

ATLANTIC UNION

GLEANER

MAY/JUNE 2026

A

SMART TOOLS, SACRED WORK

Navigating AI in Ministry

BERMUDA INSTITUTE SCIENCE
FAIR CELEBRATES INNOVATION

MIRACLES OF GRACE AT
BRONX'S SPANISH CHURCH

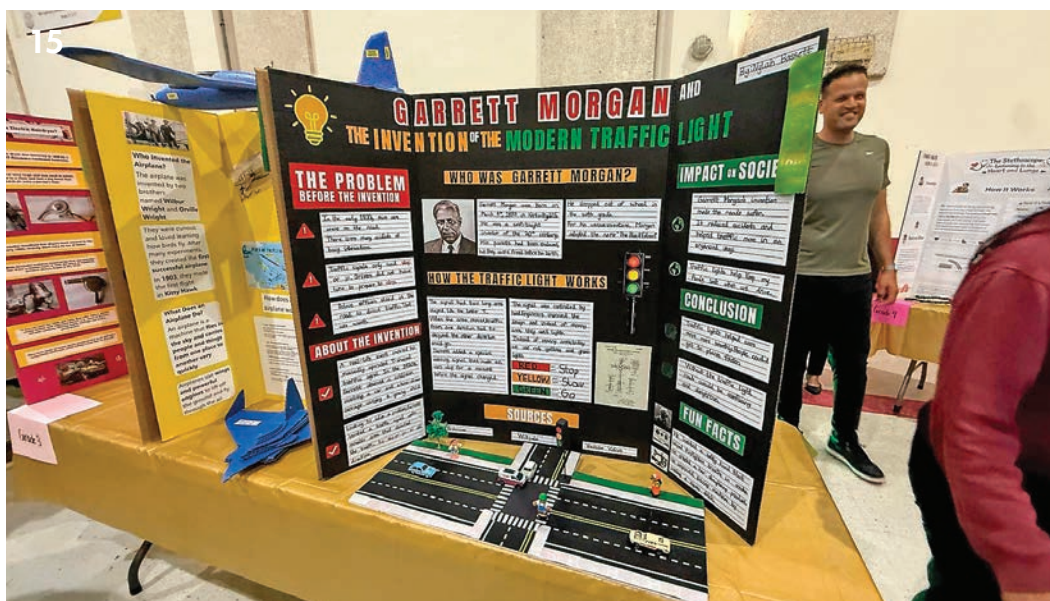
MUSIC CLINIC FILLS AIR
WITH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

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May/June 2026, Vol. 125, No. 3. 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 Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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Cover



Sign up for the
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inbox.



*"...AI can be
utilized in many
ways without
compromising
biblical principles."
— p. 7*

View the GLEANER
online with your
smartphone or tablet.



Not By Might... Even With AI

I'll tell you a secret: I didn't set out to learn AI; it was something I felt I needed to understand just to keep up.

I've been writing and working in publishing for more than 30 years. Long before AI chatbots came along, my work has centered on communicating in ways that feel personal and meaningful. I believe God has given me this spiritual gift, and I've spent decades honing and shaping those skills. And like many in ministry, I wear several hats—writing, editing, planning, and coordinating the many moving parts that bring each issue of the GLEANER to life. In that rhythm of responsibility, I've had to find ways to work smarter, not just harder.

At the urging of my young adult children—who were concerned about my work-life balance—I cautiously stepped into the "AI waters." What began as curiosity has become a practical learning experience. Along the way, I've discovered something important: When used thoughtfully, AI doesn't replace the work I do; it helps me do it with greater focus, efficiency, and purpose.

Recently, as I was praying about the direction for the May/June GLEANER issue, the cover story I had carefully planned unexpectedly fell apart. In that moment of uncertainty, I did what I've learned to do over the years—I prayed and asked the Lord for guidance. Later that week, through a providential encounter, I felt impressed to focus on the convergence of AI and ministry, and how we can use it responsibly.

With that conviction in mind, I began my usual process of researching, outlining, and organizing ideas. Without the benefit of a colleague sitting across the desk to talk things through, I've found a helpful support in what I've come to call my virtual assistant, "Vera." Since stepping into my role as GLEANER editor, I've used Vera (aka ChatGPT) to help organize my thoughts, refine concepts, create structure, and even challenge my ideas. But I do so carefully and prayerfully, always seeking the Lord for wisdom and discernment.

As my use of AI continues to grow, one thing remains clear: Artificial intelligence is not the source of my direction—and it never will be. It is simply a tool. And while you could use a hammer to build an entire house, the work becomes far more effective when you use the right tools for the right tasks. In the same way, when we place the tools available to us in God's hands—and practice Spirit-led stewardship—they can help us carry out His work more effectively.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6, KJV).

In the end, it is not the tools we rely on that will make our ministry meaningful, but the Spirit who leads us.

—Debra Banks Cuadro is the communication director and GLEANER editor. As with each issue, "Vera" assisted with critiquing and line editing this editorial.



*I cautiously
stepped
into the
"AI waters."*

Atlantic Union Leaders Strengthen Ties Through In-Person Conference Visits

Atlantic Union Conference leaders are strengthening relationships and aligning ministry priorities through visits to local conference headquarters across the region, highlighting a shared commitment to evangelism and collaboration.

At the time of printing, administrators, vice presidents, and department directors had visited the administrative offices for the New York, Northern New England, Southern New England, and Northeastern conferences. Additional visits are planned for later this spring. This initiative aims to foster direct engagement between union leadership and conference administrators and staff while advancing the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the territory.

“The union is here primarily to serve the local conferences,” said Abraham J. Jules, president of the Atlantic Union Conference. “The mission of the union should be the mission of the local church—to make disciples. If we lose that, we’ve lost everything.”

“Each conference has welcomed us with open arms,” said David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference secretary and assistant to the president. “It has been a wonderful time of fellowship and camaraderie for all our ministry and department leaders.” McKenzie introduced members of the union team at each site. For some attendees, it marked their first visit to these conference offices.

Throughout each visit, leaders exchanged ideas and explored opportunities for collaboration on shared goals. Discussions focused on strengthening ministry efforts and aligning strategic priorities across the region as Atlantic Union leaders shared a copy of the Union’s official strategic plan for 2025—2030 with their conference counterpart. Time



Administrators, directors, and staff from the Atlantic Union and Southern New England conferences pose for group photo.

also included moments of fellowship through shared meals and gift exchanges to commemorate the visits.

While strategic planning remained a priority, many participants noted the value of in-person interactions. For union staff who typically communicate with conference employees by phone or email, these visits provided a chance to establish stronger personal connections. Meeting administrative and support staff face-to-face enriched existing professional relationships, enhancing communication moving forward.

“These gatherings are about more than just meetings,” Jules said. “They are about strengthening relationships and working together to fulfill God’s work in these last days of Earth’s history.”

The Atlantic Union Conference comprises six conferences: Bermuda, Greater New York, New York, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England. As visits continue, union leaders aim to reinforce a unified vision for ministry while supporting local conferences in their efforts to share the message of Jesus’ impending return.



Abraham J. Jules, right, Atlantic Union Conference president, proudly wears the matching sweatshirt gifted by Gary Blanchard, Northern New England Conference president, during Jules’ visit.

Jules emphasized the union’s commitment by highlighting a financial investment in evangelism, noting that more than \$2 million was distributed last year to support local church initiatives.

“Two million dollars is a significant investment, but we believe in the mission of the church,” he said. “The day the church loses its focus and stops winning souls and being a witness is the day we become a country club instead of a church.”

As the tour continues, leaders maintain a clear goal: to support, strengthen, and partner with local conferences in fulfilling the church’s mission across the Atlantic Union territory.

View additional pictures in the photo album on the Atlantic Union Conference Facebook page @ AtlanticUnionConference.

Virtual School of Evangelism Draws Global Audience, Equips Lay Members for Mission

The Atlantic Union Conference's 2026 Virtual School of Evangelism opened Feb. 1 with strong participation and concluded Feb. 22 after four consecutive Sundays of training focused on practical, mission-driven outreach.

More than 2,200 participants registered for the series, which featured presenters from across the North American Division and General Conference.

small-group ministry, and strategies for building healthy, growing churches.

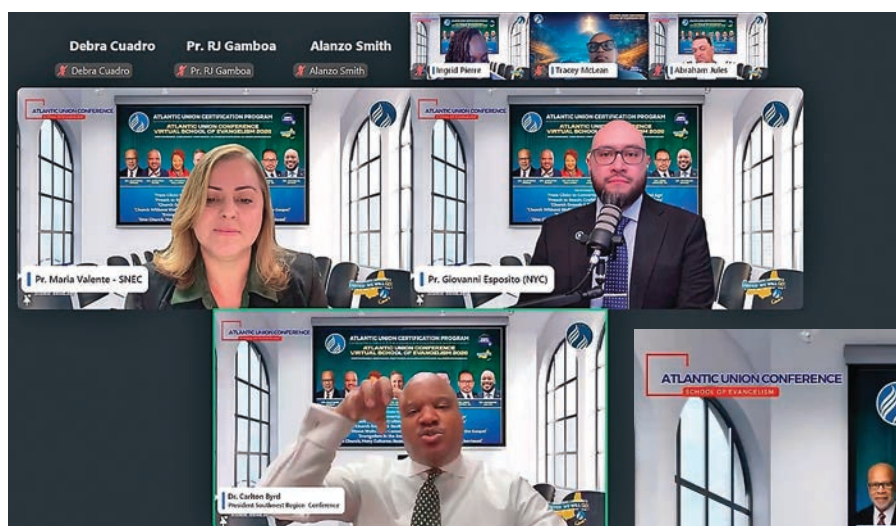
Seminars were offered in English, French, and Spanish, expanding accessibility and allowing participants to earn certification while gaining practical resources for ministry.

"We are extremely grateful for each of our presenters who graciously shared

Byrd, Southwest Region Conference president; Richie Halversen, Southern Union Conference director for church growth and revitalization; Clifford Jones, retired conference president and dean of theology; Hyveth Williams, Andrews University professor of homiletics and director of the Doctor of Ministry program; and Daniel Ebenezer, General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director.

"Our goal is simple: Equip every member within the Atlantic Union with the ministry tools to reach the diverse communities across the northeast United States and beyond with culturally relevant evangelism," said McKenzie.

Visit aucevangelism.org to watch the seminar recordings.



Maria Valente and Gio Esposito, host pastors for the day, moderate a Q&A segment with guest presenter, Carlton Byrd, Southwest Region Conference president.

Driven by a shared commitment to equip lay members for ministry, Atlantic Union Conference President Abraham J. Jules collaborated with David McKenzie, Atlantic Union executive secretary and assistant to the president for evangelism, to deliver weekly webinars centered on evangelism, church growth, and effective witnessing. Each session emphasized practical tools participants could apply in their local church and community.

Attendees from across the Atlantic Union and beyond engaged topics such as evangelism in a post-Christian context, sermon development, digital outreach,

their knowledge, experience, and passion for soul winning," McKenzie reflected.

Presenters, in order of appearance, included Marquis Johns, educator and evangelist; José Cortés Jr., North American Division associate director for evangelism; R. J. Gamboa, coordinator for the General Conference Sidewalk Evangelism initiative; Carlton



Abraham J. Jules, Atlantic Union Conference president, thanks the presenters for sharing their time and expertise.

Artificial Intelligence and Its Use in the Church

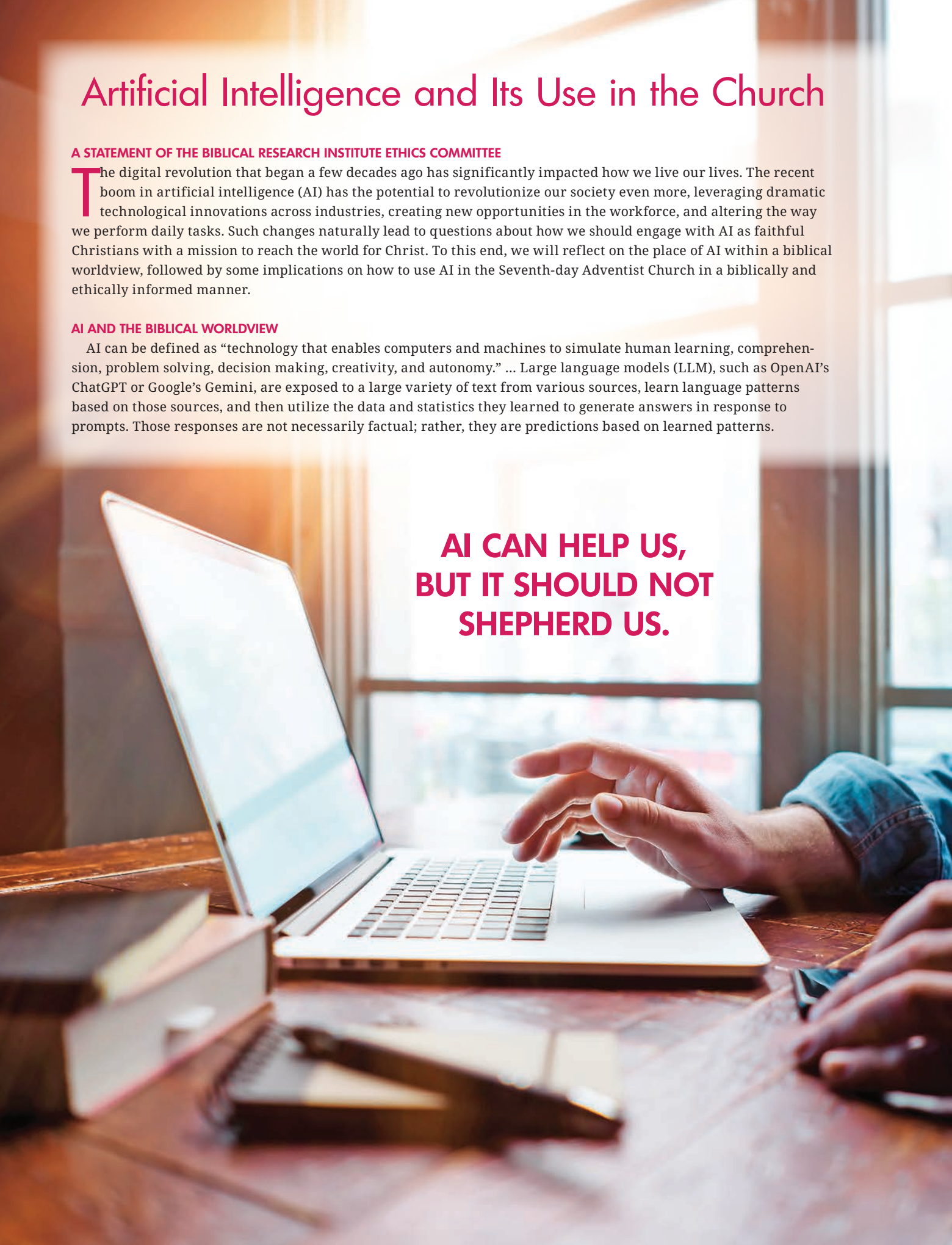
A STATEMENT OF THE BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The digital revolution that began a few decades ago has significantly impacted how we live our lives. The recent boom in artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize our society even more, leveraging dramatic technological innovations across industries, creating new opportunities in the workforce, and altering the way we perform daily tasks. Such changes naturally lead to questions about how we should engage with AI as faithful Christians with a mission to reach the world for Christ. To this end, we will reflect on the place of AI within a biblical worldview, followed by some implications on how to use AI in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a biblically and ethically informed manner.

AI AND THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

AI can be defined as “technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity, and autonomy.” ... Large language models (LLM), such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT or Google’s Gemini, are exposed to a large variety of text from various sources, learn language patterns based on those sources, and then utilize the data and statistics they learned to generate answers in response to prompts. Those responses are not necessarily factual; rather, they are predictions based on learned patterns.

**AI CAN HELP US,
BUT IT SHOULD NOT
SHEPHERD US.**



In other words, generative AI is data-driven and algorithmic... Because AI works purely based on statistical patterns, it does not “think” or “know” things the way humans do. ... it is not imbued with personhood, moral agency, or responsibility, nor does it have opinions, feelings, awareness, or a conscience. Instead, its outputs are determined and limited by algorithms and inputs of its human programmers...

Creativity and resourcefulness are important characteristics of how God made us as human beings created in His image... AI is the latest example of how humans have made use of these essential characteristics... But similar to other technologies, AI can be used either in positive or in harmful ways. In this sense, it is not necessarily AI in and of itself that is problematic, but how fallible and sinful human beings program and operate it.

Similarly, in utilizing AI, we must maintain realistic expectations regarding what it can and cannot achieve. Although technology can contribute much to the improvement of society, Christians recognize that only through divine intervention can sin, evil, and death ultimately be overcome... our hope is found not in technological progress but in Christ and in His death and resurrection... AI is incapable of solving humanity's deeper problems of evil, sin, and death. Only Christ can address the evil within the human heart that leads individuals to misuse technology for harmful ends.

IMPLICATIONS ON HOW TO APPROACH AI

As a powerful tool that can support human reasoning, decision-making, and work processes in various fields, AI can be utilized in many ways without compromising biblical principles. It can be especially useful when it is used for the glory of God and the furtherance of the mission of the church, when it supports human flourishing and promotes love for one's neighbor. Examples of such uses include AI tools that help pastors, scholars, and Bible students engage with Scripture more deeply, translation tools for books, sermons, and other media, tools to help in administrative bookkeeping and financial records, analysis of church

attendance or member engagement data, and accessible technologies that promote inclusion for people with disabilities.

At the same time, it is not a “neutral” tool in that it is developed and programmed by fallible humans... values promoted by such companies might not always align with—and at times might even be contrary to—the beliefs and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church...

Similarly... its results are not always failproof... it is the user's responsibility to verify information. It is not only our responsibility as users, but also our moral duty as believers to carefully check sources and verify information to ensure that we are not blindly believing things nor contributing to the propagation of falsehood, misinformation, or misleading statements... As Christians, we have a moral and spiritual responsibility to be

**It is only through
the work of the
Spirit that the
depths of Scripture
can be grasped.**

firmly committed to the truth...

Additionally, we should be wary of outsourcing our own research skills and critical thinking to AI, especially when it comes to studying the Word of God... as Christians we are called to engage our mind... God expects from us reasonable, “rational” worship... it is our responsibility with the help of the Holy Spirit... to think, analyze, and discern “what is the good and well-pleasing and perfect will of God” [Rom. 12:2]... While this does not preclude the use of AI to facilitate research and analyses, AI should not be relied on to do all the critical work...

The same also applies to the responsibility of church leaders, pastors, and teachers... While AI may be used as a supporting tool, teachers of Scripture are personally accountable for the faithful transmission of the gospel... it is important to remem-

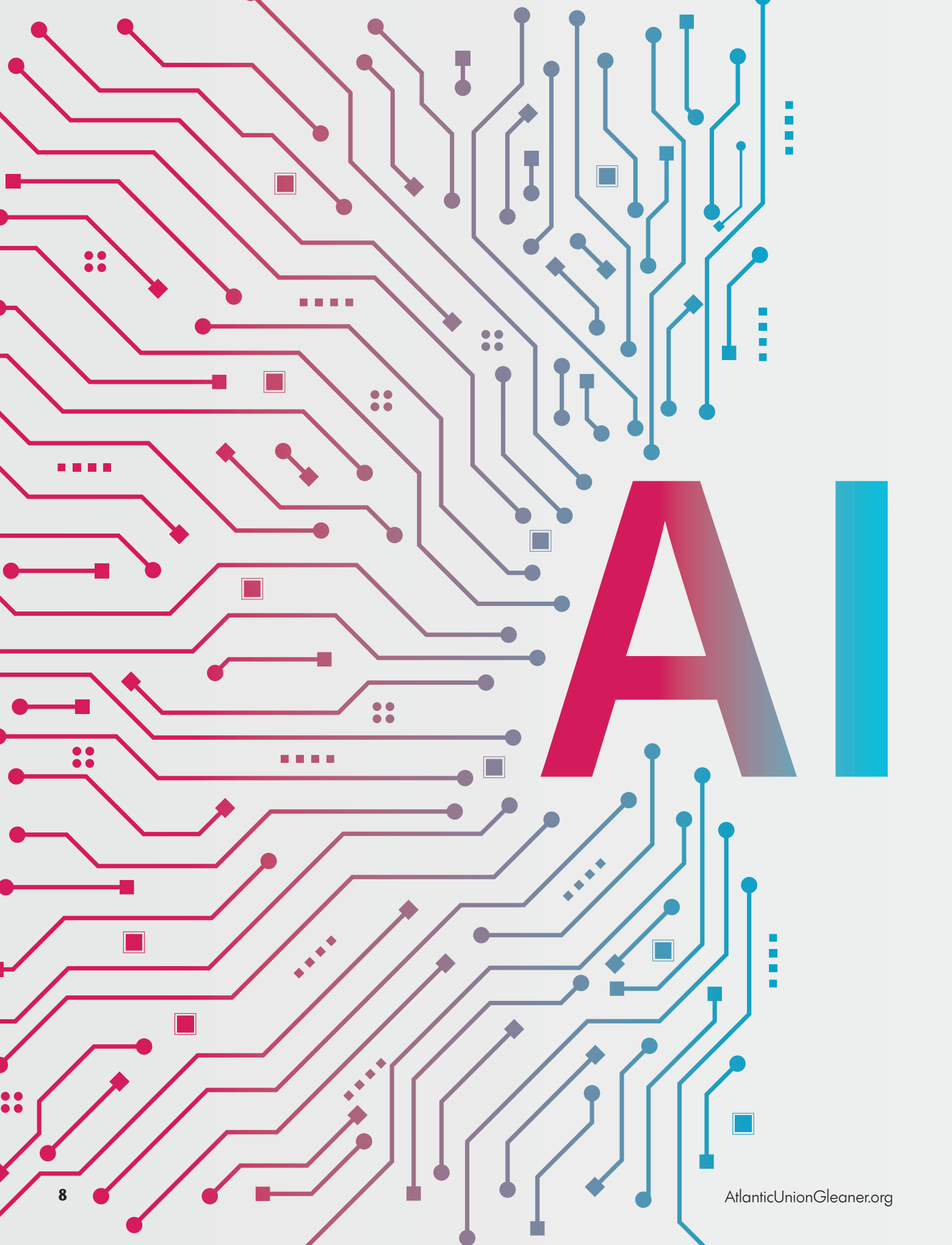
ber that the interpretation and teaching of Scripture are not exact sciences... it is only through the work of the Spirit that the depths of Scripture can be grasped... The Holy Spirit speaks to human minds and hearts... not through AI. No matter how doctrinally or exegetically accurate AI-generated Bible studies or sermons may be, they cannot replace the transforming power of a personal, Spirit-led engagement with the text... For these reasons, we do not recommend that pastors and church elders rely on AI for the preparation of sermons, that teachers depend on AI in preparing class material, or that AI... be used as the primary resource... AI can help us, but should not shepherd us.

Finally, we must remember AI's proper place within the created order... it is nothing more than a human creation... it should not be elevated to the human level nor should it replace embodied presence... it should not replace personal presence, relationships, or interactions, especially when it comes to pastoral and spiritual care, counseling, mentorship, or worship.

Neither should AI be elevated to a god-like status... we do not need to be afraid because ultimately God is the King of the universe and He is guiding the course of history according to His purposes... As with many other tools and technologies, we can utilize AI from within an ethical biblical framework, so that we may continue to be faithful to God and true to the mission He has entrusted to us. While the world around us and how we engage with it may change, God's Word, its enduring principles, and our mission to preach the gospel remain the same.

—Excerpt used with permission by the Biblical Research Institute. Established by the General Conference Committee in 1975, the BRI consists of several Adventist theologians and is the official theological research arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Visit adventistbiblicalresearch.org/articles, or scan the QR code to read the above article in its entirety.





A



SMART TOOLS, SACRED WORK

Navigating AI in Ministry

Technology has always shaped how God's people carry out its mission to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. The invention of the printing press helped disseminate the pages of Scripture and other truth-filled literature to people hungry for God's Word during the Dark Ages. Ellen G. White saw the printing press of her day as "a powerful means to move the minds and hearts of the people." She added, "God has placed at the command of His people advantages in the press, which, combined with other agencies, will be successful in extending the knowledge of the truth" (EVANGELISM, pp. 160, 161). Within the Adventist Church, television and radio ministries took evangelism to new heights, spreading the three angels' messages across the airwaves. The emergence of the Internet has amplified these methods, making global ministry possible overnight, opening opportunities to truly reach every kindred, nation, tongue, and people.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is simply the newest tool in that long line of emerging technology and innovation. The real question for church leaders and members is always about stewardship. In Scripture, the steward's responsibility is faithful management of something valuable. AI use in ministry is a stewardship issue rather than a technology debate.

In 2023 as ChatGPT was gaining traction, a survey showed that "43 percent of church leaders said they were uncomfortable with the idea of using AI in church settings, and more than half voiced concern about the ethical and moral

implications of these tools." By 2025, nearly 90 percent of faith leaders "now say they support using AI in some form of ministry" as indicated in a survey conducted by Exponential and ChurchTechToday.com. ("Is AI Harming or Helping Faith Communities?"; *Deseret News*, Oct. 25, 2025)

The challenge today is how ministry leaders, pastors, teachers, and members can use AI faithfully, with prayerful discernment, to balance utilizing this technology while still maintaining the essence of faith and Adventist identity.

AI may change how we do ministry, but it will never replace *why* we do ministry.

Navigating AI in ministry requires both discernment and experience. Following are two complementary perspectives to the conversation. **Raciel Hernández** pastors two New Hampshire churches in the Northern New England Conference (Nashua and Portsmouth). Using his dual degree in computers and technology, he enjoys discovering ways to merge technology with ministry. **Stephen L. Williams**, a former pastor in the Northeastern Conference, is currently the lead chaplain for Kettering Hospital-Hamilton in Hamilton, Ohio. Williams has researched and tested emerging technologies in ministry for decades and is a frequent presenter on the subject in the Atlantic Union and North American Division.

Their voices help frame a simple but essential question: What should the church do—and what should it avoid—as it seeks to use AI faithfully? The following insights highlight both.



DO use AI to reclaim time for real ministry **DON'T** let AI replace actual human presence

Generative AI serves as a powerful tool for project and time management, planning, and creativity, thereby saving time and enabling broader and more engaging personal outreach. With its predictive analytic capabilities, many Adventist ministries are already utilizing it to automate common tasks, even delegating some tasks to AI. Used strategically, AI significantly reduces hours spent on research or administrative tasks, allowing pastors and ministries time to focus on community engagement and building human connections.

As a pastor for two churches, Hernández appreciates the time savings that AI brings with important tasks such as creating PowerPoint materials to accompany his sermons—something especially appreciated by visual learners in the congregation. “That’s the reason I can visit my church members during the week. [I have] more time to engage with the community, to let them know there is a pastor here in the area.” He is able to get more done in the same 24-hour period and avoid ministry burnout. “I have AI working for me,” he added.



DO use AI to assist your work—not to replace your calling **DON'T** preach what you haven't studied

With the right prompts, an AI chatbot can help generate ideas, edit, and streamline material, manage your calendar, and even produce a solid sermon or Bible study outline that can save a significant amount of time in your research processes. However, there is no substitute for personal study in God’s Word. Plus, AI cannot replace the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and your personal testimony and experience. Hernández warned, “AI is strictly an administrative and creative tool... it supports, but never overshadows the Bible.” Utilizing due diligence is absolutely necessary.

LLMs are not foolproof, so take time to carefully verify the information to ensure it lines up with Adventist theology, and double-check when requesting direct quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy, as it has been known to misquote or paraphrase sections. Also, check that the received output is not plagiarized. Bottom line: being “lazy” about your preparation is not an option when using AI Hernández emphasized, “There are a lot of people who say, ‘AI created a sermon for me’... and then they end up preaching something really crazy.”

Joseph P. Duchesne, Adventist pastor and founder of “Church AI Guy”—a website dedicated to helping Christian leaders navigate the ethical challenges around AI, wrote, “LLMs are a tool you can use along with commentaries, Bible dictionaries, atlases, topical studies and the like. Do not use them exclusively and believe you are getting a finished result” (“AI Sermon Case Study: Should You be Using an LLM to Write Your Sermons?; www.churchaiguy.com).

DO use AI to think strategically about evangelism **DON'T** rely on outdated outreach models

AI “is a marketing genius... a demographic genius,” said Williams. Utilizing strategic prompts, AI can cull large amounts of information from expert marketing, psychology, and sociology articles and studies to narrow down best practices for strategic planning. This can transform evangelism by identifying target demographics, suggesting relevant topics, and improving marketing strategies. “If I was to feed the demographics of my church into the AI model and tell it what I want to do in my community, it will start structuring the program right away to tell me how to plan over the next four or five years,” Williams explained.

Williams shared an experience with asking AI to rearrange his sermon PowerPoint slides for the most audience impact. The result was shocking. “I barely got the appeal out of my mouth,” Williams exclaimed. “When I made the appeal, the people got up and almost ran up there.”

AI Terms to Know

SIMPLE DEFINITIONS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Technology that allows computers to perform tasks that normally require human thinking—like recognizing faces, understanding speech, or making decisions.

Generative AI: A type of AI that creates new content—text, images, audio, video, or code—rather than just analyzing existing data. Think of it as AI that can produce something from scratch based on what it has learned.

Large Language Models (LLMs): The engine behind most modern AI chatbots. These are powerful AI systems trained on massive amounts of text that allow them to understand and generate human language. ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini are all built on LLMs.

Prompt: The instruction, question, or request you provide to AI. The quality of your prompt directly shapes the quality of the response you receive—the clearer you are, the better the result.

Output: The response or content AI produces after receiving your prompt. This could be text, an

image, a summary, a piece of code, or anything else AI generates.

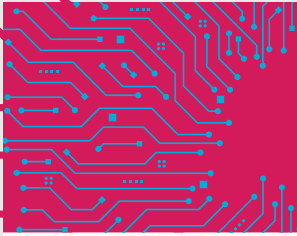
Chatbot: A computer program designed to simulate conversation with a human, such as Claude or ChatGPT, that can write, explain, analyze, and reason. It can do much more than just answer simple questions.

AI Model: The underlying system that has been trained to perform a specific task. Think of it like a brain that has studied enormous amounts of data and learned patterns from it. Different models are built for different purposes (writing, image creation, coding, etc.).

Hallucination: When AI confidently states something that is factually incorrect or completely made up.

Context Window: The amount of text AI can “see” and remember at one time during a conversation. Once a conversation exceeds this limit, AI may begin to “forget” earlier parts of your chat.

Definitions provided by Claude.ai with some human editing.



DON'T lose your voice or integrity
DO be transparent and authentic

AI is here to stay, and is already a part of many things we use. LLMs such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude can generate useful material in a matter of minutes. Williams cautions about ethical considerations and being mindful of acknowledging AI's inherent biases (since it generates from human programming), possible security risks, and limiting AI's access to sensitive information. "You have to know where you're going so that you can direct AI where to go. ... Give it direction; don't give it freedom."

Transparency is also important. If you ask ChatGPT for information on a topic that you are incorporating into a sermon or presentation, acknowledge it. "I'm transparent as to where I am drawing the information from," said Williams. "You can't just present it as if it's your idea." He prefers to allow his individuality and personal connection with God to shine through, even with the use of AI. "Just like if I got it from a book, and I read it and delivered it—it's the same thing. [To me,] AI is just like another book—another computer that gives data, but gives it faster and better. But when I deliver it, I want it to be my delivery, not AI's delivery."



DON'T forget what only church can provide
DO protect the human, spiritual core of ministry

AI may assist with information delivery and content generation, but it cannot replace love, presence, and community. "What people need are communities of believers who love like Jesus, and live like Jesus. ... That's our saving grace, because that cannot be replaced," Williams explained. "As a chaplain, I go into these hospital rooms and the main thing I hear is 'I can't find a church,' or 'I go to a church, but I just don't feel comfortable there,'" Williams said. Technology can help deliver well-researched content creatively and to large numbers of people, but the most important thing for people is finding community. "People need community. That's what the church has to be. Once you have that, you attract people... That cannot be replaced."

—Debra Banks Cuadro is the Atlantic Union Conference communication director and GLEANER editor. She used ChatGPT, Claude.ai, Gemini.ai, and much prayer to brainstorm and organize this cover feature.

AI Toolkit for Ministry

Tested Tools to help you study, create, and lead more effectively

STUDY & RESEARCH TOOLS

AdventAI | adventai.app

Grounded, verifiable biblical research

- Explore Bible passages with Adventist theological context
- Access Ellen G. White references with citations
- Generate research with verifiable sources

Cost: Free + Paid Tiers

NotebookLM | notebooklm.google

Turn your notes into insights

- Upload sermons as a PDF, or YouTube links
- Generate summaries, study guides, and teaching materials
- Create mind maps, quizzes, and even audio discussions

Cost: Free + Paid Tiers

Phototheology | www.phototheologybible.com

Visual Bible study for deeper engagement

- Explore Scripture through images and visual storytelling with Adventist theological context
- Enhance Bible studies with interactive, visual tools
- Engage younger or visual learners

Cost: Free (optional features available with subscription)

CONTENT & COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Gamma | gamma.app

From sermon to slides in minutes

- Convert sermon outlines into polished presentations
- Create modern visuals quickly
- Reduce prep time significantly

Cost: Free + Paid Tiers

Reve AI | app.reve.com

Create powerful, precise visual metaphors

- Generate sermon illustrations
- Create visuals for social media or slides
- Build engaging storytelling imagery

Cost: Free + Paid Tiers

Canva | canva.com

Create visuals with ease

- Design flyers and social media graphics
- Generate images and layouts using AI tools
- Create short videos or presentations

Cost: Free + Paid Tiers

ORGANIZATION & PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS*

** Use discretion when recording or transcribing conversations. Avoid using AI tools in settings where confidential or sensitive information is being shared unless proper consent and safeguards are in place.*

HiDock | hidock.com

Your AI assistant for meetings

- Record and transcribe meetings in real time
- Identify action items and decisions
- Improve team coordination

Cost: Prices vary

Microsoft Copilot | copilot.microsoft.com

AI built into your everyday tools

- Draft emails, reports, and meeting notes
- Summarize documents and organize information
- Assist with planning and scheduling

Cost: Included in some Microsoft 365 Plans; Pro: \$10+/month

Otter.ai | otter.ai

Capture every word automatically

- Record and transcribe meetings, sermons, or interviews
- Generate summaries and action items
- Keep accurate ministry records

Cost: Free + Paid Tiers

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.churchaiguy.com

Advent AI Lab (Facebook group)

Special thanks to Pastor Raciél Hernández for sharing some of his favorite AI tools to create this list.

Bermuda Conference Begins the Year With Evangelism Emphasis

The Bermuda Conference is setting a clear evangelistic vision for 2026—equipping members to share Christ through intentional relationships, daily witness, and a deeper understanding of His Word. Beginning in January, this focus was evident during a weekend of training for church officers, where lay leaders gathered at the Hamilton church alongside

with individuals before promoting the gospel, being relatable, and drawing others to Christ as others observe our actions.

Attendees also benefited from a presentation by Wesley Peppers, evangelism director for “It Is Written.” Peppers spoke on “Everyday Evangelism” and reminded the participants that their everyday interactions and how they carry themselves

and everyday evangelism, the Bermuda Conference continued its mission later that month with an event designed to deepen members’ biblical understanding and urgency for soul-winning.

Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries leaders hosted a week of spiritual emphasis at the Hamilton church with Norman McNulty, MD. He is a

and encouragement. He reiterated the urgency of the current times and encouraged renewed interest in Bible study and in understanding the prophecies found in Daniel and Revelation. “There are people in our communities, if given the information that we have, they would join our church because of our end-time messages,” McNulty said. “Our messages should not be messages of fear, but messages of hope in a hopeless world.”

He added, “Through a greater understanding of Daniel and Revelation, and an understanding of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, individuals will be moved to depopulate the world of Satan and populate the world of Christ. We must continue to stay diligent and take advantage of the opportunities that Christ provides to us to win souls for heaven.”

The Bermuda Conference remains committed to preparing its members to receive the outpouring of Holy Spirit and be empowered to do this important work. The call remains clear: Jesus is coming soon and all should seize every opportunity to share this message of hope to a dying world.

—Michael Simmons,
communication director, Bermuda Conference



presenters and ministry leaders from across the North American Division.

David Klinedinst, director of evangelism and church growth for the Chesapeake Conference, led the members through the “Principles of Personal Evangelism,” providing valuable evangelism keys. The principles focused on making personal connections

can be a positive testimony for Jesus Christ. He emphasized that actions should be intentional, but only after reconnecting with Christ each day. Attendees were encouraged to keep Christ first in their lives and allow the Holy Spirit to work through them as they actively seek to win souls for the kingdom.

Building on this foundation of personal

board-certified neurologist practicing in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, who enjoys studying and speaking about prophecy.

Meeting people where they are and looking for ways to lead them to Christ was the theme for the week. McNulty emphasized the importance of this method and preparing people for the last days’ events through sharing messages of hope

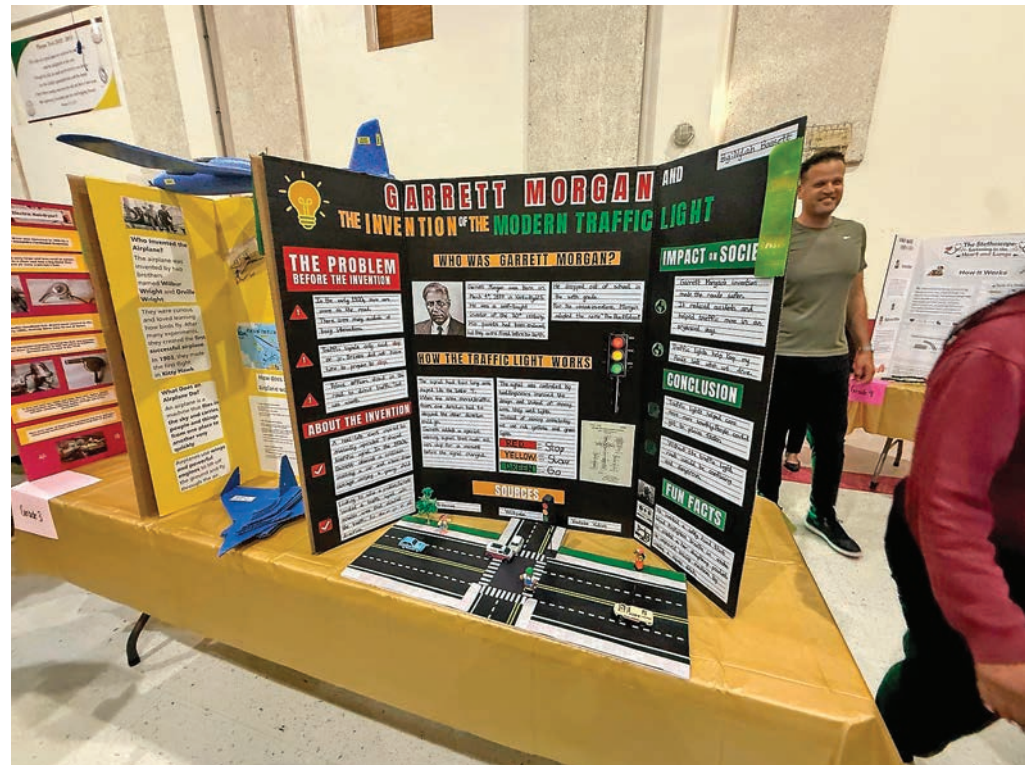
Bermuda Institute's Science Fair Celebrates Innovation, Excellence, and Faith in Learning

The Bermuda Institute's Science Department successfully hosted its Science Fair from March 11–13, culminating in an inspiring Community Showcase that highlighted students' creativity, innovation, and academic excellence from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Centered on the theme "Inventions through the Years—19th & 20th Century Showcase," this year's Science Fair challenged students to explore the inventions and inventors who have shaped modern society. Through careful research, model construction, and presentation, students demonstrated not only their scientific understanding but also their ability to connect historical discoveries to present-day life.

The event was well-attended by family members, friends, community organizations, and representatives from other schools, all of whom came to support and celebrate the achievements of Bermuda Institute students. The presence of distinguished guests, including the Honorable Crystal Caesar, JP, Minister of Education, and the Honorable Zane DeSilva, JP, MP, Deputy Premier of Bermuda and Minister of Housing, added significance to the occasion and underscored the importance of science education within the wider community.

The official opening of the Science Fair was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, conducted jointly by the



Minister of Education and the Deputy Premier. In her remarks, Caesar commended the students for their hard work, creativity, and dedication. She encouraged them to continue striving for excellence, reminding them that the skills they are developing today will prepare them to become future leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers.

Throughout the evening, attendees had the opportunity to tour the exhibition space, which had been transformed into a vibrant showcase of student learning. Projects ranged from detailed tri-fold presentations to interactive models that demonstrated the scientific principles behind inventions such as the modern bicycle, early communication devices,

medical tools like the stethoscope, and mechanical systems such as elevators and heating devices.

Students confidently engaged with visitors, including the local media, explaining their projects, answering questions, and demonstrating how their models worked. These interactions reflected not only their knowledge but also their growth in communication and critical thinking skills.

Since its inception, Bermuda Institute's Science Fair has served as a meaningful avenue for integrating faith and learning by encouraging students to explore God's creation through scientific inquiry. This year's event continued that tradition, reminding all in attendance

of the value of Adventist Christian education that nurtures both the mind and character.

As the evening concluded, there was a shared sense of pride and inspiration, with many looking forward to future opportunities to continue fostering innovation and academic excellence at Bermuda Institute.

—Joan Goulbourne, instructor and science department chairperson, Bermuda Institute

Miracles of Grace at the Bronx's Spanish Prospect Church

The Spanish Prospect church in Bronx, New York, experienced a deeply inspiring time of evangelism during a recent week of prayer, led by Omar Grieve, director and speaker for La Voz de la Esperanza, and his wife, Nussy Pittau Grieve, associate director. It was a spiritual journey marked by the evident presence of God and the power of the gospel, as 13 individuals gave their lives to Jesus through baptism. Beyond the numbers, the most meaningful aspect was the way God worked providentially, touching hearts and confirming His call at just the right moment.

TWO EXTRAORDINARY BAPTISMS ON CONSECUTIVE SABBATHS

During this evangelistic series, the church witnessed two especially meaningful experiences on consecutive Sabbaths—the opening Sabbath of the campaign and the final Sabbath that concluded the meetings.



Fernando Castro, Spanish Prospect church senior pastor, front, and Omar Grieve, director and speaker for La Voz de la Esperanza, prepare to baptize additional people.



Omar Grieve, director and speaker for La Voz de la Esperanza, enthusiastically preaches during the week of prayer.

OPENING SABBATH: A CALL THAT COULD NOT BE RESISTED

On the first Sabbath, a baptism had been planned to follow the worship service. However, the candidate became ill and was unable to attend, making it impossible to proceed at that time. Providentially, that same Sabbath, one of the Bible study candidates attended the service. While listening to the first message preached by Pastor Grieve, she experienced a profound spiritual impression. Later, she shared that as the sermon was being delivered, she felt as though she could hear water filling the baptistery, along with a clear conviction in her heart: “You should be there.”

Although she responded to the initial appeal, she did not request baptism at that moment. After returning home, however, the impression grew even stronger. She felt the Spirit of God continuing to speak to her, confirming that the baptistery was being prepared for her decision. A few hours later, she called to say she

could no longer resist the divine calling and desired to be baptized that same day. With joy, organizers worked quickly to open the baptistery, and one of the most moving moments of the entire week took place.

FINAL SABBATH OF THE SERIES: A CALL AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR

The second extraordinary baptism occurred on the final Sabbath of the evangelistic series. A church attendee who normally worships in person was unable to attend that day. However, while watching the baptisms online, she felt clearly that God was calling her to publicly give her life to Christ that same day. Later that afternoon, under the Holy Spirit's prompting, she called to express her decision.

With joy, the baptistery was reopened, and attendees witnessed God's perfect timing once more. As illustrated in Matthew 20:1-16, even at the eleventh hour, God continues calling people to salvation.

A WEEK THAT CONFIRMS THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

This evangelistic week was marked not only by strong attendance but also by a deeply spiritual atmosphere where the message of Christ was presented with biblical clarity and heartfelt appeal.

The collaboration with La Voz de la Esperanza demonstrated how God continues to use preaching, the local church, and digital media to reach individuals searching for hope. What took place at Spanish Prospect church leaves a clear conviction: When Christ is lifted up, the Holy Spirit continues to work, calling and saving lives.

The meetings have concluded, but their spiritual impact continues. The decisions made throughout the week affirm that heaven remains deeply interested in the salvation of every person and that the church continues to be a living instrument in God's hands.

—Fernando Castro, senior pastor, Spanish Prospect church

A Journey Beyond the Classroom: Whispering Pines Students Visit South Korea

From March 15 to April 5, students from Whispering Pines school were blessed with the opportunity to travel to South Korea for a truly unforgettable language immersion experience. While staying in Seoul, they stepped into a new culture with open hearts, eager minds, and a spirit of curiosity.

A special highlight of the trip was their time at Sahmyook University, where students participated in Korean language classes and connected with university

students. Through shared conversations, laughter, and learning, they formed meaningful friendships that crossed cultural and language barriers. These connections will surely remain with them for years to come.

Each day brought new experiences. Students explored the beauty and history of South Korea through visits to Namsan Seoul Tower, Gyeongbokgung Palace, and Bukchon Hanok Village. They learned the

art of Korean calligraphy, tasted traditional foods, and embraced the rhythms of daily life in a new country. A visit to the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) provided a powerful and reflective moment, deepening their understanding of history and the value of peace.

Most importantly, students carried their faith with them throughout the journey. By participating in worship services and sharing their voices in song, they experienced the beauty

of worshipping alongside believers from another part of the world.

This three-week experience was so much more than learning a new language. It was about growing in empathy, building confidence, and seeing the world through a broader lens. Our students returned home not only with new skills but with full hearts, lasting friendships, and memories that will stay with them for a lifetime.

—Renata Mendon, principal, Whispering Pines school

Young and Generous Hearts Bring Big Impact

Students from the Poughkeepsie Community Christian school came together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Through a school-wide initiative called “Pink Day,” the students successfully raised funds to donate to The Dyson Breast Center at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, demonstrating that even the youngest members of a community can have a profound impact.

During their visit to the medical center, the students raised their voices and serenaded patients and staff with beautiful harmonies.

As part of the awareness for “Pink Day,” students, staff, and parents showed their support by wearing a pink shirt to school. Jeanean Aming, DNP, accepted an invitation to address the students, educating them about the disease and how it impacts life. The students listened attentively and asked several thought-provoking questions at the end of Dr. Aming’s presentation.

At the conclusion of the fundraiser, school administration and staff joined student representatives as they proudly presented their donation to the breast cancer center. For many of the children, it was a touching moment of



Representatives from the Poughkeepsie Community school pose for a photo as they present their donation to The Dyson Breast Center at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

realization—that, together, their small acts of kindness created something truly meaningful.

School leadership reflected on the experience as more than just a fundraiser. It was a lesson in character, reinforcing values such as generosity, empathy, and service. By engaging students in real-world acts of giving, the school helped plant seeds that will continue to grow throughout their lives.

This effort stands as a reminder that making a difference doesn’t require grand gestures—just willing hearts. And in this case, those hearts belonged to a group of elementary students who chose to care, to act, and to give.

—Keisha Moss, principal, Poughkeepsie Community Christian school

Joy of Troy Celebrates Unity and Love Through Community Events

Joy of Troy Community church began the year with two meaningful events that highlighted unity, culture, and Christ-centered love—strengthening both church fellowship and community connections.

On Sabbath, Jan. 17, Joy of Troy hosted International Day, a celebration of unity through diversity.

The day began with a sermon centered on the theme “One Body, Many Cultures,” based on Ephesians 4. The message emphasized that although we share many cultures, we are united as one body in Christ—one Spirit, one Lord.

That spirit of unity carried into the evening, when church and community members gathered for a joyful “tour around the world.” The program featured cultural presentations, inspirational music, and a wide selection of foods and delicacies. Some attendees

wore traditional clothing, adding to the richness of the experience.

The Congo, India, the Philippines, Jamaica, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Canada, and the United States were highlighted that evening and represent just a few of the countries, islands, and territories that make up the Joy of Troy church family.

More than 50 individuals attended the evening event, including eight community guests. Two were first-time visitors who expressed their intention to return the following Sabbath. Events like International Day provide meaningful opportunities to connect with the community and welcome those who may not otherwise attend a church service. The atmosphere reflected a spirit of Pentecost, as fellowship and unity strengthened faith and deepened relationships.

Building on that spirit of fellowship, the church



continued its outreach the following month.

On Sunday, Feb. 15, Men's Ministries hosted its annual Brunch of Love, for the women of the church and members of the community.

More than 40 individuals attended, including 10 community guests. The brunch, prepared by the men, featured a wide selection of vegetarian and vegan options.

This year's program included a musical concert presented by a group of talented young musicians

from the church's orchestra. Throughout the event, participants expressed their love through music and personal testimony. One participant sang an original song he composed for his wife nearly 20 years ago, while Pastor Hugh Langley offered a moving rendition of "O Perfect Love," reflecting on singing the hymn for his wife 24 years earlier.

Love was also expressed in different languages, including a Serbian

rendition of "How Great Thou Art." The program concluded with a selection by the men's choir.

The event was more than a brunch and musical showcase—it served as a reminder of the call to love God wholeheartedly and to love one another. Through events like these, Joy of Troy continues to embrace opportunities to reflect God's love in the community.

—Lorene Harry, newswriter, Joy of Troy



Kingsbury Ministries Thrive in 2025

In 2025, the Kingsbury church's ministries thrived, reflecting a commitment to faith, service, and forming community connections.

The Women's Ministry hosted multiple events throughout the year, including both Mother's Day and Father's Day events, a concert and chili cookoff, a Christmas pancake breakfast, and a cookie exchange. Each event encouraged fellowship while celebrating faith and family. Similarly, the Social Committee organized gatherings such as a church-wide birthday bash, a concert, and an ice cream and pizza social.

Meanwhile, youth ministries remained active. The Adventurers met three times a month to learn Scripture, share Jesus, cultivate kindness, and develop practical life skills. They also visited a local fire department, attended a spring escape in Maine, and joined a campout with another club.

Pathfinders had another busy and rewarding

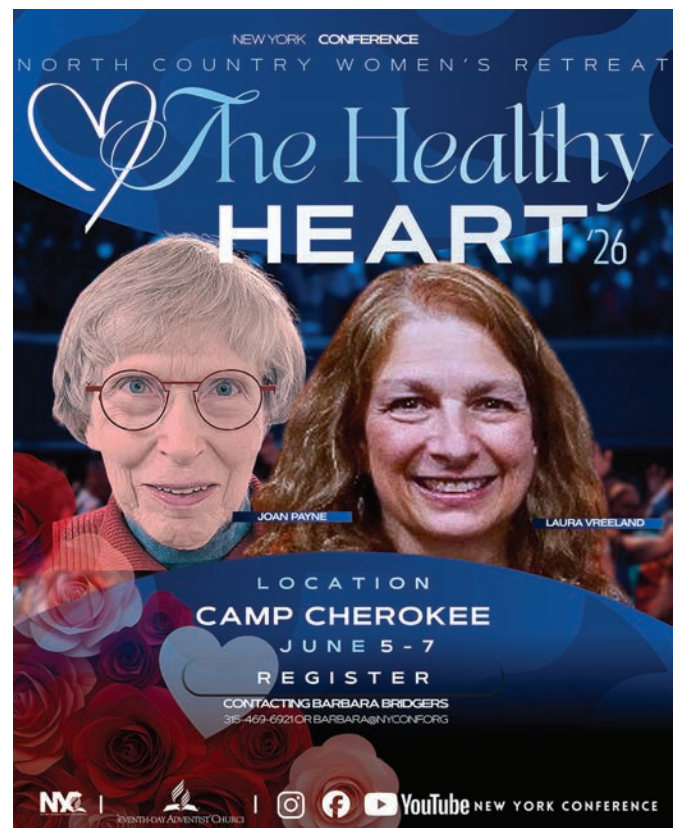
year, participating in the Pathfinder Bible Experience, hosting their annual winter banquet, attending a camporee at the Hiram Edson Farm, and celebrating Derby Day. The ministry thanked staff and youth for their dedication, making 2025 meaningful and successful.

Beyond the church, community outreach was strengthened through the radio ministry, "Your Hometown Christian Radio" 104.9 FM WBLN-LP. In November, Pathfinders joined the South Glens Falls Holiday Parade, themed "Twas the Light Before Christmas," with a large illuminated float representing the station and proclaiming: "Jesus is the light of the world." Banners promoted the station as a PA system played Christmas hymns, while Pathfinders distributed candy canes and tracts identifying the station, church, and school.

Together, these efforts reflect a church actively serving, growing, and engaging both members and community. These tell an

active story of faith lived out through fellowship, service, and shared mission.

—Elizabeth Harrison, communication director, Kingsbury church



Friendly Invitation Results in Baptism

A God-led encounter on an online marketplace paved the way for a life-changing spiritual journey for one family, thanks to the efforts of a community-focused ministry.

While purchasing a vehicle online, John Velazquez struck up a conversation with the seller. The two quickly discovered shared interests and values, forming an immediate connection. Before long, John invited the seller to attend an upcoming event he and his wife, Michelle, were hosting at Hyde Park Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts. The vehicle seller, Jay, and his wife accepted the invitation.

Founded by John and Michelle, “Breathe. Relax. Unwind—Your Mental Health Spa Experience” is a ministry that blends practical mental health and self-care activities with spiritual lessons. The program is designed to address emotional well-being and spiritual growth using the eight laws of health. The event left a



John (far right) and Michelle Velazquez (far left), pose for a group photo with Jay, center, and his family.

lasting impression on the visiting couple. Soon after, they accepted another invitation—this time to attend church services.

On their first Sabbath visit, Jay and his wife attended together. In the weeks that followed, they began bringing their entire family. Since then, they have

continued to attend services regularly and responded to altar calls.

Jay, who had previously identified as a Christian but not as an Adventist, decided to be baptized. His wife, who comes from a Hindu background, has also been attending services. The family’s spiritual journey is ongoing, and church members continue to pray that the entire household will choose to be baptized.

For the Velazquezes, this experience affirms the initiative’s mission. “When we started this ministry, we hoped it would become a way to lead souls to Christ,” Michelle says. “We’re seeing God use it to do exactly that.”

The program combines practical mental wellness, spiritual reflection, and community fellowship—an approach that appears to resonate with people from diverse backgrounds. Over the past two years,

this unique initiative has expanded beyond traditional church settings, reaching neighborhoods and communities that may not be as accessible through typical evangelism methods.

Today, Jay and his family have become active members of both the Hyde Park church congregation and the Mental Health Spa Experience team. They now participate in learning and serving through the same ministry that first brought them through the church doors.

Organizers say this story serves as a reminder that meaningful connections—even those formed during everyday transactions—can open the door to transformation, faith, and community.

—Ministry team, “Breathe. Relax. Unwind—Your Mental Health Spa Experience”



James Yansen, right, Hyde Park church pastor, baptizes Jay.

Northeastern Youth Lead With Compassion

On Saturday, March 21, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists celebrated Global Youth Day 2026 with the inspiring theme, “Communion in Action.” This message challenged youth to step outside church walls and become the hands and feet of Jesus in their local neighborhoods. For the Northeastern Conference (NEC) youth, this initiative turned prayer into purpose through tangible and bold acts of community service, and showed them what faith beyond words truly looks like.

seen and valued by NEC members. In Lawrence, Massachusetts, the Hispanic Federation of New England North distributed literature and goody bags, offering prayers and encouragement to over 50 individuals and 30 local businesses. Meanwhile, in New England South, the AYM department partnered with Women’s Ministries on the “Women’s Buckets of Gladness” initiative, providing essential support to women and families. On Long Island, New York, the Adventist Youth Federation



Photos provided by Northeastern Conference youth federations.



Literature and goody bags filled by volunteers with New England North's Hispanic Federation are ready for distribution.

Spanning 16 federations, Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) mobilized for more than 60 compassion projects across the Northeastern Conference, making a tangible difference in diverse communities. Whether it was prayer walks, delivering vital resources to shelters, feeding the unhoused, or honoring neighborhood heroes, every initiative reaffirmed that people are

joined forces with the New York Blood Center to organize a community blood drive in Hicksville, extending help far beyond its borders.

“A blood transfusion can be a barrier between life and death,” said Christina Williams, president of NEC’s Long Island Youth Federation. “The participants of the blood drive were reminded of that with every donation.

Christ thought of us when His blood was shed for our lives, and in like manner, the Long Island Youth Federation thought of the lives of others.”

These acts translated into real-life results, with their donations projected to save 48 lives.

After a day of service, the Queens Federation at Queensboro Temple collaborated with the Greater New York Conference to host a “Youth Preach Fest” for the Adventist Youth. This event featured young preachers from both the Northeastern and the Greater New York conferences, who delivered powerful messages highlighting compassion as a reflection of Christ’s character. Youth were also recognized by U.S. Senator Leroy Comrie, of New York’s 14th Senate District, for their dedicated planning and execution of this year’s Global Youth Day compassion projects.

Beyond the day’s events, Global Youth Day left a profound and lasting impression on both the community and the youth who served. Although data is still being collected, the positive outcomes were unmistakable: thousands of lives were touched, seeds of hope were sown, and a renewed sense of confidence blossomed.

Looking forward, the Northeastern Conference is dedicated to fostering relationships, making a positive impact in communities, and reflecting the compassion of Jesus by seeking the good of others, showing sympathy, and meeting real needs. Because compassion is more than a moment—it is a way of life, carried forward in every life touched and every act of kindness.

—Kayla Skipper, Adventist Youth Ministries compassion coordinator, Northeastern Conference

Music Clinic 2026 Fills Air with Beautiful Music

The 2026 Northern New England Music Clinic brought together 285 students, staff, chaperones, and family members. This year's theme was "A Day of Rejoicing," focusing on the journey to and arrival in heaven. Students hailed from 10 schools or school groups and three countries: Bermuda, Canada, and the United States.

The music clinic strives to teach young people the intricate skills of singing and playing new music and developing musical techniques, while also emphasizing the value of God's creative gift of music. Praising and worshipping the Savior, Jesus Christ, encouraged and uplifted participants.

A team of experienced clinicians individually guided the students within their specific musical groups, and with all groups

combined. Lira Cady, South Lancaster Academy choir director, led the choir. Brendan Krueger, Pine Tree Academy principal and music director, led the band. Dottie Krueger, founder of the Northern New England Music Clinic, led the youth choir. Laura Cadwallader, conductor of the Southern Adventist University Symphony, led the strings group. Dr. Bruce Ashton, a volunteer choir director for worship services at churches around Collegedale, led the piano students. The clinicians brought years of experience and have individually performed across the United States and internationally.

Students learned a variety of music, including well-known hymns, such as "How Great Thou Art" and contemporary songs like "Count on Me." It was



Music clinic pianists share beautiful music.



The strings group from the music clinic performs a song.

inspiring to see and hear students not only singing and playing the notes on the page but also truly sharing the music from their hearts. During choir practice, three schools presented impromptu performances of songs they had been preparing before their arrival. The students loved sharing their music with the other choir members, and they enthusiastically supported one another with hearty cheers. Students from Sandy Lake Academy in Bedford, Nova Scotia, shared an upbeat rendition of a gospel song.

On Sabbath, in addition to sacred music performed by the students, attendees heard messages from James Reid, Pine Tree



The choir featuring students from grades 7-12 sings for joy.



The Northern New England Conference Youth Choir performs.



Attendees listen attentively as James Reid, Pine Tree Academy chaplain, engages with the audience.



Members from the music clinic band perform.



Gary Blanchard, president of the Northern New England Conference, gestures while delivering a message.

Academy chaplain, and Gary Blanchard, president of the Northern New England Conference. Pastor Reid spoke about judgment being found in favor of the saints, allowing believers

to approach heaven with confidence and peace in Jesus Christ.

The Sabbath program concluded with a concert featuring all musical groups. The grand finale,

“One Day, When We All Get to Heaven,” was a joyful, rousing call to look forward to the day when everyone will see Jesus and “sing and shout the victory.” Let everyone eagerly anticipate

the day when every voice will be lifted in praise and adoration, singing together with that heavenly choir.

—Mark Bugbee, education superintendent, Northern New England Conference

SNEC Town Hall Meetings Prepare Members for August Constituency Meeting

In preparation for the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) constituency meeting on August 23, the SNEC administrators held its fourth and final town hall meeting was at León de Judá (Lion of Judah) Spanish church in Waterbury, Connecticut. This well-attended gathering was energized by an administration eager to share what God is doing in SNEC and hopeful about where He will lead the conference next.

These town hall meetings, held across the conference territory, provided opportunities for the administration to share SNEC's victories and challenges, receive feedback and answer questions from church members, and allow members to make recommendations for the upcoming SNEC constituency meeting agenda.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., SNEC president; Edgardo Herrera, SNEC executive secretary; and Alex Palmeira, SNEC vice president for mission development, reported on conference growth, goals met and unmet, baptisms, new church plants, companies, and groups. Herrera shared the success of the updated reporting system, training for church clerks, and the mission implications of these improvements. In a spontaneous burst of excitement, Folkenberg, Herrera, and Palmeira all chimed in to share plans to return to an

apostolic leadership model, anticipating a time when pastors can fulfill their God-given role as equippers and evangelists, and when all church members will unite in mission.

Camp Ministries director, Tanna Allison, inspired all with the vision behind the new Pathfinder Lodge at Camp Winnekeag and reported on fundraising progress. She invited members to partner in giving, supporting camp ministries in impacting lives for Jesus for generations to come.

Folkenberg presented three major items that will be brought to a vote at the upcoming constituency meeting:

1. Implement a requirement to hold four (4) town hall meetings across the SNEC territory before the constituency session.
2. Change the constituency meeting cycle from a quadrennium (every four years) to a quinquennium (every five years).

This will align the SNEC with the North American Division, the General Conference, and many local conferences that already operate on a five-year cycle. But the primary motivation for this change is stewardship—reducing the significant financial and time commitments required to prepare for and conduct a constituency meeting.

3. Adjust the Secondary Education Trust Fund policy to retain only the amount of interest

necessary to preserve the principal, distributing the remaining interest as scholarships.

Currently, policy requires that half of the interest earned be returned to the fund and half be used for scholarships. The proposed change aims to make greater use of this growing fund for its intended purpose: supporting Adventist education.

Folkenberg shared that he and his wife, Audrey, who serves as SNEC stewardship director and Planned Giving and Trust Services director, have accepted a call to the Greek Mission. With their upcoming transition in mind, he offered a heartfelt reminder: "Whoever is elected... stay focused on mission." Emphasizing that God's people remain united in purpose wherever they serve, he concluded, "Wherever you are called, go! Let's work together in mission."

—Sandra Dombrowski,
communication team, Southern
New England Conference



Robert Folkenberg, Jr., Southern New England Conference president



Edgardo Herrera, Southern New England Conference secretary



Alex Palmeira, Southern New England Conference vice president for mission



Tanna Allison, Southern New England Conference Camp Ministries director

SNEC Welcomes New Treasurer

The Southern New England Conference is pleased to welcome Joshua Tyman as its new conference treasurer. Tyman brings a strong blend of professional expertise, spiritual commitment, and a deep passion for mission-driven leadership.

Tyman holds an undergraduate degree in business and an MBA from Southern Adventist University. His background includes seven years of treasury leadership in the Washington Conference, where he served first as assistant treasurer and later as associate treasurer. Most recently, he spent three years as controller for



Joshua Tyman, his wife, Alexandra, and their three children, Lucas, Joanna, and Judah

the Combined Collegedale School District in Tennessee, supporting nearly 900 students and collaborating closely with educators, parents, and board members.

Tyman was inspired to join the SNEC team because

of its clear commitment to mission. "I saw an opportunity to be part of a team that is not only focused on growth, but also on strengthening its foundation for long-term success. But what drew me most was the chance to contribute in a way that aligns both my professional experience and my personal calling to support the mission." He added, "I was also inspired by the people and the collaborative spirit of the team. It's clear that there is a desire to move forward together, and that kind of unity is something I value deeply."

Recognizing that his role as conference treasurer is complex, Tyman noted, "It requires a heart that is fully committed to serving the mission today, while also exercising the wisdom

and discipline to preserve and grow resources for the future." He added, "There's a constant balance between meeting immediate needs and ensuring long-term sustainability." He is committed to pursuing this balance with wisdom and much prayer.

To the SNEC constituency, Tyman says, "My leadership philosophy is not centered on me but on 'we.'" When we fully commit to a shared mission, we become stronger, more unified, and better equipped to achieve lasting results. At the center of that mission is our commitment to seek God first, as it says in Matthew 6:33. When we put Him first in all that we do, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that God will be with us, guiding our efforts and providing for our needs along the way."

Joshua is joined by his wife, Alexandra, a nursing professor at Southern Adventist University, and their three children—Joanna, Lucas, and Judah. The SNEC family invites you to pray for the Tyman family as they transition into this new chapter of ministry.

—Communication team, Southern New England Conference

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Southern New England Conference
Constituency Session

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the 39th 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, May 3, 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

* Updated date and time provided by SNEC secretariat.

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

→ 2026 ←

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING INFORMATION



BERMUDA CONFERENCE

Bermuda Institute/Southampton Church Complex
234 Middle Rd., Southampton, Bermuda

Website: bermudaadventist.org

Phone: (441) 292-4110

June 26-July 4

NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

Camp Victory Lake
277 Crum Elbow Rd., Hyde Park, NY

Website: northeastern.org

Phone: (718) 291-8006

Hispanic: May 22-25

English: June 27-July 4

New England North Hispanic: August 5-9

Haitian: August 9-16

Portuguese: August 28-30

GREATER NEW YORK CONFERENCE

Camp Berkshire
680-1 Berkshire Rd., Wingdale, NY

Website: gnyc.org

Phone: (516) 627-9350

Korean: May 16-17

Luso Brazilian: May 22-25

English: June 27

Haitian: June 28-July 4

Hispanic: July 11-18

United: September 12

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Pine Tree Academy
67 Pownal Rd., Freeport, ME

Website: nnec.org/camp-meeting

Phone: (207) 797-3760

June 19-27

NEW YORK CONFERENCE

Union Springs Academy
40 Spring St., Union Springs, NY

Website: nyconf.org/camp-meeting

Phone: (315) 469-6921

June 19-27

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Southern New England Conference Campground
34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA

Website: sneconline.org

Phone: (978) 365-4551

Portuguese: June 6

Hispanic: June 11-14

English: June 19-27

Haitian: July 8-11

Cape Verdean: July 25

For the most up-to-date information on camp meetings around the Atlantic Union, visit the local conference's website or contact the host conference office directly.



2026 ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE Summer Camp Schedule



Check with your local conference Youth Ministries department for the most up-to-date information about the status of summer camp in each territory.

CAMP CHEROKEE

For more information, call the New York Conference Youth Ministries Department at (315) 469-6921, or visit www.campcherokeeadk.com.

Teen Camp June 28-July 5
Junior July 5-12
Adventurer Camp..... July 12-19
Family Camp 1..... July 26-August 2
Family Camp 2..... August 2-9
Family Camp 3/Home School Camp..... August 16-21

CAMP LAWROWELD

For more information, call the Northern New England Conference Youth Ministries Department at (207) 797-3760, or visit www.camplawroweld.org.

Junior Camp June 28-July 5
Teen Camp July 5-12
Family Camp I..... July 12-19
Family Camp II..... July 19-26
Blind Camp..... July 26-August 2

CAMP VICTORY LAKE

For more information, call the Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries Department at (845) 229-8851, or visit www.campvictorylakenec.com.

Week 1..... July 12-19
Week 2..... July 19-26
Week 3..... July 26-August 2

CAMP WINNEKEAG

For more information, call the Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries Department at (978) 365-4551, or visit www.campwnkg.org.

Adventurer Camp..... June 21-28
Junior Camp June 28-July 5
Tween Camp..... July 5-12
Teen Camp July 12-19
Family Camp 1..... July 19-26
Family Camp 2..... July 26-August 2



Visit Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries online for information on youth and young adult events, activities, and other ministries at auyouth.com, facebook.com/atlanticunionadventistyouthministries, and instagram.com/auyouthministries.

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

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EMPLOYMENT

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY in Rocky Mount, Virginia! Small health food store and plant-based café looking for new management. Products include bulk flours, nuts, grains, seeds, legumes, and supplements

and essential oils. Space for health education classes. Active, supportive church with small home school. For more information, contact Sally at info@startanew.me.

SEEKING CERTIFIED TEACHERS to join Sycamore Academy, an online K-12 school. Work part-time from home, leading live classes and tutoring sessions via Zoom. For more information, call (817) 645-0895.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for Religion Program Director and Professor to begin teaching fall 2026. Candidate must be ordained or commissioned to the ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church or on a track. Responsibilities include serving as program director for the Religion program, oversight of the SALT program, and teaching classes.

Please see the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking applicants for two positions in

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifth Regular Quadrennial and 58th Regular Constituency Session of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594.

1. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and departmental directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, an Executive Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and an Association Board.
3. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization, and one for every 75 members. Each church is entitled to elect alternate delegates who may be seated at the Conference Session in place of any regular delegate not present. (Bylaws Article III, Section 2:1, 2).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee is being called for Sunday morning, October 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Greater New York Academy, 41-32 58th Street, Woodside, NY 11377. All members of the Organizing Committee should plan to be present.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the of the Nominating Committee is being called for Sunday morning, October 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Greater New York Academy, 41-32 58th Street, Woodside, NY 11377.

Alanzo H. Smith, President
Ariel Manzueta, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fourth Quadrennial Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will held at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Complex, Hamilton, Bermuda on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Sunday, July 12, at 10:00 a.m. and the Nominating Committee will be meeting on Sunday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, executive, trustees and constitution and bylaws committees, and departmental directors for the ensuing term; to receive reports; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members. Additional delegates are members of the executive committee, the constitution and bylaws committee, the board of trustees of the Bermuda Conference; members of the executive committee of the Atlantic Union Conference; all employees holding credentials and licenses issued by the Bermuda Conference; departmental directors, associate or assistant departmental directors, and members of the General Conference/NAD executive committee who may be present. The number of General Conference/NAD delegates shall not exceed 10% of the total number of regular delegates.

Kenneth Manders, President
W. DeJaun Tull, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifth Regular Quadrennial and 58th Regular meeting of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the 58th Regular Constituency Session convening at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2026, (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594. The delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Conference are also delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of trustees for the coming quadrennial period, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Alanzo H. Smith, President
Ariel Manzueta, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Trustees of The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda, a legal corporation, will be held in connection with the Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Complex, Hamilton, Bermuda on Sunday, September 27, 2026. The first meeting of the legal corporation will be held at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board of trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference Legal Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

Kenneth Manders, President
W. Aaron M. Spencer, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Adventist Home

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Quadrennial meeting of the Adventist Home Inc. will be held in conjunction with the 58th Regular Constituency Session (Fifth Regular Quadrennial) of Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convening at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, October 18, 2026 (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594. The delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Conference are also delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Adventist Home Inc. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Alanzo H. Smith, President
Ariel Manzueta, Secretary

the student Success Department: Student Success Career Development Program Manager to oversee career development services including coaching and advising students in calling/ Vocational exploration and other related duties; and Life Coach to implement strategic initiatives related to student retention, engagement, and graduation. Both are full-time positions with full benefits package including tuition assistance to dependents. See job descriptions and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is searching for a Director of Human Resources. This is a full-time, exempt position with excellent benefits. This position plans, leads, develops, coordinates, and implements policies, processes, and initiatives to support the University's human resource compliance and strategy needs. Please view the full description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for a Nursing Faculty position. This is a full-time, exempt position responsible for preparing undergraduate students to successfully complete the Union BSN curriculum and pass the National Council State Board of Nursing Exam. Excellent benefits package that includes tuition assistance for dependents. Apply at 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 interested in working at Southern, we encourage you to view the positions that are currently open at 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.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member for the School of Engineering and Physics in the area of electrical engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in electrical engineering or related area required. Doctorate preferred. Prior higher education teaching experience and/or relevant industry experience preferred. For a full job description and desired qualifications, please visit www.southern.edu/jobs.

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.

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SERVICES

HONE YOUR FUNDRAISING SKILLS at the 2026 Missional Philanthropy Conference at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, July 14-16. Learn from nationally recognized experts in education, healthcare, corporate foundations, and non-profit work. Registration is open through July 1 at southern.edu/philanthropy conference.

Sunset Calendar

Daylight Saving Time

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Bangor, ME	8:17	8:21	8:24	8:25	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:10	8:02
Portland, ME	8:18	8:23	8:25	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:18	8:12	8:05
Boston, MA	8:17	8:21	8:24	8:25	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:04
South Lancaster, MA	8:20	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:14	8:07
Pittsfield, MA	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:34	8:33	8:31	8:26	8:21	8:13
Hartford, CT	8:21	8:25	8:28	8:29	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:16	8:09
Providence, RI	8:17	8:21	8:23	8:24	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:04
New York, NY	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:31	8:30	8:28	8:24	8:19	8:12
Albany, NY	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:36	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:23	8:16
Utica, NY	8:36	8:40	8:43	8:44	8:43	8:41	8:36	8:30	8:23
Syracuse, NY	8:40	8:44	8:47	8:48	8:47	8:44	8:40	8:34	8:26
Rochester, NY	8:46	8:50	8:53	8:54	8:53	8:50	8:46	8:40	8:33
Buffalo, NY	8:50	8:54	8:57	8:58	8:57	8:55	8:50	8:44	8:37
Keene, NH	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:32	8:31	8:28	8:24	8:18	8:11
Manchester, NH	8:21	8:25	8:28	8:29	8:28	8:25	8:21	8:15	8:08
Portsmouth, NH	8:18	8:22	8:25	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:18	8:12	8:05
Brattleboro, VT	8:25	8:29	8:31	8:32	8:32	8:29	8:25	8:19	8:12
Burlington, VT	8:33	8:37	8:40	8:41	8:40	8:37	8:33	8:26	8:19
Rutland, VT	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:37	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:23	8:15
Hamilton, Bda	8:23	8:26	8:28	8:29	8:29	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:17

WILLIAM TYNDALE REFORMATION TOUR Traveling on Aug. 26-Sept. 11, 2026, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the English New Testament with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Explore Tyndale's England, with optional extensions to Scotland or Germany and Belgium. Visit www.adventtours.org or email info@adventtours.org.

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LAY CHAPLAINS TRAINING LEVEL I

September 25-27, 2026

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ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist[®] 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
E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

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Member, Associated Church Press
Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

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