

THE ATLANTIC UNION

NOVEMBER 2020

# GLEANER



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Zechariah Musselman, Randolph church senior pastor, and his members in Randolph, New York, gathered up cleaning supplies and yard tools to participate in what they called "Project Mary."



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# A Song of **Gratitude**

**H**onestly, I don't know if I should start talking about the beginning or the end of the year 2020. The fact is, there is not much I can tell you that you don't already know. The unprecedented crisis that has slowed down the entire planet—millions of people infected by a virus, hundreds of thousands of deaths, the largest job losses ever recorded in history, economic contraction, social distancing, and the highest demand ever for the use of the virtual environment—is perhaps an event that will leave its indelible impression on our lives for generations to come.

The United States of America has recorded a death toll larger than any other country in the world. Family, friends, coworkers, frontline workers, politicians, and other public service personnel have succumbed to the deadly coronavirus. We honor and pay respect to those who passed away and stand in solidarity with their families for their losses.

Most recently, we have witnessed what scientists and health professionals are calling the second wave, or the uprising of new cases, in different parts of the world. We are certainly not looking forward to it.

In contrast to what seems to be the downfall of humanity, there is a very resilient, encouraging, and affirming attitude demonstrated by people in different walks of life. After all the bad news, funerals, job losses, isolation, and Zoom meetings, we must be grateful to God for sparing our lives, for good health, for the opportunity of a new job, for the time spent with family, and for the mere fact that we can continue to praise His name. Psalm 92 is one of those passages I find to be fitting for the time in which

we live. “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night”—Psalm 92:1, 2 (NKJV).

Each day we see the way God continues to deliver and protect us from evil. He wakes us up each morning with a renewed strength, with a resolute heart to serve Him and humanity, a heart filled with hope in His promises, and a mouth that sings Alleluia to the King. “Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning”—Psalm 30:4, 5 (NKJV).

We are living in tough times, facing economic turmoil, moral decay, social oppression, a pandemic, global distress, and natural disasters but, through it all, we see the hands of the Almighty God always reaching out to all His children.

No doubt, it is He who is sustaining us during this challenging time. “The Lord desires His church to hold forth to the world the beauty of holiness. She is to demonstrate the power of Christian religion. Heaven is to be reflected in the character of the Christian. The song of gratitude and praise is to be heard by those in darkness. For the good tidings of the gospel, for its promises and assurances, we are to express our gratitude by seeking to do others good”—A CALL TO MEDICAL EVANGELISM AND HEALTH EDUCATION, p. 26. 0

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



*“Each day we see the way God continues to deliver and protect us from evil. He wakes us up each morning with a renewed strength, with a resolute heart to serve Him and humanity.”*



# Sharing *Jesus* in the Digital Age

**D**igital evangelism is the use of digital mediums to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. These mediums include televisions, cell phones, the Internet, social media, podcasts, live and archived streams, and religious graphics.

Digital evangelism is important today because it is the most effective way to reach large masses of people. More and more people are available on the Internet. When Christ was on earth, we found Him wherever the crowds were. Back then, it was in the marketplace and by the seaside. Today, people are gathering online. They choose mates online, shop online, do most of their communication through online means. And, with the advent of COVID-19, they participate in religious activities primarily online because of our inability to have safe, large gatherings without risking life or health by contracting or passing on the virus.

It is unfortunate that many Seventh-day Adventist churches were caught flat-footed by the COVID-19 pandemic. For years we taught about a cashless society, yet

large numbers of churches were unprepared when COVID-19 forced us out of our buildings and made online giving and online worship the new norm. Hopefully, having learned from this experience, we can be prepared for the unexpected in the future.

At this stage, thanks to COVID-19, everyone should be involved in digital evangelism. There is not an age group that cannot be effectively reached with this method of evangelism. Retirees and other senior citizens have become the easy reach, since they are at home and looking for things to do. They are connecting more and more to Facebook and watching livestreams of gospel preaching at all times of the day. Plus, Smart TV has brought the Internet to televisions so that, even without a computer, one can enjoy the digital offerings available on the Internet.

The millennials, who are most comfortable with digital mediums, are probably the hardest to reach through this medium. I believe this is because they are usually ahead of the curve, and the church is generally behind the curve.

So, where the church goes for evangelism, the millennials have already moved on. This challenge can be solved, I believe, by having pastors trained to be digital storytellers, using social media as an effective way to reach the younger sector of our community. I do believe 3D animation and creative graphics and video production must be included in this training.

### **Tools of the Trade**

There are many different tools that one can use for digital evangelism, depending on the platform to be used. But it all begins with a good podcasting microphone, an HD camera, a soundboard, a powerful computer with a good graphics card, and a reliable Internet connection, preferably a business Internet service, since home Internet service is susceptible to bottlenecks and is not very dependable. Most of the items mentioned are probably already available in a modern smart phone, and this can also be an effective evangelistic tool for sharing one's faith live online. But with the streams being as competitive as

they are, one would probably be more effective by getting some additional equipment, which allows for a little more creativity and flexibility.

A great podcasting mic will help you sound good, and this is very important. A simple search on Google for a podcast mic will reveal many good choices. Some prefer a USB mic that plugs directly into the computer, but, personally, I prefer a regular mic that plugs into a soundboard, and then the soundboard plugs into the computer. This allows for easy access control at the tip of your finger.

### **Choose Your Evangelism Platform**

With equipment in hand, the next step will be to choose your platform for evangelism. YouTube and Facebook are popular choices because of the ease of livestream, and the sheer numbers of people who are available on these platforms. Both YouTube and Facebook give you immediate access to Smart TV audiences, as most Smart TVs have them built in, making your content immediately available



to thousands of people. Many streaming services allow for streaming to multiple platforms at the same time, so there is no need to limit yourself to any single platform. Some of these services include BoxCast (boxcast.com), StreamYard (streamyard.com), Livestream (livestream.com), ChurchStreaming (churchstreaming.tv), Vimeo (vimeo.com), and Faithlife (faithlife.com). Personally, I livestream to 19 channels daily using BoxCast, scheduling each stream as you would a television show. BoxCast even allows me to rebroadcast an archived stream as if it were live.

It is important to include a livestream on your website. This is the only place where you have total control over your content, and you can include your call to action for decisions, donations, and registrations. Furthermore, your website gives you more options to stream music, and allows more control over your digital content. Plus, streams from your social media channels can be embedded into your website. The website also allows you to brand your content more effectively.

program. The more people come to trust and respect you, the more you have the power to influence them for good. This should be done on as many platforms as possible to develop fertile ground for evangelism.

### **Consider Podcasts**

The simplest method of sharing Jesus digitally is a podcast. This is just an audio recording done in a series that is distributed for easy listening to which people can subscribe. The most widely-known podcast delivery system is Apple Podcasts, but there are various streaming applications and podcast delivery avenues, which makes the distribution of a podcast easier and more far reaching than ever before. This can be done daily, weekly, monthly, or at whatever interval you choose, via RSS feed.

A podcast would simply require some kind of audio recorder. My favorite is the Tascam DR 40. This becomes more sophisticated if the podcast includes two or more

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*“Digital evangelism is important today, because it is the most effective way to reach large masses of people. More and more people are available on the Internet.”*

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To stream to the various social media channels, you will need to set up accounts at all these channels. You should give some thought to the name of your channel, as this is usually not changeable. In the case of Facebook and Instagram, you can do much more with a business account than you can with a personal account, so make sure to set up business accounts on these channels. This allows you to get stats and track your viewership and engagement.

### **Develop a Following**

After you have set up an account on each of these platforms, you need to develop a following. You do this by becoming an authority in some area of expertise. You share your expertise online daily, weekly, or monthly, until you become the authority on this matter. You invite people to like your content or follow you on social media. This grows your influence and audience so that you have people to evangelize when the time comes to run an evangelistic

program. A simple search on the Internet will reveal podcast packages to meet the needs of varied audiences, which would include the equipment necessary.

After the podcast, there is a live or archive stream where the gospel is preached. This could be achieved by simply securing your cell phone onto a cell phone stand, and livestreaming on Facebook or YouTube. The available stream can be marketed in advance and delivered at a fixed time and place so people can plan to join as they would a TV show.

### **More Sophisticated Streams**

For a more sophisticated stream, with graphics, lower thirds, music, and multiple guests, one needs to use programs like OBS, Wirecast, or a service like StreamYard. These tools allow you to produce a stream, that is both eye-catching and aesthetically pleasing.

Sermons, Bible studies, seminars, church services, and others can be captured and streamed later for effective





Stephen Williams considers it a gift from God to be able to share the gospel to the world from his studio.

evangelism on all major social media platforms and your website. One can gather an audience online by advertising on social media inviting people to your online events. This could involve registration fees, or simply getting a commitment to attend. One can also offer Bible studies, spiritual counseling, and offers for prayer to all who desire it via similar advertising. These can result in thousands signing up or coming to the events.

Since COVID-19 started, I personally started a daily prayer service at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This results in over 8,000 people and 11,000 interactions on our church's Facebook page, which is only one of the 19 channels where the prayers are streamed. Everybody can achieve similar results with just a little work. At our last Communion service held in August, one member testified, "I have been trying to win my family to Adventism for years, but recently because of our livestream, 11 of my family members join daily and look forward excitedly to each day's service."

Digital evangelism opens 24-hour churches, as the streams can be made available on demand, so people can get the gospel at any time. It also removes the barriers of dress and distance, bringing people together from all over the world. Truly it is a gift from God to spread the gospel to the world, so we can go home to heaven. Everyone should take advantage of it. ①



*Stephen L. Williams, Sr., is a digital evangelist and currently pastors the Hope church in Bloomfield, Connecticut. He is an author, has pastored in the Northeastern Conference for more than 30 years and formerly served as communication director for the conference.*



# The Power of Praise

**P**raise is the expression of approval and adoration. When we praise, we glorify, we worship, we celebrate, we exalt, and we bless someone or something.

The question is, “When we praise, to whom are we directing our praise?” As Christians, out of all of the things on earth and in heaven, we should recognize God our Creator and our Lord, and we should direct our praise to Him. He is the One who is deserving of our praise.

We should praise God for His unending mercy, for His many spiritual blessings, and for His kindness to us, because He is good and His mercy is everlasting. But too often, our daily struggles or constant life demands can crowd out our praise to God.

Sometimes we may not feel like praising Him. At other times we may be struggling or are weary and we just don’t praise Him. Still other times, we may feel as if God has let us down, so we decide that He does not deserve our praise. Or sometimes it may feel as though He is far away and does not really care about what is troubling us. The painful blows and losses in life may have sent us spiraling down to the point where we neglect to praise Him.

## The Power of Praise

When we make a decision to fix our eyes on Jesus, and daily give Him praise, no matter what is staring us in the face, we will begin to see the struggles lose their grip over us. There is power in our acknowledgment that God is worthy of our worship and praise. And as we press close to Him, our hearts become more in tune with our Creator and King.

Here are a few reasons why we should praise:

- **Praise gets the focus off of ourselves and directed back to God.** He wants our eyes to be set firmly on Him, because that is where true hope is found. God is worthy of our praise, no matter what we face from day to day. “I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth”—Psalm 121:1, 2 (NKJV).
- **Praise brings us to a place of humility.** When we are humble, we remember our dependency on God and

we acknowledge our need for Him. In our humility we recognize that He is in control. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up”—James 4:10, NKJV.

- **Praise causes the enemy to flee.** Evil cannot stick around if we are praising God, who will fight our battles for us. James 4:7, KJV, says: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
- **Praise leaves no room for complaining and negativity.** Through praise, we are focused on God, no longer allowing too much attention to be centered around our struggles. It is good to remember what He has already done for us. He already knows what concerns us, and can take care of all that burdens us. “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy”—Psalm 103:2-4, NKJV.

“When we make a decision to fix our eyes on Jesus, and daily give Him praise, no matter what is staring us in the face, we will begin to see the struggles lose their grip over us.”



- **Praise opens the way for God's blessings over our lives.** As we come into the presence of our King, He will not hold back His goodness. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations"—Psalm 100:4, 5 (ESV).
- **Praise invites His presence, and our spirit is refreshed and renewed.** God dwells close to us when we praise Him and we are strengthened by His peace. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"—Psalm 14:27, NKJV.
- **Praise paves the way for God's power to be displayed.** People's lives are affected and changed when they praise. "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore"—Psalm 16:11, NKJV.
- **Praise shared through our testimonies serves to encourage others.** Telling of God's goodness has a way of helping to lift the spirit of others.

Today, we are living in uncertain times. Every one of us has been affected in one way or another by the virus. Perhaps you know someone who has lost their job. Maybe you are among those who lost homes. It may be that you contracted the virus and survived. Maybe you know someone who contracted the disease and did not survive. This is just one of many challenges people face every day, but it is up to us to decide how we want to handle what comes our way.

### Praise Is a Choice

We have a choice every day in this life. We can choose to live our lives absorbed in worry and stress. We can choose to ask God to help us take our eyes off all that may be swirling around us. We can also choose to look to Him, the One who holds it all together, the One who holds us in the palms of His hands.

God desires our whole heart. He desires our praise. He longs for us to acknowledge the power of His presence over our lives. He desires to bless us more than we could imagine. His Spirit urges us onward, calling us closer.

Every day, we should take Psalm 150 to heart and make it a part of our daily experience, especially through these difficult times. "Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the



istock.com/votrak

trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

### So, Why Should We Praise?

**We should praise because we know the end of the story!**

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away' "—Revelation 21:1-4, NKJV.

To all who are reading this today, take Jesus' words to heart: "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.

Every chance you get, praise the Lord. In good times and bad, praise the Lord. In sickness and health, praise the Lord. With or without a job, praise the Lord. Let every thing that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. ①

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

By Jerrell Gilkeson

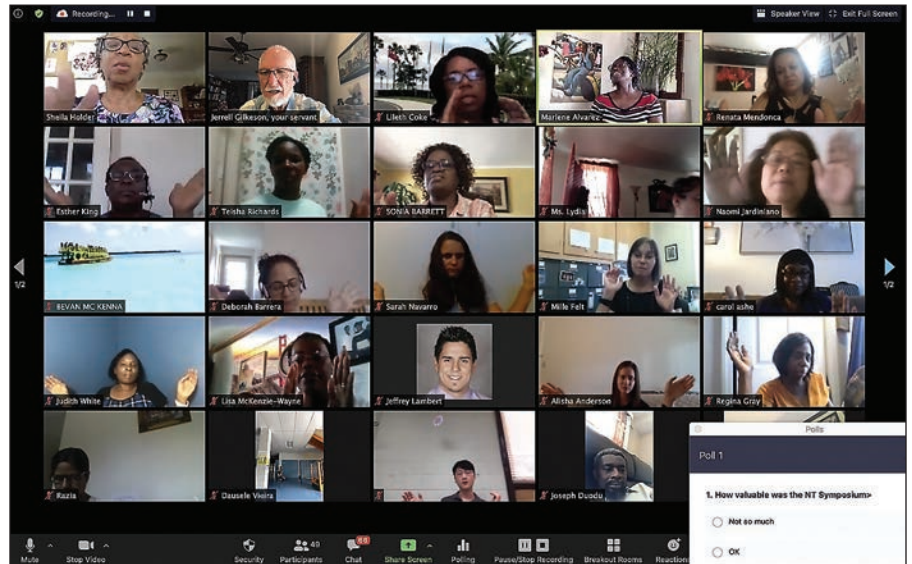
## Camera Side

**D**uring this year's various levels of pandemic quarantine, many of us have become acutely aware that the camera is either on or off. The primary communication medium utilized during this universal emergency has been the computer or some other device. At the top edge of many computers, the camera's "green dot" shows when there is a broadcast picture being zoomed to someone.

In the case of our teachers, the camera is transmitting their image to their students. Pastors are transmitting their image as they deliver sermons to parishioners. Administrators are showing self-portraits of their face and background to other leaders. Family members around the world are beaming a picture showing that we are alive and wish to communicate.

Never in the history of the world have so many people opened up their homes and lives for others to "see my house." At first, we were aware of our picture and its background. We worked to get the lighting "just right" to shine on our face. We adjusted the background behind us. We even heard that in the United States, pajama bottom sales increased 143 percent and pants sales decreased 13 percent. It seems that the long commute from the bedroom to the dining room (or other studio) should be comfortable, because only so much of our lives was visible. The most important visual was the camera view. The camera side was who we were.

But is that true? No! We are much more than one-sided monolithic moving images on a screen. While we have coped and even benefited in some ways during this unique experience, there is a much bigger lesson we can learn.



New teachers in the Atlantic Union participate in the August 3-5 symposium sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education.

First, God sees all. Let me paraphrase 1 Samuel 16:17: "Look not only at the picture on the screen . . . for the Lord sees not the way that people see, the Lord sees the heart." God sees more than three dimensions! He can even see the intent and our full life context.

Second, the people viewing the screen see more than the image also. Many of the best Adventist teachers and preachers quickly learned that just like the physical classroom or church, the virtual screen has much more than one side also. These heroic teachers, preachers, and church leaders continued to use their strongest communication tool, which is relationships.

One of my friends says, "Tell people that God loves them and if you have to, use words!" While the camera side is what is seen, what is felt in the heart is far more important. Students expect a good lesson. They want their papers graded in a timely manner.

The insightful question to bring understanding is expected. But what the student and parishioner crave is the personal touch that makes for a relationship with the image and makes the world real! The follow-up text message, the phone call, the physical letter, or small package helps to build and strengthen relationships. We can find creative ways to "reach out and touch."

Let the world see Jesus when they look into our faces on the screens. Let all of us be known because of the love we have for those who see us—no matter the medium. Show them Jesus. ☺



*Jerrell Gilkeson is the director for Education, Children's Ministries, and Early Childhood Education in the Atlantic Union Conference.*

## Members Learn About Being Culturally Intelligent in a Fractured Age

“How to become Culturally Intelligent in a Fractured Age” was the topic presented on September 12 by Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference general vice president and Multicultural Ministries coordinator. Mercado, using the parable of the Good Samaritan as a framework, shared valuable information on cultural intelligence and the importance of demonstrating care and concern when presented with situations outside of our beliefs, customs, or ethnicity.

The story of the Good Samaritan painted the picture of four individuals: the injured man, the Levite, the priest, and the Samaritan. Except for the Samaritan, all walked by the wounded man without offering help. This was discrimination. A man hurting, and needing support, was ignored. “That’s the nature of sin,” Mercado said. “It has brought into the world the ability to discriminate and to ignore those around us.”

Quoting from *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, p. 503, Mercado shared that, “Christ has shown that our neighbor does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction. Our neighbor is every person who needs our help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbor is everyone who is the property of God.”

At the core of the Good Samaritan story was a man of a different culture who reached out to help another human being. What made him so special was that he was willing to cross cultural barriers. Mercado suggested the Samaritan possessed a unique quality, a special kind of intelligence. This cultural ability permitted him to work outside of his culture and to manage in any cultural context. “When you are culturally intelligent, you know



Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference general vice president and Multicultural Ministries coordinator, presented “How to become Culturally Intelligent in a Fractured Age” to members of the Bermuda Conference.

yourself, your background, your biases. You are willing to look outside of yourself. You can look at the ‘I’ in sin and see others.”

Sin can be expressed explicitly, implicitly, and racially, Mercado said. Explicit bias and racial bias are more easily recognized, but implicit bias is more subtle and unconscious. We are

store, while two Caucasians, also wading through chest-deep water, were reported as finding bread and water. “That one was stealing, and the two others finding [bread and water] is nothing more than implicit bias based upon color,” Mercado said. We must avoid biases of all kinds so that we do not become blinded to the needs of others.

Mercado emphasized the need to act and to be knowledgeable and strategic. The Samaritan was energized by compassion, but he also had knowledge—he cleaned and bandaged the wounds of the injured man. He was strategic—he put the man on his donkey and took him to an inn to be cared for. “Think widely. Look at the big picture, see what is around you that needs to happen; focus deeply on the issue that would have you reach out beyond culture. Be generous, be kind, be gracious,” Mercado said.

Mercado concluded by encouraging his listeners to break down barriers and use cultural intelligence to extend love and compassion to those who are in need. “Be strategic in reaching out to people outside of your own culture, and act on what you know for the glory of God. Further, let us love the

**“Christ has shown that our neighbor does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction. Our neighbor is every person who needs our help”— THE DESIRE OF AGES, p. 503.**

not intentional, but we judge others based upon, for example, race. He quoted an example of what happened during Hurricane Katrina from two different news reports. One man, an African American, seen wading through chest-deep water, was described as looting from a grocery

stranger among us and accept people from diverse backgrounds, for we are all God’s children.”

The event was sponsored by the Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries and Intercultural Ministries departments.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director,  
Bermuda Conference



## Project Mary: A Success Story in the Randolph Community

On Sunday, September 20, Zechariah Musselman, Randolph church senior pastor, and his members in Randolph, New York, gathered up cleaning supplies and yard tools to participate in what they called “Project Mary.”

Mary is a 77-year-old single woman who needed some help. A neighbor of one of the church members, she had mentioned that she had not been able to drive her car for weeks due to bad brakes. The lowest repair estimate she could find was over \$700. Living on a very small income, she simply didn't have the funds.

The Randolph church member brought the sit-

uation before the church, hoping that someone could recommend a way to help. A retired auto mechanic immediately said he would fix the brakes for free. Members reached deep into their pockets and donated the funds for the parts, which were purchased at a reduced price from a sympathetic parts store owner.

Some would have thought the church had done enough already, but Randolph church members were not ready to stop. Mary was living in semi-squalor conditions. Her yard was overgrown so badly it was hard to even get into some of her doors. She was cat lover

and had many cats living in the house. Due to some medical issues and a bit of depression, she had not kept up with the maintenance of her property.

Randolph church members decided to go into action, and on that Sunday, they arrived at Mary's doorstep to help. The men spent hours clearing the brush, trimming bushes, and cleaning her back deck, which was full of debris. At Mary's request, much of her decaying furniture was loaded onto trucks to be taken to the dump. The women spent their hours cleaning, scrubbing, and sterilizing as much of the interior as time would allow.

Almost every member participated in the event in one way or another. A couple of the church's most renowned cooks prepared a full meal for the workers to enjoy after they finished. One member also volunteered to take care of all the church's small children for the day. When the project was done, few people would have recognized the house from its previous condition. Everyone was exhausted, but there was a deep sense of fulfillment as well, in having served “one of the least of these.”

—Elise Gorth, treasurer,  
Randolph church



Randolph church member Mickey Russell scrubs away in the kitchen.



Zechariah Musselman, Randolph church senior pastor, works on the overgrown back deck.

## Joy of Troy Members Show Compassion to People in the World Around Them

Joy of Troy church in Troy, New York, has cordoned off an area around their place of worship, which they refer to as the “Quadrant.” On the weekend of September 4-6, they scheduled compassion events within the Quadrant to say thank you, and remind the

community that, in spite of the chaos of COVID-19, church members are there to share the love of God.

In reaching out to the Quadrant, they wanted to further strengthen the relationships they have built, to see how many hearts they could touch in a meaningful

way, by providing the service of mowing lawns that needed it and feeding the needy.

The church chose as its theme text Galatians 6:9, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

They created quite a stir on the Neighborhood Watch site on August 29, when several of the members went throughout the community affixing 250 door hangers on homes to offer free lawn-mowing service. Immediately, they started receiving requests,



A family from the Joy of Troy church poses with Troy police officers after preparing and delivering a meal to them.

especially from a neighbor who suffered with a chronic illness. Another was from a neighbor whose lawn mower was stolen.

Compassion Weekend began on Friday when church members gathered to make sandwiches for the homeless. There is an agency in the Quadrant that distributes food to the homeless throughout the city of Troy, and Joy of Troy church supplied them with 72 bags that

included a sandwich, fruit, granola bar, and cookies.

The following day, Sabbath, the church sponsored and delivered a catered meal to a local shelter for the homeless that's within walking distance of the church. Over the years, the church has developed a relationship with some of these individuals. One of the individuals living there is a member of the

Joy of Troy congregation, and oftentimes others attend the worship service also. While there, they met one of the employees, who they discovered is a new neighbor, not only to the community, but lives directly beside the church.

Also on Saturday evening, several members, including two children, went to the neighborhood fire station, with whom they also have developed a good working

relationship, to give them a gift card as a token of their appreciation.

On Sunday, responding to five RSVPs, the mowing crew went out. While mowing, a resident of the homeless shelter suggested a neighbor whom he thought would benefit, and the team accommodated them. So, all total, they mowed six lawns.

Later in the evening the Troy Police Department enjoyed a meal prepared and delivered by a family from the Joy of Troy congregation that has a catering business. One of the meal recipients was pleasantly surprised to see the attention taken to address their allergy concerns.

It was a wonderful weekend of service. Seeing the smiles on people's faces, church members were gratified that, by showing compassion and demonstrating the love of God, they had made a difference in others' lives. Joy of Troy members are His hands, His feet, and His eyes wherever they go, to touch the world around them.

—Annette Barnes, elder, Joy of Troy church



A Joy of Troy church member prepares bags of food to deliver to the homeless throughout the city of Troy.



A member from Joy of Troy church cuts the neighbor's lawn, making good on a free lawn-mowing service offered by the church to people in the community.

## Northeastern Academy Celebrates Alumni Reunion and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtually

Excitement mounted for several months leading up to the September 4-5 Northeastern Academy (NEA) Virtual Alumni Weekend Reunion and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (1920-2020). The theme “Reach Back! Give Back!” echoed far and wide through social media. Jeffrey Nixon, ’77, NEA alumni president, encouraged alumni everywhere to join the special celebration. Heeding that call was one of the oldest participant graduates, Donald Blake, ’49, and the youngest participant, graduate Langston Edward Parris, ’20. Viewers tuned in from various locations throughout the United States and as far away as Hawaii.

What may have come as a surprise to many of the alumni celebrants was learning that the school, in its early years, was known as Harlem Academy, Harlem Jr. Academy, then Ephesus Jr. Academy, and finally, by its present name, Northeastern Academy. Alumni also learned that the school started in 1920 under the auspices of the Greater New York Conference. J.L. Moran was the first principal of the academy and later, principal emeritus (1924-28, 1930-32). He later became the first Black president of Oakwood College, now Oakwood University. With the advent of regional conferences, Northeastern Conference reorganized the school in 1946.

During the weekend services, via readings and a carefully-crafted video collage, Marjorie Felder-Taylor, ’59, and Joanne Thompson, ’88,

shared the historical account with additional details.

The Friday-evening vesper service set the spiritual tone for the alumni weekend celebration. Enthusiastic alumni program participants hailed from Alabama, Tennessee, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida. John Nixon, NEA alumnus and South Central Conference executive secretary, reminded the participants that Black faith still matters. He skillfully interwove the history of Black Americans and reminded the congregation that it was their resilience that supported their strong faith in God through the dark days. He encouraged everyone to “hold on” and that “we’ve come this far by faith [and it’s too late] to turn back now.”

Continuing the virtual service on Saturday, alumni participants hailed from California, Florida, New York, Maryland, Tennessee, New Jersey, Michigan, and Alabama. Elliott Phipps, ’81, and Jonathan Mays, ’81, shared many practical tips from the lesson study on how soul winning can be effective.

The Northeastern Academy Choir presented several selections leading up to the prayer. Dedrick Blue, North Bronx church senior pastor, presented the worship-service message. He shared in his message that Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is the life-blood of the church and is still vital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



Telethon guests share the screen during prayer at the virtual fundraiser on Saturday night.

Other highlights of the alumni weekend reunion and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration included an afternoon of activities coordinated by Walter Ralph, ’82. A lively round-table discussion with moderator Thomas Felder, ’89, focused on the topics of “Black Lives Matter” and “Adventist Christian Education.” A video took participants down memory lane and showed flashbacks of alumni when they were students at NEA and where they are now (job/career/position). The “throw-back” mini concert with performances by alumni was a refreshing feature.

The celebration concluded with a black-tie virtual telethon fundraiser, organized by Philip Deleon, ’98, and hosted by Andell Brown, ’96. Funds received from the telethon will support STEM-Robotics, reestablish the band program, and provide leadership scholarships.

Former living principals Pearl Bell (1990-92), Beverly Bucknor (2002-2005), Marlene Alvarez (2006-2009), and James Bennett (2010-

2014) presented congratulatory messages. The current principal, Loris Laborde, provided an update on the status of the school. He shared information on the current address and contact information of Northeastern Academy, 1744 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461; telephone: (212) 569-4800; (347) 861-2800; and (917) 757-3236.

Also joining the celebration with greetings were Atlantic Union Conference representatives, G. Earl Knight, president; and Jerrell Gilkerson, education director; and Northeastern Conference representatives, Daniel Honoré, president; Oswald Euell, executive secretary; Robert Chandler, treasurer; Lawrence Brown, Ephesus church senior pastor; and Viola Chapman, superintendent of schools.

Some of the finest students have passed through the hallowed halls of Northeastern Academy. They have made the school proud as they left their mark in many areas of society and the church.

—S.A. Herndon, honorary alumna, Northeastern Academy

## Church Members Host Outdoor Community Events

The opportunity to be outside and serve outdoors has proved to be a blessing. As the local New York City restrictions loosened, South Brooklyn church's Adventist Community Services department, along with the social committee, reinvented the parking lot, which allowed the church to host a total of three events.

The first event on Saturday, August 1, was a spirited and physically distanced outdoor social. Church members celebrated God's goodness to them and played several games. Earlier that day, PPE (personal protective equipment) packets were distributed. The packets consisted of masks, travel-size hand sanitizer bottles, disposable gloves, packs of tissues, and an encouraging pamphlet. God opened doors by way of the Brooklyn Borough president's office and the FAB Alliance, a community-based organization, and a church member who provided all the PPE items.

The second outreach effort was a movie night on September 5. The film was shown on the building's freshly-painted wall that was converted into a screen. Earlier that day, men from the Atlantic Avenue Shelter, as well as passersby, received PPE packets.

September 26 was the last outdoor-ministry event. Once again church members distributed PPE packets, and shared an outdoor movie. They also passed



Young people representing three separate nonprofit agencies volunteer to pass out food from a local nonprofit catering business.

out new and gently-used men's fall clothing. The gentlemen from the shelter expressed appreciation for the clothing, shoes, and PPE items they received. Lighthouse church's community service team members joined in this outreach effort.

The blessings multiplied when several young people, who were distributing restaurant-prepared food, collaborated with the team. These young people explained that they represented three separate nonprofit agencies that came together to pass out food from Collective Food Works, a local nonprofit catering business.

If South Brooklyn church members had remained indoors, they would not have had the opportunity to meet these young people to partner with, nor would



The South Brooklyn church's Adventist Community Services department provide clothing, shoes, and PPE items for the men from the shelter.

they have been able to be of greater service to the people in the shelter.

The members thank God for opening doors and for His continued protection as they seek to be His hands,

feet, and voice in this uncertain time.

—Angela Huges, Adventist Community Services team member, South Brooklyn church.



## Many Hands Make for Light Work at Camp Lawroweld

There is a proverb that has proven true since first written in English some 700 years ago: “Many hands make for light work.” But perhaps the old proverb stops too soon, because what the Maranatha Volunteers organization has found is that work is not only faster with many hands, but also far more enjoyable. And, of course, it is a greater spiritual blessing.

When the Northern New England Conference assessed the scope and depth of the work that needed to be done on its Camp Lawroweld, including significant refurbishment of buildings and deferred maintenance, they decided to call Maranatha to see if they would be willing to take it on as a project. After some back-and-forth over the details of what needed to be done and what support the conference was able to provide, Maranatha committed to the project and about 45 volunteers converged on Camp Lawroweld from across the U.S. at the start of October.

Most Maranatha volunteers working at Lawroweld are retired folks who enjoy working with their hands for the Lord and who also enjoy meeting new people, as well as living a camp or RV life for extended periods. The Lawroweld project will take an intensive two weeks for the Maranatha crew



Dennis Tefts of Williston, North Dakota; Daniel Woods of Auburn, California; and Andrew Buda of both Michigan and South Carolina confer when deciding how to lay new flooring underlayment in the upstairs of the main lodge.

Scott Christiansen

to complete, and even then, local staff and volunteers will continue the work through the fall.

Maranatha volunteers at Lawroweld are working in small teams on a long list of projects that range from the relatively simple, such as putting new screens in the window frames all around the main lodge, to the complex, such as gutting and completely re-plumbing, rewiring, insulating, and

refinishing the six-bedroom staff house. The girl’s bathhouse is also being completely renovated, and the residence floor of the lodge is being extensively renovated, including the installation of new flooring, walls, wiring, and plumbing.

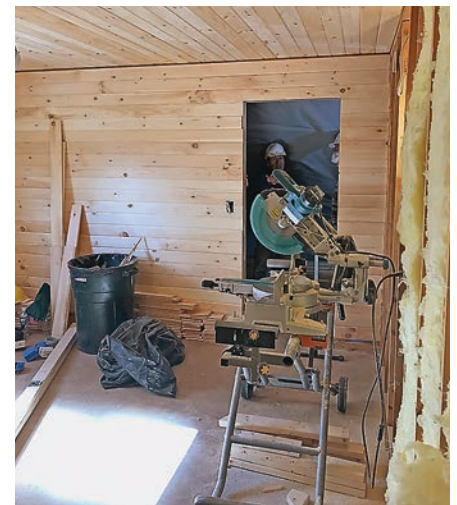
For long-time camp warden Rocky Schlager, seeing all the work get done is an answer to prayer. “It’s just unbelievable how much these guys are getting



Lee and Linda Davidson from Berrien Springs, Michigan, work in a temporary workshop in the basement of the lodge to replace screens in the window frames.



Tim Brown of West Paris, Maine; Baxter Tardif of Hartford, Maine; and Coda Schlager of Weld, Maine, work on a major overhaul of the staff house.



The guest rooms in the upstairs of the lodge are being upgraded, making meetings, such as prayer retreats and women’s ministries events altogether easier and more pleasant.



done in so short a time,” he said. “After all this help, we’re going to be caught up with projects for a while, and that is an amazing blessing that the Lord has given us.”

For Schlager, the Maranatha crew comes at the tail end of a year that has already been incred-

ibly busy. He has already overseen the construction of a new maintenance and storage building, as well as dedicated a summer to coordinating a long list of renovation and repair projects that were undertaken by the summer camp staff (who kept busy on the list in the

absence of campers due to COVID-19 restrictions). “To be honest with you,” he said, “a slow winter is sounding pretty good right now.”

For Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries and camp director Trevor Schlisner, Maranatha’s team of vol-

unteers is perhaps the best thing that has happened to him this year. “I can’t tell you how excited I am about all the work that is getting done by these Maranatha volunteers! Praise the Lord!”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

## A Love Garden Grows in Maine

Phillip Webber has what, by any measure, can be considered a unique ministry. This 75-year old Vietnam veteran member of the Topsham church in Maine suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and finds peace and therapy by working in the soil and growing crops.

After becoming a believer in Christ and trusting in His grace, Webber decided to share Christ in a way that made sense to him. He converted half of his property into a farm, but did it with the promise to God that he would not sell any of his produce but instead would give it away.

“People don’t understand it, and they offer me money,” said Webber. “But I

tell them, ‘here, free is free.’” Webber grows a wide array of vegetables, including corn, zucchini, Swiss chard, carrots, kale, and tomatoes. “Without failure, God gave me a good crop each year for the last eight years and I freely share them with people. I even pick vegetables for those who cannot pick for themselves.”

Visitors cannot help but understand that Webber’s garden is different. His garden doesn’t quite feel like a garden, because it is scattered with beautiful flowers and he has chairs in shady places for the people to sit, relax, and socialize. But what’s really different is how he paraphrases Bible verses and writes them on rough boards in rugged bold letters to

encourage, motivate, and lead people to believe in the God he worships.

Webber is well-known in his town, and often he’ll sit in front of his garage and wave back at the people who wave or tap their horn as they go by. When people come to pick vegetables, he shares literature and his faith readily. Webber fills people’s bags with vegetables and their hearts with hope. “People often ask me about my faith,” he said, “and I talk to them about God and the importance of keeping the biblical Sabbath and healthful living. Helping people in the name of God is therapeutic!”

—Gration Perera, pastor, Topsham church



Phillip Webber paraphrases Bible verses and writes them on rough boards in rugged bold letters to encourage, motivate, and lead people to believe in the God he worships.

## More than 600 Attend Virtual Camporee

The Southern New England Conference made history by holding its first virtual camporee September 18-20. More than 600 participants from 18 countries joined in the event. The theme was “Born with a Purpose” and highlighted the life of Moses.

Due to the continuing pandemic conditions and after surveying directors, the decision was made that camping together in person was not advisable. The planning team, however, still felt impressed to do something for the Pathfinders and Adventurers to show them “It’s Possible,” which is the conference’s uniform ministries’ theme.

The technology team of Vanessa Bettencourt, Randie Almonte, Dawnette Wallace, and Arthurine Jackson were key in making the dream a reality by creating a web-



Members of the Merrimack Valley King's Kids Pathfinder Club run, walk, and bike the Virtual 5K during the “Born with a Purpose” virtual camporee.

site dedicated solely to the camporee, along with coordinating live features, as well as submitted videos of everything people could enjoy.

All participants received lists of supplies in advance of the camporee so they could plan ahead of time for the activities they were interested in doing. Everyone was encouraged to

set up a campsite, whether outside or in their home, on Thursday night in preparation for the event.

A kick-off program on Friday evening included a virtual drill and flag ceremony with Pathfinders and Adventurers praying remotely. Efraín Velázquez II, Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary

president, presented the message from Puerto Rico.

Sabbath afternoon was filled with activities just like a regular camporee or spring escape. Activities included live art classes, trivia challenges, meeting helpers such as a doctor, veterinarian, firefighter, and police officer; and practicing lashing skills via Zoom. Sunday’s live



Like others participating in the camporee, Danie Meone and her family, members of the Foxboro Patriots Pathfinder Club, attend church in person, before the “Born with a Purpose” camporee Sabbath-afternoon activities.



Ciana Pires from the Taunton Cape Verde church's Jerusalem Adventurer Club enjoys her tent before Friday night's “Born with a Purpose” program begins.

offerings included science experiments, first-aid and knot-tying classes, and a fitness challenge.

Other activities available throughout the entire camporee included Pathfinder honors, Adventurer awards, virtual nature walks, scavenger hunts, chalk challenges, and a virtual 5K race.

In total, God brought together more than 60 volunteers working together to do something no one had ever imagined doing. Based on the number of photos submitted and children wishing there could be a virtual camporee every weekend, it was a blessing to all.

“Truly I must say that God was with us,” Danny Velez, Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries director, said. “Seeing the Adventurers and Pathfinders participating with such enthusiasm filled us with joy. Being able to reaffirm them in God and remind them that they are ‘Born with a Purpose’ is the greatest calling a human being can have. And even though we have to face tough times, with God, ‘It’s Possible.’”

—Paula Vogler, camporee manager, Southern New England Conference



Marcelino Couto and his daughter, Amanda, of the Everett K2 Pathfinders and Faithful Friends Adventurers show the boxes they created during the origami class as part of the “Born with a Purpose” virtual camporee.

## Camp Sunrise, a Success Story in the Midst of Uncertainty

For many summers, children have enjoyed attending Camp Sunrise, a summer day camp at South Lancaster Academy (SLA). With health and safety guidelines changing daily due to COVID-19, Marisol Gracia, Camp Sunrise director, was unsure whether they would be able to offer this popular ministry.

Yet Marisol and her husband, Luis, SLA’s religion teacher and chaplain, prayed for God’s leading. They pondered: Should we do this? How do we do this? Would there be any interest? They bathed the issue in prayer and closely followed state guidelines for day care and summer camps.

About a week or two before Camp Sunrise was to start, the state guidelines allowed summer camps to open with specific precautions. The Gracias felt God guiding them to open Camp Sunrise.



Marisol Gracia, Camp Sunrise director, right, and her husband, Luis, South Lancaster Academy’s religion teacher and chaplain, followed God’s leading and opened the camp for the summer following state guidelines to keep the children safe.

“The administration at SLA was incredibly supportive, knowing that this ministry is necessary for our community,” said Pastor Gracia. “They really have a love for these kids, a love for this school, a

vision for what we need to be doing here. I’m very thankful for their support.”

About 10 to 12 campers attended Camp Sunrise each week, about a third of the typical attendance. Campers and camp counselors wore

masks and followed social distancing guidelines. They had to curtail some of the activities and field trips they usually enjoy, but they still were able to do many fun things, especially games outside.

A nurse was onsite each morning to do health checks. “Praise the Lord we didn’t have any incidents of COVID-19, not even a kid who stayed home sick,” said Pastor Gracia.

Parents appreciated having a safe place to send their children during the summer that provided healthy fun and socialization.

Mrs. Gracia says she looks forward to another six-to-eight weeks of Camp Sunrise next year and to hopefully return to their regular roster of fun activities.

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





# ONE HUMANITY:

## A Human Relations Statement Addressing Racism, Casteism, Tribalism, and Ethnocentrism

*In order to increase awareness of the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on various subjects, the Atlantic Union GLEANER occasionally publishes position statements or guidelines voted by church leadership. As the church continues to grow and make an influence, its role in the society will require that its views and what it holds true become known. Such will continue to be the demands of the society, and such will be the need to define Adventism's relevance, or present truth, to those who are asking questions and seeking answers to their dilemmas and problems. Documents presented are not an end in themselves, but a reflection of a movement sensitive to its calling and the people who "know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).*

**T**he moral duty of declaring biblical principles in the treatment of fellow human beings has become paramount as the world increasingly recognizes the lingering scourge of racial injustice, tribal conflicts, and caste system bigotry suffered by millions of persons in every society and world region. God "has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26) and Jesus teaches us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:39). The Seventh-day Adventist Church acknowledges the important responsibility of making its commitments and compassion clear to a world expecting both words and deeds in harmony with the teachings of Jesus. Our commitment flows from our mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6) in our troubled world as we recognize only Christ can change the human heart.

Seventh-day Adventists are committed to the unchanging biblical truths which reveal that human beings are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). Based on the creation account in the book of Genesis, we believe in the God-given and immutable equality of all persons in all times, all places, and all circumstances. We are all descended from Adam and Eve, our original ancestors, who make all humanity one family (Gen. 3:20). Even the tragic results of human choice to rebel against God have not erased the enduring relationships between all human beings. Distinctions of race, ethnicity, caste, and tribe are used to sinfully segment and divide the fundamental unity God intended all human beings to experience with Himself and each other.

We maintain our allegiance to the biblical principles of equality and dignity of all human beings in the face of historic and continuing attempts to use skin color, place of origin, caste, or perceived lineage as a pretext for oppressive and dominating behavior. These attempts are a denial of our shared humanity and we deplore all such aggression and prejudice as an offense to God. Still, we acknowledge that many members of our worldwide Church fail to uphold this biblical truth about the equality of all persons. Contrary to the teachings and example of Jesus, many believers and church organizations have absorbed sinful, dehumanizing ideas about racial, tribal, caste, and ethnic valuing that have led to practices injuring and wounding the human family. These ways of thinking, and the practices resulting from them, undermine the very truths we have pledged ourselves to live and teach. We apologize where in the past we may not have spoken or acted boldly enough on these matters.

Seventh-day Adventists are members of a diverse, global Church and are committed to being agents of peace and reconciliation in society by modeling and advocating for the biblical truth about our shared


ancestry. “For the love of Christ compels us” to regard people from His point of view and to be His “ambassadors” in this divided world with the “word of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:14, 19, 20). We will support and nurture those marginalized and mistreated because of their color, caste, tribe, or ethnicity (Matt. 25:40). We believe those who abuse and mistreat others should, in accordance with biblical principles, be appropriately brought to justice and will ultimately face divine judgment (Eccl. 12:14; Heb. 9:27). We will teach and urge that God’s truth about human origins and equality as taught in the Bible is the wisest foundation for all human relationships.

God places a special responsibility upon those who have responded to His gracious salvation for all (Gal. 3:28) to demonstrate our commitment to equality, fairness, and accountability in all human relations. God created each person unique, and His powerful influence in our lives results in a celebration of differences that respectfully values each person’s human heritage and culture. We recognize the

ultimate solution to the sins of racism, casteism, tribalism, and ethnocentrism is the transformation of individual lives and relationships through Christ and His saving power. We accept and embrace our Christian commitment to live, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as a Church that is just, caring, and loving, grounded on biblical principles.

God invites everyone, everywhere to join the remnant Church described in Bible prophecy (Rev. 12:17) in proclaiming the everlasting gospel which focuses on the righteousness of Jesus Christ encapsulated in the three angels’ messages (Rev. 14:6-12). These messages are to be given to “every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” culminating with Christ’s soon return (Rev. 14:6, 14). We look forward to a new heaven and a new earth when “there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

—This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee in Silver Spring, Maryland on September 15, 2020.



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**Greater New York:** Henry Beras, President; Alanzo Smith, Secretary; Ysaías Javier, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Website: www.gnyc.org

**New York:** Miguel Crespo, President; Claudio Gomez, Secretary; Priscilla English, Treasurer. Office Address: 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215. (315) 469-6921. Website: www.nyconf.org

**Northeastern:** Daniel Honoré, President; Oswald Euell, Secretary; Robert Chandler, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434. (718) 291-8006. Website: www.northeastern.org

**Northern New England:** Theodore (Ted) Huskins, President/Secretary; Daniel Battin, Treasurer. Office Address: 479 Main St., Westbrook, ME 04092. (207) 797-3760. Website: www.nnecc.org

**Southern New England:** David Dennis, President; Cesar Perozo, Secretary; Thomas (Tom) Murray, Treasurer. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 365-4551. Website: www.sneconline.org

**Atlantic Union College Corporation:** G. Earl Knight, Chairman; Pierre Omeler, Secretary; Elias Zabala, Sr., Treasurer; 338 Main St., Lancaster, MA 01523; (978) 368-2000. Website: www.auc.edu

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## Sunset Table

December 2020	4	11	18	25	Eastern Standard Time
Bangor, ME	3:54	3:54	3:56	4:00	
Portland, ME	4:04	4:04	4:06	4:10	
Boston, MA	4:11	4:12	4:14	4:18	
South Lancaster, MA	4:13	4:13	4:16	4:20	
Pittsfield, MA	4:20	4:20	4:22	4:26	
Hartford, CT	4:19	4:20	4:22	4:26	
Providence, RI	4:14	4:15	4:17	4:21	
New York, NY	4:28	4:28	4:31	4:35	
Albany, NY	4:19	4:20	4:22	4:26	
Utica, NY	4:25	4:26	4:28	4:32	
Syracuse, NY	4:29	4:29	4:31	4:35	
Rochester, NY	4:35	4:35	4:37	4:41	
Buffalo, NY	4:41	4:41	4:43	4:47	
Keene, NH	4:14	4:14	4:16	4:20	
Manchester, NH	4:11	4:11	4:13	4:17	
Portsmouth, NH	4:08	4:08	4:10	4:14	
Brattleboro, VT	4:16	4:16	4:18	4:22	
Burlington, VT	4:13	4:13	4:15	4:19	
Rutland, VT	4:15	4:15	4:17	4:21	
Hamilton, Bda	5:12	5:13	5:16	5:20	

## 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](http://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](http://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.nneccprayerministries.com](http://www.nneccprayerministries.com).

## OBITUARIES

**GIBBONS, Ebenezer R.**—87; b. Oct. 20, 1932, in Mahaicony, Guyana, South America; d. Sept. 13, 2020, in Worcester, Mass. He was an elder of the Northboro church in Northborough, Mass. He is survived by his wife of almost 64 years, Beulah Elliott Gibbons; six children: Jasper (Barbara) Gibbons of Worcester, Mass., Handel (Marcelle) Gibbons of Shrewsbury, Mass.,


Clauville (Raynold) Lewis of Worcester, Paul (Margaret) Gibbons of Worcester, Paula Gibbons of Atlanta, Ga., and Carmel (Andrew) Walrond of Maplewood, N.J.; two brothers, Kenneth Gibbons and Denzel Gibbons of Guyana; two sisters, Euna Pollard of Shrewsbury, and Claudette Mendie of Queens, N.Y.; 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**NORD, Dennis R.**—93; b. Sept. 1, 1926, in Jamestown, N.Y.; d. Aug. 8, 2020, in Jamestown, N.Y. He was a member of the Jamestown church and had a major role in the construction of the church building in the mid '60s. He served on the church and school boards for many years. He attended the Jamestown church school through grade 10 and then attended Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, N.Y. for two years. Before being drafted into the U.S. Army during WW2, he attended Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. Following his discharge from the Army, he attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Mich. He is survived by his son, Jim (Debbie) Nord of Sonora, Calif; his daughter, Linda (Joe) Ulrich of Sugar Grove, Pa.; two grandchildren, Natalie (James) Talbot of Spokane, Wash., and Kevin Nord of San Francisco, Calif.; and three great-grandchildren.

**QUINTANA, Carmen**—93; b. Apr. 11, 1927, in Caguas, Puerto Rico; d. Sept. 12, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. She was a member of Broadway Spanish church in New York, N.Y. She attended Oasis church in Portland, Tenn., when she was able. She is survived by four nephews, Eddie G. Corcino of Athens, Ga., Hector Corcino of Portland, Tenn., Oscar M. Corcino of Puerto Rico, and Abner Alvelo of Puerto Rico; and two nieces, Noemi Corcino and Gloria A. Alvelo both of Puerto Rico.

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“IF YOU WILL FIND VOICE  
AND TIME TO PRAY,  
GOD WILL FIND TIME  
AND VOICE TO ANSWER.”

Ellen G. White, *My Life Today*, p. 16

“And whatever  
things you ask  
in prayer,  
believing, you  
will receive.”

Matthew 21:22, NKJV

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