The Brunswick Church Has a Plan

¡Resiste! Accrochez-vous
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**Cover:** The cover photo of the Brunswick church in Maine was taken by Mark Pekar.
Hang in There

If you ever felt like quitting, remember that the Apostle Paul felt that way also. In a very personal letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 1:1-11), he bares his soul about certain things. Things like hardships, deprivation, imprisonment, the unremitting opposition he faced—so much so, that he concluded what he was going through wasn’t just for him. God is doing something in him for the benefit of others. In this letter, he reveals the secret of a faith that finishes strong. He shows us how God gives us strength, even when we feel as if we can’t go on.

Actually, we never suffer by ourselves. There is always someone looking on. People watch to see how we respond in times of sadness and pain. Some may even be unbelievers who wonder if the Christ we serve is for real. They watch to see how we react to malicious gossip and accusations, mistreatment, a job loss, a career setback, or a financial flop.

Our afflictions soften and prepare our hearts so that when we receive the comfort of God, it is easy for us to comfort others. He allows us to endure the fires of affliction, but never leaves us in the fire. He encourages us to hang in there and never give up.

In The Ministry of Healing, p. 471, Ellen White writes: “Trials and obstacles are the Lord’s chosen method of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. . . . The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to develop. . . . He does not cast worthless stones into his furnace.”

There is Someone who modeled for us the ultimate notion of what it means to “hang in there.” He who controls the universe never gave up on the cross. He came to finish what He came to do. You, too, can find your inspiration in the Man who kept His word.

When people from His own hometown tried to push Him over a cliff, He didn’t give up. When Peter worshiped Him at the last supper and denied Him at the warming fire, He didn’t give up. When people spat in His face, He didn’t spit back. And when the whip ripped open His back, He didn’t command His angels to strike the soldiers dead.

And when they fastened the hands of the only innocent One to a cross with spikes, it wasn’t the soldiers who held them steady, it was the hand of His Father that held His hands steady! Those wounded hands are the same invisible hands that carry you through the toughest of times.

The hands from which blood flowed at Calvary will reach down over and over again—as many times as it takes—to pick you up when you are knocked down and are tempted to give up.

So the next time you feel like quitting and bad news fragments your day, take a hike up Calvary’s hill where—

There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel’s veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.

E’er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply, Redeeming love has been my theme, And shall be till I die.

That blood is from the same hands that wrote you a promise—“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”—John 3:16.

That’s why you’ve got to hang in there!

“\He allows us to endure the fires of affliction, but never leaves us in the fire.”

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
The Brunswick Church Has A Plan

Brunswick church goes to great lengths to involve its youth,” says Pekar. “We have youth on the platform helping to lead the service every week.”

Pekar says that if you could tell the priorities of a church from its budget allocations, then it is obvious that youth and their Christian education is the top priority of the Brunswick church. Adventist education is the third point in their plan. “Educating and training our youth is a huge priority for us. In addition to money, a good portion of our brightest and most energetic human resources are devoted to making our K-12 school, Pine Tree elementary and academy, the high-quality place of Christian learning that it is. Almost all the social programming for our kids outside of Sabbath morning is provided by the school.

“The fourth point is music,” Pekar explained. “Our kids not only love music, but many of them are also incredibly talented musicians. With this combination, it is only natural that youth would be both leading our song service and also enthusiastically participating in it. This means that some of our ‘blended style’ song service musical selections definitely are geared toward our youth, and that is OK. We want them to truly own what they are leading. Anything less would not be real participation.

“The final point,” says Pekar with a grin, “is food. Everyone who has ever had a teenager knows that food is a big part of their life and a big part of their social interactions. We put on a breakfast one Sabbath morning a month—a full breakfast with a lot of very good food—and it is extremely popular with the youth. The number of young people coming for that early breakfast fluctuates over the years, but they come and they actually get here on time, which in itself says a great deal. I guess people associate food with a warm, welcoming, and familiar atmosphere, and that is exactly the message we are trying to get across.”

Brunswick church goes to great lengths to involve its youth, but when asked about this, Pekar just shrugs. “You hear a great deal about how youth are the future of the church, but to me that misses the point. These kids contribute so much and get back so much that they are a big part of the present of the church. And if these kids are both leaders and participants now, the future will take care of itself.” 

Scott Christiansen is the Northern New England Conference communication director.
“Take ye heed, watch and pray” were the words of our Saviour spoken in reference to the time of the end, and His second coming to take His faithful children home.

First, you are to watch. Watch, lest you should speak hastily, fretfully and impatiently. Watch, lest pride should find a place in your heart. Watch, lest evil passions should overcome you, instead of your subduing them. Watch, lest a careless, indifferent spirit comes upon you, and you neglect your duty and become light and trifling, and your influence savor of death, rather than life.

Second, you are to pray. Jesus would not have enjoined this upon you, unless there was actual necessity for it. It is well known to Him that of yourself you cannot overcome the many temptations of the enemy, and the many snares laid for your feet. He has not left you alone to do this; but has provided a way that you can obtain help. Therefore He has bid you to pray.

To pray aright is to ask God in faith for the very things you need. Go to your chamber, or in some retired place, and ask your Father for Jesus’ sake to help you. There is power in that prayer that is sent up from a heart convinced of its own weakness, yet earnestly longing for that strength that comes from God. The earnest, fervent prayer will be heard and answered. Go to your God who is strong, and who loves to hear children pray, and, although you may feel very weak, and find yourself at times overcome by the enemy, because you have neglected the first command of our Saviour, to watch, yet do not give up the struggle. Make stronger efforts yourself than before. Faint not. Cast yourself at the feet of Jesus, who has been tempted, and knows how to help such as are tempted. Confess your faults, your weakness, and that you must have help to overcome, or you perish. And as you ask, you must believe that God hears you. . . . God will help you.

But before you can expect this help, you must do what you can on your part. Watch and pray. Let your prayers be fervent. Let this be the language of your heart, “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.” Have a set time, a special season for prayer at least three times a day. Morning, noon, and at night Daniel prayed to his God, notwithstanding the king’s decree, and the fearful den of lions. He was not ashamed or afraid to pray, but with his windows opened he prayed three times a day. Did God forget His faithful servant when he was cast into the lions’ den? O, No. He was with him there all night. He closed the mouths of these hungry lions, and they could not hurt the praying man of God (YOUTH’S INSTRUCTOR, October 1, 1855).

Lift Him Up, a collection of Ellen G. White’s writings, p. 368. Reprinted with permission from The White Estate.
The Greater New York Conference held its second regular quadrennial and 55th regular constituency session on Sunday, June 1, at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York. The quorum to open the session was declared with 569 delegates present.

The delegates reelected G. Earl Knight to serve as president of the conference for a second four-year term. Henry Beras was elected to serve his first term as executive secretary. Carlos Gonzalez was reelected and will serve as interim treasurer for not more than six months in order to allow the executive committee to complete a search for a new treasurer. Gonzalez has announced that he will be retiring.

Gerson Santos was acknowledged by the Greater New York Conference administrators for his service to the conference as executive secretary. He moves on to work full-time in his duties as director of the Adventist Church’s Urban Ministry Study Center, a position in which he has been serving for the past year in conjunction with completing his duties in the conference office.

Eight new churches were voted into the conference’s sisterhood of churches: Fusion Bilingual Spanish, La Gran Esperanza Spanish, Long Island Ghana, New York Southern Asia, Washington Heights Spanish, White Plains Spanish, Spring Valley Spanish, and West Bronx Spanish.

Six churches were disbanded for various reasons: Beree–Haitian, East Side–Multi-ethnic, East Tremont–Spanish, Long Beach–English, Queens Indo Pak–Multi-ethnic, and Washington Heights–Multi-ethnic.

New members of the executive committee and the constitution and bylaws committee were voted to serve the conference for the next quadrennium. The delegates received reports from the president, executive secretary, treasurer, and auditors, highlighting the work and status of the conference over the past quadrennium. Of significant note is the fact that through the diligent efforts of the administration, the conference was able to pay down seven million dollars of the 11 million dollar debt they were faced with when the quadrennium began in 2010. In addition, some minor changes to the constitution and bylaws were voted.

Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference were present and participated in various aspects of the meeting. Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president, served as the chair of the organizing and nominating committees as required by the constitution and bylaws; Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary, was invited to assist as chair of the constituency meeting; Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, and the Atlantic Union staff, who were present, assisted with the ballot counting. In addition, North American Division representatives Alvin Kibble, vice president, and Tom Evans, treasurer, were present and participated in various aspects of the meeting. Kibble was the devotional speaker at the beginning of the session.

The newly-elected administrators, departmental directors, ethnic ministries coordinators, and various committees will provide leadership for the next four years to the more than 27,507 members who worship in 149 churches and 20 companies, the eight elementary schools, one
academy, a number of community services centers, and other ministries in the conference’s territory. Conference president G. Earl Knight told the delegates he would do his best to help the conference to move forward with the work God has called them to do in the metropolitan area of New York City.

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**Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner.**

A complete list of officers and committee members can be found on the conference’s Web site at gnyc.org. Photos of the constituency session are posted on the Greater New York Conference Facebook page: www.facebook.com/greaternyconference.
Adventist Education: Our Task

The education leaders in the Atlantic Union Conference and the North American Division are concerned about declining enrollment in Seventh-day Adventist schools. Despite numerous brainstorming and marketing summits, enrollment continues to plummet.

Last January, the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education was selected by the Center for Research in K-12 Education at La Sierra University to use the Agent-Based Stakeholders Modeling (ABSM) process to determine the current status of support for Adventist K-12 education in the Atlantic Union. The ABSM process was also used to identify strategies most likely to increase support, given the current environment in the Atlantic Union.

The ABSM’s approach is a strategy that provides valuable insights to inform decision-making processes. ABSM accomplishes these capabilities by using techniques that reliably demonstrate what stakeholders would do in a given situation. The particular approach that the La Sierra team used was developed by researchers at Claremont Graduate University. Their system draws upon leading-edge work in theories which seek to discover how stakeholders would respond to the issues at hand. Many government and non-governmental agencies in this country and around the world use this approach.

In the Atlantic Union, the ABSM process began by identifying Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from within the Atlantic Union (union and conference administrators, educators, pastors, lay people, and parents). The SMEs were asked to provide detailed and specific data about the various stakeholder groups and coalitions who have an interest in K-12 Adventist education. This information was used to depict the current educational landscape of the Atlantic Union.

Following the data collection from the SMEs, the La Sierra team then used the data to determine the further reaction of stakeholders and others. This exercise enabled the Atlantic Union and La Sierra team to observe stakeholders as they interacted over a period of time and to look for strategic opportunities that would help achieve the desired goals.

In April, the team from La Sierra met with union, conference, and education administrations in Utica, New York, to discuss the findings, analysis, and predicted outcomes of our current situation and of the recommended courses of action. Based on the analysis of data from the first phase of ABSM, the strategies that are most likely to increase support for Adventist K-12 education among parents and students are:

- Enabling pastors and church leaders to interact directly with parents who are not currently sending their children to Adventist K-12 schools. The list of church leaders includes elders, deacons, education secretaries, Sabbath School leader, children’s ministries leaders, and youth leaders.
- Sharing with pastors and church leadership information regarding the purpose, benefits, and opportunities of Seventh-day Adventist K-12 education so they can inform parents and children.
- Consolidation of educational resources, including facilities and personnel, to facilitate better access, a stronger curriculum, and more effective resources. Initial resistance to this action among stakeholder groups eventually led to support.

At the meeting in Utica, Dedrick Blue, pastor of Ephesus church in New York, gave the devotion each morning. He reminded us that Solomon built a wealthy kingdom, but his son, Rehoboam, when surrounded by the enemy, gave away the temple treasures—he traded gold for brass. It took vision for Adventist pioneers to begin Adventist education. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. As church leaders and parents, God has called us to be guardians of His precious children. Today, when parents look for schools, they look for location rather than destination—heaven. No enemy can take anything from people committed to God. In this time of crisis we need to call upon the Lord. The gold shields are still in the temple; if we lose our schools, we lose our church. May God help us when it comes to our children—the most precious possession God entrusted to our care. We should not exchange gold for brass.

Astrid Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference education and children’s ministries director.
Atlantic Union College Update

Following are two voted actions regarding Atlantic Union College that were taken in keeping with AUC’s application to Transnational Accreditation of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

The Atlantic Union Conference Bolsters the Reserves of the College

Upon the recommendation of the administration of the Atlantic Union Conference, the executive committee, governing body of the Atlantic Union Conference, voted on May 8 to give an additional special appropriation of 1.5 million dollars to strengthen the reserves of the college. The funds were donated by the union with the understanding that a capital fund-raising drive by the college would commence very soon.

Atlantic Union Education Administrators Complete Mission Project at Utica International School

Each spring education administrators from the Atlantic Union territory meet at a selected site in a designated conference to receive reports and curriculum updates. The six conferences are on a cycle and each one is visited on a rotating basis.

In addition to receiving reports and curriculum updates, the administrators participate in an improvement and beautification project at a facility in the conference. They also give a monetary gift that will enhance the facility.

In spring 2014 the New York Conference was the host for the meeting. Utica International Seventh-day Adventist School is the facility that was chosen for the project. The administrators were joined by Gary Wagner, the church’s pastor; Tracey Arnett, the school’s principal; and several church members. The team worked together to build bookcases, remove carpet, discard equipment from the storage room, clean brush from around the facility, and catalogue library books.

—Astrid Thomassian, education director, Atlantic Union Conference

AUC Board Votes Certificate Programs

Upon the recommendation of the Atlantic Union College Strategic Planning Committee, the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees, on May 5, voted to authorize the offering of three certificate programs (non-higher education) starting in the fall of 2014. They are as follows:

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Culinary Arts
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

—Duane Cady, interim president, Atlantic Union College; and Donald G. King, president, Atlantic Union Conference; and chairman, Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees
SCARS Leaders Conduct Largest Training Session in Three-year History

More than 50 people crowded the Devonshire church hall on the lower level of the church to listen to and gain insight on how to protect youth and young people from predators and child molesters, some of whom are often family members. SCARS (Saving Children and Revealing Secrets) leader Debi Ray-Rivers confirmed that the training session held on April 26 was the largest held in the history of SCARS.

The three-hour session included recorded video interviews of people who are victims and their experiences. A training book and a DVD, that includes excerpts from the training booklet, comes with the package.

Following the two sessions participants engaged in an interactive discussion. Some people shared their personal stories and the tone of their voices seemed to indicate that their pain continues even after many years. The participants were encouraged not disclose too many details regarding their experiences. The leader, Debi Ray-Rivers, shared some personal information that helped the group to understand why she became involved with SCARS.

SCARS Bermuda is associated with Darkness to Light in the U.S., and their DVDs, which are used in the training, featured such segments as “Stewards of Children: Adults Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse,” “Building a Foundation,” “What It Takes to Protect Children,” “Five Steps to Protecting Our Children,” and “Making A Difference.”

The packet included a tip sheet entitled “10 Body Safety Rules” that highlights 10 ways to help your children identify whether or not their bodies have been violated.

After participating in the three-hour training session, I highly recommend that all of our members take the opportunity to complete this training. I learned that one needs to keep their eyes open to the potential dangers that lurk around every corner. It is my belief that churches need to identify unsafe practices and locations for potential dangers and seek to rectify them immediately—

“ Churches need to identify unsafe practices and locations for potential dangers and seek to rectify them immediately—for the safety of our children.”

Cyril Millett III, Bermuda Conference Adventist Youth Ministries director, announced that other training sessions will be held in the near future, one in the West and one in the East. I encourage each of our members to take the time to attend and become wise about child protection for the sake of our children. Contact the Bermuda Conference Youth Ministries Department for additional information regarding time and location.

—D. Randolph Wilson, associate communication director, Bermuda Conference
I had the privilege of visiting Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York. As I learned of their mission to provide financial assistance to New York Conference’s growing Karen population, thanksgiving filled my heart. A teacher shared that a Karen student was challenged with grades and finances. As this teacher attempted to encourage the student, the teacher was silenced as the student shared. She said that when she lived in Burma, her father was a Seventh-day Adventist, albeit “not a good one” (according to the student). During the civil war he died while serving in the army. Her mother remarried, her new husband was not a Christian, and he gave the children an ultimatum. They could renounce their religion and live at home with their mother and him or they could remain Christian and live in the refugee camp.

Faced with this choice, the student refused to renounce Christianity. She chose to live in the refugee camp. She believed with all her heart that God was with her through the trying years in the refugee camp and brought her to the United States and to Union Springs Academy. The student then added, “If God guided my life in those difficult years, He will certainly not abandon me now. He’ll provide a way for me to improve my grades and earn tuition.”

Although small in membership and adequate funding is unavailable, New York Conference and Union Springs Academy have chosen to share their “widow’s mite” so that Karen students can be educated in Seventh-day Adventist schools.

If you would like to find out more about their mission, do not hesitate to contact them.

Astrid Thomassian, education director, Atlantic Union Conference

Karen students attend Utica International Seventh-day Adventist School, the first school in New York Conference established to educate Karen students.

Annual William Miller Chapel Meeting

July 26, 2014

Featured Speaker
Daniel Honoré
President
Northeastern Conference

Advent Hymns ......................... 9:45 a.m.
Sabbath School ...................... 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service ..................... 11:15 a.m.
Afternoon Program ................. 2:00 p.m.
Children’s program provided!

1614 County Route 11, Whitehall, NY 12887

Phone: (518) 282-9617
E-mail: williammillerfarm@gmail.com

Bring a dish to share for the fellowship meal!

Come and join us for inspiring worship at the place where Adventism was born! Sing early Adventist hymns, and don’t miss the opportunity to take a chapel history tour.

SKILLS WEEK at Union Springs Academy

40 Spring Street, Union Springs, New York 13160  (315)889-7314

This unique week at Union Springs Academy, in beautiful Central New York, allows teens ages 12-17 the opportunity to experience dorm life while engaging in fun hands-on workshops, participating in exciting outdoor activities, meeting potential classmates, and experiencing the spiritual warmth that fills the Union Springs Academy campus.

If you know a 7th-11th grader who is interested in a boarding school experience, contact the school by phone or visit our website for printable registration materials. There is a $100 registration fee for the week.

July 13-20, 2014

www.unionspringsacademy.org

A Karen Student Shows Strong Faith
Linden Church Members Make a Difference Through Impact Evangelism

In honor of Mother’s Day, members of the Linden church in Laurelton, Queens, graced mothers for the second year in a row with bright, colorful flowers as an appreciation for mothers of the community. Hosted by the Personal Ministries department, on Sabbath, May 10, members walked from 144th Avenue to the swarming streets of Merrick Boulevard, handing out flowers to neighbors with jovial smiles and wishing them a happy Mother’s Day on behalf of the Linden church. Not only did they visit homes, but they also distributed gifts to mothers on the streets.

“Mothers are valuable to the good of society and we must encourage them,” said Lionel Williams, a Linden church elder, who participated in the event. The neighbors were reluctant at first to open their doors, expecting preaching, however, their faces lit up as they were presented with fresh blooming flowers. Some even remembered faces from last year’s Mother’s Day flowers giveaway and they were delighted to receive flowers again.

“The mothers were smiling and they were happy,” said Maureen Kellman, a Linden church member, who also participated in the event. “Mothers like to be recognized. It’s a wonderful thing to give flowers.” One mother exclaimed, with a grin, that it was the first gift she had ever received on Mother’s Day.

Warner A. Richards, pastor of Linden church, who also delivered flowers to mothers, was content by the many hugs and thanks he received. “Hopefully, we have made some new friends who will visit us here at church soon,” he said. Because of the enormous number of positive responses, Richards said that impact evangelism—showing people acts of kindness without reimbursement—hopefully will become Linden’s annual tradition for Mother’s Day and will lead people to Jesus Christ.

—Kayleen Ellis, reporter, Linden church

Hanson Place Men’s Chorale Participate in Spring Men’s Chorus Festival

Hinsdale Men’s Chorus (HMC), a ministry of Hinsdale church in Illinois, in partnership with the Illinois Conference and the church, coordinated and hosted the Spring Men’s Chorus Festival, assembling five Christian choruses—four Adventist and one non-denominational—from three states, the first weekend of April. Inspired by a vespers message on Friday afternoon, delivered by Ron Kelly, senior pastor of the Village church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, the festival chorus, comprised of the Chicago Adventist Men’s Chorus, directed by Marshall Merklin; Hanson Place Men’s Chorale from New York, directed by Lincoln Blackwood; Proclaim Him! from Michigan, directed by David Burghart; the Singing Men of Oak Brook from Illinois, directed by Wendell Borrink; and HMC commenced with mass chorus rehearsals and participated in the Illinois Conference convocation.

The Sabbath worship service of the Spring Men’s Chorus Festival at Hinsdale church began as the lights were dimmed to the gentle strains of “Holy, Holy, Holy,” sung by HMC, as more than 109 men entered and encircled the congregation and in surround-sound, embarked on the second verse. Women’s voices, in unison, chimed in on the third verse as the festival chorus advanced up the stairs to the platform.

Supported by brass, organ, and piano, the rafters of the sanctuary resounded with the majestic last verse of “Holy, Holy, Holy” as everyone present raised their voices to acknowledge the supremacy of this great God.
northeastern conference
whom we serve. The festival chorus’ powerful response in ascending dramatic chords and increasing volume, yielded a climactic ending!

The formal meetings of the convocation ended with the festival chorus leading out in a Wayne Hooper arrangement, “Four Hymns of the Second Coming,” with the congregation joining in the last chorus of “We Have This Hope,” pointing us heavenward to our great Hope in anticipation of His soon return.

While it must have been a blessing to witness and be part of more than 109 men praising their Creator and Savior, beyond the shadow of a doubt, this will in no way compare to singing in that great chorus of heaven when we are all gathered by the glassy sea praising the Lamb that was slain for our salvation.

—Arnold Hutabarat, director, Hinsdale Men’s Chorus

Five Christian choruses, including the Hanson Place Men’s Chorale, participate in the Spring Men’s Chorus Festival at the Hinsdale church in Illinois.

Latoya Benjamin Ordained as Elder at Ebenezer Church

It was a high day at Ebenezer church when Latoya Benjamin was ordained as elder. The service began with Gloria Benjamin, Benjamin’s mother-in-law, reading her biography. Other items that followed included a presentation by Edith Wiggan, an elder who came all the way from Jamaica, West Indies, to be a part of this special occasion. Carolyn Mounter, the pastor’s wife, read a letter from Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica, who was Benjamin’s pastor at Halse Hall church in Clarendon, Jamaica. He also performed the wedding services for her and her husband, Alton Benjamin, a deacon. The letter cited the Christian values and qualities that Benjamin possesses and exhibits on a daily basis.

Benjamin was also presented with a plaque from Fritze Honoré, wife of the Northeastern Conference president, a Bible from Carolyn Mounter, a gift from Rosemarie

Melwyn Mounter, Ebenezer church pastor, right, gives newly-ordained elder Latoya Benjamin a communion kit that will be used when she serves communion to those who are unable to attend church.

Brady and Lorraine Archie, secretaries in the Northeastern Conference Office of the Secretary, and other gifts from Melwyn Mounter, Ebenezer church pastor, and Marcelle Edwards, an elder.

Several persons came to support Benjamin on this special day, including her mother, Merveta Bailey, an elder, who traveled from Jamaica to see her daughter ordained. The ordination was made complete when Mounter and the elders surrounded Latoya Benjamin and prayed for God’s continued guidance and blessing on her life.

Integrity, humility, dedication, faithfulness, virtue, strong leadership, and an expression of deep love for Christ are just a few of the character traits that describe Benjamin. She not only serves as a local elder at Ebenezer church, but also as head clerk, elder for Children’s Ministries, Pathfinder instructor, and choir member. She is also the public relations coordinator for the Long Island Youth Federation and assistant coordinator for the Pathfinder Federation’s Teen Leadership Training.

A Communion service was held immediately following the ordination service.

—Leonie Boucher, communication director, Ebenezer church
Manchester, Nashua, and Derry Church District Focuses on Early Training

The next time you see a mother with a small child at church, ask her if she sang hymns to her baby before it was born, or if she talked to her baby before it was born. When she says “yes” (and it is extremely likely that she will), ask her if she thinks it made a difference to the baby. Again, the chances are that she will say yes, and will have her own (usually good) reasons for answering that way. The truth is, our modern culture believes that babies—even before they are born—can take in information. And we believe that giving information to babies and small children makes a difference in their lives.

The Manchester, Nashua, and Derry church district, in southern New Hampshire, certainly believes that a child is never too young to be exposed to the stories and wisdom of the Bible. Claiming the promise in Proverbs 22:6, the church has built a very strong Adventurer club and an equally strong early-division Sabbath School, and the effort has paid surprise dividends. “We are seeing a good number of families with small children coming now who rarely previously attended, and who were not attending elsewhere,” says Carl Behrmann, the pastor of that district. “Actually, our Adventurer and early division programs have been growing and attracting a lot of our young parents back into church.”

The Adventurer club at Manchester (aimed at ages 5-9) is led by Dianne Sikes, who is also one of the coordinators at the conference level. At the Nashua church there is a relative newcomer to our church, Cecilia Foo, who decided to get involved as a leader and is doing an excellent job. According to Behrmann, “At Derry we do not have an active Adventurer program but we have a tireless leader in the early Sabbath School division, Dot Flannery, and we know it’s only a matter of time before an Adventurer program is developed there as well.”

“The kids absolutely love Adventurers,” says Behrmann. “They love the games, they love the trips and adventures, and more than anything else, they love the friends that they make. It is these bonds of friendship that help these kids look forward to Sabbath School each Sabbath and it is these enduring bonds of friendship that help kids make the transition from Adventurers to Pathfinders, all the while staying in Sabbath School and increasingly participating in church services.”

It is true that what we learn as children is critically important because it stays in our minds. Recently, at the Manchester church, a woman of a certain age shared a tearful testimony of just how blessed she was by attending one of the lower division Sabbath School classes and realizing that she remembered most of the songs. She was able to joyfully sing along with songs that she had learned many decades before. Not only did she remember the songs, but she credited them as some of the early building blocks of her immoveable faith in God.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”—Proverbs 22:6.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

LEGAL NOTICE
Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fifth quadrennial session of the Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., will be held at Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine, on Sunday, October 26, 2014. The first meeting of the session is called for 10:00 a.m. The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers, an executive committee, and the departmental/service directors for the ensuing quadrennial term; to consider proposed amendments to the Articles and Bylaws; to receive reports; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session. Each church is entitled to one delegate to represent them at the session. The Organizing Committee shall meet on Sunday, June 29, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the Freeport Seventh-day Adventist Church, 67 Pownal Rd., Freeport, Maine. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Nominating Committee to serve the constituency, to nominate an Articles and Bylaws Committee, and any other committees as may be necessary (Article VI, Section 1c). The Nominating Committee shall meet on Sunday, August 17, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northern New England Conference office headquarters, 479 Main St., Westbrook, Maine (Article VI, Section 2a).

Robert Cundiff, President
Theodore Huskins, Secretary
Portland Alpha and Omega, First NNEC Hispanic Pathfinder Club

The Portland Hispanic church, led by Wilbert Hernandez, the church’s pastor, is a small congregation that meets in the auditorium on the second floor of the Northern New England Conference office. The challenges for the thirty-some members of the church are great. They do not yet have their own church building, and they are trying to reach Hispanics in a city that does not have Spanish-language media and does not have any one area that is heavily Hispanic.

For the Portland Hispanic church, the challenges to witnessing are significant, especially since it is hard to find the very people they are trying to talk to. Regardless, the church is working to reach out to people in the community, while at the same time they are reaching in to their own youth.

“We organized last autumn and have now been to two regional camporees and the kids are loving these kinds of group activities. There is also a real pride in the club for being the first Hispanic Pathfinder club in Northern New England. What a blessing that we have something to engage these kids that points them toward Jesus and not toward the world! And what a blessing to me, as a young person, to be able to lead them away from the world and toward Christ!”

Hernandez says, “Satan puts up a battle for every soul—every soul. And he fights hard. I praise the Lord for the adults who are willing to battle Satan for the souls of these kids, and I praise the Lord for the privilege of working with these kids to help prepare them for a life of service.”

The club plans to go to the international camporee in Oshkosh in August with a group of 15—almost every one of the kids and adults now active in the club.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

You’re Invited to the Northern Maine Camp Meeting — August 12-17

The Northern New England Conference (NNEC) is referred to as a small conference, with about 5,300 members spread across Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. But, on the other hand, the conference covers quite a bit of territory. For instance, it is about a five-hour drive from parts of northernmost Maine to Freeport Maine, where the NNEC camp meeting is held.

Because of the distances involved, a group of churches in northern Maine have been experimenting with holding their own camp meeting. On August 12-17, the third annual Northern Maine Camp Meeting will be held on the grounds of Baptist Park, 60 Park Rd., Mapleton, Maine, and visitors are welcome.

Past attendees have praised the Northern Maine camp meeting for its small size, relaxed pace, and “folksy” atmosphere. But more than anything else, they have appreciated the spiritual blessings they have gained.

There are three main speakers this year: Chad and Fadia Kreuzer from Anchor Point films, Daniel Battin from NNEC, and Ray and Frances Foster. The Kreuzers have made various videos on topics ranging from Bible prophecy to having victory over bad habits that people struggle with every day. Daniel Battin, the NNEC treasurer, will be speaking on personal finance. His topic will include principles for getting out of debt, methods for properly handling money, and our duty to God with our finances.

The Fosters have spent many years in mission service, including mission aviation, and medical/hospital/sanitarium work. They will be speaking on topics dealing with family issues, including how a family functions in this era, and winning your children back to the Lord. All speakers are willing to speak with individuals as time permits.

Accommodation options range from small cabins to tenting areas to camper tie-ups with water and power. The cost for staying in cabins is $25.00 per family or $10.00 per person. This small fee covers the entire camp meeting. There is no cost for tenting, but attendees must bring their own tent. Meals in the cafeteria are provided free of charge. There is no registration fee, though pre-registration is requested.

Karen Cunningham is the contact for overnight accommodations and can be reached at (207) 794-3091. For further information, please contact John and Pam Record at (207) 455-4853 or visit www.caribousafellowship.org.

—John Record, member, Caribou church
Missionary Impossible Group Builds a House

Missionary Impossible is not just a group of adults and youth who want to serve God. The reality is that it is a family that learns from each other. Whether you are shy, funny, social, or a little bit of everything, each member of Missionary Impossible plays an important role on the trip. Together we experience God working through us and those around us.

A mission trip is not just a trip to visit a new place and meet new people, but rather a journey with God that continues even after the trip is over. This year we had the privilege of visiting Portsmouth, Dominica, and received the blessing of a lifetime. We saw God’s hand, from such simple things as everyone having their luggage and arriving at our destination safely to being able to build a house in five days.

The house was for a mother, daughter, and grandmother. Their house had burned down three years prior to us going on this trip. They were living with a friend, not in a place of their own that they could call home. The gratitude on this mother’s face when we handed her the keys to her new home was more than any one of us had hoped for or imagined.

Personally, I found that my biggest blessing came from preaching, because I felt uncomfortable and had to trust that God would guide me to do His will above my own. It wasn’t until I was standing at the pulpit that I realized He had planned every step of this trip for me. I wasn’t supposed to preach, but I remember praying to God and telling Him, “If it’s your will, I will preach even if it’s not on a pulpit.” He gave me the chance to witness for Him and I knew I couldn’t turn down that privilege.

Twenty-five people went on this journey, each with a different story and a different background, but I don’t think anyone of us came back the same. Whether people went on this trip trying to change, or the changes were simply an unplanned benefit of dedicating each day to serve God, I dare say that we all changed when we put our trust in God and let Him work in us. So what are you waiting for to let God work in you?

—Josue Feliciano, director, Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries
SNEC Associate Youth Director Serves as Adventist Chaplain at Harvard University

In September 2013, Ryan Simpson, Southern New England Conference Family Ministries director and Youth Ministries associate director, was appointed to serve as the Adventist chaplain at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He serves on the Harvard Spiritual Life committee with 34 chaplains from other Protestant faiths as well as other religions, including Muslim, Bahai, Hindu, Buddhist, Zoroastrian, and Humanist.

Simpson's responsibility is primarily to serve the Adventist student and faculty community through participation in the freshman open houses and orientations at the beginning of the school year, organize frequent meetings with the group on campus, help to keep them together as a community, and as well as provide one-on-one pastoral support from the chaplaincy office.

Additionally, he serves the wider Harvard community through collaborative initiatives with the other chaplains, which include collaborative worship gatherings and service projects, interfaith lectures and dialogues, as well as participating in such university programs as commencement services, and more.

Simpson says that, as pastor and chaplain, the challenges of youth and young adults are very dear and personal to his heart. Simpson's ministry as a pastor and youth and young adult leader spans three countries—Jamaica, Bermuda, and the U.S. He holds office hours at the Harvard University chaplaincy office located in the Harvard Memorial Church. For now his office hours are on the third Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He says that, hopefully, in the near future his hours will be increased to at least once per week.

—Editor A. P. Davison, GLEANER editor
Accrochez-vous

Dans la Fédération de L’Union Atlantique

“Il nous permet d’endurer les flammes de l’affliction, mais ne nous laisse jamais dans le feu.”

Dieu nous donne de la force, même quand nous sommes sous l’impression de ne pas pouvoir continuer.

En fait, nous ne souffrons jamais seuls. Il y a quelqu’un qui observe. Les gens regardent pour voir comment nous réagissons en temps de chagrin et de douleur. Certains sont peut-être des non-croyants qui se demandent si le Christ que nous servons est réel. Ils observe notre réaction dans les moments de peine. Nous sommes là pour le monde pour le montrer comment il faut réagir dans les moments de douleur.

Nos épreuves nous adoucissent et préparent nos cœurs afin que lorsque nous reçoivons le réconfort de Dieu, il nous est plus facile de réconforter les autres. Il nous permet d’endurer les flammes de l’affliction, mais ne nous laisse jamais dans le feu. Il nous encourage à nous accrocher et à ne jamais abandonner.

Dans Ministère de la Guérison (p. 471), Ellen White écrit: “Les épreuves et les obstacles sont des méthodes de discipline choisies par Dieu et constituent Ses conditions requises de succès. . . Le fait que nous soyons appelés à endurer des épreuves démontrent que le Seigneur Jésus voit en nous quelque chose de précieux qu’Il désire développer. . . Il n’envoie pas de pierres sans valeur à la fournaise.”

Il y a Quelqu’un qui par sa vie a servi d’exemple pour illustrer ce que veut dire “s’accrocher.” Celui qui contrôle l’univers n’a jamais tourné dos à la croix. Vous, aussi, pouvez vous inspirer de l’Homme qui a tenu sa Parole.

Quand les gens de Sa ville natale ont tenté de le pousser au bord d’une falaise, Il n’a pas abandonné. Quand Pierre l’a regardé avec admiration lors de la Cène et renié à la première occasion, Il n’a pas abandonné. Quand les gens Lui ont craché au visage, il n’a pas répliqué. Et quand le fouet lui a déchiré le dos, il n’a pas commandé à Ses anges de frapper les soldats de mort.

Il existe une fontaine remplie de sang Extrait des veines d’Emmanuel Et les pécheurs plongés dans cette mare Perdent toutes les taches de leurs fautes

Depuis que, par la foi, j’ai vu le flot Que laissait couler tes plaies ouvertes L’amour rédempteur est mon thème Et le sera jusqu’à ma mort

Ce sang provient des mêmes mains que celles qui vous ont écrit cette promesse: “Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde, qu’il a donné son Fils unique, afin que quiconque croit en Lui ne périsse point, mais qu’il ait la vie éternelle” (Jean 3:16).

Voilà pourquoi vous devez vous accrocher!

Donald G. King est président de la fédération de l’Union Atlantique et président du conseil administratif de Atlantic Union College.

Traduction: Farah Ormelet

English translation on page 3 of this issue.
Si alguna vez te has sentido que quieres darte por vencido, recuerda que el apóstol Pablo también tuvo estos sentimientos. En una carta muy personal a los Corintios (2 Corintios 1:1-11), él abre su alma acerca de algunas cosas. Cosas como sus adversidades, privaciones, encarcelamiento, la oposición incesante que enfrentó—fue tanto así que, él llegó a la conclusión de que todo lo que le estaba pasando no era solo para él. Dios estaba haciendo algo en él para el beneficio de otros. En su carta, él revela el secreto de una fe firme. Él nos enseña que Dios nos dará la fortaleza, aun cuando nosotros sintamos que no podemos seguir.

Realmente, nunca sufrimos solos. Siempre hay alguien que nos está mirando. Las personas nos miran para ver como respondemos en momentos de tristeza y dolor. Algunos pueden ser no creyentes que se preguntan si el Dios al que servimos es real. Ellos miran para ver como reaccionamos a los chismes maliciosos y las acusaciones, al maltrato, a la pérdida de nuestro trabajo, a los contratiempos en nuestras carreras o quizás al fracaso financiero. Nuestras aflicciones suavizan y preparan nuestros corazones para que cuando recibamos el consuelo de Dios, se nos haga más fácil consolar a otros. Él permite que nosotros pasemos por el fuego de la aflicción, pero nunca nos deja en el fuego. Él nos anima a que resistamos y nunca nos demos por vencidos.

En el Ministerio de Curación, la pagina 373, Elena G. de White escribe: “Las pruebas y los obstáculos son los métodos de disciplina que el Señor escoge, y las condiciones que señala para el éxito. . . . El hecho de que somos llamados a soportar pruebas demuestra que el Señor Jesús ve en nosotros algo precioso que quiere desarrollar. . . . No echa piedras inútiles en su hornillo.”

Hay alguien que fue el modelo perfecto para nosotros de lo que significa “resistir.” Aquel que controla el universo nunca se dio por vencido en la cruz. El vino para terminar lo que había comenzado. Usted y yo podemos también encontrar nuestra inspiración en el hombre que mantuvo su promesa.

Cuando las personas de su ciudad natal lo trataron de arrojar por un precipicio, él no se dio por vencido. Cuando Pedro lo adoró en la última cena y luego lo negó, él no se dio por vencido. Cuando la multitud escupió en su cara, él no les escupió a ellos. Y cuando magullaron sus espaldas con los latigazos, él no envió a sus ángeles a que las mataran a los soldados. ¡Y cuando clavaron las manos del único que verdaderamente era inocente, no fueron los soldados que sostuvieron sus manos, sino la mano de su Padre el cual lo mantuvo firme! Esas manos traspasadas por los clavos son las mismas manos invisibles que te guiarán durante tus momentos más difíciles.

Las manos de las cuales derramó su sangre en el Calvario son las mismas que se extenderán cada vez—cuantas veces sea necesario—para levantarte cuando hayas caído o te sientas tentado a rendirte. Así que la próxima vez que sientas deseos de rendirte y las malas noticias te despedacen, camina hacia la cumbre del Calvario donde—

Hay una fuente sin igual,
La sangre de Emanuel;
En donde lava cada cual,
Las manchas que hay en él.
¡Eterna fuente carmesí!
¡raudal de puro amor!
Se lavará por siempre en ti,
El pueblo del Señor.

Esta sangre proviene de la misma mano que te escribió la siguiente promesa—“De tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado á su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en el cree, no se pierda, más tenga vida eterna—Juan3:16.” ¡Es por eso que debes resistir!

Donald G. King es presidente de la Unión del Atlántico y director de la junta directiva del Colegio de la Unión del Atlántico.

Traducción: Johanna Viteri
English translation available on page 3 of this issue.
Help break the cycle of abuse

The North American Division recognizes that children, women, and men are victims of abuse. God abhors abuse of every kind, and you can help prevent it by launching an enditnow campaign in your church and community on enditnow Day, Sabbath, August 23, 2014.

A free enditnow implementation kit is available from AdventSource at www.adventsource.org and 402.486.8800.


Sponsored by

Adventist Community Services (ACS) Curriculum Planning Conference
September 19-21, 2014

PRESENTERS

Donald King
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Pierre Omeler
“Church Community Involvement”
Wynelle Stevens
“Elder Care”
Sean Robinson
“Disaster Response & Youth Empowered to Serve”
Sung Kwon
“Urban Ministry”
Steve Willsey
“Crisis Care Spiritual & Emotional”

To Register, Contact:
Atlantic Union Conference
Adventist Community Services Department
Phone: (978) 368-8333 ext. 3013
Email: commserv@atlanticunion.org
www.atlantic-union.org/acs

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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:
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It’s very rough and washed out in some places.
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WANTED: The White Estate is looking for original photographs, personal items, or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. To discuss your item(s), please contact James Nix at (301) 680-6577 or JimNix@WhiteEstate.org. All messages about your items will be answered.

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

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All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is $35 for each insertion of 40 words or less, and $50 cents for each additional word. For all other advertisements the rate is $40 for each insertion of 40 words or less and 50 cents for each word over the 40. There is an 80-word maximum. Check or money order should be payable to Atlantic Union Gleaner or Atlantic Union Conference.

The Atlantic Union Gleaner reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved. Classified and display ads appearing in the Atlantic Union Gleaner are printed without endorsement or recommendation of the Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertisements before they can appear. The periodical assumes responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or for typographical or categorical errors.

EMPLOYMENT

JOB POSTING FOR PRESIDENT: Atlantic Union College is seeking candidates for the position of President. The detailed posting is available on the college’s Web site www.auu.edu. Send nominations and résumés to the e-mail address of the administrative secretary for Dr. Donald King, chairman of the Search Committee, at pwiilmott@atlanticunion.org.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a doctoral level counseling/clinical psychologist to serve as staff psychologist and coordinate mental health prevention initiatives for the student population. Qualified person should have a doctorate in Counseling or Clinical Psychology. For more information and to apply, visit www.andrews.edu/ads/res/jobs/show/staff_salary.

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Atlantic Union GLEANER, July 2014  Visit the Atlantic Union Web site
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!

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Washington New Hampshire Church Annual Meeting

August 16, 2014

Guest Speaker
Gary Counsell
Director
Adventist Chaplain Ministries

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

153 King Street
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AUGUST 30, 2014

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AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH, OR YOU CAN
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Here are a few events where AUAM has been involved

Historic Joint Camp Meeting between the Northeastern Conference and the Greater New York Conference at the Nassau Coliseum in New York

Revelation of Hope Series in Manhattan with Ted Wilson

Breath of Life Revival in the Bronx with Carlton Byrd

Let’s Connect Live with Donald King

Pathway of Hope with Abraham Jules

Families 4 Heaven with Alanzo Smith

Last year the AUAM truck was damaged in a fire. Your donations will help us upgrade our truck and equipment.

Thank you from all of us at AUAM

Donald G. King, President; Carlyle C. Simmons, Secretary; Leon D. Thomassian, Treasurer; Ednor A. P. Davison, Communication Director; Rohann D. Wellington, Managing Director Atlantic Union Conference, P.O. Box 1189, South Lancaster, MA 01561

We are available for your next event. Contact us at: www.auam.tv or (978) 368-8333 ext. 3008 or direct: (516) 627-9350 ext. 173 or www.facebook.com/auam.tv

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