

THE ATLANTIC UNION

DECEMBER 2018

GLEANNER

Lessons from the Life of Peter

Three Ways to be Spiritually Recharged and Revitalized



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inside **DECEMBER** 2018

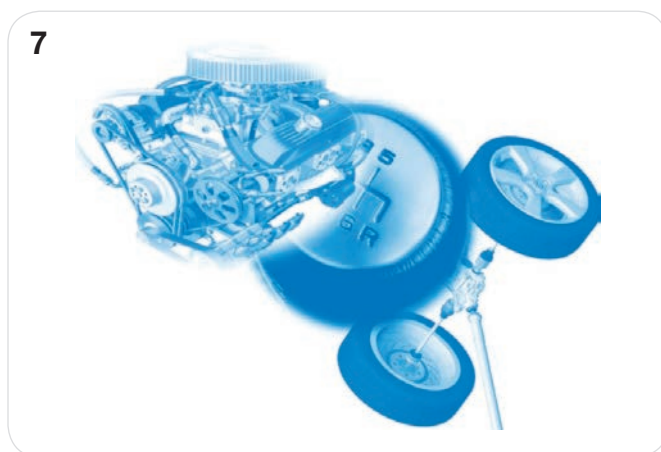


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Make a **Difference**

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”—Ecclesiastes 9:10, NKJV

Just when I thought that residents of California were finally getting a break from all the wildfires, I learned of new ones leaving death and destruction in their path. This year alone, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the National Interagency Fire Center, as of November 11, a total of 7,579 fires have burned an area of 1,667,855 acres, causing more than \$2.975 billion in damages (<https://bit.ly/2zS1Lrd>). By the time you read this article, these statistics will be outdated.

The wildfires are just one of many natural disasters and other tragedies that have occurred around the world, causing injuries, loss of life, and destruction of property. “The nations are in unrest. Times of perplexity are upon us. The waves of the sea are roaring; men’s hearts are failing them for fear and for expectation of those things that are coming upon the earth; but those who believe on the Son of God will hear His voice amid the storm, saying, ‘It is I; be not afraid.’ . . . Amid the tumult of excitement with confusion in every place, there is a work to be done in the world”—EVANGELISM, p. 18.

The tendency is for some people to “put their own spin” on what is happening and why. However, we should not be overwhelmed by fear or become distracted by challenges, but remember the words of Jesus, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe

all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”—Matthew 28:19, 20, NKJV.

During this holiday season, we have an opportunity to make a difference. Yes, we need to pray and we must pray, but as we celebrate the love of Christ with our families, friends, and church families, it is important to remember that there are many who are in need of assistance. Following Christ’s example, we should find ways to touch as many lives as possible, whether it is through making donations or volunteering.

The work which God has called us to do is not yet done, and God is enabling workers to make a difference. “The Lord will raise up men [and women], and place his Spirit upon them, and prepare them for the work which must be done. He himself, the God of truth, will qualify them to bear a fresh, living testimony for him. They will be witnesses for God. They will not spring up from their own prompting; they will be constrained by the Spirit of God to volunteer to advocate truth. God will sustain them. He sees what is needed, and year by year he arranges for his plan of operation. . . . God will work in and through them”—THE REVIEW AND HERALD, May 25, 1897, par. 11.

Blessings to you and your family during the holiday season. Remember, whenever and wherever possible, make a difference for someone in need. Every little bit helps! ☺

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



“The work which God has called us to do is not yet done, and God is enabling workers to make a difference.”





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Lessons from the **Life of Peter**

Three Ways to be Spiritually Recharged and Revitalized

By Debra Banks Cuadro

One of my favorite people in the Bible is Peter. His story shows an honest zeal for God and excitement in just being with Jesus. But it also shows Peter's failure at truly understanding his spiritual lack. It was this failure that proved to be both his downfall and his salvation.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus said to Peter, "I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren"—Luke 22:32, NKJV. It was in this conversation that Peter emphatically exclaimed that he was ready to go to prison and even die for Christ.

To this impulsive declaration, Jesus replied the sad, prophetic words, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me" (verse 34).

In *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, Ellen White wrote about Peter: "He was always ready to correct others, and to express his mind, before he had a clear comprehension of himself or of what he had to say" (p. 812). After his conversion, he was very different. He was still Peter, "but the grace of Christ regulated his zeal. He was no longer impetuous, self-confident, and self-exalted, but calm, self-possessed and

teachable. He could then feed the lambs as well as the sheep of Christ's flock" (ibid).

This same conversion should be our experience! The year is quickly wrapping up—and 2019 is bright with promise. A new year is coming with new responsibilities, more people to help, more people to reach for Jesus. But notice His words to Peter, "Strengthen your brethren" *after* "you have returned to Me." Many of us do it the other way around.

We are busy—actively serving the church, ministering in the community, giving Bible studies, and feeding the

hungry. In our zeal and excitement of working for Christ—being His hands and feet—have we become dependent on ourselves? Do we really love Jesus as much as we thought we did? Or worse, do we even know Jesus at all?

As we write the final pages to this chapter of our life in 2018, let's do a spiritual diagnostic check. Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus gave Peter three opportunities to declare his love for Him. Let's discover three lessons from Peter's experience to revitalize our spiritual life and prepare us to serve the Lord with greater power in 2019.

1. Crucify self.

It was Peter's confidence in *his* strength, *his* abilities, and *his* devotion to Christ, which, ultimately, led to his downfall. Christ told His disciples, "If any one desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"—Matthew 16:24.

Andrew Murray, a South African writer, teacher, and pastor in the 1800s preached extensively about the "self-life" that blocks us from God. "Deliverance from [self] is what we need. Peter knew it not, and therefore it was that in his self-confidence he went forth and denied his Lord. . . . Self must be ignored, and its every claim rejected. That is the root of true discipleship.

"Peter, before he denied Christ, had cast out devils and had healed the sick. And there are some who have been serving God with success . . . and yet, just like Peter, the flesh has power, and the flesh has room. . . . It is just on account of there being so much of that self-life in us that the power of God cannot work in us as mightily as God is willing that it should work. . . . God is longing to double His blessing, to give tenfold blessing to us[,] but there is something

hindering Him, and something is a proof of nothing but the self-life"—ABSOLUTE SURRENDER, pp. 52, 56.

2. Surrender to Christ.

We must surrender our minds (Romans 12:1, 2; Philippians 2:5; Proverbs 23:7), our bodies (Ephesians 4:22, 23; 1 Corinthians 3:16), and our desires, or wills to God.

Total surrender, and nothing less, is what prepared Peter to receive the blessing of Christ to move forward in his ministry. Surrender is something that God wants from us and will work *in us* to surrender to Him. Ellen White wrote, "In surrendering the will, the

*"Trust your all to
God, give everything
to Him and He will
work things out in you
according to His will."*

root of the matter is reached. . . . Those who have a sanctified will, that is in unison with the will of Christ, will day by day have their wills bound to the will of Christ, which will act in blessing others and react upon themselves with divine power"—SIGNS OF THE TIMES, October 29, 1894.

God knows our weaknesses and hindrances, but even these must be surrendered to Him. Trust your all to God, give everything to Him, and He will work in you according to His will.

3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He promised to send the disciples

"another Helper, that He may abide with [them] forever—the Spirit of truth" who will dwell with them and be in them (John 14:16, 17). After His ascension, "they all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication," waiting for the promised Holy Spirit who would give them power (Acts 1:14, 8). It was this filling of the Holy Spirit that gave Peter the power he needed to feed the sheep as Jesus directed him to do.

Leroy Froom in *THE COMING OF THE COMFORTER* wrote, "We understand other truths, but have not laid hold of this one: that the one supreme fact and force and need in the world today is the Holy Spirit, not merely in the world or church in general, but in the individual life" (p. 146).

It was in receiving the Holy Spirit that Peter's love for Christ deepened and his preparation for ministry was complete. "He had loved [Jesus] as a man, as a heaven-sent teacher; he now loved Him as God. He had been learning the lesson that to him Christ was all in all. Now he was prepared to share in his Lord's mission of sacrifice"—*THE DESIRE OF AGES*, p. 815.

It is only after Peter died to self and gave his all to Christ that the Holy Spirit could then fill him. This renewed his relationship with Jesus and fine-tuned his abilities and gifts to spread the gospel. We must do the same.

As the countdown to 2019 nears, let us go into the new year spiritually revitalized, recharged, and re-committed to do the work God has committed to our hand in *His* power, *His* strength, and with *His* love flowing in us and through us. ☺

Debra Banks Cuadro is the Atlantic Union Conference assistant communication director.



Soul-Saving Service

By Ellen G. White

We are living in a most solemn time. Important responsibilities are resting upon us. New fields are being opened for our labor, and the Macedonian cry is coming from every direction, "Come over . . . and help us." Some beg for even a day of labor with them, if they can have no more. Angels of God are preparing ears to hear, and hearts to receive the message of warning. And in our very midst honest souls are living who have never yet heard the reasons of our faith. People are perishing for want of knowledge. Not one-hundredth part is being done that might be done to give the third angel's message to the world. There are those who will be responsible for the souls who have never heard the truth. Many excuse themselves by giving trivial reasons for not engaging in the work they might do if they were consecrated to God. They have wrapped their

talents in a napkin and buried them in the earth.

The work of saving souls is sacred and all-important. The humble, efficient worker, who obediently responds to the call of God in this direction, may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To feel so great and holy a responsibility is of itself elevating to the human character. The influence upon one's own life, as well as upon the lives of others, is incalculable. The highest mental qualities are called into action, and their continued exercise strengthens and purifies mind and heart.

It is wonderful how strong a weak man may become through faith in the power of God, how decided his efforts, how prolific of great results. And the timid woman, shrinking and self-distrustful, is transformed into a courageous missionary, who valiantly wields the sword of truth. The hesitat-

ing and irresolute become firm and decided. Taking in the great fact that he is called by the Redeemer of the world to work with him for the salvation of man, the believer dedicates his life to this work. His nature becomes exalted; the mission of Christ opens before him with new importance and glory, and with deep humility he recognizes in himself a colaborer with the Saviour. No higher office is given to man. No joy can equal the assurance of being an instrument in the hands of God for the saving of souls. It is a grand thing to look back upon an experience of labor all marked with glorious results; to see precious souls progressing in the light through your efforts; to feel that God has worked with and through you in the harvest field of the world.

—Excerpt by Ellen White, author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, *REVIEW AND HERALD*, October 22, 1914; reprinted with permission.



Youth Ministry Supplement

Youth Ministry Vehicle, Part 2

Fuel. Every car has the capacity to store and utilize fuel as needed for efficient function. Correspondingly, God's youth leaders are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to walk and talk with Him, so that they can ever flow out to others. They embrace the fact that it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"—Zechariah 4:6.

Unlike some car drivers, they do not empty their tanks, and then remember to refill; rather, they strive to minister with tanks that are continuously refilled through the spiritual disciplines of Bible study, witnessing, and prayer. Moment by moment, the request is "Jesus come, and fill me now."

Transmission. Continuing the ideas expressed in Part I of this article (see October 2018 GLEANER, p. 9), many would say that the automatic transmission found in most of today's vehicles was a positive change in the automobile industry from the manual transmissions of old. As technology moves forward, the continuously variable transmission (CVT) is quickly moving across the car manufacturing industry.

I submit that youth ministries today has followed the automobile transmission paradigm shift. Unlike the traditional automatic transmission we are familiar with, the CVT is gearless, and transitions without the predictable sounds of changing gears. In view of the fact that it is "continuously variable," CVT is always ready for whatever conditions the drive-wheel will encounter, including varying terrains and speed changes.

Today's ministry needs reside among a population that is fast-paced, quick turn-over-oriented, impatient, and individualistic, yet service oriented. Yes, youth leaders need to be flexible; yes, they need to be adaptable; however, like the silent changes seen with CVTs, they are called to be observant and diligent in making changes to meet this generation's needs—sometimes, without making a sound. There are times when changes need to be experienced, and not just discussed. For example, many "shifts" are often needed

in the very mindset of leaders. Thus, they do not need to be announced, or heard. Instead, like the workings of the CVT, very quietly and unrecognizably, shifts are made to adapt, adjust, and situationally meet needs.

Stop Gracefully. Every car stops. How is it that a car can come to a full stop, yet the engine keeps running? How is it that youth leaders can stop serving—due to illness, resignation, transition, and the youth and young adult ministries keep driving forward? Jesus is the Engine of youth ministry. Youth leaders and youth often function as His transmission and drive-wheel systems, respectively, yet, Jesus remains the direct Power Source at every level of youth ministry.

"None is to think that all will cease because they are no longer serving. Be prepared to stop gracefully, and give way to others whom Jesus calls."

Youth leaders are not to think that they are requisite to the success of the ministry. None is to think that all will cease because they are no longer serving. Be prepared to stop gracefully, and give way to others whom Jesus calls.

Today's youth leaders, who positively impact youth and young adults, recognize that they need to be Holy Spirit-led, situational in their practices, ready to avoid "one-size-fits-all" mindsets or methods, and ready to step aside so that mentees can lead.

May God's anointed youth ministry vehicle continue to travel forward, and lead many youth and young adults to God's kingdom. ①



David McKenzie is the director for Youth, Young Adult, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.



Northern New England Constituency Session — **A Businesslike Success**

By Scott Christiansen

Sometimes, a routine and unsurprising governance process is a good thing. At least, that was the view recently at the Northern New England Conference.

A conference is nothing more than a sisterhood of churches in a region providing structure and leadership for their joint operations. Those churches choose their joint leadership, as well as fine-tune the documents that describe the functioning of their joint efforts, and, in this case, this appointing and fine-tuning is done every five years, based on the vote of the delegates, at something called a constituency session.

The Northern New England Conference—encompassing the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine—recently held its constituency meeting in the gymnasium of Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine. Churches from across the region sent delegates (with the number of delegates based on the membership of the church) to attend the session. Delegates-at-large from conference and union leadership also attended. In all, 393 delegates, deeply informed on the issues at hand, converged at the same place at the same time organized for the purpose of discussing and voting.



Representatives from the Caribou Company receive a plaque from Ted Huskins, Northern New England Conference executive secretary, as he welcomes them into the sisterhood of churches.

Preparations for the session began months before the event, with committees, including the Articles and Bylaws Committee, working to identify fine-tunings to the documents that govern the sisterhood of churches. Logistics preparation also began many months in advance, with Ted Huskins, the conference's executive secretary, and his team, quarterbacking the extensive preparations. They worked with each church to make sure the delegate-election process went smoothly and that delegates had all necessary background materials.

Perhaps because of the extensive and collaborative preparation process, there were few real surprises on the day of the constituency session. Everyone in attendance knew what officers and directors were put forward by the nominating committee (a committee that itself was made up of a cross-section representing the sisterhood of churches). Everyone knew what changes the Articles and Bylaws Committee had suggested. And everyone knew what other recommendations were on the agenda. That left just two unknowns: the content of the officers' reports and motions that could be made by any delegate in attendance.

Individual delegates to the constituency session have a sacred obligation to be informed, pray, and vote their conscience on the critical items that will shape the direction of the conference over the next five years. It is far from a perfect system or process, but it does give delegates the right to question and share their feelings on important agenda



Delegates from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, along with other guests, meet in the gymnasium of Pine Tree Academy for the Northern New England Conference 38th regular constituency session.



items. For instance, when the nominating committee presents its report, any individual delegate can request to refer the report back to the nominating committee, which then immediately convenes to hear concerns and receive questions pertinent to any leader on the slate (personnel matters are not discussed in open session, only in the nominating committee). The referral back to the nominating committee almost always occurs, and such was the case at NNEC's meeting, resulting in hours of passionate discussion pertaining mostly to one decision made by the nominating committee. After hearing concerns, the nominating committee eventually returned with its nominations unchanged.

No other significant surprise motions from delegates arose, meaning if there were any surprises at all, they would come during the reports from the officers. And there were surprises—good surprises. Bob Cundiff, the conference's president, compared the current meeting to the previous constituency session in 2014. At that time, troubles abounded: the conference, mired in budget woes, led the North American Division in tithe loss. Conference schools, also mired in budget woes, were shrinking or closing. Recruiting staff to fill open positions in the floundering conference was incredibly difficult.

In the intervening four years, faithful giving by members reasserted itself, and in 2018, the conference was seventh

in the North American Division on a tithe-per-capita basis. Conference schools have stabilized and are increasingly becoming examples of excellence. And the understanding, established among job seekers, is that the sisterhood of churches in Northern New England is a mission-driven, supportive place to work.

The picture of a resurgent and focused conference became even clearer when Huskins gave a report outlining an aggressive and unique effort to plant over 20 churches using young tent-making missionaries as planters. The sisterhood of churches, he showed, is returning to its mission of vigorously and innovatively proclaiming the gospel.

A presentation by Daniel Battin, the conference's treasurer, rounded out the good news, showing growth in the worthy student fund and significant recovery of working capital.

All in all, it was a fairly quiet, well-organized, business-like meeting that advanced the Lord's work. And for the quiet, well-organized, business-like people of Northern New England, that's precisely what they wanted. ☺

Scott Christiansen is the Northern New England Conference communication director.



The Northern New England Conference administrators and directors elected to serve the conference for the next five years are, back row, from left, Scott Christiansen, evangelism; Trevor Schlisner, superintendent of schools, and his wife, Amanda; Daniel Battin, treasurer, and his wife, Alessandra; Bob Cundiff, president, and his wife, Tanique; Ted Huskins, executive secretary, and his wife, Cynthia; Timothy Raymond, youth ministries, and his wife, Melanie; and Jennifer Hernandez, front row right, trust services, and her husband, Wilbert.

Diabetes Undone: A Program of Success

With over 13 percent of Bermudians affected by diabetes and another 13 percent being prediabetic, the Somerset Diabetes Program, “Diabetes Undone,” under the direction of Stanley James, M.D., of Premier Health & Wellness Centre, was conducted over four weeks at Somerset church in Somerset, Bermuda, between September and October.

A program for the mind and body, “Diabetes Undone” is a course consisting of 40 video presentations by Wes Youngberg, DrPH, clinical nutritionist and lifestyle medicine specialist, who says that “although diabetes is an epidemic that is increasing at an alarming rate, there is hope for change.”

The course offers lifestyle strategies designed to reverse diabetes and reclaim good health, and it encourages participants to make the most effective use of nutrition, to address the underlying causes of high blood sugars, and to participate in regular exercise.

“Diabetes Undone” promotes a fiber-rich, plant-based diet. Consisting of non-starchy vegetables, legumes, plant protein, whole grains, whole food fat and fresh fruit, foods high in fiber help to control blood sugar and are recommended for every aspect of good health.

Twenty-four people participated in the course; 17 were from the community. Participants described “Diabetes Undone” as enriching, enjoyable, extremely helpful, and far exceeding their expectations.



Participants and facilitators in the Somerset Diabetes Program

Sandra Smith, whose sister invited her to the seminar, praised the course as being an excellent learning experience and is grateful to God, for directing her to the program. As a result of taking the course, her blood sugar dropped, and she is eating healthier and enjoying what she eats.

Prayer warrior, Marie Bremar, gives glory to God for what she learned from the program and prays that others will come, and with God’s help, begin a journey to wellness. She has lost eight pounds.

Borderline diabetic for two or three years, Vorhees Lightbourne said he had the most wonderful time in the program. His doctor previously encouraged him to change his diet, but he paid no attention to the advice. As a result, he saw his medication increase due to non-compliance. When his niece invited him to attend the program, he said it was not difficult for him to get back to where he should be.

Taxi driver Clyde Bassett, who described himself as a health nut, was surprised to know that he had diabetes.

Because of long periods without eating, his blood sugars were spiking. After being on medication for three or four years, he weaned himself off the medicines. However, his sedentary lifestyle caused his blood pressure to rise. He also developed thyroid and heart problems, tingling in the tips of his fingers, and other problems. He was in crisis.

Bassett was referred to Dr. James at the Medical Clinic at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, and he received a complete physical workup, an adjusted medication regimen, and was closely monitored. When he saw the notice of “Diabetes Undone” posted in his neighborhood, he delayed registering. When he did make the call, he discovered the course was full. He attended anyhow, and later invited his cousin to join him. He has incorporated exercise into his regimen after he eats and says exercise has alleviated his feeling of sluggishness.

As a result of the program, participants discovered that good health is a journey, and healthy choices are possible. Many experienced weight

loss, developed more energy, and saw a decrease in blood sugar levels and hemoglobin A1C. Participants appreciated the discussions, the fellowship, the workbook reflections, and learning about the importance of balanced meals and exercise.

Graduation was held on October 27. Participants, the majority from the community, attended the worship service and later had lunch in the fellowship hall.

Somerset church members give God the glory for the success of “Diabetes Undone” and look forward to impacting their community with other health initiatives.

Special thanks to Stanley James; Ashley Smith, Pharm.D.; Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president; Natalie Bean, coordinator; Michael Simmons, media; Angela and Estrick Ferguson, Gaylia Landry, Rozi Lightbourne-Mingo, Debbie Stirling-Smith, Pharm.D., Riziya Swan, and Flora Trott, coaches; and Morton and Chirlene Williams and Willet Robinson, chefs.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Single Adults “Keep It Real” at International Retreat

More than 150 young adults and older adults came together for the first International Singles Congress in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, September 27-30. The theme of the three-day event, hosted at the Now Larimar Resort, was “Keeping it Real.”

The Greater New York Conference’s (GNYC) Family Ministries and Youth Ministries departments organized the retreat, which provided an opportunity for single adults to enjoy fellowship, recreation, worship, and seminars. Attendees came from the Dominican Republic, France, Italy, and several states in the U.S., including New York, Florida, and California.

Throughout the weekend, main speaker Hyveth Williams, professor at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan,

exhorted singles to stay connected to God and rooted in His love. She encouraged them to follow the example of Blind Bartimaeus in the Gospels and call out to God for their every need. “Your current situation is not a permanent conclusion,” she said.

The seminars, in English and Spanish, included: “The Power of Singleness” (Andres Reyes, a pastor from the Dominican Republic); Status Not Shame (Everette Samuel, GNYC Singles Ministries coordinator); “Your Brain & Sex” (Ariel Manzueta, GNYC Youth Ministries director); “Portraits of Illusions and Reality” (Hyveth Williams); “Friendship, Dating, and More” (Alanzo Smith, GNYC executive secretary); and “The Financial World of the Single Adult” (Ysaias Javier, GNYC treasurer).

Participants took part in various activities within and



Participants take a break between seminars at the International Singles Congress in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

outside the resort, including entertainment, friendship dinners, and a dune buggy tour.

Some of the takeaways from the weekend were the importance of knowing your God-given purpose and enjoying your single season; learning what to look for in a mature and caring rela-

tionship; and the need to practice self-control.

Attendees left encouraged, having formed new friendships and making plans to attend the next singles congress in New York.

—Kaara Baptiste, Youth Ministries department, Greater New York Conference

Emmanuel Church Ordains Nine

Emmanuel church in Bronx, New York, made history on October 13 when they ordained nine members: two female elders, three deacons, and four

deaconesses. This is the second time in seven years that the church ordained deaconesses and female elders. Included among the ordinands were two youth.

Ordained were elders Marjorie Mendes-Brown and Karen Dennis; deaconesses Deslyn Richardson, Kimesha Wynter, Valrica Gordon, and Cheddie Morris; deacons Taj Dyer, Glenville Harvey, and Neville Brown.

Neil Turner, then pastor, gave the charge and emphasized that the seriousness of their responsibilities is anchored in Christ Jesus. Prior to the charge, he presented a sermon titled “Overcoming Your Comfort,” in which he shared two main reasons for challenges in our lives. He stated that difficulties and trials test the foundation of our beliefs,

difficulties teach us that we are not in charge, and that God uses difficulties to get our attention. According to Turner, not every trial means you are broken; it means you’re taken from one stage to another.

The newly-ordained persons each received a Certificate of Ordination. The youth choir, under the direction of Ulrica Sheridan, sang the hymn, “There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood.” The congregation renewed their commitment during the closing song, “Baptize Us Anew.”

—Marcia Hylton, clerk, Emmanuel church



The pastor, elders, head deacon, and head deaconess stand with the newly-ordained persons and their spouses.



Church Members Pay for Community Residents' Gas

Members of the Fulton church held a mini compassion event for the community on October 28 at the Re-Fuel gas station in Volney, New York. For two hours, from noon to 2:00 p.m. the church paid 50 cents per gallon toward customers' purchases of gasoline and diesel fuel. It was the church and the gas station's first time doing this, and neither knew how the gesture would be received.

Around 11:45 a.m., the first vehicles waited to fill up, and by noon about eight others were ready to go. The response was so good that the station ran out of regular gas after the first hour and a half, after selling more than 900 gallons of gas.

Some members were leery of the cost of this

outreach, but as they were able to connect with people, share who they were, and why they were doing this (to show God's love in action), the benefits proved to far outweigh any costs. Community members who came through were

“Community members who came through were surprised that the group of volunteers were not asking for anything, but just wanting to give back.”

surprised that the group of volunteers were not asking for anything, but just wanting to give back.

As they filled people's tanks, members gave them a connection card that read “Showing God's Love in

Action” in bold print and had the church's name and address in a smaller font below. The conversations, however, generally led to spiritual things, such as people reminiscing about having attended church in the past, asking about

Bible studies, and inquiring about when church services are held.

One person commented that it was nice for “the church” to do something like this for the community, and another actually gave

money to buy hot drinks for the volunteers. God blessed the activity, allowing it to close a little early, because the station had run out of regular gas. One woman came in afterwards for premium gas, but by that time the prices had already reverted to regular rates. However, the money that was donated for hot drinks for the volunteers was used to pay for her fuel.

The church is planning to hold more events like this in the future, in an effort to get the members in that district out of their comfort zones to bless others and be blessed themselves.

—John Livergood, pastor, Fulton church

Fulton Church Hosts Addiction Recovery Weekend

Fulton church held a Labor Day weekend retreat, with speaker Juliet Van Heerden, who advocates for the great need of addiction recovery among Adventists and other Christians. She shared her experience of trying to live with her husband, who was a cocaine addict and deacon in their local church.

Heerden struggled not only with her husband's addiction, but also with trying to keep her family secret hidden from everyone and pretending to live the Adventist dream. During this process, and upon reflection afterward,

she realized she had her own addictions with control and food, among others.

Heerden is currently married to an Adventist pastor in the Florida Conference, where she operates her nonprofit, Relevant Life Solutions, whose mission is to empower people affected by addiction and other life-altering issues by connecting them to resources and ministries that bring hope, healing, and practical solutions. During the weekend, she also shared her book *SAME DRESS, DIFFERENT DAY: A SPIRITUAL MEMOIR OF ADDICTION AND*

REDEMPTION, which chronicles her journey and God's intervention in her life.

Fulton church members and visitors were blessed and encouraged by her story and ministry. She has appeared on 3ABN, and is willing to share her passion and ministry wherever she can. If your church would like to host an addiction recovery weekend, or for more information, e-mail info@relevantlivesolutions.org.

—John Livergood, pastor, Fulton church

New York Conference Dedicates a Day to Lay Training

With the purpose of reaching out to millennials and emphasizing authentic Christianity, on October 27, New York Conference celebrated its annual Lay Training Institute (LTI) Day. Four churches from the conference were strategically chosen as hubs or streaming facilities where the event was recorded and broadcast live through social media platforms to the other churches in the conference. These four churches were Westvale (Syracuse), Buffalo Suburban, Greater Albany, and Fulton, each one having at least one speaker on site for the training. By the grace of God, more than 15 churches tuned in online to follow the seminars.

A. Allan Martin, teaching pastor of the Younger Generation church in Arlington, Texas, was the Sabbath-morning speaker at Westvale church and his sermon was streamed live. Martin's presentation on reaching millennials had

more than 1,000 views on social media.

The LTI streamed various seminars throughout the afternoon from each of the four locations. Miguel Crespo, New York Conference president; Luis Mancebo, New York Conference Hispanic Ministries and Family Ministries director and senior pastor of the Buffalo district; John Livergood, senior pastor of the Fulton district; and Roy Weeden, senior pastor of the Greater Albany district, presented various seminars and trained different leaders, as well. This LTI marked the first time New York Conference shared via social media.

Seminars offered included: "Reaching Millennials" (Westvale), "Dynamic Preaching" (Fulton), "Spirit of Prophecy and the Disciple" (Buffalo) and the "Holy Spirit and the Disciple" (Albany).

Martin's presentations regarding millennials were



Youth participate in the Lay Training Institute's Sabbath worship service at Westvale church in Syracuse, New York.

the featured seminars having worked with millennials for several years in the state of Texas, planting a church that is mostly attended by this generation. Martin serves the North American Division (NAD) as a leader of the Growing Young Adventists initiative in collaboration with Young Adult Life and the Fuller Youth Institute. Recently, Martin served the NAD, in partnership with the Barna Group, as the lead research facilitator for the Adventist Millennial Study.

Martin continues as an adjunct faculty member of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, specializing in discipleship and young adult ministry. He and his wife, Deirdre, tour internationally, speaking about relationships as well as equipping new generations in Christian lifestyle and leadership.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference

“More than
15 churches
tuned in via
the internet
to follow the
seminars.”



A. Allan Martin, the teaching pastor of Younger Generation church, was the featured speaker at New York Conference's Lay Training Institute Day.



Hudson Valley Churches Reach out to Newburgh Community

Residents of the City of Newburgh attended the second annual Health & Wellness Love Thy Neighbor Health Expo under the big tent at Downing Park. Newburgh, located on the shores of the Hudson River in the Hudson Valley region of New York, is on the comeback after decades of decay and being plagued by alcohol, drugs, poverty, and violence.

Adventist churches in the Hudson Valley combined their efforts to reach the citizens of Newburgh with Christ's message of hope, wholeness, and health, and take a stance on nonviolence. Torrance Harvey, mayor of the City of Newburgh, attended the event, and expressed his thanks for the work of the Seventh-day Adventist churches.

The event kicked off on Friday, September 7, with a free gospel concert in the park, including artists Madison Bishop, Durel Hall & Restored, Just Voices, Stacie Ann Palmer, and others. Abraham Jules, pastor of the Community Worship Center in Springfield Gardens, New York, was the Sabbath worship speaker. A Parade of Nations with people dressed in cultural attire followed the service.



Church members and organizers of the Newburgh Health Expo 2018 stand with Vernon Jordan, Trinity Temple church pastor, third from left; City of Newburgh mayor Torrance Harvey, center, and Conrad White, Newburgh church pastor, fourth from right.

The weekend culminated on Sunday, September 9, with a Pathfinder parade, health screenings, a demonstration on making smoothies, and the distribution of food items, thanks to the Hudson Valley medical missionaries and other health professionals.

The community benefited from the following health checks: blood pressure screenings, body fat analysis, peak flow/lung capacity tests, step tests, massage therapy, optical exams, dental exams, health age assessments, waist circumference measurements, and body mass index calculations. Nutritional counseling and depression screening were also available and Dione Douglas gave a

Zumba exercise demonstration. The Newburgh Police and Fire departments conducted safety checks and child finger printing.

The Poughkeepsie and Newburgh churches from the Greater New York Conference, and the Trinity Temple, Beacon of Light Tabernacle, and Newburgh churches in the Northeastern Conference jointly sponsored the event. Community supporters included the Colgate Dental Van, Alzheimer's Association/Hudson Valley Chapter, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County, and Price Chopper Pharmacy.

Pastors from the area churches attending the

event included: Conrad White, Newburgh church; Vernon Jordan, Trinity Temple church; David Cuke, Newburgh Tabernacle and Beacon Light Tabernacle churches; Victor Dyman, Poughkeepsie church; and James Gbolo, current pastor of Hunts Point church.

Church members from both conferences played an integral role in planning, organizing, fundraising, and ensuring the success of this endeavor. Key people involved included: Clifford Murray, Rhonda Murray, Ed Lawson, Juliet Caitlin, Pat Green, Howard Bishop, Ivor Hall, Verona Hall, and Carol Simpson of the Newburgh church; Sarah Moore, Charles Broadhead, and Diane Broadhead of the Poughkeepsie church; John Brooks and Darlene Brooks from Trinity Temple church; Caretta Phillip from the Newburgh church; and Brian Pierre from the Beacon Light Tabernacle church.

The Newburgh community came out in large numbers and supported the health expo. The event is another demonstration that success is possible when community stakeholders and churches work together.

—Mirlande Jordan, member and pastor's wife, Trinity Temple church

Bible Bowl Teams Receive Awards at Annual Games

Annually, the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA) sponsors the National Bible Bowl Competition. Various conferences, regional and non-regional, send their young people and young at heart to the host location to compete with other teams they have never met before. This

year, the Southwest Region Conference hosted the event in Houston, Texas.

Northeastern Conference is no stranger to Bible Bowl, as it was birthed by Trevor Baker, pastor of the South Ozone Park church in South Ozone Park, New York. Throughout the year, teams study the designated books of



Pre-Juniors: Cambridge church, Second Place

the Bible and then meet to compete locally, conference-wide, and then nationally.

The 2018 Bible Bowl Nationals brought together five teams from Northeastern Conference: Pre-Juniors from Cambridge church (Boston), Juniors from Cambridge church (Boston), Senior Youth from South Brooklyn church (Brooklyn), Young Adults from Faith church (Hartford), and the Adults from South Brooklyn church (Brooklyn). It should be noted that this was the first year the young adult team from Faith church ever competed in Bible Bowl. They were undefeated locally, conference-wide, and nationally.

Congratulations to the Northeastern Conference Bible Bowl teams who received medals in each division at the BAYDA Bible Bowl Nationals.

—JeNean Lendor, assistant to the president for communication, Northeastern Conference



Juniors: Cambridge church, Second Place



Senior Youth: South Brooklyn church, Second Place



Young Adults: Faith church, First Place



Adults: South Brooklyn church, Second Place

Nyack Center Director Receives Rockland Community Leadership Award

Berea church in Nyack, New York, hosted its annual community event on October 18 to show appreciation to the church's pastor and a leader from the community who is making a difference in Rockland County and New York State, at large. On this occasion, the community gathered to honor Andrew Philbert, the church's pastor, and Nicole Hines, assistant director of the Nyack Center.

Graced with the presence of community leaders and politicians, including the mayor of Nyack, the chair of the Rockland Legislature, and the Clergy Coalition, the honorees received recognition for their tireless

service to the community. Both honorees were presented with citations and proclamations from local and state governments.

The evening's program included songs of praise with the children's choir and the participation of both youth and adults from other community centers and houses of worship within Rockland. On Saturday, October 20, the annual community award program culminated with the presentation of a donation to the Nyack Center by Berea church. Hines inspired the church with the story of her tireless commitment to work with everybody in serving the community, and Philbert



Andrew Philbert, Berea church pastor, is one of two people recognized by the church for his service to the church and community in Nyack, New York.

expressed his appreciation to the church and the Rockland community.

Frances Pratt, the NAACP president for the Nyack branch called for more

community involvement to support the leaders and the clergy.

—Communication department, Berea church, Nyack, New York

Prayers Answered for Berkshire Hills Christian School

Berkshire Hills church members prayed that God would send a teacher to the Berkshire Hills Christian School in Lanesborough, Massachusetts. Heading into the 2018-2019 school year, school board members found themselves challenged to find a new teacher to replace Mark Bugbee, who took a job as principal of an Adventist school in Saipan. Unfortunately, the two prospective candidates scheduled for interviews were no longer available for the job for one reason or another, leaving the school without any teacher candidates just at the time classes should have started.

Classes were scheduled to begin on August 20 and, in light of the challenges to find a teacher, the Southern New England Conference Office of Education gave the school a new start date of September 4. Upon hearing that the school board meeting was canceled because they no longer had any prospects for the teacher position, Bo Suriner, Berkshire Hills church's Bible worker, felt convicted that the church needed to set aside August 28 for a day of fasting and prayer. "You see, some public schools would be back in session in our area on August 29, and it was a nail-biting time for parents who wanted their kids to be enrolled in our school, but at the same time, they were [also] wondering if they shouldn't look into enrolling their kids in public school," Suriner said.

With many wondering if the school, which had been in operation for some



Karen Millam, seated back, right, is the new teacher for the Berkshire Hills Christian School.

80 years, would have to close its doors, Suriner posted a message on his Facebook page declaring Tuesday, August 28, as a day of fasting and prayer for a teacher for the Berkshire Hills Christian School. It was not long after the message was posted that one of Suriner's former classmates at Andrews University replied to the post, indicating she might know someone who was interested.

During the designated time, Suriner posted various prayer directives on Facebook every hour with a scriptural reference to back them up. When he returned home from a Bible study that evening, he found a message on his answering machine stating that there was another candidate for the teaching position at the school. Suriner shared the information with the

Southern New England Conference superintendent of schools and things were back on track to have a Thursday-night school board meeting to interview the candidate.

Prayer warriors from all over the world, who were following the Facebook posts, prayed from 6:30-8:00 p.m., during the time the interview took place. It turns out that the individual who interviewed for the job, Karen Millam, accepted the offer and was hired as the new teacher for the school. "I know God sent her to us and we are praising God for using Karen in this capacity. We believe it will be a blessing to her and to our school," Suriner said.

After going through this experience, Suriner shared that prayer and fasting really works and Berkshire Hills Christian School is proof of that. At the conclusion of the

week, Suriner said, "Social media is merely a tool. It can be used as a way to isolate yourself from speaking to people face to face. It can be used to spread hate or other negative things, or it can be used to glorify God, to unite, and to bring people closer to eternity. The latter was how I used it, and what a blessing it has been. . . . Let's recognize social media for what it is, a tool, and let's use it to our advantage, for the purpose of winning people to God's kingdom."

As a result of the many prayers offered on behalf of the Berkshire Hills Christian School, the school is back in session and continues to live out its mission of providing "a Christ-centered learning environment that leads elementary-age students to Jesus and prepares them for a life of excellence and service."

—Information provided by Bo Suriner, Bible worker, Berkshire Hills church

Hudson Church Youth Grow It for Giving

The youth of the Hudson church in Hudson, Massachusetts, wanted to make a difference in their community. They hatched an ambitious plan—Grow It for Giving—growing vegetables for God’s glory to give to those in need. As project planners, the young people organized the seeds/plants, filled buckets with rich dirt, provided care instructions, presented the plan to the church, nurtured plants at home, recorded weights and numbers of vegetables brought in for giving, and delivered the produce to the Hudson Community Food Pantry.

The church family (35 participants), eagerly volunteered



The children package seeds for their Grow It for Giving project.

to grow veggies from seeds or a starter plant. This resulted in the planting of many plants: peppers (19), tomatoes (29), cucumbers (21), zuc-

chini (6), snap peas and green beans (a good handful). This amounted to the production of approximately 30 pounds of produce.

The Alvarez family generously donated a variety of vegetables from their family garden. Also, Gerry and Bill Baldwin donated about 30 pounds of zucchini from their home garden. It’s amazing how much a prayed-over zucchini plant can produce.

The Hudson Community Food Pantry was pleased to receive fresh vegetables for those in the community who need a little help. The youths’ project helped them and the participating church family realize that “It is more blessed to give than to receive”—Acts 20:35, TLB.

—Cheryl McMaster, communication coordinator, Hudson church

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Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education Holds First ECEC Professional Development

The Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education held its first-ever Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Professional Development session on October 24 and 25 at the office in Lancaster, Massachusetts. Representatives from Early Childhood Education and Care centers across the Atlantic Union attended the meeting. Sheryl Chernault, Florida Hospital's CREATION Kids Mission and Strategy director; and Myriam Barnette, Brockton Area Academy's preschool director, were guest presenters at the meeting.

—Communication department, Atlantic Union Conference



Editor AP Davison

Attendees and presenters at the first Early Childhood Education and Care Professional Development pose for a photo with the Atlantic Union Office of Education administrators and staff, Jerrell Gilkeson, director, back row, left; Marlene Alvarez, associate director, front row, left; Lileth Coke, assistant director, second row, right; and Mildred Felt, administrative secretary, front row, right.

Outgoing Superintendent of Schools Recognized

The Atlantic Union Conference education administrators honored Richard Smith, outgoing Bermuda Conference superintendent of schools for his four years of service (2014-2018) to the conference. Superintendents of schools from the Bermuda, Greater New York, New York, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England conferences, as well as academy principals from all eight academies, were at the Atlantic Union Conference headquarters in Lancaster, Massachusetts, on October 22, for the annual fall Education Administrators Council,

October 22-24. The educators participated in various meetings regarding curriculum, updates to policy, accreditation reports, and much more.

—Communication department, Atlantic Union Conference



Editor AP Davison

▲ Richard Smith, Bermuda Conference superintendent of schools, left, addresses the education administrators after receiving a token of appreciation for his service. To the right, from the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education, are Marlene Alvarez, associate director, and Jerrell Gilkeson, director.

◀ Richard Smith and his wife, Shari, listen as Atlantic Union education administrators recognize his years of service.

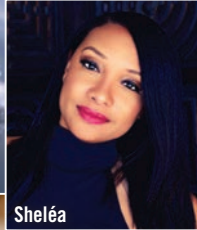
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January 2019	4	11	18	25	Eastern Standard Time
Bangor, ME	4:07	4:16	4:25	4:34	4:34
Portland, ME	4:18	4:25	4:34	4:43	4:43
Boston, MA	4:26	4:33	4:41	4:50	4:50
South Lancaster, MA	4:28	4:35	4:43	4:52	4:52
Pittsfield, MA	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	4:58
Hartford, CT	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	4:58
Providence, RI	4:29	4:36	4:44	4:53	4:53
New York, NY	4:42	4:49	4:57	5:06	5:06
Albany, NY	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	4:58
Utica, NY	4:40	4:47	4:56	5:05	5:05
Syracuse, NY	4:44	4:51	4:59	5:08	5:08
Rochester, NY	4:49	4:57	5:05	5:14	5:14
Buffalo, NY	4:55	5:02	5:11	5:20	5:20
Keene, NH	4:28	4:35	4:44	4:52	4:52
Manchester, NH	4:24	4:32	4:40	4:49	4:49
Portsmouth, NH	4:21	4:29	4:37	4:46	4:46
Brattleboro, VT	4:29	4:37	4:45	4:54	4:54
Burlington, VT	4:27	4:34	4:43	4:52	4:52
Rutland, VT	4:28	4:36	4:44	4:53	4:53
Hamilton, Bda	5:27	5:32	5:39	5:45	5:45

ANNOUNCEMENT

ATLANTIC UNION

Compassion Sabbaths 2019: Every second Sabbath of the month is designated Compassion Sabbath in the Atlantic Union: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13. Find more information at auiyouth.com.

OBITUARIES

CARUSO, Palmyra D.—94; b. Aug. 15, 1924, in Bridgeport, Conn.; d. Oct. 13, 2018, in Enfield, Conn. She was a longtime member of the Enfield church in Enfield, Conn. where she served as a board member, Sabbath School teacher, and church pianist. She later served at the Connecticut Valley church in South Windsor, Conn., where she continued as a pianist for the children's Sabbath School and was affectionately known as "Auntie Pam." Within the community, she volunteered with Meals on Wheels and the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen in Thompsonville, Conn. She also taught vegetarian cooking classes and led five-day stop smoking clinics. She is survived by her nine children, Andrea Wiley (Robert Flanagan) of Norwich, Conn.; Jeanine Shine (James) of Farmington, Conn.; Joseph (Arlene Richards) Caruso and Michelle (Ian Corrie) Caruso, all of California; Anthony Caruso of Enfield, Conn.; Mill Caruso of Somers, Conn.; Francesca (Dennis) Bogoslofski of Somers, Conn.; John Caruso of Vermont; Therese Caruso of Enfield, Conn.; a sister, Florence Ainslie of Massachusetts; 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

DEE, George Daniel—93; b. Aug. 26, 1923, in Montserrat, West Indies; d. Oct. 4, 2018, in Dorchester, Mass. He was a member of the Berea church in Dorchester, Mass., and faithfully served the church in various capacities. He also served his community as a reading coach, teaching children from different schools how to read. A lover of Christian education, he was recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives for his outstanding service in the renovation of the Berea Academy and invaluable contributions to the entire school program. He is survived by his wife of 35 years Elizabeth Chockley; son, Michael (Ines) Dee; stepson, Derrick (Marjorie Ramsey) Melville; two daughters Deborah (Howard) Wright, and Tracey (Androny) Esperance; a sister Margaret Neale; two brothers John Bramble and Charles Bramble; and six grandchildren, Manoucheca Chantigny, D'mitri and Kyle deCastro, Cameron Dee, and Aubyn and Camille Wright.

PATINO, Dawn K. (Orly)—53; b. May 3, 1965, in Middletown, Conn.; d. Oct. 4, 2018, in Rochester, N.Y. She was a member of the Rochester Genesee Park church. She graduated from the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Conn (1985) and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. (1989). Survivors include her husband, Pauline Patino; her parents, Michael and Melody Fuller Oryl of Westbrook, Conn.; her uncle, Michael P. (Leigh) Fuller; her aunt, Tammy M. (Ronald) Houle; her father and mother-in-law, Paulino and Mercedes Patino of Meriden, Conn.; her sister-in-law, Zaida (Oscar) Cuadra of Meriden, Conn.; and brother-in-law, Carlos (Maureen) Patino of Stratford, Conn.

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Wishing our readers a happy, healthy, prosperous season!

— Atlantic Union Gleaner Staff

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6, NKJV

