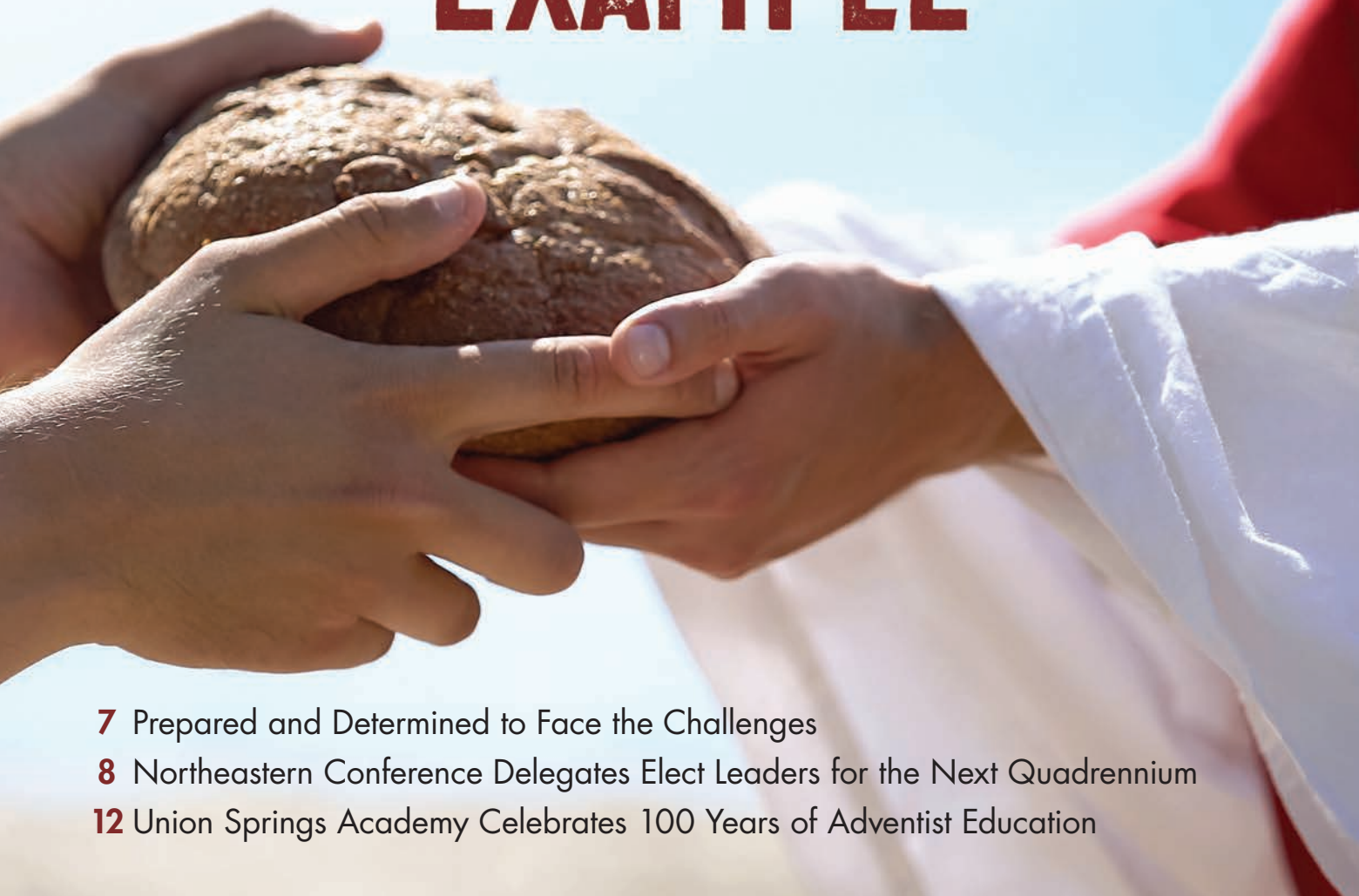


THE ATLANTIC UNION

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021

GLEANER

The
**GREATEST
EXAMPLE**



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God Promises to Work It Out

I never thought much about the scripture found in 2 Peter 3:8 until I was out of work for a long time. At some point during that ordeal, I began questioning God about when He was going to make a way for me to get a job; after all, I had a child to feed and a mortgage and other bills to pay. It was in my moment of questioning that the text, “Do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day,” came to mind. From God’s perspective, I was not out of work one day yet, and I sensed He wanted to know why I was worried. God had my attention. He was letting me know that my days out of work were just a minuscule fraction of His concept of a day.

When our faith is tested, sometimes we get so caught up with worry that we tend to forget how real God is. But, His promise is just as real one thousand years later as the day on which it was made.

I recently read some of my journal entries to gain perspective on my thought process as I was going through this challenge. I noticed that, while I was rehearsing my difficulties on paper, I could still keep Jesus in focus. Praise the Lord for that! For example, the end of one journal entry reads, “I’m still holding on to Jesus despite all that comes my way. He promised to take care of us, and I must trust that His promises are true.” The end of another entry reads, “Thank God for His love and arms of protection. I’m still not giving up.”

We are at least 20 months into a pandemic that is likely to be with us for some time. Many of us have experienced difficulty, trauma, grief, and, for some, indescribable heartache and pain. In some instances, it is causing challenges to our mental and physical systems. We are also approaching the holiday season, which could add more layers of stress, even during our times of celebration. In the midst of all that

you are experiencing, How is your faith? Are you able to stay connected to Jesus Christ, the Power Source?

Keeping in mind there are 24 hours in a day that includes your sleep time, work time, travel time, and more, when do you take time to be alone with God and carve out moments alone by yourself—or do you? I share a few suggestions to help strengthen our faith as we approach the end of another year.

Stop. When you feel weighed down by your circumstances, stop to be refreshed. Try to let go of all the conversations in your head and those around you. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 11:28 (NKJV), “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Pray. Especially when you don’t feel like praying, pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV) says, “Pray without ceasing.” Keeping the prayer line open between you and God will help to strengthen your faith.

Let Time Pass. Try to give yourself space between the situation and any decisions you have to make. When you hit that pause button, clarity comes, and you gain a different perspective. Keep in mind Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV), “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”

In the days of my crisis, there is no doubt that God was with me. I practiced Stop, Pray, and Let Time Pass in many situations I faced, even now. One last thing, always remember to **give thanks**. The Bible reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV), “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” During the holiday season, try your best to let God be in control, no matter what comes your way, and share His love with others. ☺

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



*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”—
Philippians 4:6 (NKJV).*



The GREATEST EXAMPLE

By Kenneth Manders

"I believe that Jesus' greatest example to us is how He dealt with the suffering of others. You don't have to be a Christian to understand what Jesus Christ has done for the world."

Devin Booker, an NBA basketball star for the Phoenix Suns, has emulated his idol, the late Kobe Bryant, his entire basketball career. ESPN's Malika Andrews interviewed Booker during the 2021 NBA Finals and asked him what he thought his mentor, the Black Mamba, would say to him. Booker replied, "Finish the job.' That's what he'd tell me. . . He'd say, 'Get it done.'" Booker reflected on what Kobe did as his example by "just taking bits and pieces" of his approach, mentality, and competitive nature. He added, "You don't even have to be a basketball player to understand what Kobe has done for the game" (Devin Booker on the 2021 NBA Finals, YouTube, 00:1:24 - 00:2:33).

Before Kobe Bryant's untimely death, his advice to Booker was: "Be legendary." Booker has acknowledged that Bryant was a near-constant presence in his mind and that the Mamba's mentality extended far beyond basketball's traditional boundaries. Kobe's example and influence in his life have helped Booker emerge as one of the NBA's biggest stars over the last

two seasons and has caused him to play a pivotal role in Phoenix, reaching the 2021 NBA Finals for the first time since 1993.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor described her mentor, law professor José Cabranes, to *THE CUT* magazine (January 26, 2017) as transcending the academic role while upholding his Puerto Rican identity. Sotomayor expressed the benefit of his example: "A role model in the flesh provides more than an inspiration; his or her very existence is confirmation of possibilities one may have every reason to doubt, saying, 'Yes, someone like me can do this.'" That is what Jesus does for the Christian. We may doubt our ability to be a light in the world, but His everyday example of simple acts of care should give each of us reason to believe, "Yes, someone like me can do this."

I suppose we have all admired or emulated someone whom we thought was remarkable. For Devin Booker, it was Kobe Bryant. For Justice Sotomayor, it was José Cabranes. For the child of God, it may be someone who has made an indelible impression



on your life, perhaps a Bible character. But hopefully and ultimately, it is Jesus Christ, the greatest example of all humankind.

One might ask, “What is Jesus’ greatest example that we should follow as Christians? How can we emulate Him and be His hands and feet in our society?” Yes, Jesus demonstrated his God-nature with His supernatural abilities and did many marvelous miracles. And indeed, Jesus has shown us how to pray, in His model prayer found in Matthew 6. He has even been the perfect example of loving our enemies and forgiving those who wrong us. However, I believe that Jesus’ greatest example to us is how He dealt with the suffering of others. You don’t have to be a Christian to understand what Jesus Christ has done for the world. Even Louis Farrakhan, the Muslim leader of the Nation of Islam, teaches about the legendary life of Jesus as the greatest example of all humankind.

In Acts 10:38, the Bible says, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” What a powerful testament, and what an incredible example Jesus has left for those who follow Him!

Likewise, Jesus gave His church the Gospel Commission and told them to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And when they received the Spirit of God, they went out with power and turned their world upside down! As Christians, we, too, are blessed to have the promise of God’s Spirit and presence in our lives. He has given us the same privilege and charge to go into all the world, preach the gospel, and do good. We must finish the job. Get it done!

But how do we get it done with so many challenges in our world today? First, we must make Jesus a constant presence in our minds. Second, as Jesus’ mentality extended far beyond

the traditional boundaries of the church and synagogue, so must ours.

For example, the COVID-19 pandemic and Delta Variant have only multiplied the world’s problems and added their own deathly layers of complexities. Our seniors have been isolated for over 18 months, living in compliance of COVID-19 restrictions and trying to survive the isolation that social distancing has created. Even worse, many families have lost loved ones during this pandemic, including families suffering financial devastation after losing their primary breadwinner. It doesn’t stop there. As of July 2021, more than 100,000 U.S. children were orphaned by the pandemic (CBS Evening News, July 22, 2021). They are struggling with “pandemic grief,” and researchers note increased childhood depression and PTSD.

These tragedies and more have filled our land with grief, created vacancies at the dinner table, and left an emptiness in the home. There is an onus on us Christians to be a present





help to our seniors, orphans, and widows, showing them that they are not alone. The Bible tells us in both Old and New Testaments that we are to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, that we are to do good; relieve the oppressed, seek justice for the fatherless, and plead for the widow's cause.

Consider the challenges of family caregivers—caregivers of COVID-19 victims, seniors, the disabled, and parents of school-aged children. Many of them lost wages or jobs due to COVID-19-related closings and are now struggling to homeschool, put food on the table, avoid eviction and foreclosure, or desperately in need of a break.

There are too many challenges to name. But perhaps, these tragedies have created opportunities to minister to our seasoned citizens and others affected by the pandemic. Maybe there are other opportunities that you know of for church ministries to organize themselves into bands of Christians, empowered by the Holy Ghost, to go out and do good. Avail yourself of opportunities to serve people different from you or who live in other regions.

Jesus broke cultural barriers and ministered to those outside of His ethnicity, gender, and social status. He, being a Jew, often reached out and touched people who were considered by His traditional Jewish culture beyond the reach of God or untouchable. We should take on Christ's approach to love and ministry, His mentality, and His compassionate nature by ministering in the lives of people regardless of their social status, education, age, gender, race, ethnicity, religious background, skin color, body type, abilities, mental disease, criminal history, sin, or reputation.

Jesus approached ministry by addressing issues that others could not. You may not be able to feed 5,000-plus people with two fish and five loaves of bread; however, you have been anointed in a realm of expertise that others have not. Use that to solve needs. Some of us have a gift for knowing just what to say to encourage a lonely heart or weary mind on a phone call or in a letter or text message. You may be skilled in providing grief counseling for children and adults. Maybe you have a remarkable ability, such as making people laugh, being a companion for

a grieving person, or giving respite to caregivers. Assisting seniors or disabled persons with pet care, home cleaning, lawn care, or clearing a snowy driveway or walkway may be your thing. Providing a ride for a medical appointment or grocery shopping or fixing a leaky faucet would be a total godsend to many struck by tragedy. The list is limitless. Our capabilities are the miracles someone desperately needs.

Jesus' life and miracles were relevant to the needs of the people, directly reflecting God's good intentions toward us. Jesus told His disciples that "if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." Christ was God in the flesh—loving and compassionate but human, like us. This God-man, Jesus, helped people rise above circumstances more powerful than themselves, despite their misconceptions about who He was. So, likewise, when people see us going about doing good, we want them to see Jesus, a loving and living God.

People may not understand Christianity, but they do understand good deeds. That's why Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven"—Matthew 5:16, (MEV). His example is our proof that we, as a body of believers, can be a reflection of God's love. "Yes, someone like me can do this!" His Spirit is our power and proof that we are not alone. Jesus told His followers before His death, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" —Matthew 28:20. So, in Jesus' name, I'm telling you: Do good and be legendary! 🙏



Kenneth Manders is president of the Bermuda Conference.

By Lileth Coke

Prepared and Determined to Face the Challenges

Amid widespread school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Atlantic Union Conference K-12 schools were able to stay strong in finding creative ways to help children continue their studies. These schools have had to adjust curriculum, individual instruction, professional development, face-to-face learning, and other areas, to meet the needs of the population they serve.

Curriculum: Curriculum is the core of the educational system. At the onset of the pandemic, when schools were forced to go virtual, most of the Atlantic Union schools experienced seamless transitions as they continued uninterrupted online classes for all students. One educator mentioned that “teachers prepared their lessons during lockdown that incorporated more on-line instruction and textbook work to create variety.” At schools that were not able to transition immediately to online classes, teachers were able to provide textbooks and worksheets to students who did not have access to online technology. Parents were able to pick up and drop off completed work at the schools as arranged. Some teachers hand delivered work and picked up work left on the doorsteps of students’ homes.

Individual Instruction: When asked how they addressed individualized instruction in their school, Wayne Edwards, Bermuda Institute principal, mentioned that “Individual instruction changed as teachers were introduced to various online platforms. Bermuda Institute utilized programs such as Nearpod, Flocabulary, Seesaw, Renaissance, myON® library, Google Classroom Suite, Beyond Textbooks,

and many others that teachers found more accommodating.” He continued to state that, “The lower elementary teachers and students were very innovative. Learning became fun as students and teachers navigated the learning process.”

Professional Development:

According to Edwards, professional development for the teachers was ongoing, especially in integrating technology into the classroom. The Atlantic Union also provided mental health professional development for all teachers, and it was a welcome departure from the norm. Beverly Bucknor, superintendent of schools from the Southern New England Conference, shared that they also conducted half-day professional development as the school calendar indicated, exploring standards-based learning and other methods critical to student learning. It was also mentioned that Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education administrators met with teachers to listen to what was working and what challenges they experienced. They also prayed with and affirmed teachers. “It was important that our teachers knew we cared and that they could share information within a nonjudgmental environment. It was also important that each teacher heard us thank them for doing their best for their students and serving God as a Christian Adventist teacher in an unusual way. We were and are proud of them!” Bucknor said.

Enrollment: While enrollment took a nose dive in some places in the Atlantic Union territory, there were areas in which enrollment increased. Sonia Edwards, Northern New

England Conference superintendent of schools says, “Enrollment increased last year and took a significant leap this fall as well. Some of our small schools’ enrollment has doubled this fall. Pine Tree Academy, for example, has more students enrolled than last year, with more applications pending.”

Laurene Usher, Linden school principal says, “We were able to maintain our grades 1-8 enrollment, and our early childhood program was not interrupted. We were prepared and determined to face the challenge. Our main focus and priority was to maintain stability and consistency among students and parents, eradicate fear, and stimulate assurance that God will see us through. Some of our teachers took the time to log on after class with their students to pray with and encourage them. This COVID-19 pandemic school year was difficult, but we did our part and allowed God to do His part, which brings peace to our troubled souls.”

COVID is still with us, and no one knows the nature of its conquest. We are reminded by the servant of the Lord, “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history”—*LIFE SKETCHES*, p. 196. Our resolve, therefore, is to place our hands and our plans in the hand of God—the Master Educator. ☺



Lileth Coke is the Atlantic Union Conference assistant education director and certification registrar.



Northeastern Conference Delegates Elect Leaders for the Next Quadrennium

The Northeastern Conference convened its 28th regular constituency session (fifth quadrennial session) on Sunday, September 26, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut, under the theme “The Church Built on the Rock.” Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University, presented the devotional message.

Delegates voted three administrators to serve the Northeastern Conference (NEC) for the 2021-2025 quadrennium. Abraham Jules was elected president. Jules first received his call to serve as a pastor in the Northeastern Conference in 1983 and currently serves as pastor of the Community Worship Center in Jamaica, New York. During his ministry, he has baptized hundreds, has transformed small fledgling groups into large, thriving congregations, has successfully overseen and raised money for numerous church renovations and other projects, and has served on many denominational boards and committees.

“Today, we prayerfully participated in a spiritual process that speaks to who we are as a church—a movement of destiny. I come to this position with the clear understanding that this is God’s remnant church,” Jules told the nearly 1,400 delegates and guests in the arena. “The way forward will not be by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the living God. I am aware that there are plans to continue, challenges to encounter, and obstacles to overcome. Therefore, I solicit your daily prayers for God’s favor in directing my steps and guiding my decisions.” He added, “In spite of how you voted today, let me be clear, we are united in our desire to see this conference go from strength to strength. I have the utmost confidence



Odel Powell

Atlantic Union Conference administrators G. Earl Knight, president, third from left; Pierre Omeler, executive secretary, second from left; and Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer, left, stand in support of the newly-elected Northeastern Conference administrators Abraham Jules, president, third from right; Eldeen King, executive secretary, second from right; and Robert Chandler, treasurer, right.

that, if we work together and pray together, we will advance the cause for which each of us cares deeply.”

Eldeen King was elected to serve as executive secretary. King has pastored in the Northeastern Conference for more than 30 years and currently serves the Emmaus church in Brooklyn, New York. He has also served on several boards and committees in the Northeastern Conference, Atlantic Union, and North American Division.

Delegates reelected Robert Chandler to continue serving as treasurer. Chandler was elected treasurer by the Northeastern Conference Executive Committee in 2018 and officially began functioning as treasurer in January 2019. He previously served both the South Central and New Jersey conferences as associate treasurer.

Outgoing president Daniel Honoré presented his report, highlighting the past four years, and thanking God for the nine years he was allowed to serve as Northeastern Conference

president. Oswald Euell gave the secretary’s report, and Robert Chandler submitted the financial report to the delegates.

Six new churches were voted into the sisterhood of churches, and their delegates participated in the session: Dorchester Portuguese, First Rosedale, Luz de Lawrence, Gosen Franco Haitian, Rochester Outreach Community, and Waterbury Portuguese.

The administrators presided over the mergers and dissolutions of the following churches during the quadrennium. The Emmanuel Temple and Victory Temple churches in Buffalo, New York, merged and kept the name Emmanuel Temple. Four small Haitian churches in Brooklyn—Elim, Guilgal, Jorday, and Sychar—merged into the Hermon church. Two churches were dissolved during the quadrennium: Steinway Hispanic and Malden International.

The delegates voted the following departmental directors/associate directors to serve for the 2021-2025 quadrennium:

Adventist Community Services:

Mario Augustave

Communication: Duddley Francois

Family Ministries: Samuel and Andrea Blair

Franco Haitian coordinator: Serge Lamour

Health Ministries: Joshua Deonarine

Hispanic coordinator: Hector Ramos

Ministerial: Dedrick Blue

Personal Ministries: Walton Rose

Portuguese coordinator: Marcos Seifert

Religious Liberty: Allen Martin

Sabbath School: Easton Marks

Stewardship: Clifford Manie

Trust Services: Ferron Francis

Women's Ministries: Donnett Blake

Youth Ministries: Paula Olivier (She is the first female to serve the Northeastern Conference in this position.)

Youth Ministries associate directors:

Javier Alcon and Duddley Francois

Delegates voted to refer the positions of Adventist Book Center manager and superintendent of education to the Northeastern Conference Executive Committee.

This constituency session is the first session at which the term limits voted by the delegates at the 2012 constituency session fully impact individuals who can return to office. The conference's constitution and bylaws allow for a two consecutive term limit for all administrators and directors. The exceptions are the treasurer and superintendent of education, who can serve up to three consecutive terms.

Delegates voted a 37-member executive committee that includes 17 laypersons as allowed by the recently-voted changes to the bylaws. The executive committee "is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the constituents between regular constituency sessions."

The delegates reviewed recommended changes to the constitution and bylaws. Two significant additions to the bylaws include the vote to allow virtual attendance at constituency meetings based on certain conditions (Article II, Section 6) and the vote of guidelines regarding handling the

postponement of regular meetings (Article V, Section 5).

In addition to electing those who will serve the conference for the next quadrennium, receiving reports, and voting changes to the constitution and bylaws, delegates completed all agenda items. The meeting adjourned shortly after 8:00 p.m.

Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference who assisted with the session were: G. Earl Knight, president; Pierre Omeler, executive secretary; Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer; Jose Joseph, vice president for Haitian and African ministries; Dionisio Olivo, vice president for Hispanic and Portuguese ministries; and department directors, associate directors, and assistant directors. Also assisting the Atlantic Union team were representatives from two sister conferences: Miguel Crespo and Claudio Gomez, New York Conference president and executive secretary, respectively, and David Dennis and Cesar Perozo, Southern New England Conference president and executive secretary, respectively. Representatives from the North American Division included G. Alexander Bryant, president; Kyoshin Ahn, executive secretary; and Calvin Watkins, vice

president for evangelism and regional conferences liaison. Todd Mayer from the General Conference Auditing Service presented the audited reports. Todd McFarland, associate general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, served as parliamentarian. The AUAM (Atlantic Union Adventist Media) team assisted the conference with all audiovisual presentations for the session.

The Northeastern Conference has more than 60,601 members who worship in 183 organized churches and 30 organized missions in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont (Atlantic Union Conference Second Quarter 2021 Secretary's Statistical Report). The newly-elected Northeastern Conference administration and directors will serve these entities, in addition to the academies, elementary schools, early childhood education centers, community service centers, the summer camp program at Camp Victory Lake, and other entities and ministries operating within its territory.

Ednor A.P. Davison, GLEANER editor, and Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director



Delegates at the fifth quadrennial session of the Northeastern Conference meet in the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to receive reports, elect officers and departmental directors, and conduct any other business as designated in the agenda.



They Served Us Well!

Each year the Adventist Education job website is filled with opportunities for individuals seeking a fresh start at a new school in a new territory. The attrition rate for educators in the North American Division schools seems high, with the turnover in particular subject areas more prevalent.

Over the past five years, Bermuda Institute has been losing individuals rapidly—not because they are disgruntled and are changing places of employment, but rather because they have served the organization well and it was time for them to retire. Bermuda Institute is indebted and grateful to these individuals who have committed, on average, 25 years of service to the organization and more so to the students they serve.

These individuals have envisioned and built what we now have—a giant institution that can compete comparably with any academy in the North American Division and specifically in Bermuda.

Over these five years, retirees such as Lois Tucker (principal), Janet King (family studies), Newbold Smith (facility manager), Shari Hill-Smith (learning support), Eardley Richardson (maintenance), Deborah Lowe (student accounts manager), David Jarrett (maintenance), Cynthia Tucker (physical education), Kathleen Allers (vice principal/registrar), and Janet Smith (administrative assistant) have left our hallowed halls. Additionally,

former principals and superintendents—Sheila Holder, Rosemary Tyrrell, and Richard Smith—are among this illustrious group of retirees who served Bermuda Institute faithfully.

Judges 2:7-11 (NASB) paints a frightening scenario of which all learning institutions must be mindful. “And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor even the work which He had done for Israel.” Having such a loss of human resources can lead to a loss of the culture and original vision of the school. Long-term relationships established with supporters within the community are jeopardized. For some, retirement could be an opportunity for newer, fresher thinking, but these individuals have given their entire life to the growth and development of Bermuda Institute and seek her best interest.

Fortunately for us at Bermuda Institute, these individuals are still on the island and continue to provide service and critical knowledge that are invaluable to the smooth running of the school. They are called upon frequently to provide mentoring and coaching, and at times they offer valuable advice to make the school more effective. They continue to remind us of our mission of encouraging students to develop a personal relationship with God while challenging them to academic, physical, and social excellence, thus equipping them for heaven,

service to God, and their fellow men.

For schools in the Atlantic Union and elsewhere, lessons can be learned from our situation in Bermuda. Conference leaders and administrators need to: (1) improve the retention of high-performing teachers and workers, (2) accelerate knowledge transfer from the more experienced to the less experienced across generations in the school system, thus maximizing the retention of critical knowledge before employees leave, and (3) utilize retirees by allowing them to return as part-time workers and act as a source for referrals to recruit and mentor new faculty and staff. Leaders who ignore the reality that their faculty and staff are soon to retire increasingly put their schools at risk.

Paul sums it up best in 1 Timothy 5:17, noting that these individuals who direct the church’s affairs well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is teaching.

We doubly honor our retirees, and we value their insightful knowledge. Each one can truly say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing”—2 Timothy 4:7, 8 (NIV).

—Wayne D. Edwards, principal, Bermuda Institute



Cynthia Tucker



David Jarrett



Deborah Lowe



Eardley Richardson



Janet King



Janet Smith



Kathleen Allers



Lois Tucker



Newbold Smith



Richard Smith and Sheri Hill-Smith



Rosemary Tyrrell



Sheila Holder

North Bronx Church Dedicates Renovated Boardroom

With the hope of returning to the sanctuary for in-person worship services, a few members of the North Bronx church moved forward with the renovation of the church's boardroom, realizing the dream of the Knight family. Longtime members G. Earl Knight, Atlantic Union Conference president, and his wife, Yvonne; daughter, Anthea; and son, Michael, dreamed of seeing the church equipped with a boardroom utilizing state-of-the-art technology and furnishings. The family played a significant role in the renovations and are now seeing it come to fruition after presenting the idea to the church family some two years ago.

Aside from giving thanks for the generosity of the Knight family, North Bronx church pastors and members wanted to have a special dedication to share with the church family who continued to watch online due to the long shutdown from COVID-19. The church members have grieved their losses over the past year and a half, but they also wanted to honor and celebrate life's notable achievements. The dedication ceremony on September 25 was a way of saying to the family and the dedicated church members, "We love you and look forward to meeting and planning programs for the furtherance of God's work."

Along with past and present pastors, the Knight family were present for the ribbon-cutting to officially open the newly-renovated and



Dedrick Blue, North Bronx church senior pastor, right, recognizes and shows appreciation to the Knight family—G. Earl Knight, second from right, his wife, Yvonne, and children Anthea, and Michael—for their contributions to the renovations for the church's boardroom.

upgraded space. The church commemorated the area with a name change to the "Executive Board Room in Honor of the Knight Family."

The photo gallery in the boardroom is proof of the past and present faithfulness of pastors who served and have been serving the church community since its installation on Bronxwood Avenue and 217th Street in Bronx, New York. The North Bronx church members continue to pray without ceasing and cling to the love, hope, and faith that have prevailed after 18 months of experiencing a great loss of life, jobs, and moments of uncertainty. Their prayer is that God will continue to be in the midst of each meeting held in the boardroom and that He will continue to bless its use.

—Dahlia Reid, communication director, North Bronx church

Tell Us What's Happening in Your Community

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

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

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



Donnieval Walker
Communication Director
Greater New York Conference
E-mail: dwalker@gnyc.org



Union Springs Academy Celebrates 100 Years of Adventist Education

“God has really blessed Union Springs Academy!” This was often expressed during the centennial celebration held September 17-19 at Union Springs Academy (USA). We heard it from the pulpit, around the pavilion, and all over the campus in conversations among USA’s alumni from across the nation and many who are Atlantic Union Conference constituents. Perfect weather enhanced the weekend celebration of God’s goodness of seeing USA through 100 years. More than 1,300 alumni and friends attended, along with 4,000 viewers joining online via Facebook and YouTube Live.

From all indications, many participants were blessed by the uplifting messages from church leaders, including Ted Wilson, General Conference president; John Thomas, former USA principal and teacher and retired General Conference associate secretary; Bill Knott, ADVENTIST REVIEW editor; and Robert Burnette ’72, Oklahoma Conference



The Centennial Mass Choir sings “Joy in the Morning,” directed and accompanied by former music directors Charles and Jeri Zacharias, with trumpet soloist David Cady ’82.

Native Ministries director. Music from recording artists Jennifer LaMountain, Angela Bryant ’86, Don Shortslef ’76, Jeff Hunt ’68, and many more filled the air. The parade of nations included students and alumni marching in wearing attire and carrying flags representing 30 countries where USA students originated or where alumni served as missionaries.

Other weekend highlights included an invitational sacred concert; a Sabbath-afternoon picnic luncheon; a historical museum with USA

memorabilia, photos, and artifacts; an education panel discussion; photo sessions; a dynamic mass choir; a formal tribute banquet; antique car rides; an alumni vs. student soccer game; a pancake breakfast; and a fireworks show.

The joyous tears of sweet reunions, the laughter resulting from sharing fond remembrances, and the revelation of answered prayers of thanksgiving were seen throughout the weekend. Alumni came from all over the U.S., many back for the first time since they

left 30 or 50 years prior. Many were impressed by the condition of the buildings and campus grounds, the friendly and kind assistance of the students, and the quality programming.

“The Pathway Home” theme focused on heaven and what an ultimate and complete reunion will take place when those who have passed away are reunited with classmates and loved ones again! Everyone shared an understanding of the significance of passing through USA’s doors and the resulting influence it



Saturday night’s Centennial Banquet featured fine dining, entertainment provided by alumni, and special tribute awards.



The night sky is lit up with fireworks as the local community joined alumni and friends in celebration of 100 years at USA.

made on each individual's personal life path. When Dennis and Don Shortleif sang their song, "The Old Pioneers," tears filled eyes throughout the congregation. Many "older" alumni and former teachers who made huge sacrifices to support USA and the Adventist education system were humbly scattered through the audience. It is only because of God's blessings

through these people and many others that Adventist schools continue to influence young people on the right path.

The Centennial Steering Committee wanted to honor individuals and families who have supported USA through the decades. One hundred individuals, specifically set apart as "Centennial Honorees," received a unique lapel

pin. Families who first sent students in the 1920s, when the school began, and who continued to send students over several decades, along with large families that sent 10 or more family members to the academy, received the Root and Large Families Awards. A listing of these families and the centennial honorees, as well as other weekend highlights and photos, can be found on

the school's website (www.unionspringsacademy.org).

The hope of all involved in the success of Union Springs Academy's Centennial Celebration is that those who attended or watched from afar left feeling deeply thankful for God's gift of Adventist education.

—William Boyd, Jr., Centennial Celebration Steering Committee chairperson, Union Springs Academy

New York Conference's Youth Are "Revolving"

Thanks to a combined effort to help the conference connect with its youth, Union Springs Academy, along with New York Conference's Youth Ministries and Communication departments celebrated the youth convocation called "Revolve" in the Conrad Skantz Pavilion on the campus of Union Springs Academy (USA). Martin Zelaya, senior pastor for the Bay Knoll, Geneva, and East Palmyra Bilingual churches, and one of the speakers for the

weekend, said in regard to the convocation, "Our youth needed a place where they could worship and connect with other young people that love Jesus. This convocation was that first step."

Various presentations, food, sports, social activities, and a community service project characterized the event that took place on the weekend of August 27-29. At the pavilion, attendees enjoyed a vibrant meeting on Friday evening as Anthony Ponterio, Jr., Watertown church senior

pastor, shared a message about staying connected to the Lord and others.

David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, spoke to the youth on Sabbath morning and was a member of the afternoon Q&A panel, alongside Miguel Crespo, New York Conference president; Giovanni Esposito, Union Springs church lead pastor; Nick Metcalf, USA boys' dormitory dean; Ponterio, and Zelaya. The youth asked questions about how to make sense of Christianity, how to live for Jesus, dating, and more. "The atmosphere was awesome and truly a recharge of sorts. Our young people were extremely blessed and Pastor Mackenzie was used by the Holy Spirit," said Esposito.

Sunday featured a soccer tournament on the USA campus. For the conference's next youth activity, Rochester's Genesee Park Boulevard church will host a Youth Revival Sabbath for the youth from Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester, in October. In December,

another Youth Revival Sabbath, sponsored by the conference, is scheduled to take place in the Gouverneur church, involving youth from Watertown, Syracuse, Rome, and Utica.

"Revolve," the theme for all conference youth events in 2021 and 2022, is a great opportunity for everyone to join the movement of stirring up the youth from the New York Conference, causing a spiritual revolution with Christ at its core, and showing love in people's lives. The conference's communication ministry is scheduled to start Season 3 of "Friday Convos Live," an interactive live stream for young adults, now through December 2021. For the second quarter of 2022, the goal is to reach out to the youth in the church for them to be able, by the Spirit of God and by attending the events, to cause a spiritual revolution in their friends' lives.

—Reynolds Rodríguez, communication director, New York Conference



David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, back to the camera, participates in one of the convocation's prayer activities with a group on Sabbath morning at the "Revolve" Youth Convocation.



Maranatha Crew Caps a Summer of Blessings at Camp Lawroweld

Talk to Camp Lawroweld director Trevor Schlisner, and you might just find yourself using words like “ebullient,” and “effusive,” and “gushing” to describe him talking about the blessings the Lord has poured out on Camp Lawroweld this summer. “We had more campers this summer than we’ve had since . . . , well, I actually don’t know when we’ve had more campers; it’s been some time,” said Schlisner in a recent conversation. “And the camp staff was absolutely amazing—hard-working, great attitudes, and a Christlike example to all who stepped foot on that campus. The decisions for Christ among both the campers and the staff were so good to see because, fundamentally, that’s why we exist. Another amazing thing was seeing so many kids from the community who are just beginning to know Christ! God certainly blessed my first summer camp season.”

Schlisner says the Lord used many factors and forces to bring about His blessings,

but that a fair amount of the increase in campers and staff can be attributed to fallout from the COVID pandemic. “I think the kids, and even the parents, were just chomping at the bit to have a little normalcy. We had a safe summer with no serious illnesses, for which we were thankful. An interesting factor with the camp staff was that we had a fair number of high schoolers on staff this year, which will be a huge blessing to us as we hope they return during their college summers. We also had several staff who were the kids of former staff. People who were camp staffers here 25 years ago remember it as one of the outstanding experiences of their lives, and they want their kids to have the same experience, so we had some new staff coming to us from around the U.S. for that reason. Having a younger staff will help build a solid foundation for the future.”

According to Schlisner, God’s abundant blessings were capped off by a Maranatha crew from around the U.S. who worked



Stephen Bear from Texas strips bark off a cedar log to make fence posts while camp ranger Rocky Schlager looks on. In the background, Darryl Ueek from Alaska sharpens his chainsaw.

at the camp for two weeks in late September and early October. “Maranatha has been a huge blessing to us,” said Schlisner. “They saved our crafts building from eventual collapse by building a footing and bracing the structure all around. They entirely rebuilt our medical building and also cut, split, and stacked more than 30 cords of wood. In addition, they took on a hundred smaller projects around the camp that really needed to get done. God used Maranatha



The Maranatha crew saved Camp Lawroweld’s old crafts building from eventual collapse by shoring up the foundation on three sides.

to be the capstone on a summer of blessings!”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Miracles At Estabrook School

Sometimes miracles happen, and sometimes, they come in threes.

Imagine Julie Lovell’s surprise upon hearing this request spring from Liam, her earnest 11-year-old son, early one summer morning: “Mom, I’d like to know more about God! Do we have a Bible? I want to read it!” As

best as memory allows, this is a word-for-word account of what Liam said that morning, and it set off an amazing—no, miraculous—chain of events.

Julie shared Liam’s remarkable question with her mother and together they agreed that the best step forward was to contact

a retired Christian educator from Estabrook who taught the older children in the family many years prior. A plan was soon underway and weekly Bible studies began with much enthusiasm and many questions. As fall drew nearer, the hope of Liam enrolling in Estabrook was

earnestly supported in prayer by those who knew of him and his desire.

As the family explored the idea, even the usual obstacles of transportation and tuition were providentially met with the ease of God’s perfect timing. It so happened that another family in the same



Estabrook Christian School is co-located with the Plainfield church in Plainfield, New Hampshire, in a post-and-beam building.

town wanted their child to remain at Estabrook but had transportation problems, so they offered generous financial help in exchange for rides to and from school. This was a win for both families! Liam, now enrolled in the sixth grade at Estabrook, continues his

weekly Bible studies and is preparing for baptism.

Estabrook's second recent miracle has to do with an Adventurer club. The Mountain Cubs Adventurer Club was formed a year ago with six children as a joint effort of the Plainfield, New Hampshire, and

the Rutland, Vermont, churches. This evangelistic-based family ministry provides a rich opportunity to grow friendships with families of young children. As a result of cooperation between the club and the school, two of the Adventurer families became interested in the school. One family enrolled their son as a full-time student in the second grade this year and the other family enrolled their two sons in Estabrook's "Friends in Learning" homeschool support program.

Estabrook's third miracle has international implications! One of the newly-enrolled students at Estabrook has family connections in Haiti. When the recent earthquake hit the island, many families there sought safety and

shelter abroad. One such family reached out to their friends in the Plainfield, New Hampshire, area, whose son is a student at Estabrook. Arrangements were quickly made for the six-year-old child living in Haiti, who is an American citizen, to live locally and enroll in Estabrook School—fulfilling this family's earnest prayer for an Adventist education for their child.

These three recent miracles have expanded the school's enrollment, multiplied our happiness, and enlarged the Plainfield church's understanding that indeed, "All things are possible to him who believes"—Mark 9:23 (NKJV).

—Ellen Busl, communication clerk, Plainfield church

Reimagining Faith

Shawn Brace is the pastor of the Bangor church in Maine. Pastor Shawn is known in the Northern New England Conference for being innovative and for his critical thinking. But Shawn is also known beyond the borders of the conference—his influence extends to many corners of the Adventist world. Shawn is a well-regarded writer (with four books out so far) and a thought leader who is well connected with other thinkers and doers in the Adventist and greater Christian world. And much of Shawn's restless energy, whether it is writing or speaking or blogging or

recording a video, is focused on two essential questions: How can we better know Christ and live a Christ-centered life, and how can we better proclaim Christ and salvation through Him?

Now, Shawn has a new project. Consistent with his personality as a creative person and consistent with his unceasing efforts to proclaim Christ, Shawn has started a newsletter he calls REIMAGINING FAITH. And though it is meant for the unchurched and those on the fringes of faith, many Adventists might find it very interesting reading. Shawn explains that the purpose of the newsletter is to present

a gospel-centered reimagining of Jesus as well as some reflections on the ways Christians can better "do church" and present Jesus.

Shawn's newsletter dovetails with a regular column he will be doing for the ADVENTIST REVIEW. The column is also titled "Reimagining Faith" and will appear six times a year, while his "newsletter" will be published about once a week. Shawn is publishing his newsletter on Substack, and you can find it at shawnbrace.substack.com.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference



Shawn Brace is a pastor in the Northern New England Conference.



Marye's Calendar Ministry

What were you doing 30 years ago? Many of us can't remember back that far, but if we did, we'd likely remember a significant event connected to work, family, or church.

For Marye McKenney, a longtime member of the Village Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1992 marked the first year Christian Record Services for the Blind featured her original art in an annual calendar. Since that time, Marye has created more than 360 drawings and paintings for the yearly calendar and is now celebrating the 30th anniversary of helping Christian Record Services.

But first, let's go back to where it really all began. When Marye was 11, she connected with National

Camps for Blind Children, a program of Christian Record Services. At Camp Lawroweld, in Weld, Maine, she made friends who, like herself, enjoyed trying new activities and making memories. Marye continues to attend camp each year. Her favorite activities involve water, including wakeboarding, waterskiing, kayaking, and swimming.

During rest periods at camp, Marye enjoyed drawing and often created scenes from her family life or nature. Like 90 percent of people who are legally blind, Marye has some vision and uses corrective lenses. She creates art with the paper a few inches from her nose.

One day at camp, a Christian Record Services

staff member spotted Marye drawing pictures for a family Christmas calendar. She asked Marye to create a calendar for Christian Record Services donors. People loved learning Marye's story and were delighted by her art, which initially depicted scenes of family life. As Marye became an adult, those scenes included her husband, Wayne, and their three growing boys. Donors and friends of the organization came to expect a "Marye McKenney calendar" every year.

In 2017, Marye transitioned her art medium from illustrations to paintings. Donors were surprised by the change to their calendar and asked, "Where's Marye's art?"



Marye McKenney participates in one of her favorite activities, wakeboarding, at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine.

They were assured that the artist was the same; only the medium had changed. Marye's art now portrays a mix of scenic backgrounds, macro details of animals and insects, and people in nature. Occasionally, a painting will include Marye or a member of her family. Her illustrations for the 2022 calendar are vibrant and colorful, including a dragonfly in flight, aspens during the fall season, and a cardinal in winter.

"Every year, we have the honor of sharing Marye's art through our wall calendar," says Diane Thurber, Christian Record Services president. "It represents her grateful heart, as well as her artistic talents, in the midst of incredible challenges."

To learn more about Christian Record Services and wonderful people like Marye, please visit the website at www.christianrecord.org or call (402) 488-0981, option 4.

—Jeri Lyn Rogge, editorial and Outreach Ministries director, Christian Record Services, Inc.



This art work by Marye McKenney was used as the main picture for Christian Record Services' November 2016 calendar.

Pleasant Street Members Donate to Afghan Refugees

Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees arrived in the United States to flee the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Some 900 Afghans are expected to arrive in Massachusetts as part of the federal government's plan to resettle 37,000 evacuees in the first group of arrivals. In September 2021, state agencies in Worcester,

Massachusetts, invited community members to donate aid to help these individuals and families. In this call for action, Karen Zeno, assistant Sabbath School superintendent for the Pleasant Street church, saw an opportunity for the Sabbath School department to get involved.

In June 2021, the Sabbath School department hosted Refugee Sabbath and

announced ongoing efforts to reach refugees in the community. As the department finalized plans to hold a Homecoming Sabbath in September, the situation in Afghanistan escalated. As news spread about refugees coming to Worcester, the department leadership saw this as impacting the demographic they wanted to assist. "We wanted to do something that would be meaningful and useful in the immediate and long term," said Chauncey Moore-James, assistant Sabbath School superintendent.

The church pledged to provide 30 baskets filled with essential toiletries and initiated a Toiletry Drive. Beginning on September 11 and lasting for 11 days, church members shopped and delivered bags filled with toiletries and paper products. On September 22, Moore-James presented six large laundry baskets to Meg Gallo, a matching grant

and employment specialist with the Worcester-based Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC), during the Homecoming Sabbath program. RIAC is one of the primary points of support for refugees entering Massachusetts. "Based on the donations, we may exceed the intended 30 baskets," said Moore-James.

Gallo gratefully accepted the baskets and thanked the church members for their generosity. She shared how RIAC assists refugees and invited the church members to partner with them to help with tutoring, driving people to appointments or the grocery store, and more. The Sabbath School department envisions doing more with RIAC. "We discussed a continued partnership with the organization based on needs expressed, and we also discussed sharing literature in the future," Moore-James said.

—Sabbath School and Communication departments, Pleasant Street church



Debra Barms Cuatrecasas

At the podium, Meg Gallo, matching grant and employment specialist with the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center in Worcester, Massachusetts, accepts the baskets filled with toiletries presented by Chauncey Moore-James, Pleasant Street church assistant Sabbath School superintendent, while Marlene Alvarez, elder, seated in the background, looks on.

Yearbook Team Wins Gold Award for 2020-2021 Yearbook

The South Lancaster Academy (SLA) yearbook team won a gold level award for the National Yearbook Program of Excellence for the 2020-2021 school year. Jostens, a leader in yearbook publications, recognizes schools "that continually strive to create and deliver an exceptional yearbook to every student."

"It has been a true honor and blessing to be part of the SLA family and this outstanding yearbook staff,"



Randy Greitz

The 2020-2021 yearbook team included Dean Hodson, editor; Emma Ciccone, assistant editor; and staff members Sarah Bravo, Jasmin DaSilva, Mia DeMartino, Paula Gibbons, Emily Pessoa, Ayzha Thorpe, Diana Urbina, and Maya Williams, under the direction of Veronica Iria, yearbook advisor.

said Veronica Iria, business/art teacher and yearbook advisor. "Each year, the staff, including students from grades 9-12, work hard to put together an amazing yearbook. This year, with the challenges COVID added, the [team was] dedicated to making sure that all the students, both remote and in-person, would be represented in the yearbook."

—Adapted from the South Lancaster Academy newsletter, *FIAT LUX*, June 2021



A Rochester Community Receives Back-to-School Blessings

To ensure that students have the essentials required to start off the school year right, on September 6, the Adventist Community Services team at the Jefferson Avenue church greeted families from the community and provided students in grades Pre-K through 12 with school supplies ranging from pencils, crayons, erasers, paper, composition books, and backpacks. Under the direction of Dorothy Griffin, the team provided support assistance for families during the back-to-school season in Rochester, New York.

The giveaway was made possible, thanks to the generous contributions and

donations from members, Wegmans (\$150), and an anonymous donor, who supplied \$500 worth of materials in honor of Philbert and Josephine Anderson. The team was well prepared to meet the needs of those who stopped by.

A special “thank you” was offered to Regina Scott, former Adventist Community Services director, who donated gently-used clothing, shoes, and sneakers.

Many families were blessed and expressed sincere appreciation for the clothing, sneakers, shoes, backpacks, and supplies shared. Griffin and her team also distributed literature and let the fam-



Community residents take advantage of the opportunity to secure some supplies at a back-to-school event sponsored by members of the Jefferson Avenue church.

ilies know that the church’s community center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., offering food, gently-used clothing, and household items each week.

The members pray that each child has a blessed and successful school year.

—Angela Tucker-Hill, communication director and head clerk, Jefferson Avenue church

New York Adventist Doctor Named 2021 Woman of Distinction Honoree

Each year, the New York State Senate celebrates women from across the state who contribute significantly to the quality of life for people within their communities and beyond. Senator Leroy Comrie named Alicia Massop-Flowers, D.O., a 2021 New York State Woman of Distinction honoree for the 14th District.

Massop-Flowers works as a general pediatrician and has served the Bronx, Harlem, and Upper Manhattan areas. A member of the Northeastern Conference, she also serves as an adjunct clinical professor at Truro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem. During the COVID-19 pandemic,



Alicia Massop-Flowers, D.O. right, stands with volunteers Rachel Jones, left, and Francoise Juste, center, at a vaccination site in Bronx, New York.

Massop-Flowers managed health teams to conduct free testing during Northeastern Conference community service events (see July 2020 GLEANER, p. 15) and for the city of New York and on behalf of New York State.

A passionate advocate for community education, she joined with the New York City Department of Health to teach about the importance and safety of vaccines. She also used her Springfield Gardens practice

as a vaccination site. Massop-Flowers was also recognized earlier this year, on March 27, during Women’s History Month, by New York City Council Member I. Deneek Miller, for dedicating her time and service toward the betterment of the Southeast Queens community.

A product of Adventist Christian education, Massop-Flowers attended Westchester Area school, Northeastern Academy, and Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) before obtaining her medical degree.

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

Information Source: The New York State Senate Office of Senator Leroy Comrie

Vegan Holiday Loaf

SERVES 12

The holiday season is here! Time to roll up our sleeves and create something a bit more elaborate or decadent for a memorable holiday meal. Preparing a plant-based holiday loaf does not have to be a labor-intensive task! Using a food processor, or blender, you can create a simple, meatless loaf that will fill your house with the aromas of savory herbs and spices and satisfy your tummy.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 onions, diced
- 1 15 oz. can kidney beans, undrained
- 2 cups celery, diced
- ½ cup sunflower seeds
- 1 ½ cups chopped walnuts
- 4 cups cooked millet
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon dried rosemary
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 2 teaspoons dried sage
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 2 cups bread crumbs (to make gluten free, use gluten-free bread crumbs)



INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Place onions, undrained kidney beans, and celery into a blender, and blend until fine. Pour into a large mixing bowl.
- Add remaining ingredients to the bowl and mix until thoroughly combined.
- Spread mixture into a 9"x13" baking pan (or two large bread pans). Place pan into preheated oven and bake for one hour. Serve with vegan country-style gravy or tomato-based sauce.

Michael and Sonya Tardif have been in the food and wellness business for more than a decade. They operate the Taste of Eden Café, a center of influence in Norway, Maine, that offers a variety of plant-based foods and educates and enables people to make holistically, healthy choices. Visit their website at www.tasteofedenvegancafe.com.

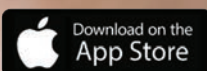


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EMPLOYMENT

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Nebraska, seeks candidates for a Health and Human Performance Professor. Doctoral degree preferred, master's required. This person will teach courses that may include Concepts of Wellness, Personal Training, Healthy Eating, Introduction to Allied Health Professions, and physical activity classes. Target date: January 1, 2022. See full job description at www.uccollege.edu/employment. Contact Shawntae Razo at shawntae.razo@uccollege.edu for information.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following teaching positions: Faculty—School of Education and Psychology, Chemistry Department, Biology/Allied Health Department, School of Visual Art and Design, School of Nursing, School of Business, Masters of Social Work Program Director, and School of Computing. Adjunct—Adult Degree Completion Program (Business and Management), and German Instructor (Modern Languages Department). For detailed descriptions and qualifications, see southern.edu/jobs.

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OBITUARIES

BALL, Clemont—91; b. June 25, 1930, in Durmore, Penn.; d. July 5, 2021, in Chicopee, Mass. He was a member of the First Springfield church in Springfield, Mass. He is survived by his wife, Lois Ball of Chicopee, Mass.; daughters, Michele Mikkelson of Herndon, Va., Jacqueline Stec of Chicopee, Mass., and Jeannine Ball of Leeds, Mass.; son, Monty Ball of Wethersfield, Conn.; six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren.

MAZZA, John F.—60; b. July 7, 1961, in New Haven, Conn.; d. July 9, 2021, in Worcester, Mass. He was a member of the Hudson church in Hudson, Mass. He is survived by his daughter, Tori Lynn (Jordan) Mazza Baum of Windsor, Va.; brothers, Peter (Jackie) Mazza of Hudson, Mass., and Robert (Bonnie) Mazza of Lehigh, Fla.; sister Tina (Michael) Betley of Franconia, N.H.; step-daughter, Dawn Hanna; and two grandchildren.

MONTELLO, Harry—93; b. July 19, 1927, in Brooklyn, N.Y.; d. May 23, 2021, in Babylon, N.Y. He was a member of the Babylon church in Babylon, N.Y., and served the Greater New York Conference for 25 years until his retirement. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Edwina Montello of Babylon, N.Y.

NELSON, Ray Aiden—78; b. Oct. 7, 1942, in Hamilton, Bermuda; d. Aug. 7, 2021, in Fletcher, N.C. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. (1964), the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich. (1968), and Loma Linda University School of Public Health (1973). He served the Seventh-day Adventist Church

as a pastor and health educator for more than 50 years. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Valerie Nelson (née Schneider) of Fletcher, N.C.; son Vaughan (Nadine) Nelson of Lincoln, Neb.; two daughters, Renita (Glenn) Saliba of Clarendon Hills, Ill., and Vanessa (Steven) Hupp of Bensalem, Penn.; brother, Harland (Frances) Nelson of Grovetown, Ga.; sister, Meredith (Roger) Silvers of Manheim, Penn.; and four grandchildren.

NOYES, Herbert R.—91; b. Nov. 11, 1929, in Carthage, Maine; d. Aug. 28, 2021, in West Paris, Maine. He was a member of the Woodstock church in Woodstock, Maine. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Emily A. Noyes; daughter, Nancy (John, Jr.) Noyes DePalma, all of West Paris, Maine; three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

ODELL, Erling C., Jr.—90; b. Mar. 25, 1931, in Glens Falls, N.Y.; d. June 4, 2021, in Ooltewah, Tenn. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. (1959). He served as a pastor in churches in the New York and Northern New England conferences, and as chaplain at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Brunswick, Maine. He is survived by his wife, Leona (née Bolton) Odell; two daughters, Diane Gruesbeck LeBrun and Carol (Robert) Raney, all of Ooltewah, Tenn.; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

WHEELER, Margaret E.—93; b. Apr. 26, 1928, in Marlborough, Mass.; d. July 14, 2021, in Northborough, Mass. She was a member of the Hudson church in Hudson, Mass. She is survived by three sons, Scott (Sue) Sowden of Northborough, Mass., Keith (Denise) Sowden of Hudson, Mass., and Todd (Dawn) Wheeler of Longmeadow, Mass.; sister, Sally Ellis of Lancaster, Mass.; nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

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Sunset Calendar

Eastern Standard Time

	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28
Bangor, ME	3:54	3:54	3:55	3:59	4:04	4:12	4:20	4:29	4:39
Portland, ME	4:04	4:04	4:05	4:09	4:14	4:21	4:29	4:38	4:48
Boston, MA	4:12	4:11	4:13	4:17	4:22	4:29	4:37	4:45	4:54
South Lancaster, MA	4:13	4:13	4:15	4:19	4:24	4:31	4:39	4:47	4:56
Pittsfield, MA	4:20	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:30	4:37	4:45	4:54	5:03
Hartford, CT	4:26	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:30	4:37	4:45	4:53	5:02
Providence, RI	4:14	4:14	4:16	4:20	4:25	4:32	4:39	4:48	4:57
New York, NY	4:28	4:28	4:30	4:34	4:39	4:45	4:53	5:01	5:09
Albany, NY	4:21	4:21	4:23	4:26	4:32	4:39	4:46	4:55	5:04
Utica, NY	4:26	4:25	4:27	4:31	4:36	4:43	4:51	5:00	5:09
Syracuse, NY	4:29	4:29	4:31	4:35	4:40	4:47	4:55	5:03	5:13
Rochester, NY	4:35	4:35	4:36	4:40	4:46	4:52	5:00	5:09	5:18
Buffalo, NY	4:41	4:41	4:42	4:46	4:51	4:58	5:06	5:15	5:24
Keene, NH	4:14	4:14	4:16	4:20	4:25	4:32	4:40	4:48	4:57
Manchester, NH	4:11	4:11	4:12	4:16	4:21	4:28	4:36	4:45	4:54
Portsmouth, NH	4:08	4:08	4:09	4:13	4:18	4:25	4:33	4:42	4:51
Brattleboro, VT	4:16	4:16	4:17	4:21	4:26	4:33	4:41	4:50	4:59
Burlington, VT	4:13	4:13	4:14	4:18	4:23	4:30	4:39	4:48	4:57
Rutland, VT	4:15	4:15	4:16	4:20	4:25	4:32	4:40	4:49	4:59
Hamilton, Bda	5:13	5:14	5:16	5:20	5:25	5:30	5:36	5:43	5:49

ACADEMY CONNECT

2022

Prepare to Praise God!

Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves.

Education, p. 16

Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education
education@atlanticunion.org | (978) 368-8333 ext. 3020
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Atlantic Union Conference
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Website: atlantic-union.org
GLEANER Website: atlanticuniongleaner.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff

E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor: Ednor A.P. Davison
Circulation/Back Pages/Proofreader: Debra Banks Cuadro
Copy Editor (off-site): Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design (off-site): Haziel Olivera

Editorial Contributors

Bermuda: Joi Tyrrell, gardensidetoo@northrock.bm
Greater New York: Donnieval Walker, dwalker@gnyc.org
New York: Reynolds Rodriguez, reynoldsrodriguez@gmail.com
Northeastern: Dudley Francois, dfrancois@northeastern.org
Northern New England: Scott Christiansen, schristiansen@nnec.org
Southern New England: David Dennis, skypilot@sneconline.org

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Wishing our readers a happy, healthy, prosperous season!

— Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6, NKJV

