

THE ATLANTIC UNION

SEPTEMBER 2021

# GLEANNER



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## Is It **Really Over?**

**W**ith COVID-19 vaccinations underway and restrictions lifted almost everywhere, people now feel a sense of freedom and liberty to begin moving around. They are having family reunions, going back to school, attending weekly church programs, resuming work schedules, traveling, exercising, and doing other routine activities. Perhaps the virus is still living with us and, like other viruses such as influenza, COVID-19 is here to stay. As time goes by, we learn how to live with it.

While for many, the pandemic is only a health issue, for others, this is just another sign of the times in today's world. We wait to see even more signs in the last days of earth's history as announced by Old Testament prophets, predicted by Jesus, and preached by the disciples. More importantly, we should remain on alert since there may not be another special announcement before the next crisis strikes.

Several new coronavirus variants are now identified, making its eradication more difficult. So, it begs the question: Is it really over? This question reminds me of the time when Jesus was visiting the temple in Jerusalem (Mark 13). It looks as though those who were with Him were seeing the edifice for the first time, and they were amazed at what they saw. The architecture was like no other building they had seen before. However, there was a disconnect between what Jesus was teaching and what they were seeing.

Calling Jesus' attention to the magnificent works, His followers were confused at His response. However, Jesus was about to teach them a great lesson. We often focus our admiration on worldly successes, scientific

achievements, Olympic medals, new millionaires, and technological discoveries, forgetting that "there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Mark 13:2, KJV).

The other lesson that Jesus wanted His disciples to understand during that visit was that it was not really over. The most important activity in which they could be engaged was sharing the gospel with a world that was living in darkness (Mark 13:10). They needed to keep their eyes wide open because those same signs were deceitful, and many believers would be prone to errors.

Let me share with you a quote I read early in my ministry: "The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith"—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 5, p. 463.

Beloved, it is not over yet. The gospel has not yet reached all the nations of the earth. Let's include a reminder on our busy agendas to witness to someone. By sharing love and kindness, being compassionate, helping others, praying for someone, and intentionally participating in outreach programs, we can advance the kingdom. ①

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



*“The gospel has not yet reached all the nations of the earth. Let’s include a reminder on our busy agendas to witness to someone.”*



# Youth in Service

## Determined to Go Where Jesus Leads



A look behind the scenes of the studio at the virtual Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries Pathfinder camporee.

It is not easy to coordinate activities for youth and young adults in person, much less in a virtual environment. However, this is what the Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries (AUAYM) team has been doing since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

AUAYM director David McKenzie leads the youth ministries directors from the six conferences (David Steede II, Bermuda; Ariel Manzueta, Greater New York; Dan Whitlow, New York; Gerome Leacock, Northeastern; Trevor Schlisner, Northern New England; and Daniel Velez, Southern New England), and their teams in their work with the youth and young adults.

The ministry to the youth and young adults is one of three strategic imperatives for the Atlantic Union Conference administrators. Here are highlights of just a few things that

happened in youth ministries over the past few months.

### Pathfinders Encouraged to Know, Love, and Serve Jesus

McKenzie and the AUAYM team rose to the challenge of coordinating

an engaging and spiritual union-wide virtual Pathfinder camporee this year. Hundreds registered for the camporee and hundreds more viewed the services online, May 14-16.

Focusing on the story of Ruth, this year's theme, "DETERMINED to GO," encouraged Pathfinders to know, love, and serve Jesus. Pathfinders from the six conferences in the Atlantic Union territory and beyond enjoyed guest presenters, workshops, as well as opportunities to earn honors and participate in interactive, fun activities. It was the first time that a camporee in the Atlantic Union was held virtually utilizing a virtual stage and having the Pathfinders set up camp sites at their homes.

Guest speakers for the camporee included Damian Chandler, pastor of the Capitol City church in Sacramento, California; Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer; Bill Wood, former Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth



Some of the Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries team stand on the virtual stage used during the 2021 Pathfinder camporee.

Ministries director, who, in his retirement, coordinates Camp Ministries for the North American Division; Armando Miranda, North American Division associate Youth Ministries director; and Andrés Peralta, former Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director and currently a General Conference associate Youth Ministries director.

In addition to utilizing social media platforms such as YouTube and Facebook, Pathfinders received the schedule and up-to-date information via the Youth Ministries department's "AUAYM" Yapp app. The Pathfinders also communicated with each other through a social media feed on the app.

Participant comments during the closing ceremony on May 16 included "An awesome experience," "Thank you for the fabulous weekend," and "I'm excited for the next camporee."

At the culmination of the camporee, McKenzie thanked all those who contributed to the success of the event, from the conference Youth Ministries directors, to those in the studio in Lancaster, Massachusetts, to all those who participated from various locations around the country, and to the many Pathfinders who attended the camporee. McKenzie



Volunteers at work scraping paint off the walls of the Dominican Adventist University administration building.

encouraged the Pathfinders to be like Ruth and to be determined to go where Jesus leads.

### **I Will Go: Atlantic Union Volunteers Minister in the Dominican Republic**

The coronavirus has halted many things, but it has not dampened the missionary spirit of our members. In the United States, we've seen the impact COVID-19 has had on communities, schools, and churches. In impoverished countries, that impact is exponentially more significant with limited financial resources. With travel restrictions lifted, 53 individuals

from the Atlantic Union territory spent 10 days in the Dominican Republic completing various tasks at the Dominican Adventist University (Universidad Adventista Dominicana) to prepare the campus for students returning to classes in September.

The group chose the theme "I Will Go," which echoes the Seventh-day Adventist Church's strategic plan and rallying cry to participate in Total Member Involvement. "If there is a gift we can give to our young people and to the generation to come, it is to help them develop a missionary spirit. Whether it is local or overseas, God is in need of people who are willing to go for missions," says Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, who worked alongside the volunteers during the trip and served as a liaison with the Adventist ministries and institutions in the Dominican Republic.

Volunteers represented five of the six conferences in the Atlantic Union—Greater New York (GNYC), New York (NYC), Northeastern (NEC), Northern New England (NNEC), and Southern New England. The conferences and the Atlantic Union Conference also provided financial support to purchase necessary supplies and materials. Volunteers



The Atlantic Union Conference 2021 mission trip team to the Dominican Adventist University pose for a photograph after receiving their job assignments for the day.



included pastors, youth leaders, young adults, and several Medical Cadet Corps (MCC) members from the GNYC and NEC. Dionisio Olivo, MCC Major General and operational commander for the Atlantic Union, also traveled to the Dominican Republic to lend his support, along with Atlantic Union Conference administrators G. Earl Knight, president; Pierre Omeler, executive secretary; and Jose Joseph, vice president for Haitian and African ministries. “All of our volunteers worked very hard. I really want to acknowledge the work of the MCC. What a group of men and women!” Zabala exclaimed. “Their dedication, deportment, discipline, and cordiality were appreciated.”

Walter Harris, GNYC Adventist Community Services Disaster Response coordinator, served as project coordinator for the group; and Deanna Lambert, NEC TLT coordinator, served as volunteer coordinator. Under their leadership, the group tackled numerous painting projects on the university campus and at the local Adventist elementary school. They also purchased materials and fixed streetlights around the campus perimeter, power-washed campus sidewalks, outdoor courts, and buildings before repainting and completing cleaning, carpentry, and landscaping projects around the campus.

“It’s been such a blessing to come to this university to help out,” said Gregory Jamrog, a young adult volunteer from NNEC. “We’re just thrilled that we could be a part of something so special.”

During the trip, Zabala and some of the volunteers visited a local orphanage operated by the Adventist church to see if they needed any assistance. Unknown to them, the day before their visit, the orphanage director had requested money to

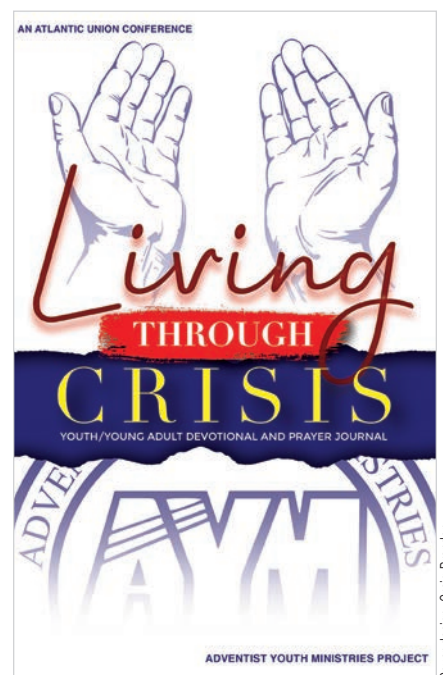
purchase sneakers for the more than 50 children in their care. The business manager informed her that the funds were not available, and she would have to wait for a donation. They prayed and asked God to provide money for the shoes. Zabala explained, “When we got there the next day and asked if they needed help, the woman said to me, ‘You guys are an answer to our prayer!’” The volunteers from the Atlantic Union donated from their personal funds and collected enough money so all the children could have new shoes.

“This was a beautiful and amazing experience that we recommend [others] join,” said Luis Soto, one of five pastors from NYC who volunteered. “It could be this year or next year, here or in another country, but join a mission trip and do something for others. It will be valuable for them and transform [your] life.”

### **AUAYM Releases LIVING THROUGH CRISIS: YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT PRAYER JOURNAL**

In an effort to encourage and strengthen many youth and young adults during the current pandemic, AUAYM embarked on a devotional project. The collaborative effort involved more than 50 Atlantic Union authors (youth directors, youth associates, coordinators, youth leaders, elders, pastors, and administrators). *LIVING THROUGH CRISIS: A YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL AND PRAYER JOURNAL* seeks to deepen the readers’ faith as they are positioned to experience God’s abundant favor in 2021 and beyond.

Through personal testimonies, stories, and God’s Word, the devotional entries are written to encourage: joy, hope, peace, strength, thanksgiving, selflessness, trust, faith, and compassion in crisis; and



The *LIVING THROUGH CRISIS: YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT PRAYER JOURNAL* is available through AdventSource ([adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org)).

Cover design: Craig Brandon

to celebrate by faith: soaring above crisis, defeating crisis, and deliverance from crisis.

Each devotion, with its biblical foundation, gives readers an opportunity to face the day with the assurance that God is still in control of the affairs of the earth, and will never “leave nor forsake” His own.

AUAYM continues to be active as the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing messages of hope to the surrounding communities and beyond. They solicit your prayers for the work being accomplished by the many youth and young adults around the Atlantic Union. If you are interested in volunteering to work with the youth and young adults, get in touch with your church’s youth ministries leader. It promises to be an experience of a lifetime! ☺

*Information compiled by Ednor A.P. Davison, GLEANER editor, and Debra Banks Cuadro, GLEANER assistant editor.*

By Marlene Alvarez

## Focus On What Really Counts

**W**hile visiting the Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., I was given a mission to save the world from a great tragedy. Although the hour was late, I focused on my mission, picked up my credentials and code name, and proceeded on my journey to complete my assigned task. The mission challenged me to remember facts and make quick, but smart, decisions for the success of the mission before time ran out. It was important to focus on what really counted while keeping in mind the end goal of preventing a disaster.

We are to educate and shape the minds of our children for now and for eternity. Like my visit to the Spy Museum, time is against us, and there is much to do. Challenges to our mission include, but are not limited to, calamities, depression, financial hardship, time constraints, and so much more. We cannot allow the challenges to get in the way of focusing on what really counts—saving our children.

The inspired pen says, “The early education of youth shapes their characters both in their secular and

how we used our God-given gifts to complete the mission of educating and saving all our children!

This past year, our early childhood programs, centers, and classrooms have been impacted significantly. People and circumstances have changed, but God and the mission have remained the same. When our back is against the wall, when we’ve lost our focus and cannot figure out how to complete the mission, we must seek guidance from our Counselor, the Almighty God, and ask for direction, a new perspective, and even a miracle to open the doors that will lead us down a path to success. After all, He is the God of possibilities. Our children need the help of special agents who have a new focus that supports educating the youngest members of our church and community.

God wants to use Adventist education to help parents educate their children, starting at a young age (early childhood), where minds are shaped, and children are led to a lifelong relationship with God. Our children need special agents who believe in the power of prayer and are on watch for God. Have you accepted your mission? Ask Him to help you focus on what really counts—training our children for now and for eternity. ①

**“God wants to use Adventist education to help parents educate their children, starting at a young age (early childhood), where minds are shaped, and children are led to a lifelong relationship with God.”**

In our world today, God has given us a mission to save our children. The Bible says, “And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children”—Isaiah 54:13 (KJV). In this verse, “all” includes every child, from the youngest to the oldest, in our communities, churches, and schools. As special agents (church members, parents, and teachers), we are given the responsibility to train up a child in the way that they should go, so that when they are old, they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

in their religious life”—*FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*, p. 15. In the climate in which we live, it is hard to focus on the mission. During these past few months, the world has changed. However, the fact remains that nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children. There will come a day when we must provide an answer to the question, “Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?”—Jeremiah 13:20 (KJV). We will have to answer to our Maker and Master and show



*Marlene Alvarez is the Atlantic Union Conference associate director of education and children’s ministries.*



## Tribes: The Key to Belonging, Support, and Healthy Living

“**A**ssemble Your Tribe,” another episode of Real Talk, Real Women sponsored by the Bermuda Conference Women’s Ministries Department on May 29, featured Bermudian Leah J.M. Dean, a leadership coach, speaker, and author. Dean, a tribe formation expert, is also CEO and founder of Conduit International Ltd., a “leadership and professional development firm that offers coaching and consulting services aimed to help women gain confidence and clarity to lead, thrive, and level up in their personal and professional lives.”

“On a mission to create a more connected world with authenticity, courage, and heart,” Dean, a member of many tribes, believes all women need a tribe to survive and that relationships are vital to living happier, healthier lives.

Dean’s concept of tribe evolved while writing *ASSEMBLE THE TRIBE*. The concept initially revolved around how to create female groups. However, after researching women’s relationships from a biblical perspective, she moved from the concept of “My tribe is my group of girlfriends who are traveling with me, and I’m safe,” to “I can be open and do what I think is our greatest calling, which is to love other people.” This idea is centered around Matthew 22:39, which admonishes us to love our neighbor as ourself. Dean’s thoughts further developed after identifying in the book of

Matthew five critical points on the life of Christ:

1. Before Christ assembled His tribe and began His ministry, He spent time in prayer.
2. Christ chose people of varied personalities.
3. His relationships were not all on the same level; He was closer to some than to others.
4. He had different tribes, and
5. Christ poured into His tribe, who then went out to change the world.

According to Dean, the definition of a tribe is complicated. Her simplified definition is “individually complex people with similar beliefs, values, or interests who choose to come together

to create relationships.” The three Cs in the definition are Complex, Choose, and Create. Complex: We have to give ourselves grace for the relationship to work. Choose: There’s a decision we have to make to have a healthy relationship. Create: We have to put in the work time, effort, and emotions to build healthy relationships.

Dean’s tribe-building formula of “Believe + Belonging = Be Different” emphasizes that “People must believe that they have value, find places to belong and experience belonging, and be different by being open to new relationships and thriving in the relationships.”

“The science shows we will live longer and healthier if we have a tribe,” says Dean. A tribe can be a one-on-one relationship, or it can be a group. However, Dean suggests multiple tribes are nec-

essary for women to complete a sense of belonging.

“I intend to adopt the concepts of tribe-building to provide attainable results for strengthening my individual tribe(s). It becomes the greatest calling to love other people by building tribe relationships. As daughters, it would be wise to assemble our tribe(s) as though we are on assignment for Jesus Christ,” says Udora Ford, a viewer.

Shirlene Ratteray, another viewer, adds, “Tribe building resonates with me on various levels. The challenge is being more intentional in embracing others and being mindful of differences. . . .

The discussion was informative, candid, and empowering and can be a valuable platform to give women a sense of freedom, encouragement, and belonging.”

“It would be beneficial to have more of these discussions because they can help transform and renew our minds,” says Donna Fubler. “The most important thing I took away is we must have the character of Christ and remember He loves everyone and wants us to do the same. We are social beings. Proverbs 18:24, NKJV, says, ‘A man who has friends must himself be friendly.’ We have to put ourselves out there; take a chance to be our true self.”

The two-hour discussion included Lynne Wade, motivational speaker, college lecturer, and Warwick church Women’s Ministries leader; Hermine Graham,



Leah Dean, author of *ASSEMBLE THE TRIBE*, is featured by Real Talk, Real Women, sponsored by the Bermuda Conference Women’s Ministries.



a clinical psychologist and psychology consultant in Birmingham, England; and Simona Mills-Pitcher, pasto-

ral consultant and creative programming specialist. “Assemble Your Tribe” was facilitated by Michelle

Hill, Bermuda Conference Women’s Ministries director and pastor of the Pembroke church.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director, Bermuda Conference

## Devonshire Church Sponsors Seminar on Nature’s Healing Remedies

Nature’s Healing Remedies, an eight-week course presented by Leonard Gibbons, Bermuda Conference Health Ministries director, consisted of lectures on the principles of NEWSTART, and included questions, answers, and a weekly quiz.

One of the highlights of the course was a presentation on herbal remedies, especially the benefits of rosemary, which has many health benefits. The other highlight was the NEWSTART approach to COVID-19. The presentation showed how adhering to the principles of the NEWSTART Lifestyle Program could benefit a person. NEWSTART is a lifestyle program that incorporates nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest, and trust in divine power—biblically-based principles given to us by God to assist in maintaining optimal health.

NEWSTART is not a diet regimen, nor does it promote the use of drugs to achieve results. It supports the principles of healthy living, which, if followed, align the physical with the

spiritual, which is God’s desire for the well-being of His people.

The question-and-answer period prior to each presentation proved to be instrumental in evaluating the interest in, and understanding of, the material. The presenter answered several questions regarding the importance of the relation-



Leonard Gibbons, Bermuda Conference Health Ministries director, presents an eight-week seminar titled, *Nature’s Healing Remedies*.

ship between physical and spiritual health. Participants were eager to adopt these natural lifestyle principles.

Here is what participants said about the seminar: “I have rediscovered that God’s plan for man to acquire and maintain good health is the best one.”

“I [enjoyed] answering the 20 questions before the

lecture. The best part of it all is that God is present and has ordained every word that is spoken. It is Bible-based, and everybody should be participating in this wonderful, back-to-basic way of life, [the way] God intended life to be.”

“[The] Nature’s Healing Remedies Seminar has been very informative and

around Bermuda, you will find them growing wild along the roads, near the beaches, anywhere.”

“When Dr. Gibbons gives his very detailed oral and visual presentation, it is not hard to understand, since we receive the reading material and have a quiz ahead of the sessions each week. Dr. Gibbons not only educates you about healthy eating, but he also helps you to understand what takes place in your body because of what you eat. Most importantly, you learn how to be fulfilled the way God intended.”

“Thank you, Dr. Gibbons, for preparing the Nature’s Healing Remedies Seminar. We are uplifted, mind, body, and soul, and look forward to attending future sessions.”

One hundred and sixty-seven people participated in the seminar from various parts of the world. Some have indicated that they are looking forward to future seminars presented by Gibbons.

—Diana Trott, Health Ministries leader, Devonshire church



## Greater New York Conference Ethnic Ministries Join Together for Family Refocus

Family Refocus, a one-week virtual family outreach, galvanized all of the Greater New York Conference ethnic ministries in a never-before-seen collaborative effort. The series was a nightly event in May, with two services on the last day.

Recognizing that COVID-19 has been brutal to families, Henry Beras, Greater New York Conference president, was inspired by a vision to bring all of the conference's ethnic ministries together for a family-focused series. "When the idea came to me, I could think of no better person to be the speaker for this campaign than our executive secretary, Alanzo Smith," said Beras.

Smith preached with energy and conviction. His giftedness as an evangelist, coupled with his knowl-



Family Refocus series speaker Alanzo Smith and his wife, June, center, stand with members of the production team on the platform of the Old Westbury church.

edge and experience as a licensed family therapist, brought both the spiritual and psychological vantage points to family concerns he addressed each night. The presentations addressed topical issues affecting society, and emphasized how things have changed for family

relationships due to COVID-19. His answers to the challenges were anchored in the timeless principles of the Bible, contemporized, and applied to provide time-tested solutions to present family crises.

Each night a previously recorded interview high-

lighted a family struggle or triumph. The interviews captured families expressing their faith journey as they worked through and overcame difficulties, or as they celebrated divine interventions. Other families said that they did not see their desired outcome but felt that their faith in God increased from the experience.

The series was broadcast each night from the Old Westbury church in Old Westbury, New York. The size-controlled gathering of animated attendees provided the in-person dynamic between the preacher and audience. An average of 5,000 devices connected to the broadcast on any given night. Most viewers were from New York, followed by Jamaica and Canada. From the chat on Facebook and YouTube, it was clear that the expressions on these platforms equally matched the excitement in the church. Comments included, "This is truly an



Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference executive secretary, presents the message during the Family Refocus series that was broadcast from the Old Westbury church in Old Westbury, New York.

encounter with God” and “I can hope again.”

On opening night, James Mangum, Old Westbury church’s pastor, presented the Ruiz family for baptism (parents Matthew and Debbie, and children Elisa and Mandy). This conveyed the aspirational goal of

restoring families to a God-inspired model and, in the process, building up the kingdom of God. The baptism was followed by more than 60 people making commitments to Christ by the end of the series.

“My family and I were blessed; the church family

was blessed,” Magnum said. “Many members expressed that they were moved to recommit to God and the high ideals of family, because of the powerful messages by Alanzo Smith.” Smith concluded by saying, “This is the first time in my long experience

in the Greater New York Conference that I have seen all of our ethnic ministries coming together with such a spirit of unity in an evangelistic effort. I feel a sense of joyful satisfaction.”

—Donnieval Walker, communication director, Greater New York Conference

## New Pastor Installed at Middletown Church

After three years of not having a pastor to shepherd its congregation, the Middletown church in Middletown, New York, welcomed its new pastor, Paulo Bechara and his wife, Selma, on Sabbath, June 5, when he was officially installed.

The Becharas hail from the country of Brazil, where they began their ministry in 1984 and worked there for 12 years. While there, Bechara served as a youth and teen pastor for the Curitiba Central church in the Central Paraná Conference and continued to pastor that church until 1986.

From 1986 to 1990, he was the pastor of the Santa Quitéria church district, also located in the Central Paraná Conference. After pastoring the Santa Quitéria church for four years, Bechara accepted a pastoral assignment at the IACS Adventist boarding school (district) in 1990, in the Rio Grande do Sul Conference. He served as the pastor until 1993 before accepting his final pastoral assignment in Brazil at the Campo Grande Central church in the South Mato Grosso Conference,



The Bechara family includes, from left, Paulo and Jacquelyn Bechara, son and daughter-in-law; Tiago Bechara, son; Paulo and Selma Bechara, pastor and his wife; Aline, Art, and Aria Nuguid, daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter.

which he pastored until 1995.

In 1996, the Becharas heeded the call for mission and journeyed to West Africa to serve as missionaries in Senegal (1996-2003), where Bechara served in various pastoral capacities, including as president of the Senegal Mission and as ADRA director. After serving as missionaries in Senegal for seven years,

Bechara accepted pastoral assignments in the state of California at the Portuguese church in Chino (2006-2021) and the Chino Spanish-speaking church (2016-2021).

Bechara is an accomplished linguist, who speaks fluent English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, and German. He will now apply his fluency in English to the multi-ethnic populations at



Middletown church elders Victor Mills, left; Charlie Reid, second from left; and Ulrick Placide, right; surround the new pastor, Paulo Bechara, center, as they pray during the installation service.

the Middletown and Port Jervis churches.

The Becharas have been married for 35 years and have three adult children and one granddaughter. Middletown gladly welcomes the Becharas and wishes them Godspeed as they continue to serve the Lord.

—Christopher Andrew and Michala Marner, Communication department, Middletown church



## Maranatha Volunteers International Comes to USA for their Eighth Annual Renovation Week

One Sunday afternoon in July, several volunteers arrived at Union Springs Academy (USA) to make improvements to the premises and make a difference for the students, staff, and faculty. Some came ahead of time to attend the annual New York Conference camp meeting, and others joined throughout the week. In total, 45 individuals ranging from the ages of 14 years old (Stachys Pierre), to 82 years old (John Cardinell, Sr.) collaborated on this annual endeavor.

For the past four years, USA has partnered with Maranatha Volunteers International to complete renovation projects on its campus. Campus renovation week was established in 2013 by alumnus John Cardinell, Jr. ('78), after realizing that the campus buildings needed critical attention. Barbara Mayes served as the coordinator again this year, along with USA's alumnus Bill Boyd as the construction manager.

Rain threatened to halt several projects throughout the week and a half, but, with prayer, the sunshine remained. The volunteers cleaned the windows and landscaped the campus grounds. They also painted the cafeteria, the front of the girls' dorm, and the basement in the boys' dorm. Other projects included repointing at the industry building, creating a new laundry room in the girls' dorm, dismantling benches, and a construction project in the basement of the



The group from Maranatha Volunteers International, who assisted with making improvements around the campus, stop for a photo in front of Sunset Hall, the girls' dormitory, the oldest building on campus (built in 1949).

boys' dorm to create a staff apartment.

One of the teens from Georgia, Juwan Simmons, said that he prayed about attending the project after his mother told him about it. He thought it was better to do something for God and has thoroughly enjoyed helping with the renovations.

After her husband passed away last year, Diane Kyser from Alaska learned about Maranatha Volunteers International at Weimar Institute through a lady who had done several projects. In this year's renovation project, she helped USA with the electrical work in the boys' dorm and with installing outlets in the cafeteria. "I love it! I will do Maranatha for the rest of my life and do at least four to five per year," Kyser said. She enjoyed the spiritual component in the project, saying, "The reception at USA has been wonderful."

This is the fourth Maranatha trip for Dawn Taylor, who came from

Central New Jersey. She learned about the organization during COVID, yet signed up without hesitation to help out the cause. In the project at USA, she helped to dismantle 50-year-old camp meeting benches to be repurposed for woodworking projects. "It's tough work that we've had to do, but it's all for a good cause, and I would do it again," Taylor said.

Darrin Caster, USA maintenance director, has been involved with seven Maranatha group trips, yet he found something special with the team helping in this year's project. Caster said, "I am very thankful for this group. Their spirit of dedication, humbleness, and hard work is far ahead of any other group [with whom] I've worked. The joy and spirit of fellowship and service to God have been amazing. What this means to USA is immense! The projects attacked and finished would not be possible for our staff to accomplish in the normal

school year! Thank you, Maranatha!" Caster hopes that all would consider participating in a Maranatha trip in the future because this "selfless act of service for God is an experience that can be life-changing."

Thanks to a generous donor who matched all donations, they raised more than \$70,000.00 for this year's projects. For more information about future renovation projects at USA, please visit the school's website ([unionspringsacademy.org](http://unionspringsacademy.org)). For more information about Maranatha Volunteers International, visit [maranatha.org](http://maranatha.org).

USA's campus will be a better place for its new students this fall, as well as for those attending the centennial celebration in September, where they can praise God for bringing USA through 100 years. To all who were a part of this life-changing experience, thank you so much!

—Ann Betsa Pierre, Antillean Adventist University graduate and Renovation Week project volunteer, Union Springs Academy

## Roosevelt Sabbath School Class Uses Resources to Bless Others

In Fulton, New York, the Roosevelt church's Sanctuary Sabbath School class recently donated more than \$2,000.00 to the ADRA "COVID-19 Crisis in India" fund. The class (commonly referred to as "Bob's Class") not only discusses the weekly lesson but also regularly donates and plans ways to support both local and non-local projects.

Funds for a non-local project are usually collected throughout the quarter and distributed at the end of the quarter. However, due to the dire medical needs in India and ADRA's current matching fundraising drive to assist the region, the class decided to send the donation immediately.

Other non-local projects included donating \$1,000.00 for medical bills and sending money to the Paradise church in California to help with relief efforts after the devastating fires. Local projects range from buying a much-needed mattress for someone, to tackling yard work, to providing minor home repairs, to building a handicap-accessible ramp.

The small class of some 20 members faithfully donate money to the fund. As they learn of someone's need—both in the church and community—their dollars (as well as time and skills) complete local projects throughout the quarter.



The Roosevelt church Sabbath School class regularly donates and plans ways to support local and non-local projects.

The class members challenge other Sabbath School classes to do the same. "We encourage other classes to accept the challenge to reach out," says one class member.

"With God's blessing, you will be surprised at what you can accomplish!"

—Patricia Wheeler, member, Roosevelt church

## 2021 Camp Meeting Encourages Attendees to Maintain "Hope and Wholeness"

What a difference a year makes! Last year, New York Conference's administrators, pastors,

staff, constituents, members, and friends could not celebrate the traditional camp meeting week on Union

Springs Academy's campus. This year, however, the Lord allowed the COVID-19 pandemic to reach low-infection rates in the state so that in-person camp meeting could take place from June 25 to July 3. This year's camp meeting was a celebration, a reunion, and a spiritual feast that concentrated on motivating members to stay connected to God and to live healthy lifestyles.

New York Conference administrators Miguel Crespo, president, and Claudio Gomez, executive secretary, welcomed the attendees on Friday evening and led the Sabbath-morning service. The services, held at the newly-built Conrad

Skantz pavilion, included the ordination of Reynolds Rodriguez, pastor and conference communication director.

Two services were conducted on Sabbath morning, including presentations by George Guthrie, M.D., from AdventHealth Medical Group Family Medicine in Winter Park, Florida, and Andrés Peralta, a General Conference Youth Ministries associate director.

Derek Morris, Hope Channel president, was the guest speaker for the second weekend of camp meeting. Several other seminars were conducted during the week.

—Communication committee, New York Conference



Andrés Peralta, General Conference Youth Ministries associate director, completes the Ordination of Humility during the ordination service for Reynolds Rodriguez, pastor and conference communication director, as Dionisio Olivo, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Hispanic and Portuguese ministries, observes.



## Ribbon-cutting Ceremony Signals Opening of the Northeastern Towers Annex

Ted Wilson, General Conference president, and G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, led out in the July 21 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Northeastern Towers Annex, a 158-unit affordable housing complex sponsored by the Northeastern Conference. Wilson opened the ceremony by noting the importance of having housing that creates a sense of stability and community for seniors at all income levels.

The project's partners include the Northeastern Conference (NEC), Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC), and Mega Development. Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, noted the success of this unique partnership, saying, "We are delighted to know that 158 elderly residents of New York City are assured a safe, clean, and affordable place to live. One-third of the residents were previously homeless. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to serving the needs of our community, and the Northeastern Towers Annex reflects that commitment."

City officials, elected officials, community leaders, and others took part in the ceremony. Also in attendance were administrators of the Atlantic Union and Greater New York conferences.

The Northeastern Towers Annex will provide affordable housing for seniors in the Rochdale neighborhood of Queens whose incomes are below 50 percent of the Area Median Income. Of the 58 studios, 100 one-bed-

room apartments, and one two-bedroom superintendent's apartment, 56 apartments are set aside for formerly homeless seniors. One hundred percent of the rental apartments will be supported by a project-based Section 8 contract, under which tenants pay only 30 percent of their income in rent.

The Northeastern Towers Annex includes several on-site amenities for its senior residents, such as a community room, media room, exercise and wellness center, computer room, social service office suite, warming pantry and storage, laundry and television lounges on nearly every floor, a rooftop terrace and garden, and a personal care services room. The Annex building was constructed adjacent to the existing Northeastern Towers senior affordable housing development. Residents of both buildings have access to the amenities

at the new Annex, thanks to an enclosed connection between the two buildings.

The Northeastern Towers Annex was financed jointly by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the NYC Housing Development Corporation (HDC) with \$93.6 million in public and private investment. HDC provided more than \$50 million in tax-exempt bonds and an additional \$8.7 million in corporate reserves. HPD provid-

ed more than \$13 million in subsidy. In addition, the project benefits from Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) that generated more than \$37 million in tax credit equity from investors through Wells Fargo, who also provided the letter of credit. Melinda Katz, Queens Borough president, provided \$3 million, NYC Council Speaker Johnson and Councilmember Adams provided \$1 million in discretionary capital funding from the City of New York. The



G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, addresses Northeastern Conference guests and staff at the dedication ceremony for the Northeastern Towers Annex.



Church, city, and state leaders, as well as the conference staff, participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Northeastern Towers Annex.

Photos: Jeanne Lendor



Ted Wilson, General Conference president, addresses attendees during the dedication ceremony for the Northeastern Towers Annex.

funds enabled the project to include a solar canopy, fifth-floor roof deck, community spaces, and other amenities to support the senior residents.

“Wells Fargo is pleased to be part of this transformative project that brings much-needed, affordable, high-quality, senior housing to the Rochdale neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens,” said Katelyn Meehan, vice president in the Wells Fargo Community Lending & Investment Division. “It addresses the housing and social service needs of its residents.”

“This project is a shining example of what can be accomplished when local government and community organizations work together. I am proud to be part of today’s ribbon-cutting and to have worked as Borough president to help the developers of the Northeastern Towers Annex see this project through,” said

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz. “There are now quality, affordable apartments with amenities that will help very low-income seniors age gracefully and with dignity.”

“With the opening of the Northeastern Towers Annex and its more than 150 apartments for our elders living on low or fixed incomes, we are ensuring that those who need quality affordable housing the most will have it right here in the heart of Southeast Queens,” said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr.

“This affordable housing site comes with many great amenities for its residents, some of which I proudly funded with my City Council Speaker Corey Johnson,” said Council Member Adrienne Adams. “I thank HPD, HDC, Fifth Avenue Committee, Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and



Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, tells participants at the Northeastern Towers Annex dedication that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to serving the needs of the community.

all of the partners who made this project possible. This building will address the dire need for senior affordable housing in our city—a crisis that truly must end. I am pleased that our aging residents will directly benefit from this long-awaited development that represents dignity and comfort for them.”

Northeastern Towers is currently completing lease-

ups, providing some of New York City’s most vulnerable residents with housing they can afford, creating a stable, supportive living situation.

Following the ceremony, both Elders Wilson and Bryant visited the Northeastern Conference office to greet and pray with the staff.

—Communication department, Northeastern Conference

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fifth Regular Quadrennial and Twenty-eighth Regular Constituency Meeting of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

The purpose of this meeting is for the receiving of reports for the past quadrennium, the election of officers, departmental directors, and pertinent committees for the ensuing quadrennium, and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each organized church within the conference is entitled to be represented by duly appointed delegates chosen on the basis of one for the organization and one additional delegate for each 70 members or major fraction thereof.

Daniel L. Honoré, President  
Oswald S. Euell, Secretary

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Constituency Meeting of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the Twenty-eighth Regular Constituency Meeting (Fifth Regular Quadrennial) of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. The meeting of the corporation will convene at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and trustees for the ensuing quadrennium, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Delegates of the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Constituency Meeting of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the same delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Constituency Meeting of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

Daniel L. Honoré, President  
Oswald S. Euell, Secretary



Northeastern Conference Pathfinders actively participate in the dedication ceremony for the Northeastern Towers Annex.

## Pastor's Prayer Answered in Camden, Maine

Ask an experienced evangelist, and they'll tell you that wealthy communities respond very poorly to evangelism or almost any other form of outreach; it's the middle classes and poorer neighborhoods where people's minds seem to be more open to the sharing of the gospel. Imagine the struggle, then, of the church in Camden, Maine. This picturesque seaside resort town is one of the wealthiest in Maine, with property values so high they can give you a nosebleed.

For years the members of the small church in Camden have persistently sought after an outreach strategy that would help form relationships with community members and create openings for sharing the gospel. The little

church has mounted many outreach efforts but have been without any robust response to show for it.

The search for an effective outreach strategy was taken up by Richie Hawkins when he became pastor of the church in early 2019. He made the matter the focus of persistent prayer. Hawkins knew that, even in affluent communities, there are quiet but desperate struggles, and he sensed that it was with such struggles that the church might find an effective outreach effort.

One day in September 2020, in the middle of the COVID lockdown, he received a call on his cell phone. "Is this the Seventh-day Adventist Church?" a woman asked. Hawkins told her she had reached the pas-

tor and asked how he could help. "My name is Sue," she said, "and I'm with AA [Alcoholics Anonymous]."

Hawkins was suddenly very alert. Scenarios of serving the struggling people in his community flashed through his mind. He asked the woman how he could help. "We're looking for a new location to hold our Sunday meetings," she said. It turned out the group had been meeting in another church in the area for some 40 years, but a confluence of factors, including the pandemic, had made them decide it was time to move on. After the two talked about AA's need for a new space to meet, Hawkins told Sue that her phone call was a direct answer to prayer. She responded that the Camden

Adventist Church was also an answer to prayer because she had called everywhere, but no one called back, or they wanted an extravagant amount of money to allow AA to meet for just a couple of hours a week.

Excited at the prospect of creating a number of relationships over time and convinced the hand of the Lord was in the thing, Hawkins took the request to his board, which backed the idea. Hawkins felt that not only were his prayers being answered, but the Lord was pointing his congregation toward an area where they could be of real and significant service to the community.

Discussions with AA went smoothly, and the group has been meeting at the church since. At their first meeting, they provided Hawkins one of their books with a handwritten thank-you note inside. When they saw the fellowship hall, they told him the facility was perfect and hoped they could meet there for the next 40 years. AA's meetings at the Camden church have grown steadily, and some 40 people are attending. There is the general expectation that the group will grow to their pre-COVID attendance of about 50.

The question Hawkins is now pondering is, What else can be done for those in the community who are struggling? But Hawkins knows that, with time and prayer, God will do great things with His church in Camden, Maine.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



Some 40 AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) members are now meeting regularly at the Adventist church in Camden, Maine.



## Abraham Lincoln Goes to Oakwood University

The Faith Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Saco, Maine, has a small congregation, but the Lord seems to work His fair share of wonders there just the same. As many churches do, the Faith Chapel asks for prayer requests on Sabbath during the pastoral prayer time. And always, there is the same request from our Jamaican brother, Paul Campbell. “Please pray that from this lighthouse, God’s Holy Spirit will go out and travel the streets and by-ways of Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach and bring seeking souls to Faith Chapel.” And that, of course, is just what the Lord has done.

Seven people in the past two years have walked in the front door and have eventually been baptized. Each life has enriched the 20-member church immeasurably.

One of those baptisms was Abraham Lincoln (yes, that is his real name).



Faith Chapel church leaders pray for church member Abraham Lincoln as he heads off to college.

Lincoln is a young man from Liberia who was baptized in the fall of 2020. He graduated in June from Biddeford High School and is the church’s only teenage member. Lincoln has attended adult Sabbath School

every week with all the “old folks” in the church for three years. He has a quiet and gentle spirit, and a great love for God. To show their love for their young brother, the church wanted to encourage him on his graduation weekend.

On Sabbath morning, June 6, he was presented with a monogrammed Bible with his name in bold lettering on the leather cover. To show tangible support for his academic endeavors, the church raised enough money to surprise him with a new Apple Air Laptop. But the Lord was not finished blessing him! In the congregation that week was Bobby Jackson, principal of the Boston Dream Academy. Jackson has a 100 percent college enrollment rate for his graduating students.

He told Lincoln, “You must go to a Christian College!” In less than a week, Jackson was on the phone to Oakwood University. Lincoln is now Oakwood-bound and will receive a substantial scholarship.

Lincoln needs prayers, and you can be sure the little Saco Faith Chapel will be praying for him. It is a big decision to leave his mother and brothers and travel to Alabama to a Seventh-day Adventist University. His fellow church members believe that God has a wonderful plan for this Abraham Lincoln’s life and feel privileged to be part of it!

—Brenda Johnson, pastor, Saco Faith Chapel church



Abraham Lincoln holds the monogrammed Bible and laptop presented to him by Faith Chapel church members as he heads off to Oakwood University.



## Adventist Business Owner Receives \$25,000 Grant

The Vegan Nest Café, an Adventist-owned Center of Influence committed to empowering others to embrace a healthy, natural, holistic lifestyle, was recently named one of 12 recipients of the \$25,000 Power Forward Small Business Grant. The Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation and Vistaprint teamed up with the NAACP to create the Power Forward Small Business Grant with the goal “to create lasting impact through the economic empowerment of Black-owned small businesses across New England.” Applicants had to demonstrate the community impact of their small business and show how they intended to use the \$25,000 grant award.

Owned and operated by Nicole and Victor Broushet, who are also members of the College Church in Lancaster, Massachusetts, The Vegan Nest Café is a full-time ministry with locations in nearby Worcester and Clinton. After receiving the exciting news, Nicole Broushet posted on the Vegan Nest Café Facebook page: “We are overjoyed for all that this grant will enable us to do with regard to continuing the work to address food insecurity and the very real challenge of



The Vegan Nest Café owners Nicole and Victor Broushet, Power Forward Small Business Grant recipients, stand in front of their newly-opened café in Clinton, Massachusetts.

food literacy and accessibility.” She added, “We’re just getting started and have a way to go to launch the program, but this is an amazing jump start [sic] to feeding, educating, and advocating for our communities.”

The Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation and NAACP announced this first

cohort of the Power Forward Small Business Grant recipients on June 30. In addition to the \$25,000, the recipients will have access to many opportunities, including being featured on national co-branded platforms and receiving marketing and design resources customized to

helping their business grow and thrive.

“The grant is being used to build our new mobile unit (food truck), Restoration Table. The food served through the unit will be an extension of our Freely Given program, which allows us to provide every meal as a donation-based, fair exchange—meaning that everyone eats,” said Nicole Broushet. “This allows us to access vulnerable communities to provide pop-up health education initiatives and cooking demonstrations. The grant gets us about halfway there to making it happen.”

The Broushets are excited to continue this work. They hope that getting the word out will bring others to join them in this type of advocacy and community-building work that meets a critical need for many in New England. “It also presents an opportunity to live out Christ’s method by ‘coming close to those for whom we labor, that they may not only hear our voice but shake our hand, learn our principles, feel our sympathy.’ As we minister to their needs, it is our hope and prayer that we will meet a spiritual need, as well.”

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

## SLA/AUC Graduate Named Massachusetts 2021 Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Hedrington, a graduate of South Lancaster Academy (SLA) and Atlantic Union College (AUC), was named the 2021

Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Hedrington has taught secondary-school math for 16 years and is currently a seventh-

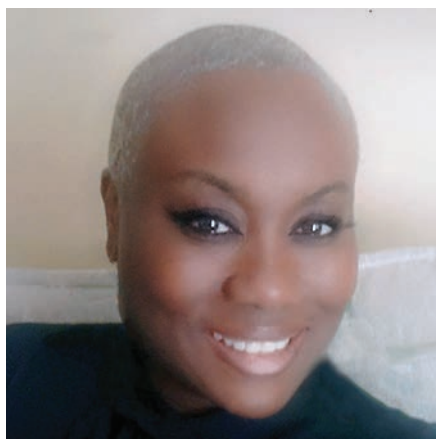
grade math teacher at the Ferryway School in Malden. Hedrington (nee Amertil) attended SLA from 1993 to 1996.

In response to why she believes she was voted teacher of the year, she told SLA’s FIAT LUX newsletter, “It’s the God in me. It’s

the Christianity in me. People say to me, ‘you teach from love,’ as if that’s unusual. It’s not difficult for me; it’s literally Christian principles.”

When Hedrington graduated from AUC in 2001, she did not intend to become a teacher. She was going to be an attorney, but got a job teaching math to support herself while attending law school. Once she graduated with her law degree, she continued teaching, as she had found her passion working with students.

Her family has roots at AUC. Her parents met at AUC and later worked there, her father as dean of men and her mother as chair of the Nursing



The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education named Jennifer Hedrington, 2021 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

department. Her three sisters and her husband, Jamaal, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, also attended AUC. Hedrington and her husband have two boys, ages 11 and nine.

This annual honor from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is presented to a Massachusetts educator who exemplifies excellent teaching in the Commonwealth. The recipient also serves as a liaison to the DESE and an ambassador to other teachers in the state.

—Sources: South Lancaster Academy FIAT LUX and the Massachusetts Teachers Association

## William “Bob” Daum Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The General Conference (GC) and North American Division (NAD) Planned Giving & Trust Services Department (PGTS) presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to William Robert (Bob) Daum for his 36 years in planned giving ministry, presenting biblical stewardship principles in churches, camp meetings, pastoral retreats, and other leadership groups while assisting church members and friends with their charitable estate planning.

Daum served many organizations before retiring in 2016. He was a field representative, associate director, and director of PGTS departments at It Is Written, Andrews University, and the Southern New England, Pacific Union, Ohio, and New York conferences. He also served the NAD as a committee member of the PGTS Standing Committee for six years. In addition, Daum was instrumental in creating Western Adventist Foundation (WAF), a valuable resource providing



William “Bob” Daum, retired Planned Giving & Trust Services Department director, stands with his wife, Mary Jo, left, and G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, after being presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

planned giving and trust services to Adventist organizations throughout the United States.

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors leaders who made a significant contribution in the field of PGTS. The individual must have exemplified enduring ethical behavior, exhibited ongoing dedication to the advancement of PGTS, mentored

PGTS personnel, and made an impact that is still being felt and appreciated today. Daum is the second recipient of this award.

“Bob had a history of taking over PGTS programs that were struggling and turning them into thriving ministries that helped individuals experience the blessings of planned giving while supporting ministries

where he worked,” said Dennis Carlson, GC/NAD PGTS director.

G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, presented the award to Daum on Monday, June 28, at the NAD headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. Joining Daum, was his wife, Mary Jo, along with other PGTS representatives.

—Source: Planned Giving & Trust Services, General Conference

# Black Bean Salsa

Summer gardens and farmer's markets abound with fresh, colorful produce this time of the year. It is the perfect time to combine these readily available ingredients into a flavorful, hearty salsa that will far surpass any mediocre, store-bought version. In less than 30 minutes, you will have a yummy topper for your tortilla chips (or potatoes) that will make your mouth say, ¡Delicioso!



Photo: Courtesy of Plant-Based Made Simple

## INGREDIENTS

### Makes 3 cups

1 ¼ cups fresh or defrosted frozen corn (or one can whole kernel corn, drained)

1 ½ cups black beans or one 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed well and drained

4 plum tomatoes, seeded and diced

½ medium red onion, finely chopped

1 bunch fresh cilantro, finely chopped

1-2 limes, juiced, or 2-4 tablespoons of lime juice

Salt to taste

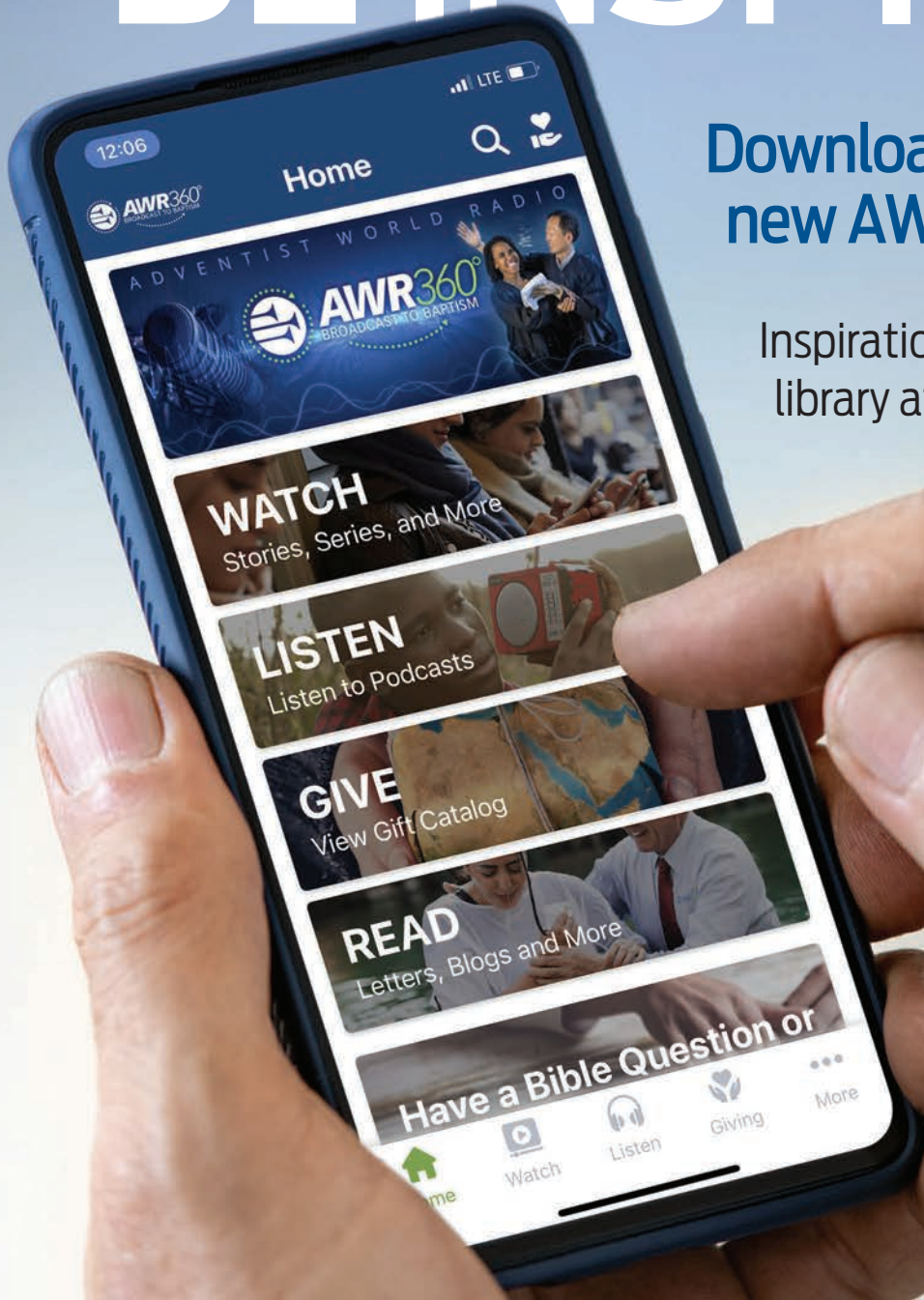
1 avocado, peeled and cubed (optional, for garnish)

## ASSEMBLE

- Pour the corn, black beans, tomatoes, onion, cilantro, lime juice, and salt into a large bowl. Mix well and refrigerate for 15-20 minutes, or until ready to serve.
- Remove the salsa from the refrigerator and top with the cubed avocados.
- Serve with organic tortilla chips.

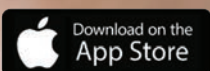
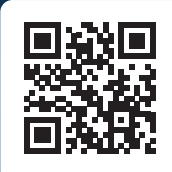
Carin Lynch has a certificate in plant-based nutrition from Cornell University's Center for Nutritional Studies and is the cooking class instructor at the Wildwood Lifestyle Center in Georgia. She and her husband, Ron, are the directors of LIGHT (Lay Institute for Global Health Training) in North America.

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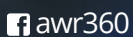
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The Atlantic Union GLEANER reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE** seeks full-time Associate Vice President of Finance for Financial Administration. Major duties include provision of leadership and guidance for all financial aspects of PUC and Howell Mountain Enterprises, able to develop and implement long- and short-term financial goals consistent with the mission of PUC, budget and balance analysis, and develop strategic tools and systems for critical financial and operational goals. For more information, or to apply, call Human Resources at (707) 965-6231, or visit [www.puc.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings](http://www.puc.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is seeking a qualified candidate for HVAC Lead Master Technician-Plant Services. The HVAC Technician will install, trouble-shoot, repair, and perform preventative maintenance on central heat and air systems, water source heat-pump systems, PTACs, chillers, boilers, freezers, ice machines, and other refrigeration. Other jobs as assigned related to the maintenance, renovation, and construction of campus facilities. For a detailed description and qualifications, please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is seeking qualified candidates for Waste-water Collection System Operator/Plant Services. The Waste-water Collection System Operator will be responsible for the Southern Adventist University waste-water collection system, its operations, reporting requirements, and repairs. For full description and qualifications, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**FULL-TIME FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR** position available at Glacier View Ranch located in Ward, Colorado. Visit job description and application link for more information: [www.rmcgsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator](http://www.rmcgsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator).

[www.rmcgsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator](http://www.rmcgsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator).

**LOOKING FOR ADVENTIST CERTIFIED TEACHERS** to join us in Christian Online Education (grades 1-12). Work part-time from home tutoring “live” in a Skype-like environment. If interested, please call us at (817) 645-0895.

**REAL ESTATE/HOUSING**

**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 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](mailto:office@AdventistHomeInc.org). Website: [AdventistHomeInc.org](http://AdventistHomeInc.org).

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATLANTIC UNION**  
**Join the Atlantic Union Conference in prayer** each Wednesday at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. Call (351) 999-4838. No access code needed. Sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries. “Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power”—PRAYER, p. 12.

**NEW YORK**  
**Join Union Springs Academy in celebrating 100 years of ministry and service.** All

alumni, former faculty, and staff are invited to celebrate God’s goodness and leading at our centennial weekend, September 17-19, 2021. Our Sabbath service speaker is Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference. Honored guests include Bill Knott, executive editor for the Adventist Review, and John Thomas, retired associate secretary for the General Conference. Visit our website for details and updates: [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).



Visit the AUAM Web site at: [www.auam.tv](http://www.auam.tv)

**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](http://www.nnecprayerministries.com).

**ADDRESS CHANGE**

Have you moved recently?

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

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

Help us keep your address information up to date!

**Sunset Calendar**

	Daylight Saving Time				
	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29
Bangor, ME	6:13	6:00	5:48	5:36	5:26
Portland, ME	6:19	6:07	5:55	5:44	5:34
Boston, MA	6:23	6:11	6:00	5:49	5:39
South Lancaster, MA	6:25	6:13	6:02	5:51	5:42
Pittsfield, MA	6:32	6:20	6:08	5:58	5:48
Hartford, CT	6:30	6:18	6:07	5:56	5:47
Providence, RI	6:25	6:13	6:02	5:51	5:42
New York, NY	6:35	6:24	6:13	6:03	5:54
Albany, NY	6:34	6:22	6:10	5:59	5:49
Utica, NY	6:39	6:27	6:16	6:05	5:55
Syracuse, NY	6:43	6:31	6:19	6:08	5:58
Rochester, NY	6:49	6:37	6:25	6:14	6:04
Buffalo, NY	6:54	6:42	6:30	6:19	6:09
Keene, NH	6:28	6:16	6:04	5:53	5:43
Manchester, NH	6:24	6:12	6:01	5:50	5:40
Portsmouth, NH	6:21	6:09	5:58	5:47	5:37
Brattleboro, VT	6:29	6:17	6:05	5:54	5:44
Burlington, VT	6:31	6:18	6:06	5:54	5:44
Rutland, VT	6:30	6:18	6:06	5:55	5:45
Hamilton, Bda	7:02	6:53	6:45	6:37	6:30

# Two Atlantic Union Teachers Recognized for Their Service

Two teachers from the Atlantic Union Conference territory were recognized this year for their teaching contributions and received the “Hi-5 4 Teachers” award. Maria Thomas, a teacher at Whispering Pines school in Old Westbury, New York, and Marjaine Drayson, of the Warren school in West Brookfield, Massachusetts, received \$500.00 each.

“Hi-5 4 Teachers” is a mission project pioneered by three retired families who feel passionately about teaching and that parenting and teaching are the two most important professions in the world. The families have collectively served on school boards and personnel committees for many years and some of their children are professional educators from elementary through university levels. “Hi-5 4 Teachers” is based at the WholeLife church in Orlando, Florida, but they help teachers nationwide.

One hundred donors submit \$5.00 each month to go toward a \$500 gift for a teacher who has been nominated by supervisors, principals, or colleagues. One-half of the monetary gift is to be used to benefit one or more students, and the other half is for the teacher to use personally without



Maria Thomas, a teacher at Whispering Pines School, is a 2021 Hi-5 4 Teachers Award recipient.

restrictions. To date, the ministry has dispensed \$4,500 in gifts.

In 2020, James Reid, who serves as both a chaplain and teacher at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, and Heidi Kneller, a teacher at the Caledonia school in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, were the second and third recipients of the award, respectively. In a June 2021 newsletter announcing the most recent winners, Thomas expressed her gratitude for the generous gift and commented on how it was an answer to prayer. She chose to use the total amount received to purchase a camera that will “enhance the learning experience of the virtual classes” that she teaches each Friday.

Drayson said she was overwhelmed, surprised, and excited to receive the award and that it was “what I needed to keep me going this year.” She announced that she would spend her award money to purchase “technology and other classroom supplies to help my students continue to be successful.”

For more information about “Hi-5 4 Teachers” and to read about the other award recipients, visit [hi54teachers.com](http://hi54teachers.com).

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference



Marjaine Drayson, a teacher at the Warren school, is one of the 2021 Hi-5 4 Teachers Award recipients.



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# JESUS SAYS, "Let the children come to Me."

—Mark 10:14, NKJV

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