FOREVER FAITHFUL

International Camporee Highlights
Contents

4 Forever Faithful International Camporee Highlights
Something incredible happens when about 46,000 people descend on Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for a seven-day camporee!

7 Retaining Young Adults: Do We Really Want to Keep Them?
Some of us arrived at the conclusion that perhaps our young adults are falling away because the “boardwalk,” meaning the church, is broken.

8 Let’s Connect Live Hosted at Northern New England Camp Meeting
Youth and young adults from the Northern New England Conference met on July 5 at the Freeport church for Let’s Connect Live.

17 Southern New England Conference Launches Compassion Boston
The Southern New England Conference held a kickoff rally and training day to launch Compassion Boston, a multi-year evangelistic experience in the city of Boston.

Cover: Adrian, from Northern New England Conference, walks along the rope bridge in the obstacle course at the 2014 Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee. The photo was taken by JeNean Johnson.
Turn Failures into Achievements

Someone once said, “There is dignity in suffering; nobility in pain; but failure is a salted wound, that burns and burns again.” The truth is, no one is exempt from failure. Failure and success, most of the time, go hand in hand.

It is believed that most successes have been built on failures, not one failure alone but several. There are two benefits of failure. First, if you fail, you learn what does not work, and, secondly, the failure gives you an opportunity to try a new approach. No person is a failure as long as he does not lose courage and stop fighting. Our greatest glory is not that we have never fallen, but that we get back up every time we fall.

As we evaluate accomplishments we can find people who have accomplished much in their lives. The question is, can we do it all alone? Can we accomplish everything by ourselves? Some think that because of their family background they can achieve and accomplish everything, but a high percentage of great men and women have come from humble and, sometimes, broken homes.

Some think that wealth brings achievement, success, and prestige; but wealth is not a great and wonderful indicator of high achievement. Many successful people have come from humble environments and beginnings.

Some think that high morals alone bring success and achievement; but there are men and women who have high morals yet are low achievers.

Some think that the absence of hardship brings success; but there are people who have come from difficult circumstances who became successful achievers.

Consider the story of Peter walking on water. This was no small achievement or accomplishment—walking on water. What is even more fascinating is that a few minutes before walking on water with Jesus, Peter was fighting, struggling, and almost failed at controlling the fishing ship from the wind that was blowing so hard and fiercely.

One moment Peter is fighting the winds to stabilize the ship and at the other moment he is walking on water with Jesus. One moment he is almost a failure and the next he is an achiever.

Are we struggling right now? Are we facing hard times in our job, family, finances, ministry, and health? Are we ready for the situation to change? If we are, then we should claim the power of God. Let us claim His promises and wonderful grace.

Without God we cannot achieve and succeed in anything. Our wealth, family background, fame, opportunity, or high morals will not and cannot help us or save us. It takes someone outside of ourselves to help us and guide us to achieve success and eternal life.

There are many ways—in fact, countless ways—that God can shape our lives and make us better persons fit for heaven. Each one of us is constructed differently and we respond differently to the call and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

For some, all it takes is a look from the Lord as in the case of Zacchaeus. The Lord looked at Zacchaeus in the tree, called him, and he came down.

For some, all it takes is a noonday conversation, as it was in the case of the Samaritan woman at the well, who came to draw water.

For some, all it takes is to wash in the river, as it was in the case of Naaman the leper, the Syrian general.

For some, it may take a midnight confrontation, as it was in the case of Nicodemus. He came under the cover of darkness to speak to Jesus, and was never the same afterwards.

For some, it may take being blinded by a light, as it was in the case of Paul on the way to Damascus.

It is not what men or women can achieve or possess, but it is what God can do with the man or woman who surrenders his or her life to Him. Be an achiever for God. ¶

Leon Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.

“...countless ways—that God can shape our lives and make us better persons fit for heaven.”
Something incredible happens when about 46,000 people from 56 countries, who speak various languages, descend on Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for a seven-day camporee! For one week, Pathfinders from around the world learned what it meant to be forever faithful. Under the leadership of Ron Whitehead, executive director of the Center For Youth Evangelism, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, the Forever Faithful International Camporee (FFIC) was the buzzword since the last camporee concluded five years ago.

Day in and day out, campers did numerous things, including earning honors, participating in community service projects with Adventist Community Services, and enjoying activities such as rock climbing. The highlight of each day was the Pathfinder parades featuring the par-
Participants unions. Crowds of people lined the main walkway as thousands of youth leaders, Master Guides, and Pathfinders marched to the beat of the drums throughout the grounds.

The main event of each evening was the dramatization of the life of Daniel. Using light, pyrotechnics, live animals, and a beautiful musical score, the story of Daniel came to life. Many gave their hearts to the Lord as a result of the play and the evening sermons by Sam Leonor, pastor for the La Sierra University campus in Riverside, California. As a symbol of their commitment, baptisms were held each evening.

The memorable “Forever Faithful” camporee came to a spectacular close as fireworks lit the sky and Ron Whitehead announced the theme for the next international camporee. With shouts and a rousing applause, they all anticipate in five years experiencing, “Chosen,” the story of David.

JeNean Johnson is the communication director for the Northeastern Conference.

Obstacle Course Named in Honor of Henry Livergood

Henry Livergood has been a blessing to Pathfinders, youth, and young adults throughout his life. One of his passions is building and managing obstacle courses for Pathfinders. The Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries leaders were honored to name the obstacle course after the person who had the vision for it, the one who built it, and the one who has led its operation since its very beginning, Henry Livergood.

The dedication and opening ceremony of the Henry Livergood Obstacle Course was held on August 12 at the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee. The obstacle course is owned by the Atlantic Union Conference.

José Cortés, Jr., is the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries director.
Photos left column from top to bottom: Southern New England Conference camp; some of the Pathfinders who performed community service in Oshkosh; the entrance to the Greater New York Conference camp area; Northern New England Conference Pathfinders, actors in the evening drama about Daniel; and Atlantic Union youth leaders meet.

Photos center column from top to bottom: Sara Thompson, of Pavilion, New York, tightens zip line cable; and campers watch fireworks on the last night of the camporee.

Photos right column from top to bottom: Bermuda Conference Pathfinders march in the parade; Atlantic Union Pathfinders on the parade route; one of the evening flag lowering ceremonies; Northeastern Conference flag bearers in the parade; Atlantic Union youth directors in the parade lineup; and Atlantic Union Conference Pathfinder trading pins.
In our last article of this series, “Retaining Young Adults,” we asked hard questions. (See Gleaner, June 2014, p. 18.) Some of us arrived at the conclusion that perhaps our young adults are falling away because the “boardwalk,” meaning the church, is broken. We touched on the parable of the Prodigal Son that provides guidance on what needs to be fixed and ended with a question: Why did the prodigal son leave the father’s house?

As we read the story, one of the characters has very interesting characteristics—the older brother. Let’s look at his characteristics as found in Luke 15:25-30.

1. He valued work more than relationships. He was in the field working rather than looking for his missing brother. (15:25)

2. He was not used to singing, praising, and celebrating. As he heard the music in the house, he complained to one of the servants, “What is this?” (15:26) Does this sound familiar?

3. He was an angry fellow. He did not show happiness at the news that his brother had returned. (15:27-28)

4. He did not love his brother. He stayed outside. Had he loved his brother, he would have run in to embrace him. (15:28)

5. He was a legalist. He thought he could earn his father’s love with hard work. He did not realize the father loved him, simply because he was his son. (15:29)

6. He was very envious. He could not accept that his brother had gotten something while he had not. “My brother got something more, after squandering what he already received, but I have been here longer and got nothing.” (15:29)

7. He was an accuser. He quickly pointed out the sins of his younger brother to the father. (15:30)

Although the prodigal son was totally responsible for his choice to leave the house, one can make the case that the behavior of his older brother contributed to his actions. Most young adults, teens, and adults today do not leave church because they stop believing in God, or because they don’t accept the principles that are clearly presented in the light of Scripture.

They leave because they don’t feel loved, they feel judged, they are of the impression that no one cares for them, they are criticized when they praise God and don’t sense the joy of the Lord; they leave because they feel they don’t belong in the Father’s house. One of the main reasons young adults leave the church is because of brothers and sisters who have big mouths and empty hearts, because of people who can talk the talk but cannot walk the walk.

If we really want to keep our young adults, we all need to become the exact opposite of the older brother and that would help fix the boardwalk.

José Cortés, Jr., is the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries director.
Youth and young adults from the Northern New England Conference met on July 5, the second Sabbath of camp meeting, at the Freeport church in Freeport, Maine, for Let’s Connect Live. It was a morning of conversation and music with host Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, and friends José Cortés, Jr., Atlantic Union Conference youth ministries director, Ryan Simpson, former Southern New England Conference associate youth ministries director, Bob Cundiff, Northern New England Conference president, and Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference youth ministries director.

Let’s Connect Live is an initiative of Donald King and includes answering questions that are submitted from the live audience, by e-mail, and from Facebook participants. The July 5 program included several musical selections from local artists and from John Lomacang of 3ABN.

The Let’s Connect Live program is one of several that have been held around the Atlantic Union territory since 2010.

—Ednor A. P. Davison, Gleaner editor

AUC Is on its Way — Alumni Can Help!

Now is the time to sign up to become an AUC Ambassador. As an ambassador, be willing at least once a month to stand before the church family and plead the holy cause of our college. Let people know that the Lord is working with AUC. Ambassador or not, come to a work bee (see below for more information).

Three main tasks await AUC Ambassadors: Update, Recruit, and Register.

1. Update our fellow believers on all important developments regarding the reopening process.

Under the leadership of interim president Duane Cady, and education consultant, Gina Brown, a permit for the English as a Second Language certificate program has been secured, and the Nurse’s Aid Training and Culinary Arts certificates are in process, the accreditation process continues for undergraduate degree programs with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), with a site visit planned for this Fall. The search for a president of AUC is moving forward.

2. Recruit and direct students interested in evangelism to the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) and students interested in music lessons to the Thayer Performing Arts Center (TPAC).

Currently, there are 14 students at NETS, up from 8 in the first session, learning the art of evangelism. Right now at Thayer, more than 100 students are studying music, with many local schools involved.


We need current contact information for all AUC alumni.

AUC Work Bees

Upcoming work bee dates, for those who live nearby or are willing to travel, are October 19 and November 2, anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The place to meet is the Machlan Hall parking lot. The work entails weeding the landscape and painting. For information and to sign up, contact George Odell at alumniofauc@gmail.com, or call (978) 609-3677.

Together, we can ensure that AUC fulfills its mission for this region more and more! Please share this with other alumni.

—George Odell, ’98, president, The Alumni Association of Atlantic Union College
The Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries Department, with the assistance of the Bermuda Conference Prayer Ministries Department, conducted an island-wide rally that was the third in a series of four scheduled for 2014 to be taken to the central, west, and east districts of the conference. The ultimate goal is to allow the Holy Spirit to use each one in powerful ministry for Him in these closing moments of earth’s history, and also to encourage more collective ministry involvement between laymen and the pastors.

The first rally was held January 29-February 1 when J. Alfred Johnson, North American Division Adult Ministries director, shared the significance of the Holy Spirit working and offered insights to understanding personality traits. The second rally was on April 29 when DeJuan Tull, Somerset church pastor, encouraged the participants to remember that God is still in control and knows how to get His people through troublesome times.

The theme of the third rally held August 6 at St. George’s church, was “The Benefits of Giving Service to the Community.” The program included three segments of intercessory prayer led by Michelle Hill, Bermuda Conference prayer ministries director and interim pastor of Pembroke church, and the conference’s prayer ministries team for the community at-large, missing members, and for the active participation of members in reaching all people.

Special music was presented by the Devonshire Praise Team, with Jackie Wilson sharing a heartwarming rendition of the song “Ordinary People.” Testimonies were shared about how the Lord is transforming lives as He uses members in ministry for Him. The highlight of the rally came when the Holy Spirit used the two designated speakers for the evening, Dwayne Wilson, pastor assisting at Devonshire church, and Ulric Hetsberger, Restoration Ministries pastor.

Wilson delved into Matthew 5:13 and gave an expository rendition of what is entailed in being “the salt of the earth,” avoiding being too salty or judgmental, and killing the desire of interested persons seeking Jesus. Christ’s method is the best—He “mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’”—The Ministry of Healing, p.143.

Hetsberger followed with Luke 15:1-2, 8-10, and gave a moving application of being lost in the church. The woman valued the piece of lost silver and began her search with a lighted candle and swept until she found it. The lost silver coin reflected the light of the candle as the woman searched for it. As the Light of God’s Word is held high, the lost in the church can become ignited again.

The next island-wide Personal Ministries Rally is scheduled for October 28 at the Devonshire church, with emphasis on praise and thanksgiving, and Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference ministerial director, is the speaker.

—Eloise Symonds, personal ministries director, Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries Department Hosts Third Island-wide Rally

"The ultimate goal is to allow the Holy Spirit to use each one in powerful ministry for Him in these closing moments of earth’s history."
Residents Attend Health Fair in Large Numbers

The Tabernacle of Joy church hosted its ninth annual health fair outside of the church on August 3. Church members and members of the community showed up in large numbers to take advantage of and participate in the many free services offered. Lincoln M. Smith, the church’s pastor, was present and gave his full support to the health ministries team that planned the event. Also in attendance was Assemblymember Victor M. Pichardo of the 86th Assembly District, who pledged his full support for the church’s outreach endeavors.

The newly-formed drum corps, New Breed Drum Corps, was there to perform and helped to draw the crowd. They entertained the young, old, church members, and non-church members.

Many tests were administered, including checks for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, as well as mammograms, HIV consults and testing, and dental check-ups. Also available were free services such as massages, haircuts, facials, nutrition counseling, and healthy juicing advice. The New York City Fire Department was also on hand to give fire safety tips.

Items of clothing were available to those in need. Those without health insurance coverage were encouraged to sign up and were given information about how to sign up for it. Light refreshments and a healthy, hearty lunch were also served.

The health ministries team expressed their happiness with the event’s huge turnout. They were pleased to see the entire community taking part in the activities and services that were provided. Cleo Powell, health ministries team leader, said, “The hope is to better the church’s relationship with the community and make them aware of our presence and that we are here to help.”

No one left the event empty-handed. Free gifts were handed out to all who visited. At least three vendors and the church’s personal ministries team were also present to hand out free religious literature, including Bibles and prophecy books. Prayer counseling was also readily available.

Jesus left us an example when He healed the sick and tended to the needs of the poor. The health fair provides an excellent avenue to reach our neighbors, our friends, and those in need. It was a success! Members of Tabernacle of Joy are encouraging everyone to strive for wellness and happiness, and to keep their bodies pure until Christ comes again.

—Cashima Hunter, communication leader, Tabernacle of Joy church
Kinderhook Congregation Builds Energy-efficient Church

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at Kinderhook in New York, together with state authori- ties, gathered on December 8, 2013, in front of their future sanctuary for a frame-raising event. Attending the event was Representative Chris Gibson, member of the United States Congress, who affirmed the congregation’s choice of green construction. Pointing to the use of “God-given talent,” he referred to the project as an example of how to reduce U.S. dependence on overseas oil.

Jodi Smits Anderson, director of Sustainability Programs for the New York State Dormitory Authority, spoke at the event, saying that energy-efficient construction “affects everybody, and everybody needs to be involved in building them,” adding that the New York State “Department of Taxation saves $3.5 billion a year” because of green and sustainable facilities. She expressed hopes that more congregations of all faiths would follow Kinderhook’s example.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church building in the town of Kinderhook is to be the first house of worship in the United States fully certified according to the Passive House standards. Passive House design is based on a concept pioneered in Germany that maximizes use of solar heat and insulation, reducing energy use as much as 70 to 90 percent compared to conventional buildings. Choosing Passive House construction instead of conventional building will help the congregation cut their carbon emissions by about 50,000 pounds each year. In time, the congregation hopes to add solar panels to make the building a self-sustained, zero-energy facility.

Situated off a high-traffic road, the new building is already a powerful testimony for the congregation, letting the community know of their commitment to being responsible guardians of God-given resources. Many members of the community have taken personal interest in this project and are looking forward to attending the grand opening. Key members of the community who were previously hostile to the church are now praying for the church congregation and its construction project. After renting a local school for more than a decade, and sacrificial fundraising for almost seven years, church members praise God for the many miracles and donations along the way that have allowed them to reach this phase of the project.

With the Lord’s help and the support of friends, the congregation of about 80 members expects to worship in its new building by Spring 2015. And Anton Kapusi, the church’s pastor, looks forward with great anticipation to the day when this place of worship will become a “beacon of light, truth, and health for the community.”

—Maud Celestin, Building Committee chair, Seventh-day Adventist Church at Kinderhook

Greater New York Academy Alumnus Partners With Alma Mater

Olaf Butchma, M.D., class of 1980, and now the medical director for a series of nursing and rehabilitation centers in Long Island, is working with Greater New York Academy (GNYA) to meet her challenges.

In February 2014, a meeting that included G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president; Lillian Mitchell, Greater New York Academy principal; and Janice DaSilva, Planned Giving and Development associate director, Butchma shared his intention to provide for GNYA in the future. Working through his financial advisor he has created a memorial endowment of $250,000 in the name of the school. It is his hope that this gift will be an incentive for other alumni to follow his example.

Butchma has also been hands-on in the present, equipping the science department with materials that will be relocated in the new lab, currently under construction, and sponsoring several students in need of financial aid.

At a May alumni event he shared with his former principal, David Cadavero, his desire to see GNYA become a science destination school in New York City.

Recently, Butchma was asked why he was being so generous to students he hasn’t even met. He said, “I have been blessed, and I’ve been able to provide my two sons with many opportunities. The kids at Greater New York Academy deserve to have those same opportunities.”

—Helene Mattenson, development/alumni department, Greater New York Academy
John Livergood Ordained at New York Conference Camp Meeting

One of the very special events in any conference is the ordination of pastors who serve as ministers of the gospel. On June 21, John Livergood, pastor of the Adirondack District, was ordained in an ordination service at the New York Conference Camp Meeting.

Livergood has been employed by the New York Conference for the past five years. He is the pastor of five churches: High Banks, Massena Company, Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, and West Bangor. He and his wife, Debbie, have five children.

—Bradley Booth, communication director, New York Conference

God Opens Door for Student to Attend Union Springs Academy

In August, the faculty of Union Springs Academy (USA) walked in small groups through Newmeyer Hall, the academy’s administration and classroom building, and both dormitories, praying together in each room for God’s presence in the new school year. A reliance on God’s guidance through prayer was an important component emphasized by new principal Todd Coulter in the faculty meetings prior to the start of the school year and continues to be the focus of staff worship each weekday morning.

The necessity and privilege of daily prayer is also being reinforced to the students as they meet in small groups with their faculty “parents” each school morning at 10:15 a.m. for prayer. Prayer is a priority at USA.

Out of the numerous petitions brought to God throughout the summer and into the first weeks of school, the story of one student’s journey to USA stands out as an example of God’s response to the prayers of many. Adalida had wanted to attend Union Springs Academy for several years. She had heard firsthand accounts of life as a USA student from her cousin, Michaela, who graduated in 2013. Addy, as she’s known by her friends and family, attended Skills Week in the summer of 2012. That experience further convinced Addy that someday she wanted to be a student here, too.

A family friend discussed Addy’s desire to attend the academy with an academy faculty member during the New York Conference camp meeting this past June. Tuition costs were an obstacle preventing Addy’s family from enrolling her. The topic of faith and prayer came up in the discussion. Was this a time to step out in faith and encourage Addy’s family to do the same? Prayers for Addy were going heavenward.

As the date of registration grew closer, the faculty began to hear faith-building stories of families in need who were being blessed as sponsors were moved to help provide the tuition assistance for their children. Registration day came, and Addy was not there, but two of her aunts were working on her behalf to find sponsorships for Addy’s tuition. With God’s help, the financial obstacles were being overcome. It looked like Addy would be enrolling shortly.
There was another possible obstacle standing in Addy’s way to USA. Since she can remember, Addie has wanted to be a hair stylist. This fall, she planned to enroll in the cosmetology program at her local BOCES vocational school. If Addy could transfer from the BOCES program in her local school district to the BOCES program in the Union Springs area, she could continue working toward her vocational goal.

Unfortunately, the school district in which Addy lives was unwilling to let her transfer. Now Addy had to make a decision. Would she give up her dream of cosmetology to attend Union Springs Academy? Her answer was yes. Her desire for an Adventist education was so strong that Addy was willing to sacrifice her dreams to follow God’s plan and come to USA. Little did she know that the Holy Spirit was still at work; God had more good things in store for her.

As she packed and prepared to leave for Union Springs, the call came that the principal of Addy’s local high school had changed his mind and would allow her transfer to the Cayuga-Ondondaga BOCES program. Prayers were answered and now Addy is a student at Union Springs Academy, with a schedule that allows her to be a part of the BOCES cosmetology program just a few miles away. Our prayers for God’s blessings continue to be heard at Union Springs Academy.

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

“Addy was willing to sacrifice her dreams to follow God’s plan and come to USA.”

Camp Parkview Shares Jesus in Syracuse, New York

It was the very first year of our church summer camp at Parkview Jr. Academy, and it was called Camp Parkview. The purpose of Camp Parkview was to spread the Word of Jesus to the people and children of Syracuse, New York.

There were a total of six weeks of camp (June 30-August 8) in which we interacted with the children and also showed Jesus to them. Some of our activities included video editing, arts and crafts, slack lining, disc golf, basketball, soccer, kickball, horseback riding, swimming, fishing, and golfing. The summer went by very quickly with all the fun events at Camp Parkview.

On Sabbath, August 9, the staff performed the “Passion Play” at Westvale church. A lot of our campers attended with their families. At the end of the church service there was an appeal, and three of our campers and their parents decided to give their lives to Jesus!

Jesus came to our camp. He was with the staff and they were able to show Jesus to the families who brought their children to Camp Parkview. God has worked through us, and the results were three campers deciding to rebaptize, Eunice and Roger Weber agreed to study the Bible with him.

La Rock has been attending the Pulaski church for several years, and joined them officially following his baptism. With praises to God, they welcome him with open arms.

—Bradley Booth, communication director, New York Conference

William (Bill) La Rock was baptized at the Dexterville church in New York on March 22 by Alan Miller, the church’s pastor. La Rock was baptized as a teenager, but, unfortunately, the paperwork was never recorded at the conference office. When the church heard that he wanted to be rebaptized, Eunice and Roger Weber agreed to study the Bible with him.

La Rock has been attending the Pulaski church for several years, and joined them officially following his baptism. With praises to God, they welcome him with open arms.

—Bradley Booth, communication director, New York Conference

Alan Miller, Dexterville church pastor, baptizes William La Rock.
Haitian Camp Meeting is a Time of Inspiration and Fellowship

The annual Northeastern Conference Haitian Camp Meeting, directed by the Haitian Ministries coordinator, Jose Joseph, and the Haitian pastors, took place August 22-24. It was a time of inspiration and fellowship for those who attended.

The guest speaker, Elie Henry, Jr., Inter-American Division executive secretary, presented a stirring sermon on the eminence of Christ’s return and what it means for the Christian to be truly ready. Meanwhile, at the youth tent, Baraka Muganda, vice president of ministry at Washington Adventist University and former General Conference youth director, riveted the young people’s attention as he challenged them to high standards of excellence. “God has placed greatness in each of you,” he said, and urged the audience to live in such a way that “others should be coming to you and asking, ‘How do you do it?’”

A few young adults expressed that they were “really blessed” and described the sermon as being “on point.” Following the worship service there was also a baptismal service in which a young lady publicly pledged her life to Christ.

—Petrice Wideman, communication staff writer, Northeastern Conference

Kingsboro Temple Church Celebrates the Community

Sabbath, August 23, was an unprecedented, yet extraordinary day for the members and guests at the Kingsboro Temple church in Brooklyn, New York. The church’s senior pastor, Easton Marks, welcomed Kendall J. Guy, Northeastern Conference personal ministries director; G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president; Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president; and Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York City, as well as local leaders.

Several local news stations, including News 12 and Channel 2 were there to capture the momentous occasion. It was mentioned that this was the first time that a sitting mayor has visited the Kingsboro church for a worship service. “It is a historical moment for Kingsboro Temple and for the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” Marks said.

Mayor de Blasio commended the church at-large for the positive message that it brings to the community.
“It is so clear to me what you do for this city, and how you uplift this city. You teach people what it means to take care of not just the soul, but the body. Thank you for promoting proper health to the city. I know that your schools make a difference.”

Following his warm greetings to the congregation, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke brought greetings, as well. She reminded the congregation to maintain the posture that we believe in a God of equity and justice and that God uses us to reveal His will.

Without a doubt, it was a high day that continued as Donald King preached a message entitled, “Chariots of Fire.” In his opening remarks he said, “This day is about the community and we have to be more community-minded, and we saw inklings of that today.”

—JeNean Johnson, communication director, Northeastern Conference

South Ozone Park Church Reaches Out to its Community

With the roll of drums, the clash of cymbals, the sound of a trumpet, and a powerful call to “attention” from Rawle Davidson, the Queens Area Pathfinder director, Adventurers, Pathfinders, members, and visitors marched in uniform precision through the streets of South Ozone Park for the third annual “Save Our Children March.” Joining in the procession on August 23 were Trevor Baker, South Ozone Park church pastor, his wife, Eunice, 75 members and visitors, and Adventurers and Pathfinders from the South Ozone Park, Corona, Linden, First Hollis, Jamaica, Lebanon, Solid Rock, Mt. Sinai, and New Haven (Greater New York) churches.

The parade drew many onlookers and tract takers. “What’s a Seventh-day Adventist?” asked a Muslim gentleman. “Why are you marching?” asked another person. “Can our children join your club?” Church members and visitors seized the opportunity to give them health information and Bible tracts, and explained the reason for the parade.

This march against crime, drugs, depression, alcoholism, and abuse means a lot to a community that two years ago felt the ricochet of gun violence as it took the life of 14-year-old Daja Robinson, who was gunned down while riding on a New York City bus on Sutphin Boulevard.

The marchers were blessed with receptive people, who have an interest in receiving Bible studies, health seminars, and finding out more about the Pathfinder clubs.

—Lorraine Archie, communication staff, South Ozone Park church

Trevor Baker, South Ozone Park church pastor, and his wife, Eunice, lead members, Adventurers, and Pathfinders on the “Save Our Children March.”

G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference president, and Kendall J. Guy, Northeastern Conference personal ministries director, bring greetings at Kingsboro Temple.

Trevor Baker, South Ozone Park church pastor, and his wife, Eunice, lead members, Adventurers, and Pathfinders on the “Save Our Children March.”
Not Your Typical Mission Story

Fact number one: Mary Quinn is a member of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Bedford, New Hampshire. Fact number two: Mary Quinn is on a mission to build a Seventh-day Adventist church in Malawi. Those are two facts that you might not expect to see together and, seeing them together, you might expect that there would be a story behind them. And you are right about that—there is indeed a story of God’s amazing providence behind those facts.

Mary’s oldest daughter, Amy, is employed by the United States Agency for International Development, more commonly known as USAID. Amy is a foreign service public health officer currently assigned to Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi. Recently Mary went to visit Amy and her family. While it was not a mission trip, Mary went with the desire to share Christ’s love with the people of Malawi.

Mary had been to visit her daughter when Amy was stationed in Uganda. From this experience Mary knew of poverty as a constant, grinding reality in Africa. It was still hard for her to face what she saw in Malawi. Malawi is one of the least developed and most densely populated countries in the world. When countries are ranked by the United Nations according to their total human development (health, schools, economy, etc.), Malawi is in the bottom 10 percent. Jobs are almost impossible to find. The AIDS epidemic continues to grow. Desperation abounds.

Upon her arrival in Malawi, Mary began to help others. She found instead that she was drawn to him by “his joyful spirit which shone clearly through his beautiful smile and the voice of an angel,” as she phrased it. Rodwell arrived each morning singing praises to God and giving God thanks for all His blessings and also sang while he worked.

At first, Mary thought that she might somehow help Rodwell and his family. But upon talking to Rodwell, Mary learned that Rodwell’s church—the Kauma church—was in the midst of a building campaign. The church had been growing by leaps and bounds, spreading joy and hope in the midst of despair, but progress on the building had stalled due to lack of funds. Mary visited Rodwell and his family at their home. He took her to see the half-built church that was nearby. The congregation had gone forward in faith with the construction of their church, but could only progress as funds came in. The church needed $35,000 U.S. dollars to complete a sanctuary that will seat close to 700 people. But their smaller, more immediate need is $10,000 to put a roof on the building, which will enable them to use the structure in an incomplete state during the rainy season.

Rodwell told Mary of the work the church did in the community and Mary came to see that by helping Rodwell and his congregation build their church, she could help an entire community. Mary purposed in her heart to help complete Rodwell’s church, but she knew she would need help—a great deal of help. Thus it was that a nervous Mary, attending the recent Northern New England Conference camp meeting, mounted the platform steps on Sabbath morning and told her story to an amazed audience. She was very warmly received and some $4,200 was collected for Rodwell’s church that morning. Mary now wants to travel and visit other Adventist churches and church gatherings in the hope that she can help the Kauma church share the love of Jesus in Malawi.

God has thousands of faithful people who are willing to do His will when it is made known to them. We should all be encouraged to follow Mary Quinn’s example and let the Lord use us to further His kingdom and help others.

To learn more about the Kauma church building project, contact Ted Huskins, Northern New England Conference secretary, at thuskins@nnee.org or call (207) 797-3760.

—Ted Huskins, secretary, Northern New England Conference
Twelve-year-old Sienna Mazone of Maine knows the importance of eating healthy foods. Her father Zach, a family physician, often comes home with stories about people whose diet choices have netted them serious diseases that are entirely avoidable. Sienna has often discussed with her parents the physical, mental, and financial impacts of an individual’s lifestyle choices. Thus it is that Sienna, an aspiring chef, has made a habit of trying to create healthy, well-balanced, and deliciously appealing meals for herself and her family. Perhaps it was this innate creativity that caused Sienna’s curiosity to be piqued when she found out about a recipe contest held by First Lady Michelle Obama.

It was 2013 when Sienna first heard of the Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, a national recipe contest that is part of the First Lady’s “Let’s Move!” initiative. The contest was created to spotlight healthy meal choices and called upon all interested kids from 8-12 to enter. Sienna was 11 at the time and entered the contest with a veggie burger that she tailored to meet the USDA nutritional “My Plate” guidelines. Her entry was judged one of the top three in her state of Maine—an excellent effort by any standards of just a whisker short of where she wanted to be—for the first-place winners from each state got to travel to the White House where the First Lady would host a Kids State Dinner and showcase their recipes.

When the contest rolled around again in 2014, Sienna was 12 and knew it would be her last chance to enter. Problem was, she was stumped for a winning recipe. While pondering what to enter, Sienna’s mom helped her start the creative process one morning by challenging her to come up with a dish by lunchtime that included an avocado, a sweet potato, and a Fresno chili pepper. Sienna checked other ingredients available in the fridge and decided to make a modified haystack. A haystack is a dish that is almost ubiquitous at Adventist gatherings and consists of layers of corn chips (or rice), beans, cheese, sliced olives, onions, shredded lettuce, cilantro, salsa, chopped tomatoes, and more. When Sienna made her haystack, she used a layer of simmered and spiced beans topped by a layer of whipped sweet potatoes with cumin, which was in turn topped by a layer of her home-made mango salsa and chopped tomatoes. The dish was crowned with a scoop of guacamole. Whole grain tortillas were cut into strips and then baked to make chips for dipping.

Once Sienna entered her recipe, it was recreated by chefs and judged according to the contest criteria. In early July, Sienna was informed by e-mail that she had won the contest for the state of Maine and would be traveling (with her mom, Kim) to the White House for a reception hosted by the First Lady. From that notification to July 18, Sienna along with winners from 49 other states and several territories gathered together to meet Michelle Obama and celebrate healthy eating choices. To the delight of the kids, they also got to meet with the White House chef and senior policy advisor for nutrition policy, Sam Kass, who congratulated them on their accomplishments and urged them to keep cooking up healthy and delicious meals. The reception had a special guest, President Obama, who dropped in to address the kids and parents, praising them for the example they are setting.

When asked what one thing stands out most about her trip, Sienna has a ready answer. It is that “one kid can make a difference, and that each and every one of us should be working for what we believe in.”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference
Couple Receive a Double Blessing

One more time, the Great Commission that Jesus gave to His disciples before He went back to His Father has demonstrated its divine power. Sunday, August 24, brought joy to heaven and to the church in Warren, Massachusetts.

George and Toni are the protagonists of a story that started on this earth, but that was finalized in the kingdom of heaven. To begin with, George started attending the worship services of the church in Warren. He was looking for something better for his life; not from a material perspective, but from a spiritual one.

From personal study, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he discovered the Lord’s day of worship—the Sabbath—in the Bible. Then, the Internet helped him locate the church closest to him that observes the Sabbath day and worships God on it. Since George's first visit, he has never missed a Sabbath. But how could he keep such a wonderful revelation to himself? After a while, he invited his girlfriend, Toni, to join him so they could worship together on the day the Lord set aside for fellowship and worship according to the fourth commandment. From their desire to know more about God’s principles for salvation to taking a series of Bible studies was just one step.

I was impressed with the spiritual hunger and the mature thinking of both Toni and George during our study times. It was not difficult for them to say one day, at the end of one of our studies together: “Pastor, we want to be baptized. We want to be part of the family of God!”

God had something even better planned for them, however—a double blessing! So, on August 24, after their baptism, the special event of their marriage immediately followed. After a 16-year relationship with each other, George and Toni said first, “Yes!” to Jesus in their hearts and then, “I do” to each other in the presence of God and the members of the Warren church. What a day! What a joy! What a Savior!

——Mihail Baciu, pastor, First Springfield, Florence, and Warren churches

Six Youth Baptized at First Springfield Church

Sabbath, August 30, was an extra special one for the First Springfield church congregation. Six junior class students were baptized, which was the culmination of an intensive two weeks of Bible study—three hours a day. Daphrose, Perus, Isayah, Jasmine, Denise, and Claude all stepped into the water of baptism in the presence of their families, friends, and the congregation. All of them belong to two Adventist families, except one whose story is worthy to be mentioned. Everybody’s experience is unique and precious, and the Lord appreciates every decision for Him.

Twelve-year-old Jasmine lost her mother two years ago. Her father has tried his best to be both mother and father for Jasmine and her brother. During this period, Hadasseh, a Warren school student, met Jasmine and the two became friends. At the same time, Hadasseh’s mother, Lily, embraced Jasmine like her own daughter. What a blessing for Jasmine who was in need of a mother figure.

Jasmine made my day when, together with Hadasseh and her mom, she came to me and told me, “Pastor, I want to be baptized!” During the Bible study created especially for Juniors, I realized that many principles—even details—Jasmine had already learned from her friend, Hadasseh, and her mom.

And this is not all! When I shared Jasmine’s story with the members of the Florence church, they said: “We want to sponsor Jasmine, so she can attend the Warren Seventh-day Adventist School. We will take all financial responsibility for this girl.” So, the additional good news of this ongoing story is that Jasmine is now registered as a student in the Warren school for the 2014-2015 school year.

——Mihail Baciu, pastor, First Springfield, Florence, and Warren churches
The Southern New England Conference held a kickoff rally and training day on Sabbath, September 6, at Greater Boston Academy in Stoneham, Massachusetts. The event was the launch of Compassion Boston, a multi-year evangelistic experience in the city of Boston.

Speakers for the rally were José Cortés, Jr., Atlantic Union Conference youth ministries director, for Sabbath School; and John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written, for the worship service.

Tom Murray, Compassion Boston project manager, says that close to 500 people were present to pray, worship, dialogue, and receive training, and go into the city of Boston to share the love of Christ through acts of compassion.

On hand to support the event was Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, and Yves Monnier, evangelism coordinator for It Is Written.

Some members went into the city of Boston to share the compassion of Christ at Boston University, local hospitals, and at various train stations. Roses with a Bible promise were distributed at some of the Boston area hospital by young adults. Others members participated in compassion-sharing workshops.

Special thanks was expressed to April Montoya, Joanne Cortés, and Guadalupe Montour for helping to prepare for the event, and to the pastors who promoted this kickoff event in their churches.

Compassion Boston seeks to introduce the people of Boston to the liberating love of Jesus through acts of kindness, compassion, and the warmth of wholesome fellowship. Compassion Boston will be fashioned after the example of Christ.

A strong emphasis is being placed on meeting real needs in shelters, pantries, hospital rooms and at public events, developing friendships, and emulating the gracious love of Jesus.

“The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me,’ ”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 143.

For more information about Compassion Boston, visit www.compassionboston.org.

The Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church is celebrating its 90th Anniversary

October 1 to 26, 2014
Events are scheduled for Wednesday nights, Sabbath, and Sunday

Speakers: Robert Conner, Sherwin Jack, Bernard Penn, Neil Reid, Michael Coleman, R. Clifford Jones, Andrew Pileggi, and John Nixon

For further information contact:
Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church
101 West 123rd Street
New York, NY 10027
Phone (212) 662-5536/37, E-mail: ephesuschurch@email.com or ephesuschurch@hotmail.com

Ephesus 90th Anniversary Committee:
Sandy Byrd (917) 515-2583 Maurice Harvin (917) 232-3009 or e-mail: moeharvin@yahoo.com

The New York Conference invites you to the Women's Ministries Fall Retreat

October 24–26, 2014
Watson Homestead Retreat Center
Painted Post, New York

Eucharisteo:
giving thanks finding grace experiencing joy

Keynote Speaker
Heather Dawn-Small
Women's Ministries Director
General Conference

Weekend accommodations: $155 – $265

For registration forms or more information, call Lynee Hamm at (315) 469-6921
E-mail: abcshopgirl@yahoo.com

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.
**Announcements**

Atlantic Union


**Sunset Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 2014</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>21</th>
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**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

Join the Atlantic Union every Wednesday morning from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. in a “Call to Prayer”

**Phone:** (712) 432-0232  
**Code:** 310654#

**Please note:** This call is NOT toll free.

Focus on Jesus’ Promise and Prayer Life.

**Sponsored by the**  
Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries

To submit prayer requests online,  
**visit:** atlantic-union.org/ministries/prayer-ministries

**Send us Your Stories**

The Atlantic Union Gleaner is looking for stories about:

- Unique community outreach ministries
- Answered prayers
- News stories
- We want to know how God is blessing others through your ministry. Contact the Atlantic Union Gleaner at gleaner@atlanticunion.org.

**Stoneham Memorial Church**

29 Maple St.  
Stoneham, Massachusetts

**A Weekend Series**  
**December 5–6, 2014**

**Speaker**  
Skip MacCarty  
Long-time associate pastor for evangelism at Pioneer Memorial Church  
Author of the book *In Granite or Ingrained: What the Old and New Covenants Reveal about the Gospel, the Law, and the Sabbath*

**For more information, call (978) 440-7838**
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.auc.edu. Send nominations and résumés to the e-mail address of the administrative secretary for Dr. Donald King, chairman of the Search Committee, at pwillmott@atlanticunion.org.

WEB PRESS OPERATORS WANTED. Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks Seventh-day Adventist Web Press Operators for Head Press Operator and 2nd Press Operator full time positions. Applicants should have 2 to 4 years experience, showing mechanical aptitude and the proven ability to lead employees in a production process. Hourly rate based on experience. Contact Ms. Alix Mansker, HR Director, PO Box 5353 Nampa ID 83653, phone (208) 465-2567; fax (208) 465-2531; aliman@pacificpress.com.

MONTANA CONFERENCE ACCOUNTANT. Responsibilities include: general ledger, payroll, remittances, accounts receivable, and church financial reviews. Education and experience in accounting required. Knowledge of APS and AASI a plus. Send résumés to Merlin.Knowles@mc.npuc.org.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-8 education and eligible for Nebraska certification to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. Effective summer 2015. E-mail letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time faculty in the Nursing and Health Sciences Department - Emergency Services/Nursing to begin during the 2014-2015 academic year. Ideal candidate will possess a master’s degree in nursing or related field, a current RN license, and a current National Registry EMT certification and/or Paramedic license with at least 2 years prehospital experience. For more information or to apply, call (707) 965-7062 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Advancement office seeks full-time Vice President. Responsibilities center primarily in development in addition to PR/Marketing and Alumni. Minimum bachelor’s degree and 2 years advancement experience required, master’s degree preferred. Anticipated begin date is January 2015. Submit cover letter and CV to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES in Orlando, Fla., is seeking full-time faculty members for its developing Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The ideal candidate will have an advanced level doctorate or DPT with clinical specialty certification, expertise in assigned teaching areas, effective teaching and student evaluation skills, a scholarly agenda, a record of professional and community service, and eligibility for PT licensure in Fla. For more information e-mail: DPTinfo@adu.edu, visit www.adu.edu/pt, or go to: www.floridahospitalcareers.com and search job number: 182527.

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He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.—Job 23:10, NASB

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