COMPASSION
The Paradigm for Adventist Youth Ministries

new york ’13
portland ’14 • hamilton ’15 • worcester ’16
syracuse/rochester ’17
In this Issue...

In the cover story beginning on page 4, read about the Compassion Movement that is the focus of the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries Department. Join the youth and young adults in prayer for this ministry as they seek to follow Jesus’ example. The Compassion Movement logo, designed by John Niessen from ChurchArtWorks, is incorporated in the cover design.
NY13 is upon us. What are we doing? Are we only planning, streaming, and video recording? There's an old song that goes this way: “A little talk with Jesus makes it right, all right.” This is what prayer is, just talking to Jesus. We live in a complex society and confused world. We face decisions and shoulder responsibilities that no generation has ever faced in this age of tech knowledge, electronics, iPads, iPhones, and social media. Prayer is a lost art for many people. We go along life's way trying to bear our burdens alone, trying to find by ourselves the right path to walk. When all the time God is just waiting for us to call upon Him, that He might put all of His resources at our disposal.

The most serious indictment that can be brought against Christians today is that they do not pray enough. We worry, we fight, we fume, we fuss, we find fault, but we do not pray as we should. God says, “Call unto me,” but we turn our backs on Him unconsciously and call on our petty resources. No wonder we are such needy, impatient, weak Christians.

The great men of the Bible were men of prayer. They felt they needed constant communion with God. Moses prayed all the time on the journey to the Promised Land and God answered.

Elijah prayed and God shut up the heavens and held back the rain for more than three years. He prayed again and God sent the rain to refresh the earth. David prayed and sang. John the Baptist prayed. Peter and Paul prayed, and Jesus kept in constant touch with God by prayer all his life.

We owe it to ourselves to pray. God loves His children and wants them to have some of His abundant blessings. But we need to ask for the blessings, “Ask it shall be given.”

We owe it others. We are told in the Bible to “pray for one another.” We have felt those prayers on many occasions. Samuel was a man of prayer; he prayed for the sins of the people. He not only felt obligated to pray for others, he also felt that he would be sinning against God if he did not pray for others.

We owe it to God. We eat and drink and use the blessings of God and never look up into His face to say, “Thank You, Lord.” We need to thank God for His wonderful plan of salvation. We were condemned, we were doomed, we were bound for hell, but in His gracious mercy He saved us and died for us.

We need to pray with clean hearts. We need to pray with grateful hearts. We need to pray with earnestness. We are to pray with expectancy. We need to pray with hearts seeking wisdom. We need to pray with definite requests. Our definite request at this time is that the Lord help us to represent Him rightly and ask God to open, soften the hearts of people in the great metropolitan area of New York to receive Him and accept Him as their personal Savior as we proclaim the gospel to the teeming millions in New York at the NY13 meetings. May the Lord pour His blessings upon every big metropolitan city, town, and village of this world.

We need to pray without ceasing from now till the end of the NY13 campaign. There is power in prayer. As we work, let us call upon God in the name of Jesus Christ to help us at this exciting and wonderful time of NY13 spiritual meetings. I am confident He will answer every sincere prayer. God bless you. Pray for the NY13 evangelistic campaign.

Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.
The new paradigm for Adventist Youth Ministries throughout our six conferences in the Atlantic Union calls for a Movement of Compassion; teens, young adults, college and university students, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and Master Guides who don’t spend all of their time inside a church building, talking, singing, and ministering to themselves. It calls for us to live a life of compassion daily, taking time to reach our families, neighborhoods, schools, workplace, our churches, communities, and our cities with intentional acts of love and kindness, like Jesus did.

Compassion Begins With You and Me
Compassion is personal. It must not be something that we do; it is something that we are. We must live compassion every waking moment of our lives, as we walk, talk, play, drive, or ride everywhere we go. It will not always be that easy. At times it will be very hard, yet we are in this together. Adventist Youth Ministries across the Atlantic Union will provide inspiration through devotional blogs, Bible verses, morning and evening reminders, as well as tips and ideas to help each of us to live compassion.

Compassion Continues With Your Youth Group, Small Group, Club, and Church
Compassion must also be a central part of your youth group, collegiate group, Pathfinder club, Adventurer club, Adventist Youth Society, and church. I would like to encourage you, leaders in every church in the Atlantic Union, to make compassion an essential part of your ministry. Youth, young adults, and children enjoy doing good, but they enjoy it even more when they are together. Adventist Youth Ministries will provide small group lessons, encouragement, and ideas for groups and
churches to live compassion, through projects and services, that benefit people in need in the community, and revive the mission spirit of the church and its young people.

Compassion Conference-wide
There is nothing more powerful than when many youth, young adults, and children filled with compassion reach out to a wider community to make a difference. The communities around us need it, and this generation of Adventists is begging for the opportunity to live this experience together with their peers. When people get together to bless a community with their actions, their faith and love for God are strengthened and their commitment for the church grows as they see that they are not alone, that there are many others who also love Jesus and are committed to sharing His compassion.

Compassion Across the Atlantic Union
Once a year, we would like to invite the youth, young adults, and children from all over the Atlantic Union Conference and abroad to come together in one place to be the heart, the hands, and the feet of Jesus by reaching out with compassion to one of our cities. During the next five years, our Compassion Movement will descend on five different cities to do for a weekend what we live daily. We will begin with New York City on March 22-24, 2013, and will continue with Portland, Maine (March 21-23, 2014), Hamilton, Bermuda (March 27-29, 2015), Worcester, Massachusetts (March 25-27, 2016), and Syracuse/Rochester, New York (March 24-26, 2017).

Begin praying for compassion today and join this movement, as we relive the ministry of Jesus, with the same priorities of Jesus. And always remember, actions speak louder than words.

For more information and details on compassion, visit www.auyouth.com or www.compassion-now.org.

José Cortés, Jr., is the director of Adventist Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union.

Compassion Movement
Coming to a city near you

New York City – March 22-24, 2013
Portland, Maine – March 21-23, 2014
Hamilton, Bermuda – March 27-29, 2015
Syracuse/Rochester, New York – March 24-26, 2017

www.compassion-now.org
Christian Education *Does* Make A Difference

It was one of those years! We looked forward to a new beginning and had hopes for a great school year. But for one of our students things didn’t look so promising. She was an eighth-grader who had attended our school for all her academic years. She came from a non-Adventist background with a worse than lousy home life, but her parents, on their good days, wanted something better for their children. Something was different this year unlock her heart, but nothing that I tried seemed to work. Working with her tirelessly so she that could move on provided her with some learning—enough to squeak by in class. During class she tried to stay awake and tried to pretend that she was OK, but everyone knew something had drastically changed! At recess she never played with the others; instead, she slept! She never caused problems in the classroom, she was just withdrawn. By the end of the year, I knew that I had failed. Yes she passed, but never did I find the key that unlocked her cold heart!

And as one would suspect, she went to high school, promptly ran away from home, got into serious trouble, and the state finally stepped in, took her from her family and put her away! I was not allowed to visit her, nor were her parents. She was lost and my heart was broken!

I moved away and after a few years I returned to the area to visit and to witness how the others from that class were successful. My husband and I were sitting together when a young person slid past us in the pew—making us move so that she could sit next to me. When I looked at her to smile, I did a double take, as the realization hit me like a ton of bricks. It was my former student! She was back and sitting next to me. I was overjoyed and hugged her.

She shared with me that she was sorry for that eighth-grade year and how she treated me and her fellow students. She thanked me for working with her and said she couldn’t stay long, but had seen me and just wanted me to know how much she appreciated the school and me for putting up with her during that horrible time in her life! Wow! God’s spirit had unlocked her heart! And that little Christian school made a difference in her life. Who would have known!

Please, don’t ever tell me that Christian education is not important! 

Patricia Giese is the Southern New England Conference superintendent of schools.

Every morning I would pray over her desk area, pleading that the Holy Spirit would use me to find the key to unlock her heart.
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Visits Bermuda Conference

Baldwin Spencer, the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda since March 2004, stopped by the Bermuda Conference office, the Adventist Book Centre, and Hamilton church on a recent visit to the island. He addressed pastors, Bible workers, and office staff who were assembled at the Hamilton church. The prime minister praised the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in helping those in need and the work of service done by the church through such youth programs as the Pathfinder club.

Prime Minister Spencer was inducted as an honorary member of the Pathfinder club during a gathering of more than 3,000 Pathfinders from around the Caribbean. During his visit he was presented with Pathfinder camporee and local pins, the popular Bermuda Conference patch, the General Conference world church patch, and the Atlantic Union Conference patch. He was also given the Adventist Youth Ministries pin by Le Gregg Smith, Pathfinder associate director. Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda Conference president, presented the Prime Minister with two DVDs, one depicting Adventists and the other about Johnny Barnes and other island memorabilia. Caroline Lambert, from the Adventist Book Center, presented him with the 2013 devotional book. Spencer was also photographed with Johnny Barnes, a Bermuda icon.

Prime Minister Spencer was on the island to address the Labour Day celebrations held at Barnard’s Park in Pembroke. He encouraged all people to work together in these difficult times to surely and collectively turn the island’s situation around and to create new opportunities for all people.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Prayer Highlighted at Camp Meeting

The prominence of prayer in these tumultuous times was a key component this year at the Bermuda Conference Camp Meeting where the Prayer Ministries department highlighted two prayer rooms. The adult prayer room was inspired by the Old Testament sanctuary service. Some of the main articles used in the service included the seven branch candlesticks and the table of shewbread. They were featured with an emphasis on their relationship to Jesus Christ, who is the reality of the sanctuary. There were also scales to remind visitors of the unique judgment-hour message.

As people entered the room that was draped in luminous fabrics, they were transported into a holy atmosphere. There were glowing candlelight, plush rugs, and colorful pillows. A cedar cross was the central theme of the room, that served as a sober reminder of the eternal, redeeming, sacrifice of Jesus. Those who sought solitude and communion with God were not disappointed. Those who sought prayer and fellowship were encouraged by the faithful intercessors who were at their post nightly.

The young adult prayer room in Southampton church offered a more contemporary prayer experience that targeted the specific needs of the millennial generation. The objective was to facilitate an interactive journey that allowed them to experience the multiple dimensions of prayer. Among other elements, the room featured a wall of confession, a social issue corner, and a globe where countries could be identified and prayed for. Although the elements were modern and varied, the centrality of the cross was the main focus.

The prayer rooms came about as the result of much prayer. Prayer changed an ordinary room into an extraordinary space where ordinary people could commune with an extraordinary God. Nightly the worshippers, both adults and young adults, transformed by the Spirit, were reminded that “Whatever we need, if we trust God, He will supply it. If anything is causing worry and anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and trust God for healing, love, and power”—Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, 1865.

—Michelle R. Hill, prayer ministries director, Bermuda Conference

On the front row, from left, are Trevor Young, the Prime Minister’s aide-de-camp, Le Gregg Smith, Pathfinder associate director; Sydney Gibbons, conference secretary; Pamela Greyson, conference treasurer; Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; Jeffrey Brown, conference president; Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union executive secretary; Kenneth Manders, Hamilton church pastor and conference ministerial director. On the back row, from left, are Kevin Santucci and Loretta Gibbons, conference Bible workers, and pastors Stefan Burton-Schnüll, Ariel Manzueta, Ulric Hetsberger, Howard Ebbin, and Damon Hendrickson.

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Pam Greyson, Bermuda Conference treasurer, left, praying with Dawnette Easton, Southampton church Home and School leader.
**Spirituality: Our Number One Objective**

The Seventh-day Adventist school system is distinctively different from public schools in America. Our goals are different; our teachers are called to Adventist service; our teaching methods and curriculum emphasize an Adventist worldview. Even our approach focusing on the development of spiritual values in each of our children is unique. In the Greater New York Conference K-12 system of education, five weeks of spiritual emphasis are integrated into the school program:

- Week of Prayer (led by a pastor from the school constituency)
- Student Week of Prayer
- Spirit of Prophecy Emphasis Week
- Health Emphasis Week
- Courtesy Emphasis Week

Each of these weeks are designed with one purpose in mind: to draw our young people closer to their best friend—Jesus. Ellen White counsels us in the book *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 536, that education is a failure unless the student has grasped the truths of divine revelation, and the heart accepts the teachings of Jesus Christ. Over the years thousands of our young people have responded to “altar calls” and accepted the following principle as the guiding force in their lives: “Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached.”—*Education*, p. 18. The presence of Jesus on each Adventist school campus is the primary component that separates our school system from any public school. Praise God for Adventist Christian education.

—David A. Cadavero, superintendent of schools, Greater New York Conference

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**Five Towns’ VBS Hosts 30 Children**

“Kids and God’s Communication Network (KGCN)” was the theme of the two-week Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer at the Five Towns church in Inwood, New York. With the support of Kevin Brown, the church’s pastor, along with the elders and officers, this year’s VBS attracted up to 30 children.

Using this VBS program to gear up for NY13, the members rejoiced that most of the children came from the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Jasinth Grant, VBS director, expressed her pleasure with the support received from VBS assistants, known as tour guides. “Pooling efforts for the second year in a row, our backdrop depicted children at play surrounded by various means of technology with the KGCN logo on the left. Five Towns, through Christ, keeps marching to greater heights,” says Grant.

—Ernest Grant, elder, Five Towns church

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The backdrop for VBS depicted children at play surrounded by various means of technology.
GNYC Workers Share With the Romanian Community

G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference (GNYC) president, was interviewed on August 6 by Adrian Bocaneanu, a pastor in Bucharest and host of the television program The Starting Point. The program is aired on Speranta TV, a television station owned and operated by the Romanian Union Conference and is a branch of the Hope Channel.

Knight shared his life story, from his childhood experiences to his start in the Seventh-day Adventist church. He also discussed diversity, the future mission and ministry of GNYC, and efforts for NY13. Others interviewed for the program include Claude Morgan, GNYC’s Religious Liberty director, and Anthony Romeo, pastor of the Manhattan church and The Chapel at Union Square Company.

The program is broadcast to four million homes and serves Romanian-speaking viewers in most European countries. The interviews use Romanian subtitles. The broadcast can be viewed on www.sperantatv.ro.

—Kimi-Roux James, communication administrative assistant, Greater New York Conference

Hundreds Attend Lifestyle for Excellent Health Seminar

Hundreds of neighbors and many local and regional community members interested in learning about living a healthier lifestyle attended Babylon church’s Lifestyle for Excellent Health seminars. Presenters for the one-week event held at the church in Babylon, New York, were Danny and Charmaine Vierra, and their son, Daniel, from Modern Manna, a non-profit Bible-believing health organization. Danny Vierra, BellaVita Lifestyle Center director, presented the dangers of the Standard American Diet and how attitude affects your healing.

Charmaine Vierra, a nine-year breast cancer survivor, and son Daniel, taught the children how to prevent disease by adding raw fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to their diet with a variety of color. For adults, classes included two cooking demonstrations, that were fun and educational.

Danny Vierra shared a raw food demonstration that included samples to taste. He showed the healing power of a plant-based diet, and ways in which one can stay well without the use of pharmaceutical drugs. He also taught about disease, its causes, prevention, and cure.

Recipes are available on the church’s Web site www.sdachurchinbabylon.org.

—Michele DeFalco, communication director, Babylon church
Union Springs Academy Off to a Great Start

After a busy summer of intense preparation for the new school year, Union Springs Academy got off to a great start on Sunday, August 27. Students flooded the administration building with their parents to complete the registration process. With some additional students registering late, the enrollment will be about 84. This is the highest enrollment since the 1990s.

Everyone took a break from registration at noon for a consecration service. Wayne Edwards, the new principal, welcomed parents and students and acknowledged the necessity of depending on the Holy Spirit in order to ensure a successful school year. Dustin Hall, a pastor from the Finger Lakes District, shared a message emphasizing the role of the school in preparing young people who will in turn prepare others for the soon return of Jesus. This was followed by a dedication prayer offered by Florencio Zabala, New York Conference treasurer.

Wayne Edwards, the new principal, acknowledged the necessity of depending on the Holy Spirit in order to ensure a successful school year.

Additionally, the New York Conference Board of Education has voted to create a development department that will continue to organize such fundraising activities as the annual campaign to ensure the ongoing support for students. This and other projects are bringing renewed hope and optimism for the school.

Wayne Edwards, president, of the Ray Halbritter Charity Classic, and Florencio Zabala, New York Conference treasurer, holds the check for $67,250.00 that was donated to the academy.

These funds will be used to accomplish many projects on a wish list at the school. Included is $20,000 for financial aid, as well as funds for making improvements in the boys’ dorm.

Other exciting developments at the school include progress on the greenhouse. A grant has been given to the school to complete this project that will employ students as well as provide fresh produce nearly year round for the school cafeteria. The cover to the greenhouse was installed recently. The greenhouse is under the direction of Joya Garlock, who is also raising a flock of healthy chickens that have begun to provide eggs for the school.
Watertown Church Expands its Community Outreach

The Watertown church in Watertown, New York, expanded its community outreach from sponsoring a limited food pantry and preparing seasonal food boxes to operating a full-fledged soup kitchen. It all started with a desire to more effectively help the needy in the community. The intent was to reach people not only with physical food, but to offer spiritual food, as well.

The initial kick-off was well-advertised in the newspaper, and on radio and television. Businesses were contacted and flyers were distributed throughout the city. A television station interested in the program conducted two interviews. The free event continues to be promoted by two newspapers and on the church sign, and is strategically placed on bulletin boards. The results have been fantastic as the Lord has blessed both the givers and the receivers. Jean Golden, the coordinator, with her helpers, has successfully served a free hot meal on the second Sunday of every month since March 2011.

The Helping Hands dinners feature a different theme each month and offer nutritious, well-balanced meals accompanied by music. Sheryl Skinner, a registered dietician, encourages healthy eating using attractive three-dimensional displays. In July, when more than 70 meals were served, she arranged for free blood pressure checks by qualified personnel. As interest continues to grow, the Lord may open more doors of opportunity to reach out to help with the physical, spiritual, and social needs in the community.

—Margaret Ahles, church supporter, Watertown church

Joy of Troy Church VBS Ministers to Parents Too

Young people from the Joy of Troy church and the community of Troy, New York, came out to hear the story of Daniel and his experience in Babylon as a part of the summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience. Bill Moody and Tom Tilley played Daniel and Ashpenaz, respectively, sharing their stories and lessons of God’s love, protection, and faithfulness.

What made VBS even more amazing was that some of the children brought their parents. In addition to ministering to the young ones, the members of the church were also able to visit and pray with visitors who were dealing with various life challenges.

—Miguel Crespo, pastor, Joy of Troy church

The New York Conference invites you to the 2012 Women’s Fall Retreat

Forgiveness: Faith, Fulfillment, Freedom

October 19-21, 2012
Watson Homestead Center
Painted Post, New York

Keynote Speaker
Lynn Ortel
Communication, Women’s Ministries, and Family Ministries director, and Ministerial Spouses Association leader
Northern New England Conference

For information about the Women’s Retreat, contact Lynee Hamm, New York Conference Women’s Ministries Retreat coordinator, (315) 391-6263, or e-mail abcshopgirl@yahoo.com, or contact the New York Conference at (315) 469-6921.
Smyrna Temple Church Launches FAITH Program

Smyrna Temple church Health Ministries department in collaboration with New York University School of Medicine has launched FAITH (Faith-based Approaches in the Treatment of Hypertension). FAITH is a free blood pressure program open to church members and people in the community. High blood pressure is a common health concern that affects one in four people in New York City. African-Americans suffer from high blood pressure more frequently than other ethnic groups. The goal of the program is to help participants improve their health. Participants will learn practical ways of controlling high blood pressure by making healthy food selections—introducing more fruits, vegetables, and low-fat foods to their diet and reducing calories and salt intake. The program also offers educational sessions on a variety of health topics, including complimentary and alternative medicine, asthma, signs and symptoms of a stroke, just to name a few.

The goal of the FAITH program is to help participants improve their health.

Adventist Health Study-2 Researchers Visit Camp Meeting

The Northeastern Conference Camp Meeting at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York, was among the sites visited this year by researchers from Loma Linda University School of Public Health in Loma Linda, California, who conduct the Adventist Health Study-2. The researchers gave presentations about the latest scientific findings from the ongoing health study in which more than 96,000 church members from the U.S. and Canada are participating.

Health Tip

How to lower your blood pressure, prevent stroke and heart disease, and reduce the risk of cancer by striving toward a plant-based diet (if you are not there already):

- Engage in regular physical activity (4-5 days a week, 20-30 minutes daily).
- Eat two baby carrots every day.
- Eat garlic (fresh or garlic powder in foods) every day.
- Drink 5-8 glasses of water a day (one glass before sleep at night).
- Eat a handful of nuts (e.g., walnuts) per day.
- Eat beans.
- Eat whole grain bread.
- Drink soy, almond, rice, or other non-dairy milk.
The Flatbush church in Brooklyn, New York, boasts 15 Master Guides who provide outstanding service and leadership at various levels of church organization, including local prayer ministries coordinator, Pathfinder club director, assistant and associate director, assistant coordinator, and elder. The church held its first Master Guide Emphasis Day earlier in the year to highlight the ministry of the Master Guide program to the emerging and developing adults of the local church and to support the world church’s evangelistic thrust in New York City. Using the theme “Into All the World,” the Sabbath services gave emphasis to a cosmopolitan vision rooted in diversity and inclusivity.

While the Sabbath School lesson emphasized the designs of God as revealed in the heavenly sanctuary, the worship service sermon highlighted the sanctuary and its message of redemption to humankind. Using a technological approach, Leslie Gayle, the church’s first elder, demonstrated the sanctuary as an effective vehicle for communicating the gospel.

The AYS service examined the servant leadership of Rosa Banks, General Conference associate secretary, Carolyn Forrest, North American Division associate secretary, and Ella Simmons, General Conference vice president, in order to determine the recipient of the Esther Leadership Award. Named after the biblical Esther, the award recognizes an individual who demonstrates courage under adversity, charm, strategic planning, and resourcefulness. Ella Simmons was named the first recipient of the award.

The Master Guide ministry prepares Seventh-day Adventist Christians to mentor and coach emerging and developing adults. Gayle, the church’s first elder, demonstrated the sanctuary as an effective vehicle for communicating the gospel.

The Master Guide ministry prepares Seventh-day Adventist Christians to mentor and coach emerging and developing adults.
The Plainfield church closed on the sale of its Maple Street property in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, on August 8. The church, school building, and the property are now the responsibility of another group and that chapter in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist congregation in White River Junction, Vermont; West Lebanon, New Hampshire; and now Plainfield, New Hampshire, is now closed.

It all started when an e-mail from Andy Daum was received on November 10, 2010. The e-mail stated that there was a property in Plainfield going to auction on November 18, 2010, and there were pictures attached. The West Lebanon church building was in pretty bad shape and the school, Estabrook school, had already failed a state inspection and was moved to an acceptable location.

Randee Reynolds, Northern New England Conference secretary/treasurer, and Trudy Wright, conference superintendent of schools, had already looked at the building, walked the property, and indicated that it had real possibilities. It was a school building and the property included 72 acres.

Church members prayed and a previously scheduled Week of Prayer was held on November 15-19. Fortunately, a business meeting was already scheduled for November 15, 2010, and members voted to go to auction. They would not know until the auction date if the maximum bid of $450,000.00 that was authorized would be enough to win the property. The bank waived the fee to break a CD which would give them the needed deposit of $15,000.00 to go to auction. The conference treasurer, who also has knowledge and experience regarding real estate, went to the auction.

On the day of the auction, the three men designated to represent the West Lebanon congregation were there to bid. The owners of the property next to the Plainfield property were there to bid. The third bidder did not show. Eventually, the bid reached $450,000.00, but it wasn't West Lebanon's bid.

The group caucused to see how to proceed. Reynolds reminded them that the conference contributes a percentage to churches making capital improvements and then the group received an anonymous donation of $5,000.00. Also another neighbor to the property offered to buy one of the building lots included in the acreage, if necessary.

As the West Lebanon group prayed and discussed what to do, they were impressed to go forward with the bidding. When the bid reached $465,000.00, the other bidder deferred to the West Lebanon contingent and the church became the proud owners of a miracle building. On March 19, 2011, the first church service was held in Plainfield and when Mark Harris arrived to pastor the district in April, the building was dedicated to God and His work in the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire.

The members have a renewed vigor and energy as they continue to see and hear God’s leading in the new location.
The women at the Barre-Montpelier church in Barre, Vermont, celebrated the third annual Ladies Tea. Again, the dream of connecting people with people was fulfilled. Women from all over Vermont came to enjoy the experience of food and fellowship. Fifty-five women attended; 18 were visitors, friends, relatives, or coworkers from the community. What was first designed to build up and strengthen the women of the church has transformed into an evangelistic tool that touches the hearts of women and shows them the transforming beauty of the Lord.

The speaker this year was Lydia Bilbrey, who spoke on the subject, “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord.” She shared about her own life as she spoke of the differences between being a “Mary” and a “Martha,” and about how each of them reflected the beauty of the Lord. One of the lessons shared was that acts of service without love are only acts of service, but acts of service done in love will reflect the beauty of the Lord.

The tables for the event were set with china, tea pots and tea cups, and food. And, what tea would be complete without favors for each person to take home? It was the women’s turn to be served as the men of the church waited on each table and hand-washed and dried the dishes!

Planning for next year’s tea party has already begun. Jennifer Jill Schwirzer is scheduled to be the speaker on April 21, 2013.

—Brian Bilbrey, pastor, Barre-Montpelier and Randolph churches

InVerity is a new website ministry, started by the Northern New England Conference Prayer Ministries department. Our goal is to spread the message of God’s love, grace, and power through various mediums.

Over a hundred years ago Ellen White said that the message of justification by faith is the “third angel’s message in verity,” and that the message should go to every church and to the whole world. Providing free downloadable mp3 sermon audio, InVerity sets out to distribute the message of righteousness by faith far and wide. In addition, DVD and Bible study materials - including a new series of Bible study guides called “His Healing Love” - can be ordered from the website.

To visit the site, go to www.inverity.org

Join the Northern New England Conference Prayer Team

ON THE MORNING PRAYER LINE
6:00-7:00 A.M.

(712) 451-6100
Enter pin: 3687072
Please note: This call is NOT toll free.

Each morning people from around the country call the NNEC Prayer Ministries phone line to join their hearts together in prayer.

It’s like prayer meeting every morning.
What a great way to start your day!
The First Springfield church Adventist Youth Society held its 2012 Youth Week of Prayer on August 4-11. Each night a different youth, ranging between the ages of 13 to 24, presented a message of hope centered on the theme “What If You Give Christ Everything?”

God worked through the youth during the Week of Prayer. “We believe what the Bible says, that the youth will finish spreading the Three Angels Messages and, we, at the First Springfield church witnessed a taste of this. It was an exciting, blessed, and encouraging week, for which we thank God and give Him all the glory. He can use us for His work in amazing ways, if we allow Him,” says Melody Tapia, the AYS leader at First Springfield church.

The Week of Prayer included group discussions, preaching, and praying together. It was also a way for the youth to develop public speaking skills. Each night, the youth led out with the theme song “I’d Rather Have Jesus.” Throughout the week the youth speakers taught about the life of Peter. They examined how Peter’s life was transformed after meeting Jesus and his intimate walk with Him.

During the Week of Prayer, the church members came out to show their support, and the youth invited their non-Christian friends to attend. The Week of Prayer concluded with a sermon delivered on Sabbath morning by Melody Tapia. She gave a charge to the entire congregation and especially the youth, encouraging them to give their lives entirely to Christ.

New Bedford Church Holds First Vacation Bible School

The New Bedford church held its first Vacation Bible School (VBS) during the week of August 6-10. The church, located in New Bedford, Massachusetts, was host to 40 children, including children from the Portuguese and Spanish Adventist churches in the area, as well as a dozen non-Adventist children.

Volunteers worked hard for months to transform the church into a national park setting and to make the week an enjoyable time for the children. Having fun was secondary to the main focus of teaching the children about Jesus and how important He is in their lives.

The children spent a week learning about Jesus through stories, activities, games, crafts, music, and foods. Each day was focused on a theme that taught the children how they can experience true peace, love, and hope when Jesus is a part of their lives. At the end of the week, many of the children wanted to return for a second week. The volunteers are grateful for the success of the church’s first VBS. Next year the plan is to work in conjunction with the Portuguese church and have twice as many children attend.

—Mayra Quinones, communication secretary, First Springfield church

—Joy Freitas, VBS Director, New Bedford church
Missionary Impossible, Birth of a Dream

There I was sitting at the interview, five interviewers waiting to see what I would say. The question they asked was, “What do you see we need for our youth in our conference?” My answer? This conference needs a mission trip. The program is pretty strong in most other areas, but there is no outlet for the youth to serve beyond the conference and outside of the United States.

One month later I was hired and life began to move pretty quickly. After getting established, the answer still rang in my head like a bell: “Start a mission trip.” The idea was raised and a trip for leaders was planned. The destination they decided on was the Dominican Republic (DR), near La Romana, a suburb called Diez de Cumayasa.

It was clear from the pre-visit to the DR that the small community was in great need of help. Many people live very poorly and are in poor health because of malnutrition. It was obvious that God was calling for help for this community. Even the local Adventist church was ill-equipped to meet the needs of the community because of lack of space—a wooden building, 18 feet by 14 feet.

Excitement built among the team that was chosen to go and serve in the DR. The mission team would serve in various ways, including at the medical clinic, doing church construction, and conducting Vacation Bible School (VBS) and evangelistic meetings. On April 12, the team left for the DR. Each evening, team members returned for the night with stories about children learning to pray, someone’s high blood pressure being brought under control, and those attending sharing heartfelt appreciation for what they learned from the evangelistic meetings. One of the most touching stories was about 13-year-old Angelica Rodriguez, who helped a disabled boy in a wheelchair make it back and forth to the VBS. Rodriguez and the team were filled with joy and love for the people they served. All hardships were a pleasure because they found themselves at the center of God’s will.

On returning from the mission trip I was filled with a longing to go back. That’s when the idea came to me that teens from public and home school would benefit from serving God’s people and being His hands and feet. This was the birth of “Missionary Impossible!” This is a campaign to help stop the youth from leaving the church by offering teens an incredible experience in a place where God can use them for His work of saving people.

We are looking for a group of public and home school teens (ages 14-18) who desire to be used by God. Missionary Impossible will hold a trip to Haiti, where people are still suffering from the earthquake damage and need the help of caring Christians. If a team can be formed, it will leave for Petit Goave, Haiti, on April 12, 2013, and return on April 21. This time coincides with the public school spring break in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Between 15-30 youth can be accommodated on this trip. The cost is $1100 (youth) and $1300 (adult). Space is limited, so those interested should contact me by e-mailing josue4pr@gmail.com. The subject line in the e-mail should be titled Missionary Impossible!

Ministry opportunities on this trip include construction, medical, food pantry, VBS, evangelism, and other services. Parents, family, and friends, sponsor a young person to have a life-changing experience by going on Missionary Impossible!

—Josué Feliciano, youth ministries director, Southern New England Conference
Un petit entretien avec Jésus concernant la NY13

NY13 s’approche. Que faisons-nous? Sommes-nous seulement en train de planifier, de diffuser et d’enregistrer les vidéos? Il ya une vieille chanson qui va dans ce sens: “Un entretien avec Jésus, il fait bon, c’est si bon.” C’est ce que la prière est, juste de parler avec Jésus. Nous vivons dans une société complexe et un monde confus. Nous confrontons des décisions et épaulons des responsabilités qu’aucune génération n’a jamais eu à relever en cette ère de connaissance, de technologie, d’électronique, iPads, iPhones et des médias sociaux. La prière est un art perdu pour beaucoup de gens. Nous longeons le chemin de la vie en essayant de porter nos fardeaux seuls, en essayant de trouver par nous-mêmes le vrai chemin. Alors que Dieu attend pour que nous fassions appel à Lui, afin qu’Il puisse mettre toutes Ses ressources à notre disposition.

L’acte d’accusation le plus grave qui puisse être lancé contre les chrétiens d’aujourd’hui, c’est qu’ils ne prient pas assez.

Les grands hommes de la Bible étaient des hommes de prière. Ils estimaient avoir besoin d’une communion constante avec Dieu. Moïse pria tout le temps sur le chemin de la terre promise et Dieu l’a répondu.

Elie pria et Dieu a fermé les cieux et a retardé la pluie pendant plus de trois ans. Il pria de nouveau, et Dieu a envoyé la pluie pour rafraîchir la terre. David pria et chantait. Jean-Baptiste a prié. Pierre et Paul priaient, et Jésus restait en contact constant avec Dieu par la prière toute sa vie.


Nous le devons aux autres. La Bible nous dit de “prier les uns pour les autres.” Nous avons ressenti ces prières à de nombreuses reprises. Samuel était un homme de prière, il priait pour les péchés du peuple. Non seulement il s’était obligé de prier pour les autres, il a également estimé qu’il aurait péché contre Dieu s’il n’avait pas prié pour les autres.

Nous le devons à Dieu. Nous mangeons, buvons et utilisons les bénédictions de Dieu et nous ne levons jamais les yeux vers son visage pour dire: “Merci, Seigneur.” Nous devons remercer Dieu pour son merveilleux plan de salut. Nous avons été condamnés, nous étions complètement perdus, nous étions liés à l’enfer, mais dans sa miséricorde, Il nous a sauvés par grâce et est mort pour nous.


Léon Thomassian est le trésorier de la Conférence de l’Union Atlantique et le directeur des services de Dépôts.

English translation on page 3 of this issue.
Elías oró y Dios cerró los cielos para que no lloviera por más de tres años. Oró nuevamente y Dios envió la lluvia para que refrescará la tierra. David oraba y cantaba. Juan el Bautista oraba. Pedro y Pablo oraban y Jesús mismo se mantuvo en comunión constante con Dios por medio de una vida de oración.

Nos debemos a nosotros mismos la responsabilidad de orar. Dios ama a sus hijos y quiere darles sus bendiciones. Pero tenemos que pedir esas bendiciones, “Pedid y se os dará.”

Le debemos a otros la responsabilidad de orar. La Biblia nos dice que debemos “orar los unos por los otros.” Nosotros hemos sentido esas oraciones en muchas ocasiones. Samuel fue un hombre de oración; él oró por los pecados de su pueblo. El no solo sintió la obligación de orar por otros, también sintió que él estaría pecando contra Dios si no oraba por ellos.

Le debemos a Dios la responsabilidad de orar. Comemos, tomamos y usamos las bendiciones de Dios y nunca alzamos nuestros rostros a él para decirle, “Gracias Señor.” Debemos agradecer a Dios por su maravilloso plan de salvación. Estábamos condenados, sentenciados, rumbo al infierno, pero por su maravillosa gracia, él murió por nosotros y nos salvó.

Debemos orar para limpiar nuestros corazones. Debemos orar con corazones agradecidos. Debemos orar fervientemente. Debemos orar con expectativa. Debemos orar con corazones que busquen sabiduría. Debemos orar con pedidos definidos. Nuestro pedido en este tiempo debe ser que Dios nos ayude a representarlo correctamente y que él abra y suavice los corazones de la gente de la gran área metropolitana de Nueva York para que lo reciban y lo acepten como su Salvador personal mientras nosotros proclamamos el mensaje a las millones de personas en Nueva York durante el esfuerzo evangelístico NY13. Que el Señor derrame sus bendiciones sobre cada ciudad metropolitana, pueblo y villa alrededor del mundo.


Leon Thomassian es el tesorero y el director de servicios fideicomisos de la Unión del Atlántico. 

Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 3 of this issue.
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Sign up to receive the Gleaner FYI newsletter to stay up-to-date on news and information in between monthly issues of the Gleaner magazine: atlanticunion.org/gleaner-fyi-archive. To submit news stories for the newsletter, e-mail gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

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– Listener in Asia

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