

THE ATLANTIC UNION

NOVEMBER 2018

GLEANNER

Touching Lives in New York City

Compassion Initiative
Comes Full Circle

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Local Deaf members interested in establishing a DEAF ministry in the Greater New York Conference met on July 28 at the Spanish Soundview church in Bronx, New York.



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A Call to Be **the Hands and Feet of Jesus**

At this time of the year, we need to take stock of what we have done to relieve the pain and suffering that millions of Americans and other people in the world face every day. Even though the United States is one of the leading food-producing nations in the world, millions of our citizens go to bed without food every night. We applaud those who have contributed to alleviating hunger and homelessness, but we have a long way to go to adequately address the situation.

According to Feed America, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines “food insecurity” as “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life” (<https://bit.ly/2EaAqpA>). An estimated 1 in 8 people in America face hunger which means 40 million Americans struggle to put food on the table. Sadly, 40 percent of food in the U.S. is thrown out every year, or about \$165 billion worth. All of this uneaten food could feed 25 million Americans (<https://bit.ly/2xJe4pI>).

We also face a housing crisis in America. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (nlihc.org), a family with a full-time worker making minimum wage could not afford Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the U.S. A renter earning the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour would need to work 99 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom rental home at the Fair Market Rent and 122 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In light of these facts, what are we doing to help relieve the pain and suffering that those who are hungry and homeless face every day? More specifically, what is the Seventh-day Adventist Church doing to help alleviate this problem? We appreciate what ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) is doing around the world and Adventist Community Services (ACS) in the United States. In the Atlantic Union Conference our

various entities are actively implementing many initiatives in an effort to address the problem of hunger and homelessness. However, what we, as a church, are able to do is a small fraction of what's needed.

Matthew 25:31-45 records that when the Son of Man comes to judge the world, before Him will gather the nations of the earth. He will separate the inhabitants into two groups: one on the right and one on the left. “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me’ ” (verses 34-36, NKJV).

Those who did not feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the sick and deprived, will meet the wrath of God. Ellen White wrote, “When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering”—THE DESIRE OF AGES, p. 637. Please note that we are not saved by what we do; what we do reveals whether or not we have been saved by the blood of the Lamb.

As we come toward the end of the year, let us remember the less fortunate, who cannot adequately provide for their personal needs. Remember that we are the hands and feet of Jesus to provide help for those who don't have the resources to provide for themselves. Jesus said to those on His left hand, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me”—Matthew 25:45, NKJV. ①

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



“Remember that we are the hands and feet of Jesus to provide help for those who don't have the resources to provide for themselves.”





Touching Lives in New York City

Compassion Initiative Comes Full Circle

The Atlantic Union Conference administrators, vice presidents, and directors united with the youth ministries directors, and youth and young adults from across the six-conference union field to close out its 2018 “Year of the Youth.” From Friday, October 5, to Sunday, October 7, the event convened under the auspices of the Atlantic Union Conference’s Adventist Youth Ministries annual Compassion Rally NY’18.

In a nod to the maiden compassion rally in March 2013, this year’s rally, was also held in New York City. The rally featured white T-shirts highlighting all six conferences, as well as the history and future of the compassion movement across the Atlantic Union; a compassion parade in Brooklyn, only 2.5 miles from the 2013 compassion parade location; and the “father” of the Atlantic Union Conference compassion movement, José Cortés, Jr., who marched in unity with the youth and young adults.

Thousands of compassion volunteers descended upon New York City with one goal: to be the eyes, ears, heart, hands, and feet of Jesus—declaring God’s unconditional love in action. Goal accomplished! “Our young people don’t want to just sit in a church, in the pews,” said David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director. “They want to know they’re making a difference by touching lives and touching hearts.”

The major emphasis of the weekend included compassion projects, a prayer walk, a parade, and distribution of pamphlets. The weekend kicked off on Friday with two compassion projects—making surgical hats for children, and the Showers of Blessings shower van, a mobile van that provides warm showers for homeless New Yorkers.

The Shiloh church in Brooklyn served as the host church. In a collaborative effort by the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences, under the leadership youth leader Joycynth Johnson, a solemn service of prayer, preaching, and praise officially opened the NY’18 rally. Program participants included the GNYC

Youth Praise Team, NEC’s Youthful Worship Praise Team, the Foster Triplets, and other worship teams, as well as the New York Conference and Northeastern Conference associate youth ministries directors, Jeremy Garlock and Javier Alcon. Mark Tamaleaa, Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries director, presented a message that moved the audience, to “stop and surrender everything to serve others in the name of Jesus.”

God’s army of youth preachers took to the streets on Sabbath morning and participated in more than 60 compassion projects across the territories of Hudson Valley-Capital City, Rockland-



Craig Brandon



Westchester, Long Island, and the five boroughs of New York City—Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The youth and young adults preached hundreds of compassionate “love-in-action” sermons across the area to the honor and glory of God.

By 1:00 p.m., a team of police officers from the 78th Precinct stopped the flow of traffic along the designated parade route. It appeared to be a regular, uneventful afternoon in this Brooklyn community. However, with the arrival of buses filled with volunteers from as far away as Boston, Massachusetts, and Rochester, New York, and the sounds of warm ups from four different drum corps, the community buzzed with anticipation. “This is beyond words,” said one neighbor.

Thousands of compassion advocates walked along the parade route.

Prayer intercessors led by Yvonne Knight, Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries director; and Patricia Langley, Northeastern Conference Prayer Ministries coordinator, prayed for neighbors and claimed the community for Jesus. People ran, stood, walked, cheered, waved, and smiled. Welcoming neighbors readily embraced the compassion of the youth. In tearful appreciation, a grandmother, accompanied by her daughter and granddaughters declared, “I can feel your love. This is a sweet, huge statement for our community. I appreciate what these youth are doing.”

The parade headed for historic Prospect Park’s Grand Army Plaza at the beginning of Eastern Parkway. At the Grand Army Plaza, the culminating parade moments were memorable as the José Cortés, Jr., Compassion Award

was unveiled and presented to José Cortés, Jr., North American Division Ministerial associate director, in honor of his vision for the compassion movement across the Atlantic Union and now, the North American Division.

Bill de Blasio, mayor of the City of New York, and compassion advocate Walter Harris who, with his wife, Mildred, live a life of compassion advocacy and provide ongoing community service around New York, the U.S., and other parts of the world, also received awards. Harris’ current ministry focus, the Showers of Blessings van, was also and at the Grand Army Plaza.

Other compassion award recipients included James Richmond, Simone English, Marlow Scott, Vasthy Aurora, as well as New York City Park and NYPD officials, who all worked tirelessly with McKenzie and the compassion rally planning committee to make this event a blessed experience.

The compassion parade officially ended right back at Shiloh church where volunteers received a meal courtesy of Mayor Bill de Blasio and his team in tangible support of Compassion Rally NY’18.

This weekend ended as it commenced with community-impacting compassion projects. On Sunday, volunteers washed cars for free at the Flatbush church, others packed more than 10,000 stop-hunger meals at Mt. Moriah church, and still others participated in park maintenance and painting projects across Long Island.

God’s love was displayed all across the New York metropolitan area “because actions speak louder than words.” Looking forward, all of the Atlantic Union anticipates compassion rally NH’19 as the city of Manchester, New Hampshire, is well poised to experience God’s love in action in 2019. ☺

Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department



Kelcha Gosling



Kelcha Gosling



Craig Brandon

By Wayne D. Edwards

Adventist Schools — Jordan River Schools

Imagine 2 Kings 5 as a parable of a little girl who longed once again to be in the Jordan River Adventist School. She was sent away from home, through no fault of her own, and living with people who didn't fear God. Whatever the circumstances, she remembered the formative years spent in the Jordan River Adventist school.

She remembered the verses and songs that she had learned. They were constant reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness toward her, despite being in a foreign country. She sang those songs and said her prayers before going to bed. She was cheerful and had a reputation of being honest, truthful, and trustworthy. She was an exemplary student and her guardians knew that she had "been with God." She represented Jesus by her example of Christian piety, that the grace of Christ may appear as it is—beautiful, attractive, harmonious, and always consistent.

She had a history of sharing pertinent information regarding total health and the love of Jesus. So it was not surprising that her guardians were willing to follow through with her suggestion when she said to her mistress, "Would God my Lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy"—2 Kings 5:3.

Bermuda Institute seeks to model the educational principles exemplified by the Jordan River Adventist School,

producing boys and girls who witness for God and set a positive example for others, just as the little servant girl did.

While public schools may be equipped with state of the art science labs and modern technology, Adventist education offers something distinctly different. This difference is the presence of God. In Seventh-day Adventist classrooms, God is invited every morning into the hearts of the students. What sets Adventist education apart from public education isn't the buildings, the educational standards, or the administrators—it is the presence of God, and only God! This godly Christian influence exerted by Holy Spirit-filled teachers helps to mold the characters of boys and girls so that they will be guided by a moral compass that is unmovable—so that they will be as "true to duty as the needle to the pole."

A diligent cultivation of Christian character and grace is what the Jordan River Adventist School produced—and precisely what we are striving to do at Bermuda Institute. Remember, the Spirit of God makes the difference in Adventist education! Thank God for those who believe in, and have invested in Adventist education! ①



Wayne D. Edwards is the principal of the Bermuda Institute in Southampton, Bermuda.

*“Remember,
the Spirit of
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education!”*

Administrators Reelected at Bermuda Conference Session

Bermuda Conference held its second quadrennial constituency session on Sunday, September 30, at the Hamilton church in Hamilton, Bermuda. The delegates voted overwhelmingly to reelect Kenneth Manders, president; W. DeJaun Tull, executive secretary; and W. Aaron Spencer, treasurer. “Bermuda Conference holds a special place in my heart. Nothing has been more precious in my life than knowing I am being led by the Lord. I am pleased to be a servant of the Most High in my ‘Bermudaful’ Conference. It’s been a joy to be in His service. Let’s press forward together doing His will in these times,” Manders said following the vote to reelect him to serve as president.

Fredrick Russell, of the True North Leadership Group and former pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta, Georgia, presented a devotional titled “I Want More.” His message reminded the delegates that they should want God for who He is and not what He does. “The only thing that distinguishes people is that the presence of God is with them,” Russell said. “Adventism should be the most radical form of Christianity there is. . . . We should not want God for His acts, but we should want ‘God for God.’ ”

Russell posed the question, “What would happen if we got really passionate about pursuing [God’s] presence in our life?” to which he responded, “It would turn this island [of Bermuda] upside down.” He challenged the delegates to get to know God for who He is because “everything changes in the presence of God.”

The entire agenda brought before the delegates at the session was completed, including receiving reports from the president, secretary, treasurer, and Bermuda Institute principal. In addition, delegates elected individuals to serve as departmental directors and associates, and members of the executive committee, constitution and bylaws committee, and trustees committee. The delegates also voted changes to the constitution and bylaws.

The departmental directors elected to serve the Bermuda Conference for the next four years are:

Adventist Youth Ministries: Dwayne S. Caines

Associate Director - Young Adults: Damon Hendrickson

Associate Director - Teens: Simona Mills-Pitcher

Associate Director - Pathfinders: Dwayne Hill

Children’s Ministries: Tammy Hendrickson

Communication: Joi Tyrrell



The administrators reelected to serve for the next four years, stand with the Atlantic Union Conference administrators. From left are Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary; W. DeJaun Tull, Bermuda Conference executive secretary, with his wife, LaToya; G. Earl Knight, Atlantic Union Conference president; Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, with his wife, Claudette; the treasurer’s wife, Marcia; W. Aaron Spencer, treasurer; and Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer.

Alvin Goulbourne

Disabilities Ministries: Pauline DeShield
Superintendent of Schools: Rosemary Tyrrell
Family Ministries: Ulric Hetsberger
Health Ministries: Leonard Gibbons
Hispanic Ministries: Hector Quiñones
Human Relations/Intercultural: W. DeJaun Tull
Human Relations Associate: Ernestine DeGraff
Intercultural Associate: Loida Ratteray
Men's Ministries: Rollin Nathan
Ministerial: Carlyle C. Simmons
Personal Ministries: Eloise Symonds
Prayer Ministries: Michelle Hill
Prison Ministries: Kevin Santucci
Publishing: Norma Lynn Showers
Retention and Reclamation: David Steede
Religious Liberty (PARL): Carlyle C. Simmons
Sabbath School: Cyril Millett
Sabbath School Associate: Julie Richardson
Sabbath School Associate: Lynette Woods
Stewardship: David Steede
Trust Services: W. Aaron Spencer
Women's Ministries: Michelle Hill

The departmental director positions for Adventist Community Services, Media Ministries, Media Ministries associate, and Music Ministries were referred to the executive committee for handling.

Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference were present and participated in various aspects of the meeting. These include G. Earl Knight, president; Pierre Omeler, executive secretary; Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer; Jose Joseph, Haitian and African Ministries vice president; David McKenzie, youth ministries; Jerrell Gilkeson and Lileth Coke, education director and education assistant director and certification registrar, respectively; and Yvonne Knight, women's ministries and prayer ministries. Present from the North American Division were Tom Evans, treasurer, and Kyoshin Ahn, undersecretary. Todd Mayer from the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) presented the auditing reports.

The Bermuda Conference administrators and directors elected to serve the next four years will provide leadership to the 4,027 members who worship in 11 churches and one company, in addition to Bermuda Institute, the ATV cable channel, the Adventist Book Center, several community service centers, and other ministries in the conference's territory. ①

Ednor A.P. Davison is the Atlantic Union GLEANER editor.



Ricardo Clarke

Frederick Russell, of the True North Leadership Group and former pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta, Georgia, presents the devotional message to the constituency session delegates.



Ricardo Clarke

Delegates are at work at the Bermuda Conference second quadrennial constituency session.



Alvin Goulbourne

The team counts the ballots collected during the vote for president.

Mobile Shower Van Dedicated to Serve City's Homeless

Officials from the Greater New York Conference (GNYC), Atlantic Union Conference, and the North American Division (NAD) gathered at United Camp Meeting on September 15, to dedicate the Showers of Blessings van, an outreach ministry of GNYC's Adventist Community Services (ACS).

The mobile showers will serve the homeless in New York City, providing clean towels, washcloths, and new undergarments, as well as an outpouring of God's love. The ministry, partly funded by NAD, is a result of many years of planning and is their first mobile shower unit for the homeless.

Luis Biazotto, GNYC's Adventist Community Services director, said the van is a response to the city's growing homelessness problem—at its highest levels since the Great Depression. “This humanitarian relief is not optional for our church; it's mandatory. We need to provide services to alleviate their suffering.”

According to Biazotto, ACS will partner with churches in the five boroughs to have the van serve local homeless



Lloyd Scharffenberg, GNYC Corporation secretary; Luis Biazotto, GNYC Adventist Community Services director; Manuel Rosario, GNYC Personal Ministries/Sabbath School director; Sung Kwon, NAD Adventist Community Services executive director; Walter Harris, GNYC ACS Disaster Response coordinator; Alanzo Smith, GNYC executive secretary; Henry Beras, GNYC president; G. Earl Knight, Atlantic Union Conference president; Ysaías Javier, GNYC treasurer; Artur Stele, General Conference vice president; and Rohann Wellington, GNYC English Ministries director; were on hand to cut the ribbon for the van's dedication at United Camp Meeting in Wingdale, New York, on September 15.

communities weekly. The holistic approach also provides clothing, food, as well as spiritual and psychological care.

Sung Kwon, NAD Adventist Community Services executive director, applauds the vision behind the initiative. Instead of a model where we build and

invite people to come, “this is about going to people and providing a service they need. That is so biblical. It's the missional church, a movement mindset.”

ACS piloted the van with the Delancey church in lower Manhattan and received a positive response. “You see the results just

10 minutes after. When they leave, most of them say ‘You changed my life.’ They're reminded to have hope. That's what we bring with Showers of Blessings,” Biazotto said.

To learn more about the ministry, visit gnyc.org/acs.

—Kaara Baptiste, communication director, Maranatha church

Plans Underway to Establish a Deaf Ministry in GNYC

Local Deaf members interested in establishing a DEAF ministry in the Greater New York Conference met on July 28 at the Spanish Soundview church in Bronx, New York. The group tried for more than one year to get Southern New England

Conference's DEAF (Deaf Everywhere Are Family) group to visit.

Twelve SNEC DEAF members, along with David Trexler, speaker/director for Three Angels Deaf Ministries, and his wife, Francisca, associate director, also participated in the historic planning

meeting. Manuel Rosario, GNYC's Personal Ministries director, represented the conference, and many local church members attended the meeting, as well.

The Sabbath worship service conducted in Spanish, included simultaneous English

translation and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting by Grace Ann Ashley and Jessica McGowan Smith. Following lunch the group met to begin the process of establishing a Deaf ministry in their area and the conference. “We have been working and



The Deaf group interested in establishing a Deaf ministry in Greater New York Conference pose for photo.



At the Spanish Soundview church, worship service includes Spanish, English, and American Sign Language.

praying for many years to get the other conferences in the Atlantic Union Conference to establish an official Deaf Ministry [in their areas]," said McGowan Smith.

By the end of the meeting, Francisca Trexler agreed to return to the area for two

weeks to give Bible studies to the core group of Deaf people in the Bronx. "Our hope is that this group will be the seed that starts a future Deaf Ministry (and perhaps a Deaf church) in the Greater New York Conference," McGowan Smith said.

Plans are tentative for the Greater New York Conference to establish outreach work among the Deaf community. "Please pray that God will continue to lead this ministry and that Deaf people who live in this conference area will

have the opportunity to learn that Jesus loves them," McGowan Smith said.

—Source: DEAF ministry, Southern New England Conference

To view more photos of the first meeting, visit: <https://bit.ly/2OKbr06>.

22 Baptized During Evangelistic Meetings in Belize

Four Macedonia church members, Frank Johnson, elder, and his wife, Sonia; Clive DeSouza, elder, and his wife, Jennifer, a psychologist, belong to the New York and California-based group "Building For Eternity." Their mission is to spread the gospel, especially to developing countries.

This self-sponsored group, along with four members from California, spent July in Balama, a rural village in Belize. Guy Nembhard, pastor of Mount Olivet, the host church, was delighted to host the missionaries who taught, preached, and assisted with building the baptismal pool.

Early each morning, they began with worship. Before the noonday heat, the men started to work on the pool

while the women went door to door announcing the evangelistic meetings. They invited children to attend Vacation Bible School, which offered computer classes. Certified professionals also offered to give massages. According to Frank

Johnson, the warmth and graciousness of the villagers starkly contrasted with evidence of poverty in the surrounding area.

Classes began at 3:00 p.m., when the earlier heat had abated. From Sonia Johnson's perspective, the children were enthusiastic,

on time, and quickly seated themselves in their assigned places with an air of expectancy for the day's lessons. She said they were attentive and well mannered, with eyes focused on the teachers during classes. They posed questions, all the while rais-

ing their hands, waiting to be recognized.

Jennifer DeSouza said that the children speedily mastered the computer lessons. Both teachers agreed that the children were alert during Bible lessons, and enthusiastically raised their hands to answer follow-up questions.

"In all, 22 people were baptized at the conclusion of the meetings, including three children."

At lunchtime, the teachers ate with students, and when classes resumed, the children seemed oblivious to the humid afternoon heat. The nightly sessions were well attended. Women came with infants in carriers on their backs, and several sets of parents came with preschool-age children. Jennifer DeSouza said that the probable lack of babysitters did not prohibit them from attending, and bore evidence of the hunger of the people for hearing the gospel.

In all, 22 people were baptized at the conclusion of the meetings, including three children. Clive DeSouza plans a similar trip to Africa next year.

—Communication staff, Macedonia church



Missionaries from New York State Share Messages of Hope

Young people from the New York Conference joined a group from the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) in August on a mission trip to Puerto Rico to participate in two projects: restore a home and fix the church in Yabucoa. The damage was the result of Hurricane Maria that devastated Puerto Rico in September 2017.

Walter Harris, volunteer staff who assists GNYC with disaster response, and Ariel Manzueta, GNYC Youth Ministries director coordinated all the activities that allowed missionaries the opportunity to serve God and experience a spiritual and memorable mission trip. “From our



Volunteers from churches in the Greater New York and New York conferences who participated in the mission trip to Puerto Rico pose for a group photo.

very first day, we could tell there was something different and very special about this mission trip,” said Roberto Alvarez, elder for Iglesia Adventista del

Séptimo Dia Embajadores de Cristo de Syracuse.

This mission trip was the first mission experience for some. They traveled in two vans from Humacao

to Yabucoa. One group visited and work at the Yabucoa church and the other group visited a single mother of three to help restore her home. “I traveled and worked with the team responsible for restoring the family’s home,” Alvarez said.

Harris, the foreman responsible for the project, previously visited the site to assess and coordinate the supplies needed for restoring the home. Upon arriving to the home, they noticed a blue torn FEMA tarp covering a small area of the roof with many pockets of water dripping onto the floor. Electrical wires dangled from the ceiling, the walls were in bad shape, and gallons of water cov-



Volunteers from Greater New York and New York conferences work to repair a home that was damaged by Hurricane Maria in September 2017.



Volunteers help to repair a home damaged by Hurricane Maria.

ered the floor of this three-bedroom home.

The volunteers immediately started working, climbing to the rooftop to remove the tarp and the water. Other missionaries worked on removing the water from inside the home. Even when rain started to pour down into the home while they were working, the group was determined to overcome the circumstances and persevere in faith believing that God would bless the project. "I was blown away at how our young, inexperienced missionaries adapted to the environment and allowed God to use them as instruments testifying the message of service," Alvarez said.

Each morning, the group met to have breakfast and worship. Following worship, the two teams visited the sites to begin work. The work was intense and, despite the heat, they successfully completed the two projects within the timeframe. The members of the Adventist church in Yabucoa expressed how grateful and pleased they were with the work.

The family of the restored home expressed their gratitude and shared that they were praying since the hurricane gutted their home. The mother testified that she prayed and God answered her prayer using missionaries from New York.

She did not expect help to come from so far away.

"I believe everyone in that room listening to this woman speak felt the impact of a God that can do the impossible," Alvarez said. "Traveling to Puerto Rico was exciting and the mission trip allowed us to reflect, share, and personally experience Christ in each of our lives. Not only did the experience make my faith stronger, but it reinforced my belief that united together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

—Communication department, Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día Embajadores de Cristo de Syracuse

Five Members of the Same Family Accept Christ

With joy in their hearts, Bill, Elizabeth, Billy, and Nicky Harrison, as well as Cheryl Grimes, all members of the same family, were baptized in the waters of Lake George on September 8 by Roman Beresnev, pastor of the Kingsbury church in Hudson Falls, New York. Members of the Kingsbury church supported the service held outside the church walls on a Sabbath afternoon.

Carol Grimes, member of the church said, "It warmed our hearts to be there in support of this family as they continue their walk with God. We praise God for their commitment to the Lord."

The family came to Christ, thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit and their mother, Ronda Grimes Harrison. She worked with them through her example of Christian faith and testimony. All the church had to do was to care for them and show



Newly-baptized members, from left, Billy Harrison, Nicky Harrison, Bill Harrison, Cheryl Grimes, and Elizabeth Harrison, with Roman Beresnev, pastor of the Kingsbury church, on the shores of Lake George.

themselves as friends, since the family visited the church sporadically for quite a while. After showing interest in baptism, Beresnev offered Bible studies to deepen the link to the church and its beliefs, which the family accepted with a joyful spirit.

Newly-baptized member Elizabeth Harrison, 17, said

"Cheryl and her husband, Ron, [were] watching a lot of Doug Batchelor sermons as they started to learn more and more about the Bible. Ron became much more motivated in his faith journey as his wife was learning more and more about the truth." Harrison started to show interest in the bibli-

cal message of the Adventist Church, in spite of her young age. Thanks to her grandmother's interest and passion about the Adventist message, she accepted Christ's calling in her heart.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference



Brockton Portuguese Church Acquires New Home

On July 31, the Brockton Portuguese church completed its acquisition of a new church building situated at 127 Quincy Street on the Brockton–Abington, Massachusetts, town line at a cost of \$1.2 million. The church has outgrown its current 300-seat sanctuary on Warren Avenue.

The new facility offers seating capacity for 800 on a four-acre property, which also includes ample paved parking and a former parish hall. The building originally housed the St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church until it was sold to the Living Stones Christian Center after the former merged with another Catholic parish.



Brockton Portuguese church members worship in their newly-acquired church building.

“We are delighted that the new church will allow us to grow again,” said Marcos Seifert, the church’s pastor. The Brockton Portuguese church has a membership of 301, with another 100 in attendance each week. Their present church

building was purchased 10 years ago from the Brockton Temple Haitian church. Like that congregation, Brockton Portuguese outgrew the Warren Avenue facility and was forced to hold larger services in the gymnasium.

This past March, the church members got a foretaste of the new facility by renting it for a week-long revival. The Brockton Portuguese is the oldest of seven Portuguese-language churches in the Northeastern Conference.

—Daniel Honoré, president, Northeastern Conference

Jefferson Avenue Church Serves Community Residents

The Jefferson Avenue church’s Orion Stars Pathfinders and Adventist Community Services (ACS) department partnered to provide free hot meals to members of the Rochester, New York, community.

The teams prepared a full-course meal, which included appetizers, the main course, and dessert. The joint effort, held on July 29, resulted in about 200 meals being served to parents with small children, youth, young adults, men, and women, individually and collectively, who stopped by for the free meal.

Many from the community expressed thanks and appreciation for the kind gesture on the part of the church and they took advantage of the option to dine in or take out.

“Connecting with the community in a tangible way



Jefferson Avenue church Orion Stars Pathfinders and Adventist Community Services department serve hot meals to members of the Rochester, New York, community.

is an important part of evangelism. It’s one thing to worship in the community, but it’s a witnessing tool when we reach out like this,” said Regina Scott, the church’s ACS leader and Rodrick Marston, the Pathfinder leader. “We’re here for the

purpose of serving our community. God will bless us as we bless others.”

Hanson Drysdale Jr., the church’s pastor, and his wife, Andrea, greeted attendees as they made their way into the building. Additional hot meals were served in the

month of September and the church plans to do it again in November, followed by a Christmas basket distribution in December.

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

Former Presbyterian Pastor and Wife Baptized

The Taunton Portuguese church, in Taunton, Massachusetts, baptized Ali Sleiman and his wife, Mariluce, on June 30, after an extensive period of thoughtful and in-depth investigation of the Bible. Ali Sleiman is a former pastor of the Presbyterian Church and was a medical doctor in Brazil. Mariluce Sleiman, whose father was a Methodist pastor throughout his life, is thrilled with the discovery of the new truths in the Bible unveiled to her.

It all began when both of them, on their unquenchable thirst for the truth, dove deep into the Word of God and were struck by the truth

of the seventh-day Sabbath. Guided by the Holy Spirit and with the support of Marcos Seifert, the church's pastor, they underwent a thorough study of the Bible and the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and now are not only baptized, but also engaged in sharing the three angels' messages with their former members, family, and friends.

Rodrigo Silva, a professor at São Paulo Adventist University in São Paulo, Brazil, whom they admire most, surprised them with his presence in the baptismal pool.

—Communication department,
Taunton Portuguese church



In the baptistry at the Taunton Portuguese church are Rodrigo Silva, a professor at São Paulo Adventist University, left; Marcos Seifert, the church's pastor, second from right; and baptismal candidates Ali and Mariluce Sleiman.

All Hands on Deck for Omega Church's Community Outreach

Omega church in New Haven, Connecticut, conducted an outreach program for the surrounding community on August 26. The "Back-to-School Community Barbecue and Backpack Giveaway" event was an "all hands on deck" effort, with everyone doing their part to help make it a success.

The event featured health screenings and healthy-meal samplings presented by the church's Health Ministries department; a bounce house for the children, along with other treats, as well as a backpack and school supplies giveaway presented by the Adventist Youth Ministries department. The Family Ministries department shared information about available social ser-



Omega church members serve the community by sponsoring a back-to-school community barbecue, as well as a backpack giveaway.

vices in the area, as well as handouts with help for different issues with which families may be dealing. In addition, the Adventist Community Services department distributed food and clothing; and the Hospitality department served food and beverages.

The church gave away more than 100 backpacks, along with other school supplies to the children in the community. Members in the community also received 239 articles of clothes and shoes, along with bags of food. About 30 informational handouts

and pieces of religious literature were distributed and 20 health screenings were completed.

It was a blessing to see church and community members talking, praying, laughing, and just having fun together. Two members of the community, along with their family, attended the Adventist Youth Ministries service held outside the following Sabbath. They shared their testimonies of what God had done for them.

Showing the love of Jesus to those around us, meeting their physical, as well as spiritual needs, is what being His hands and feet is really about.

—Sherene St. Juste, communication director, Omega church

NNEC's International Young Adult Retreat Experienced Through Seasoned Eyes

“Welcome Home” was the theme that drew many to the annual International Young Adult Retreat at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine. Beginning at noon on Friday, about 200 hundred young adults arrived from all over New England, New York, and even Canada.

The homecoming theme focused on John 14:1-6 and the welcoming love of Jesus, who has gone to prepare a place for every young adult. The thought that Jesus wants nothing more than for each of us to be at home with Him where He is, resonated with the attendees.

At the open mic on Friday evening, one talented young adult, feeling welcomed home, was so moved that, for the first time in seven months, she picked up a guitar to sing to God's praise. Her testimony touched everyone. Encouraged by her actions, another young adult also found the heart and voice to once again bless her friends through testimony and song. They both, along with many others, sang again during the Saturday-evening open mic.



Young adults from across the Atlantic Union and eastern Canada pose for a photo at the International Young Adult Retreat at Camp Lawroweld.

Young adults are looking for real answers from God's Word that meet their spiritual needs. How do they live by godly principles in an ungodly world? This was demonstrated in a remarkable way by the attendance at a 7:00 a.m. Bible study, where a large crowd gathered with their Bibles, notebooks, and pens to receive His Word.

Later that Sabbath morning, David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, led a study on forgiveness. Many wanted to understand the balance between forgive-

ness and appropriate boundaries, as they are dealing with real issues about forgiveness in their families and relationships.

They learned that forgiveness is not a blank slate, but that it replaces anger and bitterness with appropriate boundaries within God's love for everyone. James Black, North American Division Prayer Ministries director, also touched on the power of forgiveness and reconciliation in his personal life. Forgiveness was a powerful theme that reverberated through the Sabbath hours.

Mark Tamaleaa, Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries director, introduced the young adults to the “You and Jesus” personal retreat with an invitation to spend one hour one-on-one with Jesus, His Word, and personal prayer. People scattered over the camp, each individually seeking to connect with Jesus. While Milton Marquez, Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries director, led the subsequent sharing time, many young adults shared powerful testimonies of forgiveness, the restoration of



Camp Lawroweld is bursting at the seams as young adults attend the young adult retreat.



The group participates in a time of praise and worship.

faith in God and the joy it brings, and of God speaking life into their lives through time spent alone with Jesus. The sight of so many young adults in communion with

God was a balm for seasoned eyes.

When it was time to part on Sunday morning, no one was in a hurry to leave. People knew they had truly

been on holy ground—they experienced being at home with Jesus and with family. A handful remained, basking in the afterglow, well into Monday, reluctant

to leave the “holy ground” they found at the 2018 International Young Adult Retreat at Camp Lawroweld.

—Arnet and Judy Mathers, pastoral team, northernmost Maine

She Searched for Truth and Found It!

A few months ago, while opening up the church on a Sabbath morning, I saw a face I didn't recognize at the front doors, which were still locked. I hurried to open the door, but by the time I got there, the young lady was walking away. I called to her, “Can I help you?” and she turned and with a smile said, “I just wanted to come to Sabbath School.” I told her to come right in!

She told me her name was Sandy, and I said, “Great to meet you, I am Pastor Donna.” She began asking me questions about the church. She seemed to be pleased with the answers she got. She told me that she had been convicted about the Bible Sabbath and was looking for a church that kept the Sabbath. She found our website, and saw that we kept the Sabbath. She looked at the address and recognized it as very near to where she used to live, so she knew where it was. That was how she came to check it out that Sabbath morning.

She was very involved with Sabbath School that morning. She looked up the texts and volunteered to read them for the class. She answered questions. She asked questions. Then she stayed for church and we visited some more after church.

The next week she came back. This time she was

really excited. She said she felt that if she wanted to find truth she needed to go to Holland, so she began looking online for tickets to Amsterdam. She even talked to her friends about going to Amsterdam with her, because she really wanted to find truth. She didn't know how she would find truth, but if God was leading her to go to Holland to find truth she would do that. Then she looked at the business card I gave her and noticed my name—Pastor Donna Holland. Then she got it! I was Holland! She didn't have to go to Amsterdam after all!

Sandy started Bible studies right away and really enjoyed them. It was all making sense. A few weeks later she told me that she was about to turn 20, and she was thinking of being baptized on her birthday, since her birthday came on Sabbath this year. She really wanted to celebrate what God was doing in her life. I suggested that we finish the studies before she was baptized, but that we could still do something to celebrate her growing relationship with God. I suggested we do an interview up front and tell everyone about how she came to this church and how God led all the way. She readily agreed, and she shared her exciting story with the church.

Sandy continues to be



Donna Holland, White Memorial church pastor, right, is studying with Sandy Bull in preparation for baptism.

like a sponge to water in the Bible studies we are doing together, and I rejoice that God has led this precious young lady to be a blessing to me and to the entire congregation of the White Memorial church in Portland, Maine. Sandy Bull has joined a praise team at the church and is planning to be baptized soon.

—Donna Holland, pastor, White Memorial church

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SNEC Holds First Weekend Men's Retreat

More than 54 men converged on Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, for a weekend men's ministries retreat, September 14-16. According to Paul Paradise, Southern New England Conference Men's Ministries director, this was the first weekend retreat specifically for men ever held by the conference.

Presenters at the retreat included David Dennis, Southern New England Conference (SNEC) president; John Amoah, SNEC ministerial director; Tom Murray, Planned Giving, Trust Services, and Stewardship

director; David Bracetti, pastor of the Hudson church in Hudson, Massachusetts; and the ReMix group from Clinton, Massachusetts.

men's ministries leaders. Topics included forgiveness and learning how to develop and maintain strong relationship bonds.

to "galvanize men in Christ for God, family, church, and community," he hopes these retreats will become an annual event.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

"According to Paul Paradise, Southern New England Conference Men's Ministries director, this was the first weekend retreat specifically for men ever held by the conference."

The theme for the weekend was "Ignite the Fire." Attendees also participated in interactive discussions and a panel discussion with

Paradise is pleased with how the event was supported and received by the attendees. With the mission of the department



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Three Baptized During Meetings at Warwick Church

That the ransomed of all ages will see Jesus face to face in eternity is a thrilling prospect that electrified Hector Quiñones, pastor of the Warwick church, as he delivered a two-week series of prophecy seminars to eager audiences averaging 40-50 people. “The thought of seeing Jesus’ face, of seeing Him as He is, leaves me trembling with joy,” Quiñones said.

Three people were baptized in September during the course of the meetings that were live-streamed on Facebook to as far away as Saudi Arabia. More people are in the queue for that New Testament ordinance as the Holy Spirit’s appeals to them brings conviction.

In the watery grave, Randall Lister and Cyril Smith, Jr., recommitted their lives to Christ, and Heather Raynor

accepted the Advent message for the first time.

Almost every night, Elaine Quiñones, the pastor’s wife, shared information about food, exercise, water, dietary recommendations, and other health facts to illustrate God’s care for the physical needs of His creatures.

Quiñones held his audience in a spiritual embrace as the Lord gave him utterance and made the Bible’s teachings come alive. After each sermon, the pastor mingled with audience members, ensuring their understanding of the subject of that evening’s discourse and encouraging their faith in God.

The topics revolved around end-time events centered on a one-world government led by the U.S. and the Vatican. Using Bible evidence, the speaker debunked the heresies



Ricardo Clarke

Hector Quiñones, pastor of the Warwick church, presents a prophecy seminar during a two-week series of meetings.

of the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness.

“These two are the big ones of the lies on which the devil brings the one-world government into being,” Quiñones said.

—Coggie Gibbons, communication director, Warwick church

Warwick Church Hosts One-day Seminar

Ancient records and the Old Testament accounts of Moses and Daniel were parts of a one-day, five-part crash course on the biblical teachings of God’s sanctuary and judgment, given by two professors from Andrews University on the last Sabbath of September.

Presenting “Through the Veil,” Roy Gane, professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages, and his wife, Connie, associate professor of Archaeology and Old Testament and the director of the Institute of Archaeology, spoke to small audiences of 20-30 people at the Warwick church about the significance of Moses as the architect of the nation of ancient Israel, the instructions for holy living, and the sanctuary and the cost of mercy, among other topics.

“What’s going on at the bottom of the biblical record is God speaking to us,” said Roy Gane. The presenters explained the importance of Moses as God’s builder to oversee the construction of the earthly sanctuary of the



Connie and Roy Gane, professors at Andrews University, conducted a one-day course at Warwick church on the biblical teachings of God’s sanctuary judgment.

book of Exodus—patterned after the one in heaven—and as His secretary to record by hand all of the many ceremonial and related laws governing Hebrew life under heaven’s rule, the spirit of which lives on in the New Testament.

Connie Gane also displayed a small collection of replica pieces of archaeological finds as a show-and-tell to illustrate facets of the secular record to support the biblical one. The Bible’s thesis

is God is love, noted Roy Gane. “That’s the whole Bible. Without love, God’s beautiful universe would fall apart.”

The cost of God’s love for and mercy to sinners, the theologian observed, was the death of His Son, Jesus, who paid the price demanded by justice in order to extend that mercy. “Justice and mercy are the two sides of love,” he explained.

The series concluded with an abbreviated seven-step process of arriving at the year 1844 as the starting point of the judgment of God’s people in heaven on which the Old Testament’s annual Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) of Leviticus 23 was modeled.

Drawing the parallel to the heavenly process of judgment, Roy Gane summarized, “Atonement is the forgiveness of sin and the vindication of the judge on the Day of Atonement for having forgiven the sinner.”

—Coggie Gibbons, communication director, Warwick church

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December 2018	7	14	21	28
Bangor, ME	3:54	3:54	3:57	4:02
Portland, ME	4:03	4:04	4:07	4:12
Boston, MA	4:11	4:12	4:15	4:19
South Lancaster, MA	4:13	4:14	4:17	4:21
Pittsfield, MA	4:19	4:20	4:23	4:28
Hartford, CT	4:19	4:20	4:23	4:28
Providence, RI	4:14	4:15	4:18	4:22
New York, NY	4:28	4:29	4:32	4:36
Albany, NY	4:19	4:20	4:23	4:28
Utica, NY	4:25	4:26	4:29	4:34
Syracuse, NY	4:29	4:30	4:33	4:37
Rochester, NY	4:35	4:35	4:38	4:43
Buffalo, NY	4:40	4:41	4:44	4:49
Keene, NH	4:15	4:15	4:18	4:22
Manchester, NH	4:11	4:12	4:14	4:19
Portsmouth, NH	4:08	4:09	4:11	4:15
Brattleboro, VT	4:16	4:17	4:19	4:23
Burlington, VT	4:13	4:14	4:16	4:20
Rutland, VT	4:15	4:16	4:18	4:22
Hamilton, Bda	5:13	5:14	5:17	5:21

Eastern Standard Time

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NORTHEASTERN

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Professor of Homiletics
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MUSICAL GUESTS



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Heather Thompson-Day
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