (off-site): Pat Humphrey  
Layout & Design (off-site): Haziel Olivera

### Contributors

Bermuda: Gwen Mapp, [communication@bermudaconference.bm](mailto:communication@bermudaconference.bm)  
Greater New York: Rohann Wellington, [rwellington@gnyoc.org](mailto:rwellington@gnyoc.org)  
New York: Jeremy Garlock, [jeremy.garlock@nyconf.org](mailto:jeremy.garlock@nyconf.org)  
Northeastern: JeNeen Lendor, [jlendor@northeastern.org](mailto:jlendor@northeastern.org)  
Northern New England: Scott Christiansen, [schristiansen@nneconline.org](mailto:schristiansen@nneconline.org)  
Southern New England: David Dennis, [skypilot@sneconline.org](mailto:skypilot@sneconline.org)  
Atlantic Union College  
Parkview Adventist Hospital: Public Relations

### Atlantic Union Conference Departments

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



ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER  
ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE  
P.O. BOX 1189  
SOUTH LANCASTER, MA 01561

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