8 Positive Youthful Believer and Leader, Part I
10 GODencounters Draws Record Attendance
14 “You2 Challenge” Is the New Youth Evangelistic Movement in New York Conference
4 Thank A Teacher
Each year in public and private schools around the U.S., the first week of May is earmarked for teacher appreciation. Traditionally, the second Tuesday of that week is known as Teacher Appreciation Day.

8 Positive Youthful Believer and Leader, Part I
No one remains a youth/young adult forever. It’s a stage that we all must enter and exit; a stage where all are called to live meaningful, Holy Spirit-directed lives.

10 GODencounters Draws Record Attendance
More than 300 young adults from across the Atlantic Union Conference attended the GODencounters spiritual retreat in Leominster, Massachusetts, February 14-16.

14 “You2 Challenge” Is the New Youth Evangelistic Movement in New York Conference
New York Conference’s youth have been invited to “join the movement” by participating in a new initiative called the “You2 Challenge.”
The Ministry of Teaching

Teachers are precious in the sight of the Lord. The ministry of teaching in our schools calls for much dedication and sacrifice. The typical teacher in our educational system continually makes an immense contribution by molding the minds of our children and young adults to be men and women who appreciate the moral values that will propel them to excel in this life and be prepared for the life to come.

The teachers in the educational system of the Seventh-day Adventist Church perform a labor of love for the students they serve. They use the limited resources provided to them to produce outstanding results. Throughout our K-12 system and also at the college and university levels, it is amazing what our teachers are able to accomplish given the limited resources with which they have to work. Many of us have benefited from the educational system of the church at various points of our lives, without having adequate preparation. Nevertheless, the teachers and administrators worked with us, and, by God’s grace, we were able to achieve beyond our expectations.

Teachers have a significant influence on the lives of their students. Because of the amount of time afforded them to spend with the students, teachers help shape the direction of their lives. I can remember my first-grade teacher, and several others, who made an unforgettable impression on my life. Some students even try to emulate their teachers’ styles of behaving and relating to the world around them. Therefore, we acknowledge and respect our teachers who, outside of parents and caregivers, are positioned to have the most lasting influence on our children.

Ellen G. White counseled, “The great work of parents and teachers is character building—seeking to restore the image of Christ in those placed under their care. A knowledge of the sciences sinks into insignificance beside this great aim; but all true education may be made to help in the development of a righteous character. The formation of character is the work of a lifetime, and it is for eternity. If all could realize this, and would awake to the fact that we are individually deciding our own destiny and the destinies of our children for eternal life or eternal ruin, what a change would take place! How differently would our probationary time be occupied, and with what noble characters would our world be filled!”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 61. From this perspective, teachers in our schools are evangelists in every sense.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our teachers, especially those who teach within the Seventh-day Adventist school system, who are not compensated as well as their counterparts in the public school system. However, they make great sacrifices to ensure that their students receive the best opportunities for success in this world and are prepared for the next! As stated by Ellen G. White, “In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, ‘other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ’”—Education, p. 30.

Let us celebrate our teachers for their dedication, commitment, and the sacrifices they are making to educate our children while helping them to build Christlike characters that will last for eternity. We must continue to honor and treasure our teachers and pray for them as they aid in the construction of a better society.

G. Earl Knight is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Corporation.

“Let us celebrate our teachers for their dedication, commitment, and the sacrifices they are making to educate our children while helping them to build Christlike characters that will last for eternity.”
I once saw a billboard that gave me pause for thought. The sign read: “If you can read this, thank a teacher.” It wasn’t until that moment I made the mental connection that my ability and love for reading (and writing!) were instilled in me by my elementary school teachers—including my mother, an elementary school teacher and grammarians par excellence, who never missed an opportunity to correct my grammar or to take advantage of a teachable moment.

My mother encouraged me to participate in the summer reading program at our local public library. Not only was I enriched by the interesting books that I read—biographies, books about history, people of other cultures, science, animal stories, and more—but when school started each fall, my schoolteachers encouraged and affirmed me for reading 10-plus books over the summer. Reading classes in school were always fun, challenging, and engaging. I have no doubt that my adult years spent as a writer and editor, as well as my lifelong passion for learning, are a result of the excellent foundation provided to me by skilled, caring, and dedicated teachers.
Each year in public and private schools around the U.S., the first week of May is earmarked for teacher appreciation. Traditionally, the second Tuesday of that week is known as Teacher Appreciation Day. Of course, our expressions of appreciation to those whose influence we value should never be limited to one day or one week out of the year. But Teacher Appreciation Week provides a special opportunity to recognize and affirm in a public way those who have made a meaningful and lasting impact on our lives. And for this reason, the Atlantic Union Gleaner has chosen to dedicate the April issue to teacher appreciation.

As Seventh-day Adventists, education—namely Christian education—is near and dear to our hearts. This work is so important, in fact, Ellen G. White tells us on page 8 of Christian Education, that “The early education of youth generally shapes their character for life.” She goes on to say that the work of the Christian teacher involves more than laying a good academic foundation. Rather, she says, Christian teachers should “feel the necessity of having an equal interest in the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual education of his scholars” (Ibid, p. 8). White wrote volumes on education and the qualities of good teachers, all of which underscores the vital and lasting influence that teachers have on our lives.

With that in mind, I’ve asked a diverse group of people, including administrators, educators, parents, and homeschooled students—from Christian, public, and home school settings—to share their thoughts on the qualities of good teachers and how they shape our lives for the better. Here’s what they had to say:

“Great teachers have a positive, forward-thinking desire to inform and assist students. The one quality is a selflessness to consider what is best for another person. The teacher that finds their model in Jesus Christ finds this quality available to them.

“The importance of teachers is that they are the most essential thread in the fabric of society. Without a teacher, the life we take for granted would not exist in the next generation. From motherhood, life support, communication, transportation, finance, healthcare, government, ethics, they all sit on top of good teaching.”—Jerrell Gilkeson, Atlantic Union Conference Education and Children’s Ministries director

“Teachers are so important in our lives, because were it not for teachers, none of us, including teachers, would be where we are today. They’ve been mentors, confidants, and comforters; they’ve encouraged, and inspired many to heights otherwise unattainable except for their teachers, who set the bar high and believed in them.

“God gave us parents as our first teachers. He even came to this earth and modeled the qualities and characteristics of a Master Teacher. He met people where they were, then nurtured and inspired them to grow continuously. Teachers who follow Christ’s teaching methods are important, because their ultimate goal, as that of the Master Teacher, is to prepare their students not only for this life, but for eternity.”—Desiree Bryant, NAD Department of Education assistant director and projects coordinator

“My son Kennicko had a hard time with English grammar and punctuation. So I made the decision to hold him back a grade. One teacher who had a great impact on my son and me was Mrs. Tota-Francis, who was his fifth-grade teacher both years. She had so much love, understanding, and patience, and she motivated him to want to do better and get better grades. Then I had to make a decision—either keep him in public school and expect him to fail or put him in private school and help him succeed. I chose Bermuda Institute.

Another teacher, Mrs. Tull, made Kennicko so comfortable with her kindness and warmth during his adjustment to starting a new school. She even pushed him out of his comfort zone, going above and beyond the call of duty. During the preparation for the hurricane last year, I got caught in traffic. Mrs. Tull not only waited with my son, but offered to drive him home. Her help and support are making our experience at Bermuda Institute an enjoyable one.”—Calvonnae Jones, Bermuda Institute parent

“A good teacher is someone who has the ability to develop relationships with their students; is patient, caring, and kind; knows how to engage students in learning; models Christ; loves their subject matter, and is a lifelong learner.

“Why are teachers so important in our lives? Next to parents, teachers influence learning, enforce core values and beliefs, are cheerleaders, motivations, coaches, who impact transformation and curiosity.”
motivators, and coaches who impact transformation and curiosity. They help to establish an Adventist worldview, establish boundaries, and instill lifelong skills and work ethic.”—Arne Nielsen, NAD Education vice president

“My children are now 24, 22, and 20 years old. During the years I homeschooled them, I often wondered if I was giving them enough—enough academic challenges, enough structure, enough downtime, etc. To listen to them now, when they sit around the table sharing homeschool tales, is an interesting and laughter-filled experience.

“Thank God, they have pleasant and positive memories of homeschool! The academic foundation was laid, however imperfect it was, and, thankfully, they all attest to not feeling inadequate in any way with their peers in the classroom. But what keeps coming up in their conversations are the lessons they learned that weren’t necessarily part of a formal curriculum.

“As they go through life, they regularly draw from the lessons they learned from relaxed, informal discussions we had during our time together; the character-building stories I read to them, as well as the life skills they learned and fun times they shared while playing around in the woods surrounding our house. These lessons are the things they go to when faced with difficult decisions while ‘adulting’ that, I believe, was an unexpected, but important, part of our homeschool.”—Debra Banks Cuadro, Atlantic Union Conference assistant communication director

“As a teenager, I couldn’t understand why anyone would ever want to be homeschooled, but looking back, I am grateful to my parents for making the right choice. Through homeschooling, I discovered how I learn best and have been able to use that knowledge to continue to succeed in a variety of professional and academic environments. Not everyone is given that opportunity, and I only wish I had recognized what a gift I had been given earlier in life. Because we were schooled at home, my brothers and I learned not only what could be borrowed from books, but also had the chance to learn to be responsible young adults.

“We, in some ways, were able to teach ourselves about some of the things we found interesting, and I hope to, one day, be as patient as my mother was when it came to our experiments and adventures. I will always treasure those years at home and, as I grow older, I love and respect my mother for the sacrifices she made to give us the best of everything she had.”—Autumn Banks, 24, recently graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Psychology

“A good teacher reflects the character of Christ, which is demonstrated by the fruits of the Spirit. Good teachers are gentle, kind, patient, courageous and have the eternal salvation of our students in the forefront of their mind. Good teachers have a strong work ethic, a happy countenance, and are flexible when unforeseen challenges arise.

“A teacher guides and facilitates the curiosity and inquisitiveness of students as they explore in wonder their Creator and that which He has created.”—Frederick M. Burghardt, New York Conference superintendent of schools

“Teachers spend more time with our children than anyone in their life. The course of a nation/society depends upon teachers for preparation for jobs that we don’t even know exist. That is why helping students develop a passion for learning and cultivating creativity is often more important than content. Teachers also help develop a character that will be fit for heavenly citizenship.”—Trevor Schlisner, Northern New England Conference superintendent of schools

In what ways has a teacher impacted your life or the life of someone close to you? As you ponder this question, think about some thoughtful way to express your appreciation to him or her. And remember, you don’t have to wait until Teacher Appreciation Day to do it! Now that you’ve read this, go and thank a teacher!

Pat Humphrey is a freelance writer and copy editor for the Gleaner.

Education in the Atlantic Union

Senior Academies (two boarding academies): ........................................7
Junior Academies (K-9/K-10): ..................................................................2
Elementary Schools: .............................................................................51
Teachers: .................................................................................................278
Superintendents of Schools: .................................................................6
Number of Students: ..........................................................3,120 (PreK-12)
Educators in God’s Vineyard

By Laurene Richards-Usher

Working in God’s vineyard requires that we grow steadily with Him in order to increase intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. Educating students for now and for eternity is challenging, however, not impossible. The Bible gives us the formula on how we can successfully engage our students academically. It says in Luke 2:52 that “Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man.” In order for us, as educators, to achieve excellence, we must first encounter Jesus. It behooves us, as educators, to model growth through the five foundational components* that govern our mindset.

The spiritual component is the component that connects us to Christ through His creative powers that replicate His image through us. Educators, as educators, to model growth must first encounter Jesus. It behooves us, as educators, to achieve excellence, we must first encounter Jesus. It behooves us, as educators, to model growth through the five foundational components* that govern our mindset.

The spiritual component is the component that connects us to Christ through His creative powers that replicate His image through us. Educators, as educators, to achieve excellence, we must first encounter Jesus. It behooves us, as educators, to model growth through the five foundational components* that govern our mindset.

The emotional component has to with the stability and consistency of the educator’s mood. This is very important, because the emotional stability of the educator will affect the students to get adequate rest, sunlight, proper diet, keep active, and observe proper hygiene habits. Education for now and eternity is the byword of Christian, Seventh-day Adventist education. The home, church, and school are three institutions that educate our children to develop higher-order thinking. Therefore, educators who have the privilege of working in God’s vineyard are immensely favored by God. Serving as an educator is a humbling task. “The true teacher is not content with dull thoughts, an indolent mind, or a loose character is a serious task. It requires full commitment and a serious relationship with God to obtain ultimate results. “He who co-operates with the divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and molding the character into harmony with ambience that students experience in the classroom. It is important to have a positive attitude at all times in order to encourage a positive mindset among those who come under the influence of the educators every day. Hence, it is imperative for every individual who aspires to become an educator to first undergo empowerment and renewal within, in an effort to limit resentment and pain that could impede their ability to function effectively. Educators in God’s vineyard must experience such true education before dealing with young minds.

The social component is the ability to interact and connect with other individuals in a respectful and caring manner and to reflect Christ’s character. Every human being needs to be socially equipped in order to demonstrate authentic mental health. Jesus’ teaching ministry was not only geared to children but to the parents, the church, school board, church board, and the community. Jesus served and encouraged everyone who crossed His path. Seventh-day Adventist schools are known for their harmonious development of the students’ five components: mental, physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. In order to successfully enhance these five areas of development in the students, educators must first embrace and personally nourish their own development in these areas. As transformation occurs, the students will value and respect the effort, and desire to emulate the same behavior. We believe that the best form of teaching is modeling.

The physical component encompasses the awareness that educators must maintain a healthy lifestyle as they also encourage the students to get adequate rest, sunlight, proper diet, keep active, and observe proper hygiene habits. Education for now and eternity is the byword of Christian, Seventh-day Adventist education. The home, church, and school are three institutions that educate our children to develop higher-order thinking. Therefore, educators who have the privilege of working in God’s vineyard are immensely favored by God. Serving as an educator is a humbling task. “The true teacher is not content with dull thoughts, an indolent mind, or a loose memory. He constantly seeks higher attainments and better methods. His life is one of continual growth”—Education, p. 278.

* Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (2011)

Laurene Richards-Usher is the principal of the Linden school.

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union Gleaner, April 2020
Positive Youthful Believer and Leader, Part 1

No one remains a youth/young adult forever. It’s a stage that we all must enter and exit, a stage where all are called to live meaningful, Holy Spirit-directed lives—seeking spiritual formation that will stand the test of time. Caleb understood this truth!

In Joshua 14:10, KJV, Caleb takes the opportunity to look at his career of faith. He said, “The Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years. . . . while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.” Eighty-five years of age! Indeed, no one remains age-stagnated; thus, the onus is on each individual to cultivate a youthful life of discipleship, so that reminiscing in later years brings heart-warming fulfillment.

Caleb, the 85-year-old, legendary spy, repeats the story of their past to Joshua—his comrade in battle. Joshua knows the story, but Caleb repeats it again for the knowledge of all who were only children at the time. He is also recapping history to challenge Israel’s then current generation of youth and young adults.

As the scriptures record, Caleb was chosen as a young man to spy out the promised land—Canaan. Upon the return of his team, Caleb and Joshua reported, “Let us go up at once, and possess it”—Numbers 13:30, KJV. To which, the majority of the team (10 men) rebutted, “We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey. . . . and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw giants. . . . and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight”—Numbers 13:27, 32, 33, KJV.

This amazing Bible story is saturated with object lessons for today. It calls upon youth and young adults to be believers and leaders in the name of Jesus.

Youth/Young Adult Believer and Leader

In Numbers 14:2, KJV, the account notes that the 10 men’s report made the people of Israel murmur and complain saying, “Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!”

Negativity has caused much to be lost for the cause of God, and many have defeated themselves in the shadows of negative mindsets and words. God’s children are to be intentional about choosing to believe, and live in tangent to negativity. We are commissioned to be positive—positive leaders, in a negative world.

The other spies were negative about both the mission and themselves. However, Caleb declared, “No, this is God’s word and God’s promise. Let us arise and possess this land” (See Numbers 14:6-9). The response of many (fellow Israelites) was to take stones to stone them, because they believed God’s promise, and because they were different (positive, youthful leaders).

Youth/young adult believers and positive leaders are chosen, and peculiar; not willing to “fit in.” They are not afraid to be different, to think differently, to believe differently, to act differently; knowing that in this world, once one is under the direction of the Holy Spirit, they will be different.

David McKenzie is the director of Youth, Young Adult, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.
Bermuda Youth Leaders Are “Set on Fire”

“Set on Fire,” the Bermuda Conference Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Department’s “Adventist Youth Equipping and Leadership Conference,” was held February 28 and 29 on the Bermuda Institute campus. The conference aimed to clarify for youth leaders the purpose of AY ministries, to train them to meet the objectives of that purpose, and to challenge leaders and staff to create and implement new ways to connect with youth. It was also designed to equip staff with the tools needed to guide young people, to encourage them on their path to salvation, and to inspire them to be agents of change.

Attendees at the Friday-night-meeting participated in praise and worship led by the youth, followed by a powerful word from keynote speaker, Patrick Graham, Allegheny East Youth and Children’s Ministries director. Graham’s message challenged leaders to avoid complacency and encouraged them to reignite their passion for serving the youth. The meeting ended with a prayer of consecration for all attendees by Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president.

Sabbath morning began with a group prayer exercise led by Alyson Thompson, Warwick church AYM secretary. This exercise focused on youth leaders seeking God together, as a family, for one purpose.

Two workshops followed. Georgina Dill, Midland Heights church AY leader, presented “Creating Space.” Dill shared ways to create safe, supportive spaces for young people to fellowship and learn, and how to improve some of the areas already created. Michael Simmons, Somerset church AY leader and Pathfinder director, presented “From Insta to Snap,” and taught leaders how to use social media to effectively reach youth and young adults and get them more involved.

On Sabbath afternoon, Patrick Graham shared some of the disconnects experienced with our youth and how to correct them. Graham then illustrated this with an engaging communication exercise. Following his presentation, Dwayne Caines, Bermuda Conference Youth Ministries director, presented the 2020 AYM objectives.

Equipped with new knowledge and tools, as well as clarity on the goals for this year, Caines had the attendees break into respective church groups to plan one intentional ministry idea. Each group then presented its idea and when it intends to execute that idea.

The weekend’s conference was paperless, with all the information available via the app, thanks to David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director.

The Bermuda Conference Adventist Youth Ministries team is grateful to Atlantic Union Conference personnel, David McKenzie, and Ednor A.P. Davison, Communication director, who set up the app and trained several Bermuda Conference Youth Ministries staff members how to utilize the app; and the Bermuda Conference administration for helping to make the conference a success. We look forward to the “wildfire” experience on the island of Bermuda as a result of attendees being “Set on Fire.”

—Youth Ministries department, Bermuda Conference

at www.atlantic-union.org
Atlantic Union Educators Prepare for the Future

The Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education Curriculum Committee (AUOECC) met in Lancaster, Massachusetts, February 3-5, to collaborate, plan, learn, and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. More than 30 representatives from each of the six conferences in the Atlantic Union came for the meetings.

Based on the theme, “In Times Like These, You Need an Adventist School,” AUOECC members first established a spiritual foundation for their meeting with a study and discussion on Daniel 9:20-23, followed by an intense prayer session.

Guest presenters included representatives from the North American Division (NAD) and Loma Linda University, as well as curriculum and educational test developers. Attendees received vital information to take back to the principals and teachers in their districts on topics such as new textbook guidelines, standardized testing, teaching methods to enhance learning and retention, as well as new educational initiatives being introduced by the Atlantic Union Conference and the NAD.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

GODencounters Draws Record Attendance

More than 300 young adults from across the Atlantic Union Conference attended the GODencounters spiritual retreat at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Leominster, Massachusetts, February 14-16. Since its inception in 2001, this year’s GODencounters saw the largest attendance in its 19-year history.

Manny Cruz, Youth Ministries director for the Arizona Conference, was the keynote speaker for Sabbath. Special guest speakers also included James Black, North American Division Prayer Ministries director; and Bob Cundiff, Northern New England Conference president. Youth directors representing each of the six conferences—Bermuda, Greater New York, New York, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England—participated throughout the weekend and were recognized for their support and dedication to Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union territory.

Four breakout sessions were available on Sabbath, covering “Depression, Anxiety, and Suicide” with Seanna-Kaye Denham Wilks, a clinical psychologist; “Love, Money, and Ambition” with Omri Mota, a director of environmental health and safety; “Sharing My Faith in a Secular Culture” with Duddley Francois, pastor of My Generation Church; and “Women in Ministry II” with David Dennis, president of Southern New England Conference.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference
“This was my first GODencounters and it was an amazing experience.” —Azhanaé

“The praise team was great.” —Johann

Photos: top row: Atlantic Union Conference representatives David McKenzie, Youth Ministries director, and Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer, welcome Trevor Schlisner, newly-elected Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries director; second row: more than 300 young adults participate in the GODencounters spiritual retreat; groups take time for prayer; and the praise team in action; bottom row: Manny Cruz, guest speaker, shares the Word; James Black, North American Division Prayer Ministries director, shares information about how Atlantic Union young adults can write their stories; the Atlantic Union Youth Ministries leadership team; and presenter Seanna-Kaye Denham Wilks, clinical psychologist, talks about depression, anxiety, and suicide. To view more photos, visit the AUYM Facebook page: bit.ly/38A3jFg.

at www.atlantic-union.org
Advent Hope Cultivates Community Around the Table

For Manhattan’s Church of the Advent Hope, in the Greater New York Conference, health is a matter of justice. Church members believe that all their neighbors deserve access to nutrition, education, and healthy food. For this reason, Advent Hope’s Health Ministries team, led by Marjorie Polycarpe, has provided a variety of opportunities for church members to teach and learn about nutrition alongside their neighbors.

On February 5, Advent Hope church hosted a free lecture by Neal Barnard, M.D., renowned researcher of the health benefits of a plant-based diet and president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. Nearly 270 people—mostly guests from the New York City area—crowded into the worship space for an informative and inspiring evening. And many signed up to be involved in future health education programs and community groups.

Advent Hope church is currently preparing for a major renovation to turn their cooking facilities into a commercial kitchen, where plant-based cooking classes can be taught and even filmed. This kitchen transformation will enable the church to expand access to free, weekly plant-based meals, provide church members and their neighbors greater opportunities to teach and learn about health, and cultivate community the way Jesus intended—around the table.

—Nicholas Zork, member, Advent Hope church

Hundreds Gather for Prayer in New York City

Faith and salvation were the focus of the historic Prayer Summit sponsored by the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) English Ministries, February 29, at the North Bronx church in Bronx, New York. People representing various boroughs around New York, as well as some from outside the state, were blessed by joining together in intercessory prayer for their community, families, church, as well as civic leaders, including New York City council member, Andy King, who attended the event. Several English Ministries pastors led out in a special afternoon anointing service, where more than 350 people were anointed.

Speakers for the day included Pavel Goya, General Conference associate ministerial director and Ministry magazine editor; Rohann Wellington, GNYC English Ministries director; and Gregory Carrol, Queens Faith Temple church pastor.

—English Ministries department, Greater New York Conference

To view more photos of the Greater New York Conference English Ministries Department Prayer Summit, visit their Facebook page: bit.ly/335TcqI.
Northeastern Conference Young Adult Featured in February ADVENTIST JOURNEY

Kayla Cadogan, a member of Northeastern Conference’s Flatbush church in Brooklyn, New York, is featured on the cover of the February 2020 issue of ADVENTIST JOURNEY. Born in Guyana, Cadogan moved to the United States as a teen. She first visited an Adventist church in Guyana at the request of her grandparents who had come to visit. Feeling right at home, she immediately became active in the local Adventurer club, and later, the Pathfinder club in Georgetown, Guyana. After moving to the United States, Cadogan joined the Pathfinder club in her local church and cites the Pathfinders and her church for providing a “safe place” from the pressures and stresses found in the outside world.

In a video interview (vimeo.com/377557972) for ADVENTIST JOURNEY, Cadogan shares a personal testimony of how she was accepted to attend a high school that, initially, was not her first choice. After leaving the decision to God, she found out later that attending this particular school was the best choice for her and recognized that being a student there provided valuable learning opportunities. “God always has a plan. He’s always ahead, and He knows what He’s doing,” Cadogan says. ADVENTIST JOURNEY is a division-wide magazine published by the North American Division. It is a 16-page publication that wraps around the 32-page ADVENTIST WORLD magazine, a publication of the General Conference.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

South Brooklyn Church Provides Clothing for Homeless Men

The South Brooklyn church’s Adventist Community Services (ACS) department held a men’s winter clothing and coat drive on February 2. Members were blessed to have had the opportunity to serve more than 100 men and, to their surprise, most of the clothing was gone in less than one hour.

The church continues to serve lunch weekly and take time to encourage and pray with the homeless men who visit the church. South Brooklyn church is located directly across from the street from the Atlantic Men’s Shelter.

Several of the men expressed their appreciation, but the volunteers admit that they received the greatest blessing. One attendee asked to join the ACS team, and another asked to be baptized.

South Brooklyn church appreciates the leadership of Keicha Gosling, Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Center executive director, who worked closely with the team and donated several men’s coats for the drive. The members of South Brooklyn church look forward to God’s continued leading as they share His love in tangible ways.

—Angela Hugee, communication director, South Brooklyn church
New York Conference’s youth have been invited to “join the movement” by participating in a new initiative called the “You2 Challenge.” In it, elementary-, middle-, and high school-age students, who are willing to help spread the gospel, are invited to use their social media platforms or Internet knowledge to create a new evangelistic campaign targeting children and teenagers who are not Adventists.

A video, an app, or even a vlog, makes the cut for this challenge. Using the hashtag: #you2challengenyconf or sending their proposal to president@nyconf.org, children between the ages of 6 and 12, as well as teens between the ages of 13 and 18, may send their proposals to compete in two different categories according to their age group. The conference will choose three finalists in each category to ultimately utilize one of the campaigns as the conference’s youth evangelism approach throughout its territory.

Since the conference has a vision of reaching the youth, conference administrators Miguel Crespo, president, and Claudio Gomez, executive secretary, launched the initiative in January 2020 with the intention of using new ways to involve the church’s young members in witnessing. Participants will have to submit a video explaining what they’ll use to reach out to their friends on social media and how it would work. There are three monetary prizes for each group, depending on the results of a showdown in the month of May at Union Springs Academy.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference

Thanks to the initiative of Claudio Gomez, New York Conference executive secretary, and Hilde Barrera, Union Springs Academy’s (USA) principal, several students spent a week on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic doing missionary work. Nine students and four New York Conference and USA staff members painted homes, worked in the church’s school, and witnessed to others in the town of La Isabela in the province of Puerto Plata.

The high school students were in the Dominican Republic February 5-13, under the leadership of Gomez and his wife, Michelle, as well as Barrera and his wife, Deborah. Thanks to this effort, the students helped the local school and local church members, by preaching to them, painting their buildings, and learning about their culture.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference
More than 150 church leaders from around the New York Conference participated in the “2020 Lay Training Series,” sponsored by the New York Conference. John Bradshaw, It Is Written speaker/director, Miguel Crespo, New York Conference president, and Claudio Gomez, New York Conference executive secretary, were the seminar presenters.

Under the title “Calling All Spiritual Leaders,” the training took place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on February 23, at Union Springs church. Pastors, elders, and other local church leaders actively participated in the training. The 2020 Lay Training Series was designed to empower local leaders to preach publicly and privately.

Bradshaw presented, via teleconference, a seminar on preaching and evangelism. Crespo spoke about safety in church environments, while Gomez’s presentation was dedicated to building healthy relationships.

The day’s program ended in the afternoon with a town hall meeting where leaders and members had the opportunity to express their feelings, opinions, and concerns to the conference leaders.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication director, New York Conference

What’s Happening in Your Church?

We want to know more about what’s happening in your community. How are members of your church reaching beyond the walls of the church and making an impact in your community? How are the youth and young adults getting involved?

E-mail your stories with the photos to the New York Conference communication director. Be sure to include a caption with each photo.

We would love to hear from you!

Reynolds Rodriguez
Communication Director
New York Conference
E-mail: reynoldsrodriguez@gmail.com
The Little Church That Could?

If you are of a certain age, then there is a very good chance that you are familiar with the story titled The Little Engine That Could. If you aren’t familiar with the story, then take a few seconds to find it on the Internet and give it a read (or watch a video adaptation). Basically, the story is about a little train engine that was hauling an unusually large load and wasn’t sure she could make it over a big hill that lay waiting down the line. The story was used to teach several generations the value of optimism and hard work.

If churches were train engines, then the South Newbury church in Vermont would definitely be the little engine. There are all of four to seven members in attendance on a typical Sabbath morning, though the pastor, Tom Ferguson, is quick to point out that the mid-week prayer meeting usually has from eight-to-12 people in attendance, and half of those are not members. And the church is not just little, it is also remote, with less than 10,000 people within a 10-mile radius of the church.

The Northern New England Conference is encouraging churches to take up the challenge of mounting a cyclical evangelism campaign this year and repeating it in future years. Ten churches in the conference have taken up the challenge this year, and several others are gearing up and are “on deck” to join the effort in 2021. Most of the churches that have joined in the effort have from 50 to 100 members, and have funds in their evangelism accounts. They are big engines. So it was surprising when the members of the South Newbury church—the little engine—decided that they, too, wanted to join in the cyclical evangelism effort. But maybe it should not have been surprising. After all, the South Newbury members are faith-filled, optimistic, hard-working people who want their church to grow and who want to hasten Christ’s coming.

And of course, when she went over the big hill, she said, “I thought I could! I thought I could!” Like the little engine, the South Newbury church thinks they can, but to this optimism they also add faith and prayer. To kick off their year-long effort, they recently held a vegan Indian-food cooking class conducted by NNEC’s Health Ministries staffer Martin Raj. Members invited their friends and relatives, and the lone member who accesses the Internet advertised it on Facebook. In all, 10 community members came to the event, which the church considered to be a signal success! The church will follow this up with a vegan Mexican-food cooking class in April, as well as health seminars, a short prophecy series, and Bible studies through the rest of the year.

Does this little church from out in the woods actually have a chance of growing? Yes, they do. Look at it this way: if the church adds just one member from their 2020 efforts, that means they have increased Sabbath attendance by more than 16 percent! How often does a big church in North America do that?

Will the South Newbury church do the work that is necessary to see the effort through? Just ask the members who have set their jaws and are spending time in prayer and preparation, and they will tell you that, by the grace of God, they think they can.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper was originally published in 1930 by Platt & Munk.
Northern New England is the most post-Christian place in the United States. Some 60 percent of the residents make no place in their lives for God or church, and for most of them, it’s been that way for as much as three generations. When it comes to planting seeds, Northern New England soil is hard and rocky. But that just means that the hard-won harvests are all the more celebrated.

Recently the Rutland church in Vermont enjoyed a high Sabbath when Ron and Cindy McFarland surrendered their hearts to Jesus through baptism. The couple arrived at church bursting with excitement for what was to come. Ron’s own exuberance was palpable, and he wore broad smiles as he greeted church members. “This is it for me,” said an excited Ron. “There’s no looking back. I’m done with my old life. I only want to live for Jesus now.”

The baptisms have a back-story, and it starts with Cindy, who, as a teenager, was no stranger to the church, having attended with her mother. The seed which was planted in her heart, remained there until almost 40 years later, when it sprouted and bore the fruit at a time when Ron was engaged in a spiritual journey.

Church deacon Terry Grant was particularly instrumental in Ron’s conversion journey. Both work in the plumbing industry, where Terry often crossed paths with Ron while on the job. It was on those occasions that Terry would often take time to share the love of Jesus with Ron and invite him to church. It took a while, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, Terry’s encouragement has paid off; and Ron is never shy of expressing his appreciation to him for his relentless pursuit of his soul. “I’m here today with my family because of you. You never gave up on me,” Ron said to Terry on the day of his baptism.

Ron and Cindy were attending church regularly every Sabbath for close to a year leading up to their baptisms. During this time, head elder Gary Kinne diligently studied with them concerning the fundamental beliefs of Adventists, and the call which God has placed on us in Romans 12:2 to “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” Gary explained that getting the couple to the point of baptism wasn’t easy at the start. “There were many stumbling blocks in the beginning” said Gary. “We would plan to study and the devil would always create some interference that prevented us from meeting. This happened week after week, until finally, on one occasion I pulled Ron aside and prayed with him asking the Holy Spirit to intervene and stop the devil’s interference. After that prayer we were able to meet and have our studies.”

For his part, Gary was invited to assist in the baptisms by David Kim, the church’s pastor. In his remarks, Pastor Kim thanked Gary for the months of study with the couple and told the congregation that their names were recorded in heaven under Gary’s for the work he has done in leading them to Christ.

The baptisms, which took place during the worship service, were witnessed by the couple’s two adolescent daughters, as well as a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter. The occasion was made even more special, as it was also Communion Sabbath. The newly-baptized couple participated in their first communion as official soldiers in the army of Christ.

—Karrie Etzler, communication secretary, Rutland church

Washington New Hampshire Church Annual Meeting
August 8, 2020
Guest Speaker
Greg Whitsett
Director of Global Mission Center for East Asian Religions
General Conference
Sabbath School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:30 a.m.
Potluck lunch and afternoon activities
153 King Street
Washington, New Hampshire 03280
www.firstadventistchurch.org
SLA Sixth-grader Provides Shoes for Children in Need

Patric Zabala delivered 140 pairs of shoes to children in Pan de Azucar in the Dominican Republic (DR) during a trip he took with his family over the Christmas holiday. Patric's generosity was recently featured in the South Lancaster Academy newsletter, Fiat lux, as well as the Worcester Telegram, and on WBZ-TV.

Patric, a sixth-grader at South Lancaster Academy in Lancaster, Massachusetts, has been to the DR many times to visit family there and to assist on medical mission trips that his father, Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, organizes. After his most recent mission trip in the summer of 2019, he decided that, for his 12th birthday in December 2019, he wanted to provide shoes for the children in the DR instead of receiving gifts for himself.

“I knew that some kids didn’t have anything in DR and it would be very nice for them to have shoes for Christmas,” Patric said. Calling his fundraiser, “Shoes to Smile,” Patric invited his friends and classmates to his birthday party with the request to bring shoes or money for shoes instead of gifts. He received $945 and more than 80 pairs of shoes! Patric was able to buy another 60 pairs of shoes with the money donated, for a total of 140 shoes.

About 100 kids received a pair of shoes, some even got two pairs of shoes. Patric now has plans for another fundraiser to give socks to the children.

—Shauna Neidigh, development director, South Lancaster Academy and Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

Have a Project?

Students from the Southern New England Conference and across the Atlantic Union are participating in various community service projects as a way to connect with their communities.

Do you have a project that you would like us to share information about? E-mail gleaner@atlanticunion.org with the information about the project.

We will try to publish as many of your responses as possible in an upcoming issue of the Gleaner.
Three Youth Baptized at Leominster Church

On February 15, the Leominster church in Leominster, Massachusetts, was blessed to see three young women take their stand for Jesus by being baptized. Elora Hubbard, Natalie Shuris, and Hannah Rich have been attending the Leominster church for several years with their families. They all attend South Lancaster Academy in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and have become close friends.

In 2019, all three girls participated in and graduated from HIStory, a 20-week discipleship class taught by Mark Gagnon, the church’s pastor. After much prayer and encouragement from each other, their parents, grandparents, and Pastor Gagnon, these young ladies made the decision to commit their lives to Jesus, and made that commitment known publicly by baptism. It was both thrilling and heartwarming to watch them dedicate their lives to Christ at such a tender age.

In Acts 2:17, KJV, it says, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions.”

No doubt, even deeper bonds were formed between these young women on that special day because of their collective decision for Christ. Thus, the sign they hold between them is so very apt: “A cord of three strands is not easily broken”—Ecclesiastes 4:12, HCSB.

—Karen L. Christ, communication secretary, Leominster church

SNEC Pathfinder Clubs Advance to Union-level PBE

Three Pathfinder clubs finished in first place at the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) conference-level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) on March 7. The Connecticut Valley Cougars I, Connecticut Valley Cougars II, and the Lancaster Ambassadors are advancing to the Atlantic Union Conference union-level PBE.

A total of 21 Pathfinder clubs participated in the SNEC conference-level PBE at the W.G. Nelson Recreation Center in Lancaster, Massachusetts, after advancing from the area-level PBE that was held on February 21. This year’s PBE questions are based on the study of six Bible books: Ezra, Nehemiah, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, and Micah. Teams must score 90 percent or above to earn first place, which qualifies them to participate in the union-level PBE. Teams meeting this criterion during the union-level PBE will advance to the North American Division (NAD) PBE final.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference
URGENCY
DEVOTION — MISSION — DISCIPLESHIP

MAY 14 - 16, 2020

AND THAT, KNOWING THE TIME, THAT NOW IT IS HIGH TIME TO AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP: FOR NOW IS OUR SALVATION NEARER THAN WHEN WE BELIEVED. — ROMANS 13:11

Join us as we bring together experts, mentorship and resources to offer:

» Practical steps of what we need to be doing in our territory
» How to devote our talents to the cause of Christ in the spirit of unity!
» Understanding the relevance of our movement and the pitfalls to avoid
» You will be given the tools you need to make His message your own
» You will discover your place in the Seventh-day Adventist movement in the Northeast

*Live the truth. Find your place. Embrace your mission!*

VENUE:
Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort
37 Corey Road
Hancock, MA 01237

CONTACT: To Register visit www.asiatlanticunion.org or email us at communications@asiatlanticunion.org
LORD, Cynthia Elizabeth Thurston — 81; b. May 1, 1938, in Lewiston, Maine; d. December 23, 2019, in Auburn, Maine. She was a longtime member of Auburn church in Auburn, Maine. A fourth-generation Adventist, her maternal grandmother once witnessed Ellen White speak in Portland; and her late father, Ernest E. Thurston, was much involved in building the Auburn church. She served the Auburn church as treasurer for more than 22 years. She is survived by her son, Michael Lord, of Auburn, Maine; and a brother-in-law, Robert Lord, of Brunswick, Maine.

MCCARTHY, Susan — 90; b. Sept. 23, 1929, in the District of Welcome, the Parish of Hanover, Jamaica, West Indies; d. Feb. 21, 2020, in Hemstead, L.I. She migrated to the U.S. in 1974. She was baptized at the Macedonia church in Hemstead, L.I. in 1989. She served the church in several positions, including head deaconess. She is survived by her husband, Ronald McCarthy; stepsons, Roy McCarthy, Martin McCarthy, Paul McCarthy, and Mark McCarthy; her brother Richard Lewis; and sisters, Riel Case and Evadney Bennett.

REAMS, June Angela — 77; b. June 5, 1942, in Worcester, Mass.; d. Dec. 25, 2019, in Ayer, Mass. She was a member of the Worcester church in Worcester, Mass., where she served as head deaconess for many years. She was a graduate of South Lancaster Academy (1961). She is survived by her sister, Priscilla (Don) Winslow, nephew, Andrew C. Winslow; niece, Francine Winslow-Ramos; great-nephew, Zachary J. Winslow; and great-niece Isabelle B. Winslow.


SANCHEZ, Carmen V. — 81; b. July 16, 1938, Jimine, Ancash, Peru; d. Jan. 7, 2020, Lancaster, Mass. She was a member of the Clinton Spanish church. She is survived by seven children, Rosa Zavala of Peru, Cardich (Dahiyana) Rossetaue and Cesar Rodriguez, all of New York, Elizabeth (Matthew) Seymour of Clinton, Mass., Wilson H. Alva Sanchez of Chile, Elias Alva (Deyanire) Sanchez and Daniel Alvyart, all of Lebanon; many siblings, among them Santiago, Alfonso, Maria, Marcellina, and Domitila Sanchez, all of Peru; grandchildren, Matthew and Alana Seymour, David, Phillip, and Valeria Rosseteau, Cesar, Karina, Jonathan, and Joshua Rodriguez, and Deyal Alva, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
GENERAL CONFERENCE is seeking an Associate Treasurer for technology to lead and direct its technology departments. Responsible for setting long-term administration at higher levels of the church organization is preferred. Interested applicants should resume to stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following Teaching Faculty positions: School of Computing, School of Visual Art and design, and School of Physics and Engineering. For more information and a complete list of qualifications, visit www.southern.edu/jobs.

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

ADVENTIST HOME: An active senior community in upstate New York operated by the Greater New York Conference is now accepting applications for independent living units, single homes, apartments and mobile homes. Located on 90 acres in Livingston, NY. (100 miles north of NYC). A peaceful, country setting offering a healthy lifestyle and opportunity for service at the local church on campus. Contact Cecelia Graham, office manager, (518) 567-8004. E-mail: office@AdventistHomeInc.org. Website: AdventistHomeInc.org.

TELECOMMUTE 

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. Classifieds 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, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or as for typographical or categorical errors.

Visit the AUAM Web site at: www.auam.tv
Here’s just a taste of what you can watch:

From “Witch” to Witness
awr.org/ranja

Ranja was held captive by the spirits that possessed her . . . until the day she turned on her radio.

Trading Guns for God
awr.org/rebels

Why have rebels in the Philippines been laying down their machine guns and picking up Bibles? Watch to find out!

Taking a Bold Stand
awr.org/wisam

Wisam’s own family tried to stone him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East.

Get ready to watch videos of modern-day miracles happening around the world through AWR360° Broadcast to Baptism.

Atlantic Union Conference Departments

President..............................................G. Earl Knight
Vice President, Haiti..............................Jose Joseph
Vice President, Hispanic.......................Dionisio Olivo
Secretary..............................................Pierre Omeler
Treasurer..............................................Elías Zabala, Sr.
Under treasurer.................................Trevor S. Forbes
Assistant Treasurer, Assistant............Judine Walker
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries/Medical Cadet Corps........Dionisio Olivo
Adventist Community Services.............Jose Joseph
Adventist Youth Ministries.....................David McKenzie
Children’s Ministries..............................Jerrell Gilkeson
Children’s Ministries, Associate...........Marlene Alvarez
Children’s Ministries, Assistant............Lileth Coke
Communication..................................Ednor A.P. Davison
Communication, Assistant..................Debra Banks Cuadro
Disabilities Ministries.........................Charlotte L.V. Thoms
Education............................................Jerrell Gilkeson
Education, Associate............................Marlene Alvarez
Education, Assistant.............................Lileth Coke
Family Ministries.................................Dionisio Olivo
Health Ministries.................................Jose Joseph
Human Relations....................................Pierre Omeler
Information Technology......................David Hunne
Ministerial/Evangelism.........................G. Earl Knight
Ministerial, Assistant............................Jose Joseph
Ministerial, Assistant............................Dionisio Olivo
Ministerial Spouses Association..........Yvonne Knight
Native Ministries Coordinator..............Elías Zabala, Sr.
Personal Ministries..............................Trevor S. Forbes
Plant Maintenance...............................David Keith
Prayer Ministries....................................Yvonne Knight
Prison Ministries....................................Trevor S. Forbes
Public Affairs/Religious Liberty.............Charles Eusey
Public Affairs/Religious Liberty, Associate......John Ashmeade
Publishing.............................................G. Earl Knight
Revolving Fund....................................Violet Bidwell
Sabbath School.....................................Dionisio Olivo
Stewardship/Inner City/Loss Control.......Elías Zabala, Sr.
Stewardship, Assistant........................Judine Walker
Truss Services/Planned Giving..............Trevor S. Forbes
Trust Services, Assistant.....................Judine Walker
Women’s Ministries..............................Yvonne Knight

Local Conferences and Institutions

Bermuda: Kenneth Manders, President; W. DeJaun Tull, Secretary; W. Aaron M. Spencer, Treasurer. Office Address: P.O. Box HM 1170, Hamilton, HM EX Bermuda. (+441) 292-4110 Website: www.bermudaconference.org

Greater New York: Henry Beras, President; Alan Smith, Secretary; Vaiias Javier, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-0350 Website: www.nygc.org

New York: Miguel Crespo, President; Claudio Gomez, Secretary; Priscilla English, Treasurer. Office Address: 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13219. (315) 369-6921 Website: www.nycfn.org

Northeastern: Daniel Honore, President; Oswald Euel, Secretary; Robert Chandler, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11419. (718) 291-8006 Website: www.northeastern.org

Southern New England: Robert (Bob) Caudill, President; Theodore (Ted) Huskins, Secretary, Daniel Battin, Treasurer. Office Address: 417 Main St., Westbrook, ME 04092. (207) 797-3760 Website: www.snewe.org

Atlantic Union College Corporation: G. Earl Knight, Chairman; Pierre Omeler, Secretary; Alanzo Smith, Treasurer. 311 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01523. (978) 368-2000 Website: www.aucc.org

Member, Associated Church Press

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

at www.atlantic-union.org

Atlantic Union Gleaner, April 2020

Have a Moment?

We want to hear from you!

Please take a moment and fill out this 3-5 minute survey about your experience reading

Take the survey online at bit.ly/2Sg09lh

See pages 7-8 of the March 2020 Gleaner for the printed survey form.

Thank you for your participation.

Atlantic Union Conference Communication Department • 400 Main St., Lancaster, MA 01523 • atlanticuniongleaner.org