

THE ATLANTIC UNION

NOVEMBER 2017

GLEANER



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LIVE

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Let's Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time for our families to get together and celebrate what God has done for us. As the year ends, we have the privilege to reflect on how God has led and blessed us. One of the greatest blessings anyone could ever have is family and supportive people around them. Thanksgiving provides an opportunity for people to come together and express gratitude to God.

It was in 1621 when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that many have come to acknowledge as the first Thanksgiving celebration in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving have been celebrated by individual colonies and states. The Christian community, and even others who may not profess any faith celebrate Thanksgiving the last Thursday of November in the U.S.

This year has been a challenging year when we consider the tragedies that so many have experienced in the wake of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria. Many lives have been lost and many families won't be able to celebrate Thanksgiving together this year because of natural disasters and human atrocities. As we celebrate, let us remember those who are not able to celebrate with their families.

We have seen images on television of the devastations in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, and many islands of the Caribbean. We have seen the horrible effects of earthquakes in Mexico. We have also been stunned by the worst massacre in U.S. history that occurred in Las Vegas. In light of these things we must intentionally make an effort to show compassion in a tangible way.

In the Bible, Jesus states: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you,

that you also love one another"—John 13:34, NKJV. This command given by Jesus transcends every age and must be a glaring reminder to all that we have an obligation to help our fellow human beings in times of need. This love, if accepted by the children of God, will motivate us to help the needy in whatever form we can.

Ellen G. White has counseled that, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me' "—THE MINISTRY OF HEALING, p. 143.

While there are many nations where freedom of worship is prevented, this nation still allows its citizens to freely worship God as they see fit. Freedom of speech is fundamental to the health of any nation, so let us be thankful for the choices we are afforded in this nation. We don't know how long this will last, but let us enjoy the freedom we have to worship and to be able to invite others to participate with us.

We also need to be thankful for living in a nation that is at relative peace with the rest of the world. From time to time we hear of various military threats and political rhetoric, but, thankfully, we are still enjoying relative peace in this country. Let us do whatever we can to spread love this Thanksgiving.

Let us all be thankful for the blessings God has given us and extend a hand of kindness to those who are in need. You will never regret the kindness you offer. ①

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



*"A new
commandment
I give to you,
that you love
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I have loved you,
that you also
love one another"*

— John 13:34, NKJV.



Give, Save, LIVE

BY ELIAS ZABALA, SR.

Americans are now in more debt than they were during the financial crisis in 2008 and this is due to a false sense of recovery in the financial market. The U.S. economy has grown at a very slow pace. Small business and individual accounts are yet to feel any relief. According to the New York Federal Reserve, in 2016 the average individual mortgage was \$172,806; students were in debt \$49,742; car loans were at an all-time high of \$28,535, and credit card debt for the average American consumer was assessed at \$16,061.

Within this framework, where do you fall as you compare your financial debt to the average American? Here

are some financial pointers and Bible passages that will help to improve the way you live and refresh your memory about the path which God has instructed us to take.

In one of his presentations, Dave Ramsey, renowned American businessman, author, and motivational speaker, gave two potential scenarios for his audience to analyze:

Scenario 1: A 35-year-old man is married with two kids, has two car loans, and \$50,000 in student debt. He owns a boat and is making monthly payments on it, he has no savings for his kids' college fund, and has no emergency fund savings. He is currently paying a revolving credit

card debt that is over \$3,000, and he is only saving \$100 a month in his Roth IRA.

Scenario 2: A 35-year-old man is married with two kids. He has no student loan debt, he drives a paid-in-full car and has no mortgage on his home. He puts \$5,000 a year in a Roth IRA, makes monthly contributions to his kids' college fund, owns his own boat, and he is enjoying a six-month emergency fund balance. He does not have any credit card debt. Actually, he does not even own a credit card.

Obviously, scenario number two looks ideal, and it really is. But how many of us can say we are there? Perhaps some of us have been victims of the pressure society places on people to maintain the status quo or to belong to a certain elite group or class.

Some of the incorrect advice given by modern financial systems include: always have a car payment, extend the mortgage out—it gives you a tax break, compete with friends and neighbors, credit worthiness is self-worthiness, and to the younger generation: don't worry about retirement now, wait until you are older.

What we know from best practices in personal money management is that we should pay cash for cars and avoid credit cards as much as we can. Another great principle is to live on less than we make and set up a monthly budget as our financial guide. Finally, the greatest advice of all is to



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have the self-discipline to save some money systematically. In order to see two dollars together, you've got to first start by saving one.

Fewer Americans are saving sufficient money for their retirement and future spending and this is a major factor in America's debt crisis. A common budgeting mistake is to spend the money left at the end of the month. This often leaves nothing for savings. Advisors suggest that an amount for savings be budgeted as an expense item. This forces you to set aside something for rainy days.

One financial goal should be to establish an emergency fund. Three months of expenses is probably adequate to save for a person with a stable income or secure employment, while a person with erratic or seasonal income may need to set aside an emergency fund equal to six months, or more, of living expenses.

Remember, the budget is the roadmap or Global Positioning System (GPS) that keeps you on the marked road. Five things that a well-managed budget will help you achieve is to live within your income, spend your money wisely, reach financial goals, prepare for financial emergencies, and develop wise financial management habits.

Practical Aspects of Personal Financial Management

One poorly-calculated decision can set you back financially for many years. Avoid financial distractions—they can be deadly. Keep track of the way you spend your money. Keep your eyes on the marked road. Avoid succumbing to the temptation to buy every item that is on sale in the stores. The sale is only good if you really need the item.

The biblical teaching of being managers in Matthew 25 is one of

the most challenging concepts for us as Christians. We do not own anything for ourselves, but have received resources to manage, such as health, money, intellect, social and emotional capital, and our spiritual lives. We are managing Someone else's resources for our own good and the better we do it, the longer we live, thus honoring the Giver. This awesome privilege is given to us to actually live a life of financial, social, and spiritual success.

God's nature is to bless His people and His promises are fulfilled each day in many of us. Examples of this include Abraham to whom God said:

Important Definitions

STEWARDSHIP is the act of managing wisely "God's stuff" to please Him.

GENEROSITY is a willingness to share with others that involves personal sacrifice.

GIVING is the act of releasing something of value in one's possession.

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing"—Genesis 12:2, NKJV. Jacob: "And He said, 'Let Me go, for the day breaks.' But he said, 'I will not let You go unless You bless me!'"—Genesis 32:26, NKJV. Christians: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"—Ephesians 1:3, NKJV. Blessings are not just for us, but for those around us, for those who are led by us.

What You Should Do With Your Money

There are five common things we do with our money: spend it, repay debt, pay taxes, save it, and give it. Society is teaching us to accumulate

stuff, and fall into that trap so much, that the more we have the better we feel. But our stuff is only serving us and silencing the conscience that constantly hints at the marked road and begs us to make it right. How we spend our money is determined by our priorities and reveals what our passion in life is. Here is the recommended order from Christian financial advisors on what to do with our money:

- **Give it.**—Give God your best, the first fruit of your labor; in fact, all we have is His. Honoring God and

making Him Lord in our lives is the best way to start our giving. Remember the widow and the Pharisees? The widow was clear who was Lord, and she trusted in Him for His provision. On the other hand, the Pharisees were not quite there in their giving. They made a donation or contributed to a building project, but God was not Lord in their lives. Give me one widow with the little she gives and not 10 Pharisees with all their pomposity. Pharisees build buildings, but widows build kingdoms.

- **Save it.**—Do yourself a favor, pay yourself. Don't think that after you have worked for over four decades, raised children and grandchildren, and gave all your energy to public,

military, or private services that you deserve nothing. You have done your part, now you have to think of yourself; it's not being selfish, it's just doing what is right. In fact, your savings shows how responsible you are. Your money should still take care of you beyond your retirement income.

- **Pay taxes.**—You don't want to fall into the scam of not paying taxes. This is a dangerous road to travel. Once you have acknowledged God as Lord, you have the duty to support your government and local community. Lots of services and programs available today in your community are heavily subsidized by your taxes. So, you are contributing to the better good of humanity when you “give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's.”
- **Repay debt.**—You should have a plan in place to repay your debts. Start with the small ones first. It is like a snowball—take care of the smaller ones, then add that monthly amount to the next payment until you only have one payment that is necessary to repay your biggest debt. You are now focusing on just one, but making a more substantial contribution.
- **Spend it**—By now there is not much left in your paycheck, and it is possible that you have not eaten, or been to the mall to get your much-needed shoes, and the list can go on. This is where the real test begins. Every other aspect of your finances, as was mentioned, is controlled by some external force, but you have full control of this one.

The John 3:16 principle helps us to understand our financial plan based



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on the plan of salvation: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (NKJV). God first gives, He then saves, so that someone can live.

Make the Plan of Salvation Be Your Financial Plan:

- **Place God first** in your life by giving to Him generously. Make it priority number one and the Lord will open avenues of blessings to send your way. Prove Him.
- **When you save**, you pay yourself. Do it wisely and the return is going to be great. It requires a goal and persistence. Saving for the future gives you an opportunity to prepare for scarcity. Saving money now sets the tone for your future generosity. Start today.
- **Live appropriately.**—“Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of

Christianity, and that a cheap Christian character works more harm in the world than the character of a worldling”—TESTIMONY TREASURES, vol. 3, p. 289, 290.

Living appropriately means having a realistic view of your possessions. We should live our lives to honor God and not to please ourselves or others. God promises to protect and care for us. “I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread”—Psalm 37:25, NKJV. You will discover greater fulfillment in your life as you begin an intentional plan to give, save, and live. ☺



Elias Zabala, Sr., is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and stewardship director.



How Shall We Observe **THANKSGIVING?**

Our Thanksgiving is approaching. Will it be, as it has been in many instances, a thanksgiving to ourselves? Or will it be a thanksgiving to God? Our Thanksgivings may be made seasons of great profit to our own souls as well as to others if we improve this opportunity to remember the poor among us. . . .

There are a hundred ways that can be devised to help the poor in so delicate a manner as to make them feel that they are doing us a favor by receiving our gifts and sympathy. We are to remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The attentions of our brethren are most liberal to those whom they wish to honor, and whose respect they desire, but who do not need their help at all. Custom and fashion say, Give to those who will give to you; but this is not the Bible rule of giving. The word of God declares against this way of gratifying self in thus bestowing our gifts, and says, "He that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want."

Now a season is coming when we shall have our principles tested. Let us begin to think what we can do for God's needy ones. We can make them through ourselves the recipients of God's blessings. Think what widow, what orphan, what poor family you can relieve, not in a way to make a great parade about the matter, but be as a channel through which the Lord's substance shall flow as a blessing to His poor. . . .

But this does not embrace all your duty. Make an offering to your best Friend; acknowledge His bounties; show your



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gratitude for His favors; bring a thank offering to God. . . . Brethren and sisters, eat a plain dinner on Thanksgiving Day, and with the money you would spend in extras with which to indulge the appetite, make a thank offering to God (REVIEW AND HERALD, November 18, 1884).

Let not any more Thanksgiving days be observed to please and gratify the appetite and glorify self. We have reason for coming into the courts of the Lord with offerings of gratitude that He has preserved our lives another year. . . . If a feast is to be made, let it be for those who are in need (REVIEW AND HERALD, December 23, 1884). ①

Excerpt by Ellen White, author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, THE ADVENTIST HOME, p. 474; reprinted with permission.





By Jeremy Garlock

Already Gone

Often we think of the secular college as the turning point where Adventist young people leave the church. Our young adults go off to public university, and when they return home we have a hard time recognizing them as the sweet Christian youth we sent off into the world. Statistically, many of our young people who go to these public universities end up leaving the church.

While Seventh-day Adventist universities help to stem the tide toward this trend, that solution is not enough. In their book, *ALREADY GONE*,

get to college. In other words, before they leave us, they are already gone.

These statistics are the reason why Seventh-day Adventist education—early childhood education, elementary education, academy, and higher education—is of vital importance in the fight to keep our young people in our church and in a positive, passionate relationship with Jesus Christ. Why is Seventh-day Adventist education so important in this struggle? It all comes down to a battle of worldviews.

During teacher preparation courses, Seventh-day Adventist teachers are

Secular education has also always had its own goals. While I have no intention of villainizing public education, the fact is that their goal is to shape the future of the country's citizenry ("On Public Aid to Christian Schools in the United States: A Reformed Christian Perspective," by Young Taek Kang, *Journal of Research on CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 169-186), a noble goal, but the general population's view of what the citizenry should become is based on a different worldview than ours. Even the effective teachers in public education, of which there are many, must use curricular material that espouses a worldview that is in opposition to our own.

Every week students attend school for approximately 35 hours. The worldview to which they are exposed in their formative years will have a lasting impact on the way they think, the way they view the world, and their relationship with Jesus Christ, all with eternal consequences. We have a job to do to make sure we are providing the highest quality education that will also enrich our children's walk with Jesus, beginning when they are young, and continuing through college. We must work together for the sake of our young people before we look at them and realize they're already gone. ☺

“We have a job to do to make sure we are providing the highest quality education that will also enrich our children’s walk with Jesus.”

Ken Ham and Britt Beemer's research showed that, across denominations, the majority of those who leave the church in college began their walk of doubt much earlier in life. Of those that leave, having gone through the public educational system, 40 percent made the choice to leave during elementary and middle school, 49 percent made the choice to leave during high school, and only 11 percent made the choice to leave in college. While we may see the fruit of young people's choices in the college years, the vast majority of them are making the choice to leave well before they

taught that the mission of our schools is to recreate the image of God in our young people (*EDUCATION*, p. 15, 16) and to perpetuate the church by training our young people to be workers alongside Jesus ("Education for What? Thoughts on the Purpose and Identity of Adventist Education" by George Knight). With this goal, this worldview in mind, Adventist teachers enter the classroom every day in an effort to provide high-quality education that will not only prepare students for life, but also solidify them in their relationship with Jesus Christ, as they integrate faith with learning.



Jeremy Garlock is the New York Conference superintendent of schools.

Midland Heights Church Sponsors Health Series

Curtis and Paula Eakins, co-hosts of the Abundant Living telecast that airs on Three Angels Broadcasting Network, presented an informative and empowering health series at the Midland Heights church in Hamilton, Bermuda, September 2-7.

At the Sabbath worship service, Paula Eakins presented an encouraging sermon titled, “Peace—A State of Mind.” She shared her testimony of being a cancer survivor through the grace of God and using His natural methods in overcoming cancer. On Sunday, in the church’s fellowship hall, the Eakins held a cooking class on preparing nutritious and tasty foods.

Throughout the week the Eakins presented various topics on health that included natural and alternative methods of obtaining optimum health. The topics covered a range of health issues, including diabetes, natural



Participants pose for a photo with the presenters, Curtis and Paula Eakins, center front, on the last night of the Midland Heights church health ministries series.

remedies (kitchen cures), thyroid disorders and headaches, prostate cancer, heart disease, and women’s health issues. The Eakins, while presenting serious health topics, sprinkled humor throughout their presentations.

On that Wednesday, the Eakins ministered at the Adventist Book Center by using products sold there to make two entrees. They also gave customers tips and advice on how to

best prepare the various products. Many people were blessed by their ministry, not only physically, but also spiritually.

—Troy Dill, Health Ministries leader, Midland Heights church

A Pathfinder Becomes a Preacher

It was at the tender age of 10 that Paul William Gary DeShield gave his life to the Lord. At the age of 16, he asked his mom to buy him a Bible instead of a bike (motorcycle). He took the Pathfinder law to heart—“Do my honest part”—which was a big hit around the Bermuda Conference when DeShield found \$500 dollars on the grounds of Bermuda Institute and turned it in instead of spending it.

From this incident, a story titled “Do My Honest Part” was featured in the February 18, 2006, issue of GUIDE magazine on the day DeShield preached for children’s church at the Pembroke church in Bermuda.

On May 13, DeShield graduated from Oakwood University. He

answered a pastoral call to work for the summer at the New Brighton Community church in Staten Island, New York. He has also looked into the possibility of taking an offer as assistant youth pastor at a church in California.

Recently DeShield was ordained as an elder in the New Brighton Community church. He has been accepted into the Master of Divinity program at La Sierra University for the 2017-2018 school year. It’s all in the hands of God as to which path DeShield will take. “Train up a child in the way he should go,” and prayerfully, “when he is old he will not depart from it.”

—Pauline DeShield, mother of Paul DeShield and member, Pembroke church



Paul DeShield presents the message at Pembroke church in Bermuda.



Hudson Valley Wellness Team at Work Again

The Livingston church once again dispatched their Hudson Valley Wellness team of volunteers into the Hudson, New York, region to conduct a health expo on August 27. Directed by the Health Ministries leader, Debora Maitland, and Livingston church pastor Anton Kapusi, the expo drew in about 100 people from the neighboring communities. This was the Livingston church's third expo event and the best attended thus far. The theme for the expo was "Get a NEWSTART with your health."

The large turnout was the result of the health ministries team being obedient to God's instructions. Much preparation was done months in advance of the event. Large banners were hung by the city of Hudson on the major roads leading into the city.

Members of the team engaged in weekly distributions of health expo flyers and STEPS TO CHRIST literature in the community. Plant-based cooking classes

were even offered in June at one of the local community centers to heighten the awareness of the health ministries team's willingness to introduce a healthy lifestyle to the Hudson Valley residents.

Three tents were erected for the event. A health education tent offered screening tests for blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, lung capacity, and strength, among others. A nutrition tent offered a variety of plant-based dishes that were well received. A children's tent was equipped with activities to keep the young minds engaged.

Some of the key features that day included massage therapy, Health Age assessment reports, a diabetes awareness presentation, and the Carrot Hot Dog taste test, which the participants enjoyed. Many Bibles and copies of THE GREAT CONTROVERSY were also distributed at the Trust in God table.

Among the tents, several consultation stations were also available for community



The Livingston church's Hudson Valley wellness team conducts a health expo for the community.



Volunteers in the health education tent offer screening tests to people from the community.



Information about plant-based dishes is shared with visitors at the nutrition tent.

members with pressing concerns such as reversing diabetes and making dietary changes.

The team felt a great sense of satisfaction with the entire event. The local Columbia-Green media was also on site and gave a detailed write-up of the event. The next step for the team is to reach out to the more than 60 expo attendees who provided their contact information.

Follow-up phone calls have already been made to each person, thanking them for their attendance at the expo.

—John E. Franklin, communication director, Livingston church

Football Player Shares Christ With His Teammates

If you ask football (soccer) players what they love about the game, most would say it's the passion. One man has taken his passion for football and tied it in with his passion for Christ. Benjamin Powell has played for a church football team for 10 years and has always been looking for an opportunity to share Christ through the sport. One day that opportunity finally came.

Benjamin Powell says, "I'm always impressed that we have to find ways, ingenious ways, to win souls for Christ. So every year we set out with prayer to do so. This year has been the breakthrough for which we are thankful."

After meeting Powell and receiving an invitation to church, Locksley Foxton found the Lord and has a renewed purpose for his life. "When I heard [that] there's



Benjamin Powell, North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church football team member, left, stands with teammate Locksley Foxton, who has given his heart to the Lord.



The North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church's football team poses for a photo.

a church league, I'm like, 'Okay, I'll play.' Well, it was because of soccer. It wasn't really because of the church, but because he was more into church than the soccer and he invited me to church, and that's where I found His love, and I gave myself to Christ."

Foxton did not take his decision for Christ lightly. He spent a great deal of time preparing his heart and mind for baptism. "I feel good; I feel renewed. I feel absolutely clean. I feel like Christ is actually inside me, working in me."

Powell is already preparing more team members for baptism, and he continues to use his love of football to win souls for the kingdom. Today, Foxton makes a commitment to continue to use football as a means to share Jesus.

—Jillian Lopardo, reporter, GNYC Adventist News

19 Baptized Following Family Enrichment Series

The Macedonia and Five Towns district of churches, under the leadership of Julian Jones-Campbell, the district pastor, held a two-week Family Enrichment series, May 20-June 3, at the Macedonia church in Hempstead, New York. Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference executive secretary, was the guest speaker. The series was titled "Building Stronger Families and Relationships Against All Odds."

Smith delivered nightly topics that addressed issues affecting families while encouraging attendees to become a part of the family of God. Tuesdays were designated as "youth nights." The youth and their friends attended in great numbers as issues surrounding music and sexuality were explored.

The youth were encouraged to care for their bodies as the temple of God and to refrain from listening to negative lyrics that do not empower them to make positive choices.

Smith's messages were Christ-centered, captivating, and compelling. As a result of the meetings, 19 people, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, surrendered their lives to the Lord. There was much rejoicing from family, friends, and the congregation as the candidates were baptized.

Two families were among the candidates who gave their lives to the Lord—the Morrison family comprised of a mother, daughter, and a son and the Virgo/Benjamin family comprised of a mother, two daughters, and an uncle. Tears of joy were not



Candidates wait to be baptized as a result of the Macedonia and Five Towns church's two-week Family Enrichment series.

withheld as these families took their stand together.

Kathleen Lawrence, the singing evangelist, turned the hearts of those attending heavenward each night with convicting messages in song. The tireless work of the Bible workers was evident in the fruits of their labor. The success of this series was

accomplished by the diligent and united work of the members and departmental leaders of both churches. The curtain was drawn on this series with a celebration through music, and in giving glory and honor to God for the salvation of souls.

—Communication staff, Macedonia and Five Towns District

Two Conferences Join Together for Mission Trip to Ecuador

In April 2016, a massive earthquake devastated the area around Pedernales, Ecuador. More than a year later, in August 2017, the devastation was still so great that youth and young adults from the New York and Greater New York conferences went on a joint mission trip to the area.

While in Ecuador the group of missionaries accomplished much for the Lord. They helped in constructing a new church and building a new house for a single woman whose house was destroyed in the earthquake. The group sponsored two other houses that needed to be built or repaired. The local elder's home suffered significant



Ariel Manzueta, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries director, front row center, and Jeremy Garlock, New York Conference Youth Ministries associate director, back row left, pose for a photo with the volunteers while on a mission trip to Ecuador.

damage on the second floor, and that was also repaired.

The group conducted a Vacation Bible School and an evangelistic series that resulted in several baptisms.

Some members of the team participated in dental and health clinics, while some worked with dentists in a mobile dental office supplied by ADRA. The dentists

performed more than 600 procedures for the local population.

In addition to these works of compassion, the group experienced several miracles that show how active God is when His people move in faith to be His ambassadors. They saw dangerous people flee in the name of Jesus. They saw their modes of transportation make long trips with “jimmied” fixes to the throttle cable. They saw barriers broken down for the gospel. And they experienced the joy of new friendships between conferences, similar to the friendships that will be made in heaven between all of God’s people.

—Jeremy Garlock, communication director, New York Conference

Outdoor School Students: Trailblazing With Jesus

This year’s theme at the annual New York Conference Outdoor School was “Trailblazing with Jesus.” Students in fifth and sixth grades spent several days learning about the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as the pioneers who helped to settle the western parts of the United States. These students learned some of the skills the pioneers would have needed to survive their trek west, such as soap making, fire building, and sewing. They also learned about important character traits needed to be a pioneer, whether that be a pioneer for the country or a pioneer for Jesus.

Students in the seventh through ninth grades also had adventures with their off-campus groups. Some blazed trails while walking up mountains, others blazed



New York Conference students and staff, who participated in outdoor school pose for a group photo. Joining them in the photo is Bill Wood, retired Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, standing to the right on the steps.

trails using mountain bikes, while others blazed trails in canoes or on horseback.

At the end of the week, Bill Wood, retired Atlantic Union Conference Youth

Ministries director, made an altar call to the 47 students who gathered in the chapel, and nine of them stood for baptism. Please pray for these young pioneers as they

blaze a trail through life with Jesus.

—Jeremy Garlock, communication director, New York Conference

Buskirk Church's County Fair Ministry Reaches Many

It is quite the opportunity to be able to have literature available in a public venue where people just walk by and help themselves. This year was the fourth year that the Buskirk church in Buskirk, New York, has been privileged to have a booth at the county fair. A big draw is that the church always provides free bottled water for the thirsty fair-goers. While getting their water, many times people also scan the literature and take what strikes their fancy, when they might otherwise have just walked by.

This year the main feature was "Hacksaw Ridge" which was tied with related subthemes. More than 1,000 books and magazines about Desmond Doss's faith, the Bible, the ten commandments, the Sabbath, and Jesus were picked up, along with many posters, bookmarks, and CDs on the same topics.

"I cannot think of another form of evangelism that reaches so many people in just a few days," said Debbie Cox, New York Conference Health Ministries director. "This is



Buskirk church sponsors a booth at the county fair.

not just about getting our message into people's hands, but also about getting out there into the community and giving a face to our local church."

Fair ministry has the stamp of heaven on it. "I

was given instruction that as we approach the end, there will be large gatherings in our cities, as there has recently been in St. Louis, and that preparations must be made to present the truth at these gatherings. When Christ was upon this earth, He took advantage of such opportunities. Wherever a large number of people was gathered for any purpose, His voice was heard, clear and distinct, giving His message. And as a result, after His crucifixion and ascension, thousands were converted in a day. . . . Leaflets containing the light of present truth should be scattered among the people like the leaves of autumn. To many who attend these gatherings these leaflets would be as the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations"—EVANGELISM, p. 35.

This year, the invitation was extended to others to

also experience fair ministry and Buskirk church members were blessed with volunteers from the Saratoga, Kingsbury, Joy of Troy, Schenectady churches, as well as Northern New England's Rutland church in Vermont, and Northeastern Conference's Breath of Life church in Rochester. Two of the volunteers even provided live music.

The county fair runs for a little more than five and a half days and volunteers are scheduled to help at the booth for six-hour time slots. "With approximately 40 county fairs in the New York Conference (nysfair.ny.gov/about/ny-county-fairs), in addition to our state fair, we have the ability to touch many thousands of lives each year," Cox said.

—Health Ministries department, New York Conference

Union Springs Academy Students Say "Thank You" to Southern Adventist University

Over the past decade, Southern Adventist University (SAU) has generously donated athletic equipment to Union Springs Academy (USA). This support has significantly helped USA to have the needed resources to continue a quality soccer and basketball program on a very limited budget.

This past summer, USA alumnus Michael Boyd '90, who works for SAU's School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness, once again blessed the academy with a delivery of gently-used, and even new, soccer balls, basketballs, and softball and baseball equipment.

The physical health of our students is vital to the education program at USA. The administrators, faculty, and staff greatly appreciate SAU's interest in helping USA stu-



Union Springs Academy students, from left, Brook Garlock, '18; Dan Livergood, '19; and Melanie Llanto '18, are ready to play softball thanks to Southern Adventist University's gift of athletic equipment.

dents stay active, while enjoying a variety of activities and sports.

—Janica Caster, development director, Union Springs Academy



NEC Launches Polaris Master Guide Club

Northeastern Conference (NEC) launched a new Master Guide ministry in the New England North area of the conference. Under the leadership of Veronica Cottle-Watson, the 46 inducted Master Guides, who make up the Polaris club, will provide mentorship and support to Adventurers and Pathfinders, as well as current Master Guide candidates and members.

The motto of the Polaris Master Guide ministry, “Faith, Perseverance, Courage,” implies an infusion of characteristics needed to develop Christlike leaders to help disciple children and youth under God’s counsel. Ministry components include spiritual growth, community service, missionary activities, and recreational activities.

The August 26 inauguration service and induction ceremony were held at Berea church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and Hyde Park church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, respectively. At Berea church, David McKenzie, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, presented the worship service message titled, “God Is in Charge.” Also present for the day’s events were John Jean Baptiste, executive coordinator; Eric Johnson, executive assistant coordinator; Sam Cruz, Hispanic coordinator; Edwin Bell, Medical Cadet Corps and NEC Master Guide Ministry executive coordinator, and his two assistants.

In his address, Bell told members of the Polaris club that they were pioneers of the ministry in the Northeastern Conference, and that he was looking forward to working together



Members of the new Polaris Master Guide Club pose for a photo with Northeastern Conference Adventist Youth Ministries leaders and coordinators who are seated on the front row of the choir loft at the Hyde Park church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, where the afternoon program was held.

with them and all the other Master Guides in the conference.

The name Polaris represents one of the brightest stars in the northern sky located in the constellation Ursa Minor. The ministry has already started meeting the needs of others by distributing back-to-school supplies in Boston, Massachusetts, and Jamaica; and initiating an activity group to help bridge the gap for retired seniors, mature Master Guides, and community members in need of companionship.

The ministry is also in the process of adopting a family in the community and sending supplies to hurricane-ravished states and the Caribbean Islands. It is the mission of the Polaris Master Guide Club to shine brightly throughout the Northeastern Conference, the Atlantic Union, and the world.

—Communication staff, Polaris Master Guide Club



The platform personnel and congregation sing along with the praise team during the worship service at Berea church in Dorchester, Massachusetts.



At Hyde Park church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, David McKenzie, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, stands with Veronica Cottle-Watson, the leader of the newly-launched Polaris Master Guide Club.

Shiloh Church Member Turns 105

One hundred and five years ago, on September 30, 1912, approximately five months after the Titanic, the British ocean-liner, sank on its first voyage, Alberta Howard was born in Smyrna, Delaware, to parents Alberta and Clarence Thomas. Due to financial hardships with her large family of seven brothers and four sisters, she moved to Trenton, New Jersey, at the age of three to live with Margaret and Joseph Merrill who raised her as their own child.

Howard attended Trenton State College and Rutgers University. She holds degrees in business and medicine.

Her love of children led her to positions where she worked with children with special needs. She considered this work rewarding and expressed her belief that God strengthened her to do that difficult work with these special students. After her retirement and needing to be busy still, she continued working with students, volunteering at the DeBerry School, where the school library is named “Dolly’s Reading Corner” in her honor, as well as volunteering with other schools in Springfield, Massachusetts, until she was 103.

Twice married (her first marriage ended with the tragic death of her husband of three years and her second with her husband’s passing following 40 years of marriage), she was blessed with a son, Paris Howard, with whom she lives.

Howard joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church after attending an evangelistic meeting with a friend and learning about the Sabbath. She



On the Sabbath of her birthday celebration, Alberta “Dolly” Howard, seated, is surrounded by the church’s elders, along with Jenks Brutus, the church’s pastor, and Domenic Sarno, Springfield’s mayor, both standing behind Howard; Monica Fletcher, elder, holding the proclamation; and the individuals who coordinated the event on her right: Claudette Smart and Ann Stennett, communication assistant leader and leader, respectively, and Janet Russell, elder.

has worked tirelessly as a Sabbath School teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, Adventist Youth leader, as well as a church clerk, and in other areas.

During the worship service on Sabbath, September 30, members of the Shiloh church in Springfield, Massachusetts, honored Howard in celebration of her 105th birthday.

As Howard was escorted to the platform by church ushers, the members and her visiting friends sang, “Happy Birthday.” The mayor of Springfield, Domenic Sarno, greeted her and later presented her with a proclamation declaring the day, “Alberta Howard Day” in the City of Springfield.

Television and local newspapers recorded the wonderful event as several members of the congregation presented Howard with 100 red roses. The church’s pastor, Jenks Brutus, presented

a bouquet of five white Calla Lilies, completing the 105 flower count presented to her. The children’s choir sang a special song.

On behalf of the church family, Howard was presented with a cake, a box of healthy snacks, and a book, prepared by church members titled, *THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ALBERTA “DOLLY” HOWARD*. The book contains information about her life, greetings from pastors—present and past, departments of the church, as well as from friends and coworkers. Pictures marking events of her life stages, news headlines, and trivia from 1912 completed the book.

The celebration concluded as the church community prepared for the morning message and a Communion service—in which Howard participated fully.

Howard is never seen without a smile. She attends church regularly and claims

Psalms 24 and 27 as her favorite Bible chapters. Her favorite hymn is “It Took a Miracle.”

Well-traveled worldwide, Howard enjoys association with people of all cultures. She continues to enjoy her favorite foods—pizza and spaghetti and meatballs.

Words of wisdom she shares with all: “Look to God for all you do, for He is the Maker and Finisher of this world. Love one another, help and support each other, and smile, for smiling is the medicine of the soul!”

To know Alberta “Dolly” Howard is to love her. She demonstrates God’s love in all that she does. Shiloh church members give thanks to God for her life and for this wonderful celebration of her 105th birthday!

—Ann Stennett, communication leader, Shiloh church

The Prayers of a Parent

Arnet and Judy Mathers are the new pastoral team for extreme northern Maine—an area that in local parlance is simply called “the county,” in reference to Aroostook County, the largest county by land area east of the Rockies. Their four churches are far-flung among the small towns that dot the county, and the area, as a whole, is quite post-Christian and very resistant to evangelism.

Though it is a difficult field in which to work, the Mathers have not conceded one battle to the enemy, but have instead looked for ways to engage in innovative and effective evangelism. It was their passion for evangelism and their determination to battle for souls that led them to visit church members in their homes and seek to pray for children of the members who had drifted away from the church.

One of their visits was to the home of Everett and Barbara Doughty of the Oakfield church. The Doughtys told the Mathers about their two grown sons, Chris and Tim, and how the sons had come up in the church but had drifted away. The two sons had married two sisters, Susan and Elizabeth “Beth”. Chris and Susan have three children of their own.

The Mathers listened as the Doughtys described their sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, and then, together, they lifted up the families in

praying for the sons and their families after the visit.

Their prayers were answered clearly and quickly, for it was only a couple of weeks later that Tim and

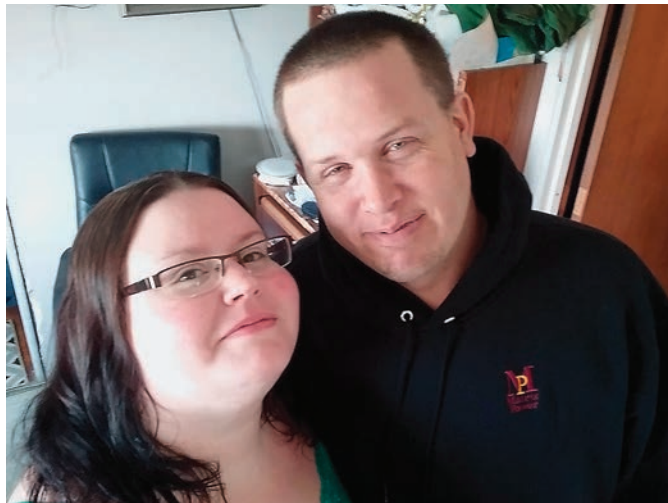
denominations looking for a church home, none of which felt quite right to Beth. Part way into the service, though, Beth felt a peace coming over her and knew, “This just feels right.”

As the Mathers visited the two families in their home a few days later for Bible study, Beth shared her experience with Pastor Judy, and then repeated it to the whole group. Both couples decided to make the Oakfield church their home and are now engaged in weekly Bible studies. Together with their children, they have swelled the membership of the Oakfield church by seven.

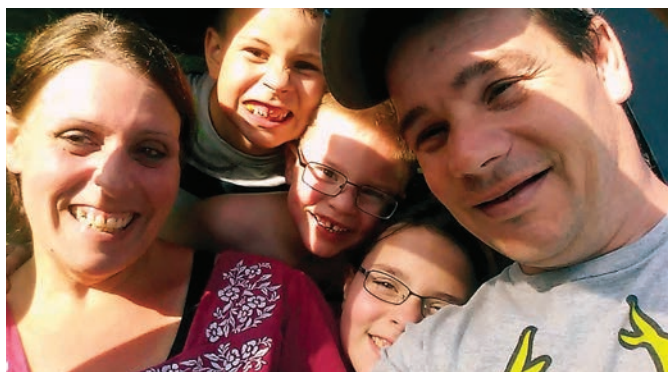
The Oakfield church is very intentional about making everyone who comes through their doors feel welcome, loved, and accepted, and this deepened the “just feels right” response that the brothers and their wives were experiencing.

On July 1, on Susan’s request, all three of their children were dedicated to the Lord. On the first Sabbath in September, Tim and Elizabeth indicated a desire to be baptized and are earnestly preparing for that day. Praise God for the joy His salvation has brought to each home of the Doughty clan!

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



After receiving Bible studies, Elizabeth and Tim Doughty are preparing for baptism.



Chris and Susan Doughty and their children, Ryan, Maisa, and Joshua, have made the Oakfield church their home.

prayer and asked that the Lord would lead them back into the truth and into fellowship with the church. The Mathers continued

Beth, as well as Chris and Susan with their children visited the Oakfield church. They had visited several local churches of other

Bordoville Church: the First “Seventh-day Adventist” Church?

In the middle of September, people from across the conference and beyond celebrated the 153rd anniversary of the building of Bordoville church. Many were attending the meeting as a way of remembering the past, as well as building new relationships with

each other through sharing a common history. As Seventh-day Adventists we love our roots, and in this regard Bordoville church may have deeper roots than previously suspected.

There are two things the Bordoville church is known for: its pioneering of “sys-

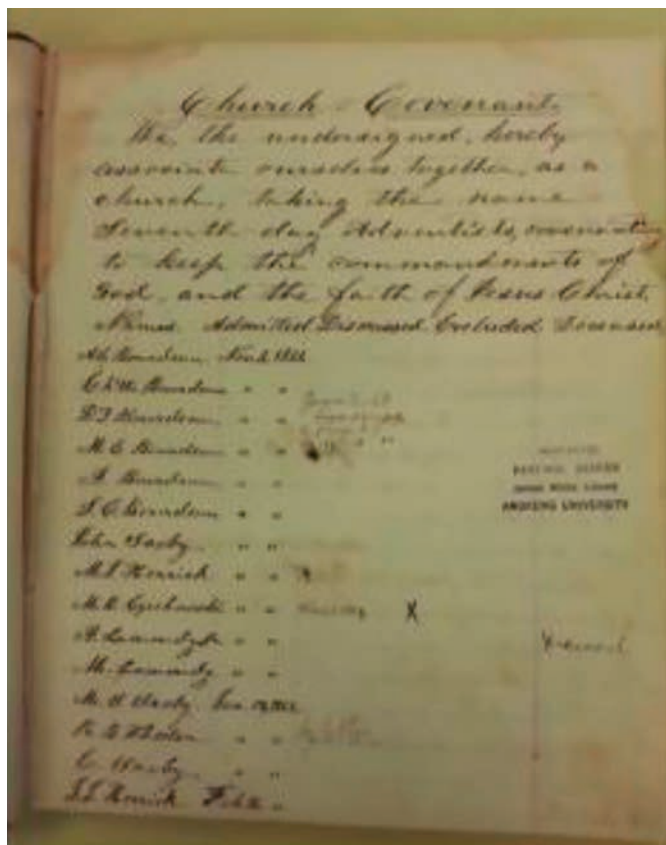
tematic benevolence,” and being the first church built by Seventh-day Adventists for Seventh-day Adventists. Now, it seems there may be a third thing that makes the church notable—being the first church in New England to take the name of “Seventh-day Adventist.”

From its inception, the Bordoville church adopted the plan of systematic benevolence. This system of giving was adopted yearly by the church board and was used for the needs of the church. It required regular and proportional giving. Members would

pledge a certain amount of money that they would donate during the following year. Augustin Bourdeau, in a letter to THE VERMONT HISTORICAL GAZETTEER magazine, said that “members pay 2 cents per week on each \$100 they own.” In addition, based on their membership pledges, the church would develop a budget and would put forward its plans. For example, in 1865 the amount of money pledged was \$532.20, and this was used for building a shed next to the church building. This plan of systematic benevolence continued to be used until the tithing system was fully adopted between 1876 and 1879.

It was at the church board meeting in 1864, with Augustin C. Bourdeau as chairman, that a unanimous vote was taken to build a church. Up to this point, the Bordoville church had met in different members’ homes, but mostly in the Bourdeau’s home, since 1860. The need for a building was felt as more and more members were added to the group. The church was finished the next year, making it probably the oldest church built expressly as an Adventist church (congregations had until that time used previously-built churches or met in the homes of members).

It was in January 1862 that the Washington church in New Hampshire adopted the name “Seventh-day Adventist” and for some time it has been thought that it was the first church in New England to adopt the name. However, newly-discovered documents seem to show that Bordoville church was established just a few months prior to the



An original document was recently discovered that sheds light on the early use of the Seventh-day Adventist name.

Washington church. This document is in the minutes from a church meeting held on November 3, 1861, where the decision was made to form a church, with 11 people signing up for it.

In the same meeting, the decision was taken to name the church a Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is long before the name was “officially” recognized in 1863. So it seems the Bordoville church is the first organized Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern New England, and perhaps beyond. More studies of documents are necessary in order to have a detailed picture of the church’s history and how each of these two churches came into existence.

The Bordoville church represents a time in Adventist history when excitement and commitment

were high and growth was tremendous. Today this church calls us all to recreate the excitement and commitment of that time, so that the growth of Christ’s kingdom may again be tremendous.

—Cornel Preda, pastor, Bordoville church

“The Bordoville church represents a time in Adventist history when excitement and commitment were high and growth was tremendous.”

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God's Answer

“Saudade” is a Portuguese word that does not directly translate to English. It expresses the feelings of “I love you, I’ll miss you, and I can’t wait to see you again.” This is the word that describes the feelings of the Parecis people of the village of Salto da Mulher and the American and Brazilian people who worked in the village for 11 days.

From July 13 to July 23, a group of people from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, led by pastors Artur Preuss and Pete Maldonado, traveled to Mato Grosso to team up with young people from Mato Grosso and São Paulo to participate in the Missão Calebe initiative in the Mato Grosso Conference in Brazil. Their objectives were to minister to the indigenous village of Salto da Mulher by refurbishing and restocking their medical clinic, building a church, and conducting evangelism.

The village of Salto da Mulher is home to about 50 people. They live a simple lifestyle removed from most modern-day conveniences, and their reliance upon each other has built a strong sense of community among the people.



The group from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania pose for a photo in front of the structure they helped build for the villagers of Salto da Mulher.

The mission team held Vacation Bible School and evening meetings for the people of the village. Strong bonds were quickly formed between the mission team and the people of the village. They prayed that at least one would choose Jesus and elect to be baptized by the end of their time together.

They spent the week working hard to accomplish the tasks they had planned. This work included removing terra cotta roofing tiles from the medical clinic as bats and wasps flew out from under them, shovel-

ing and moving dirt and gravel, mixing cement, moving bricks, cleaning up the grounds, and cleaning and painting the clinic inside and out. It was difficult work under not-so-desirable conditions, but it was extremely rewarding in the end.

The results of this mission trip were the answer to the fervent, persistent prayer of Dona Clarice, the wife of the village chief, Cacique Acelino Alves Noizukae. Many years ago, Dona Clarice traveled to São Paulo to receive treatment for an illness,

and making the most of her opportunity, majored in nursing at Instituto Adventista de Ensino, now UNASP (São Paulo Adventist University). While there, she gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Instead of going off into the world to work, she decided to return to her village and minister to her people. She dreamed that one day her family would follow Christ and a church would be established in her own village.

God has not let Dona Clarice down. Last October,



Artur Preuss, pastor of the Springfield, Florence, and Warren churches, baptizes one of six villagers following the worship service.



The mayor of Sapezal, Mato Grosso, right, along with Dona Clarice, center, cut the ribbon signaling the beginning of the ceremony to dedicate the medical clinic.

Photos: Ailires Cruz

Clarice's husband was baptized and now shares her faith in Jesus. After praying for 50 years for a church to be built in her village, God allowed this mission team to be His instrument to answer her prayer. What a humbling experience!

The last Sabbath in the village was a joyous occasion when people from many towns came to see what had been done in the village of Salto da Mulher. These people included William Barbosa, Mato Grosso Conference evangelism director, the mayor from the nearby town of Sapezal, and many Pathfinders and Adventist church members.

A dedication ceremony was conducted for the medical clinic and the church. The church service featured special music by the village children and an inspiring, uplifting sermon from Pastor Pete.

After the church service, the people walked down to



Villagers pray during the first worship service in the church built by the group from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

the beautiful river in the village for a momentous occasion. Not one, but six villagers felt the Holy Spirit's call to them and decided to be baptized. What a blessing! The members of this mission team were abundantly blessed. Each one would encourage others to attend a mission trip like this if they ever have the opportunity.

It has now been a couple of months since the group arrived from Brazil. The impact this project has had on the lives of the villagers can be seen, but the volunteers did not realize how the trip would affect them. Two young men, who were volunteers with the group, have returned home, have begun Bible studies in their homes, and have

become more involved in their local church. Also, one of the volunteers who came to help the group was a Seventh-day Adventist who was no longer attending. He is now actively participating in his local church. Plans to return to Brazil are currently being discussed.

—Theresa Robidoux, trip participant

Church Members Impact the Community at the North Haven Fair

Embracing the theme “New Start to Better Health,” the New Haven church in New Haven, Connecticut, hosted a booth at the North Haven Fair held September 7-10. Following the axiom of Francois de la Rochefoucauld that “To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art,” the booth was replete with several stations exemplifying that principle.

In one area servers sporting vibrant green NEW START T-shirts, hats, and aprons, treated visitors to vegan specialties. Health screening, including blood pressure and blood glucose checks, was a popular area of



New Haven church members treat visitors at the North Haven Fair with vegan specialties.

the booth manned at various intervals by 10-12 nurses.

Attendees had the opportunity to choose from a vari-

ety of free health magazines. Over the four days of operation, in excess of 219 people registered for a free raffle of

cookbooks and the opportunity to attend a vegan feast at the church. Invitations to the feast were sent by Evite and by mail. A follow-up to the feast will include the viewing of the movie *Forks over Knives*.

Three months of intensive planning by the New Haven church evangelism team, often meeting once or twice a week, went into the orchestration and implementation of the booth. It is the prayer of all involved that many people will be reached for the Lord through the Adventist health message.

—Eileen O. Brown, communication secretary, New Haven church





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Sunset Table

November 2017	1	8	15	22	29
Bangor, ME	3:55	3:54	3:55	3:58	4:03
Portland, ME	4:04	4:03	4:05	4:08	4:13
Boston, MA	4:12	4:11	4:12	4:16	4:20
South Lancaster, MA	4:14	4:13	4:14	4:18	4:22
Pittsfield, MA	4:20	4:20	4:21	4:24	4:29
Hartford, CT	4:20	4:19	4:21	4:24	4:29
Providence, RI	4:15	4:14	4:15	4:19	4:23
New York, NY	4:28	4:28	4:29	4:32	4:37
Albany, NY	4:20	4:19	4:21	4:24	4:29
Utica, NY	4:26	4:25	4:26	4:30	4:35
Syracuse, NY	4:30	4:29	4:30	4:33	4:38
Rochester, NY	4:35	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:44
Buffalo, NY	4:41	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:50
Hamilton, Bda	5:12	5:13	5:15	5:18	5:22

ATLANTIC UNION

**Atlantic Union
Compassion Sabbath 2017, Nov. 11 and
Dec. 9.** The second Sabbath of every
month is Compassion Sabbath in the

Atlantic Union. www.compassion-now.org or auyouth.com.

**A Time of Prayer for Atlantic Union College,
Nov. 12,** at Machlan Auditorium on the
campus of Atlantic Union College. Join
the Atlantic Union Conference adminis-

trators, executive committee, and staff as
they lift Atlantic Union College in prayer.
atlantic-union.org/a-time-of-prayer.

GODencounters, Feb. 23-25, 2018, a
young adult life-changing experi-
ence, sponsored by the Atlantic
Union Conference Adventist Youth
Ministries. auyouth.com.

**Pathfinder Bible Experience, Mar. 24,
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Ministries. www.compassion-now.org
or auyouth.com.

**Compassion Rally NYC, May 4-5,
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2013 ~ 5 Year Class
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EMPLOYMENT

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE seeks development officer. Requirements: master's degree or equivalent, four to 10 years related experience and/or training, be a Seventh-day Adventist in regular standing; committed to the values, principles, and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit letter, addressing minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, transcript, and three professional refer-

ence letters to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details visit www.auc.edu.

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking an online adjunct professor/s to teach part-time courses in newly organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of business. Submit cover letter and current CV/resume to denise.rivera@swau.edu. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference given with prior teaching experience.

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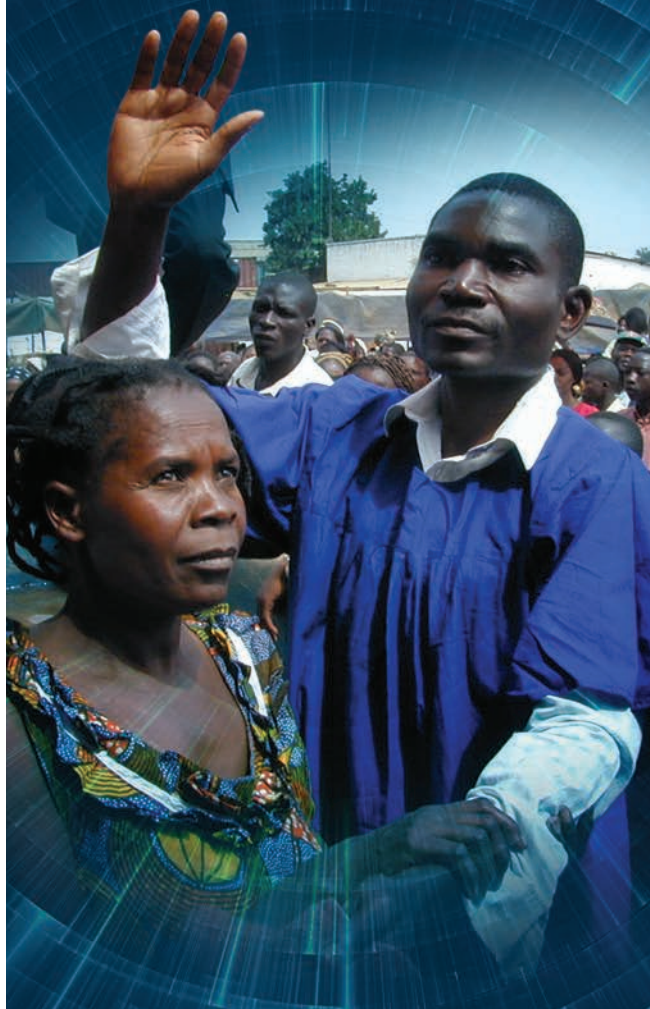
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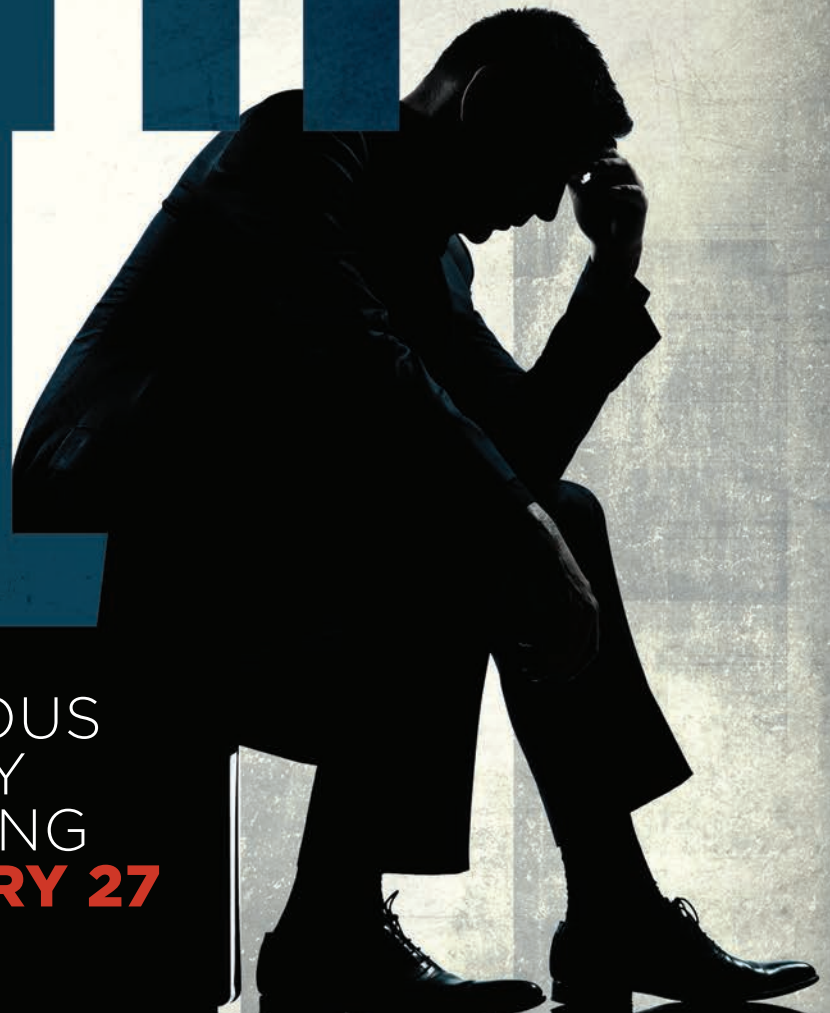
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