

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JUNE 2019

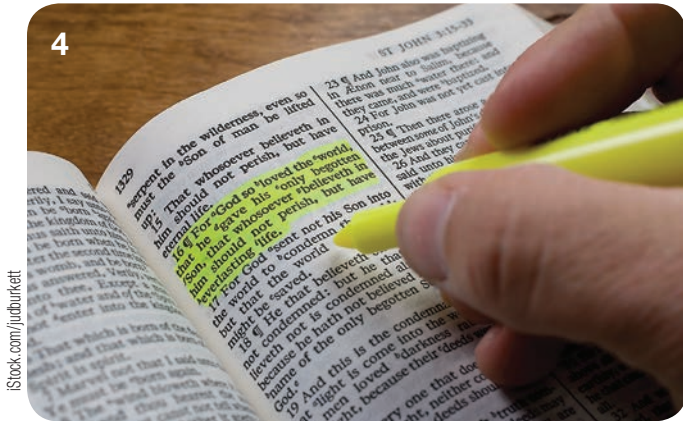
GLEANER

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GOD'S PATH

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Jonathan Logan/Lake Union Conference

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Take Time for Spiritual Self-care

When was the last time you conducted a “spiritual audit” on your life? Spiritual audits provide a great opportunity to determine our growth in various areas of our walk with Christ. It is likely that, for many of us, we just fell in line with the routine of the church after our baptism and it has been that way ever since.

According to the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, an audit is “a systematic review or assessment of something.” A spiritual audit is beneficial for the individual and also for the church. It will help the person as a growing organism and the church as a dynamic organization. Individuals can compare themselves with biblical norms and the church can determine how and whether it is accomplishing its mission. Is your church taking time to conduct spiritual audits?

As Adventists, we declare boldly that we have been given the Great Commission by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Consequently, we should be making assessments along the way to see the extent to which we are completing the task.

The members of my church have participated in three initiatives so far this year—a 14-Day Radical Discipleship Challenge (February 3-16), 40 Days of Prayer for the Holy Spirit and Alignment with God’s Perfect Will (February 17-March 28), and 30 Days of Prayer, Healing, and Restoration for Relationships (May 4-June 2). These initiatives served to keep the members focused on drawing closer to God and moving away from things that distract them and impede their spiritual growth.

Participating in these initiatives served as a reminder for me of the importance of “self-care.” Self-care, according to the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, is defined as “the practice of taking action to preserve or improve one’s own health.” Regardless of the situations that consume us on a daily basis, we must be intentional about connecting with God and developing our relationship with Him.

The observation is not a new one, but a reminder that we need to hit the “pause button” from time to time and think about where we are and where we are going. So much is happening in the world around us and in our church that it would be to our advantage to heed the words of Jesus when He said to His disciples, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest”—Mark 6:31.

In our spiritual audits, we should consider such questions as: How much time do I spend studying God’s Word? Do I really have a good understanding of what I’m reading? How much time do I spend in prayer? Are my prayers centered on self or are others included? Am I reaching out in service to the community? Do I share my faith with others? Am I fulfilling the mission to which I am called?

Knowing where we are in our walk with God helps us to better prepare for the challenges that are certain to come our way. Every now and then, we really should hit that “pause button” and take time away from the “usual” to take care of our spiritual health.

To help with your self-care, our cover feature this month includes a few reminders that we hope will encourage you in your journey to better spiritual health. Take care of yourself! ☺

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

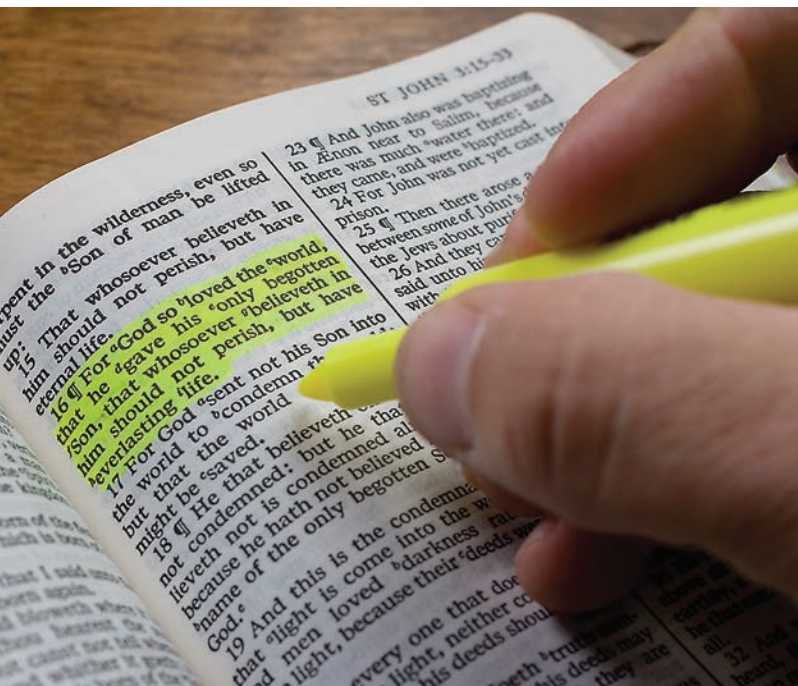


“Regardless of the situations that consume us on a daily basis, we must be intentional about connecting with God and developing our relationship with Him.”

Stay on GOD'S PATH

7 reminders to help build up your faith

It is wonderful to realize that we always matter to God. The fact that we are here matters. Even when we struggle to live a Christian life and sometimes don't know what to do, we matter. Sometimes all we need are some simple reminders that go a long way to refresh and renew our walk with God. The reminders, repeated at intervals, promote clarity and serve to encourage us, as well as help to drive out negative and competing thoughts. In these challenging times, we need positive reinforcement. Here are just a few reminders to shore up your faith and keep you on God's path.



1. God is able.

Reminder: “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you”—Isaiah 46:4.

Reminder: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”—Philippians 4:19.

God promises to take care of us. He knows everything we need, even before we can ask Him. His desire is that we simply focus on Him and on doing His will while here on earth, and He will take care of the rest.

2. Meditate on God's Word.

Reminder: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful”—Joshua 1:8.

Reminder: “Beware how you neglect secret prayer and a study of God's word. These are your weapons



against him who is striving to hinder your progress heavenward. The first neglect of prayer and Bible study makes easier the second neglect”—MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, p. 96.

Reading and studying the Bible daily is necessary for spiritual growth and life. If we do not eat food for the soul, we will not grow, but we will starve spiritually.

3. Pray, believing that God hears and will answer.

Reminder: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”—Philippians 4:6.

Reminder: “Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Well-spring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience”—IN HEAVENLY PLACES, p. 83.

God values us and our relationship with Him. Our prayers are precious to Him.

4. There are going to be tough times, but you are not alone.

Reminder: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”—James 1:2-4.

“If you find yourself going through difficult situations where your faith is being tested, begin to look for positive things happening around you.”



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Reminder: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”—Romans 8:38, 39.

There are going to be struggles in life—some created by our own actions, some because of the actions of others. The devil consistently is seeking to destroy us at every turn, but “If God is for us, who can be against us?”—Romans 8:31. Hold on!

5. Focus on the positive.

Reminder: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it”—Proverbs 4:23.

Reminder: “Guard your thoughts. In these closing days of earth’s history Satan is working with desperate effort to seduce souls into sin. Keep your tongue as with a bridle. Keep your thoughts upon the Word of the living God. The same spirit that prompted rebellion in heaven is at work in our churches. . . . We are living in the last days of this earth’s history, and Satan is making determined efforts to subvert the mind”—THE UPWARD LOOK, p. 114.

If you find yourself going through difficult situations where your faith is being tested, begin to look for positive things happening around you. Create your own positive environment by singing, praying, and mingling with others of positive, uplifting mindsets. Make it a habit to pick yourself up every time you catch yourself becoming negative. “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you

today”—Exodus 14:13. Remember, the fact that you are here matters.

6. Get involved.

Reminder: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”—Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Reminder: Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”—Matthew 28:18-20.

We are not called to stand on the sidelines. We are given God’s authority to reach out to others with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Practicing faith takes action. Get involved with people and causes that touch your heart the most. Spend more time with your family and volunteer in your community. The service you do may be life-saving for others. Following in Christ’s footsteps we should do what we can to help the needy, relieve the distressed, and encourage those who are downhearted. Get your light out from under that bushel and let it shine brightly for Jesus!

7. Love one another.

Reminder: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind

“The people of the world are watching us to see if our faith is exerting a sanctifying influence upon our hearts. They are quick to discern every defect in our lives, every inconsistency in our actions. Let us give them no occasion to reproach our faith”

—COUNSELS FOR THE CHURCH, p. 44.



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and with all your strength.’ . . . ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these”—Mark 12:30-31.

Reminder: “In the church of God today brotherly love is greatly lacking. Many of those who profess to love the Saviour neglect to love those who are united with them in Christian fellowship. We are of the same faith, members of one family, all children of the same heavenly Father, with the same blessed hope of immortality. How close and tender should be the tie that binds us together. The people of the world are watching us to see if our faith is exerting a sanctifying influence upon our hearts. They are quick to discern every defect in our lives, every inconsistency in our actions. Let us give them no occasion to reproach our faith”—COUNSELS FOR THE CHURCH, p. 44.

Go light your world, so that others will see your “good deeds” and glorify your Heavenly Father.

In the hustle and bustle of life, whether in the thick of things or sitting by yourself in a quiet space, God’s promises are sure. “The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all”—Ecclesiastes 9:11.

Right here, right now, the fact that we are here matters. “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, [let us] press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus”—Philippians 3:13. ①

GLEANER editor

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Youth Ministry Supplement

[adventist youth ministries on the move]

Youth Ministry's Rustic Blessings, Part I

The OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY is meticulous about defining the word “camp” from the perspectives of noun and verb. According to OXFORD, camp, as a noun, is a “temporary overnight lodging out of doors, typically in tents.” As a verb, to camp is to “live for a time in a camp, tent, or camper, as when on vacation” or to “lodge temporarily, especially in an inappropriate or uncomfortable place.”

In perusing these definitions, I am drawn to reminisce on a first-camping memory that ever lingers with me. I was just about 10 years young and allowed to go solo on a camping trip with my church group (Moriah church). I remember—like it was yesterday—our arrival at a small camp site off the Linden Highway in Guyana.

Beyond the delight of the journey, etched in my mind was the thrill of outdoor worship, sleeping under the stars, using flashlights at night, overcoming my trepidation of the dark, bathing/swimming in the creek, fire building/outdoor cookery, and accepting that adults who often looked all uptight at church were fun-loving in the outdoors. Furthermore, I can recall that, thereafter, I owned and embraced my walk with Jesus, as well as my weekly church fellowship like never before. In many ways this is attributable to that very first camping experience.

Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries Camp Season

Welcome to camping season 2019! Whether a local/area Pathfinder camporee, the 2019 Chosen International Camporee, Adventurer camp, Master Guide camp, junior camp, tween camp, teen camp, singles camp, family camp, blind camp, young adult camp, outdoor school, camp meeting, or AACP retreat, all roads are aligned to lead the Atlantic Union's youth-ministry vehicle to a variety of camping experiences across late spring, summer, and early



The Atlantic Union AYM supports the Adventist Association of Camp Professionals (AACP). An Atlantic Union AACP Retreat is scheduled for October 4-6 at Camp Cherokee. [Logo: Craig Brandon]

fall, 2019. It would seem as though there is an innate response to the impending warm weather, i.e., incessant celebrations of the outdoors; and celebrations of God's creation.

In the book, *LIFE SKETCHES*, Ellen G. White states that “We need no fanciful teaching regarding the personality of God. What God desires us to know of Him is revealed in His word and His works. The beautiful things of nature reveal His character and His power as Creator” (p. 94).

Many often wonder where to camp, and I am excited to declare that the Atlantic Union presents a plethora of options.

Across its geographic jurisdiction, five local conferences operate campgrounds that provide extensive camp ministry experiences for all:

New York Conference: **Camp Cherokee**

Northern New England Conference: **Camp Lawroweld**

Northeastern Conference: **Camp Victory Lake**

Southern New England Conference: **Camp Winnekeag**

Greater New York Conference: **Camp Berkshire***

I look forward to exploring each campground's summer schedule, and aligning with the multitude of blessings that currently lie dormant.

Ultimately, one of the principal blessings of camp ministry is the reminder that we are all “camping” in this world. Thus, it's tolerable for life to, at times, be “uncomfortable.” Life here is for “overnight” purposes; and the “lodging” in this world is temporary. Today, all are called to prepare, plan, and pack for camp with the assurance that Jesus is coming again to escort us to our permanent home. ☺



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

**Camp Berkshire: No summer camps are currently available. However, they do hold camp meetings and other activities.*



Atlantic Union Schools Awarded Grants to Support STEM Education

Seven schools in the Atlantic Union were recently awarded \$55,000 in grant funding to support STEM education. The schools are among the recipients of nearly \$1.2 million in grants from the Versacare Foundation earmarked for Adventist education. A total of 118 primary and secondary schools in the North American Division (NAD) will receive \$920,000 in grants supporting STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

Versacare announced this year's recipients in a press release, which cited that the STEM grant program provides funding in three categories: \$5,000 for smaller schools of three classrooms or less; \$10,000 for larger schools of four or more classrooms and 12-year schools; and \$10,000 for senior academies.

According to Versacare, "Among the many uses of STEM funds are the purchase of classroom smart boards, providing tablets or Chromebooks for student use, equipping or updating student computer labs, installation of 3D printers and related software, initiating or funding robotics programs, instruction in software coding, and the equipping of chemistry, physics, and biology labs, and more."

“A total of 118 primary and secondary schools in the North American Division will receive \$920,000 in grants supporting STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).”



The seven schools in the Atlantic Union and their respective conferences are:

Greater New York Conference

- Greater New York Academy (\$10,000)

Northeastern Conference

- Bethel school (\$5,000)
- Northeastern Academy (\$10,000)

Northern New England Conference

- Caledonia Christian school (\$5,000)
- Pine Tree Academy (\$10,000)

Southern New England Conference

- Greater Boston Academy (\$10,000)
- South Shore school (\$5,000)

This year marks Versacare's fourth successive year of funding STEM grants. To date, Versacare has provided 228 schools with a total of \$1,825,000.

Versacare, Inc., is the largest independent private foundation supporting the varied ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with grant funding. A self-funded, lay organization, it is comprised of both lay Adventists and present and former Adventist Church employees.

For a complete list of the Adventist schools in the United States that are STEM grant recipients, visit atlantic-union.org/stem-grants-awarded.

—Source: Versacare Press Release, March 31, 2019

Seven Atlantic Union Teams Place First at Division-level PBE Finals

Seven Pathfinder clubs from the Atlantic Union were among the 158 Pathfinder clubs from around the North American Division (NAD) and the British Union (United Kingdom) that took first place at the division-level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) finals April 26 and 27. The finals were held at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois.

A total of 209 Pathfinder clubs participated in this year's PBE division-level finals. Eleven of the 12 clubs that placed first in the Atlantic Union PBE traveled to Illinois for the finals.

Hundreds of youth sacrificed and put countless hours of hard work into preparing, studying, and memorizing the Gospel of Luke for the opportunity to participate in this highly-anticipated annual event. While 240 teams qualified for division level, 209 participated in the testing. Of the 209 clubs that participated in the testing, 158 secured first place, 48 teams placed second, and three teams came in third. Placement is determined by the percent correct of the top-scoring team's score: first place—90 percent correct; second place—80 percent correct; third place—70 percent correct.

The seven clubs from the Atlantic Union Conference that made first place and the conference they represent are:

- Amazon (Southern New England, Lancaster Portuguese)
- Brooklawn Eagles (Southern New England, Brooklawn)
- Centinelas de Dios (Greater New York, Central Mount Vernon)
- Connecticut Cougars (Southern New England, Connecticut Valley)
- Framingham United Youth (Southern New England, Framingham Centre)



A group photo of all eleven Pathfinder teams that participated in the North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience finals.

- Meriden Missionaries (Southern New England, Meriden)
- Orion Bridgeport (Southern New England, Bridgeport Hispanic)

Other participating Atlantic Union Conference teams are:

- Armaduras de Jesus (Northeastern, Westbury Hispanic)
- Brockton Eagles (Southern New England, Brockton Oak Street)
- Maranatha Light Bearers (Greater New York, Maranatha)
- Sequoias (Greater New York, Manor Road)

All nine NAD unions were represented along with an unprecedented 43 teams from conferences and missions within the British Union. "One of the things that really surprised us is that there are so

many clubs coming on an Oshkosh year. We anticipated attendance would be less, but we are pleasantly surprised that parents, families, and churches rose above and beyond the planning for Oshkosh to make Bible study and the celebration of young people learning scripture a priority," Tracy Wood, NAD Youth Ministries director, told Myron Medley, NAD news writer/news producer.

Next year's division-level PBE finals will be April 17-18 in Centralia, Washington. The study books for 2020 include Ezra, Nehemiah, Jonah, Micah, Amos, and Hosea. The Pathfinders will not be responsible for the following: Ezra 2, Ezra 8:1-14, Ezra 10:18-44, Nehemiah 7:7-63, Nehemiah 10:1-27, and Nehemiah 11:3-12:26.

Congratulations to all the participating clubs in this year's division-level PBE. Special appreciation goes to the directors, parents, and volunteers who helped each team reach this goal.

—Debra Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

Bermuda Conference Takes a Fresh Look at the Missional Church

In a weekend of activities at the Hamilton church in Hamilton, Bermuda, March 16 and 17, Sung Kwon, North American Division Adventist Community Services executive director and author of *BURST THE BUBBLE: FINDING YOUR PASSION FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH*, underscored that church ministries must take place outside of the four walls of the church. He advocated a change from church-based events to community-based activities, and from an “attractional” church to a missional church, going where the people are. “We are becoming busy bees,” he said, “but we have no idea where we are going.”

Using statistical data from 2018, Kwon showed that of the 20 million baptized members of the Adventist Church, 63 percent of 20-year-olds and 35 percent of 30- and 40-year-olds no longer attend church. Kwon

contends in a quote from Reggie McNeal that, “A growing number of people are leaving the institutional church, not because they have lost faith; they are leaving the church to preserve their faith.” Kwon suggests the church no longer contributes to their spiritual development and that there are no spiritual and personal development opportunities for them. “The church is in crisis,” he says. “It must create opportunities for people to come and serve and be involved and engaged. It’s not about church growth; it’s about the kingdom of God.”

Commissioned by Jesus Christ to make disciples of all, a part of the Bermuda Conference’s strategic plan is to equip and empower its members for service. This service must include “new and more meaningful activities geared to the needs of the community.” Kwon reminded

the group that, “The church is the salt and the kingdom of God outside of the four walls of the church.”

He recommended long-term, sustainable community development and strategic engagement, which can “change the organizational culture from self-serving ‘churchianity’ to other-serving Christianity. The message is important,” he says, “but more important than the message is the messenger.”

Kwon urged transparency, integrity, consistency, and faithfulness as crucial factors in outreach. “You cannot build up trust by doing a few events throughout the year,” he says. “You must build relationships and develop long-term commitment.”

A break-out session with each of the 11 churches followed. Using the Bermuda Conference Logic Model, the process began of defining focus groups; determining what community services activities would look like; how they could best impact the community; and how to create opportunities to involve the community.

Based on a previously conducted health survey of the community, Southampton church reported that it is in the process of defining health activities based on the results of the survey and are looking to involve the community with the church in implementation.

The Somerset church expressed interest in improving the quality of



Photos: Ricardo Clarke

Sung Kwon, North American Division Adventist Community Services executive director, leads Bermuda Conference members in a fresh look at the missional church.

people’s health through “Diabetes Undone” and also plans to offer exercise and cooking classes for the community. As the number of pre-diabetics and diabetics in Bermuda is staggering, their objective is to increase the knowledge of participants so they can make healthy choices and thus reduce their Hemoglobin A1c.

It was an exciting, thought-provoking weekend filled with information, reexamination, inspiration, and laughter. Thanks to Kwon’s motivational insight, the Bermuda Conference has taken another step toward equipping and empowering its members to become Christ’s disciples; to build relationships and to affect positive change within their communities.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director, Bermuda Conference



Members attend a meeting at Southampton church to learn how best to impact their community.

Prayer Retreat Prepares Women for Evangelism and Outreach

The Greater New York Conference (GNYC) held its annual Women's Prayer Retreat, April 18-21, at the Sheraton Hotel Parsippany in Parsippany, New Jersey. Under the theme "Daughters of the King," participants anticipated something great, something different, an uplifting spiritual revival, as well as a time of relaxation for body and mind.

Thursday's events included a seminar titled "Healthy Bodies and Natural Remedies," as well as a message titled "Steadfast in the Word" presented by Crystal Ward Jackson, Ephesus church elder and communication director.

Friday's schedule included a time for testimonies and prayers, with the participants lifting their hearts in thanksgiving and petition to the King of kings; a prayer walk alongside the tranquil and undisturbed lake; a consecration and anointing service; as well as a mes-

sage by Della Patton, North Bronx church member, titled "Heart of the Princess."

The day was filled with seminars on such topics as finance, health, self-image and identity in Christ, Jesus in the sanctuary, sexuality, prayer, communication, evangelizing the family, building self-efficacy, and dealing with challenges. Special meeting locations and speakers were designated for the youth, young adults, and French and Spanish groups, to best meet their needs.

At the opening session, Lisa González, GNYC Women's Ministries director, greeted hundreds of women. The theme song, "Arise, Daughters of the King" swelled in lively melody. The speaker, Augusta Y. Olaore, social work practitioner and educator, challenged the women to receive "The Crown."

At Sabbath School, an original end-time play, "We Shall Behold Him," made the congregation laugh and cry.

Its message of hope in the soon coming of Jesus Christ touched and inspired hearts to be ready for this great and grand event. During the worship service, The Retreat Choir lifted their voices to the Lord. Olaore preached on the topic "The Throne."

The Saturday-evening Evangelism Symposium highlighted the mission of the Women's Ministries department, which is evangelism and outreach. Women's ministries leaders and teams from various churches reported on what women's ministries is all about as they serve through soup kitchens, pantry programs, clothes distribution, hospitals, nursing homes, and individual home visitations, ministering to the disabled, preaching and giving Bible studies, as well as reaching out through friendship ministry. As a result of these evangelistic endeavors, people gave their lives to Christ and were baptized.



Yvonne Knight, Atlantic Union Conference Women's Ministries and Prayer Ministries director, left, prays for Lisa González, Greater New York Conference Women's Ministries director, center, joined by Henry Beras, Greater New York Conference president.

Manuel Rosario, GNYC Personal Ministries director, charged the women to reach others for Christ. The women were given Bible-study materials to begin Bible studies with others. They were challenged to become servants for the cause of Christ, as well.

The day included a social activity showcasing the diverse cultures through costumes, songs, games, food, and more. At the closing ceremony, Olaore reminded the women that Christ holds "The Scepter."

The focus of the GNYC Women's Ministries department for the next four years is evangelism and outreach. This retreat hit the mark in equipping the attendees with the spirit-filled, rejuvenating preparation for the work the Lord has called them to do.

—Vicky Jamel, Women's Ministries Evangelism and Outreach advisory member, Greater New York Conference



Women from across the Greater New York Conference participate in the 31st annual Women's Prayer Retreat.

Westvale Church Holds Health Fair at Parkview Junior Academy

The Health Ministries team from Westvale church held a health fair at Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York, on Friday afternoon, April 5. The fair was held at the school so that the students, teachers, parents, and staff could participate.

The Syracuse Police Department was involved in the fair, providing security tips and helpful facts to those attending. Students, teachers, parents, and school personnel listened to presentations by personnel on the

police force. Police officers conducted car-seat checks, among other things.

The fair included many exhibits and activities. Students were encouraged to get involved in the interactive learning process of the fair. The activities included information about hand washing, presented by student nurses from a local community college. The Red Cross also conducted a blood drive.

—Joan Payne, faith community nurse, Westvale church



Nursing students from a community college in Syracuse participate in a health fair at Parkview Junior Academy.

Westvale Celebrates Nurses Sabbath

Westvale church in Syracuse, New York, celebrated Nurses Sabbath on April 27. “It was a wonderful day for the church and the nurses that participated in it,” said Joan Payne, Westvale church’s faith community nurse.

This event was organized in honor of National Nurses Week, which is always May 6-12. About 40 nurses, including nursing students and certified nursing assistants, participated in a special “blessing of the hands” by Seong Cho, the church’s senior pastor. This served as a confirmation of the calling the nurses have received from God to help others.

Afterward, the Syracuse Seventh-day Community



Seong Cho, Westvale church’s senior pastor, anoints the nurses during Nurses Sabbath.

Choir, under the directorship of James Robinson, elder, sang “We Are His Hands.” It was a time of worship and fellowship for those attending.

Kathleen Coleman, faith community nurse, Health

Ministries coordinator, and cardiac and vascular outreach coordinator at Adventist HealthCare in Gaithersburg, Maryland, was the speaker. She delivered a message of hope with the

intention of motivating others to get more involved in health ministries.

—Health Ministries department, Westvale church

Health Summit Participants Share What They Learned

Four people from the New York Conference (NYC) attended the North American Division (NAD) Health Summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 20-26. The theme, “Healing of the Nations,” referred to the tree of life in Revelation 22:2. Health summits inspire, train, and equip members to be able to minister to their communities in practical and effective ways.

Maria Middlestate from the Watertown church received training to become an emotional and spiritual care provider via Adventist Community Services. The training enables her to assist in not only large disasters but also smaller crises within one’s community by providing appropriate emotional and spiritual care for traumatized survivors. Middlestate also taught a class for the Faith Community Nursing (FCN) course during the Summit.

Joan Payne from the Westvale church took the faith community nursing training as a refresher, as she had trained previously and is working in her church in this capacity. Also from Westvale, Jann Cady took the same course, enabling her to work alongside Payne as a faith community nurse. (To learn more about how your church can be blessed by this ministry, visit the new and expanding NAD Health Ministries website at www.nadhealth.org.)

Debbie Cox from the Buskirk church took the Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARMin) facilitator training “Journey to Wholeness,” an Adventist Christian adaptation of AAs 12 Steps to Recovery. Currently, the



Debbie Cox, New York Conference Health Ministries director, Joan Payne and Jann Cady from the Westvale church, and Maria Middlestate from the Watertown church all attended the 2019 North American Division Health Summit.

Antioch (Northeastern Conference) and Bay Knoll churches collaborate to conduct ongoing Journey to Wholeness classes led by Dorothy Barber (Antioch church). It would be well for this much-needed ministry to be available to churches throughout the conference, since it teaches the basics of surrendering to and depending on God as outlined in the book *STEPS TO CHRIST*. “We are all addicted to something, unless the Creator is on the heart’s throne. And a trained, wholehearted follower of Jesus knows best how to help others,” said Debbie Cox, NYC Health Ministries director.

The summit also provided training and information on wellness coaching, nutrition, massage, hydrotherapy and home remedies, hosting lifestyle retreats and centers, urban missions, stress management and mental health, cancer prevention and recovery, healthy aging and older adult ministry, self management of chronic disease, student health

advocates, urban missions, and health resources.

“We were blessed by inspirational messages by well-known leaders and speakers, talented musicians,

good food, ministry displays, new friends, along with Albuquerque weather, beauty, and hospitality,” said Cox.

In addition, the summit afforded the opportunity for those involved in like ministries to connect with and network for future service. With trained members sharing what they’ve learned, and prayerfully working together, those they minister to in their churches and communities will have their needs met, feel loved, and see Jesus. “Medical missionary work brings to humanity the gospel of release from suffering. It is the pioneer work of the gospel. It is the gospel practiced, the compassion of Christ revealed”—*MEDICAL MINISTRY*, p. 239.

—Health Ministries department, New York Conference

Annual William Miller Camp Meeting

July 27, 2019

Featured Speaker
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Pastor
Carolina Conference



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Volunteers Assist Residents of Saipan Mission

Super Typhoon Yutu impacted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, including southern Saipan, October 24-25, 2018, with maximum sustained winds of 150-180 mph and gusting to 220 mph, which was recorded around the eye of the storm. Damage assessments by the American Red Cross identified that 1,454 of the 6,304 homes on Saipan were destroyed.

Because the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a part of the North American Division's territory, the Northeastern Conference Adventist Community



Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response volunteers work on repairing a house damaged by Typhoon Yutu.

Services Disaster Response got involved.

Volunteers from the Northeastern and Florida conferences worked in Saipan, April 7-21. During the time they were there, the Northeastern Conference

volunteers repaired and replaced the roofs of 10 houses. As a result, 10 families were grateful to be finally transferred into their own dwelling from temporary accommodations in tents or with family.

A team of 26 individuals from the following churches participated: from New York, Ebenezer (Freeport), Shiloh (Brooklyn), East New York (Brooklyn), Mt. Vernon (Mount Vernon), Hanson Place (Brooklyn), Linden (Laurelton), Rogers Avenue (Brooklyn), First Rosedale (Cambria Heights), Maranatha (Brooklyn), and El Farro Hispanic (Brooklyn); from Massachusetts, Shiloh (Springfield), Real Truth (Framingham), and Mt. Sinai Hispanic (Somerville); and Fort Lauderdale church in Florida.

—Fitzgerald Kerr, Adventist Community Services director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Conference is Unleashed in Providence, Rhode Island

In 2018, the Northeastern Conference (NEC) departmental directors were given the task of developing a program that would engage the members of the conference in training and leadership for evangelism. The directors took to the assignment mightily, and with much prayer came much power as the premier Unleashed Evangelism Summit took place in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

Following an explosive buzz of excitement that surged throughout the churches as a result of the many lay members who attended the first Unleashed, it was no question that another should be planned and held the following year. And



Members from across the Northeastern and Greater New York conferences participate in the Sabbath-morning service at the Unleashed Evangelism Summit in Providence, Rhode Island.

that is what brought the conference to Providence, Rhode Island, for Unleashed 2, February 21-24.

Held at the Rhode Island Convention Center and the Omni Providence Hotel, it was a much larger facility

than the previous year, and it provided the opportunity for more workshops and a very pleasant atmosphere. More than 1,000 people (in the Northeastern and Greater New York Conferences) registered as

attendees for Unleashed 2. However, as word spread quickly about the speakers, workshop presenters, and community outreach projects, more than 1,300 people attended on Sabbath to witness the blessings of God

through the testimonies of evangelism reports, dynamic music, and heartfelt sermons throughout the day.

Speakers for Unleashed 2 included Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director for the Jesus 101 Bible Institute; David Franklin, pastor of Miracle City church in Baltimore, Maryland; James Black, North American Division Prayer Ministries director; and NEC pastors, Raymond Alcock, pastor of East New York church in Brooklyn, New York; Paula Olivier, pastor of Ebenezer

church in Freeport, New York; James Yansen, pastor of Hyde Park church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts; and Yrvain Jean-Philippe, pastor of Horeb church in Brooklyn, New York.

Many Unleashed 2 attendees were amazed at the concept and wondered why the conference had not planned this type of event before. One attendee said, “Either they are picking the top-notch speakers or the speakers are bringing their top-notch sermons. The messages have been so powerful.”

Unleashed 2 attendees came from far and near. Some local churches even held abbreviated services so that the registered members could attend the seminars. There was a tremendous amount of pastoral and member support within the conference. Without the push of the pastors from the pulpit encouraging their lay members, not just church officers, to attend, Unleashed 2 would not have been as impactful.

The goal of Unleashed 2 is to let every church

member know that through the power of the Holy Spirit, they can be used as instruments to help someone know who Jesus Christ is through various means of evangelism—preaching, teaching, leading, and supporting. And as a testament to the Unleashed Summits, evangelism is for every one, every language, every age, and every ministry.

—JeNean Lendor, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Conference Brings Back the Choirs

The Northeastern Conference (NEC) Ministerial Department/Music Committee presented “Bring Back the Choirs” on March 30. The objectives were to encourage, edify, and uplift church choirs that are functioning and to inspire churches with no functioning choirs to establish choirs as an integral part of their ministry.

Six choirs participated: Calvary church choir (Bridgeport, Connecticut); Faith church—Genesis Choir; Shiloh Mass Choir; Emmanuel church choir; Ebenezer church choir; and the North Bronx church choir. More than 5,000 viewed the program online and over 1,000 individuals attended this event at the Community Worship Center church in Jamaica, New York. All choirs received participation trophies.

The program was moderated by Jason Ferdinand, Oakwood University Aeolians’ choral director.



The choir directors from Calvary, Faith, North Bronx, Shiloh (Brooklyn), Ebenezer, and The First White Plains churches all received trophies for their participation.

The Aeolians were voted “Choir of the World” winners in 2017.

Ferdinand was aided by a panel of experienced choir directors, including DeNeil Clarke, Robenson Altino, and Debra Mahoney-Charles. This was not a competition or an ordinary concert. Each moderator gave helpful critiques and tips for improving the performance and presentation of the choir. The program was exciting, educational, and empowering. It ended with a mass choral

rendition of “Total Praise,” directed by Ferdinand.

This initiative was the heartfelt desire of Debbie Wallace (planning committee chairperson), working along with Kimberly Holmes-James (music committee co-chair) and Gillian Joseph (member), comprising a subcommittee of the NEC Music Committee under the auspices of the Ministerial department headed by Ainsworth Joseph, director.

Plans are underway to make this an annual event

and to provide workshops and panels for the choirs, directors, musicians, sound engineers, instrumentalists, and all who present music that is worshipful and pleasing to God.

You may contact Ainsworth Joseph at ajoseph@northeastern.org or phone (718) 291-8006, ext. 2237/2238, to participate in the next choir festival scheduled for the spring of 2020.

—Deborah Felder, music committee member, Northeastern Conference

Men's Ministry Meet-up: Stories, Lame Jokes, and Drawing Close to God

A meeting of Men's Ministries in the Northern New England Conference creates a very unique environment. There is something strange about walking into a church that is filled with men. Long experience with church attendance leads most of us to expect to see, on balance, a few more women than men. Sometimes that balance shifts, with interesting results: the hymns have a more robust bass section, and the Sabbath School discussion might be peppered with a few more sports metaphors. But for most of us, there isn't anything in our church attendance experience that prepares us for a church filled with just men.

The difference is striking. For one thing, men behave a little differently when there are no women around, and not in ways you might expect. Yes, there are more stories spun, and yes, there

is an abundance of pretty lame jokes. But there is more: there is a twinkle in the eye and a little-boy mischievousness that comes to the surface, perhaps because there are no women around to frown on it.

At the same time, there is a social hesitation and awkwardness that comes to the surface, perhaps because there are no women around to guide interactions and fill in the conversational gaps. Finally, there is something that comes out that, simply put, is almost never seen among men—naked vulnerability.

Here is what happens: a knot of men forms during one of the breaks or while waiting for lunch, and many in the knot get a mischievous twinkle in their eye. A few dubious stories are spun. A few lame jokes are told. But even as these things are happening, there is an unease among the men, an awkwardness, as if they are

waiting for the real discussions to begin, but have no idea how to begin them.

Then, finally, one man will hesitantly, quietly, raise a subject. "I wonder if anyone else is struggling with . . ." and he will name a challenge. He might be looking for advice on how to connect with his kids who now live with his ex-wife. He might be looking for strategies to deal with a boss who wants him to work on Sabbath. He might be looking for ways to avoid a whole slew of temptations. When he quietly asks his question, heads nod around the circle. They make it safe and protect him in his vulnerable moment because they know what he is struggling with and how hard it is to raise the subject. They give him some advice. They praise God. They pray together. Then they stand, an awkward silence prevailing, until someone breaks it by telling a lame joke.

After the break is over, the men file back into the sanctuary to hear another presentation on some of the many subjects that challenge men. Or to engage in a discussion about what it means to be the priest of the home. Or to listen to a panel discussion that delves into hot-potato problems in the church and in society. But first, they sing a hymn. The song is a good one. The pianist is talented. The singing is . . . well, it's pretty awful. It turns out that men need women to lead the melody, and without the women, the men pretty much follow the Judges 17:6 approach to singing.

Men need women. But once in a while, they need to gather, to indulge the little boy inside them, to tell stories and jokes, but also to be vulnerable, to confess, to seek counsel, and to form a deeper relationship with God.

Praise the Lord, Men's Ministries in the Northern New England Conference exists to create the opportunity and space for all of this to happen. And praise the Lord, the ministry is serving, encouraging, growing, and succeeding in its mission. Expect to see more vitally important meet-ups, more spiritually-strengthened men, and, well, more dubious stories and lame jokes. After all, these are men we're talking about.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



Men in the Northern New England Conference meet-up to form a deeper relationship with God.

Bordoville Church Will Celebrate 155th Homecoming in September

The Northern New England Conference is blessed to have two “first” churches. There is the Washington church in New Hampshire, where Sabbath-keeping Adventists first met, forming the roots of what would become, years later, the Seventh-day Adventist Church movement. Then there is the other first church in Bordoville, Vermont, which was the first church that was designed and built from the ground up as a Seventh-day Adventist church. Prior to Bordoville, members of the fledgling churches met in homes or barns or rented Sunday-keeping churches.

Both churches are historic, and both churches have an annual meeting that is well worth the trip to attend. For Bordoville, this year marks its 155th annual homecoming



Jud Lake is the featured speaker at Bordoville church's annual homecoming celebration.

Sabbath, though perhaps there should be an asterisk behind that statistic, since the homecoming was irregularly observed from about 1970 to 2012. From 2012, Cornell Preda, the church's pastor, and his congregation from nearby St. Johnsbury, Vermont, have made a

concerted effort to repair, refurbish, and revitalize the church, with the aim of using it as a history-steeped center for local evangelism.

The influence of the Bordoville church on Adventism is significant. The church was built in part by the Bourdeau brothers, who launched from there on their historic missionary careers in 1864. Also, the church enshrined the idea of paying systematic benevolence in their church charter, which was signed in 1864. The missionary spirit of the founders and the church continues to encourage many today to be a vigorous witness and live a life according to the Three Angels' Messages.

The Bordoville homecoming this year will be celebrated on September 21. All are welcome. The featured

speaker is Jud Lake, noted Adventist author, professor of Homiletics and Adventist Studies at Southern Adventist University and director of the Institute for the Study of Ellen White and Adventist Heritage.

Song Service, which begins at 9:20 a.m., kicks off a full day of worship, reflection on history, and celebration. Those attending should bring ready-to-be-served food for a potluck lunch. Bringing along camp chairs for the lunch or relaxing outside is also a good idea. The church is located at 6941 Chester A. Arthur Road in West Enosburg, Vermont. Those with questions should contact Cornell Preda at cornelpredasda@yahoo.com.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

NNEC Sends Contingent to VOP Evangelism Meetings

The Northern New England Conference (NNEC) is steadily and firmly building its evangelism focus. That focus was recently sharpened when a large contingent of pastors from NNEC attended Voice of Prophecy (VOP) meetings to learn how to turn their churches into VOP Discovery Centers.

With NNEC being a small conference, the term “large contingent” has to be taken in context. Still, the nine pastors who attended the meetings at the North American Division headquarters in Columbia,

Maryland, were one of the largest contingents there.

NNEC plans to try the comprehensive VOP partnership in as many as 10 of its churches for one year before considering whether to expand the effort further, and conference president Bob Cundiff is excited about the potential impact. “We’re seeing a steady increase in evangelism efforts across the conference and, praise God, much of it is lay-driven. Now, the partnership we’re building with Voice of Prophecy is going to put some very powerful tools in the hands of our pastors and



The Northern New England Conference delegation attending the Voice of Prophecy's Discovery Center meeting series stand with Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy ministry, center.

lay leaders. I believe we are seeing the Holy Spirit being poured out in Northern New England and our people are being fitted for the work at

hand. It is an exciting time to be working for the Lord!”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Member Organizes “Tell Us Your Story” Program

Edgar Alvarez, a member with a powerful testimony of how he found Jesus, has organized, “Tell Us Your Story,” a periodic, Friday-evening vesper program at the Hudson church in Hudson, Massachusetts. The idea began one day after Alvarez heard a Doug Batchelor broadcast stating that one should be grateful for their blessings and that blessings should be shared.

About the same time, a longtime church member, the late Jack Achilles, shared his conversion story with Alvarez and how his life was forever changed. Alvarez felt that members were losing their sense of thankfulness for the many blessings they experience. He prayed that God would open a door so that he could share his



Edgar Alvarez, a member of Hudson church, organized “Tell Us Your Story,” a periodic, Friday-evening vesper program at the Hudson church.

testimony and the blessings he has received on this journey with others—family, friends, coworkers, church family, and yes, even strangers. After much prayer and church leadership support, Alvarez initiated the program, “Tell Us Your Story.”

As Sabbath draws close, attendees share a simple supper in the fellowship hall, then the group segues into the sanctuary. Under an impression from the Lord through prayer, members have volunteered to share their testimony. The audience may experience emotions of awe, laughter, shock, a new respect, and even tears, as speakers share details, and often photos, documenting their stages of life until they met Jesus. Everyone’s journey is unique.

Have you ever seen the painting of people climbing an upward, perilous mountain path toward heaven? Some looked away and fell off the mountain, but others never wavered on their journey toward heaven.

It is inspiring to the listeners to hear how an individual became aware of Jesus and how they’ve continued to cultivate that personal relationship—not wavering on their journey up that mountainous path toward eternal life with Christ.

A desire to share his testimony and the blessings from his unique journey with Christ is fulfilling Alvarez’s goal, and listeners have been greatly encouraged by the testimony of others. Alvarez sums it up with these words, “Your testimony is Christ’s testimony,” “Testimony equals witness,” and “It is not our story, it is God’s story.”

—Cheryl McMaster, communication coordinator, Hudson church

SLA Students Experience a Different Culture on a Mission Trip to Belize

Sixteen students and four chaperons from South Lancaster Academy (SLA) spent part of their spring break working at Ladyville Seventh-day Adventist Primary School in Belize. The group went on this mission trip March 27 to April 3 to help with the ongoing construction of the school. They mixed and spread concrete, patched and painted walls, and helped out in classrooms.

“While we worked hard, very few will remember that we went to Belize to make and lay concrete and paint,” said Ian Neidigh, SLA sophomore and Student Association pastor. “What

people will remember are the friends we made, like Mr. Jones, our funny bus driver; the children at Ladyville school; and our fellow Canadian student missionaries.”

The students got to experience a culture much different than most of them are accustomed to. Many spoke about the rutted roads and tin shacks for homes. “They were happy, even though some of them live with large families in tin shacks the size of my bedroom. It was shocking and revealed how blessed I am. Some children played soccer with a water bottle or banana peel, because they didn’t have a



South Lancaster Academy students at the construction site gather sand to mix concrete to pour on interior floors and they also get ready to paint walls.

ball. I saw God in their happiness,” said Neidigh.

—Shauna Neidigh, director of development, South Lancaster Academy

CPUsaders Participate in Robotics Tournament

South Lancaster Academy's (SLA) robotics team, CPUsaders, placed third in the North American Division (NAD) Adventist Robotics National Championship Tournament on May 5. They competed with 29 other teams from around the NAD. This is the first year that SLA participated in the tournament.

The CPUsaders first qualified after participating in the Adventist First Lego League Regional Tournament held at Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania on April 7, where they earned second place for "core values" and third place for their project. The top six teams of the

16 teams competing at the regional tournament were invited to participate in the NAD championship at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Florida. The SLA Robotics Club is comprised of 14 students from grades 5-8.

"It was great to see each student own their role, and they presented with confidence and poise before the judges," said Dionne Blackwell, Robotics Club leader, during the regional tournament. "It was also exciting to see the students rise to the challenge and make adjustments to their robot programming to complete the missions."

The Adventist First Lego League is a program



The CPUsaders, South Lancaster Academy's robotics club, competed with 29 other teams at the Adventist Robotics National Championship Tournament in Apopka, Florida, on May 5.

that provides students opportunity to apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM), along

with imagination, to solve a real-world problem.

—Source: Shauna Neidigh, development director, South Lancaster Academy

Student Speakers Featured at Week of Prayer

Eleven students preached the gospel to their peers and visitors during Greater Boston Academy's (GBA) Student Week of Prayer. The theme for the week was "Stronger Together."

Nine students spoke during Week of Prayer on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19 and 20. The students used the expository preaching skills taught in their Sanctuary class and

received coaching from Jacqueline Mack, GBA principal, and Adam Rich, GBA English and History teacher.

The students who participated as speakers during Week of Prayer are Daniel Arriola, C.J. Barayuga, Gerardo Bermudez, Elijah Bryan, Bruno Cahuana, Sara Camacho, Justin Ezekwelu, Chay Glasgow, Karim Petit-Jean, Karrem Soares, and Nimai Wetherel.

The Week of Prayer guest speaker, Jerrold Thompson, pastor of the San Bernardino Community church in San Bernardino, California, spoke to the entire student body on Thursday and Friday, March 21 and 22.

Friday's service ended on a high note with a baptism

of six students. On Sabbath, Thompson, along with two GBA eighth-graders, spoke at the Merrimack Valley church in Dracut, Massachusetts, closing the Student Week of Prayer.

"Christian education is a combination of academics and evangelism," said Mack, who believes that students should be trained in a variety of skills and experiences that will allow them to be used as instruments for Christ in any line of work. "This [Week-of-Prayer] model [allows students to be] taught academics, how to preach, [and] witness, resulting in servant leadership."

—Staff, Greater Boston Academy



The GBA students who spoke for Week of Prayer stand with Cesar Perozo, SNEC executive secretary, left front; Kevin Robert, Merrimack Valley church pastor, back, second from right; and Adam Rich, GBA English and History teacher, back right.



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ADDRESS CHANGE

If you moved recently, be sure to submit your new address information to the church clerk or conference.

Contact information for conferences is in the shaded box located on the bottom right of page 23.

Help us keep your address information up to date!



The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

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Atlantic Union College: 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-2000. Website: www.auc.edu

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Sunset Table

July 2019	5	12	19	26	Daylight Saving Time
Bangor, ME	8:23	8:19	8:14	8:07	
Portland, ME	8:25	8:21	8:16	8:09	
Boston, MA	8:23	8:20	8:15	8:09	
South Lancaster, MA	8:26	8:23	8:18	8:12	
Pittsfield, MA	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:18	
Hartford, CT	8:28	8:25	8:20	8:14	
Providence, RI	8:23	8:20	8:15	8:09	
New York, NY	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:16	
Albany, NY	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:19	
Utica, NY	8:42	8:39	8:34	8:28	
Syracuse, NY	8:46	8:43	8:38	8:31	
Rochester, NY	8:52	8:49	8:44	8:37	
Buffalo, NY	8:56	8:53	8:48	8:41	
Keene, NH	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:15	
Manchester, NH	8:27	8:24	8:19	8:12	
Portsmouth, NH	8:25	8:21	8:16	8:10	
Brattleboro, VT	8:31	8:28	8:23	8:16	
Burlington, VT	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:24	
Rutland, VT	8:35	8:32	8:27	8:20	
Hamilton, Bda	8:27	8:26	8:23	8:18	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTHEASTERN

The Northeastern Conference Global Prayer Line is open 24 hours a day for prayer and study. The telephone number for the prayer line is (641) 715-3660, access code: 888974# or (712) 432-0075, access code: 607372#. For

more information, visit the website at www.globalprayerministries.com.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Join the Northern New England Conference Morning Prayer Line from 6:00-7:00 a.m., call (605) 468-8026 (toll charges apply), access code 310654#. For more information, visit the website at www.nnecprayerministries.com.



11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
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- Wellness Walk
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