

THE ATLANTIC UNION

MARCH 2021

GLEANER



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Be Steadfast

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Pressing Toward **the Mark**

“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”—Philippians 3:13, 14, NIV

On April 15, 2013, during the Boston Marathon, two bombs were detonated at 2:49 p.m., close to the finish line on Boylston Street near Copley Square—some three hours after the winners crossed the finish line. Three people died, seven runners lost limbs, and many more were injured. Yet, runners continued to cross the finish line until 2:57 p.m.

The runners closest to the explosion experienced sudden, deep terror and trauma. Those who succeeded in reaching the finish line that day did so by remaining laser-focused, despite the fear and terror they were experiencing. Marathon winners affirm that as they race to the finish line with other runners, all competing to win first, there is no time to look around to see who else is coming. Their only focus is pressing forward toward the finish line.

The imagery of Philippians 3:13, 14 is that of a runner who is racing toward the finish line. Paul says there is one two-dimensional thing we must do. Doing this one thing will help us remain focused in order to fulfill our purpose.

First, we must forget what is behind us. Every moment spent looking back is a moment lost to looking forward. It does not mean one should ignore and forget the lessons learned from experience or not appreciate the blessings and success of the past. But it does mean choosing not to make the past our constant focus—whether good or bad, joyful or painful.

The second aspect of the one thing we must do is to press on toward the goal. The truth is, we cannot move forward with a neutral, laissez-faire attitude. On the contrary, to press on, we must be determined, intentional, and focused on the prize to which God has called us. If we choose not to focus on the past, yet do not have per-

severance and determination, we will not reach our goal. If we are determined but keep looking behind we will not win the prize. We must “forget what is behind” and actively “press on toward the mark” to reach God’s goal for us through Jesus Christ.

The last 12 months have been particularly painful and discouraging for a lot of people in the Atlantic Union Conference territory. Many of our members, relatives, and friends have either been infected by or lost their lives because of the coronavirus. Painful memories of COVID-19 will stay with us for a very long time. As we hold on to the blessed hope of the Earth made new, where there will be no more pain or death, we must summon our faith and trust that God will enable us to remain focused and determined to keep pressing forward.

Ellen G. White noted, “In all the busy activities of his life, Paul never lost sight of one great purpose—to press toward the prize of his high calling. One aim he kept steadfastly before him—to be faithful to the One who at the gate of Damascus had revealed Himself to him. From this aim nothing had power to turn him aside”—OUR HIGH CALLING, p. 371.

Like the apostle Paul, we are simply passing through this virus-infected world. It is not our final home. We are pilgrims, bound for the promised land. Along the way, we have and will continue to face many difficulties, but we are reminded that God is with us. We must keep our eyes on the prize that awaits us. May God give us the courage and the strength to press forward until we reach the high prize of heaven to which He has called us. ①

Pierre Omeler is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary.



*“Along the way,
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Press *Forward*; Be Steadfast

We are at the one-year mark of the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic that forced us to make significant adjustments in our lives. The administrators in the Atlantic Union and its six conferences faced the challenge of handling the pandemic head-on while continuing in ministry. In this issue, the six conference presidents share words of encouragement as we continue to press forward in these challenging times.



“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles”—Isaiah 40:31, KJV. I believe that God wants us to rise and be eagle-like in character, for these magnificent monarchs have qualities that exemplify excellence. Eagles illustrate what it means to rise victoriously above the level of mediocrity and to press forward in life with purpose. Few birds are able to fly to the heights of eagles because the air is thin up there. This lets me know that it takes a certain kind of attitude to reach that kind of altitude. Eagles teach us not to allow the magnetic pull of the multitude to interrupt our flying plans. And that we should order our spiritual devotions to excel to breathtaking altitudes of righteousness and unprecedented heights of holiness so that, when flying time comes, at our Lord’s second coming, our mortal bodies will put on immortality.

We are admonished that “higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached”—EDUCATION, p. 18. So I say to you, even during this pandemic, press forward in your walk with God, wait on Him in your worship, meditate on His Word, shine for Him in your witness, and press forward like the eagles.—

Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president

Pressing forward means going against the odds to do something despite any obstacle that blocks or stands in your way. You can actually say that everything that could go wrong did, but “Here I am.” To press forward means leaving your comfort zone and accepting Jesus’ call. This past year’s events were not convenient. It took everything within you to survive, believe, and keep your mind, spirit, and soul healthy. Life may try and, at times, may even knock you down; nevertheless, get up and press forward with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit. The only certainty we have is that we could not have kept going and moving forward were it not for our Lord, Jesus Christ, and God. Philippians 3:13, 14 advises us not to look back but, instead, reach forward to the precious prize despite all of the temptations, tribulations, and perilous times we have lived. There is a promised blessing for those who press forward.

Don’t allow circumstances and trials to victimize you. Continue to press your way, attending and assisting your church, reading your Bible, being faithful in prayer, and witnessing about the love of Jesus and the gift of salvation. Despite how we feel, and no matter what challenging event we encounter, continue pressing forward with Jesus. Our Savior is almost here!—**Henry Beras, Greater New York Conference president**



We are living in unprecedented times. We seem surrounded by sickness, chaos, fear, and misery. Remember, this is not our home. Instead of focusing on our losses, our troubles, we should turn our eyes to God and His Word.

Remember the words of Paul, “For I reckon 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, KJV.

Remember the words of Jesus, “Let not your heart be troubled: . . . 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”—John 14:1-3, KJV.

Remember the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit during times of trial. “But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost”—Mark 13:11, KJV.

Remember, and press forward.—**Miguel Crespo, New York Conference president**





In times of trial, God has always told His people to go forward. He commanded Moses to “go forward” into the Red Sea. He promised Isaiah, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you”—Isaiah 43:2, NIV. He never promised a problem-free existence but that he would accompany us in difficult moments. This divine promise allowed the psalmist to boldly proclaim, “I will fear no evil: for thou art with me”—Psalm 23:4, KJV. This conviction emboldens our church to move forward in faith, despite blows absorbed and the challenges posed by a novel but unrelenting pandemic.

We have wept. We have endured. We have prayed. We continue to hope. We have no choice but to move forward with the conviction that the Lord Himself accompanies us through this journey. The mission of the church continues. Lost souls still need salvation. Wounded hearts still seek consolation. Our communities and neighbors need our benevolent support and prayers more than ever. Jesus commanded His disciples to “Occupy till I come”—Luke 19:13, KJV. So with or without a pandemic, God has a work for us to do. We paraphrase the Apostle Paul in proclaiming, “We are persuaded that neither COVID-19, nor death, nor illness, nor discouragement, nor shutdowns, nor physical distancing, nor protocols nor any other thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”—**Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president**


This past year has been one of the most challenging years in our collective memories. The pandemic has changed the way we live life, the way we worship, and the way we fellowship. We have lost loved ones to COVID-19, and we have, in some cases, lost community and unity. We shouldn’t be surprised; in John 16:33, Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble” (NIV). Nobody wants trouble, but it is in troublesome times that we are reminded that we need our Savior. Trouble may be our present reality, but it isn’t our ultimate destiny. Jesus still has the last word, and He didn’t leave us in trouble. His next phrase is packed with power and hope: “Take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Where do you need to take heart today? Are you missing human touch, struggling with loneliness, grief, hopelessness, or loss of purpose? Take heart! Jesus has overcome it all, and He loves you more than you can possibly imagine. He knew this pandemic was coming, and He knew the struggles you’d face. Place your trust in Him and press forward to the “high calling” to serve your community and share the beautiful message of the Advent hope. It is needed now more than ever!—**Ted Huskins, Northern New England Conference president**



Toward the end of Matthew 12, we are presented with an incident that seems strange for Jesus. He is speaking to the crowds, and He is told that His mother and His brothers want to speak to Him. The context of the chapter clues us into the fact that He has been causing a stir among the leaders. His family is clearly there to get Him to moderate Himself. Apparently, he did not meet with them. Instead, He gives a true definition of family. “Stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, ‘Behold: My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother, and sister, and mother’”—Matthew 12:49, 50, NASB.

In this time of separation and isolation, we cannot take our eyes from the goal Jesus has set for us. We must seek to build up the family of God. If it means visits from the sidewalk to a friend in a house, if it means making another call or another text message, if it means—yes—another conversation on Zoom, let us not weary of making the connections that will strengthen and build up the family of the Lord.

By biblical definition, the church is a gathering of people. We must gather as best we can, and in whatever way we can, to keep the connections, and even grow new connections, for the kingdom of God.—**David Dennis, Southern New England Conference president** 



How to Gain **Spiritual Strength**

Many are spiritually weak because they look at themselves instead of at Christ. Looking at themselves, and seeing only discouragement and unworthiness, they forget that God is waiting to make them agencies for the blessing of the world, and that angels are waiting to be collaborators with them.

Christ is the great storehouse from which on every occasion we may draw strength and happiness. Why, then, do we withdraw our eyes from his sufficiency to look on and bemoan our weakness? Why do we forget that he is ready to help us in every time of need? We dishonor him by talking of our inefficiency. Instead of looking at ourselves, let us constantly behold Jesus, daily becoming more and more like him, more and more able to talk of him, better prepared to avail ourselves of his kindness and helpfulness, and to receive the blessings offered us. As we thus live in communion with him, we grow strong in his strength, a help and a blessing to those around us.

Christ has made every provision for us to be strong. He has given us his Holy Spirit, whose office is to bring to our remembrance all the promises that Christ has made, that we may have peace and a sweet sense of forgiveness. If we will but keep our eyes fixed on the Saviour, and trust in his power, we shall be filled with a sense of security; for the righteousness of Christ will become our righteousness.

If we would only do as the Lord desires us to, our hearts would become as sacred harps, every chord of which would sound forth praise and gratitude to the Redeemer sent by God to take away the sin of the world. With joy we would be able to say, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom also we have access by faith

into the grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."

When temptations assail you, as they surely will, when care and perplexity surround you, when, dis-

us. We forget that he placed on us so high a value that he gave Christ to die for us. O, after all that has been done for us, how can we disappoint Christ by failing to live the life that he has made it possible for us to live? Let us no longer talk of our inefficiency and lack of power. Forgetting the things that are behind, let us press forward in the heavenward way. Let us neglect no opportunity that, if improved, will make us more useful in God's service.



tressed and discouraged, you are almost ready to yield to despair, look, O look, to where with the eye of faith you last saw the light; and the darkness that encompasseth you will be dispelled by the bright shining of his glory. When sin struggles for the mastery in your soul, and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, go to the Saviour. His grace is sufficient to subdue sin. He will pardon us, making us joyful in God.

Looking at self, we see only weakness, and we forget God's purpose for

Then like threads of gold, holiness will run through our lives, and the angels, beholding our consecration, will repeat the promise, "I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." All heaven rejoices when weak, faulty human beings give themselves to Jesus, to live his life. ①

Excerpt by Ellen G. White, author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, THE REVIEW AND HERALD, October 1, 1908. Reprinted with permission.



9 Ways to *Move Forward* in Ministry

By Ednor A.P. Davison

It has been one year since our lives changed because of the deadly coronavirus. With in-person church services occurring on a limited basis because of state, town, and county guidelines, as well as physical distancing requirements, many churchgoers are experiencing a sense of loss, both socially and spiritually.

The impact of church closures is not only about missing out on physically attending worship services but also missing weekly gathering opportunities that allowed for human contact, conversations over a meal, and social interactions at all age levels. For some, it was probably the only time during the week that they got a hug. In many places, all those activities we took for granted came to a screeching halt.

In-person worship soon became online worship. Leaders found themselves in a position where they had to be creative and adapt to new ways of ministering to their community of believers. Some churches were prepared to adjust quickly; others were not. Now, with the focus heavily on online delivery options, we are faced with the possibility of leaving others behind if we neglect to utilize a variety of methods to reach individuals who are not online.

In many instances, churches moved to the virtual space, fully expecting that members would follow. I have

heard it said, “If they don’t ‘come on board,’ they will miss out.” But what about those who can’t, don’t want to, or won’t “come on board” and participate online, for whatever reason? That is a very real issue.

It is clear that it will take time to go back to some form of what is considered “normal” in-person worship, but it is also clear that things will not be the same as they were before March 2020. Evangelistically, there is value to having in-person and online options. But we must also take time to account for all segments of the church’s population.

After researching and considering the communication patterns of the diverse population of worshipers in our congregations, we put together some tips that we hope you find helpful. You may have already implemented some of them. Feel free to add those that will help you better nurture your members and also reach out to residents in your local community. These tips are to be considered, in addition to the in-person services and activities you may already be conducting, as well as the online services via Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and other available Internet-based tools.

1. **Call Members and Regular**

Attendees: Assign either elders or other leaders of the church to check in often on members and

regular attendees. One option is to break down the directory alphabetically. Agree on a timeline for when this should be done and encourage those assigned to make random calls, as well.


2. **Communication by Email:**

Consider establishing some form of email communication that can cover a range of topics, including information about loving God, loving one another, and recipe ideas that the family can make and enjoy together, to name a few.

3. **Short Video Devotionals:** Create five- to seven-minute devotional videos to send to the members. The church’s administrative team can determine who the presenters will be. Perhaps, you can start with some encouragement from Psalms and move on to other books of the Bible, but keep them short and uplifting.

4. **Bible Classes:** Take the opportunity to schedule regular Bible studies for members and other interested individuals. Perhaps you can have classes for members and separate classes for others interested in learning more about God, the Adventist Church, and more. Schedule regular times and places for the Bible study to occur.





5. Small Groups: Zoom is a great platform to create and host a small group to connect with youth and can be useful for hosting virtual lunches, socials, and even playing games together. Utilizing social media specific to the age demographic you are trying to reach, such as Instagram Live, is another great way to engage in meaningful conversations using the chat feature.

6. Children's Stories: Schedule a children's storytime where selected members can read stories to the children. This storytime is separate from the children's story included in the worship service. Another option is to videotape individuals reading stories and share them with families to use as needed.

7. Card Ministry: Many people appreciate receiving notes of encouragement. Cards would be perfect for those who live alone, no matter their age. Why not establish a card ministry team? Prayerfully select the recipient(s) and send them messages of encouragement. Let them know that you miss seeing them and are praying for them. Send cards to members, friends of the church, first responders in the community, health care workers, state and town representatives, and more. The options are endless.

8. Drive-by Visitation: I'm sure we can all agree that now is not the time to go to someone's home for

an in-person visit, but perhaps you can arrange to stop by the person's house, wave at them from outside, and chat with them at a safe distance. It's the next best thing to being up close and personal.

9. Volunteer to Assist: It is important to check on those who live alone or have no one to assist them. There are times when they may need something but cannot go out to get it themselves. Share with members that they can contact the church if such needs arise. Put together a team of volunteers who are willing to assist in these situations while remaining safe and following established guidelines. A kind gesture goes a long way.

There is a definite feeling of loss among members of the faith community. We are learning about connecting with each other in new ways. The key is to be intentional about reaching out, calling, texting, emailing, or driving by to check on one another. These activities are not limited to adults, but people of all ages can stay safe as we participate in moving forward with the ministry we've been called to do—share Jesus' love and serve others. 0

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



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Youth Ministry Supplement

[adventist youth ministries on the move]

Forward by Forgetting

Today, there is a quest for memory tools, aids, and strategies. Electronic tools that are daily engaged to aid memory are widespread. These include alarms, calendars, audio/voice-over reminders on computers, iPads, tablets, cell phones, residential phones, televisions, and

a variety of other electronic gadgets. Tactile individuals may prefer to write reminders in personal calendars, year/month/week/day planners, and/or journal about daily happenings, achievements, plans, and projections. Still others, who are more visual, may remember best by creating graphic illustrations of situations, plans, and goals. They may also create mental pictures or make real-life associations that assist their memory.

Many an advertisement promotes brain food for superb memory—special nutrients for youth and adults alike. Others promote brain boosters, including the use of crossword and jigsaw puzzles, as well as brain games, such as chess and Scrabble®. Additionally, brain stimulating activities that are endorsed include the creative conduits of learning a new language, painting, and learning to play instruments. In fact, that is precisely the reason why many families invest yearly in instruments and music lessons for children and adults.

Though many youth and young adults may boast “youthful brains,” and great short- and long-term memory, numerous individuals across their life spans are challenged by forgetfulness. It has become a daily struggle for many to employ the aforementioned means by which to augment their ability to remember. Furthermore, individuals are



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often embarrassed to admit that they struggle with memory loss.

In Philippians 3:13, Paul admits that he is intentional about forgetting. His deliberate activity highlights an outcome that propels the forgetter out of this world. He posits that God’s people are

best poised to press forward to the everlasting kingdom that they were created to inhabit when they cultivate the art of forgetting. Paul also identifies what the forgetter should focus on leaving behind—primarily earthly accessories—the possessions, the sense of prosperity, and/or the position of power that are calculated to obscure the focus that should be on Christ.

Today, God is calling all youth and young adults to avoid living and dwelling on the failures, problems, losses, and hurts of the past; for in the midst of all the challenges, we are still here. God has been faithful. He has been good and has great plans for us. He declares, “For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”—Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.

We may not readily find strategies, aids, and tools for forgetting and pressing forward, but Christ provides the power and faith needed in this process. A heavenly home is the reward for those who purposefully seek to forget the things and circumstances that impede their ability to press toward the heavenly goal. ①

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

Maranatha Women's Ministries Shares Blessings of COVID-19

Using Matthew 25:40 as their motto and example of Christ's ministry while here on earth, the Maranatha church Women's Ministries department embarked on a year of service, gratitude, and praise.

The leadership team desired to make a positive impact in their community. Their desire was to reach out to members of the community and minister to them by meeting their physical needs while simultaneously meeting their spiritual needs.

When notified of the lockdown due to COVID-19 in March 2020, Ivy Comrie, Maranatha church's Women's Ministries leader, started a prayer line and invited women of the church and community to worship and pray together in an effort to strengthen each other through the challenging times they were facing.

The group met three mornings each week and worshiped and praised God for His mercies. They saw Jehovah work numerous miracles while they prayed for people (some they have never met personally).

Later, the department hosted a seniors luncheon where they packaged meals and delivered them to the seniors in the community. This was done in collaboration with the Brooklyn Women Empowerment Group and sponsored in part by the Healthcare Education Project.

In April, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, they purchased their quarterly supply of food, toiletries, clothes, and basic home essentials and delivered

them to a battered women's sanctuary, as they have been doing for the past five years. However, this time was different because they were unable to meet and worship with the women as they normally would.

Later, when New York State started lifting the lockdown, they cooked and distributed meals on Sabbaths to the elderly population of their congregation and the community's homeless population.

The inspiration came when Lester Edmeade, Maranatha church's first elder, went for a walk down Utica Avenue and noticed people sitting in groups begging. He continued his walk and noticed various groups along different corners on Utica Avenue socializing and begging. Upon his return home, he mentioned an idea to his wife, Maria, who is one of the Women's Ministries assistants. He explained to her his desire to feed the people he saw and she told him that she had the same idea, but needed a way to get it started. Mrs. Edmeade immediately began cooking and called Monique Nembhard, Maranatha church's Women's Ministries assistant, to assist her with delivering the food.

The reception and reaction of the individuals was amazing. The women immediately called their leader and shared their experience with her and reminded her of her plans earlier in the year to evangelize the homeless populations. The group met and planned how they could continue. They started cooking every Sabbath, using their own funds, and



The Maranatha church Women's Ministries provides clothing for community residents in need of assistance.

provided a three-course, hot meal and desserts made by member Geryl Rathan. They loaded their vehicles with the help of young Oniel Craig, then drove around the Brooklyn community and prayed with those in need while distributing what the Lord provided for them to give each week.

As time went by, participants started asking for clothing items. The women collected clothes and distributed jackets, pants, shoes, shirts, and socks from donations received. Some weeks, they made care packages that included socks, washcloths, toiletries, masks, and sanitizers then distributed them with the meals. With abundant blessings from their Heavenly Father, people who saw what they were doing willingly made contributions. One member, Aleisha Noel, from Brooklyn Faith church, baked treats and contribut-

ed. A young person, Thea Newton, volunteered to bake and purchase other treats to include in the meal packages.

The outreach that started from the personal funds of just four individuals blossomed and expanded to now eight-to-10 individuals. Maranatha church's Women's Ministries will continue their efforts throughout 2021. They also welcome individuals who desire to share their blessings with those who are in both physical and spiritual need during these most challenging times.

They encourage other Adventists to trust God while ministering to those who are not of the faith and to remember 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (NKJV). He will open the windows of heaven and enlarge your territory.

—Women's Ministries, Maranatha church

Pathfinders at Westvale Church Remain Active and Involved

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how ministries function in local churches today. This new approach to ministry has been a great blessing for many and a great challenge for others. Even these changes have not stopped the Pathfinders at the Westvale church in Syracuse, New York, from meeting and carrying on their activities. They have adjusted and made changes to their meetings and activities, and they are always active in their classes and community.

Down to eight members this year, the Westvale Warriors meet faithfully every Wednesday evening for one hour since the start of school. They met outside of the church for their time together, maintaining physical distancing, and wearing masks until the weather became colder and drove them inside. Now, meeting inside the church, physical distancing and masks are still enforced, including sanitizing things they touch or use inside the church.

Activities started in August with a modified camporee held at Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York, with two clubs participating. The Pathfinders slept in tents or cabins that are used for camp meeting. In September, they participated in a campout at Camp Cherokee.

One Wednesday evening in October, they left bags with notes at the homes in the area surrounding the church. The note explained



Westvale church Pathfinders carry on with their activities while maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks, and using hand sanitizer.

that they were collecting food items to help those in need. The Pathfinders returned the following Sunday to retrieve the bags. They collected 388 food items in total and took them to the church's Adventist Community Services Food Pantry. The neighbors responded heartily to this service project, for which the Pathfinders are very grateful.

The Pathfinders have also been working on derby cars for Derby Day. They are currently waiting for a date to race their cars, since the original date was postponed due to COVID-19.

Sabbath, January 9, was a high day for the Westvale church as the Pathfinders conducted the church service while physically distancing and the wear-

ing masks. They all had a part to play in the service, such as doing the invocation, leading song service, praying, providing special music, and reading the scripture. Dan Whitlow, New York Conference Youth Ministries director and one of the club leaders, told the children's story.

Anthony Whitlow, pastor and son of Dan Whitlow, presented the sermon and spoke about God's prom-

ises. He invited the young people of the church to remain obedient, trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus for all believers. Whitlow stressed to the Pathfinders how they should live each day with God's promises, since He sent His son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

—Joan Payne, Faith Community Nurse coordinator, Westvale church



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New York Conference Hosts Program Addressing COVID-19 and the Church

More than 500 people from around the world viewed a special edition of *THE INDICATOR*, the New York Conference's digital magazine on December 4, 2020. Jann Cady, a faith community nurse for the New York Conference and the Westvale church and practice manager of the Infectious Disease Clinic at St. Joseph's Health in Syracuse, New York, was a special guest on the program. Also participating in this special program were New York Conference representatives Miguel Crespo, president; Claudio Gomez, executive secretary; and Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director.

The topic of the program was "COVID-19 and the Church." The program was



Jann Cady, a faith community nurse for the New York Conference and Westvale church, top right, discusses COVID-19 and the church with New York Conference representatives, Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, top left; Miguel Crespo, president, bottom left; and Claudio Gomez, executive secretary, bottom right.

an interactive presentation to address the current issues of the coronavirus and how the church can minister during this difficult time. It was divided into three main sections for discussion: "COVID Education," "Church Ministry During

this Pandemic," and "How We Relate to Others in the Midst of Tension Now in the World."

The panel answered questions sent in by the audience. They agreed that ministry is different in churches now due to social or physi-

cal distancing, but that does not mean that the church's ministry stops. Panelists stressed that relationships and connecting with others are especially important now and tolerance is key during this pandemic. The important thing they emphasize is that love and kindness should be shown. If you missed the program, you can find it on the conference's Facebook page.

THE INDICATOR digital magazine serves the New York Conference. The first digital edition was released in May 2020 on Facebook, and it is streamed live on the third Friday of each month. It is named after a magazine that was printed 100 years ago.

—Joan Payne, Faith Community Nurse coordinator, Westvale church

Clifford Avenue Hispanic Remains Active in the Community

The Clifford Avenue Hispanic church's Adventist Community Services (ACS) in Rochester, New York, continues to minister to the community by sharing God's message through food distribution and community events.

Events over the past few months included the October 31, 2020, blood drive where the church's ACS, under the direction of Endelissa Romero, ACS coordinator, partnered with the American Red Cross. In addition, church members blessed residents of the community by distributing food. Church members also distributed 30 food baskets during the Thanksgiving season.

"The grace of God and His mercies, allowed us to be present in the community during this day by inviting them to donate blood, [while] receiving free food and literature about the power of God," said Reynolds Rodriguez, the church's senior pastor. That Sabbath afternoon more than a dozen people from the community and 15 from the local church had the opportunity to donate blood. Some people were not able to donate because the number of volunteers surpassed the expectations of the organizers.

Morgan Dunham, with the American Red Cross, was the person in charge of organiz-

ing the activity and promoting it in partnership with the local church. ACS continues to minister to the community by sharing God's message through food distribution and community events. In

addition to holding weekly virtual services, Clifford Avenue Hispanic church also conducts driveway visitations on Sabbath afternoons.

—Jose Rivera, communication director, Clifford Avenue Hispanic church



People from the community and members of the Clifford Avenue Hispanic church participate in a blood drive.



Trevor H.C. Baker: Honoring His Life, Leadership, and Legacy

As a young boy, Trevor Baker was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Barbados but resisted becoming a member. Later, when he was asked to become the musician for an evangelistic series, he consented and eventually became a member.

Shortly afterward, he and his siblings immigrated to the United States and became members of the Bethel church in Brooklyn, New York. He enrolled at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in 1963 and graduated in 1967. He then entered the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1969.

He began his ministry in the Northeastern Conference serving as pastor of the

Mount Carmel church in Syracuse, New York, and later at the Corona church in Corona, New York. In 1976, he was elected to serve the Northeastern Conference as youth director. He held this position for 15 years (1976–1991). During this period, the following were established: Bible Board Ministry, Youth and Pathfinder Awards Banquet, the Drama Festival for Youth, and a local conference Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Federation concept, the annual Bible Conference for high school students attending non-Adventist schools, the Basketball Commission, the Pathfinder Examiner’s Board, Volleyball League, and the Youth Multi-center Fund were also established by Baker.

His next upward step was from Youth Ministries to



Trevor Baker gives closing remarks at the conclusion of his retirement celebration.

Daniel Archie

executive secretary of the Northeastern Conference. In addition to performing the usual duties of this position, he developed a policy manual for Northeastern Conference employees, led out in the development of an evaluation instrument for pastors and churches within Northeastern Conference,

and developed forms and protocols to better monitor accountability for office and field personnel.

After serving for 12 years as executive secretary, in 2002 he was called to serve as president of the Northeastern Conference. He promoted spiritual leadership within the conference administration, fostered openness and honesty in reporting within the administration, established annual soul winning and tithe goals for churches, instituted an award ceremony recognizing pastoral leadership, and implemented “Pastoral Ministeriums” (districts).

Baker led his administration in retiring two bonds that encumbered conference assets, initiated annual tithe accountability for all conference employees and executive committee members, and encouraged and effected the merging of some small churches for efficiency and effective ministry. During Baker’s presidency, the membership of Northeastern Conference surpassed 50,000.

Daniel Archie



Trevor and Eunice Baker listen to tributes acknowledging his 53 years of ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Community Worship Center hosted a grand appreciation and retirement celebration, spearheaded by Abraham J. Jules, Community Worship Center pastor, on Sunday, December 27, 2020.

Thousands attended the virtual and in-person event, that was streamed live on YouTube, Facebook, and all Northeastern Conference media platforms. Wintley Phipps, gospel recording artist and pastor, gave opening remarks and a musical tribute.

Special tributes to Baker and his wife, Eunice, were made by Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president; G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president; and Vandeon Griffin, North American Division Youth Ministries associate director; G. Earl Knight, Atlantic Union Conference president; Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president; Leslie N. Pollard, Oakwood University president; and many other local and external representatives.

The program was divided into four “This Is Your Life” segments, each of which included special music,



Deanna Lambert presents the Bible Bowl history book, *Right You Are! How Bible Bowl Changed Our Lives*.

tributes, and presentation of gifts. Deanna Lambert, Northeastern Conference Bible Bowl and TLT coordinator, presented Baker with a copy of the book *RIGHT YOU ARE! HOW BIBLE BOWL CHANGED OUR LIVES*. The book, edited by Lambert and Gamal Alexander, pastor, is scheduled to be released in Spring 2021. It captures favorite moments of Baker’s Bible Bowl legacy. A dedicatory prayer, offered by Ainsworth Morris, Kansas Avenue church senior pastor, concluded the pro-

gram. Pianists Nerva and Robenson Altino and saxophonist Edson Alvarez, provided the grand finale.

To all the institutions, churches, and individuals who gave tributes of time, talent, and financial gifts, thank you for your generosity.

Thanks, Pastor Baker, for sharing your life in ministry with us, for your productive leadership, and the great legacy that will inspire others to follow in your footsteps. May God’s blessings continue to be with you, your dear wife, and

your family. Thank God for all the great things that you have done and accomplished that made proud your home country of Barbados and Seventh-day Adventists everywhere. Above all, you have glorified your God with such outstanding service. I can hear Him saying, “Well done Bajan boy. I am very proud of you!”

—Milton O.C. Haynes, elder, Hanson Place church



Trevor Baker, South Ozone church pastor, stands with the church’s Bible Bowl team and supporters as they celebrate their win as 2019 Queens area champions and first runner-up in the Northeastern Conference Senior Youth Division. “This is the epitome of my ministry,” Baker said.



Trevor H.C. Baker is also known for his ability to provide piano accompaniment wherever and whenever needed.



Pictured is Trevor H.C. Baker in the early days of his ministry.

John Fraser's Miracle Story

The Caribou Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship is a small church in far Northern Maine. In fact, if you went a few miles east, or a few more miles north, you'd be in Canada. But though the Caribou Fellowship is small, they are very dedicated to fulfilling the great commission in their far corner of the Lord's vineyard, and it is because of the Lord's blessing on this dedicated effort that the little church has been growing. What brings people, and keeps people coming back, is the love that they experience when they join the fellowship.

The Caribou Fellowship engages in many types of outreach and engagement, some of which is undertaken by Bible workers. Not long ago, Caribou's Bible workers Isaias Lopez, Maria Lopez, and Lindel Nyoni were working a street—systematically knocking on all doors—without finding any interests. At the end of the street, Isaias knocked on a door. Theresa Fraser answered it, but said she wasn't interested in the



John Fraser, left, looks on as his friend, Carl Tucker, center, prepares for baptism.

study at that time. She told Isaias and Maria to come back in two weeks when her husband was home. Isaias agreed politely. But in his experience, Theresa's answer was a typical response given when people weren't really interested in further study. So, Isaias and Maria went about their usual business of reaching out to contacts and initiating Bible studies.

About six months later, Isaias was passing out invitations to a health seminar when the thought that he should give one to Theresa entered his mind.

He took her an invitation and after they exchanged greetings, she asked him why he hadn't returned in two weeks as she had requested. Isaias was taken aback and for a moment didn't know what to say. He quickly recovered and asked when he could return for more studies. A date was set and he gave her the first lesson of the Amazing Facts Landmarks in Prophecy study guides.

When Theresa and John started studying, Isaias quickly found that the English language Bible study was difficult for John, who had grown up speaking French as his mother tongue. But it was also obvious to Isaias that John was trying to follow the study, and that he wanted to connect with God. As the men talked, Isaias came to understand that John felt like God didn't care about him and didn't answer his prayers.

At the next lesson, Isaias grabbed two study guide packs that were labeled in English and went to study with John and Theresa.

He gave the first study to Theresa and then opened the other one for John. The language on the outside of the study package was English, but when he opened it, it wasn't in English as labeled. Isaias initially didn't know what language it was, and he quickly scanned through all the lessons. Then he recognized the language—the studies were all in French! He gave the lesson to John. As John looked at the page in front of him, he brightened, and a big smile came over his face. Now he could understand the lessons. John studied faithfully and, as he did so, he became convinced that God did love him and did answer prayers.

The Caribou Fellowship had ordered English studies, but God saw to it that they got the studies He wanted them to have. John later asked Isaias why he had stopped at his door, and Isaias answered that God had sent him. John continued with his Bible studies and faithfully attended several evangelistic series. He eventually was baptized by Ted Huskins, Northern New England Conference president.

Theresa, likewise, finished her lessons, attended an evangelistic series, and was baptized by Isaias. God has, is, and will bless those who are searching for Him; and will also bless those who are sharing Him with others. Are you willing to be sent by God to your neighbors? God can, and will, work miracles through you.

—Wayne Smith, lay pastor, Caribou Fellowship



Isaias Lopez, Caribou Fellowship Bible worker, left, baptizes Theresa Fraser, with help from John Fraser.

Northern New England Pastors Become More Mission Driven

Pastors from the Northern New England Conference recently met virtually for a two-day workshop on how to help their churches become more mission-driven. The workshop was held by Paul Brantley, North American Division vice president for Strategic Planning and Assessment. In leading the workshop, Brantley used the new book, *MISSION-DRIVEN BASICS: CHURCH STRATEGY MADE SIMPLE*, which he authored.

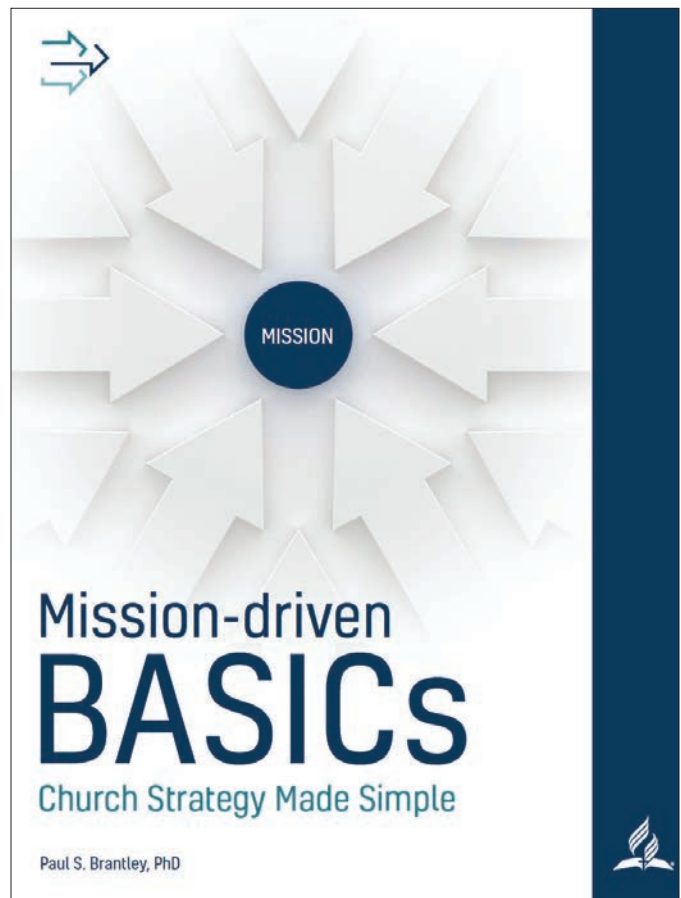
The workshop had one simple goal—to help churches in the conference be more strategic and mission driven in pursuing their God-given responsibilities. But because Northern New England is an early adopter of this approach, it may also serve as a model of sorts for what can be achieved. “I look at the leadership in the conference and the keenness with which the pastors reviewed and received the workshop, and I know this conference is capable of serving as a model of strategic excellence,” said Brantley.

“If we can serve as a model to the benefit of other conferences, praise the Lord,” said conference president Ted Huskins. “But our objective, and our intended focus, revolves around the challenge we face of witnessing to a stubbornly disinterested post-Christian population. The days of being able to put up a tent and draw a curious audience of cultural Christians are long gone in this part of the country, and if we are to be serious about our Great Commission then

we need to be strategic about it. When we went looking for materials to support this training need, there seemed to be a confluence of thinking from Brantley’s department, because it was just releasing the very materials we were searching for.”

MISSION-DRIVEN BASICS was written for church members and is a combined instruction book and workbook. The book guides pastors and church members through the process of reflecting on end-time mission, then developing a vision for their church based on that mission. The vision might be something such as “bring significant numbers of our friends and neighbors to Christ using effective means.” With a vision formed, the book walks congregations through the formation of a strategy that achieves the vision. The strategy might, for instance, be something such as “use social connections and digital platforms to start spiritual discussions and invite friends to advance those discussions in church meetings, seminars, and other outreaches.”

Once the congregation has thought out the strategy, it then wrestles with identifying and forming congregation-wide habits that support the strategy, vision, and mission. Much of the book, and much of the seminar that NNEC’s pastors participated in, focused on the formation of church-wide habits. According to Brantley, the formation of vision-supporting habits



Northern New England Conference pastors learned how to become more mission-driven utilizing the book *MISSION-DRIVEN BASICS: CHURCH STRATEGY MADE SIMPLE*, by Paul Brantley, North American Division vice president for Strategic Planning and Assessment.

is critical for any church. “Habits form the character of the church, and it is the character of the church that forms the first critical impression on people we invite to our churches.” Brantley quotes Ellen G. White on habits: “The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts”—*STEPS TO CHRIST*, p. 57.

“These are the last days, and we are in the midst of revitalizing our ministry across the board throughout all of Northern New England,” said Huskins.

“That means we’re focusing on church revitalization and lay-pastor training, on church planting, and innovative evangelism. Encouraging our pastors to help their churches adopt a mission-driven strategy is part and parcel of what we’re trying to do. After all, if our mission is the most important task ever entrusted to humans, then we need to not only be prayerful, faithful, and diligent, but we need to be strategic and intentional as well.”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



SNEC Administrators Review Blessings, Miracles, and Lessons Learned Over the Past Nine Months

Southern New England Conference (SNEC) has experienced a year of challenges, cutbacks, and opportunities because of COVID-19 and its financial impact on SNEC members and churches. David Dennis, SNEC president, recently interviewed Tom Murray, SNEC treasurer and chief financial officer, to discuss the blessings, miracles, and lessons learned over the past nine months. The video aired on the Southern New England Conference President's Facebook page.

As members lost jobs, experienced a reduction in their income, and churches closed to keep members safe, the conference administration planned for a possible

20-25 percent financial loss. Such a loss is a significant dip in revenue from tithes and offerings that would typically go to support ministries and programs, as well as pay salaries for pastors, educational workers, and conference employees.

At the start of the pandemic, Murray saw a large financial drop during March, April, and May, but "by God's grace, and because our members have been faithful," tithe dollars have almost equaled the level of giving that existed in 2019. Through it all, they give God the glory for enabling the conference to continue with evangelism and educational ministries in spite of the losses.



Southern New England Conference representatives, David Dennis, president, left, and Tom Murray, treasurer and chief financial officer, discuss how COVID-19 impacted the conference.

"No matter what the crisis is, it can't interfere with our mission of growing God's kingdom," Murray said. "Pandemic or not, Jesus is coming, and we have a work to do." In addition to praising God, Murray

gave a special thanks to the SNEC members, churches, and employees for their faithfulness, understanding, bravery, and courage during this time.

—Southern New England Conference President's Facebook page

Wakefield Church Plant Provides COVID-19 Care Packages

In December 2020, Kevin Robert and his family tested positive for COVID-19. While in quarantine, Robert felt isolated and withdrawn from people and from God. After the family

recovered, Robert, who pastors three congregations in Massachusetts—Merrimack and Billerica churches, and a One Connection church plant in Wakefield—felt impressed by the Holy

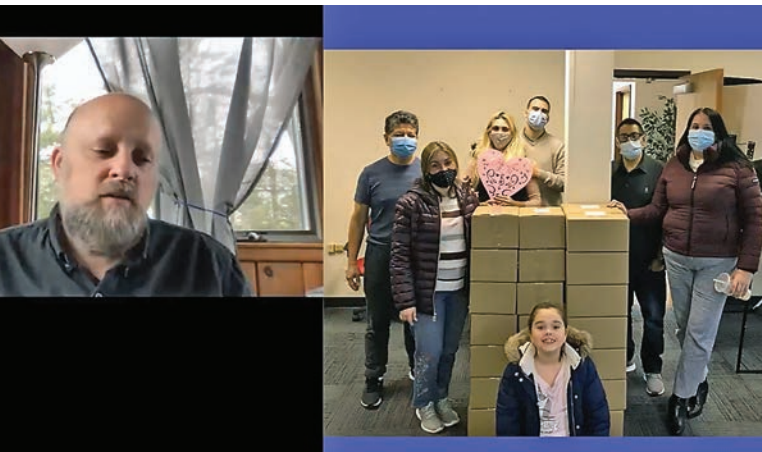
Spirit that others who have COVID-19 may be experiencing the same feelings he had. Wanting to reach out to people in quarantine, Robert talked to his wife, Tanya, about the idea of creating a care package to let people know that someone is thinking about them and that they are not isolated.

Encouraged to move forward, Robert presented the idea to the core group from their Wakefield church plant as a community outreach endeavor. To date, the group has created 30 boxes and already distributed more than half of them in the community using their Facebook page and the Nextdoor app to get leads. The care package includes multivitamins, vitamin C, a box of tissues,

hand sanitizer, hand soap, instant soup, some word games, cough drops, a few disposable masks, a bottle of water, and a copy of THE MINISTRY OF HEALING. Each box also includes a letter from the church with contact information and an invitation to request a care package for someone else. They customized a few boxes for children, as well.

To minimize contact, the recipient receives a text message with a picture of the box left on their front doorstep, letting them know the package has been delivered. The care packages are a big hit, and people have texted their gratitude for the church's kindness and generosity.

—Southern New England Conference President's Facebook page



During a video interview, Kevin Robert, pastor of the Merrimack and Billerica churches and the One Connection church plant in Wakefield, Massachusetts, left, shares a picture of the Wakefield church plant members posing with the COVID-19 care packages ready for delivery.

Atlantic Union Conference Constituency Session Rescheduled

At its February 9 virtual meeting, members of the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee voted to reschedule its 31st Constituency Session from June 20, 2021, to August 14, 2022.

The decision stems from the continued, serious health risk that a session would pose to delegates and staff and the exceptional nature of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The Atlantic Union Conference adminis-

trators consulted with several medical professionals, as well as state, county, and town officials, who all cautioned against having such a large gathering at this time. They also considered the indoor capacity limitations of various venues because of physical distancing and other required accommodations.

The need for an in-person session is driven by the requirements of the Atlantic Union Conference Bylaws, which stipulate that at least 60 percent of the regular authorized delegates must be present at the opening of any regular or special constituency meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction

of business. The bylaws also stipulate that all delegates must vote in person.

During this extended period of time, according to the bylaws, all officers and executive committee members will continue to hold their offices until the next regular meeting of the Atlantic Union Conference constituency.

The Atlantic Union Conference administrators and directors will continue to meet the needs of the territory with their primary focus on evangelism, education, youth, and leadership development.

—Ednor A.P. Davison, *GLEANER* editor

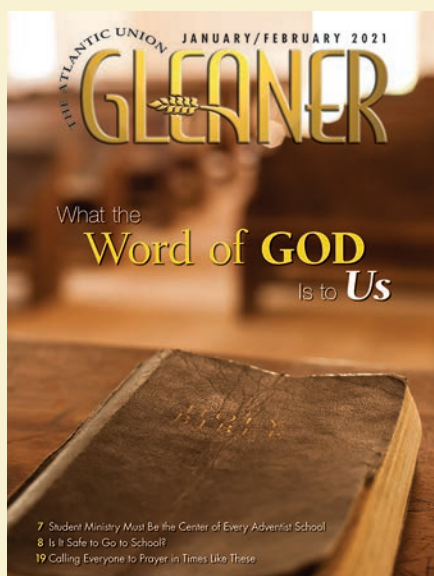


New Schedule Unveiled for GLEANER Magazine

Did you notice something different when you received your *GLEANER* in the mail in January? That's right! The January/February issues were combined into one magazine. This year, instead of mailing 12 *GLEANER* magazines, you will receive nine. We are combining the January/February, July/August, and November/December issues of the *GLEANER*. You will continue to receive the other magazines as single-month issues.

Over its almost 120-year history, adjustments to the schedule have been made for various reasons. This action takes into consideration the challenges of the times we are facing, as well as the importance of making adjustments to stay relevant in these changing times.

In addition to mailing the print edition using the new schedule, we will continue to increase our presence on digital platforms as we endeavor to reach as many people as possible with the important message of hope



and wholeness and the Good News of Christ's soon return.

We invite you to visit the *GLEANER*'s expanded website at atlanticuniongleaner.org where you will

find news, feature stories, information, resources to assist communicators in the field, and much more. Stay in touch with us via our social media platforms on Facebook (facebook.com/atlanticunionconference), and Twitter (twitter.com/GleanerFYI), and encourage others to sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter, *GLEANERFYI* which is sent out on Thursday evenings.

The mission of the *GLEANER* is to “faithfully chronicle the work and progress of the church in the Atlantic Union territory and inform, instruct, and inspire our church members.”

There is much work to be done to fulfill the Gospel Commission. You are a part of this journey! Share stories of your church's involvement in community engagement, nurturing members, and how it encourages and inspires youth and young adults as they move into their roles as leaders.

—Ednor A.P. Davison, *GLEANER* editor



Pecan-Crusted Tofu

While many of us are still practicing physical distancing and may not have people over for Sabbath dinner, that is still no excuse to forgo treating yourself, or your family, to a surprise entrée. This recipe will provide a crunchy, savory base—infused with the subtle sweetness of pecans—that will perfectly complement roasted potatoes and vegetables to make a warm, hearty meal.

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups pecans, crushed
- 4 tablespoons panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt
- 1 pound extra-firm tofu, frozen overnight and thawed
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon vegetarian chicken-style seasoning
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast flakes
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- ¾ cup vegetable broth or plain unsweetened plant-based milk

- Preheat oven to 425°F. Spray a baking sheet with cooking oil; set aside.
- In a small bowl, combine crushed pecans, breadcrumbs, rosemary and sea salt; set aside.
- In a separate bowl, mix the broth or milk with the remaining dried seasonings to create a marinade.
- Defrost the frozen tofu and squeeze out the excess moisture. Slice into sections about ½"-1" thick. Soak the tofu in the marinade for at least 15 minutes or overnight.
- Remove the tofu from the marinade and dip it into the pecan-breadcrumb mixture, coating both sides. Place the tofu on the prepared baking sheet. Repeat this process with all the tofu pieces.
- Bake the tofu for 25–30 minutes, turning halfway through baking. Bake until golden brown; serve immediately.

The Holmes Sisters—Kimberly, Taisha, and Janeth—are blood sisters who use their culinary and musical heritage to point their audiences to Jesus Christ. They are familiar faces on 3ABN Today, the Dare to Dream Network, and ministering at Northeastern Conference camp meetings. They also partnered with churches, ministries, and health evangelism programs in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Learn more at www.theholmessisters.com.

3ABN/Nicole Warren



CLASSIFIEDS

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.

The Atlantic Union GLEANER reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved.

Classified and display ads appearing in the Atlantic Union GLEANER are printed without endorsement or recommendation of the Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union GLEANER makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertisements, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or for typographical or categorical errors.

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks School Counseling Program Coordinator and Professor to oversee all aspects of the counselor education program. Responsibilities include managing program to maintain accreditation standards with CACREP and the state, teaching graduate courses in counseling and school counseling, providing academic advisement support to students in the program, responding to inquiries regarding overall academic unit, participate in committees, maintaining an active research agenda as documented through publications and presentations, sitting on dissertation committees, and other duties as assigned to the position. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2.

STALLANT HEALTH a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for a Family Practice Physician, as well as an NP or PA to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com.

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

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

FOR SALE: Country home in upstate New York. 4BDR/2BA, 4200 square feet on 47 acres. Pond, gardens, outbuildings. Great neighbors; safe location for raising children and animals, or running a small business. Many Adventist churches nearby. Call (518) 677-3473.

ADVENTIST HOME An active senior community in upstate New York operated by the Greater New York Conference is now accepting applications for independent living units, single homes, apartments

at www.atlanticuniongleaner.org

and mobile homes. Located on 90 acres in Livingston, N.Y. (100 miles north of NYC). A peaceful, country setting offering a healthy lifestyle and opportunity for service at the local church on campus. Contact Cecelia Graham, office manager, (518) 567-8004. Email: office@AdventistHomeInc.org. Website: AdventistHomeInc.org.

SERVICES

PROJECT STEPS TO CHRIST Trying to figure out how to evangelize during COVID? Consider sponsoring a Facebook lead-generation ad campaign. Reach thousands! It's easy! You don't have to have a Facebook page, like or do social media, or even be computer literate. PSTC does all the work for you! Contact us at 1-800-728-6872 or go to www.projectstc.org/Facebook-Evangelism.

ENROLLMENT FOR 2020 at Atlanta Adventist Academy is now open! Atlanta Adventist Academy offers excellent Adventist education locally (Atlanta, Ga.), as well as virtually through our live online program for homeschoolers and distance campuses. To enroll your student, call (404) 699-1400, or visit aaa.edu/admissions.

NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call (800) 367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit www.LNFBLOCKS.com for used books, and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

MOVE with an award-winning agency. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 or visit us at www.apexmoving.com/adventist.

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

CAMPBELL, Joan—85, b. Feb. 7, 1935, in Ware, Mass.; d. Dec. 13, 2020, in Auburn, Maine. She was a member of the Auburn church in Auburn, Maine. She graduated from Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. She was a longtime member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and held many positions in her local church where she was a member. She is survived by her husband, Oswald Campbell of Turner, Maine, whom she married on May 5, 1992; a stepson, Eric Campbell, and two stepdaughters, Leeks Campbell and Annette Campbell, all of Florida; four sisters: Goldie Sampson, Cody Buck, Shirley Cummings, and Martha Trask, all of Turner, Maine; and

four brothers, Eugene Richardson, Jr., David Richardson, Harry Richardson, and Danny Richardson, all of Turner, Maine.

SHANNON, Marjorie—91, b. Sept. 6, 1929, in Sherwood, N.Y.; d. Jan. 12, 2021, in Auburn, N.Y. She was a member of the Auburn church in Auburn, N.Y., for more than 60 years and served as treasurer for many of those years. She is survived by her sons, David (Helen) Bacon of Geneva, N.Y., Thomas Bacon of Portland, Ore., Randy (Nancy) Bacon of Weedsport, N.Y., and Lyle (Barbara) Bacon of Auburn, N.Y.; stepdaughters, Wanda Otting of Oswego, N.Y., and Cathy Essman of Iowa; a brother, Lavern Bennett of Auburn, N.Y.; a sister, Linda Lauster of Clyde, N.Y.; several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



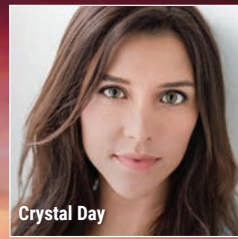
Sunset Calendar

	Daylight Saving Time				
	Apr. 2	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	Apr. 23	Apr. 30
Bangor, ME	7:05	7:14	7:23	7:31	7:40
Portland, ME	7:10	7:18	7:27	7:35	7:43
Boston, MA	7:12	7:20	7:28	7:36	7:44
South Lancaster, MA	7:15	7:23	7:31	7:38	7:46
Pittsfield, MA	7:21	7:29	7:37	7:45	7:53
Hartford, CT	7:18	7:26	7:34	7:41	7:49
Providence, RI	7:13	7:21	7:29	7:36	7:44
New York, NY	7:23	7:30	7:37	7:45	7:52
Albany, NY	7:23	7:31	7:39	7:47	7:55
Utica, NY	7:29	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:02
Syracuse, NY	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:57	8:06
Rochester, NY	7:39	7:47	7:55	8:04	8:12
Buffalo, NY	7:44	7:52	8:00	8:08	8:16
Keene, NH	7:17	7:26	7:34	7:42	7:50
Manchester, NH	7:14	7:22	7:32	7:39	7:47
Portsmouth, NH	7:12	7:20	7:30	7:36	7:44
Brattleboro, VT	7:19	7:27	7:35	7:43	7:51
Burlington, VT	7:23	7:31	7:40	7:48	7:57
Rutland, VT	7:21	7:29	7:38	7:46	7:54
Hamilton, Bda	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00

NBC EASTER SPECIAL
WATCH ON NBC



Pastor Donnie McClurkin



Crystal Day



Dr. Carlton P. Byrd,
Speaker

The Awakening

This NBC Television special, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), features an Easter message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry, and Special Musical Guests: Pastor Donnie McClurkin, and the Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio, along with actress, Crystal Day.



Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio

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