Thousands Experience

“The Risen”

A journey through the life of Christ
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Cover: The cover photo depicting a scene from the play “The Risen” was taken by Rohann Wellington.
My Holiday Prayer List

“The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”—1 Peter 4:7-10, NASB.

The holiday season is once again on our doorsteps, and in just a few weeks, 2013 will be coming to a close. The sights, sounds, and activities of the season are emerging and many people are already making plans to spend time with family and friends.

In many respects, this year has not been without its challenges. Some of us have been challenged by life’s roller coaster ride, braving the steep peaks and low valleys. Some of us have experienced economic, financial, physical, and psychological challenges. But, at the time when the ride has come to an end, will we be able to say of our experience “Thus far the Lord has helped us” (1 Samuel 7:12, NASB)?

I firmly believe that prayer is powerful. So, I have decided to create a holiday prayer list and to invite you to join me in prayer throughout the rest of the year for the items on the list. You may have some items of your own that you would like to add as you pray. By all means, please do so.

For the remainder of the year, let us join in prayer for:

- People who have suffered great loss, leaving them without homes or their personal possessions
- Families who are mourning the loss of loved ones
- The men and women in the military who serve this country
- The more than 4,500 newly-baptized members of the Adventist family who were added as a result of the NY13 initiative in New York City
- Our church members to put self aside and become partners in nurturing each other and the new members
- Families suffering financial hardship
- First responders and others who join them to relieve suffering
- Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders as they grapple with the many challenges that are emerging
- All to be vigilant in sharing the good news of Christ’s return
- The Holy Spirit to impress upon us ways in which we can assist those in need
- For a growing personal relationship with God

This list might look similar to a list you are already working on. That’s great. Having you on board praying with me every day will make it special and more powerful.

As you visit with family and friends this holiday season, take your prayer list with you and pause for a moment with each other to pray. Whenever possible, reach out beyond the family circle and pray with someone else. On the remaining Sabbaths in 2013, share this prayer list at Sabbath School or during the worship service and have the members join you in prayer.

The joy of the holiday season will become more meaningful as we spend time together sharing lots of love and giving God thanks for answered prayers.

On behalf of the Atlantic Union Conference administrators, directors, and office staff, best wishes to you and your family during the holiday season and throughout the coming year, and may Christ receive all the glory, honor, and praise.

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.
Thousands Experience  
“The Risen” 
A journey through the life of Christ

More than 3,000 people packed the auditorium at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York, on September 14, to witness a historic play entitled, “The Risen.” The cast and crew of more than 300 volunteers felt that their mission of lifting up Jesus in a unique way on His holy Sabbath day was accomplished with this dramatic depiction of the life of Christ. 

During Sabbath School, worshipers were presented with an inspirational devotional message by the Greater New York Conference president, G. Earl Knight. The worship service time was then allotted to the conference’s Youth Ministries department for an unconventional Sabbath journey. Those who attended were able to be up close as the actors dramatized the life of Christ. The titles of each scene included: The Baptism; Blessing the Children, The Young Rich Ruler, The Adulteress, and The Blind Healed; Anointed at Bethany, Triumphant Entry—Marketplace, The Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Before Pilate, The Crucifixion, and The Resurrection.

Throng of people meandered around the transformed campgrounds through the various stations to experience each scene. Some people expressed joy at being a part of such a unique Sabbath program, while others were moved to tears by the powerful messages depicted in each dramatization.

This could be seen most at the crucifixion scene where Mary, played by Evelyn Serrano from the Central Dutchess company, approached Jesus on the cross after He was just crucified and she began to weep. Tears could be seen flowing from some of the faces of those in the audience, while some were even sobbing. Some people spontaneously showed their disgust at the Roman soldiers for what they did to Jesus.

Dawin Rodriguez, one of the photographers, speaking about the crucifixion scene, said he could feel the power of the imagery and emotions through his camera lens and that he had to look away at some point to prevent his tears from flowing.

Michelle Grant, a non-Adventist, said the play was mind-blowing and she was convicted in her heart when she saw the crucifixion scene with Jesus on the cross, played by Ricardo Braxtor from the Manhattan church. “This is actually amazing. I am not one to really be in church. However, this play brought a whole new meaning to me and gave me thoughts that
I really need to come back to Christ,” Grant said.

It was all about Jesus. The conference’s youth director, Andres Peralta, took some time to experience the play for himself and said, “The marketplace is something that really touched my heart. They were crying hosanna, hosanna, which really means ‘save us now.’ They were thinking about slavery, but Christ really came to save us on the cross, not from slavery but from sin.”

It took about eight months of production planning and scores of hours rehearsing to make the production happen. Pricilla Flores, production director, is one of the many key individuals who helped make this passion play a reality. She praised God for allowing His blessing upon their efforts. “I think it is an overwhelming feeling of the Holy Spirit coming down over you. The journey has challenged everyone’s spirituality to have a connection with Christ and to have a better understanding of the sacrifice,” Flores said.

Tears were quickly turned to moments of joy and praise with the dramatic and climactic ending when the camp’s main auditorium began to rumble, the stage began to shake, and the stone at the mouth of the tomb was rolled away and Jesus stepped out as the risen Savior.

Spontaneous moments of applause and praise erupted in the auditorium. What a joy it is to know we serve the risen Savior. ☩

Rohann D. Wellington is the communication director for the Greater New York Conference.


The cast and crew on stage in the auditorium at Camp Berkshire that served as the resurrection scene in the play “The Risen.”
It has been a year since Superstorm Sandy hit the New York City coastline packed with high waves and strong winds that resulted in displacement, destruction, and death. Disasters are followed by a surge in giving, volunteering, and charity. Everyone wants to help as long as the pictures remain on our television screens.

It happened with Sandy. People gave, volunteered, and helped. Adventist youth ministries worked side by side with Adventist Community Services in the New York area. I can still picture a sea of yellow shirts—our New York young adults wearing the Adventist Community Services shirt, all over Far Rockaway, New York. You could not miss them. I can picture Adventist academy students from across the Atlantic Union sharing warm soup, blankets, prayers, and hugs in the disaster zone.

I cannot forget a South Lancaster, Massachusetts, group of young adults showing up in New York with a bus filled with supplies and food that were distributed to those in need. The young adults totally covered in white were wearing masks, cleaning debris, and diligently cleaning homes. We have a generation of youth and young adults filled with compassion, who are always ready to be the heart, eyes, hands, and feet of Jesus in our communities.

When television crews leave the disaster area, so do the people, the donations, and the volunteers. It also happened with Sandy. Although some efforts have continued, it is no longer the same. Nevertheless, there is a group that has never left—Adventist youth and young adults who have embraced a lifestyle of compassion. They continue to show up and make a difference.

The Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps (AYES), the One Year in Mission Team, students on senior mission trips, have gone to the disaster zone. Youth and young adults have participated in the Compassion Rally, on the Greater New York mission trip, or the Northeastern Conference iServe Movement event. The Adventist youth and young adults compassion team has not forgotten and left. We have been there nonstop.

The North American Division Adventist Community Services leadership noticed the acts of compassion and the movement of young people. They called and offered more than $180,000.00 to continue the work in the areas affected by Sandy (New York and New Jersey). This enabled our Adventist youth ministries team to lead several initiatives that have benefited thousands of families.

The Back2School Compassion Bash in Far Rockaway and Coney Island touched the lives of thousands of children. For the second consecutive year, our Adventist academy students returned to New York for the Compassion and Leadership Mission and served hundreds of families, helping them to be better prepared for the winter and for future disasters by distributing Go Bag survival kits, blankets, beanies, gloves, and other items in Coney Island.

But it did not stop there. The Clinton Foundation invited our compassion team to participate in the Clinton Foundation Day of Action with Chelsea Clinton. Hundreds of Adventist youth and young adults, wearing compassion and Adventist Youth Ministries beanies, also volunteered for the New York City ING Marathon, making Adventist Youth Ministries one of the largest groups of volunteers for this world-renowned event.

And as if that was not enough, I just received a note from a group of young adults and adults who have met and made more compassion plans as the Christmas season approaches. Their list includes toy drives, Christmas meals for needy families, buying and distributing Bibles for small groups, visiting shelters for battered women, volunteering at animal shelters, blood drives, giving free hugs, offering prayer, painting murals, and doing a home makeover.

When Jesus bestows His rewards on the saved at His Second Coming, He will say to these young adults and others who had joined them, “For as much as you did it to these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.”

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

To view photos of Adventist youth and young adults showing compassion in the Sandy-affected areas, visit www.facebook.com/AtlanticUnionAdventistYouthMinistries.
Southampton Church Family Celebrates Family Fusion

The Southampton church congregation, along with Sydney Gibbons, their pastor, and the elders, celebrated with Ricky (Troy) Hill and his family on Sabbath, September 7. The entire family, including mother, Stacey; father, Ricky; son, Zhari; and daughter, Kristen; gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized that morning. From the youngest child to the parents, smiles were the order of the day as they were all in the baptismal pool together. Other family members, parents, and siblings came to join in celebrating a glorious and memorable day.

“The family is warm, affectionate, and always smiling,” Gibbons said. “They are excited about Sabbath School and the children love Pathfinders. Ricky Hill has accepted anything in the area of air conditioning as his ministry, contributing two units to the church—free of charge. When the refrigerator malfunctioned, he contributed the parts to repair it. He and his family are committed to the life of the church.”

The month of September officially ended the church’s summer evangelism emphasis. The church is thankful to God for the precious jewels garnered for His kingdom.

—Sheila Holder, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Three Females Graduate from St. David’s GED Program

Members of the St. David’s church, under the direction of Dora Baker, GED director and Bermuda Conference Adventist Community Services Federation leader, conducted the church’s first GED program. The members provided free babysitting services and evening meals in order to accommodate mothers desiring to complete their education. As a result of the support, three women graduated on July 4.

Lou Mathews, director of Educational Standards and Accountability for the Bermuda Department of Education and the founding editor-in-chief of the Journal of Urban Mathematics Education (JUME), gave the commencement address entitled, “The Difference the Soil Makes.”

Michael Nisbett, a statistician and registered nurse, shared practical advice before offering the prayer of consecration. “God always leads you in your passion,” Nisbett said. He advised graduates Nakisha J. T. Burgess, Shayna Dillas, and Nazelyn Sheeheed to set three to five goals, ask God for direction in reaching the goals, and volunteer so people see their potential. Finally, Nisbett said, “God always blesses you to bless others.”

Also participating in the commencement program were Jeffery Brown, Bermuda Conference president; Sheila Holder, Bermuda Conference superintendent of schools; Lynette Woods, Bermuda College representative; Michelle Raynor, GED consultant; D. Randolph Wilson, St. David’s church pastor, in addition to other church and community leaders, such as John Pitcher, elder; Calvin White, elder; and Eloise Panton, an Adventist who teaches in the public school system. Two budding musicians Chador Baker, a guitarist, and Kiara Pitcher, a vocalist, performed, as well.

Baker says, “The [educational] program began in March 2012 with a reading program and ran for about four months. The GED program began in September 2012 with an enrollment of eight students, three of whom graduated in July 2013.” Two teachers taught the classes: Eloise Panton taught English and Dawson Swan taught math, social studies, and science. The substitute teachers for the program were Dora Baker and Calvin White.

The GED program was not only a success in terms of education, but also in terms of further ministry. Wilson, Joan Page (a retired conference Bible Worker), and other members still visit, assist, and conduct Bible studies. In other words, the support for the graduates has not stopped.

—Iva Wilson, member, St. David’s church
Academy Compassion Leadership Mission Group Ministers in Coney Island

One hundred twenty-five Atlantic Union Conference students from seven academies arrived at Northeastern Academy in New York on Thursday, October 17, to offer mission service to the residents in Coney Island who are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

On Thursday evening and Friday morning students were instructed on how to provide information on the eight principles of health—nutrition, air, sunshine, exercise, rest, temperance, water, trust in God.

The worship sessions focused on leadership and compassion. One of the goals of this collaborative event between the Atlantic Union Education and Youth Ministries departments was to provide students with tools and necessary skills to replicate this event on their campus.

As leaders, we prepared to share information, techniques, skills, and experience with the students. However, we weren’t prepared for the lessons the students taught us. While we didn’t excitedly embrace the idea of sleeping bags rolled out on gym, classroom, and office floors, the students never said a mumbling word. Enthusiastically, they staked out their assigned locations, rolled out their sleeping bags as they prepared to make that “home” for three nights. Lesson 1: “For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”—Philippians 4:11.

Students from seven academies in the Atlantic Union are at the Coney Island church to offer mission service to the residents in Coney Island who are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Friday at noon the actual mission experience began. Students, armed with handouts, set out in a walking caravan to the subway station. They were instructed to greet people as they walked along the street, offer them a booklet, and, as the opportunity arose, pray with those who were willing to have prayer offered on their behalf. It was thrilling to see how conscientiously these young people engaged young and old, male and female, politely offering the booklets and inquiring whether they wanted to pray.

On the two-hour train ride to Coney Island, a student conversed with a mature woman she was seated beside and offered to pray for her. The woman was so impressed that when it was time for her to get off, she shared that she really wanted to stay on the train because she’d found a friend in this student. Lesson 2: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth”—Romans 1:16.

When the students finally arrived at the designated mission location, they readily assembled into booths to share the health applications they were
trained to administer. As Coney Island residents filed past each booth, students ably shared health facts and procedures to prolong their lives. Other students passed out items to protect from the cold winter months. Lesson 3: “I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat . . . Naked and ye clothed me”—Matthew 25:35-36.

Observing and listening to the students during this weekend mission experience, noting their ability, enthusiasm, and unsel-

ish devotion to helping improve the life of people they touched, it brought to mind Lesson 4: “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!”—Education, p. 271.

—Astrid Thomassian, education director, Atlantic Union Conference

To view photos of Adventist youth and young adults showing compassion in the Sandy-affected areas, visit www.facebook.com/AtlanticUnion AdventistYouth Ministries.

Large Adventist Contingent Assists at Marathon in New York City

More than 400 Adventists volunteered during the ING New York City Marathon, one of the world’s largest marathons, with 50,000-plus runners participating. Adventist Youth Ministries had the most volunteers in this year’s marathon on November 3.

Young adults, teens, and adults from the Greater New York (GNYC), Northeastern (NEC), Southern New England (SNEC), New Jersey (NJ), Allegheny East (AEC), and Pennsylvania conferences provided assistance and security at the starting line in Staten Island; water, Gatorade, and medical attention at the fluid stations through Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx; and blankets, security, and medical attention at the finish line in Manhattan.

Several of the volunteers at the ING New York City Marathon.

Marathon volunteers, David Merino, Mima Perez, and Ruben Merino, Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services director.

From left are Nydia Papan-Howard, volunteer; Juan Ramirez, who ran the marathon; and Aurora Sandoval, who led out in organizing the team of volunteers.

In addition, three Atlantic Union young adults—Cynthia Sandoval, Joovanny Fernandez, and Juan Ramirez—ran the marathon and completed the course. Prisciah Jepuoo, an Adventist young adult from Kenya, won first place for the women’s race.

Many of the volunteers expressed their excitement about belonging to a church that is not afraid to go out in the streets, mingle with thousands, and serve the city and its communi-

ties when needed, representing Jesus and the Adventist Church.

The organizing team that worked hard to make this happen includes Aurora Sandoval (GNYC), Emy Perez (NJ), Marisol Galarza and Mariuxi Cortazar (SNEC), Natsu Noble and Yerlina Almonte (NEC), Damion Bascombe, Luis Sanchez, and Ratompionioni Rasandi (GNYC), among others. The conference youth ministries directors in the New York City Metro area, Andres Peralta (GNYC), Roger Wade (NEC), Josue Feliciano (SNEC), as well as Ruben Merino, GNYC Adventist Community Services director, showed strong support and participated in the event.

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

To view photos of the Adventist Youth Ministries volunteers in action, visit compassion-now.org/ing- nyc-marathon-pics.
Administrators Update 3ABN Viewers on NY13 Initiative

Administrators from the Atlantic Union and the Greater New York, and Northeastern conferences were featured guests on 3ABN Today Live on October 24. The two-hour program focused on updates about the historic, yearlong NY13 evangelistic initiative in the metropolitan New York City area.

Hosted by Jim Gilley, 3ABN president, and C. A. Murray, 3ABN producer, the program allowed viewers to hear from the panelists about some of the challenges and victories of the NY13 initiative and how they felt NY13 affected their specific areas of leadership. The panelists included presidents Donald King, Atlantic Union; Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference; G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference; along with Rohann Wellington, NY13 communication team leader and Greater New York Conference communication director.

Throughout the program, the panelists spoke about the importance of churches and congregations staying the course, knowing that NY13 is not just for one year, but it should be a constant evangelistic thrust into the future.

As the first territory in the North American Division to hold such a broad spectrum of conventional and unconventional forms of evangelism, the presidents gave baptismal reports with numbers that reach into the thousands, with some churches still in the process of holding evangelistic meetings. At the time of this printing there were about 4,540 baptisms reported by the five conferences with thousands more studying the Bible truths presented.

King shared information on the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) and the June 2013 graduates who are the first students to complete the course. More students are currently enrolled in the fall semester program and preparation is underway for the spring semester.

Both Knight and Honoré talked about events that brought the conferences closer together as sister institutions. The vision to hold a joint camp meeting involving both conferences was monumental and historic. It was the first of its kind in New York City, with the attendance exceeding 12,000.

Wellington spoke of the continuing needs for evangelism. He shared information on the AUAM (Atlantic Union Adventist Media) production truck that was used in a number of the NY13 events to stream programs live on the Internet and uplink by satellite on Hope Channel and 3ABN. He spoke about the recent fire that damaged the truck’s engine, resulting in the need to replace the truck. He appealed for donors to assist with the purchase of a new truck.

Donald King expressed his thanks and appreciation to the leaders of the General Conference, North American Division, the local conference presidents, Hope Channel, and 3ABN for their support of this metro citywide initiative.

—JeNean Johnson, communication director, Northeastern Conference
South Bronx Youth on the March for Christ

Hundreds of teens and young adults participated in the South Bronx Adventist Youth Society’s first South Bronx Youth Rally. They marched against gang violence and drugs from the Grand Concourse church on 169th Street to the courthouse on 161st Street.

Master Guides Veronica Williams and Winsome Gooden led the group, marching to the beat of the drums played by the drum corps. While teens and adults distributed literature to the people in the community and other onlookers, the Pathfinders and Adventurers held up banners that read, “Say No to Drugs and Yes to Christ” and “Compassion: Show a Little Kindness.”

“It was nice to see that the young people came out and supported one another and marched through their community to let [people] know that they are here for them,” Othniel Stephens, the church’s AY leader, said.

Following the march, Chelston Lee, an elder, was the master of ceremony for the afternoon program. A combined praise team, comprised of members from different churches, began the program with a song service. During this time, Concourse church, and Lincoln M. Smith, pastor of the New Life church, took time to recognize the police officers of the 44th Precinct for their service to the South Bronx Adventist community. Officer Roger Bennett, who is involved in youth development in the community, accepted the award.

The program continued with musical selections by Terell Davy and The Blessed Movement, a choir of combined church members from Islip Long Island. They sang “The Lord Is My Shepherd” and their own rendition of “Bless the Lord (Son Of Man).”

The Huntington drama group from Long Island performed a play that left the congregation on the verge of tears. This play depicts how important God is whenever someone is going through something, and how the things of this world can easily distract Christians.

At the conclusion of the rally, the organizers, most of whom were youth, were invited on stage to be recognized. They sang the AY song and closed with prayer.

As people made their way through the doors, one could see the excitement on the faces of those who attended the event. The youth would like to have more outreach events such as this one that will help to unite the South Bronx community.

—Tiffany Wallace, AY department, Grand Concourse church

Greater New York Conference Receives Award for GNYC Adventist News Logo

Congratulations to the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) and Rohann Wellington, GNYC communication director, for winning Honorable Mention for the GNYC Adventist News logo at the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention in Salt Lake City. The logo was entered into the Category: Design and the Class: Project Design.

The GNYC Adventist News program launched in May 2013. It is a quarterly news program that features stories from around the Greater New York Conference, as well as special human interest/evangelistic highlights. Wellington was present at the event to accept the award on behalf of the Greater New York Conference.

—Editor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor

Rohann Wellington, center, accepts the Honorable Mention award. He is standing with George Johnson, North American Division communication director, left, and Kimberly Lusto Maran, SAC’s outgoing president.
Bradley Booth Named Superintendent of Schools for New York Conference

The New York Conference welcomes Bradley Booth as its new superintendent of schools. Booth officially began his work in the conference in early October, after returning from Thailand where he served as dean of education and psychology for three years.

Prior to his service in Thailand, Booth was at Atlantic Union College for nine years. He began his teaching career in a one-room school and has experience in Africa and Russia, as well. He has many interests, which include writing, sports, archaeology, and family reunions. He and his wife, Maribel, have three children, and enjoy working with One Voice youth ministry.

Booth’s vision for Adventist education in the New York Conference is an exciting one. Students in New York Conference schools are blessed to be in a program of excellence. This needs to be shared in their communities to let the public know that Jesus is the center of the curriculum. Booth’s goal is to provide students with opportunities to showcase Adventist education and witness for Jesus.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference

Adventist Students Become a Force for Good in their Community

Students at Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York, are establishing a reputation for their ability to make a difference in the lives of individuals and groups in their community. Last school year students, under the direction of teacher Mark Tamalea (Mr. T), organized an effort that resulted in a handmade Valentine’s card being delivered to every nursing home resident in Onondaga County—a total of about 2,850 cards.

Mr. T’s students also engaged in a fundraising campaign all school year, organized by parent and volunteer Beth Cady-Burghardt, that enabled them to make repairs on a Syracuse home and yard in need. The local television station recognized both events on the evening news.

This year Mr. T, in his new role as principal, took teachers on a field trip before school started, where they sought out a homeless individual whom they could bless with new clothes, a hot meal, a night in a hotel where he could clean up and sleep comfortably, and a haircut. As God would have it, the individual whom they met served as a leader among the homeless population and may be able to work with students to create connections that will have an even greater impact. Students are researching the causes of homelessness and the needs of homeless people, and efforts to start a class business to provide for some of these needs are underway in the grades 3 to 5 classroom.

Jalen Tamalea created a video that was posted on Youtube of the teachers’ field trip. It was seen by North American Division organizers of the Just Claim It Prayer Congress to be held in Miami, February 19-23, 2014.

As a result, with financial support from James Black, North American Division Youth Ministries director; José Cortés, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director; Angel Rodriguez, New York Conference president; Florencio Zabala, New York Conference secretary-treasurer; Mark Tamalea; Beth Cady-Burghardt, Parkview freshman Eden Strachan, and Union Springs Academy sophomores Annelise Burghardt and Jalen Tamalea traveled to Miami so they could begin a process of coaching other groups to do similar outreach in connection with Just Claim It.

The team also presented the Sabbath School program at the Bethany church, and assisted Hubert Cisneros, Mid-America Union Youth Ministries director, during the Sabbath afternoon training seminar for local church youth leaders.

—Kim Kaiser, communication director, New York Conference
Juniors Participate in Heritage Tour Despite Government Shutdown

Despite the government shutdown and unseasonably warm temperatures, the class of 2015 had the opportunity to explore and enjoy the nation’s capital during Union Springs Academy’s annual Junior Heritage Tour.

Led by history teacher Timothy Raymond and Andrea Start-Tagalog, junior class sponsor, the group of 16 students arrived in Washington, D.C., on September 30, the eve of the federal shutdown. The group made an evening trip to the city to view the mall and the memorials, a beautiful sight and a fortunate opportunity, because by the next morning, those same memorials were no longer accessible.

Traditionally, the junior class visits the museums along the mall, including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Holocaust Museum, and Museum of the American Indian. However, with the help of a parent back home in New York, an AP reporter, and a fellow sightseer, the students found interesting and informative alternatives to the landmarks usually visited during the trip.

The group obtained passes to the Senate Gallery, where they listened to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid make an appeal for a speedy resolution to the shutdown. The junior class also visited the exhibits at the Supreme Court and sat in the courtroom during a presentation given by a docent.

With the federally-funded museums no longer an option, the group instead visited the Art Museum of the Americas, Brookside Gardens, and the Black History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.

Of course, no visit to D.C. would be complete without a stop at the White House, where the members of the class lingered in hope of catching a glimpse of the First Family.

On the final day of the tour, the students toured the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s General Conference headquarters, peeking in on the Hope Channel studios, viewing the fine collection of cultural artifacts from around the world in the president’s office, and listening to a fascinating recount of Ellen White in vision by an archivist at the Ellen White Estate.

The juniors then enjoyed lunch at Washington Adventist University, followed by a short tour of the campus. The group was unaware of tragic events then unfolding in downtown D.C., but praise God for His leading and protection during the trip.

—Development and alumni relations office, Union Springs Academy

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Kerr’s Kenya Experience

Fitzgerald Kerr, Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services director, traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, to speak and participate at three different camp meetings from August 8 to August 31. He attended the camp meetings at Kiumbu in the South Kenya Conference, then to Migosi and completed the journey in Kisumu City in the Central Nyanza Field.

Approximately 200 to 1,500 people attended each camp meeting weekly, with numbers even higher on Sabbath. The daily schedule included devotion at 7:30 a.m., then two worship services at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., with workshops and children’s programs taking place in between. Seminars were taught: on stewardship, women’s ministries, prophecy, and church doctrines. The Adventist Book Center is promoted widely and those attending camp meeting are encouraged to purchase books, food, and other church resources.

Kerr, impressed by the level of commitment and faith of the church members, says, “People take responsibility for each other seriously.” Baptism is an integral part of the week of camp meeting. They make sure they feed every person who is on the ground. There is discipline on the grounds. No one is walking around, and, even if they cannot get inside the seated area, people will stand close by or sit on blankets or homemade benches to listen and be a part of the service. That is where they have worship and they have no complaints.”

One pastor whom Kerr met while there had 13 churches alone, and his wife also had 13 churches in an entirely different district. Between the two of them, they are responsible for 26 churches, all in different areas and with no modern form of transportation to take them to any of the locations. Yet, they are working for the Lord and serving Him faithfully.

Kerr, who always has a desire to fulfill the basic needs of others, is hoping to do that for the pastors in Kenya. He says he would like to send a motorbike ($700 U.S.) to each pastoral district and build church buildings ($5,000 U.S.) for congregations in need. Expenses are covered by sugarcane, or anything they have. An auction is held on the last Friday of camp meeting and the proceeds go toward camp meeting expenses. As each offering is brought, the individual or family that gives of what they have, receives prayer.

Kerr says that anyone who is able to travel to Kenya will be forever changed, because they will see life from a completely different perspective. Kerr enjoys going, because he realizes how significantly blessed we are. He says that his trips there have been an asset to his spiritual growth and development. “They [Kenyans] take their faith, Christianity, and relationship with God seriously. It is not just what they do, but it is who they are,“ Kerr says.

As told to Jeanne Johnson by Fitzgerald Kerr, Northeastern Conference

Baptism is an integral part of the week of camp meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

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March 15, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
Northern Conference Honors Administrators, Pastors, and Directors

Traditionally on the Seventh-day Adventist calendar, the month of October has been designated Pastors Appreciation Month. A time when congregations salute, support, and celebrate their pastors. This was no different at the Northeastern Conference office.

Ainsworth Joseph, Northeastern Conference ministerial director, wanted to do something special for the administrators and pastors who work in the conference headquarters. Inspired to go the extra mile, he wanted to extend the appreciation to the directors, as well, by hosting an appreciation brunch on October 29.

The function was complete with gifts, special music, and a meal. The program was led by Janet Denham, who served as the emcee. Under Joseph’s direction, along with team members Junia Boutros, Dawn Levy, and Ligia Holmes, the appreciation brunch was a success and plans have already been made to make it an annual event.

—Jean Johnson, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Students Presented with Samsung Galaxy Tablets

Friday, September 21, 2013 marked the beginning of a new era in the life of Northeastern Academy’s Brooklyn campus, when Samsung Galaxy Tablets were formally presented to student representatives of grades 9-12.

High school students and their teachers filed into the school’s auditorium and sat quietly. The middle school students were also invited to this special commencement of chapel sessions for the 2013-2014 school year. Soon the air was filled with music as students led out in the worship. Then came an engaging, inspiring sermon from Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president, in which he challenged students to emulate the biblical role model, Joseph.

However, the uniqueness of the day was evinced not only by the presidential address, and the presence of the school board chair, Baldwin Barnes; the Elim church pastor, Cameron Bowen; the newly appointed principal of Northeastern Academy’s main campus, Loris Laborde, but moreover, by the thrill and expectation that pervaded the hearts of the administration, faculty, and staff. The principal, Ivanhoe Douglas, was about to see the realization of his dream to take the academy “in a different direction” and to lift it to a higher level of technological functioning.

After the Samsung Galaxy Tablets were formally presented, a prayer of consecration was offered by Barnes, who dedicated the tablets for noble and academic use. The students were bursting with enthusiasm, joy, and the shared vision of the principal and faculty. Officially, physical textbooks became a historic relic, and electronic textbooks became the new norm at Northeastern Academy’s Brooklyn campus.

—Eudonia Phillips, grade 12 homeroom teacher, Northeastern Academy’s Brooklyn campus
Four Young People Establish “Mission: New England”

The South Newbury church welcomed a dedicated group of Seventh-day Adventist young people on the third Sabbath of August. Kaitlyn Warman, Madison Suekert, Amy Cosgrove, and Max Suekert delivered messages of conviction and truth for the church service that inspired many.

The young people had attended Youth For Jesus in Orlando, Florida, along with about 40 other teenagers, during the month of July and part of August. During this five-week program, they gave Bible studies, took part in evangelism through door-to-door outreach and community service, and exercised Christian leadership in Florida Conference churches by serving through music, preparing health talks, giving evangelistic meetings, and more. Inspired and convicted that Christ’s coming is near, these four young people are seeking to serve in the New England area and beyond.

Kaitlyn Warman, a member of the Newport church in Vermont, began by presenting a slideshow of photos from Youth For Jesus. She highlighted important events and shared an experience in which she felt a burden on her heart to pray for a particular man, watched the Holy Spirit convict his heart, and then saw him get baptized.

Sixteen-year-old Madison Suekert, a member of the Barre church in Vermont, followed with a testimony of her Youth For Jesus experience, where she rededicated her life to pursuing God’s will above any of her own. “As the weeks went on my faith grew, my relationship with God continued to grow, and my give up, and sacrifice their time, money, energy, and lives for Jesus Christ. Are we really living our lives as for Him in order for the gospel to be shared so that Jesus can come again soon. Everyone present in the church responded by rising from the pews.

Kaitlyn, Madison, Amy, and Max have combined their efforts to become a youth-based ministry known as “Mission: New England.” Together, they desire to rekindle the flames of truth and evangelism that first began in this area more than a 100 years ago. Through providing uplifting music and delivering truth-filled messages to people of all denominations, it is their prayer that others will be drawn to the true source of strength and peace.

—Ariagal Cosgrove, member, South Newbury church

What’s Happening in Your Church?

We are looking for stories about how your church is impacting your community, how youth are involved in your church and the community, and other inspiring stories. E-mail articles with photos attached as separate files to the Northern New England Conference communication director. Be sure and include a caption with each photo.

For information on writing articles, visit atlantic-union.org/writing-guidelines. All articles must be submitted by the communication director or pastor of the church.

Bob Cundiff
Communication Director
Northern New England Conference
E-mail: bcundiff@nnec.org
Seriously: What Are You Afraid Of?

I have been serving the members of the Northern New England Conference in the position of trust services director for almost a year. These months have been wonderful—full of growth and fellowship and concrete examples of God’s love and graciousness. I have learned so much. But I must admit that some of what I have learned has left me a bit flummoxed.

For instance, I learned that 80 percent of people die without having a will in place, generally causing some level of confusion and uncertainty as well as legal and financial distress for those they leave behind. Eighty percent! Why do we do this? We do it because we are scared to address the subject of our death and what will happen after.

There are several problems with this. Let’s start with the logical problem. We know from the Bible of two people who went to heaven without dying: Enoch and Elijah. That means that all of the billions and billions of other people who have lived since then have either died or, for the living, will die, if Christ does not come first. That means we have a 99.99999999999 percent chance of dying, based on past history. That seems like an event of high enough probability that we should plan for. Certainly, if we take a coat or umbrella with us when there is only a 50 percent chance of rain, we should prepare for our passing when there is a much, much greater chance.

The second problem is the fear itself. Apparently, we are not that afraid of death, because Jesus said death is like sleep (John 11:11-14), and we go to sleep every night. This means that if we are afraid, we must be afraid of what happens after Christ comes and we are raised from this sleep. But, again, this is illogical, since what happens to us after Christ comes will be a result of how we live our lives and whether or not we claim Christ as our Savior. If we were really worried about death, we would spend our time on earth working on our relationship with our Savior, and one eventual result of doing that is that we would stop worrying about things like dying.

So, seriously: What are you worried about? And, if not preparing a will causes your family such pain and inconvenience, why haven’t you taken care of this responsibility before this?

Now comes the good news: The trust services ministry exists to help you study and seek out the will of the Lord in preparing your will. We also help you to better understand the process and help you to organize all your information, so that when you visit a lawyer you will know exactly what you want and all your information will be at your fingertips. We make the process Christ-centered. And that makes it un-scary.

—Scott Christiansen, trust services director, Northern New England Conference
You are an answer to my prayer!” Changing a tire was not first on the list of planned activities for the South Lancaster Academy (SLA) Mission Trip to Holbrook Indian School in Arizona. Yet, Sabbath afternoon after visiting the Grand Canyon and Four Corners, that is exactly what they were doing. The lady they found stranded had a blowout, shredded front tire. The car was new to her. The road was a two-lane, busy, desert road. There was no cell phone service. The students were there to help—an answer to someone’s prayer! What a super way to start an SLA mission trip!

Fourteen academy students and four chaperones participated in the fall mission trip to Navajo country, Arizona. Holbrook Indian school is a boarding school for students in grades 1 to 12. They were housed in “mission” accommodations, ate at the school cafeteria, and helped to renovate the education building.

Student groups installed insulation, plastic lining, wallboard, and participated in mudding, taping, and sanding the walls and ceilings. Students practiced their math skills while learning to measure and cut the wallboard for both walls and ceilings. The group worked hard and there were very few complaints at an early bedtime.

In the evening SLA students led out in the dormitory worship. Students told or acted out stories, but singing was the favorite activity, especially action songs. Holbrook students joined the SLA students on the stage leading out. The students in the audience would stand up quickly and do all of the motions! “I Like Bananas” and “Making Melodies” were often requested songs.

Following lunch on Wednesday the vice principal, Jovannah, told her testimony. Jovannah, a Lakota Sioux, first met Jesus at Holbrook. Coming from a very difficult family life, she shared her struggles growing up, both on and off of the reservation. Two years ago Jovannah graduated from Union College and returned to Holbrook, first as dean of girls, and now as vice principal. Her open candor gave the SLA students a glimpse into the lives of many of the Holbrook students.

Whether playing basketball together, doing chores together, or sitting and chatting, the students left a piece of their hearts in Arizona. The group prays that their service will provide many new opportunities to share Jesus, both in Arizona and New England.

missions are an integral part of the SLA school program. For more information about upcoming SLA mission trips, visit www.slabrowning.org.

—Jamie Daum, treasurer, South Lancaster Academy
A Call for Worldwide Prayer
January 8-18, 2014


Congregations of all sizes, small groups, and individuals are encouraged to sign up for the upcoming 10 Days of Prayer 2014, by going to www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org. There, one can download guidelines for leaders, daily theme sheets, promotional materials, an e-book (Praying for Rain), and post requests or praises on Community Comments.

The prayer guidelines enable the leader to easily walk a group through an hour of praying. The guidelines also contain a section of prayer requests that reflect personal needs, as well as the corporate needs of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The 10 Days of Prayer is a time for individuals to saturate every aspect of their lives in prayer as they start the new year. It will help fit them to proclaim God’s last-day message of love and truth to the world (Revelation 14:6-12). If a person or group is unable to meet during the designated days, choose an alternate 10 days and still participate in the blessing.

Hope Channel and the General Conference Ministerial Association will once again partner to produce nightly live broadcasts of the program, Let’s Pray.

God wants to pour out His Spirit on us now, just as He did for His disciples during Pentecost. Sign up today at www.TenDaysofPrayer.org, invite friends to the Facebook event at 10DaysOfPrayer2014, and follow it on Twitter at #10DaysOfPrayer2014.

—Jackie O. Smith, communication manager, General Conference Ministerial Association

Resources

North American Division Executive Committee Votes to Receive Report from Theology of Ordination Study Committee

On November 4, the North American Division’s (NAD) Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC), chaired by Gordon Betz, Southern Adventist University president, presented an extensive report to the NAD executive committee that resulted from work they began in May 2012.

The NAD TOSC was constructed in response to the General Conference’s request for all divisions to put in place a committee to study the theology of ordination and its implications. “As we looked to staff this committee, we sought for balance and different perspectives that will represent all viewpoints of the division,” G. Alexander Bryant, NAD executive secretary, said.

The NAD’s TOSC recommended to the NAD executive committee: “That we receive the Biblical study of ordination prepared by the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee and affirm the conclusion that all people, men and women, may receive ordination as an affirmation of the call of God, and that the North American Division support the authorization of each division to consider, through prayer and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, its most appropriate approach to the ordination of women to gospel ministry.”

The vote was recorded as follows: 182 people voted yes, 31 people voted no, 3 people abstained from voting.

The NAD TOSC report, along with the reports of the other divisions, will be given to the General Conference’s Theology of Ordination Committee, and a combined report will be presented at the 2014 Annual Council in preparation for the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

The full report, and other information, can be found at www.nadordination.com.

New NAD Resource: MyWayToJesus.com

The North American Division Office of Communication has released a new resource they hope will reach those who are seeking Christ by means of the Internet. The Web site MyWayToJesus.com includes links to Bible study resources, the church’s fundamental beliefs, a place to request prayer, and more. It also includes a link for those searching for a nearby church.

Also on the MyWayToJesus.com Web site is “Did You Know,” a series of 90-second videos of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs. The videos are also being used as commercial spots on Hope Channel, on the new General Conference Web site, and will be made available to churches to use free of charge through AdventSource (adventsource.org).
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### Eastern Standard Time

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATLANTIC UNION**


**GREATERT NEW YORK**


**NEW YORK**

Union Springs Academy Campus Renovation Week, Mar. 16-21, 2014. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed during our first annual campus-wide renovation event! Bring your skills, tools, and a servant’s heart while joining alumni, church members, and friends of the academy as we repair bathrooms, flooring, wall surfaces, and other areas to create a more functional and beautiful campus for our students. Lodging and meals will be provided, and the week will include daily worship services. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers with construction, cleaning, or food preparation skills! For more information about the event and to register as a volunteer, visit the academy Web site at www.unionspringsacademy.org.

### OBITUARY SUBMISSION

Obituaries are posted free of charge for members of the Atlantic Union. To submit an obituary, visit www.atlantic-union.org/obituaries and complete the obituary form online or e-mail the complete obituary to gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration of Adventists in Mesa Arizona

The weekend of Mar. 1, 2014 hosted by Mesa Palms Adventist Church. Former members, pastors, and friends invited to celebrate with us. King Herald’s concert Sabbath afternoon at 5:00 p.m. Information on special hotel rates, call (480) 985-3140; Facebook: Mesa Palms SDA Church; Web site: mesapalmschurc.com.


### OUT-OF-UNION

### Atlantic Union Conference

**2014 BAND & SCIENCE CLINIC**

February 26 to March 1, 2014

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Concert: Saturday, March 1, 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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IF YOU WERE A FAN OF SAM CAMPBELL’S NATURE BOOKS, you’ll be glad to know that his last and only narrated film, “Come to the North Country,” is now available at your local ABC bookstores or at samcampbell.com. This film is a beautiful invitation to come out into nature.


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Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries

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