

THE ATLANTIC UNION

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GLEANER

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The Choice **Is Yours!**

“Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left”—2 Chronicles 34:1-2.

When I left home to attend college, it was with mixed emotions. It would be my first time away from my family for a long period of time, and I was also still grieving the loss of my dad, who died about five months before I left for school. In those first months away, even as I was being exposed to a new way of life, I was still very much connected to home.

However, it was obvious that the days of growing up as a child and enjoying carefree times were slowly fading. The time when having fun was all that mattered and everything was all right with the world was changing. Growing up in a Christian home, we were taught that God could do anything and that He was there for us all the time. When things weren't going right, we knew we could call on Him. When we were blessed with things, we knew to thank Him. We were taught that Jesus never fails, and I believed it.

With the freedom of college life at my disposal, I began to realize that this new way of life allowed me to do whatever I wanted to do. Now it was up to me to make my own choices about how I was going to move forward.

Several months into my first year, while alone in my dorm room one afternoon, I decided to no longer ride on the coattails of my parents, and I chose God for myself. I knew I did not want it any other way.

Now, as an adult, I still believe many of the things I was taught as a child and, in many ways, I have proved them for myself. Of course, I have had my share of challenges, and there have been times of discouragement and questioning, but

I am thankful for reminders in scripture such as “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”—James 1:12, NIV.

The story of Josiah (see 2 Chronicles 34-35) who became king at eight years old and instituted lasting changes in Judah as a young adult (age 24) is a source of encouragement to me. It is true that we don't get to choose the family we are born into, but we do get to choose the direction in which we want our life to go. Josiah was a “game-changer” who chose to break the generational chain. He could have followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both did evil in the sight of the Lord, but Josiah chose to be true to the God of Israel. As a matter of fact, 2 Kings 23:25 says about Josiah, “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.”

Even though life may deal us some very hard blows at times, it is up to us to choose how we will respond. I am happy with the choice I made that day in my dorm room. Regardless of what is happening around us, we should be determined to turn neither to the right nor the left, but to “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). The choice is yours! ☺

Ednor A. P. Davison is the communication director for the Atlantic Union Conference and editor for the Atlantic Union GLEANER.



“Even though life may deal us some very hard blows at times, it is up to us to choose how we will respond.”



Sharing the Gospel *in El Salvador*

More than 1,500 baptized following evangelistic meetings

By Debra McKinney Banks

More than 1,500 people were baptized at the end of Impacto Salvador, a series of evangelistic meetings in El Salvador. The meetings, which took place March 18-25, were a joint endeavor with the Atlantic Union Conference under the direction of Dionisio Olivo, Atlantic Union Conference Hispanic and Portuguese ministries vice president, and the El Salvador Union Mission. Atlantic

Union officers, departmental directors, conference administrators, and pastors all participated in the meetings as they presented the Word of God simultaneously at 38 different churches in and around the capital city of San Salvador.

On behalf of the Atlantic Union Conference administrators, Olivo collaborated with Abel Pacheco, El Salvador Union Mission president; Danny Perla, executive secretary

of the Metropolitan El Salvador Conference; and Santos Antonio Canas Quezada, Paracentral El Salvador Conference president. Prior to the evangelistic campaign, pastors from all five of the conferences in the El Salvador Union Mission served as Bible workers, helping to prepare the people for the upcoming meetings.

Each year, the Atlantic Union Conference participates in an evangelism campaign in countries that are represented by members within the Atlantic Union. “Because we have people from these countries in our union, we send the message that we care for you, and we care for your roots,” Olivo said. “We want to reach and care for them [Atlantic Union members] and bring the gospel to people there in their home countries.” Previous evangelistic efforts have also been conducted in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Cuba.

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America and is the most densely populated, with nearly seven million people living on 8,124 square miles. At the end of March 2017, the Adventist Church membership in the country was 199,428, with 766 churches. Between the two participating conferences in San Salvador, there are more than 250 churches with approximately 72,000 members.



Members gather outside the newly-built church in El Salvador waiting for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Churches were gathered into districts and 38 sites were established for the meetings conducted by the group from the Atlantic Union. Speakers from the Atlantic Union Conference included G. Earl Knight, president; Pierre Omeler, executive secretary; Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer; Dionisio Olivo, Hispanic and Portuguese ministries vice president; Jose Joseph, Haitian and African ministries vice president; Trevor Forbes, undertreasurer; and Marlene Alvarez, education associate director. Local conference administrators included Henry Beras, Greater New York Conference president; Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference executive secretary; and Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president. Additional speakers included several departmental directors and pastors from the Greater New York, Northeastern, Northern

New England, and Southern New England conferences.

Financial contributions from the Atlantic Union Conference, Greater New York Conference, as well as private donations, helped to build a new church in El Salvador.

After the meetings, all speakers attended two professional growth seminars presented by the El Salvador Union Mission. The seminars covered knowing and understanding Salvadorian culture and background, as well as useful information on how to minister to and reach Salvadorians with the gospel. The Atlantic Union Conference is home to many people from El Salvador, and several large Salvadorian communities are located in the metropolitan areas of Boston, Massachusetts, and Long Island, New York. ①

Debra McKinney Banks is the communication assistant for the Atlantic Union Conference.



The El Salvador Union Mission presents gifts to the pastors' wives, the female evangelist, and female guests.



Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, presents the message at the Miramonte church, one of the 38 sites.



Atlantic Union Conference representatives G. Earl Knight, president; Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer and translator; Jose Joseph, Haitian and African ministries vice president; and Dionisio Olivo, Hispanic and Portuguese ministries vice president; make a presentation to the church on the day of the dedication.



Church members stand on the platform of the newly-built church.



On the last Sabbath of the meetings, the group celebrates what God has done during the Impacto Salvador evangelistic meetings.

Prayer and Faith

By Ellen G. White

“We have a God
whose ear is
not closed to
our petitions;
and if we prove
his word, he will
honor our faith.”

“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” Important lessons are presented to us in the experience of Elijah. When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. Six times he prayed earnestly, and yet there was no sign that his petition was granted, but with a strong faith he urged his plea to the throne of grace. Had he given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would have not been answered but he persevered till the answer came. We have a God whose ear is not closed to our petitions; and if we prove his word, he will honor our faith. He wants us to have all our interests interwoven with his interests, and then he can safely bless us; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is ours, but shall render all the praise to God. God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon him; for should he do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favors he bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to realize our dependence upon him and our need of his help.

Elijah humbled himself until he was in a condition where he would

not take the glory to himself. This is the condition upon which the Lord hears prayer, for then we shall give the praise to him. The custom of offering praise to men is one that results in great evil. One praises another, and thus men are led to feel that glory and honor belong to them. When you exalt man, you lay a snare for his soul, and do just as Satan would have you. You should praise God with all your heart, soul, might, mind, and strength; for God alone is worthy to be glorified. If we should realize that our salvation cost the infinite price of the life of the Son of God, we should have more humble views of self. Our Saviour knew that there was no hope of redemption for us except through him, and he came to the world to be wounded for our transgressions, to be bruised for our iniquities, to bear our chastisement, that through his stripes we might be healed.

In order to exalt the Lord as we should, we must have genuine faith, which will lead us to render obedience to the law of God. There are many who claim to have faith in God, but it is a faith that does not work; and the apostle says, “Faith without works is dead.” It is of like character with the faith possessed by the evil angels, for they “believe and tremble.” We must have the faith of the Bible,—the faith that works by love, and purifies the soul. ①

Excerpt by Ellen G. White, author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, REVIEW AND HERALD, March 27, 1913, reprinted with permission.



Three Steps to Making Your Dream a Reality

Whoever has stopped dreaming has started to die. No matter how old or young you are, never stop dreaming. Les Brown, motivational speaker and author, puts it this way, “You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.” Dreams keep you energized, hopeful, and give you a reason to move forward and fight.

Martin Luther once said, “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” We all have dreams. It may be for a better relationship with God, a better relationship with a family member, getting a better job, getting a better education, or maybe increasing your income. Walt Disney once said, “First, think. Second, believe. Third, dream. And finally, dare.” The dreamers that have dared are the ones that have made a significant change in the world.

“No matter how old or young you are, never stop dreaming.”

Ellen White said, “Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no great object for which to live, no high standard to reach. One reason for this is the low estimate which they place upon themselves”—*THE MINISTRY OF HEALING*, p. 498.

Why is it that so many of us never fulfill our dreams? What are your dreams? How can you achieve your dreams? I would like to share three steps to making your dreams become a reality.

Step 1: Make sure your dream comes from God.

A dreamer needs to learn that prayer is the main key to discovering their dream. The Bible says, “Ask and it will be

given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”—Matthew 7:7, NIV. If you have a dream, ask God if that is the dream He has for you. Your dream must sync with God’s dream for you. If you miss this, you might still acquire what you call your dream, however, you will never have the satisfaction and the peace that comes only when you live under God’s dream for your life. So, make sure your dream comes from God.

Step 2: Begin now.

Time waits for no man and each minute counts. Do something every day that brings you closer to your dream. Be intentional. Do not give up on your dream just because it will take too much time to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway, and you will regret it. Begin now!

Step 3: Be willing to pay the price.

I concur with the retired general Colin Powell, who said, “A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.” Most people with a dream give up before they even start, because of fear of failure. Remember that you block your dream when you allow your fear to grow bigger than your faith. The best example of someone who was willing to pay the price for His dream was Christ. Jesus, in His daily living, relied on God’s guidance. He did not waste time and was willing to pay the price to save us.

Sometimes life is about risking it all for a dream no one can see but you. Jesus did!

Dreams give people an incentive to live. Have you stopped dreaming? Can you dare to dream? Remember, make sure your dream comes from God; begin now and be willing to pay the price. I hope that your main dream will be to be with God for eternity. ☺



Andrés J. Peralta is director for the Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Pathfinder and Adventurer departments in the Atlantic Union Conference.

Braintree Pathfinder Club Secures First Place at Pathfinder Bible Experience

The Braintree Flames Pathfinder Club from Braintree, Massachusetts, began a journey that resulted in a first-place win for the club from the Southern New England Conference at the Atlantic Union Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience. The club went on to be among the first-place winners of the North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE).

On April 1, more than 200 supporters assembled in the gymnasium on the campus of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, to observe the Pathfinders from around the Atlantic Union Conference in the union-level PBE finals. Eight clubs participated in the event this year: the Manor Road Sequoias, from Staten Island, New York, represented Greater New York Conference; the Frontenac Islanders from Union Springs, New York, represented New York Conference; the Ebenezer Falcons, Flatbush Stars, and Goshen Temple Lightning Bolts from Brooklyn, New York, and the Trinity Temple Warriors (I and II) from



Standing on the back row with the Braintree Flames Pathfinder Club from the Braintree church in Braintree, Massachusetts, are, from left, Ron Whitehead, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism in Berrien Springs, Michigan; Armando Miranda Jr., North American Division Youth Ministries associate director; and Tracy Wood, North American Division Youth Ministries associate director.

Poughkeepsie, New York, represented Northeastern Conference; and the Braintree Flames from Braintree, Massachusetts, represented Southern New England Conference. Congratulations to all the Atlantic Union Conference Pathfinder clubs that participated in the Atlantic Union Conference PBE for their hard work and determination.

The Braintree Flames took first place in the Atlantic Union PBE finals and went on to represent the Southern New England Conference and the Atlantic Union

Conference at the NAD PBE finals, April 21 and 22. The Braintree Flames were among 80 Pathfinder clubs from around the NAD and the British Union (United Kingdom) that participated in the division-wide event at the Moraine Community College near Chicago, Illinois.

PBE is a team-based challenge that tests the group's knowledge of sections of scripture. Each year a new block of scripture is assigned, and participating Pathfinders commit to studying, memorizing, and applying God's Word. Three languages are officially supported in the NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience—English, Spanish, and French. The Bible study books for the 2016-17 PBE were: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, and 2 Timothy. The testing also included questions from the SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY (covering the intro theme section only for each book).

Hundreds of youth from the United States, Canada,

and the United Kingdom embarked on a deep study of the Pauline Epistles during the 2016-2017 season for the opportunity to represent their union in the highly anticipated NAD PBE challenge.

Teams are comprised of two to six Pathfinders. Each team starts off the season participating in local challenges with other clubs in their area. The clubs that secure first place are able to progress to the next level. Placement is determined by the percent correct scored by the top scoring teams: first place—90 percent correct; second place—80 percent correct; third place—70 percent correct. After receiving first place in their area challenge, teams progress to the conference level, then the union level. Those who receive first place in the union level, represent their union at the division level PBE.

The 2018 testing season for PBE will cover the books of Daniel and Esther. Also included will be the SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY intro theme section for both Daniel and Esther. For more information about the Pathfinder Bible Experience, visit www.pathfindersonline.org/pathfinder-bible-experience.

The Braintree Flames were among 53 Pathfinder clubs that secured first place in the division level PBE. Congratulations to the Braintree Flames, and a special thank you to the directors, parents, and volunteers who helped them reach this goal.

—Atlantic Union GLEANER staff



Eighty Pathfinder clubs from around the North American Division and the British Union (United Kingdom) participate in the North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience at the Moraine Community College near Chicago, Illinois.

Former Presidents Honored During AUC's Alumni Weekend

Atlantic Union College (AUC) held its annual Alumni Weekend event, in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, April 27-30. Alumni from different graduating classes met with former classmates to reflect on old memories and make new ones. The event was organized by the AUC Alumni Association, and headed by this year's AUC alumni president, Winston Silvera, '64.

Jack Mentges, '75, former AUC dean of students, was the keynote speaker on Thursday evening. Ron Nickerson, '82, gave a welcoming sermon for Friday-evening vespers. Singspiration, held following vespers in the College Church, was hosted by Beverly Burton, '02. Sabbath School featured a panel discussion lesson study in which alumni from various classes participated.

Philip M. Wesley II, '99, pastor of the Emmanuel church in Providence, Rhode Island, and Mt. Olive church in New London, Connecticut, presented a powerful sermon titled "This Time Tomorrow" about the value of education. "God allows His people to experience famines when they forget their mission, yet God restores!" Wesley said. Paul White, '78, directed the alumni choir for the worship service.

The honor classes: '17, '07, '02, '97, '92, '87, '82, '77, '72, '67, and '62 were recognized during the service. Juliette Willoughby, '82, and Ed Collins, '82, were presented with the Alumni of the Year award for their service in their community, their church, and to Atlantic Union College.

Following the worship service, alumni met in the Chan Shun Dining Commons for lunch and class photos. Avis Hendrickson, AUC president, held a question-and-answer session, giving alumni and friends the opportunity to ask questions about the current and future status of the college. Those who stayed Saturday



Ed Collins, '82, and Juliette Willoughby, '82, are Atlantic Union College's alumni of the year, recognized for their service in their community, their church, and to Atlantic Union College.



Atlantic Union College president Avis Hendrickson, center, stands with former Atlantic Union College presidents Lawrence Geraty, left, and Duane Cady, right.



Atlantic Union College alumni and friends attend the Sunday evening President's VIP Reception and Fundraiser at the Chan Shun Dining Commons.

evening were greeted with pizza and volleyball games in the gymnasium.

More than 150 people attended the Sunday-evening President's VIP Reception and Fundraiser at the Chan Shun Dining Commons. Former AUC presidents were honored, including Lawrence Geraty, Sylvan Lashley, Norman Wendth, George Babcock, and Duane Cady. Tributes were given and a presentation that showcased the history of the college since its inception was viewed. The presentation highlighted how the

presidents steered the college in the right direction, with God's help.

The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise money for the repair of the Bartlett Gallery. Atlantic Union College hopes to open the Bartlett Gallery to the community and establish there a museum that focuses on Adventist heritage.

Philip M. Wesley II, '99, was voted the new alumni president for 2018.

—Emmanuel Ortiz, communication manager, Atlantic Union College



88 Baptized as a Result of the Good News Gospel Explosion

Bermuda Conference held the Good News Gospel Explosion evangelistic meetings, April 8-29, with evangelist Claudius Morgan, assistant to the president for communication, with responsibilities for evangelism, for the Caribbean Union Conference in Maraval, Trinidad. Under the auspices of the Holy Spirit, Morgan powerfully shared the Word of God. With a Caribbean flavor, he introduced the attendees to his theme song, "I Don't Want to Be Left Out," as the program began each night.

A total of 88 people were baptized as a result of the evangelistic meetings: 47 baptisms and 41 rebaptisms. Baptisms were held on April 8 and 15, and then nightly, including the final Sabbath and Saturday night, April 29. Baptismal candidates were presented with folders containing information about membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A group picture of all newly-baptized members was taken, along with individual pictures to be formed into a photo album of new members.

As the Spirit of God directed, Morgan shared God's Word decisively. His own testimony was inspirational. Morgan was making his living as a Calypso singer when God stepped into his life. "I wasn't ready for God, but God was ready for me," Morgan said.

With no education, God sent him to school, taking him from nothing to becoming an effective and powerful evangelist in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Now he travels throughout the world. His sermons have depth, are sound, and meet people where they are, and the messages point people to Jesus, the Lamb of God.



A candlelight service is held at the conclusion of the Good News Gospel Explosion evangelistic meetings.



Claudius Morgan, evangelist, shares his message at the Good News Gospel Explosion evangelistic meetings.

Each evening of the Good News Gospel Explosion evangelistic meetings, Lee Gibbons, Bermuda Conference Health Ministries director, shared health information on illnesses that plague the body and how to use simple remedies to cure them. Many expressed gratitude for the information supplied from night to night.

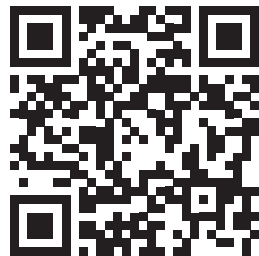
At the culmination of the meetings, a candlelight service was held. Attendees



Claudius Morgan, evangelist, is flanked by pastors and elders as they prepare for an anointing service on April 19 at the Good News Gospel Explosion evangelistic meeting.

sang the words to the song, "Go Light Your World" while the lights around the auditorium were turned off. The candlelight service was the highlight of the evening with glowing candles throughout the darkened hall. Attendees were encouraged, as the song says, to take their candle, and go light their world.

—D. Randolph Wilson, communication director, Bermuda Conference



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Greater New York Conference Establishes its First Café Church

In upper Manhattan, the MyGen Seventh-day Adventist Church opened its doors for its first official service on March 4. Upon entering the church, it becomes immediately apparent that this is not a conventional church. MyGen church is Greater New York Conference's first Seventh-day Adventist "café church." Instead of pews, round tables fill the space and worship is led from a stage platform. The members come dressed formally or informally, the music is lively, the service is interactive, and Sabbath School happens over lunch following the worship service. According to the organizers, that is the goal.

MyGen church is the brainchild of Ricardo Bain, pastor of the New Life and Tabernacle of Joy churches, whose doctoral studies focused on youth and young adult ministries. The church was organized in response to seeing the vast number of young people leave the church or disengage with it. In 2014, Bain shared his vision with several people,



At MyGen church, instead of pews, round tables fill the space and worship is led from a stage platform.

and after much prayer and talking with God, the organizing process began in 2016. The church envisions engaging youth and young adults in doing mission work in New York City.

Yeiri Robert, a member of the organizing committee of MyGen church, saw the need for a safe, judgment-free space for young people to attend. She noted that many of the young people were rapidly leaving her church. "In starting a church like MyGen," she says, "it allows [young people] to be themselves and find themselves, and to make that ultimate choice to live for God." Robert believes that this

church is a welcoming space for young people to talk about difficult issues that they may not be comfortable discussing in their home setting, and that is one of its most attractive qualities.

MyGen church has also attracted young people to come back to the Adventist Church. Chad Simmons was an active member of an Adventist church, and it was there that he found his passion to work with youth. Simmons was excited about promoting programs for young people, but after feeling discouraged and unsupported with his ideas and programs, Simmons eventually left the church, but

did not leave the faith. "For me, it was about spirituality versus being in the religion," he says.

Although not attending church, Simmons still kept the Sabbath day holy and continued his relationship with God. At a homecoming service, he met Bain and became excited about the idea of MyGen church. When he heard about the plans and goals of MyGen church, he wanted to be a part of it in every way. "It's bringing me back into Seventh-day Adventism," Simmons says. MyGen for him is a space where the Lord can be worshiped in an interactive environment while fellowshiping with uplifting and encouraging people.

Bain and the MyGen church team believe that this mission-driven church plant is a wonderful example of reaching millennials in Greater New York and beyond. They are planning many mission projects in New York City.

—*Kerriann Hayman, reporter, GNYC Adventist News*

Ebenezer Members Visit 73rd Police Precinct

Ebenezer church members and their pastor, Lincoln Smith, visited the 73rd Police Precinct in Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, February 20. The contingent included 13 parents and 27 young people. The visit was part of Smith's ongoing outreach program to help Ebenezer church members to become more integrated within the wider community and, specifically, to build a good relationship with the law-enforcement community.

During this visit they toured the facility, listened to talks from police personnel,



Members of Ebenezer church are building relationships with the police at the 73rd Police Precinct in Brooklyn, New York.

as well as experienced what it is like to enter a real cell.

The visit was informative and possibly successful

as a preventive measure. Ebenezer youth Deujan Anderson said, "Once we got to the cell, he locked us in there and he gave us a message saying he never wants to see us in there. That will help us, because we know what can happen."

—*Zinee Frederick, communication director, Ebenezer church*



The Case for Christian Education in a Boarding School Setting

This is the time of year when parents of graduating eighth-graders begin thinking about where they will send their children for the upcoming school year. If you live near an Adventist school, the decision-making process is less stressful than if you find yourself far away from an Adventist school.

You still have options: another Christian school, homeschool, and public school, although the last one is not among the best options, considering the times and culture in which we live. And the first option opens our children to confusing teachings that may undermine their belief in Bible truth. When your child comes home and tells you that the

I'd like to say a word in favor of boarding schools. I believe that they are not only needed, but play a vital role in the spiritual development of our children. Here are some things that you should consider regarding the need and importance of boarding schools as you plan where you will be sending your child for his or her high school years.

The Adventist Church needs boarding schools because of:

- The lack of nearby day schools—There are many Adventist families who do not live near our day schools and have few Adventist options. In the New York Conference alone, there are

supervision, to a place where there is freedom and very little accountability. Boarding school offers an opportunity for your young person to experience freedom from home, but still have structure and accountability. They still have to go to church, and be involved and responsible. And even though they are away from home, there are rules that help to “protect themselves from themselves.” The benefit is that by the time they get to college, their time at boarding school has helped them become better able to responsibly cope with the full freedom that comes with the college experience.

- The opportunity to encounter God for themselves—Statistics show that children who go to church school tend to stay connected to God and the church at higher percentages than children who don't have the opportunity for a Christian education. Boarding school, for many of our young people, is the first time that they begin to consider whether or not they will believe in God for themselves. Up until this time, many of these children have been worshipping the God of their parents. It is here where they are brought face to face with the Master and are invited to accept God's invitation to follow Him. To wait for college for them to make that decision is taking a big risk. At boarding school there is morning worship, evening worship, Friday vespers, and Sabbath services. The young people are often part of the services. They get to learn about God at the same time that they are participating in sharing about God. That's awesome!

I could go on, but I hope this has at least sparked some interest in considering that boarding schools are still valuable and an important part in the development of our young people. To me this is an important issue.

I am an alumnus of Union Springs Academy. I love my school. It was there that I made friends that I still

“Statistics that show that children who go to church school tend to stay connected to God and the church at higher percentages than children who don't have the opportunity for a Christian education.”

commandments are no longer binding and it doesn't matter what day you observe as Sabbath, or that the dead are already in heaven, and the wicked are burning in hell right now, you may regret that decision.

Have you considered an Adventist boarding school? It seems that some parents are hesitant to consider boarding school. I'm sure there are many reasons for this. Questions regarding safety, cost, and quality of education always tend to be at the top of the list. Some of the questions go even deeper than that. Some question whether boarding schools should be part of the overall offering of our educational system:

- Is there still a need for boarding schools in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, given the days and culture in which we live?
- Are boarding schools still a part of God's plan for the overall ministry strategy of the church?

seven elementary schools scattered throughout the territory that covers all of upstate New York, which is not nearly enough to provide options for church members. Public school, many families feel, is the only option for their children. But is the public school really an option? If you care about the salvation of your children, the public school should be the option of last resort, not the first. The teachers in the public schools are not necessarily the problem; it's the culture that exists in those schools that is the problem. There are many pitfalls that threaten to pull our children away from the Creator God. Boarding school may be the only option for these individuals.

- The need to successfully transition to a college environment—College can be an exciting, and extremely dangerous time for young people. Especially when they are making a transition from the structured life at home under their parents'

have to this day. It was there that I met my wife of 26 years. It was there that I met and was taught about Jesus Christ. I sat through countless worships, devotionals, sermons, and even though I considered going my own way after

high school, when I hit the end of the road, it was the teaching that I received at Union Springs Academy that brought me back to Jesus Christ.

Today I serve as the chairman of the school board that helped to bring

me to, and keep me in, the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I am a result of my mother's decision to send me to boarding school. She did miss me, and it was a sacrifice in many ways, but she is so proud of what the Lord has done in my life,

and is thankful that I have accepted her God as my own. Is boarding school still part of God's plan for the church? You'd better believe it!

—Miguel Crespo, president, New York Conference

Joy of Troy Church Trains its Youth to Serve

About nine youth from the Joy of Troy church in Troy, New York, recently took charge of the entire worship service on Youth Day. Bill Moody, elder, prepared and practiced with the youth ahead of time. Hugh Langley, the church's pastor, welcomed the worshipers and shared with them that the youth are the future and "the future is today."

The Youth Day worship service is used as training ground for the youth. Joy of Troy is making an active effort to include and mentor their youth, teaching them how to run a church, conduct Sabbath school, give Bible studies, and to witness.

The worship speakers, Elizabeth Ryan and

Chrysolite Baun, spoke about the fact that young people are the future and that the future is now. The scriptures shared included 1 Timothy 4:12, Psalm 119:9, and Psalm 71:5.

Ryan presented facts from the Bible and from more recent times about young people who have done great things. She also talked about older people who have also succeeded in life and served God, mentioning several examples. She emphasized that it's never too late to serve God and encouraged the congregation not to let their age discourage them, no matter how old or how young they are.

Baun shared that the youth are not too young

to participate in church services. She assured the congregation that the youth come to church because they choose to, not because anyone is forcing them. She emphasized that the youth choose to keep coming back because of God's grace.

Baun and the other youth attend public school and are surrounded by people who do not understand God and don't go to church. In high school they say that a lot of students do not have

confidence, but she and the other youth have confidence to get up front and lead out in the church service, and their confidence comes from God.

God is calling them. They answered. They also call to God and He answers. She concluded by saying that "as long as there are youth, there is a future, and that future is today."

—Annette Barnes, elder, Joy of Troy church



Joy of Troy church youth lead out in the worship service on Youth Day.

Northeastern Academy Students Excel in Oratorical Contest

The Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc. (www.edhlegacyfoundationinc.org) sponsored its fourth annual Oratorical Contest for students at Northeastern Academy (NEA) in memory of the 40 years that Edward D. Herndon served as the school's Bible teacher.

On April 22, three eager and well-prepared young orators were introduced by the Oratorical Contest coordinator, Colet Coke, a 2007 graduate of Northeastern Academy. Excitement was evident from all the supporters who had assembled in the Mount Vernon church in Mount Vernon, New York, that is under the leadership of Pierre-Eddy Laguerre.

The mentors/coaches for the contestants were pastors Bernard Penn from Hanson Place church in Brooklyn, New York; George Coke from the New Hope and Dimensions of Hope churches in New York, New York; and Wayne Jamal from the Bedford Park church in Bronx, New York, Wingdale church in Pawling, New York, and Yonkers church in Yonkers, New York.

Two of the contestants, Joel Williams and Jessica Pitter, are 2017 graduating seniors. Surayya Walters is in her junior year. Williams was the first contestant to present his topic on "Honesty."

He discussed the continuing need for honesty in the twenty-first century in all aspects of our lives. Williams emphasized that honesty should not be regarded as "the best policy" but, instead, be viewed as a God-given principle handed down through the Ten Commandments, and must be practiced without com-



Pictured from left are mentor/coach Bernard Penn, pastor of Hanson Place church; Joel Williams, second-place winner; Surayya Walters, first-place winner; Jessica Pitter, second-place winner; and mentor/coach Wayne Jamal, pastor of the Bedford Park, Wingdale, and Yonkers churches. Not pictured is mentor/coach George Coke, pastor of the New Hope and Dimensions of Hope churches.

promise, regardless of situations or circumstances.

Jessica Pitter selected "Coming of Age" as her oration topic. She described the process as a journey with winding roads filled with decision-making potholes that hopefully will result in growth and wisdom. She used two quotes that will long be remembered, "School teaches you a lesson, then gives you a test. Life gives you the test, then teaches you the lesson." And, "the same boiling water that softens a potato, hardens an egg." She ended by admonishing the audience to remember that God can help us with all our plans and desires, because He is in control.

Surayya Walters was the final contestant. She selected "Self-esteem" for her presentation. She explained that self-esteem comes from within and encompasses the ability to believe in oneself and walk confidently, knowing who you are, and your value.

Self-esteem also comes about as a result of relentlessly pursuing your ambitions. She cautioned young girls and women about allowing social media and other people to negatively profile or influence their self-worth. She counseled that they must say to themselves, "God loves me and He has amazing plans for my life."

The three judges, elders Jenesse Linton, Randy Bishop, and Renae Weatherly, scored the essays and orations on content and delivery.

Brian McDonald, Esq., '93 NEA graduate, announced Surayya Walters as the first-prize winner of \$500.00 and Jessica Pitter and Joel Williams were tied as second place winners of \$300.00 each. All contestants received a Certificate of Leadership.

The overall sentiment expressed by the audience was that this year's oratorical contest was the best. God be praised for these principled young people.

—S.A. Herndon, member, Mount Vernon church

Did you know?

Northeastern Academy is a private coeducational high school (grades 9-12) owned and operated by the Northeastern Conference. The institution, organized in 1920, was known as Harlem Academy. Later the name was changed to Harlem Junior Academy, and finally the present-day name, Northeastern Academy (1947). The present academy building is located at 532 West 215th Street, New York, NY. The current enrollment stands at about 116.

Pathfinders Participate in Community Service Project

About 20 members of the Sichem church Pathfinder Club in Arlington, Massachusetts, shared Jesus' love and compassion and made a positive impact on others by engaging in an environmental cleaning and protection awareness community service project on April 30, at the Cold Spring Park in Newton, Massachusetts. Two members of the Newton Conservation team coordinated the project. Cold Spring Park is a large multi-use park available for walking, bird-watching, and other passive recreational activities.

According to Pathfinders from the Sichem Pathfinder Club who participated, helping others and the community felt good and they



Members of the Sichem church Pathfinder Club pose for a photo after they completed the clean up project at Cold Spring Park.

enjoyed it. They look forward to participating in new projects.

—Wadner Olivier, communication director,
Sichem Temple church

Boston Church Hosts Immigration Summit

In an effort to address the fears and concerns of the community and its members, the Berea church in Boston, Massachusetts, held an informational immigration panel discussion on March 25. The event was held under the auspices of the church's Women's Ministries department, led by Vesper Gibbs Barnes, Esq. The panel consisted of Manuel Pires, Esq., Peter Szyjka, Esq., and Eileen Morrison, Esq., a volunteer attorney with the Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project (PAIR).

Morrison gave a presentation titled "Know Your Immigration Rights," sharing information on what to do when you are approached by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in your home, on the job, or on the street, and how families can prepare to



Panel members, from far left, Manuel Pires, Esq., Peter Szyjka, Esq., and Eileen Morrison, Esq., participate in an informational panel discussion on immigration issues.

respond if they are affected. The panel fielded a variety of questions relative to the ramifications of deportation, applying for permanent residence (obtaining green cards), citizenship, visa extensions, legal representation, complicated cases, constitutional rights, and more. The questions were general in nature. However, the panel emphasized that individuals with specific

personal concerns should seek legal consultation.

Also in attendance was City Councilor Tito Jackson, who made a short presentation. The foundation for his remarks was derived from Exodus 22:21 which says, "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Jackson shared that Boston is very diverse in culture and ethnic

diversity, because it is home to many universities/colleges, professional sports teams, and hospitals. He informed those present of the steps being taken by the City of Boston to help all of its residents feel safe and supported. He also emphasized the importance of immigrants and their contributions to Boston.

At the end of the two-hour session, the attorneys remained to answer additional questions and make clarification. A list of immigration attorneys, pro bono legal service providers, and other relevant information was distributed. The attorneys presented indicated that they were available for representation, and made a commitment to return in the future, at the church's request. The event was well attended.

—Omar Jarvis, pastor, Berea church, Boston

Music Lovers Love NNEC's Music Clinic

Northern New England Conference's Music Clinic is an amazing gathering of some 500 students, teachers, parents, and family members who travel from across the east coast of the U.S. and Canada to learn, play, and worship together.

If you were to list the things that make the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Music Clinic a spectacular and unique event, you'd have a long list, and that list would have to include the clinicians—the expert musicians—who each teach a specialty for the weekend. Some of the best Adventist musicians in the world lead out. Likewise, your list would have to include the distance that some students—and entire school groups—travel to get to this clinic held at a small academy in a small conference. Student groups from as far away as Richmond, Virginia, and from Nova Scotia, Canada, attended the clinic.

But what really makes music clinic spectacular and unique is that it is a “pop-up” event, run almost entirely by volunteers, which ends up coalescing into an incredibly well-organized,

incredibly spiritual, and incredibly nurturing musical convocation. Or at least, that is how Trevor Schlisner, Northern New England Conference superintendent of schools, sees it. “I marvel at the way music clinic comes together—hundreds of students and sponsors, numerous clinics, the directors of the ensembles. All of these people—strangers, mostly—have to not only work together but have to play instruments together for only a short time and then they have to do a series of very challenging pieces for public performance. Wow! For them to be able to do this in an environment of joy and praise for God is an awesome thing.”

Time is a very carefully managed asset at music clinic. On Thursday morning, musicians and sponsors register, then the whole group briefly convenes for welcome and orientation. The event being a music clinic, the rest of the day is taken up with practice. Friday is almost entirely given over to practice, then musicians dress for the evening sacred concert, which is open to the public.

Sabbath morning is all about worshiping together, and features excellent speakers and a brief musical presentation by each of NNEC's schools. Sabbath afternoon is set aside for rest, and the musicians need it, for Saturday night is when the culminating concert is held. This concert is a bit famous in its own right, because of the stunning quality of the music. This year the seating was reconfigured in the Pine Tree Academy gym, where the concert is held, in order to try to accommodate more people. Even so, many people could not get seats and ended up leaving. A video of the concert finale

can be seen on the NNEC Facebook page.

NNEC's music clinic has become so popular, and the number of people participating from outside NNEC's borders has become so great, that there will probably be an early registration cut-off date announced for 2018, just to keep crowds to a manageable size. But even needing to establish a registration cut-off is a cause for joy. Praise God that so many talented young musicians come together each year from so far away to learn, play, form relationships, and praise their Creator!

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



It is all smiles as one of the smaller groups from the Northern New England Conference Music Clinic poses for the camera.



Laurie Redmer-Minner, Southern Adventist University professor, is the strings clinician for the 2017 Northern New England Conference Music Clinic orchestra.

Mountain View Hosts A Full House

Working together as a church toward a mission sometimes brings unexpected results. Mountain View church in Vernon, Vermont, experienced that very thing when planning for a community open house to welcome neighbors to visit its newly-finished fellowship hall.

About two months before the highly-anticipated open house, Art Miller, the church's pastor, stood up in church one Sabbath and told the congregation he thought the church's outstanding mortgage of over \$15,000 could be paid off before the open house. The near-at-hand prospect of being debt-free excited members, and they began donating that very day—one person even handed Miller \$100 on the way out the door. Each week, thousands of dollars came in, and by the time of the community open house, the church was indeed debt-free!

Mountain View's community open house was held on Saturday night, and preparations for the event were extensive. Booths featuring various ministries were placed around the edge of the fellowship hall, and together they spoke to an impressive level of engagement—even church members were surprised to see all the areas of work the little church engages in.

There were booths featuring Pathfinders, Women's Christian Temperance Union, Bags of Love (a quilting ministry), Seeker Site evangelistic ministry, Pioneer Junior Academy, prayer ministries, the church's free community concert series, and more. At

a photo booth, people were able to take pictures with various props. The literature booth featured member



Mountain View members, from left, Carol Young, Angela Miller, and Laura Bartlett take time to have some fun while manning the photo booth during the open house.

Dennis Harris (author of *AMBUSHED IN CHURCH*) and supplied various pieces of literature and tracts for those who were interested in taking them. There was even a booth with a world map marked with many push pins to indicate where members had gone on mission trips. Conference president Bob Cundiff was the weekend guest speaker. He and his wife, Tanique, were impressed with the level of activity in the church.

Probably everyone who has ever planned a celebration to which many were invited has wondered how many will actually attend. The same was true for Mountain View—the entire congregation seemed to hold its breath, wondering who would attend. Letters of invitation had been sent to every home in the town of Vernon, and many people were personally invited. But whatever the concerns might have been, the church members were

certainly not disappointed with the response.

Now, when these new friends drive by the church,

new fellowship hall and sanctuary, and remember the broad range of ministry activities that take place in that church.

Mountain View church had two real desires in launching its community open house—to help the community know the many ways in which members labor to serve and reach the world with the message of Christ's love, and to let neighbors know that they are loved and welcome to fellowship at any time. It is the prayer and hope of members that, through Christ, they achieved both of these goals.

—Mary Miller, member, Mountain View church

they will see much more than a sign and building. They will see the faces of members they met, see the

Washington New Hampshire Church Annual Meeting

August 19, 2017

Guest Speaker

Daniel R. Jackson

President

North American Division



Sabbath School: 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service 11:30 a.m.

Potluck lunch and afternoon activities

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40 Participate in Southern New England Conference Reformation Tour

Forty individuals embarked on a reformation tour on March 1, a journey that would take them to Germany and subsequently end in Vatican City and Rome, Italy. This reformation tour was organized by the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Ministerial Department to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 theses to the door of Schlosskirche (Castle Church) in Wittenberg, Germany.

The tour guides were Don Schneider, former North American Division president; along with his wife, Marti; and their daughter, Carol, who carefully selected particular sites of historic and religious/spiritual importance to help the group understand the role history and religion played in the Protestant Reformation. For instance, just as Martin Luther and other reformers were seen as a threat to the tradition-filled religious system during his time, so were people of various ethnic groups seen as a threat and enigma during the regime of Hitler.

The various sites visited during the tour included, in Germany: Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Hitler's Bunker, Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, Berliner Dom, Brehna Church, the church of Luther's wife, Katharine von Bora; Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Bachhaus, the birthplace and museum of Johann Sebastian Bach, Schwangau, and Drachau Concentration camp. Additionally, in Italy, the group visited Pisa, Rome, and Vatican City.

One contrast that remained in the conversa-

tions of tourists during the early days of the journey is that between Adolf Hitler and Martin Luther. Hitler impacted the world in a rather negative way. Luther, a young lecturer at the University of Wittenberg had a greater impact on both history and Christianity. As an individual, he stood against the Roman Catholic system, specifically registering his opposition to the indulgences, flagrant abuse, errors in interpretation of scripture, and other traditions he believed were contrary to scripture. He had no political support, was without a huge bank account, and lacked support of the masses at the time. However, his contribution to the Protestant Reformation and his emphasis on sola scriptura continued to reverberate through centuries and, today, many still talk about his ethos, audacity, and pursuit of spirituality that caused a sea change in Christendom.

Wittenberg, the place where Luther lectured, received his doctorate, and nailed his famous 95 theses, became one of the high points of the spiritual journey. The various sites they visited in Wittenberg allowed the group the opportunity not only to see different places of Luther's work and ministry, but gave them the chance to connect historical events.

The rich history, spiritual development, and pursuit of biblical knowledge, as well as other activities the group observed of Luther in Wittenberg, presented the opportunity for them to individually reflect on their role in shaping the trajectory



Participants of the Southern New England Conference Reformation Tour stand at the entrance of Vatican City in Rome, Italy.

of Christian impact in their own spheres of influence.

The tour took the group to two major castles, the first was Wartburg Castle. Dukes and kings mostly occupied this castle during the lifetime of Luther. However, under a Catholic death sentence issued in the Edict of Worms, Luther was provisionally whisked away, through a kidnap that was arranged by the duke at the time, who hid him at the Wartburg Castle. Luther used the 10 months (May 1521-March 1522) during which he hid out at Wartburg castle as an opportunity to write books and sermons and to translate the New Testament from Greek into the German language. Indeed, "God causes all

things to work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28, NASB).

Although the group also visited Neuschwanstien Castle in Schwangau, the stop at the Drachau Concentration camp left them with painful and dark images of the inhumane and atrocious acts of the Nazi regime. Drachau Concentration camp depicts the brutal persecution and torture of various ethnic groups who were deemed enemies by Hitler's regime. "This caused us emotional musing, that we would allow ourselves at any point to entertain the thought that any person who does not think, act, or look like us is an enemy—and therefore should be treated with



inhumane treatment. This is inimical to peace, freedom, and human dignity. All human beings are God's children and should be treated with love, respect, dignity, and the graciousness of our Lord Jesus Christ," said John Amoah, SNEC ministerial and evangelism director.

The last four days were spent in Rome and Vatican City, where the group visited places of history, and viewed vestiges and artifacts displaying the grandiose architecture and display of the Roman Catholic Church and system down through the ages.

Standing in the dungeon in Rome, where Peter and Paul were believed to have been kept during their imprisonment in Rome, was sobering. "I had the opportunity to remain there as groups of eight came down and I would pray with them. It gave me a chance to reflect on how they could write words of hope and encouragement to the believers and sing songs of praise from such a dark, depressing, and deplorable condition. I was encouraged, strengthened, and resolute to remain faithful in the face of challenges,

for it is the desire of our Lord to use every human situation to make a difference in others' lives and to bring glory to His name," Amoah said.

One thought that summarizes the reformation tour is that God places each of us in a unique situation for a purpose. While the conditions in life may not always be pleasant, God will use us, even in those unpleasant conditions in life, and cause them to become a blessing not only for us but also for many people. It brings glory to His name when we

remain faithful to His cause despite our circumstances.

The Reformation Tour ended on March 11 and the group returned to the United States on March 12. The narrations, devotions, and pieces of information provided by the Schneiders and other tour guides greatly enriched the experience. "Indeed, the Schneiders deserve our gratitude, and we are indebted to Chenoa Jimenez-Vilfranc, who coordinated the minute details and preparation for the trip," Amoah said.

—Ministerial/Evangelism department, Southern New England Conference

SNEC Members Learn to Retool and Readapt for Outreach

More than 150 people attended the 2017 Evangelism Conference hosted by the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) April 21-23, at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts. Following the theme, "Planting for Eternity: Feed. Teach. Comfort," seminars covering various topics were enthusiastically received by the attendees. Church leaders, pastors, and lay members came to learn how to strengthen evangelistic efforts in their churches.

"The constantly-changing dynamics in our society requires church members to constantly retool and readapt our method of outreach without changing our message," said John Amoah, SNEC ministerial and evangelism director. "This conference was to remind us of our responsibility in partnering with Christ in sharing the Good News, provide new ways and approaches of sharing the Good News, and offer resources and tools for our congregants."

Sergio Quevedo DeJesus, pastor of the Amesbury, Haverhill, and Lowell All Nations churches in the Boston metro area presented the joint worship service to kick off the weekend on Friday evening, and spoke again Sabbath morning. DeJesus empha-



Mamon Wilson, director of Centurion Bible School of Health in Savannah, Tennessee, presents a health seminar at the Southern New England Conference Evangelism Conference.

sized church planting and shared information about how he engages the members in his congregations to be actively involved in establishing small group ministries.

Attendees heard amazing stories of healing and restoration, as well as information on healthful living and using natural methods to minister to others, shared by medical missionary Mamon Wilson, director of Centurion Bible School of Health in Savannah, Tennessee.

Sandra Mendez, assistant director of the Bread of Life Food Pantry, a ministry of the Village Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, provided suggestions and resources on how to start a food pantry; and Lance and Evita Wilbur, directors of the Pulse Café and 5 College Farms in Hadley, Massachusetts,

shared tips on establishing a ministry that could utilize and incorporate healthy food preparation.

In addition, community service leaders from local churches across SNEC, including members of the SNEC Medical Cadet Corps, met separately during the weekend for 13 hours of intensive crisis intervention training with Martin Feldbush, a contract crisis care coordinator for the North American Division Adventist Community Services and approved instructor for the International Critical Incident and Stress Foundation (ICISF). The course provided Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and certificates for all those who completed the recommended hours.

Amoah says he hopes that attendees recaptured the mission and passion for discipleship by attending the conference. "I anticipate that participants will share what they learned with their fellow church members, and pray for the Lord to provide opportunities in their communities for ministry. Our response to the mandate in the gospel to 'go' will go a long way to advance the kingdom of God in our territory."

—Ministerial/Evangelism department, Southern New England Conference





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*Both degrees have been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. AUC is in the process of pursuing accreditation.

Sunset Table

July 2017	7	14	21	28
Bangor, ME	8:22	8:18	8:12	8:04
Portland, ME	8:24	8:20	8:14	8:07
Boston, MA	8:22	8:19	8:13	8:06
South Lancaster, MA	8:25	8:21	8:16	8:09
Pittsfield, MA	8:31	8:28	8:22	8:15
Hartford, CT	8:27	8:23	8:18	8:11
Providence, RI	8:22	8:18	8:13	8:06
New York, NY	8:29	8:25	8:20	8:14
Albany, NY	8:32	8:29	8:23	8:16
Utica, NY	8:41	8:38	8:32	8:25
Syracuse, NY	8:45	8:41	8:36	8:29
Rochester, NY	8:51	8:47	8:42	8:35
Buffalo, NY	8:55	8:51	8:46	8:39
Hamilton, Bda	8:27	8:25	8:21	8:17

ATLANTIC UNION

ATLANTIC UNION

The Atlantic Union Conference invites you to the Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference for church members, leaders, and pastors who equip, Oct. 13-15. Topics include: Prison Ministries (new), Children's Ministries, Multi-media Ministry, Church Planting for Millennials, Reaching the World Next Door (Refugees), Small Groups and Bible Studies, How to Have Spiritual Conversations with Secular People, and many more. For more information, visit www.atlantic-union.org/personal-ministries. To register, visit adventsource.org and click on "Events" or call (800) 732-7587.

OBITUARIES

ALBERT, Jeanette M. "Jan"—85; b. Jan. 3, 1932, in Fitchburg, Mass.; d. Mar. 12, 2017, in Shirley, Mass. She was a member of the Leominster church in Leominster, Mass., and served as communication director for 14 years, church clerk, deaconess, assistant Sabbath School superintendent, and church board member. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Norman Albert; three daughters, Sharon Slarsky of Ayer, Mass., Sandra Pereira of Gardner, Mass., and Janis Albert of Shirley, Mass.; seven grandchildren, Suzanne Slarsky Dael, Emily Richardella, Leanna Slarsky, Bryan Boucher, Alison Greer, Jeffrey Lambert, and Julie Lambert; and nine great-grandchildren, Sofia Richardella and Madelyn Richardella, Jackson Greer and Nicholas Greer, Rebekka Dael and William Dael, Ian LeFevre and Andrew LeFevre, and David Lambert.

COPSEY, Marjorie G. (Bascom)—87; b. Mar. 10, 1929, in Lincoln, Neb.; d. Feb. 26, 2017, in Lenexa, Kan. She worked at Pioneer Valley Academy ('65-'77) in the cafeteria and then became manager of student workers in house-keeping and laundry, and later dean of girls. Survivors include her daughter, Marjorie Gail (Chris) Smith of Shawnee, Kan.; son, Mark (Elisabeth) Copsey of Walla Walla, Wash.; brother, Maurice (Dottie) Bascom of Dayton, Md.; sister Gwendolyn (Ted) Glaser of Carrington, N.D.; brother-in-law, David (Nell) Copsey of DeRidder, La.; grandson, Michael Smith of Lincoln, Neb.; granddaughter, Christina (Thomas Maillieux) Smith of Overland Park, Kan.; and two great-grandsons.

DAWSON, Martha Jane—87; b. Aug. 31, 1929, in Waterbury, Conn.; d. Apr. 7, 2017, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was an active and faithful member of the New Rochelle church in New Rochelle, N.Y. She served the church as communication secretary, and participated in the chancel choir, Sabbath school, personal ministries, and community ministries. She had a passion for music, and was also a radio announcer for the religious show "Discovery." She is survived by two sons John Dawson III, and David Dawson; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

HENDRICKSON, Eugene McDonald—89; b. Apr. 9, 1928; d. Apr. 10, 2017, in Hamilton, Bermuda. He attended the Sandringham school, now known as the Bermuda Institute. He was a long-time member of the Midland Heights church in Hamilton, Bermuda, and served as a Sabbath School teacher, deacon, and assisted in the treasury department and on the building committee. He also served as a Sabbath School teacher for the

Hamilton church, in Hamilton, Bermuda. He enjoyed working with his hands and was instrumental in building the Hamilton Youth Center. He is survived by his wife, Ulama Finn Hendrickson; five children: Earlston, Tammy, Deborah, Kim, and Cecil; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

RANDALL, Edmund L.—92; b. Jan. 2, 1925, in Tampa, Fla.; d. Apr. 1, 2017, in Greenburgh, N.Y. He graduated from Oakwood University (formally known as Oakwood College) in Huntsville, Ala. He was a long-time member of the First church in White Plains, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary Randall; daughter Judy (Mayo) Bartlett; brother-in-law, William (Helen) Jones; two grandchildren, Ethan and Sara; and several nieces and nephews.

WILSON, Ida Geraldine—85; b. Aug. 1, 1931, in Bailey's Bay, Hamilton Parish, Bermuda; d. Apr. 15, 2017, in Southampton, Bermuda. She was a member of the Southampton church in Southampton, Bermuda. She was

a homemaker whose husband and five children were the center of her world. She evoked a warm spirit of hospitality and many were welcomed into their home. She is survived by three children Marie (Gary) Kent-Smith, Randolph (Iva) Wilson, and Cynthia (Edward) Tucker; two sisters Pearl Morgan and Nettie Lambe; one brother Harry Outerbridge; five grandchildren, one great grandchild, and 5 step-great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION

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

Annual William Miller Day



July 29, 2017

Featured Speaker
Tom Dombrowski
Pastor

Southern New England Conference

Sabbath School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Afternoon Program 2:00 p.m.
Children's program provided!

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Adventist® Church Adopts New Global Visual Identity System

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's top leaders voted on April 11 to approve a new identity system. The action was taken during the annual Spring meetings at the church's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The 20 million-member Seventh-day Adventist Church operates in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Worship is conducted in more than 900 languages, making it almost impossible to create a cohesive visual identity—something administrators and church leaders are hoping to change.

Using the new font “Advent Sans,” the new visual identity is functional and consistent in every language where the church is present. By using “Advent Sans,” the name of the Adventist Church can be written in 91 languages. Leaders of this project hope this grows to 200 languages by 2020. (See <https://goo.gl/99LMai>.)

Another change is the color scheme for the logo. Because the Adventist Church contains a myriad of cultures and design styles, it was found to be ineffective and cost-prohibitive to recommend a universal color system or even a large number of regionally appropriate color systems. This means that local designers and church leaders will be able to choose

what works best for them, in their region. The guidelines include the initial set colors, and the communication department of the world church stands ready to extend it as needed by different regions. (See <https://goo.gl/ixXFRT>.)

One of the biggest changes to the new identity system is the Creation Grid. The Creation Grid is a design template that consists of seven columns. It allows designers to do whatever they want in six columns of their design. The seventh however, known as the Sabbath column, is specially designed to be distinct from the rest of the design. (See <https://goo.gl/MYv5eN>.)

“The Creation Grid gives every designer the freedom to communicate in their context and be connected to the global Seventh-day Adventist movement. We believe this is a truly inspired idea that will really empower us to accomplish our mission,” said Sam Neves, associate director of communication for the Seventh-day Adventist world church.

The Adventist Church has launched a Web site that contains guidelines and information on this new Global Identity Visual System (identity.adventist.org).

Adapted from a news release from Adventist News Network

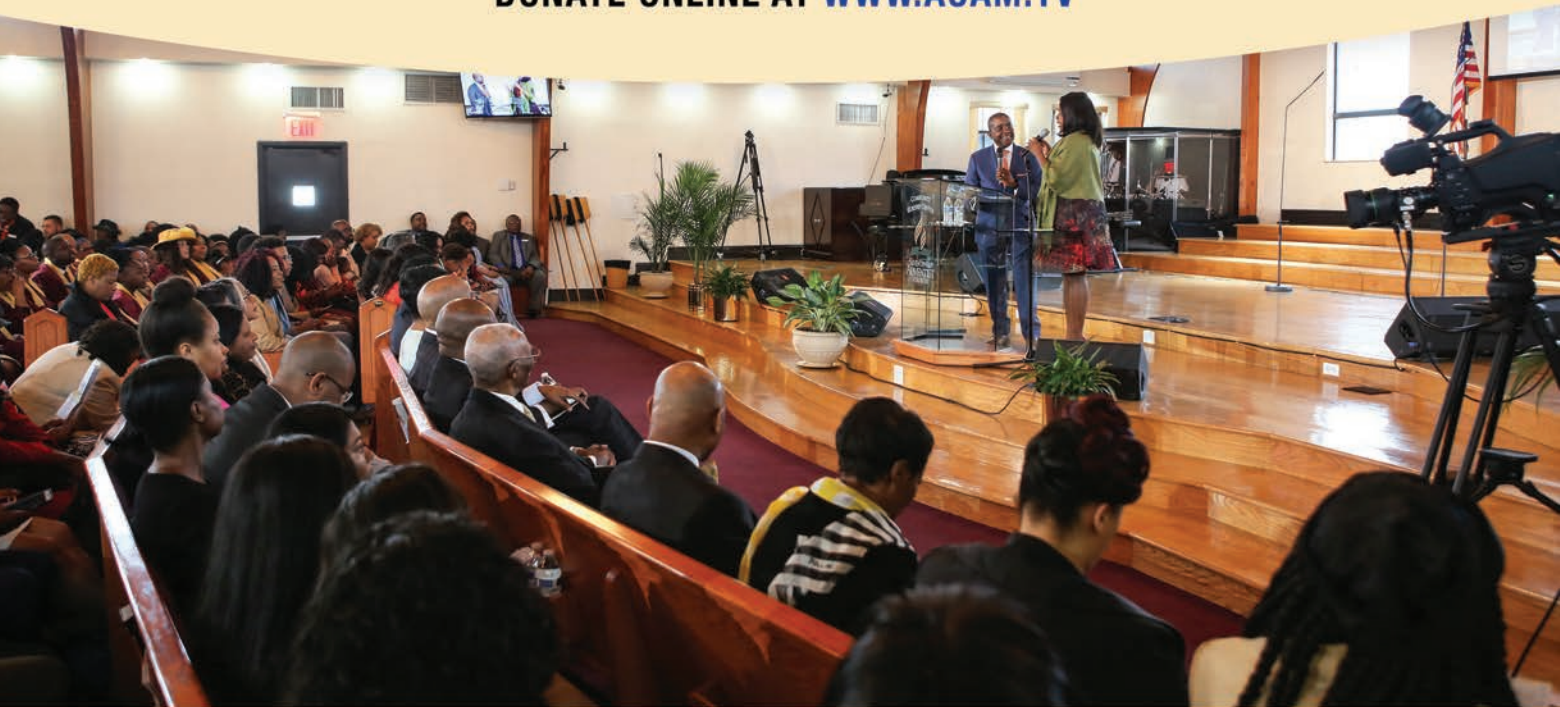
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Rohann Wellington, AUAM managing director, and JeNean Lendor, Northeastern Conference assistant to the president for communication, host the relaunch of AUAM HD. [Photo: Dawin Rodriguez]

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