Be Ready Always
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Cover: “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth”—Matthew 5:13, MSG. The cover design includes a photo from iStockphoto.com.
A Man Named Matthew

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he arose and followed Him.”—Matthew 9:9 (NKJV).

Matthew is here writing about himself. But note the modesty of his expression: “a man, named Matthew.” He even omitted the fact that the feast referred to in verse 10 was held in his own house.

The story is placed immediately after the miracle of the healed paralytic, as if to hint that Matthew’s own conversion was a miracle. There are several points of similarity between the miracle and the conversion. Matthew was a spiritual paralytic for his sins and his moneymaking schemes. As a result, he needed the divine command—“Arise! Walk! Follow me!” Jesus says.

Jesus had often been to the town of Capernaum which He had actually selected to be His own city (verse 1), and yet Matthew remained lost in Jesus’ own town. Was it likely that he would ever be called now? Had not His day of grace been gone? Jesus was about other business, for we read: “As Jesus passed on from there.” Would He now be likely to call Matthew? But Jesus saw him, foresaw him, and foreknew him and thus called him even as He calls each of us today.

Matthew worked in a very degrad-ing business. Nobody but the lowest of the Jews would care to collect taxes for the Roman Empire. His following Jesus would bring no honor to the Lord, since Jewish tax collectors were considered traitors of their own people—enriching themselves at their own nation’s expense. And yet, Jesus chose Matthew to be His disciple. Likely, he would have been repulsed by the other disciples had Christ not extended the invitation.

Matthew’s call was a call of grace. And when God calls us, He calls us by His grace. He sees in us what He saw in Matthew, and yet He still calls us—men and women to minister for Him. And when He calls, like Matthew, we must respond. The Lord calls whom He pleases, but He also sees what we are doing. Sovereignty is not blind, but it acts with boundless wisdom.

Matthew followed immediately, bringing his voice and his pen with him. He followed ever after, never deserting his Leader. His salvation encouraged others, including the other publicans and sinners who sat and ate at his table with Jesus. So much so that the Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with sinners. Matthew’s personal ministry brought others to the Savior. And so will yours.

“The Lord pardons all who repent of their sins. It is from those who do not repent, those who bolster themselves up in self-confidence, that He turns away. Never will He refuse to listen to the voice of tears and repentance. Never will He turn His face away from the humble soul who comes to Him in repentance and sorrow. . . .

“The church member who believes the Word of God will never look indifferently upon a soul that humbles himself and confesses his sin. Let the repenting one be taken back with rejoicing”—Reflecting Christ, p. 203.

As we contemplate on the fields that are still white for the harvest of souls like “the man named Matthew,” we thank God for the more than 5,000 precious men and women, boys and girls who were won to Christ during the special evangelistic emphasis of NY13 in metro New York City during 2013.

Like “the man named Matthew,” we thank God for the more than 5,000 precious men and women, boys and girls who were won to Christ during the special evangelistic emphasis of NY13 in metro New York City during 2013.

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
I was halfway through a four-hour drive home from a church where I had been invited to preach that Sabbath when something unexpected happened about five car lengths ahead of me. It was just after dusk when the monotony of the sights of the road was interrupted by a cloud of dust, debris, and brake lights as the unforgettable image of an SUV tumbling end-over-end appeared just ahead of me.

After what seemed like an eternity, the vehicle finally slid to a halt on its roof in the middle of the highway. As traffic moved away from the SUV, I pulled my car in front of it and turned on the high beams to illuminate the scene. Putting my vehicle in park and turning on the hazard lights, I asked my wife to pray, and I jumped out of the car, and ran toward the overturned SUV.

Years ago, I had volunteered my time as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and the training began to resurface as I rounded the far side of the SUV to find a woman, the lower half of her body stuck out of the driver’s side window, while her upper half was still inside the car, tangled in her seat belt. 

"Turn off the vehicle," my training reminded me. I crawled through the shattered window to find the interior of the vehicle filled with broken glass, plastic, and the remainder of what had formerly found its home on the floorboards and in the cup holders of the SUV.

There I met Tiffany. She was shaken up, bruised, and battered, but she was conscious and able to communicate with me. “My hand . . .,” she said, her eyes showing her fear. After following her arm through the twisted seat belt, I found the reason why. As the vehicle came to a stop, her hand had been caught between the roof of the vehicle and the road. A crowd of onlookers was gathering, and while there were many people surrounding the scene, no one seemed to know what to do to help. I called for a knife to cut Tiffany’s seat belt and pointed toward four men to help lift the vehicle so her hand could be freed.

“One, two, three, lift!” I called, as they lifted the vehicle just enough for me to remove Tiffany’s hand and shift it to a more comfortable position by her side.

More of my training and experience began to come back to me as I went through the ABCs (Airway,
Breathing, Circulation) of treating a patient. But to be honest, I began to realize that I was rusty. I hadn’t been practicing for a long time and I knew my skills and response time weren’t what they used to be. It was terribly frustrating, especially when I needed to be sharp right then.

**Time for a secondary assessment**, I remembered. I began to look for deformities, contusions, abrasions, penetrations and punctures, burns, tenderness, lacerations, and swelling. I checked her eyes to see if her pupils were equal, round, and reactive to light. Memories were kicking in, but they were noticeably slow.

After what seemed like forever, an ambulance finally arrived and I was able to give the team an overview of Tiffany’s condition and turn everything over to them.

As I got back in my car and continued the drive home, I went back over the experience in my mind. Suddenly, a very uncomfortable thought struck me. **I never saw Tiffany move her legs.** In all my treatment of her, I had never seen the lower half of her body move. **I should have stabilized her c-spine very early on to decrease any possible further injury to her spinal cord,** I thought, with my brow furrowed. **How could you forget THAT?** I scolded myself.

That night in the middle of a busy highway, in the debris-filled interior of an overturned SUV with a young lady named Tiffany, the Lord taught me a very valuable spiritual lesson. 1 Peter 3:15 says to, “Be ready always.” And while that verse can certainly have a physical application (as it would in the case of the experience I recounted), the primary emphasis of the verse is profoundly spiritual. It reads, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

As spiritual wrecks happen around us at an astonishing rate every single day, we will find ourselves with opportunities to help lost and wearied souls on the road to salvation. **Will we be ready always to help them or will we stand around and watch, unsure of what to say or do, as many onlookers did with Tiffany?**

One of the main reasons why the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) was founded is to meet this need. Now officially open on the campus of Atlantic Union College, NETS exists to help train lay people who want to more effectively share their faith in their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a winsome and effective manner. Offering classes in health evangelism (such as plant-based cooking schools, health expos and massage), personal evangelism (door-to-door work, finding, writing, and giving Bible studies), and public evangelism (preaching powerfully, overcoming objections, and gaining decisions for Jesus), NETS has already sent graduates into the field who are serving as active lay members and Bible workers in churches across the union and around the world.

An initiative of the Atlantic Union Conference with support from the North American Division and the General Conference, NETS is dedicated to empowering laity and strengthening local churches as they strive to reach their communities for Christ.

If you would like to find out more about NETS’ complete four-month certificate course, or whether one of our short-term, weekend NETS Express training classes is being held in your area, please visit our Web site (www.netsatlanticunion.org) or contact us at (978) 368-2638 or e-mail: registrar@netsatlanticunion.org. And please keep Tiffany and her recovery in your prayers. 

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**Cover Story**

**Eric Flickinger is the director of the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS).**
What NETS graduates say they like about the program . . .

Graduates of the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) share some thoughts on their experience attending the fall 2013 program.

“I have really enjoyed the aspect of door-to-door outreach, and thank God for His divine appointment with my friend, Tricia. She has enriched my life in many ways as God used me to reach her.”—Jenni Holdren

“One of my most favorite things as far as NETS is concerned is the learning style. I really like the fact that not only do I get classroom training but field training, as well. I like the fact that NETS spends the time to prepare a program that allows us to get a taste of evangelism [for] ourselves rather than just hear about how it has worked for others. Besides that, if I had to pick one thing out of the many things we did for NETS, it would probably have to be the door knocking, as I am an extravert by nature anyway.”—Bo Suriner

“What I like most about NETS is the personal experience you get, both spiritual and social. It’s a life-changing experience.”—Bernard Cobbinah

“Kevin Sears and Eric Flickinger not only are amazing teachers, but their background and testimonies are very powerful. Being in New England with its historical significance, to visit and see so many places where the church started is incredible. The classes offered are interesting and very practical. But the best part is the supportive environment to spend with God every moment of every day.”—Mckinzie Johnson

“I like most that all the speakers we had have extensive knowledge on the subjects they taught us.”—Vernetta Bryan

“There are so many awesome things about NETS, how can I decide? I think I can narrow it down to two aspects. One, the environment of being around teachers and fellow students set on fire with zeal and enthusiasm for God. And two, the practical applications of evangelism that we have opportunity to put into practice on a daily basis.”—Alexandria Johnson

I like “the hands-on participation in a complete evangelism cycle.”—Cheryl Almedia

For more information about NETS, visit the Web site: www.netsatlanticunion.org, e-mail: registrar@netsatlanticunion.org, or call (978) 368-2638.
Recognizing Teachers in One-room Schools

Within the boundaries of the Southern New England Conference four one-teacher schools are thriving. These schools are staffed by teachers who are on the front line of Christian education every day, basically by themselves. It’s hard to imagine being the only adult at school day by day, having no other adults to talk with about “life” in the classroom, unless the school is fortunate to have a teacher’s aide! Yet, these outstanding teachers work diligently to proclaim the love of God to their students and their communities! Although teachers everywhere deserve greater appreciation for their service, one-room school teachers do it all—from administration to the task of teaching every subject to every student in every grade. And when done well—wow, it’s phenomenal to see!

For example, there’s the Bayberry school on Cape Cod. Jen Case, principal/teacher, John Piroski, pastor of the Cape Cod church, and a strong school board provide a haven of excellence for their students! This year 18 students are enrolled. Under the tutelage of Mrs. Case and her supportive teacher’s aide, Dini Jeltema, these students are blossoming in a learning environment that every child should have the privilege of experiencing!

At Berkshire Hills school located in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Mark Bugbee, principal/teacher and Dennis Farley, pastor of the Berkshire Hills church, along with another strong school board, provide a varied educational atmosphere that oozes success—from learning in the classroom to learning in the great rural outdoors!

Another outstanding one-room campus is Maranatha Adventist Regional school (MARS) located in Willimantic, Connecticut. Tami Todd, principal/teacher, took God at His Word and made the impossible, possible. Beginning the school year with only one child, this school now hosts 12 students. Richard Pinero, pastor of the Willimantic church, and the school board had a vision, and now students are learning the joy of our Christian faith!

Finally, but by no means least, Wachusett Hills in Gardner, Massachusetts, is guided by Edie Conrad, principal/teacher. Mrs. Conrad faithfully works endless hours every day to provide the best for her students. She, too, is blessed with the faithful support of Einar Rom, pastor of the Gardner church, and the school board there as they uphold the strength of Christian education!

These are only four examples of teachers who minister in one-room schools, but all teachers in this category are the unsung heroes of Christian education! They arrive at work on time every day, perform their duties faithfully, are “experts” in each grade and each subject, value their students as individuals, and are involved in the activities of their churches. By the grace of God, they master what could be an overwhelming challenge and bring forth order, creativity, and students who are happily involved in learning.

Although all teachers should be appreciated for what they do in the classroom; all pastors who support Christian education in word and action need to be thanked; and all school board chairs and board members are to be commended for their sacrifice of time. Today, we say to the teachers in our one-room schools, “You are greatly appreciated! We honor you for all you do to demonstrate the love of God, and we thank you for teaching on the frontline of Adventist education!”

Pat Giese is the Southern New England Conference superintendent of schools.
Greater New York Conference Communicators Broadcast Him

Broadcasting Him was the theme of the 2014 communication workshop held at the North Bronx church on January 19. Participants were taught how to use various forms of technology in advancing the mission of their church.

Veteran news reporter and anchor for News 12 Long Island, Elizabeth Hashagan, was one of the keynote presenters. She spoke about how churches can tell their stories and get media coverage by building relationships, following the work of news reporters, and connecting with them via social media.

Hashagan encouraged the participants to make sure their church news has a compelling story that is of interest beyond just their local church. Rohann Wellington, Greater New York Conference communication director, presented Hashagan with a plaque for her commitment to excellence in the area of broadcast journalism.

The other keynote presenter was Joel Sam, CEO of Symbiota. Sam engaged the participants in ways they can use digital technology to connect with their members and community. The afternoon sessions included presentations from Denison Moura, Hue Sang Kim, Dawin Rodriguez, Lerick Mutis, and Cassie Milnes Martsching.

—Lisa Gonzalez, administrative assistant, Greater New York Conference Communication Department

Symbiota CEO Joel Sam gives a presentation on mobile media in ministry to the communication teams from the local churches in Greater New York Conference.

Rohann Wellington, Greater New York Conference communication director, right, presents News 12 Long Island anchor Elizabeth Hashagen, left, with a plaque in recognition of her commitment to excellence in broadcast journalism.

The communication directors from Long Island with News 12 Long Island reporter Elizabeth Hashagen, front row, fourth from right, and Rohann Wellington, Greater New York Conference communication director, front row, third from right.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the second regular quadrennial and fifty-fifth regular constituency meeting of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the fifty-fifth regular constituency meeting of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York 12594, on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.)

The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of trustees for the coming quadrennial period, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

G. Earl Knight, President
Gerson P. Santos, Executive Secretary
The eighth Adventist Youth and Evangelism Congress for the Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries Department was a tremendous success. It took place from January 17 to 19 at the Stamford Hilton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut. The congress was the kick-off for the slate of activities planned for 2014 by the conference’s Youth Ministries department.

This year’s theme “Battle Ready, Armed, and Faithful,” with emphasis on Ephesians 6:17, was introduced at the congress. The theme was chosen to encourage youth and young adults to study and be fortified with the Word of God.

Hundreds of youth and young adults from New York City and beyond registered and participated in more than 130 seminars that empowered them for service in various aspects of ministry. These included Adventist Youth, Pathfinder, Adventurer, Community Services, Preaching, Media, and Theater ministries.

Expert presenters used their God-given gifts to impart knowledge to the participants so that they would return to their churches and communities as effective witnesses.

The main presenter for the worship service was James Black, North American Division Youth Ministries director. He took the opportunity to encourage the youth and young adults to be prepared for the battles that the devil will bring in their lives. He reminded them that, if they fortify their minds with the Word of God and remain true and faithful to Him, God will always give them the victory.

—Eion Teddy Williamson, volunteer assistant youth director, Greater New York Conference

The Greater New York Conference Brooklyn area Mass Youth Choir sings at the Adventist Youth and Evangelism Congress.

James Black, North American Division Youth Ministries director, speaks to the participants at the Greater New York Conference Adventist Youth and Evangelism Congress.
Church Member Shares How God Came Through in a Miraculous Way

I received an e-mail from a church member. The e-mail described a fellow church member’s request for the church to assist with paying some personal unforeseen bills that amounted to $1,753.00. However, I knew this was outside of church policy. We had just adopted a new church board policy that would allow church members in need to receive up to $200.00 once a year, in case of a personal financial crisis. “Two hundred dollars is all we can give,” I told the church member in need. “That is our policy. I am sorry!” But God had other ideas. “Read the e-mail once again and reconsider,” He was telling me. I realized that this e-mail was meant for me, and not for the church board to decide, as I had previously thought. Unfortunately, I didn’t have the money and that was a problem for me, as much as I wanted to personally help my fellow church member. Then a new thought struck me. Why not use the money left over from my overhead expenses in my own personal business each month to help a brother in need? It would take a lot of courage to make this leap of faith, but I decided it could be done if I trusted in God completely. “Trust me even when things look impossible to you!” God was telling me. So I took my credit card and paid the bill for my brother in need. God has never left me short in my life, so I figured it was worth the risk this time, as well. At the end of the month after all income and expenses were accounted for on my business ledger, I looked at each of the income items and noticed that a previous investment I made had reached maturity and been cashed in. My knees grew weak at such a revelation and tears came to my eyes. I had fought so hard, it seemed, to ignore the situation of my brother in Christ, and I had hidden behind a church policy to do it. I had been putting my personal needs and perhaps the needs of my church before God’s will! You may not believe this, but amazingly the amount of return on my investment was exactly $1,753.00! God had come through for me in a miraculous way with the exact amount I needed! The lesson for me was clear. Trust God before, during, and after every situation in your life! He loves you and wants to show you He cares. We just need to give Him the opportunity!

—Larry Hayes, church member, New York Conference

Elmira’s Pathfinders Show Compassion in the Community

Compassion Ministry is strong in Elmira’s Pathfinder Club. The club went to a local organization called the Arctic League, which collects gifts to be given out to children in local families that would not have gifts on Christmas morning. The Pathfinder club offered their services to organize and pack the gifts. One hundred twenty-four bags were packed, and a total of 1,000 gifts were delivered on Christmas morning. Four club members were up at 4:00 a.m. in order to deliver the gifts by 7:00 a.m. The club looks forward to other action-packed events in Compassion Ministry.

—Derek Colaw, Pathfinder leader, Elmira church
Shorty after distributing more than 50 baskets to feed more than 200 people for the 2013 Thanksgiving holidays, the students at Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York, were at it again. They started organizing food baskets and gifts for the Christmas holidays, as well. The goal was to serve refugee families in the Westvale church and other families in the local community.

The students wanted to distribute food baskets and gifts before Christmas day, but snow days and other projects got in the way. So in January, students hand-delivered gifts of love to families throughout the city of Syracuse. It was a Christmas in January to remember!

With the generous support of the Westvale church and an anonymous donor, students discovered that organizing and distributing more than $5,000 worth of food and gifts is no small task.

There is a large population of refugee families that attend Parkview. Some of the families that received these gifts of love were close friends and classmates. Students found the challenge exciting and fun to keep everything a secret.

Organization is a premium and these type of community service projects are not foreign to the students at Parkview. In fact, community service is at the heart of what drives its existence. Each basket was prepared and prayed for by young people who are learning that it is truly better to give than to receive.

—Mark Tamalea, principal, Parkview Junior Academy

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Union Springs Academy
Annual Alumni Weekend
May 2-4, 2014

Sabbath Worship Speaker: Richard Wright, '64

For more information, call (315) 889-7314
www.unionspringsacademy.org
The first Men’s Conference, “Encounters 2013,” was held at Christian Fellowship church in Brooklyn New York on November 17 through 19, 2013. Thirteen Northeastern Conference churches in the Brooklyn area sponsored this uplifting series. More than 244 men registered for the event.

The participating churches were Goshen Temple, New Life, Brooklyn Faith, Flatbush, Emmaus, Shiloh, Christian Fellowship, Kingsboro Temple, River of Life, Elim, Mount Moriah, Rogers Avenue, and Hanson Place.

The pastors, who have been working together, agreed that something needed to be done to encourage men to take a truly active role in the home and in the church. It was decided that a three-day program, for three hours each night, would help to provide the catalyst for this revival. As soon as the idea was shared with the men’s ministries leaders, they joined in with great enthusiasm.

The conference was planned to provide inspiration and information. It was held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. nightly and included plenary sessions, workshops, and a worship service. Nevilon Meadows, director of Men Under Development (M.U.D., Inc.), conducted the plenary sessions that included the theological foundation for the role of men.

The workshops were comprehensive and covered specific needs related to spirituality, sexuality, and masculine responsibilities. Some of the subjects covered included: Dealing with Damaged Emotions (Richard Campbell, a pastor in the Allegheny East Conference), The Man as Priest, Husband, and Father (Warner Richards, pastor of Linden church), Masculine Touch (Baldwin Barnes, pastor of Christian Fellowship church), The Cultural Dimensions of the Male Self (John McQueen, Ph.D.), and What Women Need (Deborah Richardson, member of Faith church).

Each night the session closed with a very electrifying and spirit-filled worship service. The men were led into praise by an all-male praise and worship team. This was followed by the practical and powerful proclamation of life-changing messages from Myron Edmonds, pastor of the Glenville church in Cleveland, Ohio. Edmonds captivated the men each night and called them forth to transformational commitment.

God blessed, and from all reviews, the “Encounters 2013” Men’s Conference was a resounding success. The consistent attendance of more than 200 gentlemen nightly was a demonstration and testimony of their commitment.

—Cameron Bowen, pastor, Elim church
Kingsboro Temple Church Presents History of African-American Experience

The Kingsboro Temple church Adventist Youth department and drama ministries attempted to be a passageway between past, present, and future on February 1.

Through music, dance, the spoken word, and acting, we journeyed to Africa prior to transatlantic slavery, felt the despair of bondage, communicated when words could not be uttered, and hoped toward a brighter future.

Looking back at our ancestors, we see pain and anguish, but we also see pride and strength. More importantly, we see a reliance on God and God holding the hands of His children. There is still a need for God.

Moving toward the future, the past must be remembered, the present cherished, and above all, God be glorified. The program was created and written by Kingsboro Temple member Kent Sutton. Signs of Praise, founded and directed by Kingsboro Temple member Sean Thomas led out in the dance and sign language portions of the program.

When we look back at our history we see unbelievable hardship and people being torn from their homes, forced into a harsh life of bondage, where every ounce of self is stripped away. We see young men and women stand up or sit in for the right to be called human, or simply to be treated as one. We see pride and strength in our people. But if we look closer beyond the struggle, beyond the hardship, deeper into the pages of history, there is one thing that many fail to see—God.

From early in our history there has always been a reliance on God. Somehow this gets lost as we look back. The African-American experience has always been rooted in faith. Our long road to freedom is a telling of history and our people’s trust in God, through the arts. Traveling down a timeline there is still a need for God, now, just as before. In our search for the future we cannot forget God.

—Desrene Walton, communication leader, Kingsboro Temple church
Pine Tree Academy Students Witness Through Music at Bible Summit

Three Pine Tree Academy students and a sponsor excitedly boarded a plane in Portland, Maine, on October 25, 2013. Their destination? Indiana Academy in Cicero, Indiana. Their mission? To glorify God through song at the Indiana Conference Bible Summit.

The Indiana Conference invited Pine Tree Academy science teacher Brianna Payne to organize a praise team for the general sessions of the event, and junior Amy Pekar, seniors Ezra Kruzich and Andrew Goorhuis accompanied her. Spirits were high, since it was the first time one of the students had traveled by plane, and any reason to give an offering of praise to God is a joy.

Over the weekend of October 25-27, the small Pine Tree Academy delegation sang, ate, studied, and played with the group gathered for the event, which was jointly sponsored by the Center for Youth Evangelism, Indiana Academy, and the Indiana Conference Youth Department.

These organizations have hosted the Bible summit for three years and work in conjunction with the local congregations and church leaders to inspire young Adventists to be equipped for deeper Bible study and “youth-to-youth evangelism.” All events of the weekend focused on deliberate study of God’s Holy Word and learning to share what they find within its covers.

Pine Tree Academy’s emphasis on developing musical skills continues to create opportunities for witnessing and fellowship, not just in the Northern New England Conference, but in Indiana, and even internationally.

—Staff, Pine Tree Academy

16th Annual Northern New England Art Clinic Draws Hundreds

The Northern New England Conference Art Clinic has become an institution that each year excites, inspires, and encourages students to develop their artistic gifts and use them to the glory of the Lord. The clinic is also a much-anticipated social event for students, school staff, and parents/sponsors from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and beyond.

Students in schools across the conference await the arrival of Art Clinic eagerly, and homeschoolers are drawn to the clinic as if by magnet. Taken all together, the clinic is a celebration of creativity and Adventist education, and is a profound blessing to all who attend each year.

Art Clinic was founded in 1998 by Trudy Wright, superintendent of schools for the Northern New England Conference. This year’s Art Clinic was a bittersweet experience for Wright, who will be retiring in August. Through the years she has been a dynamo in continuing to push and build up the Art Clinic experience for youth across Northern New England. This year’s Art Clinic was held at Central Vermont Academy in Barre, Vermont, from January 30 to February 1.

“Art” has a broad definition at Art Clinic. At this year’s clinic, there were 15 separate types of classes available to students, including: Photography, Woodcarving, Costume Design, Set Design, Culinary Arts, Perspective Drawing, Snow Sculpture, Watercolor, Quilt Art, Beginning Sewing, Floral Design, Visual Art, and Graphic Design.
Educators throughout the Adventist school system hope to inspire their students to become lifelong learners. And, although they don’t always get to see how their lessons ultimately inspire students, once in a while they are privileged to watch firsthand as a spark of inspiration develops into a life work and passion. Such was the case recently at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, with a student named Sam Delaware.

Sam is now a junior, but this story starts during the fifth grade at Pine Tree Academy, when Sam used his mom’s camera to take pictures for his science fair project. His project focused on the types of food different species of birds were attracted to. He taught himself how to use the camera and took some very good pictures.

Sam discovered he had a passion for photography and as his skills increased he began to save for his own camera, lenses, and other photography equipment. His photos began to attract the attention of people who saw them and he was asked to display them in local businesses and galleries.

One couple, who saw his work on display, hired him to be an additional photographer at their wedding in order to capture candid moments. As a result of that engagement Sam found himself with a small but growing business.

Seeking to further develop his business skills, Sam took the opportunity last semester to participate in a Young Entrepreneurs Academy hosted by a local Chamber of Commerce. This was an intense course designed to help young entrepreneurs put together business plans and marketing strategies to help their business dreams become a reality. The class culminated with a final presentation to a panel of local businessmen, who then determined which students would be awarded grants.

Sam was awarded $1,400 by the panel and was selected to represent Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce at the national level competition in Rochester, New York. All this Sam managed to accomplish while still maintaining good grades with a full course load and participating in a month-long mission trip to India.

—Dana Waterman, first- and second-grade teacher, Pine Tree Academy
This school year, South Lancaster Academy (SLA) implemented a new idea called “AAA Days.” AAA, which stands for “alternate academic activity,” occurs one Friday a month when students undertake various community service projects in surrounding communities.

Each of the students at SLA are assigned to a different place where they work for two to three hours a month. These places include local nursing homes, such as River Terrace and Corcoran Assisted Living. Some of the other places include the Community Café in Clinton, the College Church, Atlantic Union College, and the Thayer Memorial Public Library.

There is also a group of students who stay at the school and do mission writing or assist the teachers at Browning elementary for the day. As Christians, witnessing is a very important part of our responsibility to spread God’s Word, and community service is a great way to do that, especially because actions speak louder than words.

SLA’s goal with AAA Days was to create a method for students to minister to their community and have a way to participate in service projects.

“I think that AAA days are a lot of fun, but they are also meaningful because they allow us to help others. It makes the students become closer and it helps us to know that we are serving God. It also represents our school well, and allows us to give a good impression of our faith to others by helping them,” said freshman Sam Kline.

Another student, junior Kathy Andreu, said, “It’s a great opportunity and it’s amazing to see the way we can make an impact on other people’s lives. It’s cool to see all the different places and parts of our community. I think it’s really important that our school sets a good example for others.”

Brandon Beneche, a senior, said, “It’s a really nice addition to our school schedule for this year. I hope that we are able to show God’s character through our actions. So far, it has been a really good experience and it gives people an idea of how to serve God on a daily basis.”

Jonathan Nino, SLA’s chaplain and the AAA Days coordinator, said, “AAA days are very important because we’re putting our faith in action. We want people to know that it’s not only about learning about God, but sharing Him. We’re following God’s example of who we should be. The Bible tells us not only to serve God but to serve others. When we help other people, we become people-oriented rather than self-oriented. People have been receptive to this idea. The people at each of the locations we have gone to have welcomed us with open arms. It’s been a very positive and uplifting experience.”

Here at SLA, we are blessed to have a place where we can learn more about the Bible and build our faith, so it’s really important that we set a good example to those around us. Our theme for this school year is “Passion,” and having passion for the Lord is a key element in developing stronger faith and living a Christian lifestyle. Witnessing to others through the way we live and the things we do is a way to express that. It is often said that when you help others, you are really helping yourself.

Many people find that when they do God’s work and serve others, they become closer to Jesus. The students at SLA have had a great time learning about putting their faith into action and showing kindness to others, and SLA has been excited about creating an opportunity for students to share their faith in the communities around them.

—Nawal Habib, junior, South Lancaster Academy
New England and evangelism—since the genesis of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, these two words were always meant to go together. The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) commenced its first semester on the campus of Atlantic Union College partnering with Mark Gagnon, pastor, and the members of the Leominster church to bring physical and spiritual health and well-being to the community through a variety of outreach programs.

Following Christ’s method as outlined in The Ministry of Healing, p. 143, NETS students and local church members blessed the residents of Leominster by bringing health expos, vegetarian cooking schools, brain health lectures, Bible studies, and a Bible prophecy seminar to the city.

Scores of people attended the events and both guests and members made life-changing decisions about their health and their relationship with Jesus Christ. Two people who attended, Brian and Tina Hood, came to a cooking school that featured Ernestine Finley and Hidelisa Flickinger as instructors.

When they found out about the Bible prophecy seminar that was starting the following week, they rearranged their schedules so that they could attend all those meetings, as well. At the conclusion of the series, Brian and Tina were among the number who chose to declare their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism.

In subsequent semesters NETS will be partnering with other churches in the vicinity of Atlantic Union College to inspire and encourage local members as well as NETS students in their efforts to reach their communities for Christ.

To find out how NETS can work with your church or how you can be a student in the next NETS training program, visit www.netsatlanticunion.org, e-mail registrar@netsatlanticunion.org, or call (978) 368-2638.

—Eric Flickinger, director, NETS
On its fiftieth birthday, the Warwick church gave birth to its first offspring—the Ministerio Hermandad Company (MHC), the first Spanish church organization in the Adventist Church in Bermuda. This new development comes on the anniversary day and date of the Warwick church’s own creation as a company on December 21, 1963.

Marking the significance of the two events, church officials from both the Bermuda Conference and the Atlantic Union Conference attended and participated in the celebrations in a packed church sanctuary. Members from sister churches in Bermuda also attended to show their support (both financial and spiritual).

The evening before, the new company observed Communion according to traditional denominational practice for new bodies of believers. During his Sabbath morning homily, Jeffrey Brown, Bermuda Conference president, exhorted the two congregations to support one another and to be faithful to God’s call to spread the gospel far and wide.

In the afternoon, at the organizing service, MHC was formally voted as a company as Dionisio Olivo, Atlantic Union Hispanic and Portuguese Ministries vice president, gave the new body its challenge to remember that in spite of its imperfections, the church belongs to Christ; it cannot fail, because it is His.

All this from humble, and even improbable, beginnings seven years before, when the Spanish company began in the hearts of four local Hispanic women—Eileen King, Sandra Stowe, Loida Ratteray, and Isis Wellman—who felt the Holy Spirit’s call to minister to native Spanish speakers living in Bermuda (whose name, appropriately, derives from that of a sixteenth-century Spaniard, Juan de Bermúdez).

Indeed, when contemplating the creation of such a ministry, King sought counsel from her mother, Carmen Rodriguez, Florida Conference executive secretary, exclaiming, “I don’t know what to do. I don’t know where to start.” “Start with prayer,” was her mother’s advice.

The group’s ministry began reaching out in a variety of ways: ESL classes, seasonal events, and Bible studies, all designed to attract Hispanics. With the arrival in 2008 of Ariel Manzueta, Warwick church pastor, and his wife, Merley—themselves Hispanic—the evolution of MHC progressed, as he was charged with providing spiritual leadership to the growing group as well as to the English-speaking Warwick church.

The fusion of the two congregations on the premises of that church was a logical step, and the Spanish members began filling the fellowship hall each Sabbath as Manzueta found himself darting between the two groups as he carried out his ministerial functions.

Aiding the pastor’s ministry was Cleo de la Cruz, the first Adventist Bible instructor for the Spanish community in Bermuda. “This work is of the Holy Spirit,” she said at the organizing service. “Most people did not believe it could be done. The Lord showed me our church full of people, and I believed Him. God deserves all the glory.” Her untiring efforts with her husband, Lucilo Fermin, produced more growth and stability of membership.

Evelyn Douglas, an MHC member, poignantly testified in her native Spanish during the service: “I am a living testimony of what this group has done. I was coming here for four years and could not understand the language, and since attending [MHC] my life has changed.”

Forty-one people are now officially members of MHC; 18 of them were baptized in 2013. The new elder is Dave Pearman, the clerk is Sandra Stowe, and the treasurer is Kathy Durrant.

—Coggie Gibbons, communication secretary, with additional reporting by Ariel Manzueta, pastor, and Dave Pearman, elder, Warwick church
Christian: A person for whom Jesus is the center of everything.

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May 3, 2014

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Not Ashamed

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Atlantic Union Gleaner, March 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. Stay connected on Facebook. Search for Bronx-Manhattan S.D.A. School Alumni Association.

NEW YORK
Celebrating A Legacy that Spans Over 100 Years! The Bay Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School is celebrating its legacy. This school has been providing quality Christian education for more than 100 years. Come and celebrate with us on Mar. 22. All former students and teachers are invited to attend. Students who attended during the first 50 years will be honored. The Bay Knoll school was formerly called Browning and later Culver school, located in Rochester, N.Y. Please contact us if you’re a former student or have information about anyone who attended or taught at the Bay Knoll school or their relatives. Contact Ms. Rowe, principal at (585) 467-2722, e-mail: surprisedi@aol.com.

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.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

Alumni Homecoming Weekend
April 25 – 26, 2014

In conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the Village Church
75 Sawyer Street
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Join us for worship, fellowship, and to hear the messages from speakers Bill Knott, ADVENTIST REVIEW editor, on Friday night, and Dan Jackson, North American Division president, on Sabbath morning.

For more information, visit us on our Web site: alumniofauc.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AlumniofAUC

Program Schedule
Clinic and Academy Concert April 3, 7:30pm
Sacred Concert April 4, 7:30pm
Sabbath School Concert April 5, 9:30am
Church Service April 5, 11:00am
Secular Concert April 5, 7:30pm

Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead. Acts 17:31 NKJV

Final piano registration February 1, 2014. Final registration for all others March 1, 2014.

Music Clinic 2014
April 3-5
one DAY

Atlantic Union GLEANER, March 2014
SPRING MEDICAL MISSIONARY CONVENTION: Theme: Medical Missionary Work—The Gospel in Action. Date: April 3–6, 2014, Thursday 7:00 p.m.-Sunday 11:00 a.m. Site: Butler Creek Health Education Center, 9596 Last Butler Road, Iron City, TN 38463. Attendance is free. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Housing is limited. Registration is required. For more information, contact Lew Keith: www.butlercreek.us Phone: (931) 724-2443, e-mail: lew@butlercreek.us.

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

Established January 1, 1902

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