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omeone has said: “Faith is not faith until it’s everything that you’re holding on to.” When Jesus Christ is the entire focus of your life, He will be everything that you’re holding on to.

Philippians 4:6 says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our requests be known to God.” Therefore, as Christians, we have no cause for anxiety, fear, or uncertainty when our faith is grounded in Christ.

It is important that we give God praise and thanksgiving for everything every day. *Do not expect more if you are not thankful for what you have.* It is by faith that we can believe without any doubts that God will give us what is best for us.

In our culture of cynicism today, we often fail to see how God provides for our daily needs—how He supports and encourages us and gives us provision and blessings (James 1:17).

When things are going wrong in your life—finances depleted, loss of job, illness, and other disappointments—be assured that God knows your troubles. Do not give up or quit. Rest assured, search your soul, pray, and believe. With God’s help, the best times are just ahead of you.

Fear paralyzes us into inaction. But faith motivates us into action. In life, whether we fail or succeed, acting by faith in God is the only way to break the bond of fear.

Believe in Him like you’ve never believed before. Trust in Him like you have never trusted before. Divine power is released when we move and act. Do it now. The goal here is not faith and works, but rather, faith that works by love.

The Spirit of Prophecy encourages us with the following thought: “The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.”—*CHRIST’S OBJECT LESSONS,* p. 332.

Some practical ways to increase faith:

- Read the Scriptures every day. Faith comes from reading, hearing, and listening (Romans 10:17).
- Exercise your faith by acting, doing.
- Don’t be afraid to embrace life’s trials. According to the apostles Peter (1 Peter 1:3-9) and Paul (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4), adversity and trials create greater faith.
- Develop a personal relationship with God by having a regular prayer life.
- Seek out the personal testimonies of others. Faith grows by hearing how God has acted in other people’s lives.
- Practice obedience. Growth takes time, commitment, and dedication.

And remember, if you feed your faith, it’ll starve your fears.

My wife, Lois, and I wish for you during this New Year of 2014, that the light of faith will burn brightly and steadily and, even if a wind or storm makes it flicker or flutter, may it never fail.

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
There is a necessary connection between the joy in knowing God and how far we will go to honor Him and stand firm in a time of trouble.

A few days ago I stood at the western wall of the temple in Jerusalem as the sun dipped toward the horizon. It was Friday afternoon and thousands had gathered to usher in the Shabbat or Sabbath day.

The temple built by Herod on the ruins of Solomon’s great structure had been largely destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70 as punishment for the Jewish revolt. A nation was destroyed and a people scattered. The centuries beyond brought persecution to the exiles in Spain, pogroms in Russia, and a great holocaust in World War II.

Then in 1967 a returned people regained access to their temple. Who could forget the images of weeping Israeli soldiers, their guns on the ground behind them, reaching toward the wall and praying?

The Friday I visited the wall there was a palpable air of expectation as the moment of sunset approached. People began to recite passages from the Torah, to pray, and to sing. Then a phalanx of young boys emerged from a nearby Yeshiva or religious school. Some of the smaller ones were seated on the shoulders of the older ones. All were singing joyously as they swayed toward the wall. Then a circle of maybe 100 young women, holding hands and singing, rotated across their path and toward the wall.

“Have you ever seen people so happy to welcome their Sabbath?” asked the guide of our group. The question was rhetorical and a searching one.

Perhaps in proportion to the difficulty is the joy in practicing religious faith. Perhaps only with obstruction do we discover how important our faith is to us.

I thought back to the early Millerites who persevered through disillusionment and prayed themselves into a reevaluation of their hope that led to the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1863. (It’s behind us now, but all last year the Adventist Church made much of the 150th anniversary of our founding.) It was a tough time for those Advent pioneers. They were ejected from their local, mostly Protestant congregations—and most of those were in the present-day Atlantic Union. They were mocked in newspapers and public gossip. And as time went on they were harassed by laws intended to protect a holy day—blue laws that brought fines and imprisonment to Adventists; particularly in the south. At one time, when there were only about 15,000 members, as many as 900 were fined and even imprisoned on chain gangs for “breaking the Sabbath” so-called.
But this did not deter the first Adventists. The true Sabbath was precious to them. They were not deterred when in 1888 a national Sunday law was placed before the U.S. Congress. It had the backing of most of the major churches and such then influential groups as the Women's Christian Temperance Union. It seemed unstoppable. It seemed that the prediction of Revelation chapter 13 was forming before their eyes and that a great persecution was about to take place, just before the return of Jesus Christ. It seemed, as Ellen White was writing, that the United States was about to “repudiate” the very principles that had so long protected religious freedom and made the nation great.

At that time, the editor of the Liberty precursor, the Liberty Sentinel, roused the people to action. Alonzo T. Jones did what our religious liberty leaders still do effectively—he made vigorous representation to the legislators. He searched for allies in the Christian world. And he spoke powerfully to Seventh-day Adventists about the need to revive and prepare, not just for the conflict, but also for the grand moment of the Lord’s return.

God intervened and the law was never passed. The revival that A.T. Jones called for never quite lived up to the demand of the moment. Perhaps that is why God in His mercy deferred the final crisis we know is coming on the world. Why He gave yet one more of many opportunities for His people to fill the earth with the singing of His praises before the final conflict and ultimate test of religious freedom.

Winston Churchill in the turbulent times that preceded World War II spoke of “the gathering storm.” It is worth remembering that some at that time were also speaking of “peace in our time,” and acting as though it was a perfectly controllable era. History has borne out the value of a Churchillian realism—of an ability to read the true significance of events.

Today the United States debates whether we deserve privacy anymore. It debates whether citizenship rights are “inalienable” or lost if one is declared an enemy. There is a willingness to trade rights for security. There is a rising religious agenda that many equate with national identity. There is a rush to declare political opponents and all who they support as enemies, even terrorists. In short, we are at another moment of truth for the world and God’s people.

The Liberty campaign for 2014 features the heartwarming story of John and Arlene Sproed. They are a medical team who have served as missionaries and then during a professional career in the United States long continued as part-time missionaries. It all began with John working part-time to pay for his education. His life direction was set as he determined to honor the Sabbath and his Lord by refusing to work during the holy time. God honored that conviction by providential rehirings and the funds to train for service. There is a cause and effect between faithfulness in our commitment and God’s protection in a crisis. There is a cause and effect between an advancement in true religious liberty and revival. There is a necessary connection between the joy in knowing God and how far we will go to honor Him and stand firm in a time of trouble.

The so-called “wailing” wall in Jerusalem, the Western Wall was certainly an inspiration to visit. But I remember it for the joy so evident in all who were there—particularly the young. We Adventists, “we few, we happy few, we band of brothers,” to borrow the Bard’s words given to a king on the eve of a decisive event, must realize that in the events swirling about us is found not a crisis but an opportunity. Because at base, the privilege of religious liberty is to tell a confused world what the Lord of the Sabbath has done for us and will do for all. 

Lincoln Steed is editor of Liberty magazine.

“We are at another moment of truth for the world and God’s people.”
Science Curriculum Teaches Critical Thinking Skills

Inquiry (noun):
: an official effort to collect and examine information
: the act of asking questions in order to gather or collect information (www.merriam-webster.com)

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord”—Isaiah 1:18.


Would you agree that understanding is more important than a simple knowledge of facts? Adventist science education is taking a bold step this year in completing the publishing of an inquiry-based science textbook series. The title is ByDesign, which embodies the creationist worldview of our church. Now you have the facts. So what does that mean? How is it important?

Research shows that a majority of students find it easier to learn about science and the world we live in by asking good questions and having a hands-on personal experience with the evidence. The ByDesign series fosters inquiry by starting discussions with open-ended questions. These are questions that are designed to make the student think without always giving the answer until they have had a chance to explore the evidence.

Next, the lesson has an inquiry activity where the student is involved in exploring the quest for the answers. The Student Science Journal augments this experience while the student chronicles their record of inquiry as they move toward an explanation.

The four levels of inquiry activities are systematically incorporated into the lessons based on the grade level and content. The four levels of inquiry activities are:

1. Directed Inquiry—The student knows an expected result and confirms the inquiry.

2. Structured Inquiry—The student is given a question and a procedure to answer it.

3. Guided Inquiry—The student is given the question but must develop a plan and procedure.

4. Independent Inquiry—The student develops the question and procedure.

The student is guided within safe boundaries to question and process the quest for answers. Some questions will not have simple answers. The student and the teacher are working as a team to learn truth.

This process of inquiry will be part of the music/science clinic sponsored by the Atlantic Union Office of Education that will be held at the Brockton Area school from February 26 to March 1. Students will have an opportunity to inquire about God's creation. They will also develop tools for sharing this with their school and community.

Please pray that our students learn about Jesus, the Creator, and reach the goal of “true education to develop this power . . . to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men’s thought”—Education, p. 17. Then, when Jesus asks, “How do you understand this?” They will have an answer.

Jerrell Gilkeson is the Atlantic Union Conference associate director of education and children’s ministries.
Sydney Gibbons Authors Book on Ordination


Should women be ordained as Seventh-day Adventist pastors? This book introduces discussion on the following topics:

- The place of ordination in the prioritization of New Testament theologies
- The place of women in ministry within the prioritization of being a disciple of Christ
- Women in ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Revisiting the biblical principle of headship
- Review of selected perspectives on headship in the writings of Ellen G. White
- The A.M.O.U.R. (authority, mission, order of preeminence, universality of the head, and respect) perspective on headship in Scripture
- Ordination, gender, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church

“While Dr. Gibbons’ analysis is not an official position of the church in Bermuda or elsewhere, it is, nevertheless, an answer to the call of our world church president for thoughtful deliberation on the faithful ministry of a significant portion of our church membership. Dr. Gibbons’ work is clothed in Christian courtesy, and bathed in godly humility. It encourages vision while elevating mission. Dr. Gibbons urges us to be faithful not only to Bible precepts but to biblical principles. Somebody said, ‘If you’re not living on the edge, you’re taking up too much space.’ I’m happy to belong to a church and to be associated with people who are not afraid to live on the edge. Dr. Gibbons is one of those persons,” said Jeffrey O. Brown, Bermuda Conference president.

“The author posits that all disciples of Christ comprise the priesthood of believers. He makes the point that the most essential ordination is not gender specific. It [the book] is highly recommended for those seeking a balanced approach regarding the matter of ordination of women,” said Sheila V. Holder, Bermuda Conference superintendent of schools and director for human resources and communication.

Rodney Smith, Bermuda Conference publishing director, said “Dr. Gibbons, I enjoyed reading your book on women’s ordination. You present a balanced view of the subject matter that by far supersedes the present narrow position held by so many.”

The book is available through AdventSource (www.adventsource.org).

—Communication staff, Bermuda Conference

Publishing and Health Minister Hand in Hand

The Bermuda Conference Publishing Department, under the leadership of Rodney Smith, was involved in two major events in 2013.

The publishing department partnered with the health ministries department to highlight the services of both ministries. The event was held in the City Hall parking lot, where there was a large display of various books dealing with stress, drugs and smoking, and general health. There were also literature giveaways.

The health ministries department set up health screenings and gave back massages. They also provided a booth to display information on the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). Barrett’s, a local beverage company, provided water for the participants.

The highlight of the day was the prayer tent. As people walked by the displays, many stopped to have prayer with the designated prayer warriors. This ministry impacted the community and many people expressed appreciation.

The publishing department was also asked to participate in an island-wide community free food distribution in conjunction with Cablevision, a leading telecommunication and media company. The event was entitled “Open Hands, Loving Hearts,” with admission being two non-perishable items for the needy. The publishing department set up a booth where free literature was distributed. They were also able to sell books to those attending the event.

There are 13 literature evangelists who provide religious and family-related books to the Bermuda public, with the two most popular sellers being Foods that Heal (an encyclopedia) and Health Power.

The publishing and health ministries departments are appreciative of the many opportunities that are provided to build connections with local communities to share God’s Word with everyone.

—Joannett Stringer, literature evangelist, Bermuda Conference

at www.atlantic-union.org Atlantic Union Gleaner, January 2014
Thousands of Books Donated to Greater New York Schools

The Greater New York Conference Office of Education received 23 pallets of books that were donated by the Scholastic Book Publishing Company, which is considered to be one of the top publishers of children’s books in America. The books will serve the elementary and high school students and cover a number of subjects, including history, science, and nature.

David Cadavero, Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools, says this donation was the result of the collaborative efforts of the Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services and the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education. Cadavero says he believes the books will greatly benefit the students that attend Adventist schools in the metro New York City area.

“What this ultimately resulted in was our schools receiving thousands of books that enhance our libraries, and the kids at each of our church schools were so excited,” Cadavero said.

The gift includes sets of encyclopedias, resource books, and topical books focusing on such topics as cultural diversity and ethics, to name a few. It is estimated that the books, that are all brand new, have a conservative value of more than $100,000. Several pallets of the books were also distributed to the community.

—Lisa Gonzalez, reporter, GNYC Adventist News

Greater New York Conference Launches Development Office

As ministry rapidly expands, the need for financial support is evident for both local and conferencewide initiatives. Responding to this need, the Greater New York Conference welcomes Janice Becca Da Silva to the conference office.

Through a partnership with the North American Division Philanthropic Services Institute (PSI), Da Silva will be serving alongside Claude Morgan in the Planned Giving and Development Office. Da Silva and her husband, Dwight, are both natives of New York, but come to the conference by way of Houston, Texas.

The development office will assist local churches and schools by offering guidance on fundraising principles and techniques. If you or someone you know has ever served on a board or building committee, you may already know how overwhelming this task can be. In 1 Chronicles 29, King David declares, “Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God.”

The work set before the Greater New York Conference is great and they must proceed diligently, but with caution, because it is not for them—but for the Lord. Those needing assistance with special development projects, should contact the development office. God is blessing the Greater New York Conference with lofty vision at both the conference and local church levels.

—Development Office, Greater New York Conference

Greater New York Conference president, G. Earl Knight, right, welcomes Janice Becca Da Silva, center, who will serve alongside Claude Morgan, left, in the Planned Giving and Development Office.
Evangelism in the Korean Church Includes Laughter Seminar

Five Korean churches—New York Central Korean church, Northern New York Korean church, Queens Korean church, Staten Island Korean church, Westchester Korean church—worked in collaboration last year to hold meetings at the Flushing Dae Dong Manor from June 17 to June 22. Dae Sung Kim, president of the Korean Union Conference, held the prophecy seminars during which about 250 people attended every day. Of the 250, 80 newcomers were introduced to the church and have continued to be in contact as a result of this opportunity.

The Queens Korean church held three meetings in 2013. A “Laughter” health seminar in February, for which 70 newcomers registered. They also had a two-series seminar on prophecy in June and again in September.

Elder Hyun Il Ha, dean of the Life Academy House in Seoul, Korea, spoke at the seminar in September. Recently, 15 newcomers participated in these seminars and two were baptized.

In the future, the Queens Korean church is planning to hold small group seminars about prophecy. NY13 marks the beginning of this change. They hope to become a church that can reach out to more people.

—Huesang Kim, assistant communication director, Greater New York Conference
Bay Knoll Students Visit Hiram Edson Farm

On October 22, 1844, the Seventh-day Adventist pioneers who accepted the Millerite message experienced the “Great Disappointment.” They were looking with great expectation for the return of their Lord on that day. They did everything they could to prepare themselves and others to meet Jesus.

One hundred and sixty-nine years later, on October 22, 2013, students and teachers from the Bay Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School in Rochester, New York, visited the Hiram Edson Farm in Clifton Springs, New York. That’s where Hiram Edson and his friends prayed and studied the Bible. Then later, Hiram Edson, while crossing the field, received the vision that Jesus was entering the Most Holy Place on that day instead of returning to earth.

Students were elated to walk in the footsteps of the pioneers and to learn how it all began. Students stood in the pulpit where Ellen G. White preached on May 1, 1909, and saw original writings by Hiram Edson, as well as a model of the printing press used by James White. They also spent moments in Edson's barn listening to pioneer stories told by George Silver, an elder, and others. When it was time to take pictures, in honor of the pioneers, all the boys and girls wore a piece of the garment from that period of history.

The students were reminded that the torch has been passed and that they should be encouraged that when Jesus did not come on October 22, 1844, it was an act of mercy, since we all need a High Priest to intercede on our behalf in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

The students showed excitement to be a part of this great movement and say they are determined to allow the Holy Spirit to use them to do their part to tell everyone to get ready because Jesus is coming back soon.

—Diana Rowe, principal, Bay Knoll school

Union Springs Academy Purchases New Piano

After many years of strenuous service, the ancient baby grand piano in the music room at Union Springs Academy has been retired. A new shiny black Cable Nelson instrument, made by Yamaha, sits proudly in its place and is being used by students to make beautiful music. How could a small school, struggling with bigger financial needs, manage to procure such a quality instrument? The answer is simple; God provided.

The story behind the scenes is a bit more detailed. As the piano in the music department lost more and more tuning ability, and was treated and repaired repeatedly without success, the staff and students began to pray for a replacement. Through a donation in memory of an alumnus, Joan Sutter, ’55, that was to be matched by a grant, the hunt for an affordable piano began.

A good used upright was found at the right price. The music director went to look at it. “I didn’t fall in love [with the piano],” says Esther Baker, Union Springs Academy music director, “but I asked God for contentment if this was His answer.” At the same time, the salesperson offered her other options, including another used piano, and enticed her to play an impressive new Cable Nelson, especially built to handle educational institutions and humidity changes. “I couldn’t believe the difference,” Baker recalls. “My heart pounded; it played...
so beautifully. I begged God not to let me covet! A new piano, not to mention a Yamaha, was out of the budgeted price range! While waiting for the matching grant to arrive, prayers were offered for God’s direction regarding which piano was best for the school.

On Friday, October 8, 2013, Artist Pianos contacted Baker with the news that one of the other options being considered was no longer available. “On Monday, I went to consult with Andrea Starr-Tagalog, development and alumni relations coordinator, to figure out what to do,” Baker said. “We hadn’t received the matching grant yet, and didn’t have the amount needed for the new piano. Was this God’s directive to purchase the used upright?” A few hours later, Starr-Tagalog walked into the music office with a beaming smile on her face. The grant money was received in Monday’s mail, and the remaining gap was covered by other alumni donations and a gift from the class of 2012. “Even weeks later, I am almost brought to tears every time I think of the miraculous way God provided through the generosity of our alumni,” Baker said.

More Than 70 Baptized in “Levantate” Evangelistic Meetings

“Levantate!” (“Arise”) was the theme for an evangelistic series that brought more than 70 people to Jesus. Elias Zabala, New York Conference secretary-treasurer, presented eight nights of Christ-centered messages during the month of October 2013, in the community of Cristo Rey (Christ is King) in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic.

Four churches joined together every night at the open amphitheater that seats more than 800 people. Aurelio Paulino, pastor of the Central Conference in the Dominican Republic, hosted the meeting and held a baptism every night, resulting in newly-converted members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Conferences in the Atlantic Union, along with the Atlantic Union officers and lay members, continue to work in partnership with the Dominican Union, supporting the advancement of the gospel with evangelistic meetings, church building projects, mission trips, and other ways of reaching people for the Lord.

The New York Conference hosted 15 evangelistic meetings during its annual evangelism field school for pastors, which took place in the Southeast Dominican Conference early in 2013. As a result more than 300 people were baptized.

—Angel Rodriguez, acting president, New York Conference

OFFICIAL NOTICE
New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Constitution Session

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the fifth regular quadrennial Constitution Session of the New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, called to convene at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 13, 2014, in the Union Springs Academy gymnasium, 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, NY 13160. The purpose of this meeting is:

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

According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference, Article 3, Section 2a, “Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof, each of whom must be a member of the church from which they are delegates.”

Lunch will be provided.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
New York Conference Association
Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular Constitution Session of the New York Conference Association, a New York corporation, is called to meet in the Union Springs Academy gymnasium, 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, NY 13160 on Sunday, April 13, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the New York Conference.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and a board of trustees, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the New York Conference Constitution Session will be the delegates for the New York Conference Association.

Lunch will be provided.

Angel Rodriguez, Acting President
Florencio Zabala, Secretary

Elias Zabala, New York Conference secretary-treasurer, presented eight nights of Christ-centered messages, during the month of October 2013, in the community of Cristo Rey (Christ is King) in Santo Domingo.
Berea-Nyack Church Takes Community Guest Day to the Community

Berea-Nyack church members were welcomed by elected officials, neighbors, and friends of the Village of Nyack, New York, on Sunday, October 27, 2013, at the combined celebration of their Community Guest Day and Pastor Appreciation Day, held at a local restaurant in the heart of Nyack. It is the first time the Community Guest Day was taken to the people in the community.

Since assuming the pastorate in Nyack, Roger Williamson has been greatly impressed by the outreach ministries of the church and how members volunteer so much of their time and effort. They have provided food through the food pantry and clothing to the people at large and, by doing so, have offered positive change. As a result, Williamson concluded that it would be beneficial to embrace the entire village.

Jen Laird White, the mayor of Nyack, was honored at the event. She is not only a good neighbor to the outreach ministries of the church, but she adds to the diversity and warmth of the church and the village called Nyack. White thanked the church for being an integral part of the community and encouraged them to continue to demonstrate the theme for 2013: "Building Our Community Through a Shared Relationship."

—Frances Pratt, communication leader, Berea-Nyack church

Lebanon Church Hosts Young Leadership Development Conference

The Adventist Youth Society and education department of the Lebanon church in Laurelton, New York, hosted a Young Leaders Development Conference on Sunday, September 15, 2013. The target audience was youth ages 12-25. Under the auspices of MAPP (Ministries of Adventist Psychology Professionals), the conference focused on the issue "Are Adventist youth prepared to be high performers in today’s workplace? Will they be the head or the tail?" The goal was to provide youth with professional development tools and opportunities and to prepare them to lead as Adventist professionals.

The conference offered segments on budgeting, time management, résumé writing, goal setting, financial literacy and planning, career selection, and navigating the education system (college/graduate school selection). Presenters were experts in the focus areas, who are also members of Lebanon church and other Adventist churches.

PowerPoint presentations were given in the focus modalities, after which attendees engaged in group and individual tasks with activity modules, particularly in the areas of budgeting, résumé writing, and time management. They were provided with tools and real-time situations, and then had to form budgets, design timelines, and perform various other tasks pertaining to the focus subjects.

After completing the budgeting exercise, one of the participants said, “I can’t afford to leave home for several years!” It was a reality check for the youth. The interaction was very positive and the question-and-answer segment was lively. There was a lot of positive energy in the room.

Kyla-Gaye Barrett, Psy.D. (MAPP), spearheaded and oversaw the conference. The feedback received was encouraging and indicated that such workshops are not only needed but desired by the youth. Lebanon intends to host more of these workshops in 2014. Future events will be posted on Lebanon church’s Facebook page and Web site: www.lebanonsda.org.

—Rosalie van Putten, education director, Lebanon church

Lucy Plaisir, one of the facilitators at the Young Leaders Development Conference held at Linden church, talks with the youth about setting goals.
Kingsboro Temple (KBT) church closed its doors for worship for the first time on September 7, 2013, and went beyond its four walls to minister to the surrounding Park Slope community. The theme for the day was “Healthy U,” and consisted of an abbreviated worship service followed by a health expo and a day filled with evangelism.

Kay Edwards, an elder and head of KBT’s NY13 committee, said the aim was to show members an alternative way to observe the Sabbath. “We wanted to follow the example Jesus left for us,” Edwards said. “Jesus met people where they were. He healed the sick and fed the hungry. He looked after the needs of the people and then fed their souls, thereby creating trusting relationships and faithful believers.”

The congregation donned green, purple, yellow, red, and black T-shirts, reflecting the diverse groups and ministries. Kingsboro Temple’s church building was the hub for a flurry of activities, while groups of members went out on the block and beyond to perform acts of kindness.

One group of about 25 prepared and served hot meals at a local women’s shelter. The women at the shelter were so blessed that they quickly prepared and framed a special plaque to present to the KBT volunteers.

A second group of about 15 members visited C.H.I.P.S (Christian Help in Park Slope), providing lunch for more than 100 people, and a mini-church service as well as health screenings.

A third group of about 30 carried a similar program to the local senior citizen center. Adventist Community Services leader, Lyndonna Dublin, said, “It was great to see a hands-on approach to helping others. It helps us remember that Christ not only preached the gospel, but met the physical needs of the people. I think it’s just as important as preaching the gospel.”

Another group visited the local maternity ward at New York Methodist Hospital and surprised all the new mothers with special gift bags of baby Bibles and toiletries. Loren Avellino, assistant director of public affairs for the hospital, said that she was pleased at the kindness shown by KBT. She invited KBT to return to minister at any time.

A costumed panda and teddy bear surprised hundreds of local passersby with warm hugs and friendly invitations to visit with KBT. Another group of members went to various train stations and gifted 100 commuters with unexpected free rides on the subway. Andre Johnson of KBT’s drama ministries, who joined the subway team said, “People didn’t know how to take it. There should be more days like this!”

One rider responded by saying, “Your kindness has restored my faith in New Yorkers.” Veronica White-Farrell, one of the local church elders and teddy bear “hugger” of the day, said she enjoyed the day and that the church should do it more often.

Members of Spartan Sundays, the church’s exercise club, set up a table in nearby Prospect Park, distributed literature, and strolled through the park sharing healthy snacks and giving away nearly 1,000 bottles of water.

While those activities were going on, at the hub on 7th Street was the main attraction, the health expo, coordinated by KBT’s health ministries leader, Claudette Baker. A steady stream of community residents passed through the block. A puppeteer spoke to kids about stories from the Bible and shared kid-friendly demonstrations on being healthy.

Further down the block, members swept the stoops of their neighbors. Neighbors and passersby who participated in the health expo were invited to pray at the prayer station, get their body mass index and body age checked, while enjoying aroma therapy and deep tissue massages. At the dental center, children received free dental exams from New York Methodist Hospital dental professionals.

The day ended with a mini concert and words of encouragement and prayer by KBT’s associate pastor, Edsel Cadet.

Every segment of the church was engaged and every demographic within the community was touched. “I thought it would be hard to find a church willing to try this innovative approach to evangelism,” Cadet said.

Kingsboro Temple’s senior pastor, Easton Marks, reminded the church that this was “just the beginning, not the end” of the unique opportunities they will have to share Jesus with the community.

—Lauren John, member, Kingsboro Temple
The Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Executive Committee voted on Sunday, December 8 to extend an invitation to Ted Huskins to serve as the conference’s executive secretary. He accepted the invitation and will begin work in that territory on January 1, 2014.

For the past seven years, Huskins has worked with Coleman Stewardship Services, Inc, where he served as leadership and capital campaign consultant and then became company president. Huskins previously worked for 18 years in pastoral ministry in the Carolina Conference (1989-2007), where he was the pastor for many congregations. Huskins completed his undergraduate studies at Southern College in 1989 and received his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in 1992. He is currently working on a certificate in executive nonprofit management at Duke University with completion scheduled for 2014.

Huskins brings a wealth of experience to NNEC, including in the areas of stewardship, leadership, teaching, and administration. He says he is “delighted to be joining Elder Bob Cundiff and the rest of the NNEC family.”

He and his wife, Cindy, share life, love, ministry, and five children: Mindy lives with her husband, Patrick, in Delaware, Allison and Grace are both in college, and Jay and Michael will relocate to Maine with their parents.

Huskins is filling the position left vacant when Cundiff was voted to serve as president of NNEC.

Huskins will join the Northern New England Conference administrative team, which oversees the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the states of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont, with more than 5,200 members, 59 churches, seven companies, 14 schools, two academies, one hospital, and many community service centers.

—Bob Cundiff, president, Northern New England Conference

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Members Deliver Food to the Community

The Northern Lights Pathfinder Club, sponsored by the Claremont church in New Hampshire, went out into the community around the church collecting non-perishable food items to be used for Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes.

On Saturday afternoon, November 2, they knocked on doors, leaving collection bags and explaining that they would be back to collect the food the next day between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. After collecting the food, they sorted it in preparation for putting the boxes together on November 21.

While some people made up the boxes, others brought fresh produce to add to them. They were able to put together 11 boxes that were delivered over the weekend. The group enjoyed making food boxes because it is a way to concretely show God’s love to others, and it is fun to help those in need.

—Patricia Jones, communication secretary, and Libby Orthman, Pathfinder, Claremont church

Members of the Lincoln church in Maine started collecting items in November to put into their Thanksgiving Day baskets to be distributed in the community. Many items were collected, including canned foods, fresh produce, paper products, sleeping bags, warm clothes, and boots.

Enough items were gathered to fill six boxes, which were delivered to the families on November 20 by Elaine Rich, one of the Adventist Community Services volunteers.

Karen Cunningham, communication staff, Lincoln church
Northern New England Conference Men Encouraged to “Man Up for Jesus”

“Man up for Jesus!” was the message brought to the annual Men’s Ministries Convention at Camp Lawroweld last year by guest speaker Danny Shelton, Three Angels Broadcasting Network founder and corporate consultant.

As many as 85 men attended the meetings and had fellowship together in northern Maine. Many of those who attended were there for the first time.

Network founder and corporate consultant.

The messages centered around Matthew 28:19-20, and the title for the weekend was “Go Ye.” There was discussion on men’s roles in the Great Commission from the Lord, Jesus Christ. Shelton reminded the men that the blessing is in the “Go.” If they step out in faith to follow the Lord, He will bless their efforts and use them in the work that needs to be done to spread the undiluted gospel to the entire world.

This was Shelton’s first trip to Camp Lawroweld and the Northern New England Conference. He said he was impressed with the depth of knowledge of God’s Word that the men demonstrated.

During the Sabbath School lesson, he said it was a blessing to see so many men participate in the discussion, and to have so much familiarity with the scriptures. A special time at any men’s ministries event is the time for testimonies. Several men shared testimonies about their personal walk with Christ and how Jesus has led them to where they are now.

Men’s ministries is growing in the Northern New England Conference and the hope is that even more men will join the group.

—Doug Berrill, Sr., head elder and Men’s Ministries leader, Rochester church

Men’s Ministries is growing in the Northern New England Conference and the hope is that even more men will join the group.
Conference Leaders Work on Vision and Priorities

At the end of the most recent North American Division year-end meetings, I had a short conversation with Dan Jackson, North American Division president. He asked one question of me: “Do you feel as if you are drinking from a fire hose?” In that one question I knew that he knew what I was experiencing as the new president of the Southern New England Conference (SNEC).

The constituents of SNEC have given me a great honor to lead them as their president. There is a lot to learn—no doubt. But I have been able to see that the issues, challenges, and opportunities always revolve around people. Active Adventist members love their church with passion. This passion intensifies their expectations of leadership. I see this as a positive attribute, and

I am excited to walk by faith in the pathway God has asked me to walk.

To accomplish our mission for Christ, I believe it is important that the churches and organizations within our conference cooperate and work toward a common vision and similar priorities—in unity, not uniformity. Currently the vision and priorities are being worked on and prayed over.

In the meantime I have focused on opening up channels of communication. Many avenues for sharing information are open through social media. Currently, about 4,000 people a week are investigating the current SNEC events via Facebook. A dedicated YouTube channel—SNEC TV—has started to promote events and pass information.

If we are going to have a unified set of priorities, the administration needs to be able to reach the membership. Please be on the lookout as we reach out to communicate to the churches and membership.

—David Dennis, president, Southern New England Conference

Donation Box Helps GBA Give Back

Got books? Got some you’re not using? Donate them at Greater Boston Academy (GBA)! Thanks to senior and student recruiter Rodney Bruno, GBA has collaborated with Got Books, Inc., to raise money for the school and help people in need.

Here’s how it works. If you have any items such as books and clothes, take them to the big gray box on GBA’s campus, right inside and to the left of the parking lot entrance. Donated items will be brought to the Got Books, Inc., headquarters in Wilmington, Massachusetts. Once there, the items will be processed, and GBA will be awarded a percentage of the estimated total value.

Donating items helps more than just Greater Boston Academy. Articles of clothing are distributed to people in local communities who need them. Books in good condition will be resold at the Got Books Inc.’s used book superstores in a variety of locations, where teachers receive a discount on top of already low prices.

Bruno thought of using Got Books while working at GBA over the summer. “I knew there had to be a way to get rid of the huge amount of books that were piling up as the school was being reorganized,” Bruno says. “So I started looking around online and found the company. I didn’t want to just throw the books out; that would be a waste, so this was a perfect solution.”

Bruno says that the donation program has many additional benefits, as well. “The best part is that no items are thrown away; everything is recycled. Even clothing that can’t be used to give to people in need is used as insulation in buildings, and books that the superstores don’t sell are given away.”

Got Books, Inc. gives the school community the opportunity to help those in need while supporting the school community at the same time. Don’t forget to do your part and visit GBA’s donation box.

—Sarah Logan-Cruz, junior, Greater Boston Academy
A dedication ceremony signaling the official opening of the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) was held on November 20 on the campus of Atlantic Union College. The ceremony included a ribbon cutting, brief speeches by special guests, and a tour of the Miles Building where NETS will be housed.

Welcoming those attending the event, Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president and co-founder of NETS, said “Today marks a very special and epochal moment in the history of our union, to capture the beginning of a training program for our church members, and local and community leaders, who wish to be trained in the art of Bible teaching, soul winning, and community health ministry.”

Among the special guests was Lancaster town administrator, Orlando Pacheco, who brought greetings. “I can’t think of a more important time for this type of instruction to take place, when not only nationally but globally we’re suffering from so many issues,” Pacheco said.

Alvin Kibble, North American Division vice president, brought greetings on behalf of the administrators of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. “We celebrate you, we support you, and we praise God for the visionary leadership that has brought this about,” Kibble said.

Attending the event were administrators, directors, staff, and executive committee members from the Atlantic Union Conference, the six local conference presidents and other conference administrators, the Atlantic Union College interim president, and others from the college and the community.

NETS is an evangelistic training school, directed by Eric Flickinger. Graduates are prepared for a career in lay ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to more effectively serve God in churches, communities, or schools.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor

Eight students graduated from the Northeast Evangelism Training School’s (NETS) fall 2013 program. The event was held on December 8 at the Chan Shun Dining Commons on the campus of Atlantic Union College. The ceremony, attended by about 120 people, signaled the completion of the second NETS four-month program and the first one to be held on the campus.

In his commencement address, Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president and chairman of the NETS Board of Governors, told the graduates, “God has called you to advance the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. . . . To help galvanize His church, to organize yourselves, and to help plant new companies of believers.”

The graduating class included five females and three males, from such locations as Brooklyn, New York; Fulton, New York; Western Massachusetts; Missouri; Italy, and South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

In a charge to the graduates, Mark Gagnon, pastor of the Leominster church, encouraged them to hold fast to their motto, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3), remembering the words from Proverbs 11:30, that “he [she] who wins souls is [truly] wise.”

Each graduate received a medallion and certificate awarded by Eric Flickinger, NETS director, and assistant directors Kevin Sears and Lois King.

The spring four-month program for NETS runs from January 24 to May 24. Learn more at www.netsatlanticunion.org, e-mail: registrar@atlanticunion.org, or call (978) 368-2638.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor
Chers Bien-aimés (es) dans le Seigneur,

Soyez des heureux bénéficiaires de la grâce et de la paix de notre Dieu!

Voyez-vous, seuls le plaisir de vous formuler mes voeux pour la nouvelle année ainsi que l’approche du retour de notre chef Jésus-Christ, m’ont empêché de m’écrier comme Alphonse de Lamartine: “Ô Temps! suspends ton vol . . .”

Pour moi, j’ai l’impression que les jours de l’année 2013 se sont succédés à la vitesse de la lumière et du son pour que nous soyons déjà encore aux festivités de fin d’année et en préparation pour l’autre qui arrive à grands pas. Mes impressions me laissent comprendre qu’à peine deux jours se sont écoulés depuis que j’avais formulé mes souhaits de bonnes fêtes et de bonne année, et me voici encore en train de refaire le même exercice pour une nouvelle année. Autant dire, que non seulement deux, mais près de trois cent soixante-cinq jours, ont sombré dans l’oubli sans même nous en apercevoir. Qu’avons-nous fait de ce temps?


Pour nous à l’Union, nous avons, au cours de l’année, accompli certaines petites choses pour lesquelles nos remerciements vont à notre Dieu. Les voici:

- Deux banquets pour les aînés à New-York et à Massachusetts
- Deux voyages missionnaires en Haïti, où nous avons aidé plus de 1,000 personnes. Nous avons aussi distribué une grande quantité de médicaments aux plus nécessiteux
- Convention YAHA qui réunit environ 1,200 Jeunes Adventistes Haïtiens à Stamford Connecticut
- Deux Séminaires workshops pour le ministère dans les prisons
- Participation personnelle à quatre camp-meetings
- Direction personnelle de plusieurs séminaires
- Prédication personnelle de trois croisades d’évangélisation ayant comme résultat 292 baptêmes au nom du Père, du Fils et du St Esprit
- Souvenons-nous des effets sans précédent et incomman-surables de NY13, un effort commun de cinq fédérations sous la direction de l’Union Atlantique, le patronage de la Division Nord Américaine et la Conférence Générale. Ce mouvement évangélique aboutit à la conversion des milliers d’âmes.

Comme mentionné plus haut, l’année 2013 s’est vite enfuie, mais certaines des maigres réalisations sont dignes de men-tion. Que Dieu en soit loué.

À vous tous donc, bien-aimés (es), qui avez trimé dur dans le parcours de l’œuvre de notre Seigneur, nous souhaitons, de tout cœur, une bonne et heureuse année 2014. Que les bénédictions de richesse et de prospérité de notre Père céleste pleuvent sur vous dans toute leur abondance!

Pasteur P. E. Omeler
Vice Président des Ministères Haïtiens
Atlantic Union Conference

107 personnes en ligne pour le baptême par Pasteur Pierre E. Omeler et Pasteur Ebel Vilnèus à Anse d’Hainault, Haïti.
Alguien dijo una vez: “La fe no es realmente fe hasta que es todo a lo que te aferras.” Cuando Jesucristo es el foco central de tu vida, Él será todo a lo que tú te afierres.

Filipenses 4:6 dice, “Por nada estéis afanosos; sino sean notorias vuestras peticiones delante de Dios en toda oración y ruego, con hacimiento de gracias.” De modo que como cristianos, no debemos tener razón para la ansiedad, el temor o la incertidumbre cuando nuestra fe está aferrada a Cristo Jesús.

Es importante darle gloria a Dios y agradecerle por todas las cosas, todos los días. No esperes más bendiciones si no eres agradecido por lo que ya tienes. Es por medio de la fe que cree- ayuda de Dios, tus mejores momentos están por delante.

El temor nos lleva a la inacción. Pero la fe nos motiva a la acción. En la vida, ya sea que fracasemos o sea- mos exitosos, el tener fe en Dios es la única manera de romper con el lazo del temor.

Cree en Dios como nunca has creído antes. Confía en él como nunca has confiado antes. El poder divino emana cuando nos movemos y actuamos. Hazlo ahora. La meta aquí no es fe y obras, sino una fe que obra por el amor.

El Espíritu de Profecía nos anima con el siguiente pensamiento: “Los seres celestiales obrarán con el agente humano que con determinada fe busque esa perfección de carácter que alcanzará la perfección en acción. Cristo dice a cada uno de los que se ocupan en su obra: Estoy a tu mano derecha para ayudarte”—PALABRAS DE VIDA DEL GRAN MAESTRO, pág. 267.

Algunas formas prácticas de incrementar la fe:

• Lee la palabra de Dios cada día. La fe viene por el leer, escuchar y oír. Romanos 10:17.
• Ejercita tu fe mediante tus actos, haz algo.

Y recuerda, si alimentas tu fe, ella matará de hambre todos tus temores. Mi esposa, Lois y yo le deseamos que durante este nuevo año 2014, la luz de la fe brille radiante y constante y aunque en medio del viento y la tempestad puedan titilar, que la misma nunca se apague.

Donald G. King es el presidente de la Unión del Atlántico y director de la Junta Directiva del Colegio de la Unión del Atlántico.

Traducción: Johanna Viteri

English translation available on page 3 of this issue

at www.atlantic-union.org Atlantic Union Gleaner, January 2014

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GREATER NEW YORK
Bronx-Manhattan school invites all alumni, teachers, and staff to Homecoming Sabbath on May 17. Join us for a reunion. Reconnect with friends and teachers. Bible study at 10:00 a.m., worship service at 11:30 a.m. Location: 1440 Plimpton Ave., Bronx, NY 10452. RSVP: (718) 588-7598.

OUT-OF-UNION
50th Anniversary Celebration of Adventists in Mesa Arizona the weekend of Mar. 1, 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: mesapalmchurch.com.

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.

South Lancaster Village Church Sesquicentennial
April 25–26, 2014
75 Sawyer Street
South Lancaster MA 01561

Friday, April 25
Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 26
Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Youth-Young Adult Service 4:00 p.m.
Vespers 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call (978) 365-2754

Stay connected on Facebook. Search for Bronx-Manhattan S.D.A. School Alumni Association.

Save the Date! Inviting all current and former staff members to the Camp Cherokee 50 year staff reunion! Labor Day weekend 2014, Aug. 29-Sept. 1. For information and registration instructions, go to: www.nycodl.org and click on Camp Cherokee or join the Facebook group “Camp Cherokee 50 Year Staff Reunion.” Come celebrate 50 years of amazing ministry and memories together.

Union Springs Academy Campus Renovation Week, Mar. 16-21. 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.

Bill Knott
Editor
Adventist Review

Daniel Jackson
President
North American Division

John Lomacang
Pastor
Illinois Conference

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREAT NEWS
Any news? Send it in.

Stay connected on Facebook. Search for Bronx-Manhattan S.D.A. School Alumni Association.

NEW YORK
Mark your calendar. Come and hear Barry Black, Chaplain, U.S. Senate on May 3 at the Utica International Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1134 Herkimer Rd., Utica, NY 13502. Inspiring music provided by a professional choir, brass quartet, and soloists. Lunch provided by the church. For information, call (315) 429-9399.

Union Springs Academy Campus Renovation Week, Mar. 16-21. 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.

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Atlantic Union Gleaner, January 2014
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EMPLOYMENT

CAMP WINNEKEAG is now accepting résumés for the following positions: Assistant Camp Ranger and Assistant Food Service/Housekeeping Director. We are looking for individual(s) who have a passion to serve others. The Assistant Ranger is a salaried employee and is required to live on site. The Assistant Food Service/Housekeeping Director is an hourly position based on certification status and needs to live within two hours of the camp. These positions can be filled by either a couple or as single individuals. Please send your résumé to Camp Winniekeag, 257 Ashby Rd., Ashburnham, MA 01430, by February 28, 2014, to be considered. If you have any questions, please call Roger at (978) 815-3377.

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FOR SALE

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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NEED A PIANIST? Hymns Alive, the Adventist Hymnal on 33 CDs, offers quality accompaniment music to sing God’s praises. Organ and piano. Kid’s hymnals on CDs also. www.33hymns.com. Hymns on videos—12 DVDs—Creation Sings, with words and beautiful nature photos and videos. Call (800) 354-9667.

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SPONSOR A CHILD! $30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing, food, and uniform. Adventist Child India is an official project of the Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists, (301) 680-6228, www.acchild.com, or childcare@sud-adventist.org.

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Atlantic Union Conference 2014 BAND & SCIENCE CLINIC

February 26 to March 1, 2014
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Brockton, MA 02302

Concert: Saturday, March 1, 2014
Time: 7:00 p.m.

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Put your Faith into Action.

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”—Matthew 17:20, NIV