To do today:
Reach out and help someone.
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Scatter, Water, and Wait

In John chapter 3, Jesus, speaking to Nicodemus, said that the Holy Spirit is like the wind—He is not One who can be controlled. We see the effect of the wind on the trees when the wind blows, but where it comes from or where it goes, we do not know.

Jesus was making an important point here. Lasting conversions come about as a result of the power of the Spirit, not by a slick-sounding, win-the-argument approach. How often have we won the argument but lost the battle as we endeavor to win others to Christ? Lasting, deep-down conversions are very rarely ever hasty. But you never have to worry about the waiting period between the scattering of your seeds of generosity and what is going to take place once the Holy Spirit begins to shape people’s hearts in a profound way. That’s God’s prerogative. All we need to do is to keep scattering the seeds and nurturing the plants—that is, living and teaching a lifestyle of change, generosity, and compassion. Sooner or later your crops will come in and lasting conversions to Christ will happen.

We all are aware of the devastating impact of Superstorm Sandy on the coastal regions of the state of New Jersey and in New York City. However, in the midst of the devastation, youth, students, young adults, and adults were given a golden opportunity to scatter the seeds of compassion to the communities hit hard by Sandy. And they did. Scores of youth and young adults reached out to the people of New York City with supplies and resources to help in a time of dire need. Surely, when the time comes this year to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the New York 2013 (NY13) initiative, we believe there are many who will positively respond to the call of Christ’s good news.

There’s a time for scattering seeds of compassion, such as what is being done in New York right now by our youth and through what has come to be known as the Compassion Movement. There is also a time to water the seeds that have been planted through Bible study and evangelistic meetings (more than 400 meeting sites are planned for 2013 in New York City).

But not all seeds germinate and grow fast. Different plants have different rates of growth. Therefore, we must wait. This is where the Holy Spirit makes its profound impact. We may be used as God’s instrument to do the scattering and watering, but God does the converting. Therefore, we must practice the art of waiting and praying for the harvest.

And surely the harvest will come, because God promised it (Revelation 14:15). Sometimes we just have to wait. As we go forward with the NY13 initiative this year, let us pray earnestly that the Holy Spirit will attend the scattering and watering of the Word, that hearts will be touched, and lives changed, as we await the soon coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in power and great glory.

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College, Inc., Board of Trustees.
Love found a Way

“God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.” These are the first two lines of the hymn by William Cowper (1731-1800). This certainly has many biblical, as well as present, examples. One such recent example is the story of Gerry Horn of Maine.

Gerry’s husband, Rolph, was hospitalized and then taken to a rehabilitation center because of failing health. While Rolph was in the rehab center, their home burned down and was a total loss. There was no insurance because of the age of their mobile home. Shortly afterward, Rolph died. Thieves and looters took Gerry’s vehicles and scrapped them for metal, as well as broke into their garage and camper where they were storing their belongings.

Gerry was a heartbroken widow and homeless. She soon began sleeping in the woods and hitchhiking to get where she needed to be as she sought help. When her situation came to the attention of the members of the Limington, Maine, and Conway, New Hampshire, Seventh-day Adventist churches, they decided to help. Volunteers came forward to donate their skills and time. The money came from what the churches had gathered from their Hope for Humanity (Ingathering) funds.

Tom Blakeney, a contractor and member of the Conway church, brought his crew to the burned-out site. That was the beginning of the restoration. In seeking other support Church members responded to Gerry Horn’s need and made sure she had a place to live.
Words . . . cannot do justice to the time, commitment, love, funding, sweat, and tears that went into this project.

For Gerry, I met a man I knew some 28 years ago. He is a Christian and an old schoolmate and friend of Gerry’s. He got involved. God connected the dots, and now we had a team in place to help Gerry.

The burned down mobile home was removed. The site was cleared and prepared as a new concrete slab was poured. The septic system was repaired, new electrical wires were put in place, and new plumbing installed. Prayerfully, we looked for a mobile home that met local codes. One was found, brought to the site, and is now Gerry’s new home.

Words, this side of the mission, cannot do justice to the time, commitment, love, funding, sweat, and tears that went into this project. Ellen G. White says that the secret of success is the result of divine guidance plus human effort. God certainly led, and, just as certainly, human effort was put forth. Success was ours, by God’s grace.

Now . . . something interesting, unknown to us, was the fact that Gerry and Rolph Horn had attended Mark and Teenie Finley’s evangelistic series just a few years ago in Portland, Maine. They received Bible studies afterward and they believed the biblical message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When the church members learned this, Gerry was invited to finish those Bible studies that she had started. Today, Gerry is a member of the Limington church and says she is looking forward to the soon return of Jesus and seeing her beloved Rolph once again.

Words cannot express the emotion and unfolding of events of how all this has come about. Certainly God moved, His wonders to perform. God moved the establishment of Ingathering, now Hope for Humanity; He moved people to donate to this worthy cause; He moved Tom Blakeney, our churches, friends, old acquaintances to all come together for this miracle. He moved Mark and Teenie Finley to come to Portland, sow seed, and trust the harvest with the Holy Spirit as others built on that foundation.

It was not our purpose to go to Gerry and make her a church member. Rather, it was our understanding that, “pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep him unspotted from the world”—James 1:27.

Robert Rice is the pastor of the Limington, Maine, Conway and Portsmouth, New Hampshire Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Who is My Neighbor?

The glory of heaven is in lifting up the fallen, comforting the distressed. And wherever Christ abides in human hearts, He will be revealed in the same way. Wherever it acts, the religion of Christ will bless. Wherever it works, there is brightness.

“We should anticipate the sorrows, the difficulties, the troubles of others. We should enter into the joys and cares of both high and low, rich and poor. ‘Freely ye have received,’ Christ says, ‘freely give.’ Matthew 10:8. All around us are poor, tried souls that need sympathizing words and helpful deeds. There are widows who need sympathy and assistance. There are orphans whom Christ has bid His followers receive as a trust from God. Too often these are passed by with neglect. . . . They have been bought with a price, and they are as precious in His sight as we are. They are members of God’s great household, and Christians as His stewards are responsible for them. ‘Their souls,’ He says, ‘will I require at thine hand’ ”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 386.
Purpose-driven Parenting

Children are a heritage of the Lord”—Psalm 127:3, NIV. He owns them because He created them and He redeemed them through His death on Calvary. They are His offspring, and through them He expects His legacy to continue. He has made us stewards of His heritage so that we can teach them and give them the necessary tools to grow in grace before God and before humanity.

As stewards, our responsibility is to nurture them, teach them to be creative, to care for others, to have moral courage, to think critically, to persevere, to speak well, to write well, to read well, home, church, and school is the key to molding the character of our children, awakening, and stimulating their God-given potential.

There is a cosmic battle being fought between good and evil. Satan wants to kidnap our children. We cannot allow this to happen. He uses all sorts of tricks (television sitcoms, cartoons, video games, smart phones, iPods, iPads, DVDs, and more) to see if he can lure them away from us. Those mediums are like food for the hungry. When children are absorbed in them, they find it very hard to tear themselves away, but become restless if they spend one hour in church listening to God’s Word.

We have a divine imperative to protect our children at all costs. And it may cost us more now to use the technology as teaching tools, rather than demonize them. We are to rule over our children, which connotes that we are to have authority over them. We cannot risk allowing them to be educated merely by the sitcoms, cartoons, video games, smart phones, iPods, iPads, or DVDs. Technology has good things that it can offer our children, but it is our responsibility to ensure that what they are viewing, listening to, or playing is sowing good seeds in their hearts and minds. Parenting with a purpose means that as parents, as a church, as teachers we are intentionally involving ourselves in the lives of our children.

Children, by nature, are positively “‘Christo-tropic’—they respond to God naturally, even as a growing bean sprout responds to light. Hence, God’s call to the tri-village of parents, pastors, and teachers: ‘Suffer the little children to come unto me’ (Mark 10:14). The children will come to God if the tri-village of caregivers, who are God’s representatives to them, entreat and don’t hinder them.”

The manual that was given by God is clear in its instructions on how to raise children, and how to integrate faith and learning into their education. We are told what they should learn at home, at church, and at school. “All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children”—Isaiah 54:13, NKJV. If we ensure that God’s Word is written in their hearts and minds, we will have fulfilled our mission and they will define the future and be our most significant legacy.

The interaction of the home, church, and school is the key to molding the character of our children, awakening, and stimulating their God-given potential.

and to work well with numbers—literacy and numeracy skills. “Parents, preachers, and teachers are called upon to be proactive, rather than reactive, as they partner together in developing spiritual champions for the kingdom of God on earth. . . . Good offense is often the best defense. And good defense is done by integrating faith and learning in the home, church, and school, which are the most important learning centers for children. In God’s plan of education that He established in the Garden of Eden, the home was both church and school; the school was both home and church; and the church was both home and school.”

The interaction of the

Marlene Alvarez is the Atlantic Union Conference assistant director for early childhood education and care and the certification registrar.

1 Peril and Promise: Adventist Education at the Crossroads, p. 30
2 Ibid., pp. 32, 33
First Hispanic Adventist Group Established in Bermuda

She came to our first official Hispanic worship service to thank God for His mighty protection when He saved her premature baby, born 10 weeks before the due date. Tears rolled from her eyes when she testified of how God answered her prayers and that she was so grateful for the support she received from our Hispanic ministry team.

October 6, 2012, was a historic day. On that day the first Hispanic worship service was held from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Warwick church, our supportive mother church. About 50 people currently attend the service, and many more have expressed an interest in joining. This is a significant step, especially considering the fact that there are only an estimated 500 to 1,000 Latinos in Bermuda.

It has been just more than four years since the Warwick church pastor, Ariel Manzueta, was asked to assist Ministerio Hermandad, a ministry targeting the Hispanic community in Bermuda. It is the conference’s vision to establish the first Spanish-speaking church on the island, not only within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but also among all the denominations on the island.

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Guests are coming literally from all over the island. There are two regular female visitors who take three buses to get to the services. They get their infants ready and begin looking for our target audience, Latino families. It has been tough work, but it is producing fruit.

There are Latinos receiving Bible studies all over the island and, in spite of their demanding work schedules, they are taking time to study God’s Word. When de la Cruz and Fermin don’t have Bible studies scheduled, they visit the ports and welcome anywhere from 2,000 to 4,000 cruise ship passengers with the statement, “Get ready to meet the Lord; Jesus is coming soon.” Most people smile and thank them. Only in heaven will we know the impact of that phrase.

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Several North American Division administrators took time from their busy schedules to visit New York on December 7-8, 2012, to get a firsthand view of the storm-damaged areas. They also had the opportunity to assess the overall response of the Adventist Community Services teams and other volunteers in what is an ongoing project.

Local leaders in the tour group included, from Greater New York, G. Earl Knight, president; Ruben Merino, ACS director; Rohann Wellington, communication director; and from Northeastern, Daniel Honoré, president; Jose Joseph, Haitian Ministries coordinator; and Pat Langley, Prayer Ministries director. Visiting from the North American Division were Dan Jackson, president, and his wife, Donna; Alex Bryant, executive secretary; Debra Brill, vice president; and Sung Kwon, Adventist Community Services national executive director, and his wife, Me.

They visited hard-hit sections of Far Rockaway, Queens, the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, the Greater New York Conference Bronx and Queens ACS warehouses, the Greater New York Academy, the Northeastern Conference, several churches, and were involved in getting some hands-on experience, as well.

On Sabbath the administrators visited the Manhattan church and closed the weekend tour with a promotion for the upcoming NY13 evangelistic meetings that will be held in the metro New York City area.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor
North American Division administrators and other church leaders visit the Greater New York Academy.

Church leaders visited students at the Greater New York Academy who were involved in helping with the hurricane relief efforts. On the front row, from left, are Alex Bryant, NAD executive secretary; Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president; G. Earl Knight, Greater New York president; Lillian Mitchell, Greater New York Academy principal; Dan Jackson, NAD president, and his wife, Donna; Debra Brill, NAD vice president; Sung Kwon, NAD ACS national director; Jose Joseph, Northeastern Conference Haitian Ministries coordinator; and Pat Langley, Northeastern Conference Prayer Ministries director.

A Reporter from the NY1 news station interviewed several of the church leaders in front of the Beulah church on Sabbath morning, December 8.

The conference and North American Division administrators get some hands-on experience moving supplies at the Bronx ACS warehouse.

Reviewing the relief plans for the Far Rockaway area of New York are, from left, G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president; Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president; Alex Bryant, North American Division executive secretary, not seen; Pat Langley, Northeastern Conference Prayer Ministries director; and Dan Jackson, North American Division president, forefront.
Less than a week after Hurricane Sandy battered the coast of Long Island, the Old Westbury church members were contacted by e-mail announcing that the church had no electricity. Members were informed that there would be church service for one hour. If they decided to attend, they were advised to dress warmly, since there was no heat. Tibur Suto decided to venture to church that day and retells his Sabbath experience. “When I arrived at the church, the building may have been very cold and dark, but everyone inside seemed to be lit with the warmth of gratitude for all the blessings received during and after the storm. We started service singing hymns, then Keith Acker, the church’s pastor, invited those present to share their experiences relative to the storm. Many amazing stories were told of how people were protected from harm and danger. Afterward, using a flashlight to read, the pastor shared passages from the Bible with the congregation. We continued to worship with more hymns, then Pastor Keith suggested we form small groups for prayer. As we were praying for those affected by the storm and about the power situation, suddenly the lights in the church went on and the heat started to work. noticed that many huge trees had toppled and were amazed that homes in the area still had no power. We offered to share warm food at the church or to help them charge their electronic devices so they can keep in touch with loved ones. Everyone we met was very glad to see someone willing to help them. “Later in the afternoon, we went to another neighborhood in Old Westbury and then Long Beach to share some hot chocolate and electricity with neighbors there. We also had some copies of the book The GREAT HOPE to hand out to those who stopped by. “It was a Sabbath full of blessings, an experience of instant [answer to] prayer, and one that was marked by a miracle.”

Old Westbury Members Experience a Miracle After the Storm

Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps in Action

AYES Corps (Adventist Youth Emergency Services) is a service of the Greater New York Conference Adventist Youth Ministries Department that works seamlessly with the conference’s Adventist Community Services (ACS) department. The AYES Corps was formed to plan, train, respond, and mitigate disasters. Within hours after the superstorm struck the coast of New York and New Jersey the teams went out doing assessments. They loaded the disaster response van and immediately visited two of the hard-hit areas distributing supplies consisting of buckets with cleaning kits, care packages, and blankets from the Adventist Community Services Bronx warehouse. Within days after the storm, the team was activated. The ACS Bronx warehouse was stocked and ready for distribution of supplies donated from Maryland, Michigan, and Ohio. Wearing their signature yellow shirts, members of the AYES Corps went to Staten Island, Brooklyn (Canarsie), Queens (Far Rockaway), Long Island, and Long Beach. Thousands of blankets, buckets with cleaning supplies, school supplies, and care packages were distributed. The AYES Corps and ACS worked collaboratively on the receipt, sorting, and distribution of supplies. Within the week of the aftermath of the storm, the Greater New York Conference administrators assisted in serving hot meals, and distributing blankets and care packages. The AYES Corps has moved from the response to the recovery stage, and has refocused and placed a long-term recovery plan into action. Along with all

Lisa Gonzalez, Greater New York Conference office secretary and AYES Corps member, left, Walter Harris, AYES Corps coordinator, center, and Sung Kwon, North American Division Adventist Community Services director, right, at the Greater New York Conference Bronx Warehouse before going to distribute cleaning supplies to the residents of Staten Island.
the other organizations, they are there for the long recovery, which means reconstruction of homes so families can move back in to live. As long as people continue to be affected by the aftermath of Sandy and other storms, AYES plans to be there to help in the healing, rebuilding, and recovery.

Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services Report

The news of Hurricane Sandy’s devastating effects spread through the media rapidly. Adventist Community Services and AYES Corps did not wait for the hurricane to happen; they planned as best as possible beforehand. Meetings were held days in advance of the hurricane and plans were put in place.

The pictures on the television and in the media gripped the hearts of the team. No one was completely prepared for what they saw. Waves as high as 12 feet covered the whole area. Roads were blocked by trees and debris. Houses barely stood on their foundations, personal belongings were strewn about on the sidewalk. People were desperate, their pleas simple, “We need help!”

The Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services (GNYC ACS) and AYES team, together with several groups, responded to the disaster. ACS collaborated with the New York State Office of Emergency Management and the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, that work with such teams as New York Cares and the American Red Cross. Adventist organizations also offered much-needed support. Team members from ADRA provided ACS with counsel on responding to this unprecedented occurrence.

Many volunteers from different locations joined GNYC ACS—some were employees at the GNYC office and others came all the way from California to help. The storm was an overwhelming challenge, yet an immense opportunity. It is amazing to witness and be a part of the work that is taking place in New York City.

ACS developed several plans to respond to this disaster. First, the immediate needs of the community were assessed and responded to. Generators were given out to those without power. Donations of blankets, food, and cleaning supplies were processed and organized at the ACS Bronx warehouse and then distributed in hard-hit areas.

Next, needs relating to the home were responded to. An initiative entitled “Yes, We Love NY,” was established in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Long Beach, and Far Rockaway. Teams of volunteers formed groups to meet three basic needs.

- The first need was physical. Teams helped repair the physical damage on homes.
- Emotional needs were also met. Pastors trained in crisis counseling were on call to offer emotional support to members of the community.
- Spiritual support was also offered by pastors and volunteers who shared the message of hope and prayed with and for those impacted by the storm.

Representatives of New York State have applauded the efforts of the team, and they were recognized in the field and supported by Governor Cuomo.

The objective is to help rebuild homes and communities, not just by going into homes, but by helping to clean up parks and to plant flowers. The GNYC ACS and AYES are working constantly to help people and arrange long-term support for them. Community members have told the volunteers that they have made a difference in their lives. Many people have supported in various ways, by volunteering, donating, or even by holding prayer sessions. Continue to remember the workers and volunteers as they move forward following this disaster.

—Ruben Merino, Adventist Community Services director, Greater New York Conference

Volunteers are needed. The AYES Corps and ACS DR teams in New York City would love to host individuals and teams who volunteer to serve their communities.

To volunteer, contact Walter Harris, AYES coordinator, at (646) 528-0901 or e-mail: lawalt33@aol.com.

—Walter Harris, coordinator, AYES Corps

Videos

Scan QR codes to watch videos about the disaster relief efforts, or visit vimeo.com/channels/gnyc.

Ruben Merino
ADRA Team
Resident
G. Earl Knight
NAD Team
Walter Harris
Students Construct Low Tunnels in New Community Garden

Imagine walking through the snow to harvest fresh greens and other vegetables from your garden in the middle of winter. That’s just what the students at Union Springs Academy (USA) are planning to do in the cold months ahead. Working with Rachna Vas, CEO of Quench & Nourish, a local non-profit organization committed to alleviating hunger through the use of innovative agriculture, students constructed low tunnels last fall in the new community garden located on the grounds of Union Springs Academy.

With grant money from the New York State initiative “Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play,” a community garden for Union Springs residents has been established on the campus, complete with a garden shed and tools.

Students Construct Low Tunnels in New Community Garden

In a demonstration attended by the community, Vas and Sabrina Hesford, Cayuga County Health Department grant coordinator, provided training on using low tunnels to extend the growing season through the cold winters in Central New York. For two weeks, Angela Peoples, USA science teacher, and Joya Garlock, USA agricultural manager, led students through a hands-on project of installing low tunnels.

Students in the earth science and biology classes worked in teams to calculate the amount of materials needed to create six 70-foot low tunnels in the community garden. They then set up the low tunnel frames, using inexpensive materials obtainable at most home improvement stores. After amending the soil with compost, the students planted shallots, garlic, varieties of lettuce and carrots, spinach, Swiss chard, and kale. Finally, the tunnels were covered with agricultural fabric and greenhouse plastic.

This project will have far-reaching real-life results. Photographs captured the process, which Vas is using to create a how-to manual to be shared with local communities and also with international organizations, including ADRA and the United Nations. Produce harvested from the low tunnels will be used in the academy cafeteria and donated to a local food pantry.

—Andrea Starr-Tagalog, development director, Union Springs Academy

Rachna Vas explains season extension gardening to community members.

Students lay out the rows in preparation for installing the low tunnels.

Union Springs Academy students, standing in the background, watch as Jason Yendell, Adrian Guzman, and Alex Guzman bend conduit to make hoop frames for the community garden.
USA Students Assist in Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

Ten Union Springs Academy students traveled to New York City to join other academy students from all over the Atlantic Union at Northeastern Academy for the Compassion and Leadership Mission trip on November 8-10, 2012. They were there to help victims of Hurricane Sandy by distributing water, food, clothing, and cleaning supplies to families suffering and without electricity in Far Rockaway and Staten Island.

More than 100 students from seven academies gathered for this outreach. The students expressed appreciation for Northeastern Academy’s hospitality and for providing sack lunches for the day trips to flood-ravaged areas where they assisted many families. They often received requests for batteries, flashlights, and garbage bags that were passed on to those who would continue to help them get these supplies. Adventist Community Services workers in bright yellow shirts were there too.

The students passed long lines of cars stretching for city blocks, all waiting to get gas. One extra long line of cars led directly to a parked gas truck where people were getting their gas from the driver! Some gas stations simply had signs that read “No Gas.” They passed a mountain of trash, and homes that had large piles of debris at their curb. Many homes were being completely gutted on the first floor.

At vespers, students shared testimonies about people crying with appreciation, of others eating their sandwiches immediately, and life-changing stories. The USA students had a chance to see and emulate Jesus’ example when He said, “but I am among you as he that serveth”—Luke 22:27.

—Karen Halbritter, ’64, sponsor and parent, Union Springs Academy

Sharing Joy at the Victorian Stroll

The Joy of Troy church participated in the thirtieth annual Victorian Stroll in Troy, New York. The Victorian Stroll transforms downtown Troy into a wintery wonderland of holiday family entertainment. More than 20,000 people attend every year and many dress in Victorian garb to celebrate the theme. At the geographic center of this year’s event, members of the Joy of Troy church sang songs about the first advent of Jesus Christ, handed out 100 children’s craft bags, more than 120 Joy of Troy cook books with scriptures and excerpts from Steps to Christ, and more than 150 postcards with the church’s calendar of events.

Many of the people passing by the Joy of Troy station joined them by singing, requesting certain songs, and even directing! Several people expressed their delight in receiving a free cook book with vegetarian recipes. Parents were quite surprised to learn that the craft bags were free. Although the church members were prepared to sing in cold, snowy weather, they were blessed with temperatures above 40 degrees.

—Rachel Moody, communication secretary, Joy of Troy church

Members from the Joy of Troy church participated in the annual Victorian Stroll in Troy, New York.
Central Vermont Academy Students Are Engaged in Community Activities

Many things have happened at Central Vermont Academy (CVA) during the first quarter of the 2012-2013 school year—from conference-wide events to small community service group events. The first project of the school year was a community service project at Miss Evelyn’s home. The home improvement class of nine students went to Miss Evelyn’s home to do some work around her home in Berlin, Vermont. They cleared out unwanted brush and opened up the area around a stone wall that hadn’t been enjoyed in years. Miss Evelyn seemed to be on the verge of tears as she looked at all the work that was done. She didn’t have to say “thank you,” because the look on her face was enough. She gave each of the students a hug and thanked them individually. The home improvement crew left with a sense of accomplishment and pride in all their work and the help that they had provided to one of the older residents in Vermont.

A few weeks later, some students attended the annual Outdoor School, sponsored by the Northern New England Conference. They were divided into several groups, ranging from building projects to clearing hiking trails. Several CVA students were assigned to work at the Nature Center Building project, under the direction of Mark Harris, a pastor. They worked on marking the spots to be cut out for the braces, making sure all the main posts were lined up and the correct distance apart, and putting all the pieces into place. After they finished work for the day, they had time to clean up, socialize with friends, and play some games. During the workshops in the evening the students were able to help lead out in group discussions. This was a good experience for many of the students, especially the seniors.

The final major event of the quarter was the junior/senior Boston history trip. The trip was postponed a week because of Hurricane Sandy and they had to return a little early because of a nor’easter moving up the coast; all this made it a very exciting trip! The students toured Plimoth Plantation, the Freedom Trail, Battleship Cove, Lexington, Concord, and various other historical sites. They toured the Mayflower II at the same time as a large group of elementary students. The experience caused them to think about how any person could spend months on a ship in the same room as 100 other people. The Pilgrims certainly did have an incredible desire to start a new life to be able to withstand those extreme conditions for so long. The group stayed at the Bayberry church in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and expressed their gratefulness for the church’s hospitality.

The students at Central Vermont Academy in Barre, Vermont, are keeping busy and, from several accounts, “loving every minute of it.” They appreciate those who support the school!

—Sydney Yendell, student, Central Vermont Academy

Physical Fitness Turns into Spiritual Fitness

It was in God’s providence that Sasha Lamour and I met. I prayed and asked the Lord for more Christian friends. My prayer was answered, just not in the way I thought it would be.

At the time when we met, Lamour was not a Seventh-day Adventist. He was a Christian though, one who loves the Lord and loves to study the Bible. He was also a boxer in Portland, Maine. We began to build a deep friendship as he taught me his workout routines (running miles every day) and as I taught him everything I know about the Bible.

When we started studying the Bible, Lamour expressed to me that he would never be a Seventh-day Adventist because he felt that we focus on “religion” more than the Bible. However, as we continued to study, there was a personal conviction and a powerful transformation in his life as he submitted to the truths found in the Bible. We studied such topics as “The Gospel and the Law,” “Salvation in Christ,” “The Three Angels’ Messages,” “The Remnant Church,” “The Mark of The Beast” and more. Lamour decided to give his life to Jesus through baptism and become a Seventh-day Adventist as the truth became plain.

It was a blessing to baptize my personal trainer, my best friend, and brother in Christ.

—Akeem Brett, Bible worker, Limington, Maine, and Portsmouth and Rochester, New Hampshire

From left are Mike Frechette, Akeem Brett, Bible worker; and Sasha Lamour on the day of his baptism.
You Can Park Here!

Since the purchase of the church building in Berlin, New Hampshire, in the 1970s, the problem of parking cars had always plagued the members of the Berlin church (also known as Mt. Forist). Cars were found encroaching on the sidewalks of the narrow street until “No Parking” signs appeared. The members then used a school parking lot about a block away until that property was sold to a private entity a few years ago.

In March 2012, the members learned that the property immediately adjacent to the church was to be auctioned by the town for back taxes. The minimum bid was quite high, and the small membership bravely put in a bid. They were successful in getting the lot and a house, which would provide a lot of space to park.

Last summer, Greg Carlson, the church’s pastor, and church members Ron Donato and Peter Schroer, scouted for bids for demolishing the building and developing a parking lot. Andre Caron, who retired from the city planning department, was hired by the church to oversee the project. He worked closely with the pastor and church board to successfully contract with an excavating company from Bethel, Maine, and a survey company to demolish the house and turn the property into a parking lot.

When the demolition date drew near, church members and friends worked feverishly to remove any construction items of value to reduce the debris cost. Then, on September 10, 2012, heavy equipment rolled onto First Avenue. It was startling and awesome to view the instant and utter removal of a house that no doubt took months to construct. Within two days the landscape around the church was new and beautiful, with a spacious parking area and handicap access to accommodate about 20 cars.

Each Sabbath now the question is, “How close to the door shall I park?” or “Where were all these cars before?”

Church members are praying, knowing that this blessing has come at the exact time when special effort is being made in the Berlin area by Bible worker Brian Schimp and his wife, Nina. Come and meet God at the Berlin Mt. Forist Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can park here!

—Wendy Williams, clerk, Berlin Mt. Forist church
Capital City’s Mission on its Doorstep: A Church Planting Project

Carl walked into the Capital City church in Albany, New York, on November 3, 2012, expecting the characteristic welcoming hugs that Capital City members extend to their visitors. Instead, he was shocked to find the church filled with foreigners. He double-checked the address. Sure enough, he’d gotten it right. Who were these people? Intrigued, he slipped into a pew and listened as a group of excited youngsters sang, “Jesus Loves the Little Ones Like Me” in a language he’d never heard before. That was followed by other musical numbers by a large group of youth. Finally, Carl sat through an entire sermon, of which he didn’t understand a single word. What was clear, though, was that it didn’t need to be said in English. Here was a group of people who were thrilled to be worshipping God in their own language on the Sabbath day.

Though located in the middle of Albany, an all-American city, the capital of New York, he could very well have been sitting in a village in Asia. The members wore traditional clothing, spoke a different language, had different customs, and conducted their service with a quiet, peaceful, timid joy that shined loud and clear. They couldn’t possibly have differed more from the spirited Sabbath sermons Carl was used to. However, there was one all-important factor that bridged the culture and language gap—the Sabbath.

Following the service, Carl discovered that those he worshipped with are refugees, resettled in Albany by the U.S. government. They are from refugee camps located in Thailand just across the border from Burma, their home country. Burma is made up of many tribes, the largest of which is the Karen Tribe. Prior to the Vietnam War, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary named Eric B. Hare spent many years witnessing in Burma. Today, many people live is the Capital City church. Often, Htoo quietly slipped into the back pew of this church during Saturday-night vespers. Not fluent in English, he often couldn’t follow what was being said, but that wasn’t why he was there. His purpose was to pray. He prayed that somehow, this church

would help his fellow refugees.

So when he later learned the Capital City church was moving to a new location, Htoo was convinced that his prayers had been answered.

There was much talk among the Capital City Adventist members about what should be done with their vacated church. The members had strong opinions and some excellent ideas. However, no one, not even David Cuke, Capital City’s senior pastor, was prepared for a humble appeal from a refugee pastor, urgently requesting the use of the church for Sabbath services.

It soon became apparent that God’s hand was at work, directing and guiding every step, when Adventist Southeast Asia Projects, a missionary organization, stepped forward with an offer to partner with Capital City church in support of the Karen refugee church-planting project. Capital City members have a history of reaching out to those less fortunate and recognized the refugees as a mission on their doorstep. They opened their hearts and put aside hesitations to welcome the refugees as their brothers and sisters in Christ.

The visitor, Carl, had no idea he had stumbled into the first Sabbath of the beginning of a church-planting project that the Capital City church has undertaken. He sat among 88 Karen Sabbathkeepers. With God’s blessings, if he visits again in a few months, that number is only expected to grow from there.

Carl was able to find an English-speaking American volunteer after church who drove him over to Capital City’s new location. Before he could walk through the door, he was engulfed in hugs and hearty handshakes. Yet there was something rewarding in having witnessed a people and culture so very different. Through the poverty, he could see the dignity. And a shared love for the Sabbath.

Capital City church members are moving forward with this church-planting venture and praying that God will continue to lead and guide in every step of this mission.

—Rochelle Williams, communication leader, Capital City church
“To neglect the body is to neglect the mind” is the adage of the monthly cooking class presented by the Willimantic church. Well advertised, the classes are open to the local congregation and the community in Willimantic, Connecticut. Classes began in August 2012, with a break during winter months, and will resume in the spring of 2013. One Sunday each month instructor Paula Hardy prepares raw and vegan dishes, demonstrating how to make healthy alternatives to familiar recipes using plant-based foods.

At each class Hardy shares the connection between Scripture and the principles of health, while linking how foods affect our health—including mind, body, and spirit. Such topics as the fiber content of foods, processed foods and hidden genetically-modified ingredients, the benefits of raw foods, refined sugar versus raw sugar, and how fruit, nuts, seeds, grains, and vegetables are excellent sources of protein, calcium, omega 3 fatty acids, and iron (just to name a few) are presented during class sessions along with handouts.

Recipes are shared so that the participants have the opportunity to try the dishes at home or pass them on to others. Tasty dishes, from roasts to desserts, are sampled during each class. In a thank-you note, Laurie and Dominic Yoia, community residents who attended the cooking class, wrote: “Dear Paula, thank you so much for doing your vegetarian cooking classes. Your food is absolutely delicious! And your recipes contain easy-to-find ingredients, which is very helpful. We have made all three recipes (at least once) and are eager to make them again. Who knew tofu could be so delicious? Thanks for your non-judgmental acceptance of us non-vegetarians. We may (or may not) get to being vegetarian or vegan some day. Life is a journey and we appreciate you accepting us where we are and helping us down the road to better health and nutrition with your fabulous food and recipes! Thanks also to assistant cook, head waiter, and all-around good guy Columbus.”

The November class theme was a Thanksgiving preview of healthy nutritious alternative dishes. Columbus Hardy, Paula Hardy’s husband and helper, shares the vision of the church’s ministry to educate people in the principles of health and nutrition. Items are raffled at each class. John Anthony Velasquez, a member of the Willimantic church, and Jonathan Greene, a member of the Waterbury church, won the raffles. Both men are well on their way to preparing healthy dishes!

This year, the Willimantic church will continue, by God’s grace, to plant seeds through the cooking class one member, one church, and one community at a time.

—Communication staff, Willimantic church

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**New Bedford Church Featured in Local Paper**

The New Bedford church and its pastor, Lloyd Hallock, were featured in the November 17, 2012, New Bedford Standard-Times in an article entitled, “Seventh-day Adventists Have Historic Ties to New Bedford.” In the article, Hallock discusses the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and how New Bedford is connected to the beginnings of the Adventist movement. Hallock, the pastor for the New Bedford Adventist Church, wrote: “Our [the Adventist Church’s] motivation is to win people to a relationship with Jesus that brings them strength and purpose. . . . I believe that a very personal God is very involved in our lives and very interested in what happens to us.”

To read the entire news article, visit the SouthCoast Today Web site at goo.gl/qbPzE.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor
Rapport des Services Communautaires Adventistes de la Conférence de Greater New York


De nombreux bénévoles de différents endroits rejoignaient GNYC ACS—certains étaient des employés de l’Office de GNYC et d’autres venaient de la Californie pour aider. La tempête a été un énorme défi, mais une opportunité immense. Il est étonnant de voir et de faire partie de l’œuvre qui se déroule à New York.

ACS a développé plusieurs plans pour répondre à cette catastrophe. Tout d’abord, les besoins immédiats de la communauté ont été évalués et satisfaits. Des générateurs ont été remis aux personnes dépourvues d’électricité. Des couvertures, de la nourriture et des fournitures de nettoyage ont été traitées et organisées à l’entrepôt ACS de Bronx puis distribuées dans les zones durement touchées.

Ensuite, les besoins liés à la maison ont été satisfaits. Une initiative intitulée “Yes, We Love NY” a été établie à Brooklyn, Staten Island, Long Beach, et Far Rockaway. Des équipes de bénévoles ont formé des groupes pour répondre à trois besoins fondamentaux:

- Le premier besoin était physique. Les équipes ont aidé à réparer les dégâts physiques sur les maisons.
- Les besoins émotionnels ont également été satisfaits. Les pasteurs formés comme conseillé en cas de crise étaient sur appel pour offrir un soutien émotionnel aux membres de la communauté.
- Le soutien spirituel a également été offert par les pasteurs et les bénévoles qui ont partagé le message d’espoir et prié avec et pour les personnes touchées par la tempête.

Les représentants de l’État de New York ont applaudi les efforts de l’équipe, et ils ont été reconnus dans le domaine et appuyés par le gouverneur Cuomo. L’objectif est d’aider à reconstruire les maisons et les communautés, et pas seulement en se rendant dans les maisons, mais aussi en aidant à nettoyer les parcs et planter des fleurs. ACS et AYES de GNYC s’efforcent à travailler constamment pour aider les gens et organiser du support à long terme pour eux. Les membres de la communauté ont déclaré que les bénévoles ont fait une différence dans leur vie. Beaucoup de gens ont aidé de diverses manières, en faisant du bénévolat, des dons, ou même en organisant des séances de prière. Souvenons-nous des travailleurs et les bénévoles tandis qu’ils vont de l’avant suite à cette catastrophe.

Ruben Merino, directeur des Services Communautaires Adventistes, de la Conférence de Greater New York

Traduction: Margareth Morisset

English translation on page 11 of this issue.
Primero Grupo Adventista Hispano Fundado En Bermuda

Ellas vinieron a nuestro primer servicio de adoración oficial hispano para agradecer a Dios por su protección poderosa cuando salvó a su bebé prematuro, que nació 10 semanas antes de la fecha de parto. Las lágrimas brotaron de sus ojos cuando ella testificó de cómo Dios respondió a sus oraciones y que ella estaba muy agradecida por el apoyo que recibió de nuestro equipo ministerial hispano.

El 6 de octubre del 2012 fue un día histórico. Ese día, el primer servicio de adoración hispano se llevó a cabo de 10:00-11:00 a.m. en la iglesia de Warwick, la iglesia madre con cuyo apoyo contamos. Cerca de 50 personas asisten actualmente al servicio, y muchos más han manifestado su interés en participar. Este es un paso importante, especialmente teniendo en cuenta el hecho de que sólo hay un estimado de 500 a 1,000 latinos en las Bermudas.

Han pasado poco más de cuatro años desde que al pastor de la iglesia de Warwick, Ariel Manzueta, se le pidió que ayudara al Ministerio Hermandad, un ministerio dirigido a la comunidad hispana en las Bermudas. Es la visión de la conferencia establecer la primera Iglesia hispana en la isla, no sólo dentro de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, sino también entre todas las denominaciones que existen en la isla.

Hay latinos recibiendo estudios bíblicos en toda la isla y, a pesar de sus exigentes horarios de trabajo, están tomando su tiempo para estudiar la Palabra de Dios. Cuando de la Cruz y Fermín no tienen estudios bíblicos programados, visitan los puertos y dan la bienvenida a 2000 a 4000 pasajeros de cruceros con la declaración: “¡Prepárate para recibir al Señor, Jesús viene pronto.” La mayoría de las personas sonríen y le agradecen. Sólo en el cielo sabremos el impacto de esa frase.

Los invitados vienen literalmente de toda la isla. Hay dos visitantes regulares femeninas que toman tres autobuses para llegar a los servicios. Preparan a sus niños y comienzan su viaje a las 8:45 am y llegan a la iglesia a las 9:45. Otros recogen a individuos en sus vehículos mientras viajan a la iglesia. Se trata de un esfuerzo colaborativo.

El equipo básico está compuesto principalmente por familias jóvenes de diferentes países de habla hispana. Continuamente dan lo mejor de sí para hacer que esta iglesia sea una realidad, y siguen adelante a pesar de los retos y obstáculos. “Ellos me inspiran a seguir hacia la meta,” dice Manzueta.

En cada servicio hay lágrimas y sorpresas. La gente que uno no esperaría que se nos une está asistiendo; es la obra del Espíritu Santo. Él es el que “añade a su iglesia.”

Sheila Holder, directora de comunicación, Bermuda Conference

Traducción: Rhodi Alers de Lopez

English translation available on page 7 of this issue
For Married & Engaged Couples

Southern New England Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
Family Ministries

February 22-24, 2013

Fire Proof: Built to Last

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Dr. Abraham Jules
Northeastern Conference
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Senior Pastor

Presenters
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(Includes Program & Meals)
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Late by Feb. 1, 2013: $195

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GeneRaL ConFeRenCe

a Call for Worldwide Prayer, January 9-19

Church members around the world will participate in the 10 Days of Prayer initiative (formerly called Operation Global Rain). The purpose in setting aside 10 days in January for prayer, is for church members to saturate every aspect of their lives in prayer as they start the year, so they can live and proclaim God’s last-day message of love and truth to the world (Revelation 14:6-12). For more information, visit www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND


Spring Prayer Retreat, May 23-26 at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine. The theme is “Growing Up Into Jesus” with co-presenters: Frank Fournier, Eden Valley Institute president and current ASI president, and John Fournier, Maritime Conference president. Registration details available soon at: www.nnceprayerministries.com or call (207) 314-7546.

The next Righteousness by Faith Rally will be hosted by the Plainfield, N.H., Adventist Church, Feb. 8-9. For more information, visit www.nnceprayerministries.com.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Did you know that Missionary Impossible is a yearly mission trip organized by the Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries Department to connect young people to the mission of the Adventist Church? The goal is that through this trip young people will clearly identify with the church’s mission and continue to contribute and serve once they return home. Missionary Impossible will go to Petit Goave, Haiti, April 12-21. Go to www.snecyouth.org for more information.

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western Standard Time

1 8 15 22

Bangor, ME 4:45 4:55 5:05 5:14
Portland, ME 4:53 5:03 5:12 5:22
Boston, MA 5:00 5:09 5:18 5:27
South Lancaster, MA 5:02 5:11 5:20 5:29
Pittsfield, MA 5:08 5:17 5:26 5:35
Hartford, CT 5:07 5:16 5:25 5:34
New York, NY 5:15 5:23 5:32 5:40
Albany, NY 5:08 5:17 5:26 5:35
Utica, NY 5:15 5:24 5:33 5:42
Syracuse, NY 5:18 5:28 5:37 5:46
Rochester, NY 5:24 5:33 5:43 5:52
Buffalo, NY 5:29 5:39 5:48 5:57
Hamilton, Bda 5:52 5:58 6:05 6:10

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Revival and Reformation 10-Days of Prayer, January 10-19.


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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

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

Classified and display ads appearing in the Atlantic Union Gleaner, January 2013

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Accountant for Accounts Payable

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Accountant for Accounts Payable and Payroll. Applicant should have at least an associate’s degree, prior experience in accounting desirable. Accuracy and attention to detail essential. Submit cover letter, with e-mail address, including a statement addressing the specific minimum qualifications. Include résumé, copies of transcripts, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu or to: Office of Human Resources, Atlantic Union College, P.O. Box 1000, South Lancaster, MA 01561-1000. (For detail, see www.auc.edu.)

Bible Worker

wanted to share the gospel in the North Adirondack region of New York State. Person or couple must have a passion for Christ and people, be self-motivated, a graduate of a school of evangelism, and love to experience the beauty of God’s creation. Salary and benefits are very competitive. Please call Pastor Greenwood at (269) 293-6473 for more information.

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Garden Grove Adventist Hospital
Seeks a general medicine intern for the 2013-2014 academic year. Must have at least 3-4 years of medical school training and be available to start next July. Please contact Dr. O’Connor (714-644-2280 ext. 220) or e-mail: recruitment@gardengrovehospital.org.

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February 27-March 2, 2013

Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church
88 Hanson Place • Brooklyn, New York

Concert: Saturday, March 2, 2013
Time: 7:00 p.m.

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Atlantic Union Conference
Office of Education
education@atlanticunion.org
(978) 368-8333 ext. 3020
www.atlantic-union.org/education

The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

Established January 1, 1902
Atlantic Union Conference
400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561
Phone (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948
Web site: www.atlantic-union.org

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Atlantic Union GLEANER, January 2013

at www.atlantic-union.org
2013 NAD YAHA Congress
North American Division
Young Adventist Haitians in America

New Vision, Same Mission

DATE
March 21-24, 2013

WHERE
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