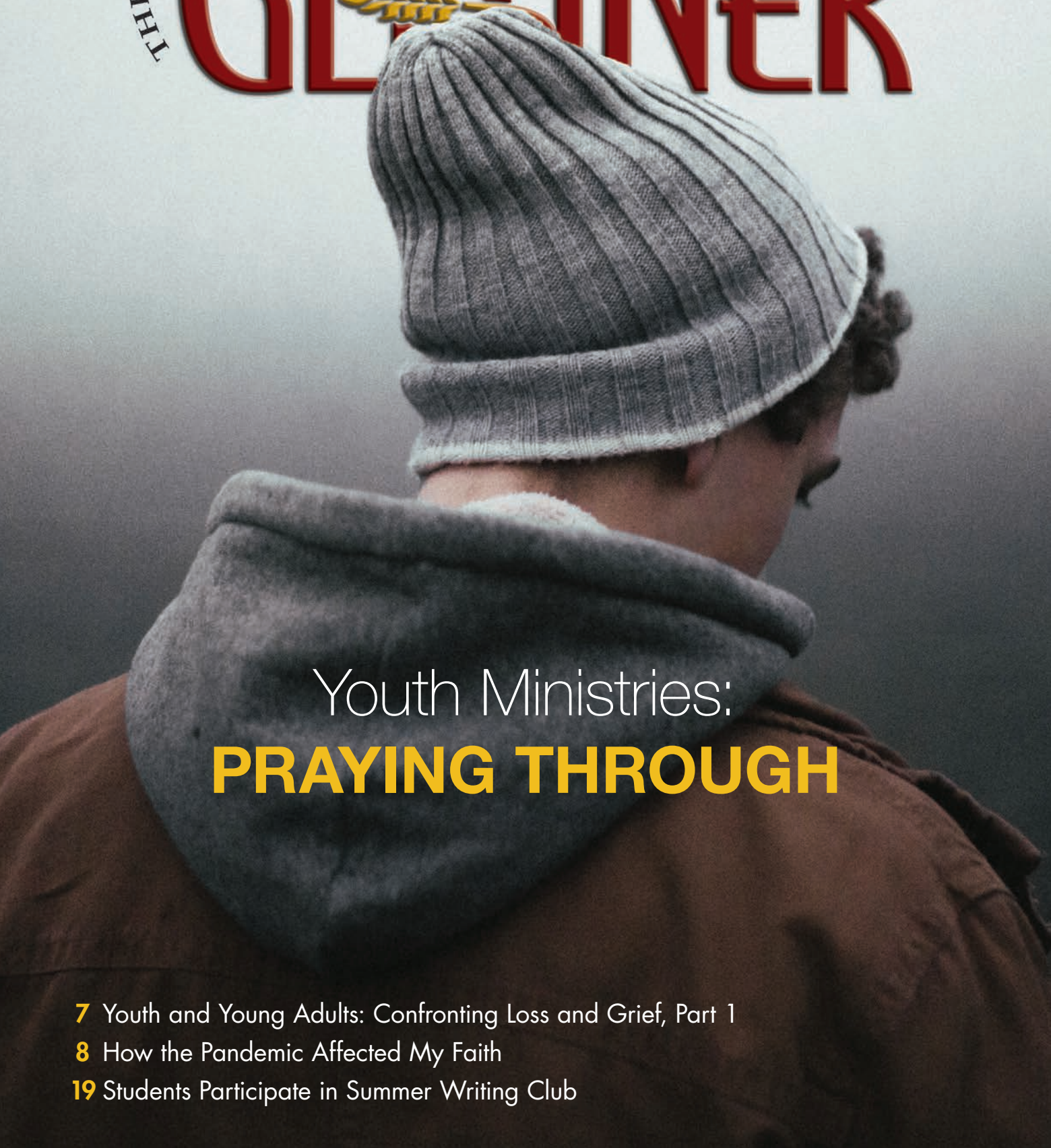


THE ATLANTIC UNION

OCTOBER 2020

GLEASONER



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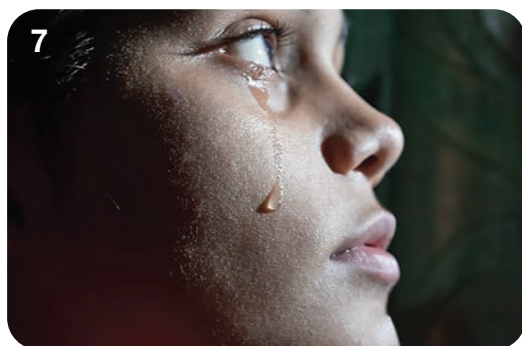
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A few youth and young adults from around the Atlantic Union Conference share their testimony on how dealing with the pandemic has affected their faith.

19 Students Participate in Summer Writing Club

Ollyce Gardner, South Lancaster Academy second-grade teacher, saw a student struggling with writing who needed extra practice. Rather than simply shrugging her shoulders and letting the issue slide, she decided to offer a summer writing club for her students.

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Hold on to **Your Faith**

The year 2020 has been a time of enormous challenges. The coronavirus has engulfed the world over, resulting in millions being infected and hundreds of thousands of deaths. There are millions who are unemployed, which has had a serious effect on the economy of the United States, as well as the rest of the world.

In Matthew 24, Jesus Christ prophesied that catastrophic events would be part of our experience before His second coming. He declared, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places”—Matthew 24:6, 7 (NKJV). These prophecies are being fulfilled. COVID-19 falls into the category of pestilences, and it is having a devastating impact on the world, and this nation in particular.

While the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been affected in general, our youth have been impacted in particular. At a young age, one might not have developed a strong faith in God and is more vulnerable in times of crisis. The youth and young adults in our churches need to receive special support from the older, and more spiritually-mature, members. Yes, we all need spiritual strength in these tumultuous times, however, the younger members of our congregations are more deserving of our love and attention, especially during this pandemic.

Timothy was a young man who was entrusted with the responsibility of providing spiritual leadership to the church in Ephesus. Paul mentored Timothy, encouraging him saying, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in

purity”—1 Timothy 4:12, NKJV. Paul was conscious that as a young person, Timothy would face discouragement even from those of the “household of faith.” However, Paul encouraged him to continue to be an example to those in his sphere of influence.

The events to which we are being exposed bring discouragement, even to those who are seemingly strong in the faith. The injustices in society, the inequities we face, the racial biases, the violence and crime, can cause feelings of overwhelming hopelessness in our youth and young adults. What type of society will the next generation inherit?

We need to invoke confidence and trust in the Word of God. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”—Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NKJV).

Let us hold on to our faith in God. We are being tried on every side. The enemy of our soul seeks to discourage us, God’s people, because he knows that it won’t be long before Jesus Christ returns. Hold on to your faith in God; don’t give up. Help is on the way! Jesus has given us a promise, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”—John 14:1-3, NKJV. Let us encourage each other to hold on to our faith. God’s promises are guaranteed! ☺

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



“We all need spiritual strength in these tumultuous times, however, the younger members of our congregations are more deserving of our love and attention, especially during this pandemic.”





Youth Ministries: **PRAYING THROUGH**

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

—2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV

The novel coronavirus greatly impacted the Atlantic Union Conference territory at the onset of its spread across the United States. Early on in the pandemic, as churches and schools shifted to online platforms, the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries Department (AYM) maintained its focus of supporting the six conferences in the Atlantic Union through ongoing training of youth ministries leaders, as well as facilitating opportunities to provide encouragement to youth and young adults.

In March 2020, AYM began Operation “PUSH” (Pray Until Something Happens) to pray for those affected by COVID-19 and for issues faced by Youth Ministries leaders as they seek to minister during the pandemic. Youth, young adults, church leaders, and the “young at heart” join in

the early-morning prayer sessions that take place seven days a week. Some 200 people—representing the Atlantic Union territory, various U.S. states, and other countries—participate on the intercessory prayer conference line on a regular basis.

These faithful prayer warriors stand in the gap for the frontline workers, as well as people who have lost loved ones during this time. They also pray for various ministries, Adventist entities—such as schools and hospitals—and those who work in them. People from other countries, many with family and friends still residing there, also submit prayer requests on behalf of their country of origin and the various situations affecting their loved ones.

Lisa Qualey, a youth ministries leader in the Northeastern Conference who also



serves on the AYM Compassion Advisory, often co-hosts the morning prayer session. Since March, Quailey has maintained the growing list of prayer requests. To date, the numerous prayer requests have filled two journals, and Quailey is partially through the third one.

During the state-mandated stay-at-home orders, Quailey noticed many youth and young adults, who were working on the frontlines of the pandemic, logging onto the prayer line requesting prayer. “They were out there [working] day after day and kept going to work,” said Quailey. “That means something [when] you can be the hands and feet of Jesus, not just in the context of your worship experience, but in the way you live day by day.”

The prayer line co-hosts also take time to hear testimonies of answered prayers, including many from youth leaders who testify of God’s provision, guidance, and inspiration for continued ministry during the pandemic. “Some of our youth leaders joined us in prayer online while in their hospital beds,” said David McKenzie, Atlantic Union AYM director. “Many of them have been healed and have come back online with testimonies of answered prayer.”

In addition to the morning prayer sessions, Operation “PUSH” holds an all-night prayer vigil every Tuesday evening. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., volunteers sign up for an hour slot and pray offline for the next 12 hours about the pandemic, those affected by it, and youth ministries and youth ministry leaders. “We’ve had youth who have lost their parents during this time, or were sick, not just as a result of COVID-19,” Quailey said. “We targeted prayers to lift up Adventurer- and Pathfinder-aged children for God to comfort them in this time of pain. Children and youth were often discouraged just like the adults were and they needed encouragement.”

The AYM Compassion Advisory coordinates outreach ministries to

engage youth and young adults to serve their communities in tangible ways. The compassion ministry provides opportunities for youth leaders, as well as church members and children, to collectively impact their community—not preaching a sermon but being the sermon.

The team continued to meet and plan (over the phone and online), even as the coronavirus pandemic was in full swing. During one of the compassion advisory meetings, they discussed reports from many youth and young adults who were discouraged about being at home with nothing to do, while following physical distancing regulations in their areas.

The Compassion Advisory created the “Compassion Challenge,” a localized, weekly compassion project that a person could do on their own, with the support of their youth ministries leadership, while still maintaining physical distancing. The results have been overwhelmingly positive. Youth and young adults now feel relevant in their community during a time when so many people need hope.

The annual Compassion Rally hosted by AYM is October 9 and 10. A virtual event, more than 30 projects are available for people to sign up and complete in their local area. Projects include creating “blessing bags” (e.g. sealable bags for the homeless with socks, hand sanitizer, wipes, a toothbrush, toothpaste, and a granola bar); virtual reading (reading to children who are hospitalized); volunteering at a soup kitchen or food pantry; and distributing masks and bandannas with back-to-school backpacks.

Quailey observes with pride that “youth and young adults around the Atlantic Union are resilient and are willing to participate and engage in serving the Lord and take care of one another.” ①

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



Youth Ministry Supplement

[adventist youth ministries on the move]

Youth and Young Adults: Confronting Loss and Grief, Part 1

What has come to a screeching halt for you over the past few months? What did you lose? Was it a thriving friendship, a job, an internship or volunteer position, a home, financial stability, a long-cherished dream, health, a sense of purpose, motivation to move forward, a sense of freedom, a classroom learning experience, the sense of belonging, church group fellowship, sense of safety, or unmasked breathing? Have you experienced a sense of loss due to social and physical distancing requirements?

Who did you lose during this season? Did you lose anyone in death to coronavirus or some other illness? Did you lose a parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, in-law, other family member, church member, friend, significant other, coworker, classmate, neighbor, boss, acquaintance, or foe?

If you answered in the affirmative to any of the aforementioned questions, please accept my deepest sympathy. Indubitably, you will concur that the coronavirus pandemic is not merely a health crisis, it is a psychological and social catastrophe that has literally upended many lives. It has also caused a spiritual disaster for individuals whose personal experience with God is hinged upon physical church attendance, fellowship, and church roles.

During this ongoing period of loss that has affected everyone, the resultant grief is real. As our loss differs, so does the response. Some reactions to loss may be physical (health and wellness related)—such as insomnia, headaches, chest pain, and weakness. Other reactions may be psychological (mental/emotional)—including confusion, irritability, anxiety, mistrust, apathy, and fear of loss. Still others may be behavioral—such as withdrawal from others, outbursts, substance abuse, and proneness to accidents. Others may be spiritual—manifested by a change of values, disbelief, withdrawal from church fellowship, or minimal to no personal prayer or Bible

study moments. It follows that the response to loss needs to address the diverse levels of aforementioned reactions, with emphasis on the most debilitating areas, and seek to strike a balanced response to all four dimensions.

This is a time when all, especially vulnerable youth and young adults, need emotional and spiritual support from compassionate, caring responders. Many need someone with whom they can debrief, rehash, and clarify personal and shared experiences. Youth and young adults need to be reminded that amid the multitude of possible positive responses, they are not to lose hope. God is faithful, and relying on His abundant promises remains one of the most potent coping mechanisms.

The scriptures note that God “heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3, NKJV); that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18, NKJV). God promises that although “now is your time of grief, [he] will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy” (John 16:22, NIV).

All youth ministry leaders are “essential workers” during this crisis response period. They are first responders in these times of ongoing grief with many who are struggling to acclimate to societal and personal changes. This is a time for all pastors, youth directors, youth ministry leaders, and Adventist mental health professionals to be intentional about interceding for and interacting with our youth, young adults, and their families who have experienced various types of loss and are grieving in diverse ways. ①



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



How the Pandemic Affected My Faith

Atlantic Union Conference Youth and Young Adults Share Their Testimonies

Many have been tested and tried during this coronavirus pandemic. A few youth and young adults from around the Atlantic Union Conference share their testimony on how dealing with the pandemic has affected their faith.

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“I got a better understanding of who God is, and I gave my life to Him again (but this time doing it for me and not to just do it). . . . Before the pandemic I had faith in God, but it wasn't as strong as I would have liked, [nor] as strong as I thought it was. I used to believe in God, go to church, do my Sabbath School lessons, etc., but I never felt the real experiences that other people said they felt. With the help of this pandemic, I've felt those experiences; I've felt more comfortable and open about my religion/faith; and I've felt God's presence, even when I was at my lowest during this pandemic. I've started reading the Bible and noticing that all the things I needed were right there in front of me. I've even found friends online that have the same love for God as I do, and I follow more people [on social media] who inspire me to share God's Word. I even enjoy doing Bible studies!”—*Zaria Hill, 15; Southampton church, Southampton, Bermuda*

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“As a young adult exploring the world of Christianity and trying to find my purpose, I have found that the quarantine has set a different tone for what I want for my life as a Christian. I have learned what it means to be patient; I learned the true meaning of gratitude; I learned how to “define” the word resilience; I learned to love others and extend my hand when they are in need. But overall, I learned to put my full trust in God and to not lean on my own understanding.”—*Mikayla Williams, 20; Sharon church, Mount Vernon, New York*

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“To me, the pandemic was just another indicator that our Lord and Savior, Jesus, is coming soon. The pandemic was the fulfillment of a part of prophecy that disease would come in the end time, [as well as] civil unrest and political turmoil, which is more fulfillment of prophecy. Due to all of this, my faith in God's Word was strengthened and, in turn, my relationship with God.”—*Anya Barrett, 18; Worcester Pleasant Street church, Worcester, Massachusetts*



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“In the beginning of 2020, I realized that there was something off in my life. I took the initiative and I started to work on the outside of my life. I started to cut toxic people out of my life and I deleted all social media from my phone.

“As quarantine started, I realized that changing the outside was a good start, but I still felt off. I felt like something needed to be done. So, I started to work on the inside of my life. I started to work on my relationship with God. I began to do daily devotionals and started reading the Bible more. As I was doing all of that, I started to cross paths and encounter people who were struggling with their faith. I told them my story of what I’ve been through and how God has seen me through my trials. While I was doing that, I also started to read the Bible and do devotionals with them.

“As time went on, they started to believe more in God and started to help other people in their life who were struggling with their faith. I joined a prayer line made up of some members of my church. We read chapters of the Bible and talked about what each chapter means and what God wants us to take away from each chapter.

“Recently, I started to work on my mental health. What I have been doing is to pre-write quotes with random Bible verses about faith on each one. I do not know what the verse says, but I know where it is taken from. Every morning I take a quote and I read it. I tape it in my notebook and then write about how I would interpret the quote. Then I copy down the Bible verse and do the same. Furthermore, at the end, I talk about how both relate to each other and how it can benefit my present and my future. After that, instead of just praying to God, I go the extra mile and I write down my prayers and tape them on my prayer wall. This process allows me to put all my feelings down and it makes prayer more personal to me.

“This journey has not been easy, but this is not the end. I will continue to grow and prosper in my relationship with God. As a result, quarantine has helped me refocus and reignite the fire back on God.”—*Amarigé Salvador, 22; Broadway Spanish church, New York, New York*

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“The impacts of COVID-19 on my spiritual life have been surprising to say the least. When churches were closed because of COVID-19, the SNEC [Southern New England Conference] Youth department decided that the youth federations would serve as an online spiritual presence and host daily prayer Zoom calls [around] the theme, “It’s Possible to Connect.”

As a member of SNEC’s Rhode Island Youth and Young Adult Federation, I was tasked with being the co-host of the weekly prayer meetings [on Thursdays]. Let me tell you, it sounds easy, but it’s hard. This new COVID-19 responsibility challenged me to strengthen my commitment to my personal spiritual development and provide a safe, recurring, and virtual space for the spiritual development of others. And it’s been such a blessing that we’ve continued it long after churches have started reopening.

COVID-19 has been tough, but the silver lining for me has been our tremendous efforts in daily online worship.”—*Randie Almonte, 26; Providence Spanish church, Providence, Rhode Island*

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“The pandemic has assured me that I’m living in the last days, and that realization has led me closer to Jesus. It has also made me depend on God more, which I’ve done, not just by praying [about] my worries or problems, but also by praising Him for all the good He has done for my life, so far. I’ve also been led to cherish God’s Word more. It’s a light in the dark and truth in a world of error, [and] it is full of promises that I can claim for my daily battles.”—*Daniel A. Cordero, 16; Bridgeport Spanish church, Bridgeport, Connecticut*



Students Return to School at Bermuda Institute

Since the end of March, students at Bermuda Institute have been at home and have had to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 and attending classes online. However, after significant summer preparations to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff, Bermuda Institute, on August 24, became the first school in Bermuda and one of the first schools in the Atlantic Union to open its doors again.

The first day of school at Bermuda Institute is always a huge event. Teachers, students, parents, grandparents, and well-wishers arrive on campus fully energized, excited, and even anxious about the new school year. Everyone looks forward to attending the unique, traditional, first-day chapel as each contemplates the possibilities that lie ahead. Although Bermuda Institute upheld all the traditions and included elements in the planning that makes the school unique, this year is not business as usual. Things were visibly different.

The teachers and administrators met the students at the school gates, since the parents were not allowed on campus. Thermometers in hand, administrators conducted temperature checks and then directed students to hand sanitizer dispensers mounted at every entrance. Once temperatures were taken and the students sanitized their hands, the prefects led them to their classrooms, where the teachers received them. Desks are set between three to six feet apart for physical distance, depending on the age group.

Grades with more than 20 students were divided between two classrooms. Students and staff must wear masks and adhere to other strict safety protocols. Grade 6, the largest class, is currently housed in the auditorium. Grades 3 and 5 have a hybrid system—the class occupies two rooms, and the teacher moves between each room. The traditional chapel



Temperature checks are conducted before the children are allowed to enter their classrooms.

Jahni M.A. Smith Photography



On the first day of the 2020-2021 school year, students make memories by stopping at the photo booths.



Classroom configurations at Bermuda Institute follow the required guidelines for safety as they navigate through uncharted territory.

was conducted via Zoom. Parents were able to join the chapel online.

The Home and School Association team rose to the challenge and hosted a first-class welcome for everyone. Upon arriving in the parking lot, they greeted students with cookies and drinks. Students and their families took pictures at a photo booth set up to memorialize the day. Even the fire department had a truck on hand to welcome the students back.

COVID-19 has changed the way education is administered at Bermuda Institute and around the

world, but the students, teachers, and stakeholders are resilient. “We continue to be creative in the way we deliver instruction to facilitate student learning and keep them engaged,” said Frigga Simmons, Bermuda Institute development officer. “Everyone is working to ensure a smooth transition for students; and as a faculty, we have come to rely on one another for support. We are also blessed that parents have been supportive and understanding as we navigate through uncharted territory.”

—Development Office, Bermuda Institute

Beulah Temple Maximizes its Resources for In-Reach and Outreach Ministries

The members of Beulah Temple church moved into a new church building in September 2014, because the former building was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. Now, restrictions from the infamous COVID-19 have again left the members without a place to worship.

Unlike the pause in some of the ministries when the church was without a building post Superstorm Sandy, the digital and virtual world have allowed the members to continue worship services, prayer meetings, and ministries on a broader spectrum with more efficiency. The Men's Ministries and Women's Ministries have revived and are blossoming and meeting once a week on the Zoom platform.

The Pathfinder ministry is moving ahead with the use of digital learning platforms allowing the Pathfinders to submit their work to the counselors and the counselors, in turn, send them feedback to edit and resubmit where necessary. The Pathfinder club also meets face to face on the Zoom platform.

In addition to keeping the in-reach ministries alive, the church also conducted a one-week, Spirit-filled virtual Vacation Bible School with a daily average attendance of 26 children from five different states—New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Kentucky, and Florida. The staff and children met via Zoom from

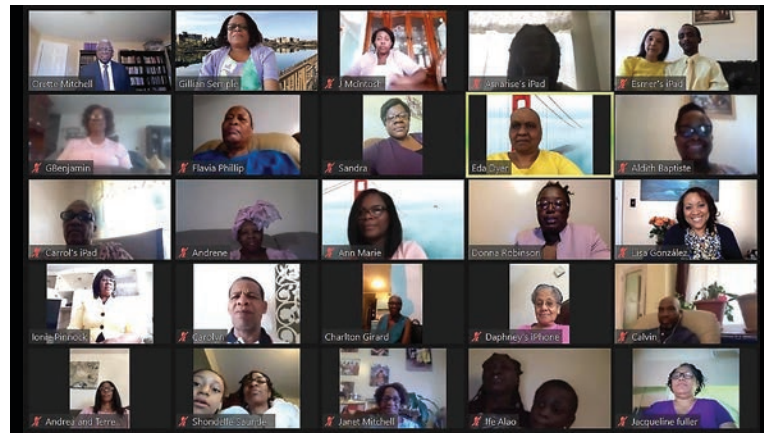


H. Orette Mitchell, Beulah Temple church pastor, baptizes Tia Dudley at Rockaway Beach.

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., from July 27 to July 30. The interaction among the staff and children was superb.

The craft instructor, Shereen Springer, together with Joylene McIntosh, made a diligent effort to deliver craft materials to the children, which gave them the opportunity for hands-on work. A daily highlight was ending the sessions with Kahoot, a game-based learning platform, that tested the children's knowledge. The week's program culminated on Saturday, August 1, with a virtual graduation.

Beulah Temple reopened its doors on Saturday, August 8, followed by the baptism of four individuals on Sunday, August 9, at Rockaway Beach. The doors of the church reopened at a time when the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias left some members unable to connect virtually because of power outages. Such fluidity of circumstances is a lesson to us that everyone should



The Beulah Temple church Women's Ministries group meets once a week on Zoom.

maximize every available resource for in-reach and outreach ministries.

—Gillian Seemple, communication secretary, Beulah Temple church

Tell Us What's Happening in Your Community

We want to know more about what's happening in your community. How are members of your church making an impact in your online and local community? How are the youth and young adults getting involved?

Church communication leaders, e-mail your stories, with the photos, to the Greater New York Conference communication director. Be sure to include a caption with each photo.

For information on what types of stories to submit, visit: atlanticuniongleaner.org/about-us/writing-guidelines.



Donnieval Walker
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Westvale Walks in Prayer

The Westvale church prayer coordinators and Health Ministries team organized a prayer walk after church on Sabbath, August 15. Several people joined the walk that had the purpose of strengthening the relationship between spiritual and physical health.

Joan Payne, faith community nurse and health ministry leader for the church, directed the walk around the outside of the church building in Syracuse, New York. The prayer group stopped outside the different rooms of the church, and someone said a prayer for the rooms and

the classes/ministries that are held in each one of them. Prayer was also offered for the church building and grounds. Seong Cho, Westvale church senior pastor, prayed for the offices of the church.

The group offered prayer for the local Adventist Community Services depart-

ment, which is playing a big role now with the COVID-19 pandemic. Prayers were also offered for the entire church family and other departments, including the Audio Visual department.

After praying for the church, the group went over to Parkview Junior Academy where Sue Hayford, one of the prayer coordinators and church school teachers, led the group in a prayer walk around the school. The school building, the classrooms, the teachers, the teacher aides, students, the secretary, the grounds, the volunteers, school board, and Home and School leader, were all remembered in prayer. The following Wednesday, August 20, Parkview opened for its first day of school with in-person instruction.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference



Westvale members participate in a prayer walk outside of the church while practicing physical distancing.

Joy of Troy Church Celebrates Baptismal Candidates

In the life of a congregation, there are usually many things to celebrate, as the members reach certain milestones. A few of these things are birthday celebrations, baptisms, and baby dedications. On Sabbath, August 22, these three celebrations occurred at the Joy of Troy Community church, as three individuals were baptized, and a baby dedicated.

Dacey Ann Lewis wanted to be baptized as a celebration of her birthday. This was scheduled for April 25, but due to the pandemic and resulting quarantine it had to be postponed. The pastor and elders held a wide-ranging discussion trying to accommodate this young lady, looking at various options. While discussing the options, they realized that part of the blessing of baptism is being



Standing with baptismal candidate Roxane Genestil, left, who is celebrating the dedication of her daughter, Eliora, are Deborah Langley, Joy of Troy church clerk, and Ray Baun, Joy of Troy church elder.

able to share it in person with your family, friends, and especially your church family.

Realizing that choosing to follow Jesus for the rest of their life is the most important decision one can make, it was decided not to allow this opportunity to go by unnoticed. The pastor and elders decided to hold the first ever “virtual baptism” for the church. The congregation participated in everything that Sabbath, including praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, pending the physical baptism.

The other young candidate, Nashlie Butanas, also wished to celebrate her bap-

tism close to her birthday, but wanted a natural setting, outside. Both of these young ladies studied and prepared together for baptism with Annette Barnes, Joy of Troy church elder.

As the plans were being made, another Joy of Troy member, Roxane Genestil, desiring to recommit herself to the Lord, requested to be baptized also. And so, on August 22, these three women committed themselves to Jesus in baptism in a portable pool in the backyard of members Peter and Johanna Perez-Thomas. The Joy of Troy church members formed a backdrop as they



Annette Barnes, Joy of Troy church elder, left, stands with baptismal candidates Dacey Lewis, Nashlie Butanas, and Roxane Genestil, while Claudio Gomez, New York Conference executive secretary who officiated at the baptism, looks on from the back.

surrounded the yard on lawn chairs. Claudio Gomez, New York Conference executive secretary, officiated, with the assistance of Barnes.

In conjunction with the baptism, Genestil’s baby daughter Eliora was dedicat-

ed to the Lord by Ray Baun, Joy of Troy church elder.

This was an especially high day for the Joy of Troy congregation, and they were reminded that there is no obstacle too big for God!

—Elders department, Joy of Troy church

Lockport Grows Even in the Midst of the Pandemic

Before April showers brought May flowers, the church family received showers of blessings in Lockport, New York. April and June brought three new members to the congregation. These three new members are the result of the hard work and steadfast love shown by the church members, even in the midst of the pandemic.

COVID-19 did not stop Lockport church from sharing the good news about Jesus. During the quarantine, members were creative with online Bible studies and they also dropped off studies to the community. Kristy Wilson and Emma Wilson had the privilege of being baptized in April. Edgar De Leon, Lockport church’s senior

pastor, encouraged them in their studies and walk with God. Kristy and Emma have been attending the Lockport church a long time and it is no doubt that a loving church family helped them to become closer to Jesus.

Katie Gonzales came to the church a couple of times because a coworker, who was not a member of the church, told her that there was a

church on her street, and they agreed to visit it together. Even though that person did not come, Gonzales attended and the church welcomed her. She expressed a desire to study the Bible.

After several months of in-person and online studies with member Christina Smith, Gonzales decided to become part of the family of God. Many of her family members joined her at the ceremony held in June. The morning of the ceremony, Jonathan Smith, elder, conducted the service in the absence of the pastor.

Lockport is an active church in the community and has continued to bless others in an uncertain world. Praise God for member involvement and a loving church family where new people can come and be loved, accepted, and built up in Jesus.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference



Edgar De Leon, Lockport church senior pastor, baptizes Kristy and Emma Wilson.



Jonathan Smith, Lockport church elder, left, accompanied by his wife, Christina, right, baptizes Katie, Gonzales, center.

New Rochelle Church Faces COVID-19 Head On

The New Rochelle community, located just over a mile from the coronavirus outbreak, became the epicenter of COVID-19 in March. As the virus reared its invisible head, Sabbaths for the New Rochelle church family would be forever changed. As daunting as the life-changing effects of this virus have been on churches, the New Rochelle church responded with equal vigor. Greg Baldeo, the church's senior pastor, opined, "A church without a strategy limits the power of the Holy Spirit." It is with this background that the church's crisis management strategy of "member care, member engagement, and evangelism" was developed and executed.

Member Care

The pandemic took a mental toll on everyone. For the past five months, of utmost importance to the pastor and elders has been the care and protection of every member. They divided the church contact list among the elders, and each week they called every member on the list. These calls were to ascertain whether the member and their family were doing OK and whether they needed anything. Baldeo frequently said, "No member should be in want of any essential."

As the elders called, they inquired to see if any member had needs. Realizing the demand on the elders having to call every member each week, they

changed the strategy, now members were encouraged to call the elders to inquire whether they needed anything. This allowed the elders to still have a pulse on the church. In addition, weekly messages were sent out, giving information about the services of the church.

Member Engagement

While the strategy of caring for each member is effective, the need to gather together had to be solved. The church streams weekly worship services via Zoom that are broadcast live to YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.

"A church without a strategy limits the power of the Holy Spirit."

—Greg Baldeo, New Rochelle church pastor

Every Sabbath after worship, members have the opportunity to fellowship with each other via Zoom and to inquire about how each person is doing. At 3:00 p.m., the children are engaged in what is dubbed "Kids Ministry, Come Follow Me." Sabbath School begins at 4:30 p.m., allowing the entire church to actively engage with the lesson. Following Sabbath School, there is more fellowship. This is an informal session in which everyone can ask questions, raise concerns, have discussions, provide vital information, or just have a good time.

The leaders wanted to make sure that marriages stayed solid. Therefore, on some Sundays, the church hosted "Marriage: the Secret to Success, a COVID-19 Conversation about Relationships." This session included members and non-members, and provided an opportunity for evangelism to take place. Other times the Gen-Xers came together for their "Let's Talk Session."

Every Tuesday at noon, the seniors ("experienced adults," as they like to be called) meet via Zoom. This is an informal session for workshops to cover topics such as dealing with stress during the

pandemic. It's also a time for them to ask the pastor any question, socialize, and discuss anything they deem essential. It was not an easy task getting the "experienced adults" to learn how to connect via video or to mute their devices. It took some time, and with the assistance of some of the teens and younger adults, most of them were able to join in via video.

Every Thursday at 7:00 p.m., the youth meet. They cover current events, relevant topics, and other youth-related issues during the pandemic.

New Rochelle church also uses Zoom and the

One Call Now feature to let members know that they can reach out to the pastor, elders, or deacons if they need assistance. They also created a WhatsApp group for members to communicate with each other.

Evangelism

The church's biggest events were the graduation celebrations designed to reach the heart of the New Rochelle community. They planned and executed the celebrations for graduates who lived, or attended school or church, in New Rochelle, irrespective of religion.

They encouraged graduates to enter the Grad 2020 Swag competition. Competitors created a one-minute video about what it means to be a 2020 grad, that was posted on the New Rochelle church's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram) and website. The person with the most "likes" would be the winner. The top prize was \$1,000. They asked the younger competitors to decorate their graduation cap and also post the picture on the website.

On May 31, the church had its Grad 2020 Turn Up Parade. New Rochelle's police escorted the graduated through a designated route in New Rochelle. This brought hope and cheer to many in the community. On June 6, via Zoom, the church held a grand virtual celebration. It was a day to remember. This event reached and

engaged more than 5,000 individuals on the social media platforms.

Members held Vacation Bible School, which was

open to all children, ages 3-12, no matter where in the world they lived, August 9 through 13. The theme was “Mystery Island.”

Through COVID-19, the New Rochelle church is experiencing new growth and new possibilities, with renewed faith, stable

financial income, and evangelistic fever.

—Maxine Pinnoch, media and communication co-leader, New Rochelle church

Bronx Church Ministers During the Pandemic

Toward the end of 2019, churches were casting their visions and goals for 2020. Evangelistic thoughts swirled around in the heads of leaders; new committee members were being nominated, and 2020, possibly dubbed as “the year of clear vision” for many, was the emphasis propelling them forward.

The year 2020 began as any normal year, with New Year’s resolutions and worship services, along with the realization that we are one year closer to Christ’s return. But then something happened that would awaken them, shake them, and alter their world in a manner that they had never experienced before—COVID-19. This pandemic

has caused church leaders to double back, rethink, create new plans, and learn new methods, while simultaneously maintaining the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is found in Revelation 14:6-12, and known as the three angels’ messages.

While ministry must continue, even in the face of a devastating pandemic, the question has been asked by many, “What can our churches do in these times?”

Kendall Guy, Bronx church senior pastor, and Aaron Chancy, Bronx church associate pastor, have continued to lead the church, even in troublesome times. The Bronx church is located in an area that is riddled with crime and pov-



Preparing to distribute food to people from the South Bronx community are Bronx church members, from left, Monica Brown, Bible worker and Food Pantry leader; Roy Bartley, Bible worker; and Hermalee McLean, Food Pantry team member.

erty. The church has continued to function during this pandemic through the efforts of several ministries. The first is the weekly Food Pantry that services 400-600 people every Thursday. It allows the church to aid in curbing practical needs as South Bronx residents navigate through the financial challenges of the times.

In addition, the church has a prayer session on Zoom every night at 7:30 p.m., with the preached Word, singing, testimonies, and keeping members connected. Sabbath services are streamed live from the church on YouTube. The pastoral staff conducts a weekly broadcast on Sunday morning, titled, “The Pastoral Breakfast Club,” where viewers can tune in

on YouTube as they discuss various topics and events going on in the church and the world. The church also conducts a “Bible Questions Answered” Bible study every Sunday at 4:00 p.m., on Zoom, where viewers may send in and/or ask their questions live.

While these are a few of the things the Bronx church is blessed to be able to do during this pandemic, there are also numerous other activities that they are planning. These activities would not be possible without the Spirit of God leading and the participation of a team of elders, ministry leaders, visionaries, and members, who are dedicated to pushing the kingdom of God forward.

—Communication staff, Bronx church



Bronx church members, from left, Roy Bartley, Bible worker; Kendall Guy, pastor; Tammalee Rodriguez, education leader; Aaron Chancy, associate pastor; and James Brown, religious liberty leader, are in the South Bronx providing free COVID-19 testing for the community along with the Northeastern Conference Health Ministries team.



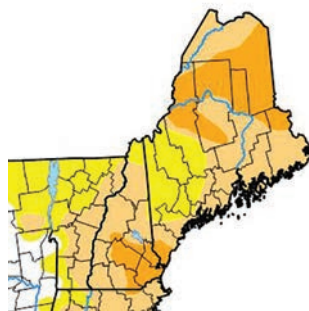
Drought Prevails, Even as a Steady Light Rain Falls

You don't have to look at a drought map, such as the recent one pictured with this article, to know that all of the Northern New England Conference has been in drought for much of the summer. Ask any farmer in the area, and they will tell you how bad it's been as they point to withered corn crops and trees bearing fewer and smaller-than-usual apples. Or ask rural homeowners who rely on a shallow well. These wells, still common enough across the region, are anywhere from 10 to 15 feet deep and tend to run dry in severe droughts. Or you could ask a naturalist, and they'll point to early and stunning fall colors as a sign that the trees across the region are stressed.

But if you ask a pastor, they might just shrug and say, "What drought?"

because there has been a steady, light, refreshing of what seems to be the latter rain across the region all during the summer. They know that, in the fullness of time, there will be a pounding latter rain accompanying the loud cry and an astonishingly large number of people will come into the church in a short period. But the latter rain seems to start gently, and indeed souls are steadily being impressed and won over, usually where church members are involved in outreach efforts.

During this summer, when apple trees and corn crops were withering and churches were struggling to deal with the fallout of COVID-19, a surprising number of people sought and came to know truth and subsequently decided to be baptized.



All of the Northern New England Conference territory (Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) is shown in a recent U.S. Drought Monitor map as ranging anywhere from abnormally dry (yellow) to moderate drought (tan) to severe drought (amber).

From the woods of Vermont, across the mountains of New Hampshire, and into the reaches of coastal (Downeast) Maine, the story has been repeated from small church to small church—seeds sprouted and grew (whether recently planted or long-ago planted)—hearts were impressed, members and

pastors studied with these interests, and churches have joyously welcomed new members.

On these pages are two stories of how small NNEC churches have baptized new members in the past few months. But the real news is that, even as the world grows more violent, angry, and unsure, and even as we see decay and distress in the natural world, the Holy Spirit is leaving an impression on receptive hearts, and even amidst a drought, there is an encouraging harvest.

Let it rain!

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC.

God Gives Us Something Better

The book of Hebrews is well-known as "Better Covenant," perhaps because God is always willing to give His people something better.

But, too often, even though God's plans for us are much better than what His people have in mind, many times they insist on doing things

their own way. Sometimes they don't understand that in order to have something better, they must have faith as the patriarchs had in Hebrews 11.

On the last Monday in August, Jessie Santos, Limerick church pastor, made plans to hold the morning worship service on the following Sabbath by the lake in Limerick, Maine, where he would be baptizing Lynnette Harriman. Then he received a text message from the church clerk, Becky Deshaies, suggesting that they postpone the lakeside Sabbath program because it

was forecast to rain all day. Santos thought about it and then said, "Let's pray, asking God to hold the rain until the afternoon."

By Wednesday evening the weather forecast still hadn't changed. Rain was predicted for all day Sabbath, starting at 7:00 a.m. Santos was pondering the forecast and thinking about asking people to bring umbrellas when he received a message from Deshaies saying, "What if we have Vespers on Friday evening and have the baptism then? It's supposed to be a beautiful day." Santos agreed to contact Harriman



Jesse Santos, Limerick church pastor, baptizes Lynnette Harriman in an evening service at the lake.

to see if she agreed, but when he talked to her, she reminded him that the reason she had picked Sabbath, August 29, was because it was her birthday and anniversary.

After some thought, Santos suggested to Harriman that the baptism would be on Sabbath anyway, because after sunset

it would be Sabbath. She agreed, and her husband thought it was a great idea.

The plan Deshaies suggested—having the baptism a little earlier instead of postponing it—indeed was God giving them something better than they were asking. It was a great vesper service and a wonderful baptism.

“Sometimes, it’s not about having faith that God will do what we are asking—after all we are working for Him—but about letting God guide and give us what He wants to give, which is always better,” Santos said.

—Pastor’s office, Limerick church

Rutland Church Celebrates Baptism

The Rutland church in Vermont celebrated yet another high Sabbath recently when Janna Brigham became the newest member of the growing congregation, committing her life to God in holy baptism.

Church members gathered at the home of the Willis family in Brandon, Vermont, to witness this blessed occasion and officially welcome Janna into the church. David Kim, Rutland church pastor, performed the ceremony inside the Willis’ family pool.

A beaming Brigham testified of her journey into the church and highlighted the power of personal missionary work. “I became a tenant of a member of the church, and he would

always come by my apartment and invite me to go to church with him,” Brigham said. This landlord of whom she speaks is long-standing church member Sherwin Young, who, along with assisting with the physical construction of the church, can now add soul winning to his resume.

Once she had accepted the first invitation, Brigham says, “My landlord started coming by my apartment on Sabbaths to ask me if I was going to church.” It was on one of those visiting Sabbaths that Brigham met Pastor Kim, whom she also thanked for bringing her much-needed enlightenment about the Bible. “I’m just so grateful for Pastor Kim, for if

it wasn’t for him chasing me, I probably would not be here today. I’m just so grateful to him,” Brigham stated.

Indeed, even as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted regular church meetings, Pastor Kim and Brigham continued to study the Word of God virtually. Over this period that led up to her baptism, Brigham celebrated a number of life-changing achievements, including the fact that she was able to quit smoking and put into effect positive dietary changes. She summed up her experience as follows: “What baptism means to me is that, finally, I’m accepting what God has given me all my life, which is His character. I’ve just not

realized it until this point in my life. . . . God has always been there for me and I’m celebrating right now because I’m appreciating so much what God has done in my life.”

Despite this beautiful celebration, the day also marked the sorrowful ending of Kim’s tenure with the church.

Wiping tears from his eyes, Pastor Kim expressed his family’s profound appreciation for the love and acceptance received at the Rutland church. He now moves on to pastor the Randolph church, along with continuing his tenure at the Claremont and Plainfield churches.

—Karrie Etzler, member, Rutland church



Members look on as David Kim, Rutland church pastor, baptizes Janna Brigham.



David Kim, Rutland church pastor looks on as Janna Brigham addresses members of the church immediately prior to her baptism.

Building Improvements Will Reap Monthly Savings

Thanks to a capital campaign and other funding efforts over the past several years, South Lancaster Academy (SLA) was able to install new windows and air conditioner units in the elementary building this summer. They also upgraded to LED lighting, thanks to the Committee of 100 and MassSave, an energy-efficiency program for businesses and residents in Massachusetts.

“We anticipate saving \$1,200 a month in electricity on the lighting upgrade alone,” said Randy Harr, SLA treasurer. “We can only guess right now on the savings due to the windows.”

The new double-paned, energy-efficient windows replaced the 50-year-old single-paned windows with seals that had deteriorated over time.



Workers install new double-paned, energy-efficient windows in the South Lancaster Academy building.

Both of these improvements were made possible because of donations toward these specific projects. These restricted funds could only be used for their intended purpose and could not be allocated to other areas.

A special thanks to the founding Committee of 100 members for funding their first project for the school. Members of this group pledge to give \$1,000 or more each year for capital improvement projects. Once the group grows to 100 members, the committee will give \$100,000 annually to needed improvements at SLA. Members have the benefit of voting on which projects to fund.

—Adapted from an article that first appeared in South Lancaster Academy’s *FIAT LUX*, August 2020

SLA Opened with Updated Safety Protocols

South Lancaster Academy (SLA), like every other school across the country, has had to reassess how best to educate students amid COVID-19 concerns and precautions. Many parents are worried about having their child in a classroom. Many parents work and can’t homeschool or oversee online learning.

We know that making a decision about how best to educate children during this time is full of many complexities. SLA has taken several steps to keep students as safe and healthy as possible while still continuing its mission that began in 1882.



This photo of South Lancaster Academy’s yearbook staff made up of ninth through twelfth graders was taken shortly before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As every family's situation is different, SLA is prepared for three learning models this year: fully in the classroom, hybrid, and fully remote.

They began the school year with students in the classroom. Teachers and students are required to wear masks, maintain social distance, and allow limited numbers within a space. An advantage of being a small school is that they can accommodate the students without having to alternate days, as some larger schools are doing. There are many other precautions outlined in the handbook.

The hybrid model allows students who choose to remain home to participate via a computer connection with the teacher and students in the classroom. This is a good option for students who are at greater risk for illness, live with grandparents, or are uncomfortable being at school. SLA has improved its technology and protocols to ensure that the remote option provides as strong of an education as if inside the classroom. Teachers can work with families on an individual basis to tailor a hybrid model that works best for them. Only families

participating in the hybrid model are guaranteed a spot in the classroom when they choose to return.

If SLA must transition all the students to fully learning remotely again, they are prepared to make that happen smoothly and quickly.

The administration created a 24-page addendum to the handbook with extensive COVID-19 protocols based on the latest guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and the Massachusetts Department of Education. This document has been

shared with the families to understand the precautions that everyone needs to take to have a safe and healthy year at school.

SLA chose to delay the start of school by two weeks to further ensure that teachers have additional training in online teaching, purchase the technology required to improve remote learning, and prepare the buildings for extra sanitizing stations, extra spacing between desks, and so on. Classes at SLA began on August 31.

—Adapted from an article that first appeared in *South Lancaster Academy's FIAT LUX*, August 2020

Students Participate in Summer Writing Club

Olyce Gardner, South Lancaster Academy second-grade teacher, saw a student struggling with writing who needed extra practice. Rather than simply shrugging her shoulders and letting the issue slide, she decided to offer a summer writing club for her students.

Five second-graders joined the optional summer writing club and met twice a week on Zoom for the month of July. On Mondays, Gardner would review punctuation rules and demonstrate a writing activity. Then the group worked on it together and individually, showing their work through the computer camera. Gardner gave the students an assignment each week that was due on Thursdays. Then, she met with each student one-on-one to go over their assignment and give them feedback.

"Their stories got better and better each week as we did different techniques," said Gardner. "By working one-on-one with them, I could really see what they each needed to work on."



Not only did the students' writing improve during the month, it was a learning opportunity for Gardner, as well. She was able to fine-tune online teaching and individualized instruction with young students in a virtual learning environment.

"It was fun working with the kids. It encouraged me as a teacher and it solidified that one-on-one teaching makes a big difference," Gardner said.

—Adapted from an article that first appeared in *South Lancaster Academy's FIAT LUX*, August 2020



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Sunset Table

November 2020	6	13	20	27
Bangor, ME	4:15	4:07	4:01	3:56
Portland, ME	4:23	4:16	4:10	4:06
Boston, MA	4:29	4:22	4:17	4:13
South Lancaster, MA	4:31	4:24	4:19	4:15
Pittsfield, MA	4:38	4:31	4:25	4:21
Hartford, CT	4:37	4:30	4:25	4:21
Providence, RI	4:32	4:25	4:20	4:16
New York, NY	4:44	4:38	4:33	4:29
Albany, NY	4:38	4:31	4:25	4:21
Utica, NY	4:44	4:37	4:31	4:27
Syracuse, NY	4:48	4:41	4:35	4:31
Rochester, NY	4:54	4:46	4:41	4:37
Buffalo, NY	4:59	4:52	4:46	4:43
Keene, NH	4:33	4:26	4:20	4:16
Manchester, NH	4:29	4:22	4:16	4:13
Portsmouth, NH	4:26	4:19	4:14	4:10
Brattleboro, VT	4:34	4:27	4:21	4:17
Burlington, VT	4:33	4:25	4:19	4:15
Rutland, VT	4:34	4:27	4:21	4:17
Hamilton, Bda	5:22	5:17	5:14	5:13

Eastern Standard Time

and Ezrela (Kok Loong) Cheah; son Sam Palmer; siblings Lyelle Palmer, Dondra (Philip) Metscher, Viola (Harry) Whipperman; and seven grandchildren.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YORK

Celebrating 100 Years: Union Springs Academy invites you to mark your calendars and join us for our centennial celebration Sept. 17-19, 2021. Our Sabbath service speaker is John Thomas, General Conference associate secretary. Whether you are an alumnus of Union Springs Academy or are passionate about the history of Adventist education, you are invited to celebrate God's goodness to the oldest boarding academy in the Northeast. For more information, visit unionspringsacademy.org.

NORTHEASTERN

The Northeastern Conference Global Prayer Hotline is open 24 hours a day for prayer and study. The phone number for the prayer line is (605) 313-5169, access code: 888974#. 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.

OBITUARIES

KNOX, Harold William—99; b. July 27, 1921, in Groton, Conn.; d. Aug. 7, 2020, in Apopka, Fla. He was an alumnus of Atlantic Union College

in Lancaster, Mass. and became a pastor for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1949, continuing his pastoral duties intermittently through the early 90's. He worked as administrator of Fuller Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, Mass., and director of Social Services at New England Memorial Hospital in Stoneham, Mass. After retirement to North Carolina, he continued to work as an assistant administrator at Fletcher Hospital, N.C., and as interim human resources manager. With his interest in computers, he also became involved in the design and installation of databases for Sunbelt Systems and Park Ridge Hospital while in N.C. In addition to his service to the community, he was also a WWII veteran having served in the Army in the Philippines and Japan in 1945. He is survived by his son William (Jean) Knox; his daughters, Bonnie (Dave) Tuoto, Peggy Oickle and Terri Knox; 11 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

PALMER, Lionel C.—80; b. Mar. 9, 1940, in Roseburg, Ore.; d. Aug. 21, 2020, in Milo, Maine. He was an elder, speaker, and active member of the Lincoln church in Lincoln, Maine. In the U.S. state of Texas, as well as Belize, he served as a literature evangelist, a medical missionary, and with Pathfinders. In the past decade, he also participated in multiple Maranatha trips where he assisted with construction projects. He is survived by his wife, Helen Palmer, of Milo, Maine; daughters Jessica Palmer

Remembering . . .

FORMER AUC INTERIM PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBER



CADY, M.D. Duane M.—86; b. Feb. 28, 1934, in Endicott, N.Y.; d. Aug. 3, 2020, in La Fayette, N.Y. He graduated from South Lancaster Academy and Atlantic Union College. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from The College of

Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University School of Medicine) in 1959. Upon completion of his general surgery residency at Upstate Medical Center in 1964, he served as a captain in the United States Army for two years. This included a tour of duty in Vietnam. He then opened his surgical practice in Syracuse caring for his patients with skill, compassion, and kindness until his retirement. During retirement, he was asked to serve as interim president of Atlantic Union College (2012-2014). He was a long-time member of the Westvale church in Syracuse where he served as church elder and his talents were utilized in outreach medical ministry, financial acumen, and support of Christian education. He was board chair of Parkview Junior Academy for 10 years during which time the present facility was built. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joyce Clarke Cady; their five children: Jann Cady and Beth (Frederick) Burghardt, both of La Fayette; Mark (Risē) Cady of Rochester, N.Y., David (Lira) Cady of Lancaster, Mass., and Jeffrey (Elizabeth) Cady of Syracuse, N.Y.; two siblings, Harvey (Delores) Cady of Penn., and Ellen Carol (David) Titus, of Vestal, N.Y.; 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is \$35 for each insertion of 40 words or less, and 50 cents for each additional word. For all other advertisements the rate is \$40 for each insertion of 40 words or less and 50 cents for each word over the 40. There is an 80-word maximum. Check or money order should be made payable to Atlantic Union GLEANER or Atlantic Union Conference.

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EMPLOYMENT

TOPSHAM DENTAL ARTS located in picturesque coastal Maine, is seeking a Christ-centered Dentist, Dental Hygienist, and Dental Assistant. Please send résumé to Dr. Nichols at tda@topshamdentalarts.com.

SEEKING DEDICATED ADVENTIST COUPLE for annual stipend position (April-October) as site directors at the Joseph Bates Home in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Need a love of Adventist history and vis-

itors who come for tours, plus a willingness and ability to care for the property. For more information, contact Donella at dandersen@adventistheritage.org.

STALLANT HEALTH a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for an Optometrist to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com.

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

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Kyoshin Ahn Named North American Division Executive Secretary

On August 20, 2020, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference Executive Committee met virtually to receive the name of Kyoshin Ahn, the recommendation for division secretary, from both the North American Division's standing nominating committee and executive committee. Ahn was confirmed in a vote of 118 to 2.

"Dr. Kyoshin Ahn brings to the position a wealth of knowledge and experience he has garnered through various assignments," said G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president. "He is a humble man with a quiet spirit and a big heart for God. He has served well as the undersecretary but God has shaped him and called him to be the secretary of the North American Division in these challenging and unprecedented times. He is a great addition to the executive team."

Upon learning of the voted decision, Ahn shared, "I am deeply humbled by the trust the church has placed in me with this responsibility. I approach this new task prayerfully. I solicit your prayers for me and my family as I work along with you all, and endeavor to carry out the mission of God in North America."

Ahn replaces Bryant, who was voted NAD president to replace the newly-retired Daniel R. Jackson. The process to elect an individual to the position of undersecretary, the position left vacant by Ahn, is underway.

Ahn has served as NAD's undersecretary since February 2016. Previously, he worked at the division as an associate secretary from 2013 to 2016.



Kyoshin Ahn is the newly-elected North American Division Executive Secretary.

While serving at the division, Ahn chaired several committees, including the NAD Church Governance Committee and the NAD Human Sexuality Statement Committee. He also helped in digitizing the NAD Secretariat functions.

During the past two decades, Ahn has assisted in church plantings for Korean congregations across the division, conducted seminars, trained local church clerks, and held evangelistic campaigns.

Ahn is the first Korean American elected to serve as NAD secretary. He is married to You Mi Kim, and, together, they are the parents of two adult children.

Ahn joins Bryant and Randy Robinson, NAD treasurer, as the leadership team of the North American Division, a territory with more than 1.2 million members in the countries of Bermuda, Canada, Guam, Micronesia, and the United States.

To read the entire news story, visit <https://bit.ly/2RJlRx0>.

—Source: North American Division News



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