

ATLANTIC UNION

GLEANER

MARCH 2023



The IMPORTANCE of Personal Effort

**BERMUDA ADVENTIST
COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED**

**YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN
COMMUNITY COMPASSION
COLLABORATION**

**ADVENTIST WOMEN LEADERS
TAP INTO THEIR STRENGTHS**

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You Are the **Light of the World**

What does being a Christian mean to you? How does being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian make your life different from the average person you work with or live near who doesn't share your faith?

Ellen White famously penned, "Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation"—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 7, p. 138.

As Adventists we struggle to understand this quote and apply it to our lives. Some of us don't like the idea of being peculiar and we strive to blend in with those around us. Others of us do everything we can to stand out as distinctively different from those around us. The first group is often criticized as being too much like the world. The second group is criticized for being out of touch and inaccessible to "normal" people.

At the root of this dichotomy is a misunderstanding of the word "peculiar" as Ellen White intended it. If we look in the CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY, peculiar is defined as: "unusual or strange, sometimes in an unpleasant way." If we are living and orienting ourselves to the world based on that definition of "peculiar," then you can see the challenges and perhaps understand why some of our young people want nothing to do with a faith that seems strange or unpleasant. However, when Ellen White uses this word, her understanding and application of the word is nothing like the definition presented in the CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY. When she uses the word "peculiar" she means that we are to be unusually defined by our faith and

that our lives and character are to be unusually loving, unusually winsome, and unusually attractive. When we live as that kind of "peculiar people," it is life changing. It brings purpose to our existence and makes our faith contagious to others around us.

Recently, my wife, Cynthia, and I had dinner with a young couple, Kyle and Jackie Howard. Kyle and Jackie are members in our union. I have always enjoyed their friendship, and admired how being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian truly defines the way they live their lives.

We were thrilled as they shared with us how God is directing their lives and using them to further His kingdom. Kyle is an electrician and recently started his own business, Genesis Electrical. His tag line is, "Let there be light!" He uses the name of his business, his kind, helpful, and honest service, and that biblical tag line as an example of how Jesus has changed his life. Jackie is pursuing a master's degree in counseling to enable her to minister to people and help them navigate the challenges of living life on a sinful planet. This is a unique and peculiar couple in the context of Adventist Christianity. Their witness and example are contagious on behalf of Christ and our church. They are truly living as "salt and light." In Matthew 5:16, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

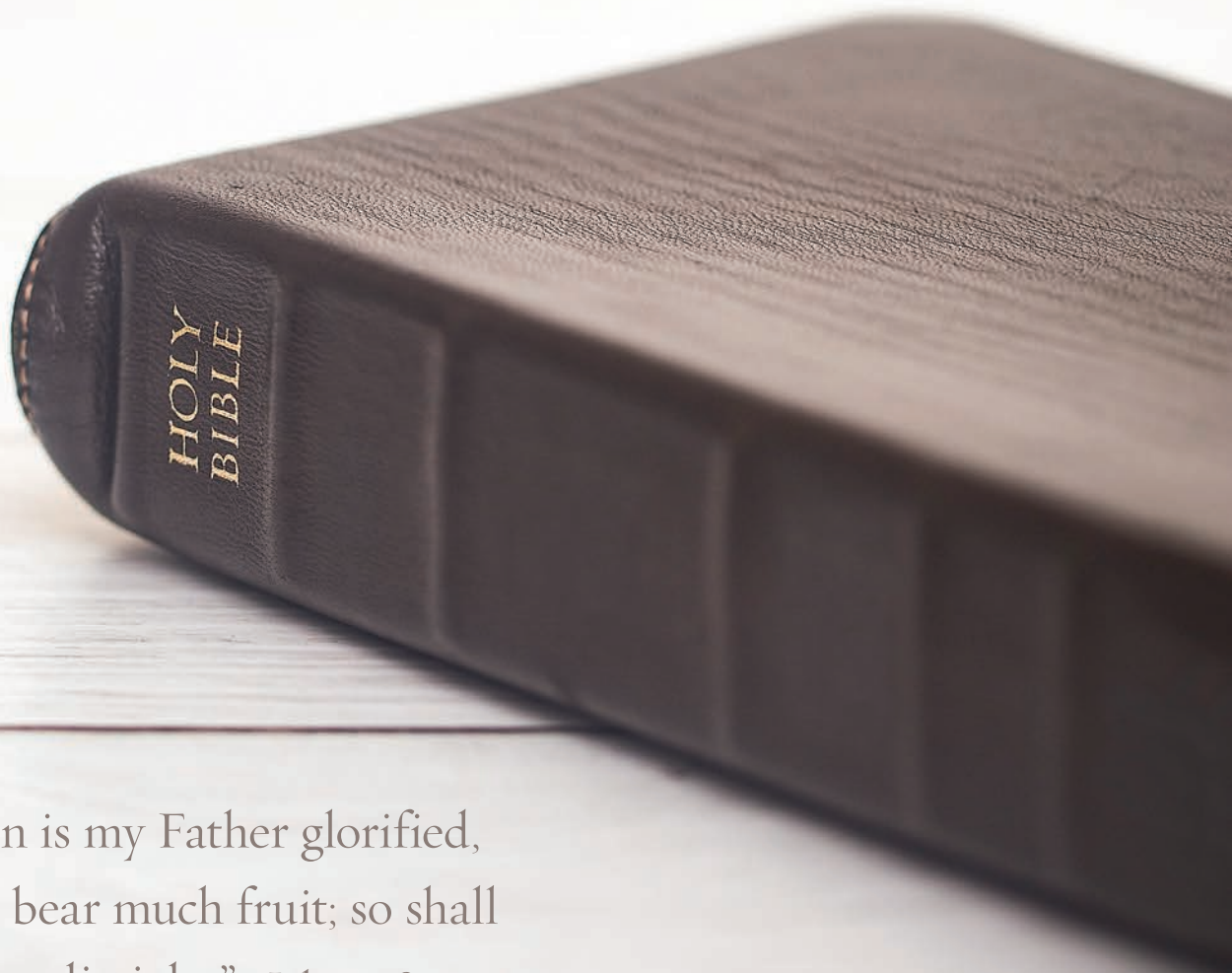
What would it look like if all 130,000 of us in the Atlantic Union lived as truly peculiar people? What if we all aspired to live as winsome, kind, and loving people who use our lives and our talents to share how Jesus makes a difference? By God's grace, may this become a reality in my life and in your life. ①

Ted A. Huskins is the Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary.



In Matthew 5:16, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The IMPORTANCE of Personal Effort



“Herein is my Father glorified,
that ye bear much fruit; so shall
ye be my disciples”—John 15:8.

In every land there are thousands of souls in darkness, without the knowledge of the truth, souls who have never heard the last message of mercy to a perishing world. They know not that the end of all things is at hand. "Peace and safety" is the cry that is sounded from the popular pulpits. And yet how many of God's professed people are at ease in Zion. The churches in general are weak and dependent. They think that some one must be with them every Sabbath to spread for them a gospel feast. They do not realize that they must individually appropriate to themselves the truth that has been unfolded to them, and communicate its light to those who know it not; and they are doing comparatively nothing, either in the home missions or in the "regions beyond." Can you, dear brethren and sisters, be doers of the word of God, while indifferent to the souls that are perishing around you? Can you listen to the truth Sabbath after Sabbath, and not impart its light to others?

The Church must not depend so fully as she has done in the past upon the ordained minister alone to carry the gospel to the world. God has given to every man his work. For many years He has been bidding His people, "Go work today in my vineyard." He calls upon men who understand the Scriptures to go into places where the message of truth has never penetrated, and there work, imparting to others what God has imparted to them. They can be as the salt, communicating saving properties to those with whom they come in contact.

The standard of truth may be raised by humble men and women; and the youth, and even the children, may be a blessing to others, by revealing what the truth has done for them. God will use the most feeble instruments if they are wholly submitted to Him. He can work through them to help souls to whom the minister could not obtain access. In the highways and byways the lost are to be sought. With your Bible in your hand, with your heart warm and glowing with the love of God, you may go out and tell others your experience; you may make known to them the truth that has impressed your heart, praying with faith that God will make your efforts successful in their salvation. Communicate light, and you will have more light to communicate. Thus you may become laborers together with God.

God desires that His children shall make use of all their powers; and in working to bless others, you may grow strong in the strength of Jesus. You may not be learned; you may not be thought capable of doing a great work for God; but there are things which you can do. You can let your light shine forth to others. Through the prophet Isaiah Christ has said, "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from

"The Church must not depend so fully as she has done in the past upon the ordained minister alone to carry the gospel to the world. God has given to every man his work. For many years He has been bidding His people, 'Go work today in my vineyard.'"



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“God desires that His children shall make use of all their powers; and in working to bless others, you may grow strong in the strength of Jesus.”

thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. . . . And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not” [Isaiah 58:6-8, 10, 11].

Every one may have an understanding of the truth, and exert an influence for good. Then go to work, my brethren and sisters. Gain an experience

by working for others. You may make mistakes; but this is not more than the most intelligent, and those in positions of trust, have done again and again. You will not always meet with success; but you can never know the result of humble, disinterested effort to help those who are in darkness. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit, you may win souls from error to truth, and in so doing your own souls will be filled with the love of God. Unaccustomed paths will open before you in your work of ministry. You will often have to step out of the beaten track, and, under the Holy Spirit’s guidance, do special work for God; but if you make Him your dependence, He will give you wisdom and strength according to your need.

I pray that church-members may see the peril of departing from God's expressed commandment, and repent of their lifelong neglect of the service of Christ while professing to be His followers. If they would go forth as pilgrims and strangers, and make for themselves homes where there is work to be done, letting their light shine forth to those who are in darkness and error, they would then be able to say, "And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace." We shall receive fresh supplies of grace as we impart to others that which we already have.

The Holy Spirit will impress upon the mind that the religion of the Bible is a grand and precious reality. You need not only to assent to the truth, but to put it into practice. Let every ray of light that shines from the word be heeded as the eternal truth of God. Then as you place your will on the Lord's side, look around for some work to do for the Master. Set to work at whatever your hand finds to do; for it is in practicing truth, in blessing others, that you work out your own salvation. If God works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure, you will cultivate those traits of character that every heir of heaven must possess.

Many have a superficial experience because they do so much for themselves, and so little for Jesus. Intercourse with those who are in need of help, with the purpose of saving their souls, will lead us to pray for wisdom, and look to Jesus as our Helper. By unselfish labor for others, we shall establish ourselves

in the faith far more firmly than by listening to so many sermons. The Holy Spirit will be our helper, giving us arguments with which to meet opposition, and in all our work giving us steadfast faith and unshaken confidence. Thus we shall gain an experience of more value than gold, or silver, or precious stones.

The Lord would awaken His Church to her calling,—to follow in the footsteps of Christ, and present Him to the world, that the world may say of His disciples, They have been with Jesus, and have learned of Him. Then let each engage in this work in all humility of mind. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren," said Christ, "ye have done it unto me." Shall we not, then, without delay, go without the camp, bearing the reproach for Christ's sake? In so doing, we shall share largely of the Holy Spirit's teaching and leading.

There must be no idlers in the work of God. He desires that His people shall engage in living missionary work, and thus be doers of His word. He desires that they shall labor in love for one another; that they shall pray most earnestly for themselves that they may be branches in the living Vine, daily drawing nourishment from it, and bearing rich clusters of precious fruit. "Herein is my Father glorified," He says, "that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." ①

Excerpt by Ellen G. White, author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, THE REVIEW AND HERALD, January 28, 1902; reprinted with permission.

"The Lord would awaken His Church to her calling,—to follow in the footsteps of Christ, and present Him to the world, that the world may say of His disciples, They have been with Jesus, and have learned of Him."

Bermuda Adventist Community Services Director Recognized for Service

Dora Baker, Adventist Community Services (ACS) coordinator for the Bermuda Conference, received the Excellence in Ministry Award at the 2023 North American Division (NAD) Adventist Ministries Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina. W. Derrick Lea, NAD Adventist Community Services director, presented Baker with the award during the General Session on Monday morning, January 9. Baker and her team are known for their compassionate work in Bermuda and were featured in the September 2020 GLEANER during the height of the COVID-19

pandemic for their diligence in meeting the needs of their neighbors.

Baker was elected Bermuda's ACS Federation president in 2010. In 2020, the Bermuda Conference Executive Committee elected her to serve as ACS director. At the Third Quadrennial Session of the Bermuda Conference in September 2022, delegates voted for Baker to continue serving as ACS director. In this position, Baker desires to focus more on casting the ACS vision and empowering the federation and church teams. When receiving the award, she thanked God and acknowledged the faithful

volunteers who make the ministry work, as well as the support of the Bermuda Conference administrators and pastors.

Food prices in Bermuda have increased to the point where people have to choose between paying bills or feeding their families. Providing food assistance continues to be a pressing need for the 11 ACS teams serving within the Bermuda Conference. Baker reported that they are carefully managing funds received from outside charitable organizations to sustain the food and grocery ministry but she also credits the generosity of the local

church congregations. "The members of the church have been so faithful! They are contributing funds, goods, and whatever they can provide." Non-Adventist neighbors living near the churches have also contributed after hearing about the ongoing work.

Under Baker, ACS also helps residents with completing their education through the GED program. They currently operate three learning centers at the Hamilton, Southampton, and St. David's churches. "Of the people that lost jobs [during COVID], not all of them have regained employment because they don't have any type of formal education. So we're trying to offer the GED program so they can catch up," Baker explains.

When asked about her motivation to serve in ACS all these years, Baker smiles and says, "I like meeting people and making friends. I am not the type of person to give a meal to someone and then let them continue on their way. We have to create a relationship because I always have evangelism in mind." Also interested in the social growth of the people she helps, Baker actively seeks to cultivate relationships to help them move beyond their difficult circumstances and build a better life. "The Lord just continues to open doors! I can never take credit for anything because a lot of these things just



Dora Baker, left, Bermuda Conference Adventist Community Services director, receives the Excellence in Ministry Award at the 2023 North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention, presented by W. Derrick Lea, right, North American Division Adventist Community Services director.

Pieter Dansielegi/North American Division

come to me. Sometimes I get the thought and I say, 'Okay, Lord. How about this?' Later, someone just comes and says, 'Ms. Baker, can we talk?' I just say, 'Praise the Lord!'

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



Attendees participate in praise and worship at the North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention held this year in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Member Shares Christ Through One-On-One Contact

A Christian city employee in Bermuda has completed 40 years as a municipal gardener much esteemed by his employers and the public. Ronnie Tacklin, an elder at the Warwick church, began his labors in 1982. Over the next four decades, he cultivated a broad range of plants to please the eye as well as large numbers of gospel adherents and interests at his “church without walls” within Par la Ville Park (recently renamed Queen Elizabeth Park) in Hamilton, Bermuda.

He was a latter-day Adam in a royally named garden, and he adroitly used the many opportunities afforded for evangelizing his public and the park’s population. This “church” included the museum of the Bermuda Historical Society, located in the park, which Tacklin secured for Bible study meetings held outside of opening hours.

“That’s been my love for a while,” he confessed. “Just meeting people—that one-on-one contact.”

Since his retirement in 2022, Tacklin has asked the Lord for greater boldness in sharing the gospel, and God answered. Tacklin reports that he is now “very bold—calling people, arranging meetings for Bible studies” and for evangelism generally.

But the park is also a spectacle of petty crime and disorder. Tacklin frequently witnessed crime and disorder, finding

addicts overdosed on drugs and groups of disorderly youth ruining the restful atmosphere of the park.

The social squalor extended beyond that, though, to personal threats of harm from the criminal element, and aggressive drunks offering him violence. And Tacklin found that not all people were interested in the message of the Adventist Church, either.

A receptive interest from a local Jehovah’s Witnesses congregation told him that one of their elders had warned his members to avoid Tacklin and the park—apparently afraid that his members might accept what Tacklin was offering and defect to the Adventist Church.

On another occasion, the daughter of a woman interested in hearing more of the gospel truth found out and telephoned Tacklin. “My mother ain’t coming to your meeting,” she said tartly. “We’re Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

He made sure not to let his religious ministry encroach on his employment at the park, aware that his bosses had given him a little license to share the Word of God with receptive minds in the course of his horticultural duties.

“We know you’ll be having church,” his immediate supervisor told him. “We’ll give you some leeway.” That was Tacklin’s cue to keep it brief, so he used his park time contacts largely



Ricardo Clarke

Ronnie Tacklin, Warwick church elder, is known for sharing Christ at his “church without walls.”

to arrange meetings outside of his working hours.

Earlier impressed by his honest work ethic and humility, the city had hired him to this position with a fair degree of autonomy. In Tacklin’s job interview, the parks superintendent asked if he would feel embarrassed if his friends were to spot him engaged in what might be considered menial work, such as street sweeping. “No way,” Tacklin recalls replying, “because I’ve got a job.”

—Coggie Gibbons, member, Warwick church

Jackson Heights in Partnership with the Education and Youth Ministries Department Baptize Several Students

The uniformed groups of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are among the most prestigious and dignified of all. They are set apart by their well-ordered attire, perfectly choreographed drills, and confidence in various skills and crafts. But perhaps the most important feature of the uniformed groups, from the Busy Bees to the Senior Youth, is the primary focus on preparing the youth and young adults for service in this life and the next.

On January 21, surrounded by teachers, pastors, and family, the Greater New York Academy supported 10 students as they gave their lives to Jesus in baptism at the Jackson Heights church in Woodside, New York. After the COVID-19

pandemic, like every other church, Jackson Heights realized that the decreased attendance had affected the young people. So the church leaders decided to place a special ministry focus on youth and family.

The head elder, Orville Labuga, and the deputy director, Ven Nobleza, observed that most of the youth in the Pathfinder club were not baptized. Christian Genao, the church's associate pastor, with the help of Steven Siciliano, the church's pastor, organized a Bible study group that met every Sabbath afternoon. Grace Ann Ashley, the club director, facilitated club meeting devotional times allowing Pastor Genao to conclude their Bible studies and reaffirm their decision.

The Children of Light Pathfinder Club began the year with an induction, an investiture, and, more importantly, the baptism of 10 young people. In his reflection on the significance of the moment, Enmanuel Contreras, Greater New York Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, said, "The influence of a mission-oriented Pathfinder club is beyond measure. The Pathfinder club is not only able to bring parents, friends, relatives, and even classmates who do not go to church as regular members, but through the club, they can see another phase of ministry. Every time a Pathfinder is baptized, they receive a baptismal pin, but also that name is written in the book of life. The

Pathfinder club is one of the funnels used by God to protect, preserve, develop, and highlight His love for the youth."

"I feel so happy and honored to have been there for them through one of the most important decisions of their lives," said Pastor Genao. "This is the result of their love and commitment to Jesus and the support of their parents, the church, and the Greater New York Academy where some of them attend. These young people are highly active and involved in the church, and, as their pastor, I am proud of each one of them and excited that the rest of them are getting ready for their big day."

—Clavour R. Tucker, communication director, Greater New York Conference



The newly-baptized candidates gather for a photo with the pastor and Pathfinder club members.

Two Baptized During Haitian Leadership and Officers Training

The Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Haitian Ministries held its annual Leadership and Officers Training on January 14 at the Gethsemane French church in Brooklyn, New York. It was amazing to see members of all age groups and ministry areas come prepared to offer service to the Lord, and to see GNYC directors and administrators conducting training and coaching exercises for the various officers and leaders.

In his remarks, Alanzo Smith, GNYC president, acknowledged the great responsibility on the shoulders of those who have been chosen to serve and to lead this next chapter of the church. He applauded those in attendance for their continued support and sacrifice in the work of Christ. He further encouraged them, despite the challenges they face, to “remain faithful to the duty of spreading this gospel as we await the soon

and glorious appearing of our Savior.”

If there was any question about the purpose of this training, the answer was displayed in the grand celebration of the baptism of two candidates who gave their hearts to Jesus. Andy Lagredelle, GNYC Haitian Ministries coordinator, in his reflection on this experience said, “We believe when we are inspired, motivated, trained, and equipped, we can better serve. Administrators, departmental leaders, and all our local pastors made themselves available as we worshiped, prayed, and to cap it off with the visual purpose of what this was all about, baptized. We want to depopulate the kingdom of the enemy and populate the kingdom of God. It was good to see, feel, and sense the rhythmic unity in mission of the Haitian community.”

—Clavour R. Tucker, communication director, Greater New York Conference



Alanzo Smith, Greater New York Conference president, addresses the elders during the Haitian Ministries Leadership and Officers Training.



Herode Thomas, pastor of the Shiloh Bilingual French and Siloe French churches, right, stands with the two baptismal candidates during the Greater New York Conference Haitian Ministries Leadership and Officers Training.



Enmanuel Contreras, Greater New York Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, and Adrian Case, associate director, call the youth and young adults to higher service.



Greater New York Conference leaders and pastors surround the two baptismal candidates during a prayer of consecration.

Joy of Troy Is on the Move

Joy of Troy's 24th annual choirfest held November 19, 2022, during the Thanksgiving season was special since the church was unable to host the choirfest the last couple of years due to COVID-19. Participation was more extensive, as people were excited to have the choirfest again. Seven choirs from various churches, including non-Adventist churches, participated, including a couple of choirs that sang in Swahili and Tagalog. It was a blessing to be able to minister to the community and work with fellow churches to express thankfulness and praise to God.



Joy of Troy church leaders, Annette Barnes, elder, left, and Anthony Whitlow, pastor, right, stand with newly-baptized candidates, siblings Cynthia and Johnathan Sengabo.

Joy of Troy Community church then hosted its third annual Christmas Stocking Giveaway to the local community. They have a quadrant map of their community where they focus most of the physical ministry. In 2020, the first year of the giveaway, members prepared 48 stockings and ran out in less than an hour. They discovered there was a great need for stockings for children in the community and decided to make this an annual event.

Despite the light rain, people came out to the second annual Christmas Stocking Giveaway in 2021. Volunteers passed out more than 200 stockings within two hours.

In 2022, organizers asked local stores to participate in the stocking giveaway. The local Hannaford supermarket gave 10 boxes of snacks and candy, and the local Dollar Tree donated three boxes of toys, mittens, scarves, and socks. This time

There was much celebration at Joy of Troy church on December 10, 2022, over the baptisms of siblings Cynthia and Johnathan Sengabo. What a beautiful day as two more of the Joy of Troy family publicly declared their love for Jesus.

NORTH COUNTRY WOMEN'S RETREAT

I Will Give You Rest

Camp Cherokee | Saranac Lake, New York

June 9-11, 2023



SPEAKER:
Angeline Brauer
North American Division
Health Ministries Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon King
kingsharon90@gmail.com
(315) 469-6921, ext. 22



The Joy of Troy Filipino Choir and friends participate in the annual choirfest.

the quadrant was ready for the event weeks in advance and the community shared the church's social media announcements regarding the stocking giveaway.

While members decorated the church, people began lining up outside on the sidewalk as well as in their cars. About 25 people were waiting when volunteers brought out the stockings. The church gave away 300 stockings in one hour and 20 minutes and had to turn people away. During that time the church's social media was constantly pinging with messages from the community. Everyone was so excited to receive the stockings! Two teenage boys expressed delight and were so pleased they could take stockings home to their siblings.

This year, the church plans to reach out and partner with



Joy of Troy church members hold stockings shared with community residents during the 2022 Christmas Stocking Giveaway.

more stores. Dollar Tree is already planning to help. Church members are excited to see where God is leading this ministry.

—Annette Barnes, elder, Joy of Troy church

Native American Churches Provide Heartfelt Gifts

Guy and Karen Bergeron, officers of the Oneida Native American church, professionally coordinated a two-church district gift program for approximately 25 families, roughly 125 people, around Oneida and Onondaga, New York, during the 2022 Christmas season.

With the challenging economy, the hope of sharing gifts for some was dim. The expressions of joy on people's faces were amazing as families welcomed the gifts. The Lord's name was lifted up as they celebrated and enjoyed the season.

Thanks to committed lay people, led by dedicated church leaders like the Bergerons, the Oneida Native American church was able to share the good news of the birth of Jesus, making the 2022 Christmas project a blessing to many.

—Bruce W. Wilkinson, chaplain, Native Church Districts

OFFICIAL NOTICE

New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Constituency Session

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the 2023 Regular Quinquennial Constituency Session of the New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called to convene at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 30, 2023, on the Union Springs Academy grounds, 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, NY 13160. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To receive reports and establish future plans for the New York Conference.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, an Executive Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and a Board of Education Committee.
3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference.
4. To accept new churches or disband churches as may be necessary.
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Constituency Session Regular Delegate Selection: According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference page 7, Article III, Section 1a, "Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof and who hold membership in the local church which accredits them."

Vegetarian lunch will be provided.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee will convene at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 9, 2023, at the New York Conference office, 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215, for the purpose of appointing members of the Nominating Committee to serve for that meeting.

Organizing Committee Delegate Selection: According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference page 8, Article IV, Section 1a. "The Organizing Committee shall be constituted as follows: Each church represented at the Constituency Meeting shall choose or empower its delegation to choose, one (1) member plus one (1) additional member for each five hundred (500) members or a major fraction thereof."

Miguel Crespo, President
Claudio Gomez, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

New York Conference Association Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2023 Regular Quinquennial Constituency Session of the New York Conference Association, a New York Corporation, is called to meet on the Union Springs Academy grounds, 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, NY 13160 on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the New York Conference. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the New York Conference Constituency Session will be the delegates for the New York Conference Association.

Vegetarian lunch will be provided.

Miguel Crespo, President
Claudio Gomez, Secretary

Youth Participate in Community Compassion Collaboration

The Northeastern Conference Adventist Youth and Young Adult Ministries (NEC AYM) is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people in their community. Through its Compassion Ministry, youth and young adults are deliberate about being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In the fall of 2022, God provided some non-traditional avenues for NEC AYM to impact the community. After receiving the green light and support from Abraham Jules, Northeastern Conference president, and the NEC administration, AYM forged a partnership with Bed Bath & Beyond in Manhattan. The store generously supplied NEC AYM with more than \$10,000 worth of goods to distribute to the city's underserved, and God wasn't done yet! Upon learning of the initiative, a local CubeSmart company donated six months of free storage, allowing the group time to manage and distribute the donations.

The Bronx-Manhattan Youth Federation was ready to take on the project. The NEC AYM office worked closely with Chee Daniel, the federation president, and

Elizabeth Perry, the compassion coordinator, to organize, pick up, catalog goods, and to identify qualifying recipients. NEC Adventist Community Services (ACS) provided the truck for the first pickup. Many volunteers helped with loading, unloading, and providing transportation, including Kenny Laguerre and Wensley Brevil, Franco-Haitian Pathfinder coordinators; Philip Perry from STRIVE Ministry; Maranatha French church pastor, Smith Olivier; along with Janet Blake, Ebenezer church ACS director, and her team.

Bronx-Manhattan Federation officers distributed the products to two local organizations. The first was a shelter for mothers and infants seeking help from domestic abuse. The women referred to this location are either pregnant or have just given birth. The location is kept confidential for security reasons. The second organization was the Convent Avenue Family Living Center. It has four locations that provide emergency housing and comprehensive social service programs for families displaced by fire, natural disaster, or eviction. Convent



Paula Olivier, kneeling, far left, Northeastern Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, pauses for a photo with the group loading the truck from the second pickup from Bed Bath & Beyond in Manhattan.

Avenue also has an on-site, after-school program for children ages 6-13. The residents were grateful for the donations, but some were initially hesitant to take the products because they could not believe they were free. The Federation officers gently assured them that the cookware, blankets, curtains, and other household items were indeed free for them to take.

"We are grateful that NEC youth and young adults could take service to another level by partnering with four community organizations, two companies, and two shelters," says Paula Olivier,

Northeastern Conference Adventist Youth and Young Adult Ministries director. "While it took months of planning, working through red tape, and collaborating with multiple parties, the youth and young adults rose to the occasion, persevered, and made an impact in the lives of several families in the name of our Savior. 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,' "—Matthew 25:35 (ESV).

—Youth and Young Adult Ministries staff, Northeastern Conference

Berea Church's New Pastor, Renovated Sanctuary, New Season, and 110th Anniversary

Born in June 1912 as the number two church in Boston, the historic Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church at 108 Seaver Street in Dorchester celebrated its 110th anniversary in October 2022 with the theme "Back to the Future."

Berea reopened for worship on Sabbath, July 31, 2022, after two years of pandemic shutdowns and construction, in time to bid a fond farewell to the one who led the charge, the former pastor, Omar Jarvis.

On September 3, the new pastor, Edsel B. Cadet, and his

wife, Nyasha, arrived. They entered the sanctuary as an anointed praise and worship team led the congregation in singing "When the Saints Go to Worship," and worship they did! God answered their prayers with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Conference officials, members, and visitors agreed they had never seen an installation like this. Then they witnessed God doing another new thing as Cadet shifted into spiritual high gear with a dynamic delivery of his inaugural sermon.



Berea church elders and other Northeastern Conference representatives lay hands on Edsel Cadet, Berea church pastor, and his wife, Nyasha, during the prayer at the installation service.

The Spirit continued to amaze them in worship week after week until, less than a month after

the Cadets arrived, so did October. Organizers planned and launched an ambitious, five-weekend-long anniver-

sary celebration with little to no lead time.

Joy and goodwill marked the celebration, with weekly themes highlighting Berea's 110 years of study, purpose, families, creativity, and youth. Highlights included memorable guest speakers, member spotlights, and music and performance ministry moments featuring the remarkable women who birthed and built Berea, appreciation for the legacy of 26 senior pastors, and honoring generations of resilience, creativity, and the beloved, impressive, and gifted youth.

Through it all, members prayed for the outgoing and incoming pastors, for the spirit of unity and love to dominate both transitions, for the anniversary celebration, and for the remaining renovations. God's manifested answers have been beyond what they could ask or think in their new season.

—Kena Drumgo, 110th anniversary historian, Berea church

Salute to 2022 Distinguished Honorees at the Leaves of Autumn Gala

The Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc., held its fourth Leaves of Autumn Gala on October 16, 2022, at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, New York. The gala provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of four remarkable individuals. Their common commitment to Adventist Christian education is their unifying bond.

The Foundation bears the name of one who dedicated over 40 years to ministry and to serving as the beloved Bible teacher at Northeastern Academy. The mission of the Foundation is to support Adventist Christian education, recognize high academic achievement, and foster student leadership development. A scholarship fund serves as a mechanism to channel and earmark funds received to support this mission.

The 2022 distinguished honorees acknowledged at the gala were: Sharon Robles, M.D., a 1989 graduate of the Northeastern Academy. She is an outstanding physician and health educator. Her professional integrity, leadership, and promotion of excellence in Adventist Christian education are respected by all.

Andrew Philbert, Emmaus church pastor, was recognized for his long and dedicated service to education and ministry in the Northeastern Conference. He is committed to advancing the belief that “education and redemption are one.”

Kwame Kyei-Baffour is a highly skilled mathematics educator at Northeastern Adventist Academy, Brooklyn Campus 9-12. His “going the extra mile” mentoring has impacted the lives of countless young people. He also serves as a longtime

leader in expanding churches in the Ghanaian Adventist community.

Winsome Dyer-Anthony is affectionately described as an amazing and fearless leader. Her selfless commitment of energy and time rendered to support Adventist Christian education projects and consistent fundraising activities are examples of her enduring service and dedication.

May God's abiding love continue to be with these honorees.

—S.A. Herndon, president, EDH Legacy Foundation, Inc., and member, Mount Vernon church



Sharon Robles



Andrew Philbert



Winsome Dyer-Anthony



Kwame Kyei-Baffour

Westbrook Bilingual Hispanic Church Shares Christ in El Salvador

The Westbrook Bilingual Hispanic church members returned in November 2022 from a successful mission trip to El Salvador, the native home to many of its members. The missionaries packed various ministries into 12 days. During the first week, they helped to build two large retaining walls for the road to Vida Sana Cades, an Adventist wellness center high in the northeast mountains of the country. The

second week, they continued construction in the morning but spent the afternoon and evening in the tiny town of Perquin at the neighborhood community building.

Steve Yap, a member of the Oxford church in Maine, who joined the team, spearheaded an eyeglass outreach. They gave 330 pairs of free reading glasses to people in need who were screened and fitted. Each person also received a STEPS

TO CHRIST in Spanish. Yris Frechette, a beautician, offered free haircuts—more than 80 people happily received this service.

More than 200 people from the 12-church district and the community packed the hall for six nights as Wilbert Hernandez, pastor of the Limington church in Maine, presented Christ-centered messages.

Simultaneously, 50-80 children had their own pro-

gram, learning action songs, listening to Bible stories, and participating in a craft in another area of the building.

Seven people, who had been studying with the local pastor, were baptized in a nearby remote river on the last Sabbath. Six more are preparing to be baptized soon. This mission trip was a blessing to the team and the people they served.

—Judy Sabnani, member and pastor's wife, Westbrook Bilingual Hispanic church

Yris Frechette provides free haircuts.



Steve Yap gives glasses to those in need.



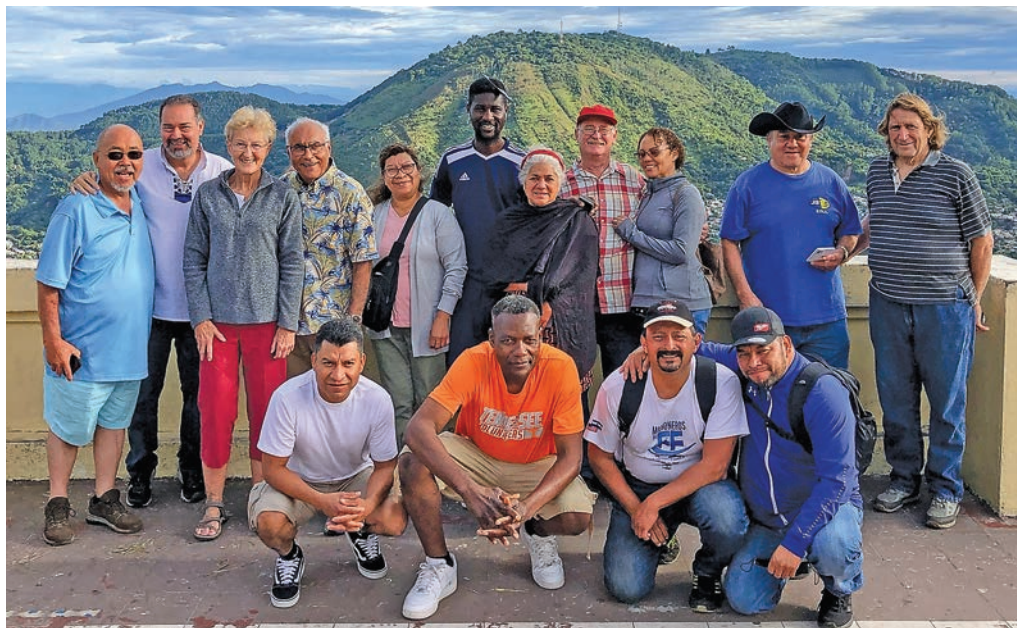
Workers help to build a retaining wall.



The children participate in their own program and learn more about Jesus.



Wilbert Hernandez, pastor of the Limington church preaches about the love of God.



Members from the Westbrook Bilingual Hispanic church share Christ in El Salvador through various ministries.

The Oxford Youth Class Embraces a Mission Project

The Oxford church youth Sabbath School class in Maine has embarked on their biggest mission project ever, raising funds to help an elderly member replace her home. The students first heard about Kristene several months ago when she visited their class. She shared about her life and how she moved to her aging parents' mobile home to care for them, while working full time as a caregiver in her community. She struggled to make ends meet as she recovered from a broken elbow and then was unable to work after her parents died. Kristene was left to sell items from her home to pay her bills and she worked at the local food pantry to justify taking a food box home for herself. Then a stroke forced her into retirement while her home was falling into utter disrepair. "It was the grace of God watching over me and meeting my daily needs that kept me going," Kristene said.

With faith like Kristene's, the kids felt sure that God would help provide



The Oxford church's youth class shares God's love with Kristene.

for their mission project. Since August 2022, they have raised over \$7,000.00. "I love it when the youth get excited about this sort of thing," Sue Proctor, Oxford church youth leader, says. They have been praying for God's guidance each step of the way.

Many hands help to make a huge project possible, all with God's guidance and the Holy Spirit. To find out more information about the project, contact Sue at proctors2003@yahoo.com.

—Sue Proctor, youth leader, Oxford church

Together in Mission: A Road Map for Kingdom Growth in Southern New England Conference

After a conference-wide Week of Prayer and visionary planning sessions, the Southern New England Conference is moving forward to achieve their voted vision, “Growing the Kingdom of God,” and mission, “Inspiring, Connecting, Equipping, and Supporting Our Church Members to Make Disciples for Christ.” The road map is a voted four-year plan represented by a set of five goals and 39 corresponding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) synthesized from the planning sessions.

“If I were traveling to Washington, D.C., and I had never been there before, how would I know that I have arrived?” explains newly-elected Southern New England Conference president Robert Folkenberg, Jr., as he unpacks the mindset behind the procedures. “I would know because I can see the Washington Monument and

the Lincoln Memorial. In the same way, these KPIs are simply objectives that will help us know that we are reaching our destination, we are growing the church, and discipling our members.”

The five goals (denoted in capital letters) begin with faithfully GROWING GOD’S KINGDOM. Highlights from the KPIs include conducting a focused outreach to four large cities in the conference: Worcester in 2023; Hartford in 2024; Boston in 2025; and Providence in 2026. Also, the conference aims to organize 20 new companies in the next four years and revitalize 12 plateauing churches.

To dynamically provide DISCIPLESHIP opportunities for church members, KPIs include setting up a Discipleship Institute with a practical curriculum and classes that can be taken online or face-to-face and planning two spiritual retreats per year at Camp Winnekeag, focusing on

daily devotional practices and biblical spiritual disciplines.

One way that Southern New England Conference plans to prioritize ENGAGING OUR CHILDREN/YOUTH IN THE MISSION of our church is to ensure that 15 percent of conference leadership committees and all major committees and local church boards across the conference are comprised of young people ages 15 to 35.

The first KPI to widen and deepen the work of ADVENTIST EDUCATION in our conference is to create a task force that will consider a new school constituency system with participation by all churches. KPIs also include starting three new schools and increasing enrollment in existing schools.

To proactively engage in MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY, KPIs cover everything from increasing the number of food



Scan for a complete list of Southern New England Conference's goals and KPIs.

pantries to a variety of methods that will serve the mental health needs of both church members and the community.

“These goals and KPIs cannot be achieved unless we work together in mission, are individually involved in our local churches and schools, and are faithful stewards of our time and tithe and offerings,” says Folkenberg. “We encourage every member to respond like Isaiah the prophet, saying ‘Yes, I will go!’”

— Sandra Dombrowski, communication specialist, Southern New England Conference

Pleasant Street Church Reaches the Community Through the Angel Tree Ministry

The words “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” ring in the ears of and fill the heart of Ben Ogunjobi, Pleasant Street church Adventist Community Services and Prison Ministries leader and his team of volunteers: Marlene Alvarez, Beverly Chambers, Philisia Clermeus, Milton Wright, and Karen Zeno. Through those ministries, he



Pleasant Street church members work together preparing gift packages for children of those who are incarcerated.

endeavors to lead the church to make a difference in the community—one prisoner and one child at a time.

The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program brings children and their incarcerated mom or dad together at Christmas. The Pleasant Street church requested and received the names of 40 caregivers who are responsible for helping meet the

needs of the children of incarcerated parents. The church connected with the caregivers of those children to find out what gift each child wanted for Christmas.

Members picked a child from the list and purchased the gift(s) for the child. All children were served. On December 18, 2022, the children and their caregivers were invited to a party. At the party they played games,

sang carols, and participated in activities. Each child received a Bible and gifts. The smiles and excitement of the children and their caregivers were worth a thousand words. This is the second year that the Pleasant Street church, through the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program, brought smiles and warmed hearts during the holiday season. A total of 25 families were served last year

and 49 children were served this year.

It was a joy to see some caregivers from last year join the celebration for the event. Gifts were hand delivered by members of the team to attend the party. The great commission is to go in His name and share the Good News of the gospel. Through this program and others initiated by the Community

Services department, relationships are built and maintained.

The Pleasant Street church is connecting with the community and touching lives one person and one child at a time.

—Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program volunteer, Pleasant Street church

Revival Brings Spiritual Harvest

The fall revival and spiritual emphasis season for the Framingham Centre church in Framingham, Massachusetts, began with a series of health messages organized by Paulette Chandler, M.D., during the month of September 2022. Topics such as “Mental Health and the Power of Touch” and “Senior Wellness,” were covered, among others, and ended with a sunny Sabbath afternoon walk, enjoyed by young and old, at nearby Callahan Park.

The following month on October 22, the church held a Homecoming Sabbath. Messages and testimonies of how the church helped shape lives for a better home and community were part of the special service. Mums and asters were added to the colorful banquet tables during lunch. Later, a sacred multi-cultural concert organized by Regine Desire, wife of Framingham’s pastor, Richardson Desire, included a rendition by the Framingham Centre Ukrainian Choir, among



Six people of various ages who responded to the revival week messages are welcomed into the fellowship of the Framingham Centre church following baptism.

others. Members left feeling joyful and with rekindled hope and vision to see their sanctuary filled comfortably to its 125-seat capacity. Everyone who attended received gifts, including a copy of *STEPS TO CHRIST*.

During the week of November 6-11, 2022, the church conducted a Fall Revival Week series on Zoom that was organized by Pastor Desire. Norman Calixte, a pastor from Florida, was a powerful and

passionate speaker for the series who spoke on the theme “Hope in God Who Loves Us All Out!”

Each evening was filled with prayer, sacred music, and practical health nuggets. Many heard God speaking in the messages titled “Jesus Stood Still,” “Stand Firm,” “Fear Not,” and “You Shall Never See the Egyptians Again,” to name a few. One takeaway: “Do not pass us by, Son of David. We are in desperate need of You.

Search and seal our hearts for eternity.”

Six people responded to the loving messages—each new family member representing a miracle. These souls bring glory to God and edify the body of Christ. On the following Sabbath, members parted from each other, rejoicing and believing for better things yet to come, and praying for more of the Holy Spirit.

—Ursula Mejia, member, Framingham Centre church

Adventist Women Leaders Tap into Their Strengths

Nearly 70 women representing unions, conferences, and ministries from across the North American Division (NAD) and beyond attended the Adventist Women Leaders (AWL) Luncheon in Greensboro, North Carolina, on January 11, during the final day of the 2023 NAD Adventist Ministries Convention. The luncheon was designed for women who serve as presidents, administrators, department directors, associate and assistant directors, and ministry leaders of Adventist organizations. This year's featured presenter was Leah JM Dean, executive coach, author, and speaker.

Dean, a Seventh-day Adventist from Bermuda, provided vital information and tools for the women to leverage their strengths to maximize their leadership. Each attendee completed a CliftonStrengths assessment before the luncheon and utilized their findings in interactive exercises led by Dean.



Some of the Atlantic Union Conference leaders who attended the 2023 North American Division Adventist Women Leaders luncheon include, from left, Lileth Coke, Atlantic Union Conference associate education director; Lisa Gonzalez, Greater New York Conference Women's Ministries director; Angela Beras, Atlantic Union Conference Women's Ministries and Prayer Ministries director; Amanda Hawley, Northeastern Conference pastor; Michelle Hill, Bermuda Conference Women's Ministries and Prayer Ministries director and pastor; Theresa Robidoux, Atlantic Union Conference associate education director; and Marlene Alvarez, Atlantic Union Conference education director.

"We often look at the things we do naturally as quirks or idiosyncrasies, when really, they are talents that we can apply productively," Dean said (NAD NEWSPOINTS, January 25, 2023). She encouraged them to remember that "the God of the universe can fill in any gap. He can clean up any schedule.

He can find any resources. He can do it all."

AWL began as an idea in 2014 with Celeste Ryan Blyden after she became the Columbia Union Conference's first female vice president. Blyden spoke with Debra Brill, then NAD vice-president for ministries, about hosting a luncheon for Adventist women leaders after the 2017 NAD Year-end Meeting. That year, 15 women attended. By 2019, 90 women participated in the second major AWL Luncheon at the Adventist Ministries Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over the years, AWL has developed into a global community of more than 300 women leaders who stay connected through the monthly newsletter, social media, Zoom events, and in-person events. AWL joined forces with NAD Women's

Ministries in October 2022 to help AWL grow, reach, and serve more women leaders with resources, events, and mentoring opportunities.

Women leaders representing the Atlantic Union at the 2023 AWL luncheon included Atlantic Union Conference directors Marlene Alvarez (Office of Education) and Angela Beras (Women's Ministries and Prayer Ministries), Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education associate directors Lileth Coke and Theresa Robidoux, and Debra Banks Cuadro, Atlantic Union Conference communication assistant director; conference Women's Ministries directors Lisa Gonzalez (Greater New York) and Michelle Hill (Bermuda); and Northeastern Conference pastor Amanda Hawley.

—Communication team, Atlantic Union Conference



Pieter Damsieep/North American Division

Women representing unions, conferences, and ministries from across the North American Division pose for a group photo following the Adventist Women Leaders luncheon in Greensboro, North Carolina.



*Join the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists
& Elder Ted Huskins in the*

Splendors of Egypt

In the Footsteps of Moses, Joseph & the Holy Family

December 5 - 15, 2023



Host: Elder Ted Huskins
thuskins@atlanticunion.org



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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

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Bangor, ME	7:11	7:20	7:28	7:37
Portland, ME	7:15	7:24	7:32	7:40
Boston, MA	7:17	7:25	7:33	7:41
South Lancaster, MA	7:20	7:28	7:36	7:44
Pittsfield, MA	7:26	7:34	7:42	7:50
Hartford, CT	7:23	7:31	7:39	7:46
Providence, RI	7:18	7:26	7:34	7:41
New York, NY	7:27	7:35	7:42	7:49
Albany, NY	7:28	7:36	7:44	7:52
Utica, NY	7:35	7:43	7:51	7:59
Syracuse, NY	7:38	7:46	7:55	8:03
Rochester, NY	7:44	7:52	8:01	8:09
Buffalo, NY	7:49	7:57	8:05	8:13
Keene, NH	7:23	7:31	7:39	7:47
Manchester, NH	7:19	7:28	7:36	7:44
Portsmouth, NH	7:17	7:25	7:33	7:41
Brattleboro, VT	7:24	7:32	7:40	7:48
Burlington, VT	7:28	7:37	7:45	7:54
Rutland, VT	7:26	7:35	7:43	7:51
Hamilton, Bda	7:43	7:48	7:53	7:58

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The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

Greater New York

- Bronx-Manhattan**—1440 Plimpton Ave., Bronx, NY 10452
- Brooklyn**—1260 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11230
- Greater New York Academy**—41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377
- Jackson Heights**—72-25 Woodside Ave., Woodside, NY 11377
- Middletown**—70 Highland Ave., Middletown, NY 10940
- Oakview Preparatory**—29 Chestnut St., Yonkers, NY 10701
- Poughkeepsie**—14 South Bridge St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- South Bay Junior Academy**—150 Fire Island Ave., Babylon, NY 11702
- Whispering Pines**—211 Jericho Turnpike, Old Westbury, NY 11568

New York Conference

- Buffalo Suburban Christian Academy**—5580 Genesee St., Lancaster, NY 14086
- Frontenac**—963 Spring St., Union Springs, NY 13160
- Kingsbury**—3991 State Rt. 4, Hudson Falls, NY 12839
- Parkview Jr. Academy**—412 South Avery Ave., Syracuse, NY 13219
- Rochester Bay Knoll**—2639 Ridge Rd. E., Rochester, NY 14622
- Union Springs Academy**—40 Spring St., Union Springs, NY 13160

Northeastern Conference

- Northeastern Adventist Academy**
 - Boston Campus**—800 Morton St., Mattapan, MA 02126
 - Brockton Campus**—243 Court St., Brockton, MA 02302
 - Brooklyn Campus 9-12**—418 E 45th St., Brooklyn, NY 11203
 - Brooklyn Campus PK-8**—5810 Snyder Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11203
 - Fairfield County Campus**—827 Trumbull Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606
 - Hartford Campus**—474 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06112
 - Long Island Campus**—76 Parkway Ave., Amityville, NY 11701
 - Queens Campus**—137-01 228th St., Laurelton, NY 11413
 - Springfield Campus**—797 State St., Springfield, MA 01109
 - Westchester Campus**—456 Webster Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801

Northern New England Conference

- Caledonia Christian School**—54 Southard St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
- Capital Christian**—310 Sheep Davis Rd., Concord, NH 03301
- Estabrook Christian**—1050 Rt. 12A, Plainfield, NH 03781
- Forestdale Christian**—27 Perkins Valley Rd., Bryant Pond, ME 04219
- North Star Christian**—42 Orion Way, Hermon, ME 04401
- Pine Tree Academy**—67 Pownal Rd., Freeport, ME 04032
- Pioneer Jr. Academy**—13 Mt. Gilboa Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467
- Riverview Memorial**—201 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock, ME 04957
- Webb River**—58 Pine St., Dixfield, ME 04224

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- Amesbury**—285 Main Ave. Rt. 107A, South Hampton, NH 03827
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- Greater Boston Academy**—108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA 02180
- Laurel Oaks**—14 W. Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514
- South Lancaster Academy**—198 George Hill Rd., Lancaster, MA 01523
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ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

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