Compassion Portland: An Answer to Prayer

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Cover: The cover photo of Monument Square in Portland, Maine, was taken by Paul Watson.
The Future Is Ours

As we wind our way down the corridors of time, we are always made cognizant that the future is never guaranteed to anyone. The tragedy of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 starkly reminds us of that fact. Nevertheless, for those who trust in the Lord with all their hearts (Psalm 9:10), there is another kind of future—a heavenly one—that is guaranteed for every believing Christian follower.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we have a special last-day message of hope to trumpet to the world. That’s why we conduct evangelistic initiatives on an ongoing basis. In order to sustain and maintain this soul-winning emphasis, there are some important factors we must constantly keep before us:

- We must seek to expand our Adventist missional reach into the remotest parts of our Atlantic Union territory. We do this while always keeping in mind that the cities are where the people reside in large numbers, and they, too, must be reached for Christ.

- We must tighten our budgetary spending of resources during these economic hard times. Every nickel gained through tithes and offerings should be every nickel spent wisely for the support and progress of the mission—both local and foreign. In other words, we must rearrange our priorities to reflect careful and thoughtful stewardship that will glorify our Savior.

- There was never a time more than this in which men and women ought to pray! Let there be small groups, large groups, conventions, and congresses of prayer. Let there be men and women, boys and girls, on their knees pleading for deliverance from the power of the evil forces so pervasive in our world today. Prayer and fasting provide a bulwark of protection as well as support for those who trust in the Lord. Prayer connects us to our future both in this world and the world to come.

  - Strive to be a gentler, kinder, friendlier people of faith. People do not care what we believe until they believe that we care. How can we validate this? Through random acts of kindness. Adventist Community Service (ACS) projects have proven this through the years. They’ve shown that caring about others keeps it real. The work done after Superstorm Sandy blew through New York City just prior to our NY13 initiative is a prime testament to the success of the efforts in New York.

  Another authentication of caring is the youth and young adults of the Atlantic Union who have embarked on a noteworthy Compassion Movement to act in compassionate ways to communities and, when necessary, to march against domestic violence that plagues our streets and schools. Speaking of schools, our Adventist schools (a worldwide system of education second in size only to the Catholic system) is one of the greatest opportunities for demonstrating caring and compassion in these faith-based learning centers.

  Finally, the family structure is under severe attack by the arch-deceiver of our souls. Every effort must be made to strengthen family bonds and the God-ordained marital structure established from Eden to this day. Mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, men and women are called upon to prayerfully and compassionately support and hold sacred the responsibility of parenthood and marriage in a world that is steadily deteriorating by the moment.

  So yes, the future is ours by trusting with all our hearts in the God of the past, present, and future.

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
More than 10,000 hours of community service activities displaying acts of love and compassion were performed in the City of Portland, Maine, and the surrounding area, including Portsmouth, New Hampshire, during the Compassion Rally on the weekend of March 21-23. More than 1,000 people, mainly youth and young adults, participated in the weekend’s 32 projects, and hundreds participated in the Compassion March Against Violence.

Portland is the largest city in Maine and more than half a million people, more than one-third of Maine’s total population, live in the Greater Portland metropolitan area. This was the city chosen by the Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries team as the second stop on the Compassion Rally five-year compassion initiative for cities in the Atlantic Union.

The Compassion Movement Impact Was Immediate

Bob Rice, pastor of the Portsmouth church, shares a letter highlighting one of the stories that resulted from the Compassion Rally which sums up the impact of the weekend.

“Dear Family of God,

“Wow, what a day! I can’t wait to hear how God blessed today from all those involved in Compassion Weekend. You could see the enthusiasm and excitement as groups came and went in ministry. I hesitate to mention names of those involved because I know I would forget some. I’m sure we will get reports of the blessings!

“One, though, I must mention. Karen Amos called and left messages for me to call because someone wanted to see the pastor. Karen and her group of dedicated volunteers were working in a housing development.

“Here is the summary of what transpired: A lady came out of her home and inquired about what was going on with all the young people and others cleaning up the area. She was told that they were from the Seventh-day Adventist Church and they were having a special weekend of showing compassion to those around us.

“When the lady heard that they were Seventh-day Adventists, she said it was a direct answer to her prayers. She had grown up a Seventh-day Adventist in Portsmouth. Later she married, pretty much joined her husband’s church and left our church. She moved away and years went by (this story is told with her permission) and there were sad events in her life, including a divorce. She desperately felt her need to come back to the church that she believes follows God’s Word. She returned home to Portsmouth. She asked for a sign or for something to show her the way back.

“She said the children and people coming to her neighborhood was no accident, but ordained of God and a direct answer to her prayers. Darlene and I visited with her and prayed with her this afternoon. She is now praying for a ride to church since she has no car. She is also hungry for fel-
lowship with the church family. Her name is Kelly.
“God certainly led here. He will continue to lead. Thank you to all those who served the Lord, Jesus, today and were part of the miracles that took place.”

**Thank You for Your Contribution**

“On behalf of our Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries team and the conference youth directors, we would like to extend a ‘thank you’ to each of you who came from across our union and beyond,” said José Cortés, Jr., the union’s Youth Ministries director. “Special thanks also to leaders and parents who brought groups with them, the Northern New England Conference Compassion Team, who hosted us so well and organized such an awesome weekend, and to our colleagues, the pastors, who were there to support and make a difference together with their churches. Thank you for being the eyes, the heart, the hands, and the feet of Jesus in Portland, Maine.”

The next Compassion Rally will be held in Hamilton, Bermuda, on March 27-29, 2015. ☯

Compiled from information provided by Bob Rice and José Cortés, Jr.

View photos of the weekend on the back cover.

The march winds down at Monument Square in Portland, Maine, with singing, praying, and a challenge to the youth.

The marchers head to Monument Square in Portland, Maine, the final destination of the march against violence.

With rakes in hand Adventist youth clear leaves from the yards of total strangers.

Members of the AYES Corps (Adventist Youth Emergency Services) and others are advertising free hugs.
Adventist Education, an Essential Commodity in the Bermuda Conference

Seventy-one years ago a small band of believers had a vision of providing Christian education to the young people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bermuda. After many challenges, a school was started in the Southampton church basement with 13 students and one teacher. There are now more than 300 students and 30 teachers living out that vision. With Christian teachers, dedicated Bible workers, and Bible teachers laboring for the Master, it makes Bermuda Institute the largest evangelistic center for the Bermuda Conference.

For the past several years, the Bermuda Conference, through the Office of Education, has emphasized the importance of Adventist Christian education during the month of February. This year was no exception. In fact, the conference added additional focus by instituting educational presentations at the annual workers meeting. Elissa Kido, director, presented enlightening, persuasive, and substantial research from the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education located at La Sierra University.

In addition to this, each church in the conference took the time to emphasize the importance of Adventist education. Each of the churches participated in their own unique way. The Restoration Ministries church dedicated an entire church service on that particular Sabbath to promote Adventist education. Students had key responsibilities throughout the service. Somerset church emphasized Adventist education during the entire month. They honored Adventist teachers who teach in public schools while still highlighting Adventist education. Sermons were preached that portrayed the “saving grace” of our school. The Somerset church has pledged $50,000 in order to assist any students from their church who wish to attend Bermuda Institute.

Success and the fulfillment of the vision do not just happen. Achieving these takes hard work, dedication, and commitment. As a part of the North American Division, Bermuda Institute works hard to uphold the philosophy, curriculum, and standards of Adventist education as stipulated by the division. The school continually seeks to render a Christ-centered quality education for the young people in this conference.

The North American Division accrediting team evaluated Bermuda Institute in April this year. The 11-member team, led by Hamlet Canosa, Columbia Union vice president for education, was comprised of education directors, superintendents, principals, and teachers who validated the entire educational program the school offers. The team visited classrooms and interviewed students and faculty members.

They looked at student and parent surveys and declared that we operate an excellent school. They’ve reported to administration and teachers the affirming words of students as they talk about their spiritual, academic, and social experiences at Bermuda Institute. “It’s the best school on the island,” said one senior student, while others nodded in agreement. Those are the words any school loves to hear.

With a shrinking economy and depleting funds, the conference and school continue to treasure the dream and cherish the vision of providing a mission-driven Adventist education to all students. It is a viable, essential commodity in the Bermuda Conference.

Sheila Holder is the Bermuda Conference superintendent of schools.
Restoration Ministries Provides Fun and Fellowship for Members

Restoration Ministries held a social event with a difference—a cupcake war. The objective was to provide fun and fellowship for the members.

On February 22, at the Bermuda Institute campus, contestants rolled in heavy laden with their war chests, ready for Restoration Ministries church’s 2014 Cupcake War Championship. The teams were full of energy and a little anxiety as they made their way to their stations in the home economics room. The teams seemed ready to show their culinary finesse, however, they weren’t sure how the secret ingredient would meld with their recipes.

Three groups of four entered into the inaugural competition. The Fair Ladies, led by Ruth Hetsberger, the first lady of Restoration Ministries; Bake My Day, led by Ulric Hetsberger, Restoration Ministries’ pastor; and Glitz and Glamour, led by Brendal Pitcher. At 7:00 p.m. sharp the judges were introduced to the contestants: Georgina Roach from Sugar Rush Bakery; Derek Burrows, Restoration Ministries treasurer; and Janet King, Bermuda Institute’s Culinary Arts teacher. The rules of the competition were reiterated to the contestants and then the secret ingredient was revealed—loquats!

Once the baking was underway, the contestants put on their game faces and got down to business. The judges walked around, watching techniques and writing notes on the score cards. Soon the air was filled with the scents of ginger, chocolate, cherries, and vanilla as the cupcakes took form in the ovens.

As baking time ended and the cupcakes were moved to the auditorium, where the patient and eager audience waited to see what treats awaited them, some teams scrambled to pull their themes together while others seemed to be a little less harried. Amazingly when time ended there were three distinctly different themes, all quite amazing. The Fair Ladies presented Breakfast at Tiffany’s, Bake My Day presented Fifties Diner, and Glitz and Glamour presented Carnival.

The judges got a rundown from each team on the cupcakes presented. They tasted, conferred, critiqued, and offered great tips to each group. A few favorites from each team were The Fair Ladies’ chocolate cupcake with loquat maple frosting topped with crisp chopped striples, Bake My Day’s Boston cream pie cupcake, with loquats baked into the batter, and Glitz and Glamour’s multicolored snow cone themed cupcake with a loquat puree filling.

After the tasting, the judges took time to tally their totals and then it was time to announce the winner. The audience and contestants enthusiastically did a drum roll as the winning team was announced. The Restoration Ministries Cupcake War Champions 2014 were The Fair Ladies! However, all the teams were winners as each team displayed such distinct creativity and professionalism.

—Regina Ferguson and Gratiana Smith, members, Restoration Ministries

Camp Meeting Schedule

Theme: “It’s Your Time Now”
Bermuda Conference Camp Meeting • Bermuda Institute/Southampton Church Complex

July 2-5, 2014
Mark Finley
Assistant to the President
General Conference

Jeffrey Brown
President
Bermuda Conference

Sydney Gibbons
Executive Secretary
Bermuda Conference

Pamela Greyson
Treasurer
Bermuda Conference

Mark Finley
Jeffrey Brown
Sydney Gibbons
Pamela Greyson

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, May 2014
Churches Equipped With Fundraising Toolbox

Participants of the “Successful Fundraising” workshop walked away on Sunday, March 16, with more than a few handouts in their pockets. More than 70 people from 35 different church organizations across the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences attended the event held at the Grand Concourse Temple in the Bronx. Lilya Wagner, director of the North American Division’s Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI), presented a full-day training course covering essential fundraising concepts.

Topics addressed at the workshop included biblical advice on giving, understanding why people give, identifying possible donors, and how to build a case for support. Through role-play scenarios, participants obtained immediate feedback and even a chance to win a donation for their organization. One guest said, “I never had so clear a lecture [as the one] you gave.” Participants left the workshop enthusiastic and equipped with the necessary tools to implement a fundraising plan, including a copy of Successful Fundraising, A Guide for Local Churches, authored by Lilya Wagner and Nikolaus Satelmajer. Copies of the book are available in English and Spanish through AdventSource.

As ministries expand and more church plants occur, the need for effective fundraising to support the costs associated with this growth is evident. Church leaders are hungry for this type of hands-on training, and PSI’s services are an invaluable asset to the Adventist community. It is exciting to see how God will empower lay people in ministry with these practical skills.

For more information about fund development and future training events, please contact Janice Da Silva in the Planned Giving and Development office at the Greater New York Conference.

—Janice Da Silva, associate director, Greater New York Conference Office of Development

OFFICIAL NOTICE
Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the second regular quadrennial and fifty-fifth regular Constituency Session of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at Camp Berkshire, 580-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, departmental directors, ethnic ministries directors, executive committee members, and to transact other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization, and one for every 80 members. Each church is entitled to elect alternate delegates who may be seated at the Conference Session in place of any regular delegate not present. (Article III, Section 2: 1, 2)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee is being called for Saturday evening, May 10, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., at North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3743 Bronxwood Avenue, Bronx, New York 10469. All members of the Organizing Committee should plan to be present.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Nominating Committee is being called for Sunday morning, May 25, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the Greater New York Conference Office, 7 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset, NY 11030.

G. Earl Knight, President
Gerónimo Santos, Secretary

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 Session (second regular quadrennial) convening at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at Camp Berkshire, 580-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594. The delegates to the second regular quadrennial session of the Conference are also delegates to the second regular quadrennial session of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

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

G. Earl Knight, President
Lloyd Scharffenberg, Secretary
Camp Meeting Schedule

Theme: Discipleship and Prayer

Greater New York Conference Camp Meeting • Camp Berkshire • 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York
All camp meetings are at Camp Berkshire, except where noted.

Luso-Brazilian Camp Meeting
May 23–26, 2014
Delmar Reis
Seminary Student
Andrews University

English Camp Meeting
June 28–July 5, 2014

June 28
Adult
GNYC Elected Conference President

Youth/Young Adults
Johnson Cesar
Pastor
Bethesda French Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

July 5
Adult
Jerry Page
Ministerial Director
General Conference

Youth/Young Adults
Ricardo Bain
Pastor
Queens Faith Temple, Laurelton, N.Y.

Hispanic Camp Meeting
July 12–19, 2014

July 12
Adult
Stephen Bohr
Pastor
Iglesias Central de Fresno, Calif.
Presidente y Orador de Secretos Revelados

July 19
Adult
Ariel Manzueta
Pastor
Iglesias Spanish Manhattan and Convent
Trabajó hasta hace poco para la Asociación de Bermuda

Adult, Weekdays
Ismael Pérez-Maisonet
Youth Director
Directora Ministerio Infantil Asociación Puertorriqueña del Oeste

Youth/Young Adults
Carlos Patrick
Pastor
London, England

Seminars
Luís Báez
Graduado Universidad de Santo Domingo y afamado Médico Naturista con Práctica en New York y República Dominicana

Children and Vacation Bible School
Iris Pacheco-Maisonet
Children’s Ministries Director
Directora Ministerio Infantil Asociación Puertorriqueña del Oeste

Haitian Camp Meeting
July 20–27, 2014
Adult
Lesly Jacques
Haitian Ministries Coordinator
Southeastern Conference

Youth/Young Adult
Nathanael Gracia
Pastor
Ebenezer French Church, Atlanta, Ga.

Ghanaian Camp Meeting
July 16–20, 2014
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Filipino Camp Meeting
August 1–3, 2014

Korean Camp Meeting
August 3–10, 2014
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

United Camp Meeting
September 13, 2014
Volunteers Complete Long-needed Renovations on Union Springs Academy Campus

While students spent time at home, bonded during the senior class trip to South Carolina, or served on a mission trip to Honduras, more than 100 volunteers gathered at Union Springs Academy to complete long-needed renovations of the campus buildings.

From Sunday, March 16 through Friday, March 21, alumni, church members, and several individuals with no prior connection to the academy or to Adventism, gathered daily for breakfast and worship before heading to their assigned project areas for the day. Ministers from community churches gave inspirational talks each evening, providing spiritual refreshment. Some individuals, couples, and families came to work for a day, others stayed for the entire week, but all made a difference during the event themed “Our Hands in God’s Service.”

Planning of the event began in the spring of 2013 when John Cardinell, Jr., an alumni who graduated in 1978, proposed a plan to the academy administration. He felt that a large volunteer effort could be made to address plumbing, electrical, and structural needs in the buildings, while strengthening ties between the academy and its constituency. Professionals, several of whom are alumni, joined the leadership team, devoting hours to assessing the projects, compiling materials lists, recruiting, and supervising volunteers.

With the Ray Halbritter Charity Classic, Inc., pledging to match $25,000 in donations given toward the $50,000 needed to purchase construction materials and cover event expenses, donors responded generously. More than $54,000 were raised. In addition, an estimated 3,000 hours of volunteer labor, worth over $84,000, were donated. Projects during the week included a complete rebuild of two dorm restrooms, the restoration of a women’s restroom off the cafeteria, and repairs to the boys’ dorm guest room.

The entire gymnasium was repainted, with the addition of a mural depicting an eagle, the school mascot, on one wall, and a new PA system was installed. In the business office, volunteers built a storage room and repainted before new carpeting was installed. Other projects addressed needs in the greenhouse, the barn, and the cafeteria dining room.

One project stood out as the priority. The leaky roof over the boys’ dorm lobby and chapel, a problem for years, had grown progressively worse. Since October 2013, continuing leakage in the chapel had made the room unusable. Plans for repairs could no longer be postponed. With funds previously donated for the project, and additional funding coming from the renovation donations, the installation of a gabled metal roof was planned.

This particular project required God’s intervention in the weather! The forecast called for rain midweek, so the roofers raced to get trusses in place while the interior of the chapel was repaired. By Wednesday morning, the volunteers were ready to put the new roof in place. That morning at worship, the volunteers prayed that God would hold the rain off until the roof was finished so that the work of the previous three days would not be in vain. Despite strong winds, the roofers worked steadily through the day, with individuals leaving other projects to assist in getting the long pieces of metal roofing positioned and fastened down. When rain began late Wednesday afternoon, the roof was securely in place!

With strong support from donors and volunteers, the week produced changes not only to the academy facility, but to several volunteers’ perceptions of the academy, as well. Two individuals who worked for the entire week admitted that they came to the event with negative feelings toward the academy, but were leaving the campus with a new respect for the mission of the school and a sense of responsibility for the academy.

Seventeen students from Parkview Junior Academy, 11 students from Frontenac elementary school, and six other students also participated in the week’s work, making a positive impact on what may likely become their alma mater in coming years. All of the volunteers who dedicated their time during the event have committed to volunteering at the academy in the future.

The work on the Union Springs Academy campus is far from finished; the 2014 USA Campus Renovation Week was only the beginning. A five-year com-
Camp Meeting Schedule

Theme: “Faith On Fire”

New York Conference Camp Meeting • Union Springs Academy • 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, New York
All camp meetings are at Union Springs Academy, except where noted.

English Camp Meeting
June 20–28, 2014

June 20–21
James Black, Sr.
Youth Ministries Director
North American Division

June 23–27, Mornings Meetings
Donald James
Assistant Professor of Small Group Evangelism
Andrews University

June 23–26, Evening Meetings
Eric Flickinger
Director
NETS (Northeast Evangelism Training School)

June 27–28
Shawn Boonstra
Speaker/Director
Voice of Prophecy

North Adirondack Camp Meeting
August 22-23, 2014
West Bangor Church Grounds
North Bangor, New York

William Miller Camp Meeting
July 26, 2014
William Miller Home and Chapel
Whitehall, New York

Daniel Honoré
President
Northeastern Conference

For more information, visit: www.nyconf.org/campmeeting or call (315) 469-6921.

commitment to what will be an annual event has been made, with smaller projects being planned for future New York Conference camp meetings and academy alumni weekends. Plans are also being made to establish specialized “Team USA” groups, dedicated volunteers who will assist in maintenance projects and grounds upkeep at the academy on a year-round basis.

—Andrea Starr Tassell, development and alumni relations coordinator, Union Springs Academy

Volunteers finish installing the roof over the boys’ dorm lobby and chapel on the Union Springs Academy campus.
The Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc., Sponsors First Oratorical Contest

The Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc., sponsored its first annual Oratorical Contest for students at Northeastern Academy (NEA) in memory of the 40 years that Edward D. Herndon served as the school’s Bible teacher.

Colet Coke, an NEA graduate, coordinated the logistics of the contest. Support from NEA’s staff and administrators, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, Roger Wade, and contest mentors, pastors Abraham Jules and George Coke, reinforced the importance and high quality of this leadership development initiative.

On January 11, NEA students Khayla McDonald, senior, and Richard Joseph Anthony, junior, presented their orations at the Mount Vernon church during a special AY program. McDonald spoke passionately about the toll alcoholism takes on people’s lives. She quoted G.B. Shaw, who said, “Alcohol is the anesthesia by which we endure the operation of life.” McDonald countered that by saying that “many people use Shaw’s tactic, but they don’t understand the permanent consequences to their temporary relief.” She ended her oration with an original poem.

Anthony spoke about youth gangs and how the desire to “belong” often serves as a powerful motivation that leads some youth to choose to join a gang. He encouraged parents to be aware of their children’s activities, friends, and behavior. Anthony counseled parents “to make home a place where their children want to be.” He also challenged the church to sponsor gang awareness programs to help members, parents, and youth to become informed.

A three-judge panel scored the essays and orations on content and delivery. Walter Ralph, M.D., chairperson of the Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc., and NEA graduate, announced Richard Anthony as the first-prize winner of $500.00 and Khayla McDonald as the second-prize winner of $300.00. Both contestants were also presented with a Certificate of Leadership.

—S A. Herndon, member, Mount Vernon church

Local Church Elder Still Going Strong at 100

At age 100, Adlin Boyd-Douglas is a committed and active local elder who takes her responsibilities seriously and shows no sign of slowing down. Her pastor, Reginald Guerrier, reports that he was recently surprised to see her at a Wednesday night prayer meeting during a snowstorm and tried to reassure her that it would be understandable to miss prayer meeting under inclement weather conditions.

Members of the Riverdale church spent a weekend celebrating her 100th birthday. She was overwhelmed with gifts and expressions of appreciation from local church members and civic leaders.

Northeastern Conference president Daniel Honoré presented Boyd-Douglas with a lifetime service award for her decades of service and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Boyd-Douglas went to the conference office and extended a personal invitation to Honoré to attend the birthday celebration.

Boyd-Douglas is the third child born to Alfred and Margaret Boyd in the Republic of Panama on December 14, 1913. She was a member of City Tabernacle church in Manhattan, New York, from her arrival in the United States in 1954 until 1979. In 1984 she became a charter member of the newly-organized Riverdale church in Yonkers, New York, one of the daughter churches of City Tabernacle church. She has served as a deaconess, clerk, pianist, and choir member. Presently, she serves as Sabbath School superintendent, assistant treasurer, and local elder.

Adlin Boyd-Douglas has served faithfully under eight pastors at the Riverdale church. She was elected as first elder under the administration of Charles Creech. On Sabbath mornings you could find her opening the church for Sabbath services, regardless of the rain, sleet, or snow, during winter, spring, summer, or fall.

—Communication department, Northeastern Conference
Camp Meeting Schedule

Theme: “Even So, Come, Lord Jesus!”
Northeastern Conference Camp Meeting • Camp Victory Lake • 227 Crum Elbow Road, Hyde Park, New York
All camp meetings are at Camp Victory Lake, except where noted.

Hispanic Camp Meeting
Tema: Amén; sí, ven, Señor Jesús

May 22–25, 2014
John Dinzey
Director
3ABN Latino

English Camp Meeting

June 27–28, 2014
Adult
Wintley Phipps
Pastor/Founder
Palm Lake Church/U.S. Dream Academy

Youth/Young Adult
Rogers Johnson
Pathfinder Director
Southwest Region Conference

Special Afternoon Concert With
Wintley Phipps

July 4–5
Adult
Delbert Baker
Vice President
General Conference

Youth/Young Adult
Debelaire Snell
Senior Pastor
First Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Ordination
Levi Johnson
President
Central Jamaica Conference

Haitian Camp Meeting
Thème: Amen! Viens, Seigneur Jésus!

August 20–24, 2014
Elie Henry
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Division

Rhoda Ann Williams Celebrates 107 Years

Rhoda Ann Williams, an extraordinary woman who has led a long and accomplished life, celebrated her 107th birthday on February 15.

Williams was born in 1907 in the Parish of St. James, Jamaica, West Indies. As a young woman she married Thomas Williams, and to this union they were blessed to have nine children, five of whom survived to adulthood. They fought hard times together raising five children who are all successful in their endeavors.

She relocated to Montego Bay and was employed as a nanny. She was also an entrepreneur who operated a small business where she prepared food and confections for sale.

Upon hearing the Seventh-day Adventist message, she surrendered her heart and was baptized in the Glendevon church in Jamaica, West Indies. In August 1970 Rhoda Williams migrated to Brooklyn, New York, where she became a member of the Hanson Place church. She later changed her membership to the Flatbush church, where she has been a member for 35 years.

A vigilant missionary, Williams never misses an opportunity to minister to young children, teenagers, and adults. Her family includes her five children, as well as her 32 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements.

Williams’ longevity is attributed to her positive outlook, and she has been strongly committed to maintaining the highest level of spirituality and family life.

—Lois Hardware, communication coordinator, Flatbush church

Rhoda Ann Williams’ longevity is attributed to her positive outlook.

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, May 2014 13
NNEC Camp Meeting: The Spiritual Feast That Sustains

Are camp meetings still relevant in the Northern New England Conference at this point in time? Recently, the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) asked members to fill out an online survey regarding their opinions on camp meeting and how the NNEC camp meeting experience could be improved. The results were enlightening and are being used by conference leaders to target long-term changes to camp meeting—including a few changes that can be made for this year’s camp meeting.

Respondents, representing roughly 5 percent of the households in the conference, answered a series of questions and offered suggestions for improvement. At the same time, a majority took the opportunity to affirm that they value and even cherish camp meeting. Several respondents made remarks to the effect that camp meeting is the “spiritual feast that sustains them” through the rest of the year. Of the respondents, most had attended camp meeting in the past year or at least within the past five years (see Graph 1).

Graph 1: Camp Meeting Attendance

Graph 2: What People Like Best

Graph 3: Reasons People Do Not Attend

Graph 4: Programming People Want To See

Graph 5: Questionnaire Response

Graph 2 shows how people responded when asked what “two or three things” they liked best about camp meeting.

When it came to understanding why people do not attend or no longer attend camp meeting, the responses were informative. Most of the reasons that people do not attend are neither logistic nor financial, but are unique to the individual and not easily categorized (see Graph 3).

When it comes to the topics people would like to see addressed in seminars, Graph 4 indicates the favorites from among the responses. Interestingly, the family/marriage/relationships category was the “write-in” response winner.

One question stood out from among all the others in terms of a lopsided response. The questionnaire asked people if they would overcome hurdles and difficulties to attend camp meeting if they felt that the programs were truly relevant to their life. Encouragingly, Graph 5 gives the answer.

The Northern New England Camp Meeting Committee looks forward to a blessing this summer, because so many of the seminar topics planned align well with what people said they wanted to see made available. With all that is coming on the world, camp meeting is still relevant and has an important role in serving a “spiritual feast” to fortify us and equip us to be Christians in a secular world.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference
Camp Meeting Schedule

“Peace Through the Storm”
Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting • Pine Tree Academy • 67 Pownal Road, Freeport, Maine

English Camp Meeting, June 27–July 5, 2014
Hispanic Camp Meeting, June 28 and July 5, 2014
Indonesian Camp Meeting, June 28 and July 5, 2014

For more information, visit www.n nec.org or call (207) 797-3760.

NNEC Camp Meeting: Amazing Seminars Bookended by Fantastic Weekend Speakers

The Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting stretches from Friday evening, June 27, through Saturday night, July 5. The featured speaker for opening weekend is John Bradshaw, noted evangelist and speaker of It Is Written. Bradshaw will be speaking Friday night, Sabbath morning, Sabbath evening, and Sunday evening. Always a dynamic and profoundly insightful speaker, Bradshaw is consistently used by the Lord to deliver a blessing.

Closing weekend of the camp meeting will feature Dan Jackson, North American Division president. Jackson has served as pastor, teacher, and administrator, primarily in Canada. Jackson is known for his innovation and for embracing social media communication tools. He is also known for his ability to deliver talks that are geared to broad and diverse audiences.

In between the exciting weekend speakers is a week-long spiritual feast with seminars and programs on health, end-time events, evangelism, righteousness by faith, art, music, sports, community service opportunities, and a special evening program each night presented by John Lomacang. Lomacang is a vocal artist, author, and television host, who is regularly featured on 3ABN.

All are welcome at the Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting. For more information, call (207) 797-3760 and talk to Diane Kane.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

John Bradshaw

Dan Jackson

John Lomacang
Thayer Memorial Library Staff Thanks South Lancaster Academy Students

On the first Friday morning of each month, you will find local teens dusting, polishing, and scrubbing Thayer Memorial Library. Library custodian Nancy Record and teacher Scott Fellows work alongside six students from South Lancaster Academy (SLA) as they whip the library into shape. Although the students who help each month may change, the quality of work they do never does.

The library staff is happy with the monthly visit. Karen Silverthorn, assistant director for Adult Services Library at Thayer Memorial Library says, “I must say that they truly do represent what SLA is about. It shows us that there is still hope for the future of our world when we have young people growing into such fine, selfless, caring, and giving citizens and neighbors.”

Because different students participate each time, there has been a nice cross-section of students from SLA. “We are so happy that Jonathan Nino reached out to us with his offer of the community service work at Thayer Memorial Library in Lancaster,” Silverthorn says.

“The students are always so gracious—they’ve never yet refused to tackle a chore they were asked to do, no matter how much work it may be.”

“We thank you, South Lancaster Academy, for being such good neighbors.”

—Information supplied by Thayer Memorial Library staff

SNEC Women Encouraged and Trained at Retreats

On two consecutive Sabbaths women’s ministries events were highlighted in the Southern New England Conference. On March 22 Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, was the venue for a one-day event. And on March 28-30 the Hispanic women’s ministries group held a full-fledged retreat at the Westin Hotel in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Both events were successful in encouraging and training the women who attended. Many thanks to Alice Jacobson, Southern New England Conference Women’s Ministries director, and Sonia Valentín, Southern New England Conference Hispanic Women’s Ministries director, for their leadership.

—David Dennis, president, Southern New England Conference

Hispanic women’s retreat in Waltham, Massachusetts

Women’s one-day retreat at Camp Winnekeag
Theme: “Advancing His Kingdom”
Southern New England Conference Camp Meeting • Southern New England Conference Campground • 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, Massachusetts

English Camp Meeting
June 20-28, 2014

Hispanic Camp Meeting
July 12, 2014
Southern New England Campground
(July 8-11, 2014 - Locations to be announced)

Portuguese Camp Meeting
July 19, 2014
Southern New England Campground

Haitian Camp Meeting
July 26, 2014
Southern New England Campground

For more information, visit: www.sneonline.org or call (978) 365-4551.

Massachusetts District Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

Brockton Seventh-day Adventist Church
752 Oak Street • Brockton, MA 02301

May 31, 2014

Guest Speaker
Charlotte L.V. Thoms
Disabilities Ministries Director
Atlantic Union Conference

11:00 a.m. “Disabilities Ministries: A Ministry Whose Time Has Come”

3:00 p.m. “Taking the Mystery Out of Ministry”

Church and Community - All Welcome!

For more information, contact
Jennifer DeLeon - (508) 583-7588 or
e-mail: jdeleon15@msn.com

NORTHBORO CHURCH
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

May 16-18, 2014
30 Brigham St.
Northborough MA 01532

Friday, May 16
Agape Supper 7:00 p.m.
Michael Henry
Pastor
Northboro Church

Saturday, May 17
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Easton G. Marks
Pastor
Kingsboro Temple

Saturday Vespers after AY
Kenroy Malcolm
Pastor
Brockton and Lincoln Churches

Sunday, May 18
Brunch 10:00 a.m.
Worcester State University Cafeteria
486 Chandler St.
Worcester, MA 01602
Cost: $18.00/person

For more information, contact
Cardie Welch (508) 845-6837; Esther Small (508) 792-5890;
Dawn DiProfo (508) 485-8839; or e-mail: northboro50th@gmail.com
Web site: northboro22.adventistchurchconnect.org

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER, May 2014 17
Members Learn How to Operate a Prison Ministry Program

A Prison Ministries training retreat was held at Camp Berkshire in New York February 28 to March 2. The event brought people together from all over the Atlantic Union for the purpose of learning how to effectively operate a prison ministry program and share Jesus with inmates. The training was presented in six sessions and covered a range of topics, including how to minister to families of inmates and support ex-offenders as they reenter society.

J. Alfred Johnson II, North American Division Adult Ministries director, delivered a spirited keynote address titled “One Reason,” based on John 3:16. He shared with listeners the sole purpose of prison ministry. “The one reason that we are involved in prison ministry is to share the kernel of the gospel: the fact that Jesus came, He created us, He redeemed us, He died on the cross for us, He went back to heaven for us, He serves as our Intercessor, our Mediator, and is going to come back for us.”

Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries vice president and Prison Ministries director, gave the final charge. He urged the participants to persevere like Nehemiah. “Keep building,” he said. “Don’t be distracted! Remain focused on your vision and mission!”

Jonathan Hallock, from the Torrington church in Connecticut, said, “It was delightful to get so many people together for a great cause.”

Tania Petit, a member of Atlantic Union Conference Prison Ministries lay advisory, said, “You can see and feel the excitement of everyone.”

Ron Vincent, Atlantic Union Conference Prison Ministries vice chair, expressed the vision for the future, that the power of the Holy Spirit, there will be an Adventist presence in every prison and more networking among people in prison ministry.

If you are interested in having a prison ministry awareness and training seminar presented at your local church, call the Atlantic Union Conference Prison Ministries Department at (978) 368-8333 ext. 3013.

Pictured from left, are Tanya and Charles Petit, prison ministries lay advisory members; Ronald Vincent, New York Conference Prison Ministries director; Pierre Omeler, Atlantic Union Conference Prison Ministries director; J. Alfred Johnson II, North American Division Adult Ministries director; Kevin Santucci, Bermuda Conference Prison Ministries director; and Lloyd Scharffenberg, Greater New York Conference Prison Ministries director.

GODencounters Retreat 2014 Held in New Location

About 200 attended the January 31-February 2 annual GODencounters Retreat. Yami Bazan, vice president of student life at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, was the featured speaker at the retreat sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department. This year’s retreat was held at a new venue—the Double Tree Hotel in Leominster, Massachusetts—because the group has outgrown its previous location at Camp Winnekeag.

In her Sabbath-morning message, Bazan shared many stories of experiences in which God came through for her and her family. “We need to wake up to the reality that to live an extraordinary life in this earth can only happen when God is in the midst of it,” Bazan said.

The group partnered with Stop the Hunger for the compassion project this year, to pack more than 12,000 meals to be shipped to disaster areas. They also attended seminars geared to young professionals and college/university students.
Northern New England Conference
Spring Prayer Retreat

May 22-25, 2014
Camp Lawroweld, Weld Maine

Join us at this powerful Prayer Retreat Experience as we:

- Explore simple yet profound “tools” for family worship, couples worship or corporate prayer meeting!
- Discover 3 Keys to a Powerful & Effective Prayer Life
- Experience Creativity in your prayer life
- Discover the secret to living victoriously
- Children’s Program – for ages 5-12

Registration form: www.nnecprayeministries.com
FMI: kellyv@inverity.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Inviting all current and former Staff Members to the Camp Cherokee 50 Year Staff Reunion!

Labor Day Weekend 2014
August 29-September 1

For more information and registration instructions, go to:
www.nyconf.org and click on Camp Cherokee

Join the Facebook Group:
“Camp Cherokee 50 Year Staff Reunion”

Come celebrate 50 years of amazing ministry and memories together!

Washington New Hampshire Church Annual Meeting

August 16, 2014

Guest Speaker
Gary Councell
Director
Adventist Chaplain Ministries

Sabbath School starts at 10:00 a.m. with worship and afternoon services to follow.

153 King Street
Washington, New Hampshire

SAVE THE DATE

We’re celebrating our 100th anniversary
Come back and enjoy a special weekend!

October 3-5, 2014

Bring your yearbooks, bring your stories, share your memories, and join us in celebrating 100 years of Christian education at Greater Boston Academy.

More information at
greaterbostonacademy.org/alumniweekend.html
The Bordoville 150th Homecoming Anniversary

6491 Chester A. Arthur Road
West Enosburg, Vermont

October 18, 2014

Speaker
Ted N.C. Wilson
President
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sabbath School begins at 9:50 a.m.
An afternoon program is planned.

Bring a dish and enjoy the fellowship dinner.

For more information, call Ginny and Erwin Eckson
(802) 433-5881, or e-mail: ege3334@gmail.com

NOTE for travel:
Do not try to come up Bordoville Road.
It’s very rough and washed out in some places.
Sunset Table

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Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Grimes, of North Creek, N.Y.; a brother-in-law, Rusty (Grover) Hammond; and a sister-in-law, Rosemary Hammond; seven grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

HURD, Shirley R.—80, b. Jun. 1, 1933, in Brattleboro, Vt.; d. Jan. 21, 2014, in Rutland, Vt. She was a member of the Rutland church in Vt. She was predeceased by her husband, Ralph S. Hurd, and a grandson, Glenn Lowell. Survivors include her daughter, Gloria (Peter) Lowell of Benson, Vt.; sons, Clifford (Mary) Hurd of Malta, N.Y., David (Barbara Keim) Hurd of Benson, Vt., and Allen (Angel) Hurd of Benson, Vt.; sister, June Lawrence of Brattleboro, Vt.; brothers David Harris of Vernon, Vt., and Dennis Harris of Vernon, Vt.; seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

LOWRY, Alice Elizabeth “Beth”—92, b. Dec. 1, 1921, in Mich.; d. Jan. 12, 2014, in Keene, Texas. She was a member of the Crowley church in Texas. She graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University). She was working as a student finance officer for Southwestern Adventist University in Keene when she retired and was formerly the dean of women at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Tacoma Park, Md., and Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass. Survivors include her husband of 39 years, Morris Lowry; brother, Marvin Hamner; and several generations of nieces and nephews.

TUNISON, John D.—73, b. Nov. 11, 1940, New Brunswick, N.J.; d. Jan. 22, 2014, in Cambridge, Mass. He was a member of the Johnston church in Johnston, R.I. He was a proud member of the Deaf Community. He also advocated and supported the Deaf Blind community for many years. He was predeceased by his sister Alice. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Winifred “Winnie” A. Weisgerber Tunison, two daughters, Jessica (Edward) Morgan of Cranston, R.I., and Jennifer Maloney of Providence, R.I., three siblings Donald Tunison, Jane Backstrom, and Ellen Newbury; four grandchildren: Liam, Keldin, Drew, and Tatum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Plimpion Ave., Bronx, NY 10452. RSVP (718) 588-7598. Stay connected on Facebook. Search for Bronx-Manhattan S.D.A. School Alumni Association.

NORTHEASTERN
Harlem’s Ephesus church celebrates 90th Anniversary in 2014. Calling all former Ephesians and friends to come home for the Grand Homecoming Celebration in October. Several events will also be happening throughout the year. Please contact us for more details and with your information so we can keep you informed. You can e-mail us at ephesuschurch@email.com, or visit our Web site: www.ephesus.org. Please feel free to visit us anytime at 101 West 123 St. (Lenox Ave.), Harlem, NY.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
Community Gospel Concert, featuring Michael Harris on May 10 at 7:00 p.m., at the Johnston church, 2693 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919. For more information, call (508) 243-1289.

OUT-OF-UNION

The Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming, June 27-29. Honor classes ’44, ’49, ’54, ’59, ’64. Invited are those who attended Madison College or Madison College Academy or Anesthetics School. Activities and meals begin Friday at 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Academy Campus. Commemorating 110 years since founding in 1904 and last graduating class 1904, and rolling out a DVD history of Madison College, prepared by the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University. Dr. Harry Mayden, president, (240) 643-2305, Jim Culpepper, secretary/treasurer (615) 415-1925.

OBITUARIES

GRIMES, Luther B.—92, b. May 22, 1921, in Schroon Lake, N.Y.; d. Jan. 1, 2014, in North Creek, N.Y. He was an active member of the North Creek church and served as an elder. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Danielle Grimes. Survivors include his wife, Greta Hammond Grimes of North Creek, N.Y.; one sister, Julia Rempher Bradburn of Collegeville, Tenn.; and his children, Ronald G. (Shelly Taylor) Grimes, Ruth E. (Robert) Lehrer, and Archie M. (Jacqueline)
diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, and many more. To invest in your health, call (800) 634-9355 or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

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LOOKING FOR AUTHORS, who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children’s books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/docutainment topics. Call TEACH Services at (800) 367-1844.

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“I am thankful to AWR for broadcasting such wonderful programs. These programs give comfort and peace to perishing souls like me. I had decided to commit suicide, but after listening to your programs I have decided to accept Christian faith and take baptism and live for Jesus. I want to serve Jesus by witnessing among my village people.”

– Listener in Asia

Local Conferences and Institutions

Bermuda: Jeffrey Brown, President; Sydney Gibbons, Secretary; Pamela Greyson, Treasurer. Office Address: P.O. Box HM 3170, Hamilton, HM EX Bermuda. (441) 292-4100 Web site: www.bermudaconference.org

Greater New York: G. Earl Knight, President; Gerson Santos, Secretary; Carlos Gonzalez, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9352 Web site: www.gnycon.org

New York: Angel Rodriguez, Acting President; Florencio Zabala, Secretary-Treasurer. Office Address: 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215. (315) 469-6921 Web site: www.nycon.org

Northeastern: Daniel Honore, President; Oswald Eue, Secretary; Edson Rovell, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434. (718) 291-8006. Web site: www.northeastern.org

Northern New England: Bob Cundiff, President; Ted Huskins, Secretary; Daniel Bunning, Treasurer. Office Address: 479 Main St., Westbrook, ME 04092. (207) 797-3760. Web site: www.nneconline.org

Southern New England: David Dennis, President; Joseph Alarcón, Secretary; Joel Toneykis, Jr., Treasurer. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 365-4531. Web site: www.sneconline.org

Atlantic Union College: Diane M. Cady, Interim President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-2000. Web site: www.auconline.org

NETS (Northeast Evangelism Training School): Eric Flinkinger, Director; Kevin Sears, Associate Director; Lois King, Assistant Director. Office Address: P.O. Box 446, South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 368-2638. E-mail: registrar@nessat Transmitting Station. Web site: www.etsat transmitting.org

Atlantic Union College: Dwayne M. Cady, Interim President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-2000. Web site: www.auccollege.org

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