

insideNOVEMBER16



4 Together Time

"What can people do to build a strong, healthy family?" It's a question we're often asked as we travel, making presentations about marriage and family.

6 Gain Spiritual Strength Through Prayer Because the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion, His service for heaven was without failure or faltering.





7 A Time to Recommit

Mary and Joseph had the distinct privilege of schooling the Son of God. Can you imagine that responsibility? The Father did not leave them without help though.

18 Impact Boston Leaves Its Mark

Volunteers from across the Southern New England Conference converged on Gibson Doherty Playground in Dorchester, a staging area for the groups fanning out for a day of community service.



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A Culture of **Thanksgiving**

e are living in a world where self and selfishness has taken center stage. Mankind would rather look to themselves for answers rather than look to God, not realizing that all good things come from God. As the Source of everything good and wonderful, it is incumbent upon all of us to ascribe thanksgiving and praise to God for all His blessings.

The book of Psalms is replete with expressions of praise and thanksgiving. David recognized that, had it not been for the Lord, how desperately his life would have ended! So he declared; "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"—Psalm 107:31. David developed a "culture of thanksgiving."

On the last Thursday in the month of November, across these United States, a large percentage of the population celebrates Thanksgiving as a day to reflect and show appreciation to God. Some historians trace this celebration back to the Pilgrims who, in 1621, with the Wampanoag Indians, "Shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November"—History of Thanksgiving, history.com.

There are other historians who believe that the origins of Thanksgiving date back even earlier than 1621. "Thanksgiving falls under a category of festivals that spans cultures, continents and millennia. In ancient times, the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans feasted and paid tribute to their gods after the fall harvest. Thanksgiving also bears a resemblance to the ancient Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot. Finally, historians have noted that Native Americans had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with

feasting and merrymaking, long before Europeans set foot on their shores"-History of Thanksgiving, history.com.

Whatever is the history of Thanksgiving, whoever is responsible for its origin, not just this nation, but all the people of the world, should be thankful to the Lord, who is God of all the universe. It is He who has created us, it is He who has sustained us, it is He who has redeemed us, and it is He who is coming again to rescue us from the furious wrath of the enemy of our souls.

Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, said, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"—1 Thessalonians 5:18, NKIV. Our families—individual and church—need to develop a "culture of thanksgiving" that will impact our lives on a daily basis. To the extent that, whatever state we find ourselves in, we can still give thanks to God knowing that He will never leave us nor forsake us when we put our trust in Him.

Ellen White has said it beautifully: "We need to praise God more 'for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.' Psalm 107:8. Our devotional exercises should not consist wholly in asking and receiving. Let us not be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive. We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. We are the constant recipients of God's mercies, and yet how little gratitude we express, how little we praise Him for what He has done for us"—Steps to Christ, p. 102.

Let us give thanks to God for all His mercies and His benefits toward us. The evidences are clear that He has done marvelous things for us, and we are to be thankful as a way of life. The Psalmist declared, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever"—Psalms 107:1, NKIV. (1)

G. Earl Knight is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.



"Oh. that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"— Psalm 107:31





By Claudio and Pamela Consuegra

every family should make time for

hat can people do to build a strong, healthy family?" It's a question we're often asked as we travel, making presentations about marriage and family.

Our response: invest time with the family. Such an investment will yield abundant dividends and produce rich, lasting results. However, it's not that simple. It is not enough just to spend time together. After all, some families spend hours sitting passively in front of the television set, but that ultimately doesn't have the greatest benefit. The goal, then, is not only to spend time together, but to maximize that time together.

If you want to make the most of the moments, here are seven kinds of together time every family should have:

Spiritual Growth Time Spiritual practices are important for your individual well-being and that of your family. For example, research is increasingly confirming the health benefits of prayer, including the benefits of spouses praying together and, in particular, praying for each other out loud.



Communication Time

Healthy families spend time sharing their

thoughts, feelings, ideas—expressing their likes and dislikes, agreeing and even disagreeing. Healthy communication is made up of two ingredients: (1) assertiveness, which is the ability to express what you

like, desire, feel, and think; and (2) active listening, which involves listening attentively and reflecting back what you heard to make sure you understand what was said. When you practice these two things, there is less chance of misunderstanding or being misunderstood.

Mealtime

For many families mealtime involves eating in front of the television or everyone eating alone in their rooms. Make a point to sit down to meals together: it can have a major impact on the health of the household. Research has found that frequent family meals are related to better nutritional intake and a decreased risk for weight problems, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, and suicide.

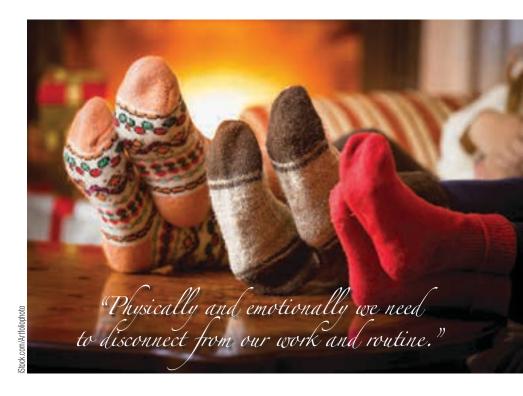
Studies show that the interaction children have with their mother and father differs. Fathers tend to be more physical in their play, which is surprisingly correlated with positive social development, including less aggression among peers. Playing with cars, wrestling with dad, or helping him work on his car provides quality time to bond.

Playtime

At the same time, spending time with mom, playing in gentler ways, allows for a different perspective. Interacting with both parents individually is beneficial to both genders. In addition, when the entire family plays together—whether it's hiking and camping or board games and puzzles—they are also building memories, and maybe even traditions.

Reading Time

The number one predictor of a child's academic success is their ability to read and write. Interestingly, research shows that a child's literacy development increases at a higher rate when their father reads to and with them. To make the most of your time, you can combine reading time with spiritual growth time and read from the Bible or other spiritual books.



Downtime

As important as playtime is, so is downtime. Guard the time for sleep, and set regular bedtimes. And set appropriate boundaries between your work and home. Bringing work home keeps you from spending good quality time with the family. Physically and emotionally we need to disconnect from our work and routine and reconnect with each other as family members. Rest is so important that God designed the Sabbath, or weekly day of rest (Exodus 20:9-11). It's also important to take regular vacations as a family.

Service time Research reveals that when families devote time for service activities, they enjoy a higher level of satisfaction and tend to have healthier relationships. Try doing yard work for an elderly person, helping with home repairs for someone in need, or taking a week to go outside of the country for a short-term mission trip. The key is to do these service projects together as a family. Volunteering as a family helps children learn about social issues, passes on positive family values, promotes the development of new skills, and increases problem-solving abilities.

Sometimes a few small steps can lead to big changes. As you look at these seven areas of together time you may feel a bit overwhelmed. Begin by implementing only one at a time. In doing so, you will find yourself taking giant strides toward a healthier family. 0

Claudio Consuegra is a marriage and family counselor and a pastor. His wife, Pamela Consuegra, is an educator. They are the family ministries directors for the Seventhday Adventist Church in North America.

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Gain Spiritual Strength

Through Prayer

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.—Mark 1:35, NKIV.

ecause the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion. His service for heaven was without failure or faltering. Daily beset by temptation, constantly opposed by the leaders of the people, Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to people, He must commune with God, from Him obtaining energy, perseverance, steadfastness.

The Savior loved the solitude of the mountain in which to hold communion with His Father.

Those who teach and preach the most effectively are those who wait humbly upon God, and watch hungrily for His guidance and His grace.

> Through the day He labored earnestly to save men, women, and children from destruction. He healed the sick, comforted the mourning, called the dead to life, and brought hope and cheer to the despairing. After His work for the day was finished, He went forth, evening after evening, away from the confusion of the city, and bowed in prayer to His Father. Frequently He continued His

petitions through the entire night; but He came from these seasons of communion invigorated and refreshed, braced for duty and for trial.

Are the ministers of Christ tempted and fiercely buffeted by Satan? So also was He who knew no sin. In the hour of distress He turned to His Father. Himself a source of blessing and strength, He could heal the sick and raise the dead; He could command the tempest, and it would obey Him; yet He prayed, often with strong crying and tears. He prayed for His disciples and for Himself, thus identifying Himself with human beings. He was a mighty petitioner. As the Prince of life, He had power with God, and prevailed. . . .

Those who teach and preach the most effectively are those who wait humbly upon God, and watch hungrily for His guidance and His grace. Watch, pray, work—this is the Christian's watchword. The life of a true Christian is a life of constant prayer. He knows that the light and strength of one day is not sufficient for the trials and conflicts of the next. Satan is continually changing his temptations. Every day we shall be placed in different circumstances; and in the untried scenes that await us we shall be surrounded by fresh dangers, and constantly assailed by new and unexpected temptations. It is only through the strength and grace gained from heaven that we can hope to meet the temptations and perform the duties before us. (GOSPEL WORKERS, p. 255-258) (9)

To BE LIKE JESUS, a collection of Ellen G. White's writings, p. 20. Reprinted with permission from The White Estate.



By Trevor Schlisner

A Time to Recommit

nd Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man"—Luke 2:52. It is an incredible thought that Jesus not only grew physically, but mentally, as well. He didn't come to earth pre-programmed with knowledge of the scriptures and His rescue mission. He learned, just as we do. Mary and Joseph had the distinct privilege of schooling the Son of God. Can you imagine that responsibility?

a son or daughter of God. The Father will not leave you without help. He will guide you and your children, through the power of the Holy Spirit, into all truth. Seventh-day Adventist education exists to support and emphasize the work that you have started. Together, along with our local churches, we will fulfill the command that calls each of us to "teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine

from babyhood the children should be taught of His goodness and His greatness, especially as revealed in His law, and shown in the history of Israel. . . . In the days of Christ the town or city that did not provide for the religious instruction of the young was regarded as under the curse of God"—The Desire of Ages, p. 69. How much more should we value the instruction of our youth, knowing that we are in the eleventh hour of earth's history? Take some time and continue to read the quote in its full context. You'll see that tradition and worthless material supplanted the aim of true education. We can't afford to make the same mistake.

Our commitment to you is to reveal the character of God each hour of each day to our children. We will do this through prayer, Bible study, and service activities. This commitment also includes helping our children understand and take part in the mission of our movement. I ask that you pray for revival and reformation among our administrators, teachers, and students. Pray that our students will see Christ in us as we prepare them for this world and for the world to come. 1

You have been made a steward of a son or daughter of God. The Father will not leave you without help. He will guide you and your children, through the power of the Holy Spirit, into all truth.

The Father did not leave them without help, though. "In the sanctuary of the home, Jesus received His education, not merely from His parents, but from His heavenly Father. As He grew older, God opened to Him more and more of the great work before Him"-THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR, August 22, 1901.

Parents, your child's education, especially that of the scriptures and mission of our movement, starts with you. You have been made a steward of house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and thou risest up"—Deuteronomy 6:7. You should expect nothing less from our schools.

The education of our children was a priority for God's people long before this church existed. Consider this statement: "From the earliest times the faithful in Israel had given much care to the education of the youth. The Lord had directed that even



Trevor Schlisner is the Northern New England Conference superintendent of schools.



Atlantic Union College: Onward and Upward

t's great to see students in this area," remarked Robert Follansbee, a resident of Lancaster, Massachusetts, where Atlantic Union College (AUC) is located. "It just doesn't revitalize local businesses, it energizes the community."

Atlantic Union College has been blessed with a great start, with almost double the enrollment it had the previous year. Currently 67 students are enrolled this semester, compared to 39 enrolled in Fall 2015. Many businesses were financially challenged when classes were halted between May 2011 and July 2015, but saw a change the minute classes began anew August 2015. "Those were tough years for us," commented an employee at Trolley Stop, a pizza shop across the street from AUC. "Financially, things were hard for us, but having students on campus really energized us."

While the community is happy to see AUC growing, the student body is also becoming more connected through the love of Jesus Christ. Jeremias Garcia, a theology major, believes that being at AUC is a blessing and is beneficial to his school work. "It feels like family here. Whenever one of us feels troubled with school work, we are all here to give each other support." Student Magaly Fabian, who is working on her Medical Billing certificate, finds the size of the student body and the small student/teacher ratio very beneficial. "It's very helpful with my studies and gives me more time and greater access to my teachers," she says.

Many of the same events alumni and former students participated in when they were enrolled at Atlantic Union College are still occurring, such as Week of Prayer, which took place September 19-24. Juan Damon, pastor of Grace and Glory and Cumberland churches in Providence, Rhode Island, was the Week of Prayer guest

speaker, who presented on the theme "GRIT-Grace Revealed In Trouble." Many were inspired and invigorated by his words.

AUC celebrated its annual Fall Festival event at the Thayer Performing Arts Center on October 2. Many members of the community, as well as AUC staff and students, enjoyed the music performed by the Youth Ensemble of New England. There were also many hands-on art activities available for parents and children to do, including face painting and pumpkin decorating.

The community, staff, and faculty are very excited to see Atlantic Union College filled with so much energy. May God continue to bless AUC as it continues moving onward and upward.

—Emmanuel Ortiz, communication manager, Atlantic Union College



The Youth Ensemble of New England in rehearsal at Thayer Performing Arts Center.



Jeremias Garcia, a theology major, believes that being at AUC is a blessing.



Chris Tulloch, AUC's public affairs and enrollment director, left; Juan R. Damon, pastor of Grace and Glory and Cumberland churches in Rhode Island, center; and Lentz Locly, an AUC student, stand on the first floor of Founders Hall following the Week of Prayer service.



Adventist Appointed Bermuda's Newest Magistrate

Maxanne Anderson, a member of the Hamilton church in Bermuda, was appointed magistrate in July 2016, by Bermuda governor George Fergusson, following the recommendation of the Judicial and Legal Services Committee. Anderson occupied the full-time position in August 2016 after serving as acting magistrate and coroner since 2006, where she oversaw a variety of cases, from coroner's inquests to traffic, drug treatment, and mental health courts, in addition to criminal and family courts.

During the July announcement, Fergusson stated that Anderson was "highly qualified to take over the challenges of this role." As a child, Anderson witnessed injustices in the world and desired to do something to change these misfortunes. It has always been her life's desire to help people and make the world a better place. Anderson obtained her law degree in 1995 at the University of Kent at Canterbury in England. She was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1997, and to the Bar in Bermuda in 1999.

Anderson was in private practice until 2006. Since 2007 she has served



Maxanne Anderson, a member of the Hamilton church, is Bermuda's newest magistrate.

as senior legal counsel for the Ministry of Economic Development, and has also served as acting director of the Department of Telecommunications since 2014. She is actively involved in activities in her community and church. She currently serves as vice president for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Bermuda Alumni Chapter, and is the assistant head deaconess for the Hamilton church.

Anderson credits her grandparents, mother, and step-father for instilling Christian values; being a key element in her development and deportment; believing in her and showing unconditional love; in addition to infusing order and requiring that everything be done in a pristine manner. She is inspired by her daughter—whom Anderson says is the best of her and her husband—as well as everyday men and women who have overcome difficult circumstances.

Anderson is married to Wayne Caines, and they are parents of a young adult daughter, Maxanne Caines II. Caines shares that during their matriculation at the University of Kent, one of Anderson's goals was to be the Family Court magistrate in Bermuda. Caines, who has been married to Anderson for 20 years, posits that his wife is "a great balancer of home and work life; a methodical and deep thinker; a keen lover who has an appreciation for our faith, and is a true soldier of the Cross."

Anderson is grateful to God for the people in her path that encouraged, mentored, and guided her. "I am who I am because people believed in me, even at times when I did not believe in myself." More importantly, her resolve, her strength, comes from God—a Bulwark who never fails.

-Lynette Woods, member, Hamilton church

Impact Zone Engages Children

Impact Zone (The Zone) was launched in March 2016 at the Somerset church in Bermuda to create a dynamic and interactive church environment where children can identify and understand the impact Jesus has in their lives and embrace a relationship with Him through wisdom, faith, and friendship.

The theme text for The Zone is "Don't let anyone look down on your because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love,



in faith and in purity"—1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.

Since launching, The Zone has had more than 50 registrants between the ages of 4 and 11. They meet on the first and third Sabbath of

each month, except in July and August. At The Zone, the children have learned about having hope in Christ, how to persevere, how possible it is to get through any situation with God on their side and,

most importantly, how much God loves them. The children are engaged in worship, prayer, interactive Bible stories, and activities to reinforce the week's lesson. To promote healthy eating, the program offers a healthy vegetarian meal and snacks.

True to the Impact Zone's mission, each child is encouraged to pursue a personal relationship with God, as He is presented as the closest friend anyone could have.

—Compiled from Somerset church's newsletter, THE BEACON HERALD, Issue No. 3, September 2016 and the Impact Zone Web site.

Three Baptized and Youth Ministries Director Installed at Pathfinder Camporee

Hundreds of Pathfinders and Master Guides gathered at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, from September 9 to September 11 for the 2016 Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Pathfinder Camporee. It was an exciting weekend.

The staff planned various character-building and spiritually-uplifting activities tailored to meet the needs of the Pathfinders. There were several activities that made the weekend unique. A group from The Risen ministry performed a multipart drama of the Prodigal Son, which captivated the audience.

There were prayer activities, as well as a Bible Experience that encouraged everyone to seek God and draw closer to Him. Participants bonded together to form a giant cross on the campground as they pledged to keep the Cross and God as the central focus of their lives.

Andrés J. Peralta, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, was present to complete the installation ceremony for Ariel Manzueta, newly-elected GNYC Youth Ministries director. Peralta was joined by Henry Beras, GNYC president, and Alanzo Smith, GNYC executive secretary.

The GNYC drill instructors performed a change of leadership ceremony to welcome Manzueta and his family to youth ministry in GNYC.

Before the weekend was over, a farewell ceremony was conducted for Peralta and his family with a special Pathfinder flare. To highlight the weekend, three individuals, Gabriel Barthelemy, Jose Burgos, and Angel Chacarria, answered the call to dedicate their lives to God and were baptized during the camporee. Overall, it was a blessed weekend for all who attended.

—Nashonie Chang, area coordinator, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department



A drone was used to take the photo of the Greater New York Conference Pathfinders as they stand in the formation of a cross at the 2016 camporee.



Andrés J. Peralta, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, center front right, participates in the installation ceremony of Ariel Manzueta, newly-elected Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries director, center front left, during the 2016 Pathfinder Camporee.

New GNYC Departmental Directors Elected

The Greater New York
Conference (GNYC) Executive
Committee, at its September 11
meeting, voted the following
departmental leadership changes:
Reginald Barthelemy will serve
as the Ministerial and Men's
Ministries (an appointed position)
director; Samuel Peguero will

serve as Family Ministries director; and Anton Kapusi will serve as Stewardship director. In addition to serving in these new assignments, both Peguero and Kapusi will retain their positions as pastors of their churches.

These assignments are as a result of the recent leadership changes in

the conference. Complete biographical information on Barthelemy, Peguero, and Kapusi are available online on the Greater New York Conference Web site: https://goo.gl/c0LqIo.

—Communication department, Greater New York Conference







Samuel Pequero



Anton Kapusi

GNYC Youth Ministries Sponsors Its First Olympics

The Greater New York L Conference (GNYC) Youth Ministries Department held its first-ever Olympics event. Andrés Peralta, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director and former GNYC Youth Ministries director, who has long dreamed of developing a strong sports ministry, initiated the planning process. It was a perfect baton pass as Ariel Manzueta, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries director, latched on and, with the planning committee, made the conversion into a successful GNYC Olympics event.

The games were held over a two-day period, beginning on the night of August 27 with an intense basketball tournament. By 9:00 a.m. on August 28, South Bronx High School field began to fill with athletes and specta-



Greater New York Conference youth gather at the South Bronx High School field for their first-ever Olympics event.

tors. Soccer, volleyball, and track events were conducted simultaneously. In spite of the heat it was clear that they had a great day.

More than a dozen churches from the various territories

in GNYC, as well as a community basketball league, participated in this event. Pathfinders, senior youth, young adults, and adults all participated. Everyone left the game a winner, having

played and prayed together for this enjoyable event and they are looking forward to next year's games.

—Nashonie Chang, area coordinator, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department



New York Conference Youth Ministries Organizes Compassion Rally

The New York Conference Youth Ministries
Department organized a Compassion Sabbath Rally that was hosted by the Bay Knoll church in Rochester, New York, August 26 and 27. More than 50 people participated in the weekend event, assisting in several different ministry opportunities.

Jeremy Garlock, New York Conference Youth Ministries associate director, superintendent of schools, and communication director, was the keynote speaker and presented on the theme, "The Three Reasons I Love Service." Using illustrations from mission trips he took with students to Louisiana to assist victims of hurricane Katrina, Garlock emphasized how service is an important component in worshiping God and illustrated three points about ministering in the community: it breaks down walls and natural barriers; it invites the Holy Spirit into our lives; and it fulfills the mission of the church.



The Touch of Love team gets ready to go out into the community.

Volunteers ministered in the Rochester community in a variety of ways. Some participants passed out flags at a local Walmart; others visited a local nursing home, former members, and those who were sick and shut-in; some conducted Christ-centered, kid-friendly activities at a local park; and a few stayed back to cover the volunteers on the streets in prayer.

Volunteers also created cards that were distributed to area businesses and first responders, thanking them for their service. The Touch

of Love homeless ministry prepared bags containing toiletries, socks, and sandwiches that were passed out to those in need. A campus ministry that operates on the campus of Rochester Institute of Technology also conducted a special meeting that Sabbath morning.

After ministering in the community, the participants returned to the Bay Knoll church to share their stories and testimonies. Members heard how a homeless woman named Gayle had prayed about something to eat when the volunteers

arrived with their bags. Another story was shared about seeing a woman hobbling as she walked down the street because her shoes were too small; volunteers purchased new shoes for the woman, who was very grateful and had tears in her eyes.

When contemplating the lives touched over the weekend, one member commented, "It is an experience that has brought us together not only as church members, but as a church family."

—Contributor: Howard Krug, member, Rochester Bay Knoll church



Elijah Krug shakes the hand of a local business owner during the Compassion Rochester event.



Cassandra Murray, Touch of Love coordinator, left, talks with church members and hands out assignments.



New York Conference Elects New Executive Secretary

The New York Conference Executive L Committee at its meeting on September 25, voted to elect William McNeil to serve as the executive secretary for the conference to serve for the remainder of the 2014-2018 quadrennial.

McNeil has served the church for more than 40 years. For the past 20 years he has served as a pastor in the New York Conference. He comes with a wealth of knowledge and has served the Adventist Church in many capacities, including as ministerial, family life, and Sabbath School director at the Atlantic Union Conference, as well as associate ministerial director for the New York Conference.



William McNeil is the newly-elected executive secretary of the New York Conference.

McNeil is an Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) alumnus. He and his wife, Anne, have been married for 49 years and have three adult children.

McNeil will help to provide leadership to the approximately 5,686 members who worship in 65 churches and two companies in the New York Conference territory which includes an educational system with seven elementary schools, one academy, as well as a number of community services centers and other ministries.

The New York Conference is happy to welcome the McNeils to the New York Conference administrative team.

—Communication staff, New York Conference

Pathfinders Work together to Reach Shut-ins

Thirty young people from the Ithaca and Corning Pathfinder clubs united on October 1 to participate in a Pathfinder Sabbath. According to Derek Colaw, Pathfinder leader in the Corning church, there is a need for young people in the smaller upstate New York churches to get together so they can experience the blessing of belonging to a larger organization. This can be easily accomplished by providing opportunities for Pathfinder groups to work together.

During the day, the Pathfinders spent time leading out in the worship service, working on honors, and building relationships with the young people in other groups. They also reached out to intentionally bless the residents of the retirement home in Ithaca, New York. A concert was presented to a group gathered in the retirement home, and Pathfinders



Ithaca and Corning Pathfinder club members are on their way to spend time with retirement home residents.

gave out greeting cards to the residents. Some of the Pathfinders reported feeling such a sense of accomplishment after ministering at the retirement home that they would like to return and continue to minister there on a regular basis.



Ithaca and Corning Pathfinder clubs lead out in the worship service at a retirement home.

Please pray for the Pathfinders as they seek community and outreach opportunities.

—Jeremy Garlock, communication director, New York Conference

Nine Cyclists Participate in a 100-Mile Bike Ride

Tt was a beautiful sunny Lday in Freeport, Maine, when a yellow school bus left the campus of Pine Tree Academy headed for the shoulder of Mount Washington some 100 miles away. The bus was buzzing with excitement as nine cyclists headed out for a "little Sunday ride." This excursion would cover a scenic route of inclines and declines, running through picturesque small towns and breathtaking expanses of water and fields.

The route the cyclists were attempting would roll on for an impressive 103 miles. Among the riders were Bob Cundiff, Northern New England Conference (NNEC) president, an avid cyclist; Scott Christiansen, NNEC trust services and communication director, a man with incredible stamina, who achieved the outstanding distinction of having bicycled across America

(more than 3,000 miles); Maitland DiPinto, North American Division director of community engagement and development; David Cuke, pastor of Northeastern Conference's Capital City church in Albany, New York, along with members Steve Deroche and Jean Dodard; and Keith Holland, Doug Houck, and Karen Jenkins, members from NNEC.

The ride was quite a challenge for the team of three from Northeastern Conference mainly because none of them had ever before ridden so long a distance. As you can imagine, for the threesome, it was a ride complete with cramps, blisters, sore necks, and sore backs. In fact, it was Doddard and Deroche who did the four-hour drive from Albany to Maine while Cuke lay in the back seat wrestling with a protruding bicycle front fork.

At one point the gears from Cuke's bicycle fell apart under the pressure causing him to lose some mileage, and he rode just shy of 100 miles.

The ride was also physically challenging for Cuke, since he had been suffering with sciatic nerve pain for three straight weeks leading up to the very night before the ride. "I could barely walk at the time," Cuke says. He was advised by some people to back out of the ride because of his condition. "Somehow I felt God was testing my faith and that I would become a better person if I refused to give up," Cuke says. Some people told him, "If you can hardly walk, how do you expect to ride a bicycle up and down hills for 100 miles?"

As the group traveled in the bus to the starting line, Cuke thought, *If it takes this long to travel the distance by bus, how on earth do I*

expect to ride a bicycle 100 miles with an inflamed sciatic nerve? He was reassured that members of the Capital City church family were praying for him. Thank God for Christian love!

From the time the riders exited the bus, the Lord removed all pain from Cuke's legs and back. He was able to ride for more than seven hours with his companions in this challenging, exhilarating, and strenuous eventone which none of them will ever forget. "Personally, I will never forget this event, not because of the grueling distance, but because of how a 'little' 100-mile bike ride revealed to me the power of God to sustain and heal us," Cuke says. "The power of God is able to carry us to the end, when of ourselves there is no hope of victory." What a mighty God we serve!

—Communication team, Capital City church



Nine cyclists out for a 100-mile Sunday ride, from left, David Cuke, Steve Deroche, Jean Dodard, Keith Holland, Doug Houck, Maitland DiPinto, Scott Christiansen, Karen Jenkins, and Bob Cundiff.



Mahanaim Church Celebrates Its Graduates

 Γ ourteen graduates, from kindergarten to university, dressed in caps, tassels, and gowns, marched into the Mahanaïm church sanctuary on July 2 for a graduation ceremony. Excited parents, friends, and church members gave God praise and congratulated the graduates.

Guest speaker Paul H. Byssainthe, a medical doctor, shared sound advice and tips for success with the graduates. "Sometimes you will be alone to support an idea. If you know that God is on your side, go for it," he said.

Laur-Edine Pierre, an advocate for children, represented other graduates and gave thanks to the Lord, the parents, sponsors, church members, and friends who had gathered for the occasion. She reminded the graduates about the evangelistic man-

date in Matthew 28:18-20. "The more you are educated, the more you can represent the Lord, under the unction

of the Holy Spirit, to fulfill this mission," Pierre said.

Every graduate received a certificate according to their academic level and a monetary gift. This was possible through the generosity of sponsors among the church members and a substantial gift given by Byssainthe, the sponsor of the 2016 graduation. Refreshments followed in the banquet hall of the church.

Congratulations to the graduates, felicitations to the parents, and gratitude to the church members, the pastoral family, Othnel and Edithe Pierre, and the sponsor, Paul H. Byssainthe.

-Wilfrid Louis, communication director, Mahanaïm church

Church ACS Sponsors Back-to-School Giveaway

The Adventist Community L Services department at Jefferson Avenue church in Rochester, New York, held its annual Back-to-School Backpack and Supplies giveaway on August 28. On a blazing hot Sunday morning, tables were set up, backpacks were sorted and separated by grade, and volunteers came prepared to work with families participating in the giveaway.

Families began lining up at 9:30 a.m. for an event that was scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. The Jefferson Avenue church's Adventist Community Services Center seeks to address the needs of the community in a tangible way and the back-to-school program did just that.

In all, more than 200 children were served with supplies, including backpacks, filler paper, notebooks, binders, pens, pencils, crayons, scissors, colored pencils, erasers, rulers, index cards. and pencil sharpeners.

The program director, James Murphy, Sr., and the team helped to ensure the day was a success. To God be the glory for the generosity of the members who donated supplies, the corporate sponsor, Wegmans, for their donation of backpacks, and Brothers and Sisters Unisex Hair Salon for the free haircuts, as well.

—Angela Tucker-Hill, communication department, Jefferson Avenue church

What's Happening in Your Community?

Northeastern Conference communication leaders—We are looking for news and other inspiring stories from your area. How are the members sharing evangelism outside the walls of your church? How are the youth and young adults getting involved?

E-mail your stories with the photos attached as separate files to the Northeastern Conference communication director.

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Young Adults Flock to Retreat in Maine

Three Twenty-something Attendees Share Their Reflections

Jump

I paused under water just long enough to take in its otherworldly translucent forest green. The frigidness of the water, however, revealed that the warmth of this summer day hadn't been absorbed by the deep pool. Swimming to the surface, I raced the bubbles that were created when I splashed into its depths. As my head bobbed out of the water, my ears met with loud, encouraging cheers from the cliffs above.

Pastor Mark coached me up the jagged rock face back to the jump spot and talked me through improving my form for my second jump. Cold water or not, I was definitely cliff jumping again!

I love adventure. Living in Boston affords plenty of it, but the young adult retreat at Camp Lawroweld took my sense of adventure for a spin. I could feel the stress of city life melt away in the purity and beauty of God's nature, and I reveled in its peace.

That weekend I had my fill of bike riding, wake-boarding, hiking, stargazing, and cliff jumping. Little did I know that this Sabbath afternoon jump would serve as an object lesson for the spiritual plunge God would beckon me to make later that very day.

I attended Pastor Shawn Brace's breakout session titled "This Is Church?" It was the session description that got me: "Fewer and fewer people—especially millennials—are finding fulfillment at church and [many] are not attending anymore. Could it be because we're not 'doing' church right? Come for a stimulating conversation as we re-imagine church together."

As he presented the need for church to be "the people of God doing the work of God in everyday life," I felt the Holy Spirit convicting me of my neglect of ministering to my neighbors.

Throughout the week as I do full-time campus ministry, I leave my apartment and pass the doors of people who don't yet know Him. When we do bump into each other, I always smile, we say hello, and chitchat about the weather and wish each other a good day.

Sure, my brother and I have invited them to holiday concerts we sing in, to a creation science talk that STRIDE campus ministries and MIT Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) put on, and asked them to join us for kickball and brunch one Sunday morning. But I haven't pursued a friendship with them as I have in other

spheres. I had been sidestepping the opportunities to share God right there in my building as I focused on helping students share God on their campuses.

God was calling me to include my own "campus"—my building—as part of my mission field. I realized I could be doing so much more to reach the secular, non-collegiate demographic in my community.

Pastor Brace shared how important it is in discipling to first tell others the story of God, and then show them how they fit in His story. In that way, rather than feeling as if they're being sold just another worldview, they will see a purpose for their existence, a plan for their future, and the part that only they can play in it all.

As he talked about creating small groups of 12-25 people that meet regularly,



Young adults from around the Atlantic Union at the Northern New England Conference young adult retreat in Lawroweld, Maine.

I could see our apartment becoming a gathering place for our neighbors and a hub for community-building. I envisioned our kitchen turning into a lab where our neighbors can try plantbased recipes and our living room becoming a space to explore the intersection of life and faith.

It would take being intentional, consistent, open, and available to turn our home into the center of influence God needs it to be. Within the walls I call home, I want my neighbors to see up close what the journey to living and loving like Jesus looks like so they can choose to do the same.

I'll admit, this spiritual cliff seems much higher than the one I physically jumped. I am assured, however, that in the same way Pastor Mark guided me to the perfect jump spot, coached me through each leap, and made sure I made it back to the top, God will do the same.

—Darlye Elise Innocent, member, Cambridge church

Rest, Relax, Rejuvenate

The NNEC Young Adult \perp retreat is one of the best I've attended. You truly rest, relax, rejuvenate, and connect with God and with community. I LOVED it! The waterfall hike. The hour with Jesus. Seeing a shooting star. The fire pit at night. The open mic. Juniper! Mountain biking. Wow. I know that the NNEC prayer ministry was praying for us that weekend and those prayers were surely answered above and beyond what we asked for or could imagine. God is so good! This is my second year attending and I cannot wait for next year's retreat.

Perhaps the best part is the heart of Pastor Mark

Tamaleaa. He is authentic, open, funny, and real. During service, he is intentional and thoughtful about sharing real testimonies and snippets with us. He'll share commentary about growing up, his childhood, his family, what he's been through, his struggles and how God has provided. He is vocal and articulates that his goal for us is to meet Jesus and experience His love and grace and truth. He tells us to spend time in the Word. He says, "Spend time with God. Encounter Him this weekend." Pastor Mark sets the tone of the purpose and meaning behind this retreat, which is to rest and be with God. I surely felt His presence. Amen!

—Nathalie G. Ais, member, Braintree church

Hhhhhaaaahhh!

Theard about a Young Adult Retreat in Maine that cost only \$10. I am skeptical, but pay for it anyway. Hey, what did I have to lose? (Well, maybe \$10, but that is beside the point.) I carpooled with a couple of my friends to Maine and we got lost. Our GPS stopped working, but we knew that would happen because the e-mail said so.

It's 2:00 a.m. and our car got stuck on a creepy road that reminded me of a scary movie. There's a huge rock under the car. The only way out of this road is to lift the car off the rock. So three of us picked up the car and reversed out of "Nightmare on Elm Street."

"We should have just followed the pastor," I said as I have a flashback of the pastor, who is in charge of the retreat, driving right beside us. "You sure that's him?" my friend asks. "Yeah, I think so." He had called me and said that he was 15 min-



Enjoying water-skiing at the Northern New England Conference young adult retreat.

utes ahead, and that he is driving a silver truck that's pulling a black carriage. The truck next to us was indeed silver and there was a black carriage behind it. He then waves and we all waved back. "Well. . . that might not be him." So we sped away, leaving a cloud of dust behind. Oh, how mistaken

Nevertheless, we made it to camp at 4:00 a.m. and woke up the pastor that we passed hours earlier. He introduced himself as Pastor Mark from Samoa The morning dew greets me as I slip and fall on the grass because I decided to walk on the grass rather than the Mayan pyramid staircase that leads to the main cabin.

I meet Chef Dave and his crew who "throws down" every day and ask God for forgiveness because I have become a glutton in the span of three days. To make myself feel better, I decide to work the food off by kayaking, biking, swimming, and more. After all those rigorous activities, I realize that I am out of shape and make a vow to start working out once I get back home, while stuffing a third vegan hot dog down my throat.

I got a spiritual reboot while at the retreat. I spent time with God in the prayer cabin. I witnessed a dramatization of the story of the prodigal son. I learned how to become intimate with Christ and what is the meaning of church. After spending an hour with God, everyone reconvened to share their experiences. Most importantly, the speaker for the weekend reminded me that God can restore me. even if it takes 153 times.

I really enjoyed open mic night when the group Juniper (which I mispronounced as "Jupiter) sang their heavenly music, and others recited their poetry, sang, and shared testimonies. The night ended with M.C. Nerry Berry freestyling accompanied by the Samoan pastor beat boxing.

The retreat ends. I made a lot of connections with lots of young adults all across the Northeast, even some from Canada. The prayer of dedication is sent up. After it ends, I take my last walk down to the lake. It's quiet. but even in the silence I hear God's voice speaking to me. I feel refreshed. I take a deep breath and exhale hhhhhaaaahhh!

—Sarah Horatius, member, Temple Salem church



Impact Boston Leaves Its Mark



A drum corps, Adventurers, and Pathfinders, led by volunteers, are on a march for peace around the Gibson Doherty Playground in Dorchester.

Volunteers from across the Southern New England Conference converged on Gibson Doherty Playground in Dorchester on September 17. As the base camp for Impact Boston, the playground served as a staging area for the groups fanning out in the area for a day of community service.

At the All Dorchester Sports League building next to the playground, volunteers spent the day on a number of tasks, from cleaning out a basement and washing a grill to pulling out weeds and plants from a garden and building two raised-bed garden boxes.

In the three years Candace Gartley has been the executive director of the Sports League, she said things are turning around for the neighborhood. She said the Impact volunteers were showing a lot of good will while making a powerful visual impact on a troubled neighborhood that had seen a murder the night before.

"This is a big thing for us today; we're going to send out information to the mayor, elected officials, and corporations," Gartley said. "We're going to say the Seventh-day Adventist Church partnered with us and we will be more effective in our community because of them."

She said the cleaned-out basement would be used to store donations that would otherwise have to be turned away, and the gardens would be used to grow fresh vegetables for cooking classes for children and parents in the neighborhood. "Pediatric obesity rates and asthma are the highest here in Dorchester," Gartley said.

Projects even extended to unplanned areas when an electric drill was needed to build the garden boxes. Mike Vogler from the Foxboro church ran across the street to see if a store owner had a drill he could borrow and was told to try the local liquor store.

After explaining what he needed to the liquor store owner and his wife through gestures, sounds, and words, because neither of them were proficient in English, the owner agreed to lend the drill if Vogler left \$60 as a down payment for it.

Other groups cleaned streets, worked at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, painted rooms in the Marcus Garvey Center in Roxbury, and more.

Conference president David Dennis was thrilled that the whole conference was working together on the projects. "We're growing an attitude of service in our conference," Dennis said. "I'm hoping the people of Dorchester are blessed by this."

As volunteers gathered at the end of the day to participate in a March for Peace in a 1.5 mile loop around the playground, Impact organizer and assistant youth ministries director Milton Marquez told the volunteers that God is a God of love, mercy, and peace.

"He can bring peace to other people, whether they are believers or not," Marquez said. "We can walk these streets with our heads held high and our posture straight, saying, 'We are with you; we are partnering with you to turn any dark places into places of light.'"

The Impact programs are held each fall and rotate between Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. This year's Impact was a precursor to the Compassion Boston campaign held in October with John Bradshaw from *It Is Written*.

—Paula Vogler, communication, Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries Department

Fun Day Draws Community and Church Members

While the gloomy rainy morning may have dampened the spirits of some, the afternoon of September 11 gave way to blue skies, sunshine, and more than 200 attendees at the Southern New England

Conference's annual Family Fun Day held at the campgrounds in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Animals, face painting, games, inflatables, crafts, and more drew many smiling faces, including some

who were new to the experience. Lindsay Campbell, who is not a church member, lives across the street from the campgrounds and said that her neighbor, Ed Collins, as well as members at the College Church, have

made such an impact on her life that she wanted to stop by the festivities.

"I figured we'd stop by and talk to people," Campbell said. "I've never been to church." When Campbell had a premature baby two years ago, she said Collins told her his church would pray for her and the baby. She said people at the church gave her a Bible and also remembered her child's name, Jaxson, when they saw her and asked about him.

"They all knew who he was," Campbell said. "They were so amazing for us." Campbell said she would like to go to the church and wondered about how to take the first step of walking into the church with her children.

"My parents never brought me to church and I figured it would be nice to bring [my children] and educate them," Campbell said.

Karina Flores came from Connecticut with her children and others from their church's Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs. "Today is a good day for a kickoff," Flores said. "There are so many different activities for the kids. Some like races, some like crafts. It's great."

With an activity map in hand, Melson Florival of Brockton was leading a group of excited young-



Children take turns inside a large inflated plastic ball and, with help, try to work their way along the inflatable track.

sters to different activities. "I'm looking forward to rock climbing," Shanessa Fleurival, 10, said. "I'm also looking forward to the bounce houses and face painting. They look fun."

Jacob Paradise, 7, came to the fun day with his grandmother, Rhonda Paradise, from Connecticut, and proclaimed getting inside the large plastic balls and rolling along the inflated track was one of his favorite things. "It's harder than it looks," Iacob said.

Looking at all the happy faces brought a smile to Youth and Family Ministries associate director Milton Marquez, who organizes the event each year.

"Our goal is to create a fun, safe environment for families to be together," Marquez said. "We believe families that spend time together, grow together. We want to invest in them."

—Paula Vogler, communication, Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries Department

Rhode Island Teacher Receives Prestigious Education Award

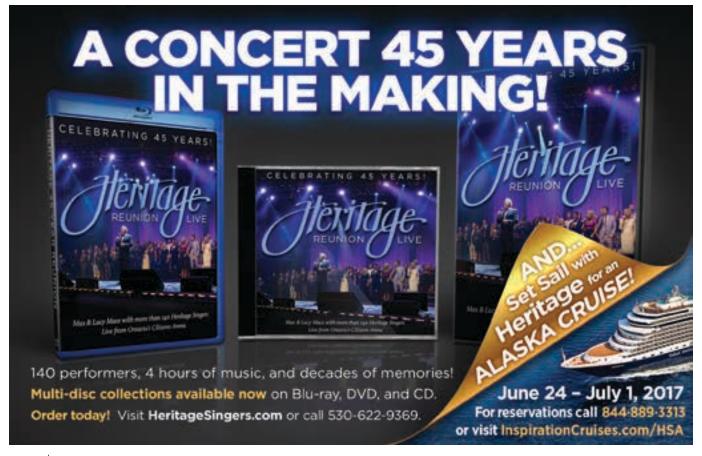
Cheryl Buchanan has been named the 2016 Outstanding Adult Educator of the Year by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Buchanan is an adult learning facilitator at Genesis Center, "a multiservice organization offering a full range of services to immigrants, refugees, and low-income families."

Buchanan is a member of the Grace and Glory church in Providence, Rhode Island, where she is active in youth ministries and is currently working on becoming a Master Guide. She was selected for this award based on her "demonstrated contributions to adult education, the teaching profession, and her impact on student outcomes."

-Contributors: Kelvin Valera, member, Grace and Glory church; and Genesis Center









Sunset Ta				Eastern Standard Time	
December 2016	2	9	16	23	30
Bangor, ME	3:54	3:54	3:55	3:58	4:0
Portland, ME	4:04	4:04	4:05	4:08	4:14
Boston, MA	4:12	4:11	4:13	4:16	4:2
South Lancaster, MA	4:14	4:13	4:15	4:18	4:2
Pittsfield, MA	4:20	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:3
Hartford, CT	4:20	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:3
Providence, RI	4:15	4:14	4:16	4:19	4:2
New York, NY	4:28	4:28	4:30	4:33	4:3
Albany, NY	4:20	4:19	4:21	4:24	4:3
Utica, NY	4:26	4:25	4:27	4:30	4:3
Syracuse, NY	4:30	4:29	4:31	4:34	4:3
Rochester, NY	4:35	4:35	4:36	4:40	4:4
Buffalo, NY	4:41	4:41	4:42	4:46	4:5
Hamilton, Bda	5:12	5:13	5:15	5:19	5:2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC UNION Save the Date for GODencounters, a young adult life-changing experience, will be held February 10-12, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453. The event is sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries Department. Web site: www.auyouth.com.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND Pioneer Valley Academy Alumni Reunion 2016, November 14-16, Camp Winnekeag, 257 Ashby Rd., Ashburnham, MA 01430. Registration on Friday begins at 3:00 p.m. at the Pathfinder Lodge, followed by potluck supper and Vespers. Sabbath registration and events are in the gymnasium. Reservations for lodging and meals in the cafeteria may be made by contacting Alex Bezerra, 81, PVA alumni president, e-mail: PVAalumnipres@yahoo.com; Web site: www.pvaalumni.org.

OBITUARIES

JACKSON, Lavinia Lee Johnson-94; b. July 12, 1921, in Meriden Conn.; d. May 20, 2016, Hamden, Conn. She was a member of the Mt. Zion church in Hamden, Conn., for more than 70 years and served as a deaconess and on multiple church committees. She is survived by her daughters Emily Tucker (Benjamin), Lavinia Jackson (Eddie), and Jackie Claiborne of Calif., 22 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.

CHARLES-EDWARDS, Valerie Ruth-61; b. Nov. 15, 1954, in Point Fortin Trinidad and Tobago; d. May 7, 2016, in Los Angeles, Calif. She was a member of the Hope church in Bloomfield, Conn. She is survived by her three sons; Kevin, Jamie, and Dean Charles; two brothers, Steve and Tony Charles; two sisters; Marilyn Oliver and Sherma Charles; six grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

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UNION COLLEGE seeks committed Adventist to establish and direct an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program effective Summer 2017. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in Occupational Therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience. E-mail letter of interest and C.V. to Rich Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, r2young@ucollege.edu.

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WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has two faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology. For details and to apply, please visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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