

ATLANTIC UNION

# GLEANER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025



# YEARS OF MISSION

The Story of the Great Northeastern  
Conference (1945–2025)

ADVENTIST VOLUNTEERS BRING  
COMPASSION TO QUEENS

MINISTERIO HERMANDAD  
IGNITES HOPE FOR BERMUDA'S  
LATINO COMMUNITY

EXCITING CAMPUS  
IMPROVEMENTS AT PINE TREE  
ACADEMY

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**November/December 2025**, Vol. 124, No. 6. The Atlantic Union GLEANER is published bimonthly by the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523-2804. Printed by Pacific Press Publishing Association®, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Standard postage paid at Nampa, ID 83687. Annual subscription price, \$10.00. NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Mail new or renewal subscriptions to Atlantic Union GLEANER, 400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523-2804. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventists® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

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“Black Adventists never sought separation; they sought full equality and integration.” p. 8

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## A Legacy of Faith and Resilience

Regional conferences in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are more than an administrative structure—they are a living legacy of resilience, faith, and mission. For me, that legacy runs deep. It is written into my own family’s story.

In 1955, a decade after the first regional conferences were formed, my grandfather and father left Maryland for California in search of better opportunities. Both were plasterers by trade, lured by talk of jobs paying \$40 a day—a small fortune at the time. Along the way, they stopped in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where two Adventist churches served the community—one in English, the other in Spanish.

California didn’t work out, but Albuquerque held promise. A year later, my grandfather—a hardworking businessman and devoted Adventist—moved his wife and 10 children across the country to start fresh in the Southwest. Faithful Sabbath-keepers, they naturally attended the local Adventist church. My aunt still recalls those early days when the congregation would share fellowship lunch in the park.

Then came the moment that changed everything. When my grandparents asked to transfer their membership, the church board—kindly but firmly—refused. Their reason? The family was Black.

Undeterred, my grandparents began worshipping at home. They opened their doors to other Black families and shared the Adventist message they loved. Soon, the small group grew. In the summer of 1958, they partnered with Heralds of Bible Prophecy, a radio ministry founded by Harvey W. Kibble, Sr.—a pioneering Black pastor who helped organize the Lake Region Conference and later served as its president. My grandfather, father, and uncles helped pitch the tent for an evangelistic series on the corner of Arno and Kathryn Streets in Albuquerque. That summer, 64 people were baptized.

The fledgling congregation met at the YWCA for a year. Then, in 1959, they officially joined the sisterhood of Black Adventist churches in the Southwest Region Conference. Two months later, my grandfather oversaw the construction of their new church—on the same corner where the tent had stood.

That church became my spiritual home: Bethesda Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a place where everyone was welcomed. Over time, its membership grew to include people of many cultures and languages—a living reflection of the gospel’s reach. Today, Bethesda still stands as a beacon of faith and community service in Albuquerque.

For me, this story is more than family history—it’s a reminder of why regional conferences matter. They were born out of struggle but built on faith. They gave structure and voice to believers who refused to let discrimination define their calling.

Eighty years later, as we celebrate the story of the Northeastern Conference, we also honor the countless men and women—like my grandparents—whose courage turned rejection into revival. Their legacy continues to shape who we are and what we stand for: a diverse, dynamic church united in mission and anchored in hope.

Debra Banks Cuadro is the Atlantic Union communication director and GLEANER editor.



They gave structure and voice to believers who refused to let discrimination define their calling.

To learn more about the origins and impact of regional conferences, scan the QR code to purchase CHANGE AGENTS by Douglas Morgan, available through AdventSource.



## Conference Administrative Teams Gather for Strategic Planning

Conference leaders from across the Atlantic Union gathered in Westborough, Massachusetts, on Sept. 16, for a Conference Administrators Meeting hosted by the Atlantic Union Conference. The day included sharing, collaboration, and discussion of a proposed five-year strategic plan (2025–2030) presented by David O. McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary. The plan introduced four strategic pillars: discipleship and reclamation, evangelism and church growth, leadership development and capacity building, and mission visibility and engagement.

Abraham J. Jules, Atlantic Union Conference president, fielded questions and suggestions from the local conference administrative teams. Sessions concluded with seasons of prayer, seeking God’s guidance for each conference’s ministries, members, institutions, and mission priorities.

Special guest presenters enriched the day’s agenda. Ron Smith, Southern Union Conference president, opened with an encouraging devotional based on John 8:36 and Mark 5:1. He encouraged them to remember God’s goodness and

steadfastness in times of trouble. Because Jesus overcame the grave, He can overcome their trials. “Because He’s free, I’m free; and because He’s loose, I’m loose; and because He’s got power, I’ve got power,” Smith shared. “If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” Smith also led an interactive session during the afternoon on managing mental health.

Edwin Romero, Adventist Retirement administrator/CEO and North American Division (NAD) associate treasurer, met with the administrative teams as he toured the unions around the NAD. He provided updates on the defined benefit plan for denominational employees and answered administrators’ questions.

The day ended with the Atlantic Union Conference leadership praying together with the conference administrative teams for God’s guidance and wisdom. Asking for the Holy Spirit’s power, each departed for their respective territories, equipped to move forward in God’s mission.

## Prayer Ministries Retreat Attendees Leave ‘Positioned for Power’

Attendees across the Atlantic Union gathered at Camp Berkshire from Sept. 19–21 for the 2025 Prayer Ministries Retreat, themed “Positioned for Power.” Representatives from all six conferences came together to seek God’s presence, align their hearts with His will, and receive the Holy Spirit’s power to move forward in mission, inspired by the biblical promise in Acts 1:8.

The weekend provided participants with a chance to step away from the busyness of life and enter a space of reflection, renewal, and communion through prayer. Services included moments of praise and worship, testimonies of God’s goodness, and time set aside for fellowship among prayer coordinators and church members.

Guest speaker James Yansen Jr., pastor of the Hyde Park church in Boston, delivered messages that challenged and encouraged hearts. Michelle Hill, Prayer Ministries and Women’s Ministries director for the Bermuda Conference—and the first female commissioned pastor in the conference—brought a message of hope and inspiration that resonated deeply with attendees. In addition to structured programming, participants spent time in a dedicated prayer room and engaged with interactive stations where they could leave praises and prayer requests.

“We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit this weekend,” said Angela Beras, Atlantic Union Conference Prayer



Attendees pose in their commemorative t-shirts at Camp Berkshire.

Ministries director. “I am grateful for everyone who attended, and thank the Lord for all of His blessings.”

*Read the rest of this story at [www.atlanticuniongleaner.org](http://www.atlanticuniongleaner.org). Visit us on Facebook @AtlanticUnionConference for additional photos.*

## Faith in Motion: Adventist Volunteers Bring Compassion to Queens

From subway stations to nursing homes, hundreds of Adventists from across the Atlantic Union put their faith into action in Queens, New York—showing that compassion isn't just preached, it's practiced.

Adventurers, Pathfinders, Master Guides, Medical Cadets, and volunteers filled vans and buses bound for service sites across the borough. They handed out Bibles, literature, flowers, and care packages at bus stops, shelters, and train stations while offering prayer and encouragement. The effort touched the lives of countless residents and reminded the community that acts of kindness can open hearts to God's love.

Among those serving were Christian Anderson, Desaray Robinson, and Shawn-Smith Manzi—three young adults from Boston's Berea church—distributing toiletries and commemorative T-shirts along Merrick Boulevard. "It was an absolute pleasure to see that words can matter just as much as actions," said Manzi.

After a morning of service, volunteers regrouped at Archie Springer Park, which served as the home base for the day. Following lunch, a sea of white shirts and colorful club uniforms marched through surrounding neighborhoods. Drum corps music echoed through the streets as NYPD officers directed traffic and onlookers waved. Motorists honked in support as participants carried flags and wore shirts declaring "Compassion: Because Actions Speak Louder Than Words." The joyful procession was more than a parade—it was a public testimony of faith in action.

David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and vice president for Youth Ministries, thanked the hundreds of volunteers for

their dedication and service. McKenzie has served in Youth Ministries since 2018 and, earlier this year, began serving in a dual role after being elected executive secretary. He noted that a search is now underway for a new Youth Ministries director but assured attendees that his commitment to young people remains strong.

"Serving the youth and young adults of the Atlantic Union has been one of the greatest blessings of my ministry," McKenzie said. "Though my responsibilities have expanded, my commitment to our young people remains the same—to help them grow in faith and lead others to Christ."



A volunteer shares literature with a woman on the street.



Atlantic Union Conference administrators, David McKenzie, executive secretary and vice president for Youth Ministries, center; Marlene Alvarez, Education vice president, left; and Emmanuel Contreras, Greater New York Conference Youth Ministries director, march together during the parade.



Youth volunteers carry a banner through the streets of Queens, New York.



# FAITH IN ACTION:

## What the Regional Conference Story Still Teaches Us

In a world of inequity and injustice, the Christian church exists to promulgate a message of equality and freedom—the gospel. Early Adventists, the founders of our movement, understood this message to be good news. The same Jesus who came 2,000 years ago is coming again. And for people looking to live in the earth made new, it behooves every Adventist to live a little more like heaven here on earth. In other words, those Adventists most serious about Christ’s return will work to uphold the principles of the kingdom in the here and now.

This hasn’t always been easy. The earliest Adventist pioneers were activists who fought for temperance, education, prison reform—and notably, opposed slavery. Millerite preachers, such as Joseph Bates, were considered dangerous because slave owners feared their message of freedom would inspire enslaved people to seek liberation. Once, when Bates preached on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, local slaveholders were so enraged they threatened to drag him out of town on a wooden rail—a brutal form of public humiliation common in that era. Bates, unfazed, quipped that if they intended to carry him that way, they should at least provide a saddle. Yet, Bates recorded how this sublime message of freedom resonated with eager listeners who stood in the back of the room and outside. Later, in 1850, under the Fugitive Slave Law that compelled people to

return escaped slaves, Ellen White urged Adventists that it was better to obey the law of God above the laws of the land. While she avoided the propensity to be political, she was an activist fighting for biblical principles of what she believed to be true and right.

Our pioneers weren’t perfect. Along the journey through our Adventist past, our church became far more influenced by larger cultural forces and ideas. After Ellen White died in 1915, Adventism pivotally shifted, partly due to its dalliance with Fundamentalism—a movement that militantly sought to defend the Christian faith. While some of their aspirations were noble and good, they also came with some theological baggage. It included a penchant toward biblical inerrancy and a view of divine inspiration that conflicted with Adventist understanding of revelation and inspiration, particularly regarding Ellen White’s authority and how to interpret her writings.

Many Fundamentalists also adhered to more rigid gender norms and racial attitudes that excluded women and segregated Black and White. An Adventist movement that began as socially progressive eventually mirrored the culture around it. By the early 20th century, even the cafeteria at church headquarters in Takoma Park, Maryland, was segregated. Few questioned it because that was simply the way things were.

That changed on September 22, 1943, when Lucy Byard, a longtime Adventist member from New York City suffering from terminal liver cancer, was denied admission to Washington Adventist Sanitarium because of her race. The staff suggested that she go to the Freedman's Hospital instead. She tragically died soon after. Amplified by others who echoed the cry, her story exposed a glaring contradiction between what the Adventist pioneers defended and their belief about Creation and being made in the image of God. The outrage led to action. General Conference leaders proposed Regional Conferences, organized between 1944 and 1947, including the Northeastern Regional Conference, founded in New York City on October 3, 1944. Decades later, according to Ryan Burge, Ph.D., of Washington University, Blacks comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population but 29 percent of U.S. Adventist membership.<sup>[1]</sup> Regional Conferences have been extremely effective in evangelism and leadership development throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

But where does this leave us for today and into the future? I don't believe that history is progressive—that things always improve. Our understanding of end-time events suggests that things will get worse before they get better. As we eagerly wait for Christ's soon return, it is more imperative than ever that we create safe spaces for those on society's margins—whether due to class, socioeconomic status, politics, or something else. The story of regional conferences in the Adventist church should remind us to look for ways to improve, work a little bit harder, listen with deeper empathy, and look beyond the quick impressions of social

media to recognize the complexity and challenges of our world.

Regional conferences are needed now more than ever—not only because their origin story is so compelling, but also because they remind us that we must build relationships beyond racial, economic, and socioeconomic barriers as a church. This is the essence of the gospel—unshackling people from the bonds of sin and death and introducing them to a better life.

If I have one dream—which would be my dream for all of Adventism—it's that we ask God to open our eyes to see beyond those familiar to us, to leave our comfort zones, and ask God to help us seek out those who are suffering. Whatever the racial background (and this is constantly in flux as culture and politics change)—whether post-9/11 discrimination of people of Middle Eastern descent, or more recently, the deportation and disappearance of alleged illegal immigrants—we must recognize that injustice still exists in the world. It isn't to deny that real challenges exist, including immigration reform. Still, God's people have always been admonished to look out for and advocate on behalf of those caught in society's crosshairs. Our faith must inform our politics, not the other way around. Whatever our ethnicity or background, we are all one in Christ. Until the great and glorious day when Jesus returns, we must keep advocating for a little bit more of heaven here on earth. After all, the greatest evidence of the gospel, according to Ellen White, is “a loving and lovable Christian.”<sup>[2]</sup>

*Michael W. Campbell, Ph.D., is director of the North American Division department of Archives, Statistics, and Research.*

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<sup>[1]</sup>Ryan Burge, Cooperative Election Study, 2020-2024, accessible from: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1\\_0Tk4JcllAdS7MIMJBCWxgdvRFEZ6DKnbkvitA9SxDc/mobilepresent?pli=1&slide=id.g3770c75e26a\\_0\\_6](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_0Tk4JcllAdS7MIMJBCWxgdvRFEZ6DKnbkvitA9SxDc/mobilepresent?pli=1&slide=id.g3770c75e26a_0_6)

<sup>[2]</sup>Ellen G. White, *THE MINISTRY OF HEALING*, 470.



# YEARS OF MISSION

The Story of the Great Northeastern Conference (1945–2025)

## PROLOGUE: A SEED PLANTED IN STRUGGLE

The Northeastern Conference is more than an institution—it is a living story of faith, diligence, and divine providence. It is the story of men and women who longed for dignity, prayed for opportunity, and refused to let discrimination silence their call to mission.

▼ The first five regional conference presidents, from left to right: Herman R. Murphy, South Central; John H. Wagner, Allegheny; Louis H. Bland, Northeastern; Harold D. Singleton, South Atlantic; and J. Gershom Dasent, Lake Region. Singleton later succeeded Bland at Northeastern in 1954.

In the years after emancipation, African American Adventists brought zeal and courage to the growing Advent movement. Charles Kinney, the first Black Adventist minister, pleaded for equality and pressed the church to recognize Black Adventists as

full partners in mission. Ellen White, James White, and Joseph Bates lifted their voices against slavery and called for evangelizing the freedmen.

Despite these convictions, discrimination persisted. Black Adventists never sought separation; they sought full equality and integration. The church’s response in 1944 reflected the culture of America itself: “separate but equal.” Regional conferences were established, and what was meant to limit became the very soil in which the mission took root.

Out of this tension and faith, a new chapter began. On October 3, 1944, at the City Tabernacle church in New York City—then the Temple church—the storied history of the Northeastern Conference took root. With 15 congregations and 2,208 members, the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized, and its operations began on January 1, 1945. It had no offices, no buildings, and no wealth, but it had something more dynamic: faith that God would make a way. Scripture declares, “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin” (Zechariah 4:10, NLT).





Louis H. Bland

**THE FOUNDING YEARS: BLAND AND IRONS**

The conference elected its first president, Louis H. Bland, with Elder L. O. Irons as secretary-treasurer. They worked without equipment or infrastructure but with resolute faith. Headquarters moved from borrowed rooms at Ephesus church in Harlem to Carlton Hall—where Ephesus operated Harlem Academy—and finally to the Temple Building on West 150<sup>th</sup> Street.

By 1950, membership had doubled. Four elementary schools were launched, Northeastern Academy was founded, and in 1955, the Conference acquired Victory Lake Campground. From the start, education and evangelism stood side by side as the twin pillars of the conference’s identity.

1945

1954



H.D. Singleton

**THE 1950s AND 1960s: SINGLETON AND HUDSON**

Harold D. Singleton succeeded Bland in 1954 and advanced evangelism while securing Victory Lake Camp as a permanent spiritual bastion. Then came R. T. Hudson in 1962, a preacher whose thunder filled Harlem and beyond. His evangelistic campaigns led hundreds to baptism, inspiring a movement of lay members who carried the gospel into neighborhoods and homes. Under his leadership, the first Haitian congregation, Hebron in Brooklyn, was organized. Northeastern began to reflect the global mosaic of Adventism.



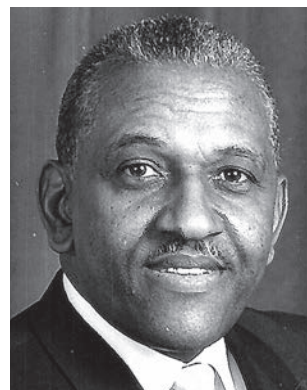
R.T. Hudson

1962

**THE 1970s: GEORGE R. EARLE—THE BUILDER**

George R. Earle led for nearly 20 years, guiding the Conference through growth and stability. Membership passed 22,000. Institutions such as Northeastern Towers, the Adventist Community Services Center, and Northeastern Academy’s Manhattan building became monuments to faith and vision.

Earle’s administration proved that evangelism and education could be matched with lasting institutions, ensuring that the work would stand firm.



George R. Earle

1966



**THE 1980s AND 1990s: NEWTON AND BROOKS**

Leonard C. Newton emphasized evangelism, stewardship, and pastoral training, preparing a new generation of leaders. He oversaw the construction of a new cafeteria at what is now called Camp Victory Lake.

Stennett H. Brooks followed in 1987 and brought discipline, institutional stability, and evangelistic fervor. Under his leadership, mass crusades filled stadiums and auditoriums, and the Gift of Love telecast carried the Adventist message to countless homes. By the time the conference celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1994, Northeastern had 118 churches, 40,000 members, 14 schools, and 300 workers.



Leonard C. Newton



Stennett H. Brooks

**1983**

**1988**



Trevor H.C. Baker



Daniel L. Honoré

**2002**

**2013**

**2000**

**THE 2000s: KING, BAKER, AND HONORÉ**

During his tenure, Donald G. King emphasized innovation, modernization, and fiscal accountability. He led the Northeastern Conference to join the Seventh-day Adventist Regional Retirement Plan, a retirement plan designed to secure dignity for every retiree.

A pastor at heart, Trevor H. C. Baker led with compassion and vision from 2002 to 2012. He championed Adventist education, strengthened pastors, and pressed the work of evangelism forward.

Succeeding him, Daniel L. Honoré guided the conference through modernization, strengthening stewardship, acquiring properties, and updating infrastructure—all while keeping the mission central. His steady leadership during the worldwide pandemic brought hope in the midst of despair.



Donald G. King

**THE 2020s: JULES AND KING**

Abraham J. Jules, elected in 2021, shepherded the conference in the post-pandemic era. He renewed the call to revival and mission, anchoring Northeastern once more in its evangelistic identity.

In 2024, the mantle passed to Eldeen C. King. He is no stranger to Northeastern, its pulpits, or its people. He has preached its revivals, shepherded its congregations, dedicated its children, and prayed over its sickbeds. His ministry is characterized by godliness, humility, and strength.

King's leadership rests on four commitments: education, evangelism, empowerment, and elevation. He believes in strengthening schools, expanding evangelistic campaigns, equipping members for leadership, and calling the entire body to rise higher in spiritual life and institutional excellence. Though he is a steward of finances, his greatest concern is the spiritual health of the conference. For him, money is a tool, but revival is the mission.



Abraham J. Jules



Eldeen C. King

2021

2024

**A CONFERENCE OF DIVERSITY**

What began as an African American-led work has become a multicultural symphony. Northeastern congregations now worship in more than nine languages: English, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Yoruba, Igbo, Twi, and Karen. Walk into a Northeastern church and you will hear hymns sung with accents from across the globe, each lifted to the same Lord. The gospel is preached with island rhythms, African fire, and urban urgency. The Pentecost promise lives in Northeastern: every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.





# YEARS OF MISSION

The Story of the Great Northeastern Conference (1945–2025)

## LAY LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY

Not to be forgotten is the work of laypeople. Many of Northeastern's congregations began through the efforts of members who were never on the payroll of the conference. They opened homes for Bible study, rented storefronts for worship, and gathered small groups in prayer until churches were established. Their sacrifices, offered alongside daily work and family life, multiplied the reach of the gospel and proved that the strength of Northeastern has always rested not only on its pastors but also on its people.

## WOMEN: NURTURERS OF FAITH, BUILDERS OF LEGACY

If Northeastern is a tree now standing tall, its roots have been nourished for 80 years by the faith and sacrifice of women. In classrooms, they built the foundation of Adventist education, serving as teachers, principals, and mentors to generations of young people. In churches, they lifted their voices in choirs, pioneered children's ministries, and stood as Bible workers, evangelists, and prayer warriors whose labor multiplied the harvest.

Many of the conference's greatest evangelistic campaigns were fueled by the tireless efforts of female Bible workers who led thousands to Christ. Women have also served as lead-

## FROM LEADERSHIP TO LEGACY:

ers, administrators, and conference directors, breaking barriers and broadening the ministry's reach. Today, their legacy continues as Northeastern now boasts six female pastors serving congregations and one female seminarian preparing to join their ranks. Their presence at the pulpit is not an anomaly but the fruit of a long history of service and sacrifice.

As the conference looks toward its future, it does so standing on the shoulders of these women of faith, who remind us that the Spirit is poured out on all flesh, and that both sons and daughters are called to prophesy, to preach, and to proclaim the everlasting gospel.

## TWIN PILLARS: EVANGELISM AND EDUCATION

Through every president, one truth has remained constant. Evangelism is the heartbeat, and education is the backbone. Evangelism filled tents, stadiums, churches, and theaters. Education raised up doctors, pastors, teachers, and leaders who now serve across the world. Camp Victory Lake molded youth into disciples. Northeastern Adventist Academy has taught faith alongside excellence. In tandem, education and evangelism have created a conference that grew not only in numbers but in spiritual and institutional depth.

## A YEAR OF MILESTONES

The year 2025 marks several significant milestones in the life of the Northeastern Conference. It marks not only the Conference's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary but also Camp Victory Lake's 70<sup>th</sup>



year as a gathering place for worship, youth ministry, and fellowship. The Hebron church in Brooklyn also reaches its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, recognized as the beginning of the Franco-Haitian work in the conference. In addition, the conference office building marks 50 years since its construction and still serves as the administrative center today. These anniversaries stand as markers of progress and stability, pointing both to the past achievements of the conference and to the work still ahead.

**THE CLARION CALL AT EIGHTY**

Eighty years is not simply a commemoration—it is a challenge.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” That is the Northeastern story. Our pioneers did not see the whole staircase,

but they stepped forward anyway, and God built the way as they climbed.

The harvest remains plentiful. The needs of our cities are great. Families are hungry for the gospel. Children are longing for education that shapes both heart and mind. Immigrants are searching for belonging. Communities need healing. The mission remains.

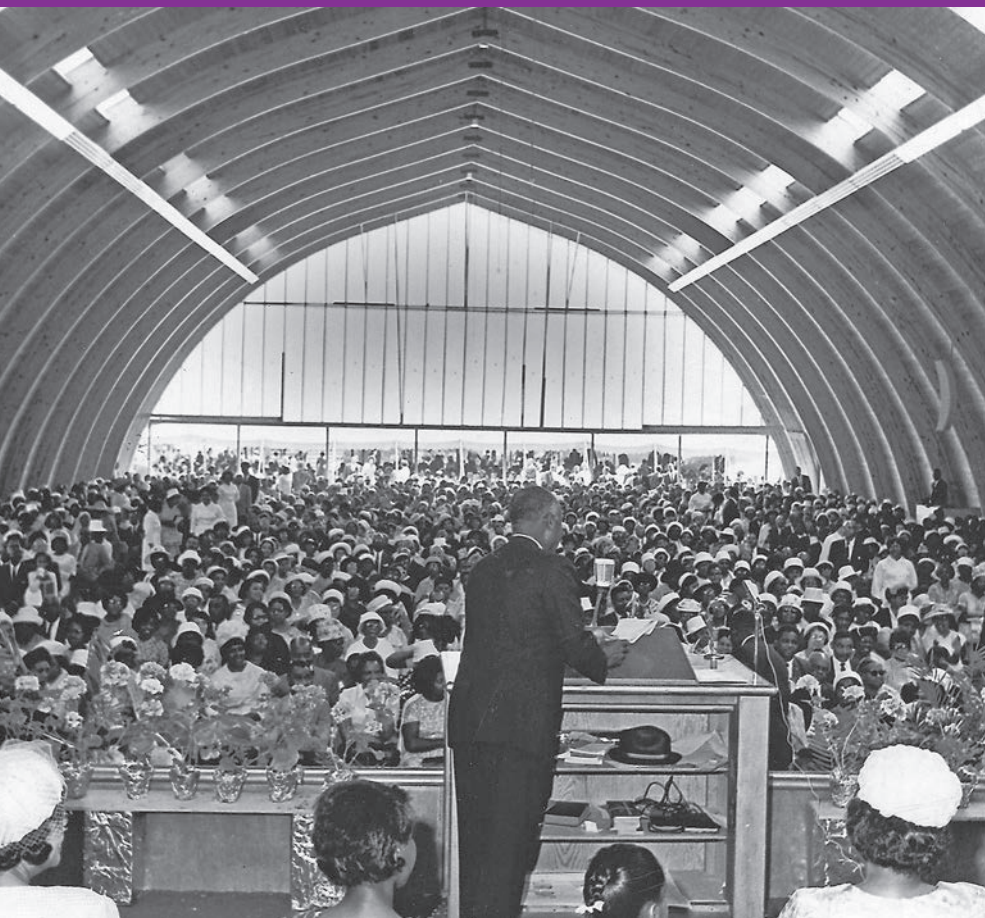
The Bible calls us to labor with urgency: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38, NIV).

**CONCLUSION: EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS**

From 15 congregations to more than 220. From 2,208 members to over 66,000. From modest means to a financially strong conference. Northeastern is living proof that what God begins, He sustains.



The Mission Lives On.



We honor the presidents who carried the torch, the pastors and teachers who gave their all, and the members whose prayers and sacrifices made this history possible. Yet above all, we honor Christ, who has led us every step of the way.

Ellen White’s counsel is still true: “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (LIFE SKETCHES OF ELLEN G. WHITE, p. 196).

So let us not forget. Let us recommit. Let us rise with renewed urgency. Evangelize. Educate. Empower. Elevate.

The time is short, the fields are ripe, and the kingdom of God is at hand.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.



*Dr. Nicardo K. Delahaye is the executive secretary of the Northeastern Conference.*

## Ministerio Hermandad Ignites Hope for Bermuda's Latino Community

Tucked inside the Warwick church is a small, spirited congregation doing big things for the kingdom of God. Ministerio Hermandad, the only Spanish-language Adventist group in Bermuda, may be small in number, but it is mighty in mission—and its most recent initiative was nothing short of miraculous.

This vibrant group of Latino believers from Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries across the Caribbean and South America has created a spiritual home in Bermuda. United by faith and language, this close-knit church family has found strength in one another as they live, work, and witness in a foreign land. In spring 2025, they stepped out in bold faith and launched their most ambitious effort yet: a Spanish-language evangelistic series as part of the North American Division's Pentecost 2025 initiative. Under the leadership of Pastor Hector Quiñones, the congregation dared to

believe they could bring the gospel to Bermuda's Latino community in a personal, powerful way. With joy and anticipation, they hosted a four-day series—by Latinos, for Latinos—designed to uplift, inspire, and welcome their fellow countrymen into the family of God.

Henry Beras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Hispanic and Portuguese ministries, was at the heart of the series alongside his wife, Angela Beras, Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries and Women's Ministries director. She led the congregation in heartfelt prayer each night while Pastor Beras delivered messages with humor, empathy, and unforgettable storytelling. His ability to weave the gospel into real-life experiences made every sermon resonate, especially with those who know the challenge of leaving home and starting over in a foreign land.

One night, while recounting Saul's

transformation into Paul, Pastor Beras reminded the audience that before Saul was baptized, he was already called “brother.” That simple truth echoed through the hearts of all gathered: You are no longer guests. You are brothers and sisters. The message was clear—Ministerio Hermandad isn't just a church; it's a family.

Though the planning committee worked with a modest budget of \$9,000, they multiplied their resources through generosity and creativity. Two-thirds of the funds supported community services, staying true to the holistic mission of Christ. Guests received a warm community dinner and tangible support through groceries, gas vouchers, and utility assistance each night. The love of God was served on plates, through prayer, and in practical help—nourishing both body and soul. As a joyful surprise, Ministerio Hermandad also raised funds to bless six attendees who came to

all four meetings with tech giveaways—five iPads and an Apple Watch.

But perhaps the most powerful moment came with the baptism of Mayume Ribeiro, the first fruit of this ministry in the Bermuda Conference. In a community often marked by transience, Mayume's decision to commit her life to Christ stood as a beacon of hope and a testament to the Spirit moving among Bermuda's Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking population. Pastors Quiñones and Beras believe this may be the start of something greater—planting seeds in hearts hungry for belonging, truth, and love. And while challenges remain, there is no doubt: God is at work.

From humble beginnings to holy harvests, Ministerio Hermandad is proving that faith, community, and fervent love can build something truly beautiful—even on a small island in the middle of the Atlantic.

—Carmen Patterson for the Bermuda Conference



## Ministerio Hermandad enciende la esperanza de la comunidad latina en Bermudas

En el interior de la iglesia de Warwick se reúne una pequeña pero dinámica congregación que está logrando grandes cosas para el reino de Dios. Ministerio Hermandad, el único grupo adventista de habla hispana en Bermudas, quizá sea reducido en número, pero su misión es inmensa—y su iniciativa más reciente fue, sin duda, un verdadero milagro.

Este vibrante grupo de creyentes latinos, provenientes de países hispanos y Lusobrasileños del Caribe y Sudamérica, ha creado en Bermudas un hogar espiritual. Unidos por la fe y el idioma, esta familia eclesiástica ha encontrado fortaleza en la comunión, mientras viven, trabajan y testifican en tierra extranjera. En la primavera de 2025 dieron un paso de fe audaz al lanzar su esfuerzo más ambicioso hasta ahora: una serie evangelística en español, como parte de la iniciativa Pentecostés 2025 de la División Norteamericana. Bajo la dirección del pastor Héctor Quiñones, la congregación se atrevió a creer que podía llevar el evangelio a la comunidad latina de Bermudas de una manera personal y poderosa. Con alegría y expectación, organizaron una serie de cuatro días—por latinos y para latinos—diseñada para inspirar, animar y dar la bienvenida a sus compatriotas a la familia de Dios.

El pastor Henry Beras, vicepresidente de la Unión del Atlántico para Ministerios Hispánicos y Portugueses, fue parte central de la serie junto a su esposa, Ángela Beras, directora de Ministerios de Oración y Ministerios de la Mujer de la misma unión. Cada noche, ella guió a la congregación en oraciones fervientes, mientras que el pastor Beras predicó con humor, empatía y relatos inolvidables. Su habilidad para entrelazar el evangelio con experiencias cotidianas hizo que cada mensaje tocara profundamente a la audiencia, en especial a quienes conocen el desafío de dejar su tierra y comenzar de nuevo en un país extranjero.

Una noche, al narrar la transformación de Saulo en Pablo, el

pastor Beras recordó que antes de que Saulo fuese bautizado, ya se le llamaba “hermano”. Esa sencilla verdad resonó en todos los presentes: “Ya no son visitantes. Son hermanos y hermanas.” El mensaje fue claro: Ministerio Hermandad no es solo una iglesia; es una familia.

Aunque el comité organizador trabajó con un presupuesto modesto de 9.000 dólares, multiplicaron sus recursos gracias a la generosidad y la creatividad. Dos tercios de los fondos se destinaron a servicios comunitarios, fieles a la misión integral de Cristo. Cada noche, los invitados recibieron una cena comunitaria y apoyo tangible mediante bolsas de alimentos, vales de gasolina y ayuda para cubrir servicios básicos. El amor de Dios se manifestó en platos de comida, en oraciones y en asistencia práctica, nutriendo tanto el cuerpo como el espíritu. Como grata sorpresa, el ministerio también reunió fondos para obsequiar a seis asistentes que participaron en las cuatro reuniones con premios tecnológicos: cinco iPads y un Apple Watch.

Pero el momento más conmovedor llegó con el bautismo de Mayume Ribeiro, el primer fruto de este ministerio en la Conferencia de Bermudas. En una comunidad marcada con frecuencia por la transitoriedad, la decisión de Mayume de entregar su vida a Cristo brilló como un faro de esperanza y testimonio del Espíritu que se mueve entre la población hispana y portuguesa de Bermudas. Los pastores Quiñones y Beras confían en que esto sea apenas el inicio de algo mayor: sembrar en corazones ávidos de pertenencia, verdad y amor. Y aunque los desafíos persisten, no cabe duda: Dios está obrando.

De comienzos humildes a cosechas sagradas, Ministerio Hermandad demuestra que la fe, la comunidad y el amor ferviente pueden levantar algo verdaderamente hermoso, incluso en una pequeña isla en medio del Atlántico.

—Carmen Patterson for the Bermuda Conference



Henry Beras, vicepresidente de la Unión del Atlántico para Ministerios Hispánicos y Portugueses



El bautismo de Mayume Ribeiro, el primer fruto de este ministerio en la Conferencia de Bermudas.

## Greater New York Conference Schools Begin Year With Growth, Dedication, and Blessings

The summer months were anything but quiet for the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) schools. While most communities were resting, our principals, teachers, and students were actively preparing for another year of excellence, and the results are already shining through.

### SUMMER SUCCESS STORIES

Many of our schools ran summer programs focused on reinforcing math and reading skills, ensuring students were ready for the academic challenges ahead. At Greater New York Academy, a select group of ninth graders went even further by enrolling in calculus and college-level courses. Against all odds, these students kept pace and excelled, earning very high grades and surpassing expectations. Their success is a testimony to their determination and the dedication of teachers who continue to go above

and beyond. Truly, to God be the glory!

### EQUIPPING EDUCATORS FOR THE MISSION

The new school year launched in August with the first Professional Development Day for all principals and teachers across the conference. The day began with a spiritual and motivational devotional led by Alanzo Smith, GNYC president, who dedicated the educators to God's service. Workshops throughout the day provided practical tools, strategies, and encouragement, equipping educational staff to meet the needs of today's students with excellence and faith.

### PROMOTING ADVENTIST EDUCATION

In addition to school preparation, the Education department joined Smith and several principals to promote GNYC schools at Camp Berkshire during all of the conference camp meet-

ings. This outreach created new opportunities to share the blessings of Adventist education and invite families to join the conference's growing school system.

### A JOYFUL BEGINNING

As September opened, all schools across the GNYC territory welcomed new and returning students enthusiastically and warmly. Two schools, Whispering Pines School and South Bay Junior Academy, launched new early childhood programs, expanding the foundation of Adventist education for the youngest learners. South Bay Junior Academy also celebrated a special moment with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open a new playground. Whispering Pines began the year with a prayer breakfast hosted by the Home and School Association. The breakfast included an anointing ceremony, dedicating staff, parents, and students to

God's service. The Spirit of God was present in a powerful way.

### LOOKING AHEAD IN FAITH

This summer and the start of the school year remind us of God's blessings and the unwavering commitment of GNYC educators. As Ellen G. White said, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except that we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (LIFE SKETCHES OF ELLEN G. WHITE, p. 196).

The Greater New York Conference Education Department moves forward, united in mission and committed to excellence. With God's guidance, may the coming school year bring growth, achievement, and blessings for GNYC students, schools, and communities.

—Maria Thomas, superintendent of schools, Greater New York Conference

## North Bronx Possibilities Ministries Come Alive

The North Bronx church's Possibility Ministries is not only alive, but they are championing the voice of triumph as they celebrate the dignity, value, and potential of all individuals, especially those with special needs.

Possibility Ministries, a global initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, does not ignore disabilities or losses but instead emphasizes the unique possibilities within each person. The North Bronx church recently led a celebration of this vision. Beginning with

Sabbath School, the superintendent made it a priority to include individuals with disabilities in every aspect of the day's worship services. The program featured special highlights of the achievements and contributions of individuals with disabilities, inspiring the congregation with stories of perseverance and impact.

During the divine service, Lois Bookhardt-Murray of the First church in White Plains delivered a powerful and spirit-filled sermon titled "The King Is Calling." She

reminded the congregation that the King of Kings calls each of us amid life's obstacles and challenges. Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost," offering hope and purpose to all.

The afternoon program featured an inspirational mini-concert and several moving presentations. Among the performers was Mary Grace, an accomplished pianist born without her right forearm, who shared her gift with grace and power. North Bronx church continues to celebrate God's

work and the possibility He provides to all who believe.

—North Bronx church

Visit [www.possibilityministries.org/apms/](http://www.possibilityministries.org/apms/) for resources to host a Possibility Ministries Sabbath in your church.



## From Seeds to Salvation: A Summer of Ministry at Oakview Preparatory School

This summer, the Women's and Children's Ministries departments of the Greater New York Conference joined forces to bring spiritual enrichment and joy to the Yonkers community through a vibrant Vacation Bible School (VBS) held July 21–25, 2025, at Oakview Preparatory School.

Each day, children ages 2–12 gathered for a fun-filled program featuring Bible stories, crafts, games, music, and fellowship. The program concluded each morning with a light lunch and grateful hearts. The laughter, learning, and excitement created a memorable experience for all and planted spiritual seeds that would soon blossom into something greater.

Building on the success of VBS, the Women's Ministries Department, under the leadership of Director Lisa D. González, hosted a dynamic evangelistic series Sept. 20–27. Fred Nichols, senior pastor, and Dexter Smith, associate pastor, of the North Bronx church, delivered powerful, Spirit-filled messages that inspired hearts and deepened faith. Each evening, students and staff provided uplifting music, while the Junior and Senior choirs offered special selections during both Sabbath services, filling the sanctuary with praise. Principal Judith White and her staff expressed heartfelt appreciation for the evangelistic efforts that blessed both events at the school.

This season of ministry reached its high point



Lisa Gonzalez, left, Greater New York Conference Women's Ministries director, takes a photo with baptismal candidate George Henry, seated, and a student helper.



VBS participants enjoy arts and crafts.



Students pray together during the evangelistic series.

when George Henry made the life-changing decision to surrender his life fully to God through baptism. His membership will be transferred to the Victory church in Bronx, New York. To God be the glory—great things He has done!

—Women's Ministries Department,  
Greater New York Conference



VBS decorations help maintain a spiritual atmosphere.

## Connected With Jesus™: 2025 Dominican Republic Mission Trip Brings Hope, Healing, and the Gospel

From July 26 to August 2, the Lord opened doors for a powerful movement of service, compassion, and evangelism in the towns of Imbert and La Isabela in Puerto Plata Province, Dominican Republic. The mission trip—organized by the New York Conference’s (NYC) Nxt Gen Movement, in collaboration with Adventist International Medical Missionaries (AIMM) and ADRA Southeastern Dominican Conference.

More than a trip, it was a living testimony of God’s love in action. Medical services, evangelistic outreach, and community improvement projects blessed more than 1,000 people physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Volunteers used their God-given skills to serve others as people visited the

different ministry sites. “We came to give, but we left with more than we could have imagined—the joy of seeing God at work in real time,” said one volunteer.

### SERVING THROUGH COLLABORATION AND COMMITMENT

The mission’s success grew from intentional planning, sacrificial service, and strong partnerships. Teams of pastors, medical professionals, and lay members worked alongside local leaders to ensure every need was met.

The medical team—composed of physicians, surgeons, dentists, optometrists, gynecologists, and health educators—provided consultations, treatments, and health guidance to hundreds daily. Patients received

prescriptions, eyeglasses, dental care, and specialized attention, all offered, as one leader said, “free of charge and with the love of Christ.”

Volunteers also painted and renovated two churches in Imbert and the Adventist school in La Isabela. The churches received fresh exterior paint, and several classrooms at the school were refurbished. A new multipurpose room, completed during the trip, was named in honor of Claudio Gomez, executive secretary of the New York Conference, recognizing his leadership and passion for mission.

Clothing, food, hygiene kits, wheelchairs, and walkers were freely distributed—meeting urgent needs and reminding recipients that the church cares for the whole person.

The connection between the churches and the communities they serve grew even stronger.

### PEOPLE WHO ANSWERED THE CALL

Gomez led the mission on the ground with key partners Shervin and Jennifer Evans, AIMM co-presidents; Reynolds Rodriguez, Nxt Gen Movement director and NYC communication director; and ADRA Southeastern Dominican Conference leadership. Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, represented the union and whose presence affirmed the union’s commitment to missions.

New York Conference President Miguel Crespo spearheaded evangelistic efforts. He and NYC pastor Warren Muir led two separate evangelistic series for one week, supported by local church members and leaders who provided translation, music, and prayer teams to help prepare hearts to receive God’s Word.

“Four simultaneous evangelistic crusades shared the everlasting gospel with the communities of Imbert and La Isabela, and 43 people gave their hearts to God through baptism during the week,” said Lorenzo Peña, president of the Northern Dominican Conference. His remarks came during the “Sabbath of Victories” celebration at La Isabela’s public high school on Aug. 2.

Nearly 1,000 church members gathered to celebrate the closing ceremony before moving



Volunteers display compassion signs used in the community.

to the central church in La Isabela for an afternoon program that inaugurated the new multipurpose room.

**A MULTI-FACETED IMPACT**

The mission unfolded like a tapestry of simultaneous activities. While medical teams treated the sick, evangelists preached in public spaces. As paintbrushes brightened church walls, voices lifted in worship drew neighbors to hear about Jesus. While volunteers

served food and distributed clothing, Bible workers prayed with families and shared literature. Surgeons performed free procedures in the local hospital, and children enjoyed a lively Vacation Bible School program.

By the end of the mission, lives had been changed forever—not only for the recipients of care but also for the volunteers themselves. Many testified that the experience deepened their



A plaque commemorates the new multipurpose room named in honor of Claudio Gomez, New York Conference executive secretary.



Patients wait in line to receive free medical care.

faith, strengthened their commitment to service, and renewed their sense of Christ’s call to “go and make disciples.”

“In the province of Puerto Plata, the 2025 mission trip was more than a moment—it was a movement,” said

Rodriguez. “More than 100 volunteers from the three partnering organizations participated, the majority from AIMM.”

—Nxt Gen Movement team, New York Conference

## Pentecost 2025 Evangelism Thrives in Elmira

The Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church extended its ministry beyond the sanctuary this summer by setting up an outreach booth at the Wisner Park Market in downtown Elmira. Twice a month, church members shared health and spiritual resources with market visitors—making friends, offering prayer, and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Each week, the open-air market attracts hundreds of people, many open to hearing about Jesus. The church’s bright blue shirts, emblazoned with the words “May I Pray for You?”, often sparked heartfelt conversations and prayer requests from passersby.

As the summer progressed, volunteers faithfully returned to the market, serving eight times throughout August and September. During each visit, they distributed health magazines, pamphlets, and books—more than 500 pieces of literature in total. “A lot of people were blessed to receive the materials,” said organizers, reflecting on the positive community response.

Building on the momentum from the market outreach, the Elmira church also hosted a booth at the Chemung County Fair. There, members continued to share spiritual and health resources while connecting with residents

seeking hope and encouragement.

Behind the scenes, Elmira Church Personal Ministries leader Derek Colaw coordinated both initiatives, spending many hours organizing volunteers and overseeing logistics to ensure each event ran smoothly.

Through these outreach efforts, the Elmira church is living out the spirit of Pentecost 2025—bringing the message of Jesus into the heart of the community. God continues to bless both the community and the faithful workers who serve in His name.

—Sharon Reynolds, communication team, Elmira church, with Gleaner staff

## Northeastern Conference Constituency Session Report

The Northeastern Conference convened its 29<sup>th</sup> regular constituency meeting (sixth quadrennial session) on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Under the theme “Inspiring Life. Igniting Faith,” Kenneth Manders, president of the Bermuda Conference, presented a morning devotional to more than 1,000 delegates gathered in the arena.

Delegates reelected Eldeen C. King for a second term as president for the 2025-29 quadrennium. King has served as president of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since June 9, 2024, when the executive committee elected him to succeed Abraham J. Jules after Jules accepted the call to lead the Atlantic Union Conference. King previously served as executive secretary (2021-24) and has been in pastoral ministry in the conference for more than 30 years.

Nicardo K. Delahaye was reelected executive secretary. He has served in the role since June 9, 2024, and previously served as associate executive secretary beginning in 2021.

Delegates elected Brian McDonald to continue serving as treasurer, a position he has held since January 2023, when he was elected by the executive committee.



Division, union, and regional conference leaders offer a prayer of dedication over Eldeen C. King, center, Northeastern Conference president, after his reelection.

The day’s agenda included reports from administrators on initiatives, progress, and accomplishments from the 2021-24 term. Delegates voted to receive the reports.

### PRESIDENT’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In his presidential report, King emphasized the administration’s desire to “keep the spiritual life of this conference at the center of every decision and initiative.” Evangelism

remained a priority, with thousands baptized during the quadrennium and membership already surpassing 66,000.

This year, the Northeastern Conference is also celebrating 80 years of ministry and service across New York and New England. Reflecting on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, King said:

“Eighty years ago, a small band of believers, united in conviction and strengthened by prayer, dared to believe that God could do something extraordinary in the northeastern United States. ... Those pioneers could scarcely have imagined that their sacrifices would grow into a thriving family of more than 65,000 believers spread across seven states representing a tapestry of cultures, languages, and backgrounds. Today we stand on their shoulders.... The past gives us testimony, the present places responsibility in our hands, and the future calls us forward into new opportunities.”

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In the secretary’s report, Delahaye highlighted what he described as “dynamic growth” over the past quadrennium. The conference began the period with 60,579 members. As of Dec. 31, 2024, membership had reached 64,971—a net increase of 4,392.



Nicardo K. Delahaye, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, gives the secretary’s report.

He also introduced four new churches that delegates voted to receive into the sisterhood of churches: Indian Orchard, Living Manna, Breath of Life Fellowship, and Immanuel. In addition, three congregations merged to form Victory Tabernacle church, and two congregations united to form Blessed Hope Church.

**TREASURER’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

In the treasurer’s report, McDonald noted that 191 Northeastern Conference churches are participating in the North American Division’s Pentecost 2025 initiative. He reported that the conference budgeted and expended significant resources in support of evangelism each year. These efforts were further strengthened by appropriations from both the Atlantic Union and the North American Division.

**ADDITIONAL VOTED ACTIONS**

Delegates paused for a moment of reflection to honor past leaders and members who served faithfully and died during the quadrennium. Pastor Héctor Ramos was recognized with a standing ovation upon announcing his retirement after 42 years of service in Hispanic Ministries.

Delegates also elected the following departmental directors and coordinators to serve for the 2025-29 quadrennium:

- **Adventist Community Services:** Mario Augustave

- **Communication:** Lavern Sturupp
- **Education:** Venetta Jarvis
- **Family Ministries:** Samuel and Andrea Blair
- **Health Ministries:** Debeddo Brown
- **Hispanic Ministries:** Roberto Garcia
- **Ministerial and Chaplaincy Ministries:** Joshua Deonarine
- **Personal Ministries:** Ucall Harris
- **Portuguese Ministries coordinator:** Eleazar Silva
- **Prayer Ministries:** Hugh Carrington
- **Religious Liberty:** Allen Martin
- **Sabbath School:** Easton Marks
- **Stewardship:** Ferron Francis
- **Trust Services:** Reginald Guierrier
- **Women’s Ministries:** Donnett Blake
- **Youth Ministries:** Paula Olivier

Delegates also elected members to serve on the executive committee for the next quadrennium. The committee is authorized to act on behalf of the constituents between regular sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m. Representatives to the meeting from the Atlantic Union Conference included: Abraham J. Jules, president; David O. McKenzie, executive secretary; Marlene Alvarez, vice president for education; Henry Beras, vice president for Hispanic and Portuguese ministries; and Jose



Brian McDonald, Northeastern Conference treasurer, gives the treasurer’s report.

Joseph, vice president for Haitian and African ministries. Also attending were union department directors, associate directors, and assistant directors. Administrators from the Greater New York, New York, and Southern New England conferences were present.

Calvin Watkins, a North American Division vice president, chaired the day’s business session. John Ashmeade, associate director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Atlantic Union, served as parliamentarian. Todd Mayer from the General Conference Auditing Service presented the audited financial reports. Additional special guests representing regional conference ministries across the North American Division also attended.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The officers and directors elected for the next four years will provide leadership to more than 66,000 members in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Members worship in 223 congregations, speak more than eight languages, and are served by 15 schools, the Camp Victory Lake summer camp program in Hyde Park, New York, and other ministries throughout the territory.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, communication director, Atlantic Union Conference, and Lavern Sturupp, communication director, Northeastern Conference



Attendees recognize Héctor Ramos, center, upon his retirement from Hispanic Ministries as he stands with his wife, Rosemary, and Roberto Garcia, newly elected Hispanic Ministries coordinator.

## Exciting Campus Improvements at Pine Tree Academy

Pine Tree Academy has undergone a series of exciting physical plant improvements over the past year, aimed at enhancing both the learning environment and the overall student experience. These upgrades reflect the school's ongoing commitment to providing a safe, functional, and inspiring space for students to grow academically, physically, and spiritually.

One of the most significant updates is the installation of a new gymnasium roof. After over 50 years of use, the aging roof needed replacement to ensure the continued usability of this vital area of the school. Thanks to the generous support of a donor, the new roof is now in place, protecting the gym from the elements and securing this space for countless athletic events, PE classes, school-wide gatherings, the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) Camp Meeting, as well as both

NNEC Art and Music Clinics, and many other activities.

Another major improvement is the complete resurfacing of the school's blacktop areas. This project has not only enhanced the overall appearance of the campus but also improved safety for students during outdoor activities and school drop-off and pick-up times. The newly paved areas provide smoother surfaces for basketball, recess games, community events, parking—and represent a long-awaited upgrade to this part of the school grounds. Many thanks to the Northern New England Conference and their considerable donation of a trust gift to make this major campus upgrade.

Equally exciting is the installation of a brand-new playground. Designed with both safety and fun in mind, the new playground offers students a refreshed space to enjoy recess and build social connections. The updated equipment features



The resurfaced driveway looks smooth and fresh.



Pine Tree Academy students enjoy playing on the resurfaced blacktop areas.

age-appropriate designs, modern safety features, and a vibrant look that has brought smiles to many

young faces.

These campus improvements would not have been possible without the prayers, support, and financial contributions from Pine Tree Academy and Northern New England Conference families and friends. Pine Tree Academy is grateful to everyone who helped make these improvements a reality, and continues to seek God's guidance as the school looks toward the future.

Pine Tree Academy is a PreK-12 school with a boarding option located in beautiful Freeport, Maine. If you would like to learn more, or make a donation, please visit their website at [pinetreeacademy.org](http://pinetreeacademy.org).

—Barbara Chase, assistant to the principal, Pine Tree Academy



Students enjoy the new playground during recess.

## Caroline Advocates for Diabetes Awareness in Washington, D.C.

At Pine Tree Academy, you'll find a sweet 7-year-old in class with her friends. But unlike most of her peers, Caroline Cardoza of Brunswick, Maine, faces the daily challenge of living with Type 1 diabetes, a chronic autoimmune disease where the pancreas fails to produce enough insulin. Diagnosed at the age of four, Caroline now wears an insulin pump that constantly monitors her blood sugar levels.

This past summer, Caroline traveled to Washington, D.C., for the Children's Congress, where she shared the scrapbooks she created documenting her journey with diabetes. She presented them to Maine's legislative delegation, and it was here that she met Sen. Susan Collins. Caroline expressed her hope for a cure for Type 1 diabetes in the near future. Every year, Caroline and her family, along with friends, participate in the T1D Walk held at the end of September.

During her trip, Caroline met many other young people affected by the disease. Alongside 16-year-old Ruby Whitmore from Old Town, Maine, Caroline attended the Breakthrough T1D 2025 Children's Congress on Capitol Hill. Children ranging in age from 4-17 spoke out to raise awareness about diabetes and the need for research. Their advocacy helped motivate Congress to support the federally funded Special Diabetes Program, which would allocate \$160 million to the National Institutes of Health.

With a smile and a determined spirit, Caroline faces each day with resilience. Her faith in Jesus provides her the strength she needs to navigate her journey, one step at a time.

—Linda Dayen, news editor, Northern New England Conference



Caroline shares the scrapbook she took to Washington, D.C.



Caroline Cardoza, center, and Ruby Whitmore, right, pose with Sen. Susan Collins at the Type 1 diabetes Children's Congress in Washington, D.C.



Caroline stands in the U.S. Capitol building.

Courtesy of Jeff Cardoza

## Adventist Education Lays Foundation for SLA Alum’s Full Ride to Yale Ph.D. Program

South Lancaster Academy (SLA) is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Ian Neidigh, a distinguished alumnus who continues to excel in his academic journey, thanks to a solid foundation of Adventist education and hard work.

After graduating from SLA, Ian attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he majored in Chemistry (ACS-certified) and Mathematical Studies. He was also a member of the university’s prestigious Honors Program.

Ian’s academic excellence and research experience have earned him admission into Yale University, where he is pursuing a fully-funded Ph.D. program in Biophysical Chemistry, including a living stipend.



Ian Neidigh poses with his family at his graduation from Andrews University.

“I’m elated to pursue this new opportunity,” Ian shared. “I hope to use the knowledge and skills I gain from Yale to contribute to groundbreaking research in the biotech industry. SLA laid the foundation for my success at Andrews, which

then translated into my acceptance at Yale.”

Ian credits much of his early academic development to SLA, specifically expressing gratitude to Kevin Bisson, SLA’s high school mathematics and physics teacher, and

Tishawna Brahmia, SLA’s high school science teacher.

“Everything he has achieved academically stems from hard work, determination, intelligence, and fortitude,” Bisson remarked. “Ian is a well-rounded student.”

“Ian was a joy to have in class,” shared Brahmia. “I’m not surprised by his achievement; I’m just incredibly proud and happy for him.”

Both SLA and Andrews University are Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions committed to academic excellence and providing an atmosphere supporting students’ spiritual growth.

—Arielle Cady Flores, director of marketing, development, and communication, South Lancaster Academy

## Southern New England Conference Celebrates First Graduation of Discipleship Institute

On Sabbath, Sept. 6, more than 150 local church leaders and family members from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts gathered at the Hudson church in Massachusetts to celebrate the first graduation ceremony of the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Discipleship Institute.

After an intense study journey over several months, a total of 60 disciples, some of them in absentia, received their certification in Church Leadership—an educational unit made up of seven different topics of ecclesiastical leadership: The Vision and Mission of the Church, The Call and



Graduates of the Southern New England Conference Discipleship Institute display their certificates.

Character of the Christian Leader, Transformational Leadership Model, Church Management and Administration, Discipleship and Multiplication, Ethics in Counseling and Conflict Resolution, and The Power of Prayer and The Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the certification, which was also available in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, was to train,

motivate, and empower the local church leaders. More than 230 students have participated so far in the Discipleship Institute, many of whom will celebrate their graduation in the coming months.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., president of the Southern New England Conference, presented the keynote message for the graduates. The event featured excellent

musical participation by the vocal trio, The Reason, among other musicians, under the coordination of Norys Rodriguez.

Many thanks to all who made the development of this first segment of the SNEC Discipleship Institute, the successful conclusion of this training journey, and the graduation program possible.

To God be the glory!  
Forward and upward, with

our eyes fixed on Jesus!

Visit the Discipleship Institute at <https://discipleship.sneonline.org> for more information.

—Victor Perez is SNEC Discipleship Institute coordinator and pastor of the Hudson and El Faro Spanish churches.

## Hartford Spanish Church Faithfully Serves Community with Annual Health Fair and Hot Meals

On August 24, the Hartford Spanish church held its annual community health fair, complete with plenty of free food and kids' activities, including a water slide, petting zoo, pony rides, and a visit from the local fire department. While attendees enjoyed the festivities, Hartford Spanish church members ministered to their needs.

Yanira Gallardo, a church leader who works as a nursing assistant, provided blood pressure checks. Another church member offered free haircuts. Others served fresh popcorn and shaved ice to attendees. Volunteers expressed kindness and compassion, whether caring for the elderly attendees or helping a young girl from a broken family get a much-desired pony ride.

Hilda Negron, health fair organizer and the church's community service director for 35 years, is extremely grateful that church members contributed their time and finances to make this fair possible.

Located in an inner-city neighborhood with many

needs, the Hartford Spanish church also provides the community a hot meal two Sabbaths a month, serving from 90 to over 100 individuals each time. "Sometimes people are still coming after the food is gone," said Negron. "So we're working with our youth department to see if they can join in, do some cooking, and open another section."

"You can see that everybody is helping—everybody is busy," Negron said. Hartford Spanish church's community service blesses the neighborhood, bringing joy to the church members.

"I'm so happy to be helping," said Gallardo and others. "We are here for God and the people. Is there anything else?"

—Sandra Dombrowski, Southern New England Conference

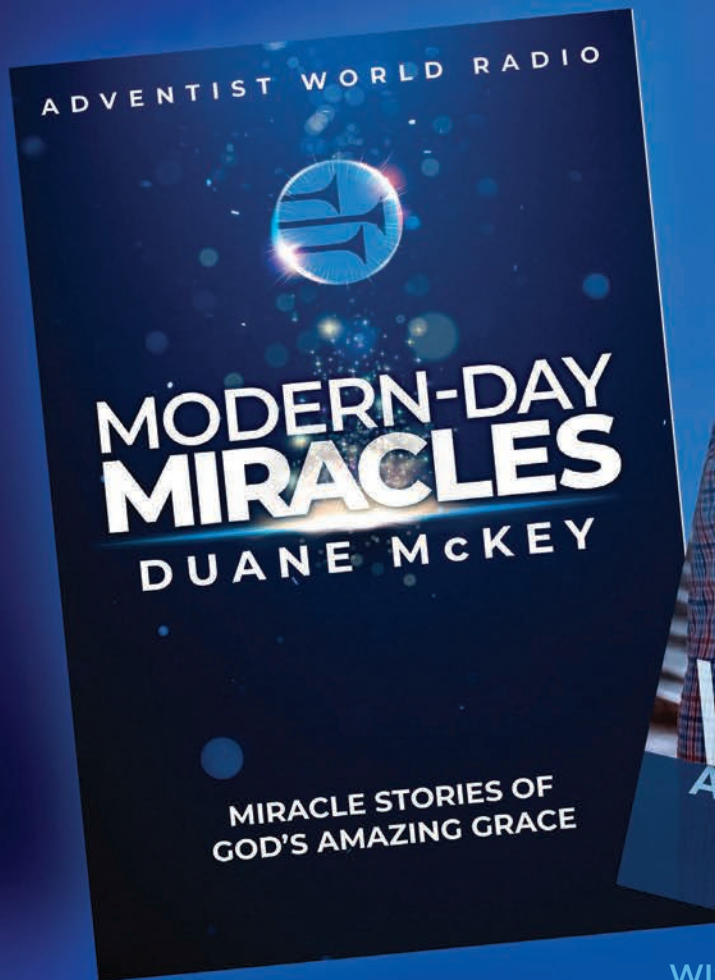


Yanira Gallardo checks Hilda Negron's blood pressure.



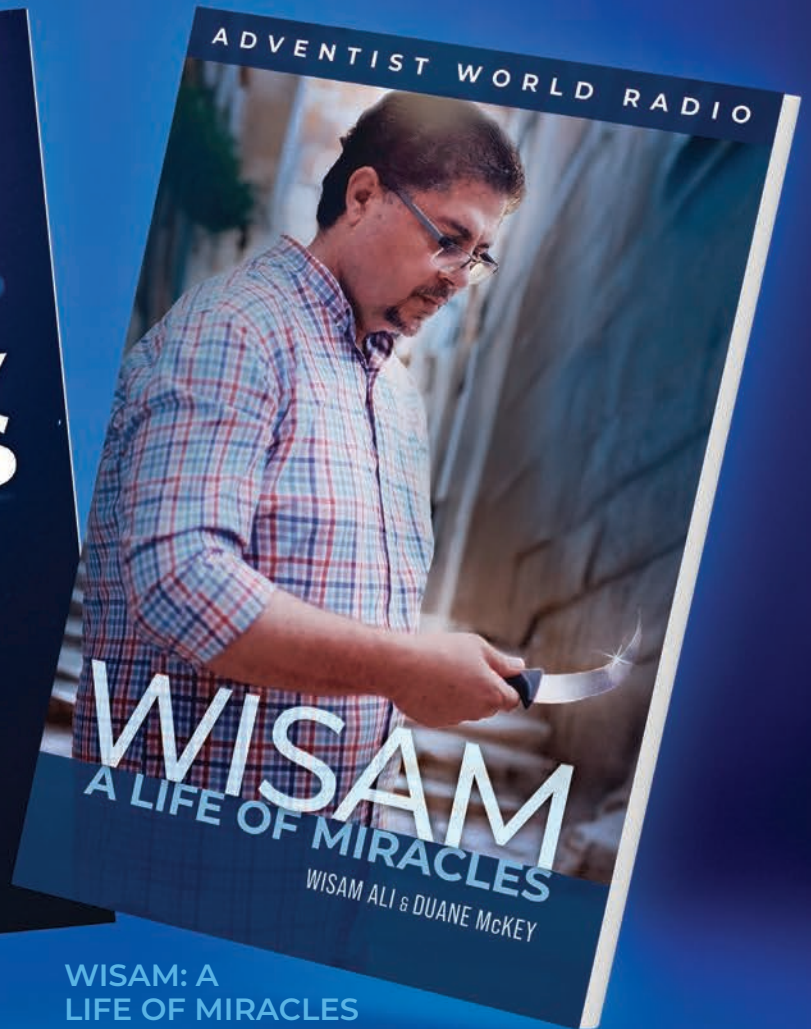
Kids enjoy health-giving sunshine and water.

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## MODERN-DAY MIRACLES

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**ASSOCIATE TREASURER—MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE** is seeking applications for a full-time Associate

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**UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks Nursing Program Faculty to prepare undergraduate students to successfully complete the Nursing Program Bachelor of Science (BSN) curriculum and pass the National Council State Boards of Nursing Examination (NCLEX-RN). UAU nursing faculty have a philosophy of partnering with students to help them reach their goals while caring for students holistically. Doctoral degree preferred; master’s degree in nursing required. Please apply at uau.edu/employment.

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ized services as needed. Please see job descriptions and apply at uau.edu/employment.

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**UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for SALT (Soul-winning And Leadership Training) Program Director to provide administrative oversight and ensure the strategic development of the program in harmony with It Is Written. This position also includes faculty teaching responsibilities. A master’s degree in religion/ministry/theology is required. This is a full-time exempt position with excellent benefits, including tuition assistance. See the full job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

**UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for SALT (Soul-winning And Leadership Training) Program Outreach Coordinator/Registrar to be responsible for planning the program’s outreach, assisting the director with program- ming, training, interviewing

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Southern New England Conference  
Constituency Session

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of the 39<sup>th</sup> Constituency Session of the Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called to convene at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 23, 2026, in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To receive reports.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, an Executive Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and an Association Board.
3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the conference.
4. To consider amendments to Set Fund Guidelines.
5. To accept new churches or disband churches as may be necessary.
6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern New England Conference, Article 3, Section 5, A1 “each Church shall be entitled to select one Delegate for the Church and one additional Delegate for each forty-five (45) members or major fraction thereof, provided that each Church shall be entitled to select not less than two (2) Delegates.”

Lunch will be provided.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting of the Organizing Committee will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the College Seventh-day Adventist Church, 337 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561, for the purpose of appointing members of the Nominating Committee to serve for that meeting. According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern New England Conference, Article 3, Section 8A “each Church shall select, from its Delegates, one (1) representative for the Church, and one (1) additional representative for each five hundred (500) members of that Church or major fraction thereof.”

Lunch will be provided.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President  
Edgardo Herrera, Executive Secretary

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Southern New England Conference Association  
Regular Meeting

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Regular Constituency Session of the Southern New England Conference Association, a Massachusetts corporation, is called to meet in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561, on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the conference.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and a board of trustees, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the Southern New England Conference Constituency Session will be the delegates for the Southern New England Conference Association.

Lunch will be provided.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President  
Tom Murray, Secretary

and advising students and other duties. This is a full-time exempt position with excellent benefits, including tuition assistance. See the full job description and apply at [uau.edu/employment](http://uau.edu/employment).

**UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is seeking applicants for EMS Coordinator in the International Rescue and Relief (IRR) Program. This is a full-time exempt position with excellent benefits. The EMS Coordinator is responsible for developing and managing the EMS component of the program and includes both teaching responsibilities and program administration. EMS Instructor Certification is required. Please see the job description and apply at [uau.edu/employment](http://uau.edu/employment).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** continuously seeks qualified candidates to fill various positions around campus, including faculty, salaried staff, and hourly staff positions. If you are inter-

ested in working at Southern, we encourage you to view the positions that are currently open at [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers) and apply as God leads. To view current open Pre-K through college educational positions across the North American Division, please visit [jobs.adventisteducation.org](http://jobs.adventisteducation.org).

**PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE** seeks qualified candidates to fill open positions in fulfilling our mission to “Learn with Purpose, Rise in Faith, and Serve in Love.” Beautiful mountain campus, minutes to shopping, an hour+ drive of ocean and skiing. If interested, please check out our current openings at [www.puc.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings](http://www.puc.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings).

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**DOANE, Ronald K.**—72; b. Apr. 12, 1953, in North Tonawanda, N.Y.; d. Aug. 23, 2025, in Austell, Ga. At his death, he was a member of the Douglasville church in Douglasville, Ga. He graduated

**Sunset Calendar**

Eastern Standard Time\*

	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26
Bangor, ME	4:14	4:06	4:00	3:56	3:54	3:54	3:56	4:00
Portland, ME	4:22	4:15	4:09	4:05	4:04	4:04	4:06	4:10
Boston, MA	4:29	4:22	4:16	4:13	4:11	4:12	4:14	4:18
South Lancaster, MA	4:31	4:42	4:18	4:15	4:13	4:14	4:16	4:20
Pittsfield, MA	4:37	4:30	4:25	4:21	4:20	4:20	4:22	4:26
Hartford, CT	4:36	4:29	4:24	4:21	4:19	4:20	4:22	4:26
Providence, RI	4:31	4:24	4:19	4:16	4:14	4:15	4:17	4:21
New York, NY	4:44	4:37	4:32	4:29	4:28	4:29	4:31	4:35
Albany, NY	4:38	4:31	4:26	4:23	4:21	4:21	4:24	4:28
Utica, NY	4:43	4:36	4:31	4:27	4:25	4:26	4:28	4:32
Syracuse, NY	4:47	4:40	4:35	4:31	4:29	4:30	4:32	4:36
Rochester, NY	4:53	4:46	4:40	4:36	4:35	4:35	4:37	4:42
Buffalo, NY	4:58	4:51	4:46	4:42	4:41	4:41	4:43	4:47
Keene, NH	4:32	4:25	4:19	4:16	4:14	4:14	4:17	4:21
Manchester, NH	4:28	4:21	4:16	4:12	4:11	4:11	4:13	4:17
Portsmouth, NH	4:26	4:18	4:13	4:09	4:08	4:08	4:10	4:14
Brattleboro, VT	4:33	4:26	4:21	4:17	4:15	4:16	4:18	4:22
Burlington, VT	4:32	4:25	4:19	4:15	4:13	4:13	4:15	4:19
Rutland, VT	4:33	4:26	4:20	4:16	4:15	4:15	4:17	4:21
Hamilton, Bda	5:23	5:18	5:15	5:13	5:13	5:15	5:17	5:21

from Union Springs Academy in 1972. He is survived by his wife, Jememah Olario Doane of Douglasville, Ga.; a son, Ronald J. Doane of Canton, Ga.; a daughter, Rachael Doane Olteanu of Hoschton, Ga.; two brothers, Jay Doane of N. Tonawanda, N.Y., and David Doane of Tonawanda, N.Y.; two sisters, Joyce Wilson of Lockport, N.Y., and Kim Miller of Tonawanda, N.Y.; and six grandchildren: Eva, Jason, Elijah, and Asher Doane, and Kate and Evan Olteanu.

**HAUSCHILD (COE), Irene Esther**—95; b. March 16, 1930, in Stockton, N.Y.; d. Apr. 6, 2025, in Seward, Neb. She and her husband, Otto Hauschild (deceased), were members of the Southbridge church in Southbridge, Mass., for more than 40 years in the 1950s into the 1990s. She is survived by her sister, Donna Rees, and nine loving nieces and nephews.



*Wishing our readers a happy, healthy, prosperous season!*

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

Established January 1, 1902

Atlantic Union Conference  
400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523-2804  
Phone (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948  
Website: atlantic-union.org  
GLEANER Website: atlanticuniongleaner.org

Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff  
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