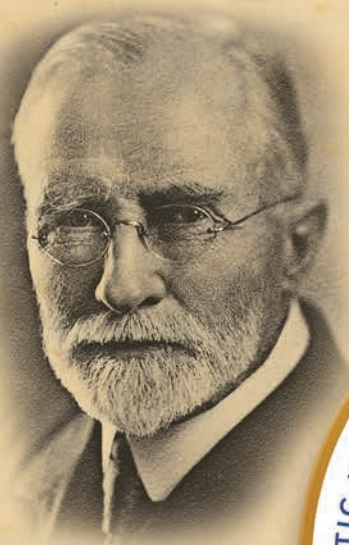


ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026



125 Years of Mission, Growth, and Service



GLOBAL TEA EXCHANGE
BUILDS BRIDGES

PROJECT 845 MINISTERS
IN POUGHKEEPSIE

SNEC APPROVES OFFICIAL
SLAVIC MINISTRY

Inside

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

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*“As the cradle of
Adventism, the
Atlantic Union
territory occupies a
distinctive place...”*
— p. 6

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Organization Begins With Me and You

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

Stephen Haskell shared this scripture from 1 Corinthians 14:40 when he addressed delegates gathered in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, in November 1901 for the first meeting of the Eastern Union Conference. (His message was published in the January 8, 1902, Atlantic Union GLEANER.)

It makes sense that Haskell focused his remarks on organizational structure. After all, the delegates were meeting to establish a new level of church organization. And he did address the relationship between the local church, the conference, the union conference, and the General Conference.

But then he brought organization down to its most basic level—the individual.

“Christian organization means the uniting of all the powers of the individual life, to think and to act aright,” Haskell said. “The first step that will assure this result is to surrender.”

That caught my attention.

We tend to think of organization in terms of institutions, constitutions, committees, departments, policies, and positions. However, before addressing how the church should be organized, Haskell addressed the Christian life. According to him, it begins with surrender.

As the Atlantic Union Conference marks its 125th anniversary, that is worth considering.

The history recorded in this issue includes dates, places, organizational changes, institutions, leaders, and significant moments that have shaped the Atlantic Union since 1901. They help us understand where we have come from, but they tell only part of the story.

The church has always been made up of individuals.

Behind the events preserved in the pages of the GLEANER over the decades were ordinary people who prayed, served, sacrificed, gave, taught, preached, and witnessed. Their individual choices became part of our collective history.

The same is true today.

It is easy to speak about “the church” as though it were something separate from us—an institution somewhere beyond the local congregation or even beyond ourselves. We can evaluate what the church is doing, where the church is succeeding, and where the church needs to do better.

But *we are* the church.

Its spiritual strength cannot be separated from the spiritual lives of its members. For better or worse, what the church looks like is largely shaped by the people who claim its name. To me, that makes Haskell’s words from 1901 surprisingly relevant in 2026.

If Christian organization begins with the individual, perhaps renewal does too. Before programs, initiatives, strategies, or structures can accomplish their intended purpose, there must be people willing to surrender themselves to Christ and allow Him to direct how they think and how they live.

One hundred twenty-five years later, as we await Christ’s return, what we pass on to the next generation will depend, in no small measure, on what happens first within each of us.

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



*The church
has always
been made
up of
individuals.*

Atlantic Union to Participate in 'All Things New' Mission Initiative

Churches, schools, ministries, and members across the Atlantic Union Conference are invited to join All Things New, the North American Division's public emphasis for the Seventh-day Adventist Church's global OneVoice27 initiative.

OneVoice27 is a coordinated effort to engage members worldwide in sharing Jesus through personal witness, community service, evangelism, and media. The initiative will launch across the Church's 13 world divisions on September 5, 2026, and continue through a worldwide mission emphasis in September 2027.

In the North American Division (NAD), All Things New will introduce the initiative to the public and invite people to experience the hope, healing, and renewal found in Jesus Christ. While OneVoice27 provides the Church-wide mission focus, All Things New brings that message into local communities.

Atlantic Union leaders see the initiative as an opportunity to build on the cooperation demonstrated during Pentecost 2025, when churches and schools throughout the territory conducted hundreds of evangelistic and outreach activities.

"I look forward to seeing how All Things New develops across the Atlantic Union," said David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary and assistant to the president for evangelism. "Pentecost 2025 showed what can happen when our churches, schools, and members concentrate their efforts on sharing Christ. OneVoice27 gives us another opportunity to work together throughout our territory, and I encourage everyone to take part."

FOUR CYCLICAL PILLARS

All Things New is organized around four pillars—Pray Like Jesus, Serve Like



ALL
THINGS
NEW



ONE VOICE 27

MISSION FOR ALL

Jesus, Share Jesus, and Follow Jesus—intended to overlap and repeat as a cycle.

Pray Like Jesus emphasizes spiritual renewal through prayer, Scripture, and time with Christ. Members will be encouraged to participate in personal and group prayer and to read or reread *THE DESIRE OF AGES* by Ellen G. White.

“Before we can effectively introduce others to Jesus, we need to spend time with Him ourselves,” McKenzie said. “Prayer and the study of His life shape how we speak, serve, and respond to the people around us. Our witness becomes more credible when others can see Christ reflected in the way we live.”

Serve Like Jesus encourages members and congregations to engage in acts of compassion and community service that reflect Christ’s love.

Share Jesus will mobilize members to distribute the sharing book, participate in personal witnessing, including sharing their faith in digital spaces, and engage in coordinated outreach efforts across the Atlantic Union.

Follow Jesus focuses on baptism, discipleship, spiritual growth, Bible studies, and helping individuals take next steps in their faith journey.

These four movements give individuals and congregations a simple, memorable framework to participate

in this initiative. All Things New is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to be introduced to, or reacquainted with, Jesus’ life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and soon return.

DIGITAL EMPHASIS

Digital communication will also be a major part of the effort. The NAD will equip unions, conferences, churches, schools, ministries, and members with resources for social media engagement—including posts, reels, short films, videos, and other shareable content.

A dedicated digital platform will serve as a central hub for those responding to the All Things New message, providing opportunities to request prayer, access spiritual resources, explore Bible studies, and connect with local Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Pacific Press Publishing Association will produce a sharing book containing nine chapters from *THE DESIRE OF AGES*. The NAD plans to distribute 5 million copies across the division, providing members with an additional resource for introducing others to the life and ministry of Christ.

CONTINUING CHRIST’S MISSION 2,000 YEARS LATER

The September 2027 emphasis will take place approximately 2,000 years after

Christ’s baptism and the beginning of His public ministry, as recorded in Luke 3:21—22. The observance is meant to direct attention to Christ’s ministry and encourage members to renew their commitment to sharing the gospel.

All Things New launches September 5, 2026. Resources and additional information are available at allthingsnew2027.com, and more resources will be shared on this site as they become available.

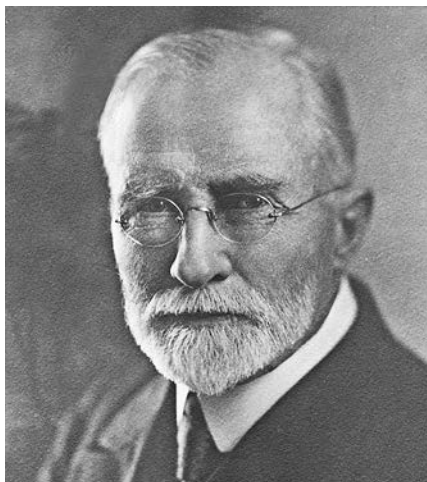
Debra Banks Cuadro, communication director and GLEANER editor, Atlantic Union Conference
—Source material: North American Division news



Scan the QR code to watch an introductory video for more information about All Things New featuring North American Division president G. Alexander Bryant and special guest, General Conference president Erton Köhler. (Or visit YouTube @nadadventist.)

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

“The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad” (Psalm 126:3, KJV).



Hampton W. Cottrell was elected to serve as the first president of the Eastern Union Conference in 1901, later renamed the Atlantic Union Conference.



Abraham J. Jules is the current president of the Atlantic Union Conference. Elected in 2024, he is its 22nd president since 1901.



These words capture our gratitude as the Atlantic Union Conference celebrates two historic milestones in 2026: the 125th anniversary of the union and the dedication of our new headquarters in Westborough, Massachusetts. Together, these occasions give us an opportunity to reflect on God's leading, honor those who came before us, and prepare for the work that remains.

IN THE BEGINNING

As the cradle of Adventism, the Atlantic Union territory occupies a distinctive place in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pioneers such as William Miller, Joseph Bates, Ellen G. White, Stephen Haskell, and many others from this region prayed,

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH

That same gratitude filled our hearts as we dedicated the new Atlantic Union Conference headquarters during our 125th anniversary year. Reflecting on the significance of the occasion, I noted, “This nation is 250 years old, and the Atlantic Union is half of that. We praise God for the long existence, mission, and ministry of the Atlantic Union Conference.” The convergence of these two milestones brings our heritage and our future together. We celebrate the foundation laid by faithful men and women while recognizing that God has entrusted the mission of this union to us in the present generation.

The new headquarters is not simply a building. It is a resource for ministry—a place from which we can sup-

The faith, sacrifice, and missionary spirit of those who came before us must continue through us.

sacrificed, and labored to establish a movement that would carry the Three Angels' Messages throughout the world. The seeds they planted have grown into a worldwide church of more than 23 million members.

Their experience reminds us that the growth of this movement did not come through human effort alone. God guided His people step by step, opening doors and sustaining them through seasons of progress, hardship, questions, and change. Ellen G. White expressed it well: “In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God!” (LIFE SKETCHES OF ELLEN G. WHITE, p. 196).

port our conferences, strengthen our churches and schools, equip leaders, and advance the gospel throughout the Northeast United States and Bermuda. Its dedication is also a reminder that everything God places in our hands must be used for His glory and the fulfillment of His mission.

As we give thanks for God's blessings in the past and present, we now turn our attention to the opportunities before us. Through the North American Division's All Things New initiative (see page 4 in this magazine), the Atlantic Union family is joining churches across the division in a renewed commitment to evangelism, discipleship, and service. Members across this vast territory

that includes the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and many islands in the Pacific including those that are part of the Guam/Micronesia Mission are being called to participate in sharing the hope of Christ and preparing people for His return.

Our history is worth celebrating, but it is not ours merely to preserve. The faith, dedication, sacrifice, and missionary spirit of those who came before us must continue *through* us. With grateful hearts, let us honor our heritage, embrace the work ahead, and consecrate ourselves anew to the mission God has entrusted to us.

United in purpose and dependent on the Holy Spirit, may we faithfully proclaim the everlasting gospel until the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

—Abraham J. Jules, M. Div., D.Min.,
is the president of the Atlantic Union
Conference.



Scan to watch a special commemorative video highlighting 125 years of ministry in the Atlantic Union. Also available on YouTube @AtlanticUnion.



This building served as the Atlantic Union Conference headquarters in Lancaster, Massachusetts, since 1963.



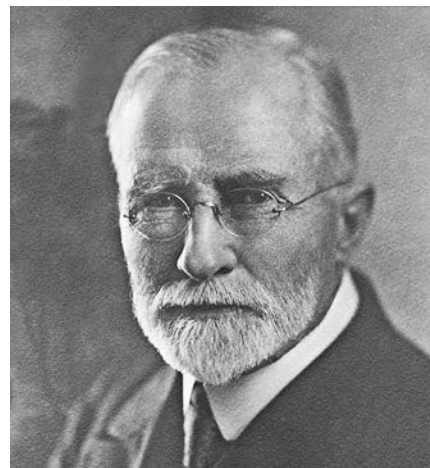
In 2026, the Atlantic Union Conference dedicated its new headquarters in Westborough, Massachusetts.

ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE: 125 Years of Mission, Growth, and Service

A LEGACY BUILT FOR MISSION

When the Eastern Union Conference was organized on April 16, 1901, at the General Conference Session in Battle Creek, Michigan, church leaders were responding to a growing need. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was expanding rapidly across North America, and a new level of organization was needed to coordinate ministry, education, evangelism, and mission. Leaders at the session voted to establish union conferences as part of the church's organizational structure.

The Adventist movement in the Northeast, however, was already well established through the missionary fervor of dedicated men and women. In the decades following the denomination's organization in 1863, several developments in the region would have a lasting influence on the church. The Vigilant Missionary Society, later known as the New England Tract and Missionary Society was organized; South Lancaster Academy was established, which later developed into Atlantic Union College; and a sanitarium established in South Lancaster (later





relocated to Stoneham, Massachusetts), became the forerunner of the former Boston Regional Medical Center.

The growth taking place in the Northeast reflected a rapidly expanding denomination. The first denominational statistics, published in 1882, listed 26 organized conferences and six mission fields. By 1892, there were 34 conferences in the United States alone. A decade later, membership records showed 72 local conferences—49 in North America—and 14 union conferences, with worldwide denominational membership exceeding 75,000. By December 1903, the newly formed Atlantic Union Conference reported 8,166 members. (Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook, 1904)

Today, the Atlantic Union serves more than 143,000 members in six conferences—Bermuda, Greater New York, New York, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England—spanning seven states and the island of Bermuda.

THE EARLY YEARS

At the first organizing session of the Eastern Union Conference, held November 27 to December 5, 1901, delegates voted to change its name to the Atlantic Union Conference. Hampton W. Cottrell was elected its first president.

Cottrell was described as having exceptional “precision of mind and aptitude for the business of the cause” and as a “far-seeing and safe financier.” He became a trusted associate of General Conference president Arthur G. Daniells as the denomination implemented the organizational changes voted in 1901.¹





Atlantic Union Gleaner

“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

Vol. XXXII South Lancaster, Mass., March 8, 1933 No. 10

GENERAL ARTICLES

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Regarding the Winning of Souls to the Christian Faith

It will be of interest to our people in the Atlantic Union Conference to know that in this past year 1932, came into the truth in this field. This is a record that has never before been achieved in any of our divisions we are moving in the right direction. We are made glad that the truth is in the hearts of these 554 of our brethren and sisters who passed away in death.

We are pleased to note that in the year 1932, we have gained a net gain in Union Conference membership over 1931 of 1,000 members. This is the largest gain in membership since 1907. The Union Conference had in many years, if ever in its history. Dec. 31, 1932, we had a net gain in membership in the Union Conference of 10,350 believers.

If every church member in 1933 will do this on honest and earnest endeavor to win at least one to the truth this year, just think how much would mean to our evangelists are reporting an

EVERY LITTLE COUNTS
Flower power, one by flower, with

many years ago, as I was sitting in the front of the church, I saw a Hindu man was brought to me by an evangelist for baptism. As I was about to baptize him, I saw the believers of our church there and

—Dennis Watts.

A Nickel for the Lord

[illegible]

the passage of the tract he came to us for more tracts after some days, and we gave him all he wanted. Then he said to us, "I will be your evangelist to go to his village and give him regular studies. The Hindu is a friend of mine."

The evangelist had to meet him in the field, and give him some of the tracts. The farmer's wife came along, and she was in the field in the day and found her husband away from his duty for some time with another man in a corner of his estate, under the shade of a tree, until she saw her husband there and she abused her husband and the evangelist for having neglected his work in the field.

"When the evangelist came home he told us what had happened. We told him that from the farmer's wife came in; so I volunteered to go with the evangelist and walk in the garden when the farmer took his studies from him. The next day as the wife came in she found her husband talking with the evangelist under the tree again, which made her angry. But she did not look around the estate as she saw me drawing water from the well, and she was in the field. She was very pleased

Communication was also an early priority. In January 1902, Atlantic Union leaders began publishing a union paper, the Atlantic Union GLEANER. O. O. Farnsworth, who served as Chesapeake Conference president at the time, explained that the publication would provide “direct communication between the officers and laborers in your conference and yourselves,” adding, “We have felt the need for some time of something like this.” (January 1, 1902)

In that same inaugural issue, Cottrell described the opportunity before the new Union: “Dear brethren, our field for gospel work is world-wide, but we have especially assigned to us a great work in this densely populated Union Conference.” He noted that more than one-third of the United States’ population lived within its borders.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

The Union's early years were closely tied to South Lancaster, Massachusetts, a community already significant to Adventist history. Its first headquarters occupied a simple frame building from 1901 until 1921. As the work expanded, a larger administrative office was constructed across the street. South Lancaster would remain home to the union headquarters for more than a century.

The community also played an important role in the development of Adventist publishing and Personal



Ministries. In 1869, a small women's prayer group led by Mary Haskell organized the Vigilant Missionary Society to distribute literature and conduct personal outreach. Their work inspired her husband, Stephen N. Haskell, to establish the New England Tract and Missionary Society in 1870. The model spread and contributed to the development of Adventist publishing and personal ministries worldwide.²

From its earliest years, the Atlantic Union served as a coordinating body, helping local conferences work together and supporting ministries that extended beyond conference boundaries. Successive generations continued that work through world wars, economic upheaval, social change, and significant church growth.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

Education has also been central to the Adventist mission in the Northeast. From an early school operated by Adventists in Buck's Bridge, New York, to today's 58 schools and early childhood programs serving nearly 3,000 students, Adventist education has prepared generations of young people for service to God and their communities.

South Lancaster Academy, established in 1882, later became Atlantic Union College, educating thousands of pastors, teachers, healthcare professionals, and church leaders. For generations, the college was an important center of Adventist education in the Union and helped prepare leaders who served throughout North America and beyond.

Frederick Griggs, the sixth principal of South Lancaster Academy, described that purpose in the *GLENER* (ibid). Of the 140 students enrolled during the 1899–1900 school year, he reported that 40 had entered



FEATURE

denominational work. “I want to lay special emphasis upon the number who have entered the work,” he wrote, “for this is the thing that the school is established for.”

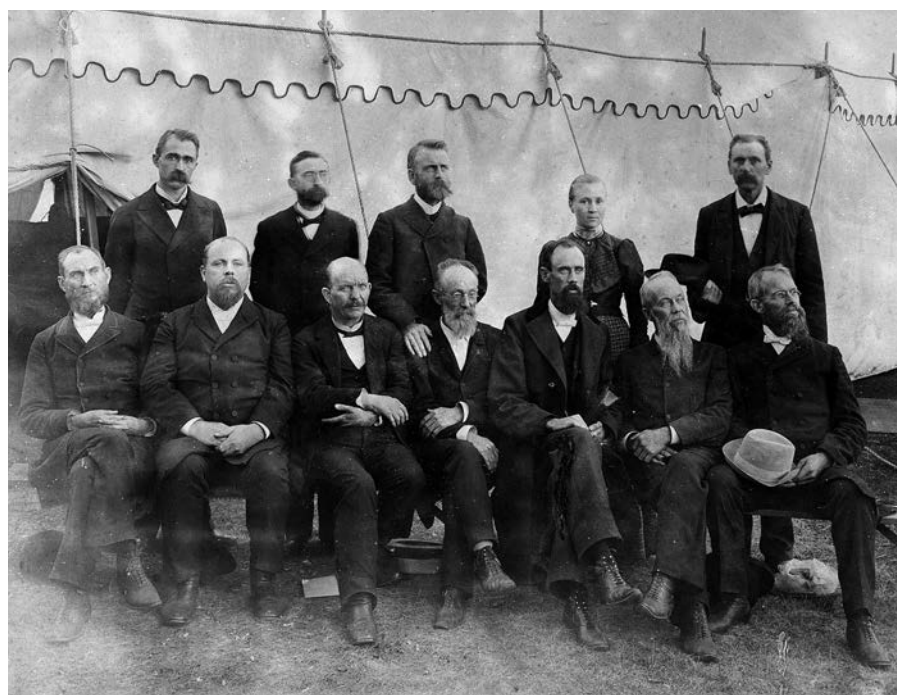
More than a century later, that emphasis on education and service continues in schools throughout the Atlantic Union.

A CHANGING CHURCH IN A CHANGING REGION

As the population of the Northeast grew and changed, so did the Atlantic Union.

When Cottrell became the union’s first president in 1901, he described the challenge before the church as reaching a “densely populated Union Conference.” During the decades that followed, that population became increasingly diverse.

Immigration patterns changed significantly during the second half of the 20th century. New arrivals from Latin America and the Caribbean joined established immigrant communities throughout New York and New England. Haitian communities grew particularly in New York and Massachusetts, while Brazilian immigrants established significant communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the greater New York area. Immigration from Africa also increased rapidly, particularly in the closing decades of the century and into the 2000s.



The changing population was increasingly reflected in Atlantic Union churches. Congregations grew among Spanish-, Haitian Creole-, and Portuguese-speaking communities, as well as among immigrants from countries across Africa and other parts of the world. As these communities grew, the union and its conferences expanded ministry among these populations, supporting pastors and lay leaders who could serve across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Today, the Atlantic Union includes dedicated ministries serving Hispanic, Portuguese-speaking, Haitian, and African members. Churches throughout New England, New York, and Bermuda worship in numerous languages and reflect cultures and national backgrounds from around the world. What Cottrell described in 1901 as a densely



populated mission field has become an increasingly international one, as well.

The six conferences that make up today's Atlantic Union also took shape over many decades. New York, Northern New England, and Southern New England trace their organized work to the late 1800s. Continued growth in New York City and Bermuda led to the organization of the Greater New York and Bermuda conferences.

In 1945, the Northeastern Conference was organized to serve Black Adventists during an era when racial segregation shaped both American society and the church. From those beginnings, Northeastern grew to become the largest of the Atlantic Union's six conferences.

Across the territory, ministries continued to develop in response to the communities the church was called to serve. Evangelism, community service, health ministries, education, youth ministry, and religious liberty became enduring parts of the Atlantic Union's work.

EXPANDING THE REACH OF MINISTRY

The influence of the Atlantic Union has often reached beyond its geograph-



ic boundaries. Pastors, educators, healthcare professionals, lay members, and administrators from the territory have served the church throughout North America and around the world.

The Northeast has also provided fertile ground for new approaches to ministry. In 1950, William and Virginia Fagal launched Faith for Today in New York City at the request of the General Conference. Within months of its first broadcast, the Seventh-day Adventist television ministry became the first national religious telecast in North America. Its first program generated dozens of requests for the Bible course and literature offered to viewers.

From literature distributed by a small group of women in South Lancaster in the 19th century to television evangelism in the 20th, the methods changed as new opportunities emerged. The purpose remained the same: finding ways to reach people with the gospel.

A NEW HOME FOR A NEW ERA

In 2024, the Atlantic Union entered another chapter in its history with the purchase of a new headquarters in Westborough, Massachusetts. The move marked the first relocation of the Union headquarters from South Lancaster in more than 120 years.

The new location provides space to support the union's ministries for the years ahead. More significantly, the move represents a transition between two eras. South Lancaster remains an important part of the union's history, while Westborough has become the base from which the Atlantic Union's current work continues.

The address has changed, but the reason for the union's existence has not: to support local conferences, equip leaders, strengthen churches, and advance the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the Northeast and Bermuda.

LOOKING FORWARD

A century and a quarter after its organization, the Atlantic Union looks very different from the one Cottrell was elected to lead in 1901. Its 8,166 members have grown to more than 143,000. Its congregations worship in many languages and represent cultures from around the world, new forms of ministry have emerged as the territory, and the people who call it home have changed.

Yet Cottrell's description of "a great work in this densely populated Union Conference" still resonates 125 years later.

The challenges facing the church today are different from those of 1901, but the mission and purpose remains unchanged. As the Atlantic Union Conference marks 125 years, it does so grateful for God's leading in the past and committed to the mission still before it.

—GLEANER staff

1 Douglas Morgan, "Cottrell, Hampton Watson (1852-1940), June 2, 2025; *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*

2 Gerald Wheeler, "International Tract and Missionary Society," January 29, 2020; *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*

Sources used: Atlantic Union GLEANER; *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*; SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST YEARBOOK; and the U.S. Census Bureau

Ministerio Hermandad Celebrates Multiple Blessings During Evangelistic Series

On May 16, Ministerio Hermandad welcomed Saul Brooks Bisset as its newest baptized member during its annual Hispanic evangelistic series, “Todo Nuevo.”

Each evening, guest speakers Henry Beras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Hispanic and Portuguese Ministries; Angela Beras, Atlantic Union Conference Prayer Ministries director; and Dr. Hermes Tavera of the Greater New York Conference presented messages to more than 80 visitors. Recognizing the demanding work schedules of many members of Bermuda’s Hispanic community, organizers began each evening at 7 p.m. with a full dinner before the 8 p.m. proclamation of the Three Angels’ Message.

The series combined evangelistic preaching with practical compassion. Following appeals to accept God’s gift of salvation, many visitors received assistance through vouchers, including \$20 gasoline, \$70 utility, and \$100 grocery vouchers. In response to the financial hardship many families are experiencing, Ministerio Hermandad dedicated two-thirds of its evangelistic budget to tangible community support.

This outreach was made possible through the generous support of the Atlantic Union Conference Hispanic Ministries Department and the sacrificial giving of Ministerio Hermandad members.

Ministerio Hermandad is Bermuda’s only non-English-speaking Seventh-day



Hector Quinones, pastor of Ministerio Hermandad, baptizes Saul Brooks Bisset after the Todo Nuevo evangelistic series.

Adventist congregation and the island’s only Hispanic church. Despite unique challenges, its mission is to share the Three Angels’ Messages and the faith of Jesus with Bermuda’s Hispanic community. Many Hispanic immigrant workers arrive in Bermuda after signing employment contracts—often in construction, hospitality, and the beauty industry—that require six-day workweeks.

These men and women come to Bermuda seeking opportunity and the ability to support family members in their countries of origin. Few expect that accepting the Adventist message and choosing to keep the faith of Jesus could place their employment, financial stability, and ability to remain on the island at risk.

Yet through the work of the Holy Spirit, some have responded in faith.

Ministerio Hermandad’s current leadership reflects that testimony. The church plant is led by laypersons who came to Bermuda seeking similar financial opportunities. After hearing God’s last-day message, these women responded in faith, even when obedience carried personal and professional risk. Today, they are committed to sharing the gospel with Bermuda’s Hispanic community and helping others encounter a God who changes lives.

The church’s ministry centers on two primary outreach efforts: a weekly Friday-evening dinner and small group gathering, and an active Bible study ministry.

Ministerio Hermandad invites the prayers of the wider church family as it continues to serve Bermuda’s Hispanic community and to proclaim the everlasting gospel in its members’ native language.

—Michael Simmons,
communication director, Bermuda Conference

Global Tea Exchange Builds Bridges Across Cultures

Tea became more than a beverage at the Hamilton church when members welcomed guests from diverse cultural backgrounds for the church's first Global Tea Exchange, an outreach designed to foster conversation, celebrate heritage, and create opportunities for future ministry.

Organized by the church's Intercultural Ministries Department under the theme, "One Stool. Many Stories. A World of Tea," the event on June 14 featured teas, pastries, and cultural presentations representing nine countries: Brazil, Congo, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, the Philippines, and Portugal.

"Our mission is community outreach while creating opportunities to share the gospel," said Odiva Vassell, Intercultural Ministries

leader at Hamilton Church. "The simple mission of the Global Tea Exchange was to open the conversation about heritage and culture."

Vassell said the idea came after watching a television interview at a tea house, where she realized nearly every culture has its own tradition of preparing tea.

"I thought this could be a good way to get people talking about their heritage," she said. "What could be easier than a cup of tea and a snack?"

Planning the event proved more involved than anticipated. Organizers spent weeks locating authentic loose-leaf teas and coordinating about 450 tasting portions of freshly prepared pastries representing each featured country.

Throughout the evening, young people shared



Odiva Vassell, Intercultural Ministries leader at Hamilton Church, pauses for a photo at the Global Tea Exchange.

stories about their families' countries of origin while music and cultural presentations highlighted Bermuda's diversity.

With approximately 50 guests attending, Vassell said the event also provided an opportunity to build relationships with people from a variety of backgrounds.

"I believe it is the church's place and duty to extend a loving arm to all, giving them a safe place to turn, without judgment or prejudice, but with love," she said.

As preparations continued, Vassell expanded invitations beyond the local congregation, connecting with cultural organizations across the island. She said several groups agreed to participate, including representatives from Bermuda's Filipino community and Ministerio Hermandad, the island's Spanish-language Seventh-day Adventist congregation.

She also witnessed what she describes as several providential moments during the planning process, including donations of fresh biscotti, floral decorations, and homemade ensaymada

(a sweet Filipino bread) from community partners.

"I received no fewer than 100 yeses and 100 nos," she said. "It became clear to me that when the event succeeded, the glory would not involve my skill set or anyone else's resources. It could only be done by [God]."

For Vassell, one of the event's greatest successes was seeing young people embrace their cultural heritage.

"The stories weren't about the youth themselves," she said. "They were about their parents' and great-grandparents' countries. Information they may never have shared before became something of family pride."

Beyond attendance and fundraising for future outreach, Vassell said the event helped establish relationships that the Hamilton church hopes will continue building through its Intercultural Ministries outreach. "We created a stepping stone for continued ministry," she said. "The volunteers worked incredibly hard, but they also had a blast."

—Submitted by the Bermuda Conference communication department; edited by GLEANER Staff.



Vassell shows the admission ticket to the Global Tea Exchange.

A Century of Faith and Family

“Sister Harris! How old are you?” asked Lincoln Smith, English Ministries director for the Greater New York Conference.

With a joyful sparkle in her eye, she eagerly responded, “I am 100 and some days old!”

The room erupted with a collective, “Glory to God!”

Members of the North Bronx church commemorated Florence Harris’ milestone with video tributes curated by the church’s media team. The tributes were presented during a special celebratory visit, allowing the family to enjoy a private celebration on her actual birthday.

Smith was joined by several North Bronx church leaders: Fred Nichols, senior pastor; Dexter Smith, associate pastor; Benjamin Powell, former first elder; Michelle Lewis, Senior Ministries director; Pauline Archer, former assistant director for Senior Ministries; and Melbourne Francis, media team representative.

Harris’ family expressed deep appreciation for the church’s enduring love and shared reflections on the life and legacy of their beloved centenarian.



Florence Graham Harris is honored at the North Bronx church.

Florence Graham was born in 1926 to Louisa and Thomas Graham in Westmoreland, Jamaica. One of nine siblings, she grew up surrounded by the energy of a large family—an experience that helped shape her own role as a devoted matriarch. In 1954, she married the love of her life, Milton

Harris. Together, they had four children: Marcia, Maxine, Steve, and Ira.

With courage and vision, Harris migrated to the United States in 1967 to build a new future for her family. Milton joined her the following year, and the family was reunited in 1972 when their children came to the United States.

Harris’ life has been defined by the abundant love she gives to others. She balanced discipline with indulgence while offering her family unwavering devotion. After raising her children and delighting in her grandchildren, she now finds immense joy in her great-grandchildren.

Her faith and commitment to the church have remained a constant compass, guiding her life and inspiring those around her. At 100, she remains independent, determined, delightfully opinionated, and—as her family fondly observes—still very much in charge.

Surrounded by her “village” of relatives, friends, and church members, Harris continues to be deeply loved and celebrated.

— Michelle Lewis, Senior Ministries director, North Bronx church



Faith, Excellence, & Achievement: BSDAS Celebrates a Remarkable Year of Success!

The 2025–2026 school year was one of extraordinary achievement, spiritual growth, innovation, and student success at Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School (BSDAS). Through God's abundant blessings, the dedication of the faculty and staff, the unwavering support of the parents and church family, and the determination of the students, BSDAS continued its mission of educating young people for excellence in this life and for service in God's eternal kingdom.

Academically, BSDAS students reached new heights. The percentage of students earning Honor Roll recognition increased from 63 percent to 77 percent, reflecting a culture of academic excellence. The eighth-grade class became the first in the school's history to complete three New York State Regents courses, with 70 percent of the graduating class earning highest honors. Additionally, 11 of 12 seventh-grade

students passed the New York State English Regents Examination, and they also demonstrated outstanding performance on the Algebra I and Living Environment Regents. BSDAS students continued to perform above the New York State averages on state assessments, further confirming the school's commitment to high academic standards.

Beyond the classroom, BSDAS students excelled in the science fair, National Junior Honor Society, music performances, art exhibitions, athletics, spelling competitions, and numerous leadership and service opportunities. Expanded STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), robotics, technology, and enrichment programs continued to develop the intellectual, physical, social, and creative gifts of every child.

Most importantly, God richly blessed the school's spiritual ministry. During Spring Week of Prayer,



Pastor Casey Adams prays during the Spring Week of Prayer.

approximately 30 students made decisions to follow Christ, culminating in six baptisms. Daily worship, Bible instruction, and service opportunities strengthened students' faith and encouraged them to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

As BSDAS celebrates another successful year, may God be praised for His faithfulness. The accomplishments of the 2025–2026 school term are a reminder that when faith, excellence, perseverance, and partnership come



Students look at displays during the science fair. together, lives are transformed and futures are forever changed.

To God be all the glory!

—Loris LaBorde, principal, Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School



The Class of 2026 participates during their graduation.

Hands of Jesus: 2026 Camp Meeting Brings Evangelism to the Heart of the Community

Each summer, Seventh-day Adventists across New York gather for a treasured tradition of worship, fellowship, renewal, and spiritual growth: camp meeting. The New York Conference held its 2026 gathering June 19-27 on the campus of Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York.

This year's gathering had a distinct emphasis. Under the theme "Be the Hands of Jesus," the New York Conference placed evangelism at the center of the camp meeting experience, encouraging members not only to receive spiritual blessings but also to take an active role in sharing the gospel.

A PLACE TO GATHER, WORSHIP, AND RECONNECT

Union Springs Academy provided a fitting setting for the week. The academy's expansive campus in the Finger Lakes region has long brought faith, education, and Christian community together. During the camp meeting, the campus became a spiritual haven where families, pastors, young people, and other church members from throughout the conference worshipped together.

Camp meetings have historically given Adventists time to step away from the pace of daily life and focus on their relationship with Christ. Preaching, seminars, music, children's and youth programming, and fellowship provide opportunities for spiritual renewal.

This year, the familiar rhythm of camp meeting in upstate New York was paired with a renewed call to mission.

EVANGELISM TAKES CENTER STAGE

The New York Conference had already identified evangelism as a major priority for 2026. In a January conference update, leaders reported that 47 of the conference's 69 churches had participated in evangelistic efforts during the previous year, contributing to an increase in decisions for Christ.

Administrators planned to build on that work through continued evangelism. Weeknight camp meeting programs and the final weekend were designed to reach residents of Union Springs, Auburn, and the surrounding



communities. That goal shaped much of Camp Meeting 2026.

This year's gathering emphasized that every believer has a role in Christ's mission and that evangelism is not reserved for pastors or professional evangelists. The theme "Be the Hands of Jesus" expressed the idea that Christian faith is demonstrated not only by what believers affirm but also by allowing Jesus to work through their lives.

Churches were encouraged to sponsor at least one person who had not been baptized to attend the evangelistic meetings. The goal was to expand the camp meeting beyond a gathering primarily for church members and give the wider community an opportunity to hear Scripture and encounter Jesus Christ.

JOHN BASCO BRINGS THE MESSAGE

John Basco Jr., an evangelist with Amazing Facts International, was the featured evangelistic speaker on weekdays and during the second weekend of camp meeting.

Amazing Facts is known for its Bible-based evangelistic ministry, including prophecy seminars and public gospel presentations. Basco's participation reflected the conference's deliberate decision to make evangelism central to this year's gathering.

Conference leaders wanted camp meeting not only to strengthen the faith

of church members but also to help them reach people beyond the church.

MORE THAN A WEEK OF MEETINGS

The evangelistic meetings were part of a broader camp meeting program designed to nurture the whole church. The 2026 schedule also featured Steven Grabiner, former president of Outpost Centers International, as the guest speaker for the first weekend. Angeline Brauer, director of Health Ministries for the North American Division, participated in weekday programming.

The range of speakers and activities reflected the many aspects of spiritual growth. Attendees benefited from preaching and Bible study, as well as programs addressing health, fellowship, discipleship, family life, youth ministry, and service.

ONE THEME CONNECTED EACH PART OF THE PROGRAM: MISSION.

The question was not merely, "What did I receive at camp meeting?" but, "What will I do with what I received?"

Camp Meeting 2026 reminded attendees that the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not confined to church buildings or conference programs. It extends into neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, homes, and communities. The event supported the conference's broader evangelism objective for 2026: creating more opportunities for people to encounter Christ.

Camp meeting also included the ordination of Pastors Servet Dema, Ricardo Reid, and Anthony Whitlow to the gospel ministry. Their wives—Eduarda Dema, Delmeana Reid, and Lanie Whitlow—joined them for the recognition of their calling and service. Through ordination, the world church formally recognized its ministry and commitment to advancing God's kingdom.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, communication and Youth Ministries director, New York Conference

Chris McDonald, head elder at the Breath of Life church in Rochester, New York, speaks to the teens and young adults.

Moving With Mission: New York Churches Embrace New Communities

Several Adventist congregations within the New York Conference are entering a new chapter through changes in location, name, or both. These transitions reflect more than administrative updates; they represent a desire to become more accessible to their communities, strengthen outreach, and provide better facilities for ministry. The congregations making these changes are:

- **Buffalo Westside, now Buffalo Karen** — 6 Lilac Street, Buffalo, NY
- **Capital Hispanic moved to** — 298 St. Agnes Highway, Cohoes, NY

- **Curriers, now Sardinia** — 12820 Genesee Road, Sardinia, NY
- **Gloversville, now Johnstown** — 1739 NY-67, Johnstown, NY
- **Lincklaen Center, now DeRuyter Community** — 1593 Cortland Street, DeRuyter, NY
- **Westvale, now Split Rock** — 4220 Fay Road, Syracuse, NY

MORE THAN A NEW ADDRESS

For these congregations, relocating is about positioning the church closer to the people it serves. Names such as Sardinia, Johnstown, DeRuyter Community, and

Split Rock help communicate where these congregations are located and the communities they seek to serve.

The transition of Westvale to Split Rock is one example of this vision. The congregation celebrated its new home in August 2025, gaining facilities that provide greater opportunities for fellowship, meals, community gatherings, and ministry. (*Read about their move in the January/February 2026 GLEANER online at atlanticuniongleaner.org/2021-current/*)

WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW?

Most of these transitions have occurred in 2025 and 2026, as congregations have sought locations and facilities that better support their

ministry goals. The changes reach across Western, Central, and Capital New York, placing these churches in communities where they can build relationships and become more visible expressions of Christ's love. Ultimately, the goal is not simply to find a better building or a more recognizable name. The building is the tool; people are the mission.

As these congregations begin this new chapter, their moves serve as a poignant reminder that sometimes moving forward means moving closer to the community, to people's needs, and to the mission Jesus entrusted to His church.

—Reynolds Rodriguez, Youth Ministries and communication director, New York Conference



Photo of the Capital Hispanic church at their new location in Cohoes, New York.

Project 845 Ministers in Poughkeepsie

There are moments when worship refuses to remain inside the sanctuary. There are Sabbaths when the final “Amen” becomes the church’s first step into the community. “Project 845” was one of those moments.

Named for Poughkeepsie, New York’s 845 area code, Project 845 embodied the conviction that the gospel is meant to travel. Months earlier, Compassion Ministries coordinator Kayla Skipper sensed God leading Northeastern Conference (NEC) youth toward an annual initiative that would carry ministry beyond the campground. Following worship at the Youth and Young Adult Camp Meeting on July 4, nearly 50 young people and youth leaders boarded a coach bus to carry

Christ’s compassion to Victor C. Waryas Park.

Their hands were full of hope: more than 2,000 bottles of water, 20 water filtration systems, 70 prefilled backpacks, and 80 pairs of Nike Air Jordan sneakers sponsored by the Versacare Foundation. Every item represented a person, a family, and an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus in a practical way.

The initiative required months of planning by Skipper and her team, along with Paula Olivier, NEC Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, and Jonathan Coicou, associate director.

“We are especially grateful to our conference president, Dr. Eldeen King, and the conference



Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, center, poses for a photo with (l-r) Kayla Skipper, Paula Olivier, NEC Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, and Jonathan Coicou, associate director.



Volunteers prepare prefilled backpacks for distribution.

administration for believing in this vision from the very beginning and encouraging our youth and young adults to move forward with their full confidence and support,” Olivier said.

Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers and City Chamberlain Jamar Cummings helped organizers identify the community’s needs and warmly welcomed the volunteers to the city.

Prayer opened the outreach, the NextGen Impact Drum Corps drew families together, and volunteers knocked on doors and distributed supplies.

On one of the hottest days of the year, God’s people refused to let the heat hinder their service. Project 845 reminded participants that worship and service belong together. Praise lifts our hearts to God, and service extends His love to our neighbors. Worship continues long after the closing hymn when the church carries Christ’s compassion into the community.

To God be all the glory.

—Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Northeastern Conference

NEC Youth Olympics Celebrates 45 Years of Faith, Fitness, and Fellowship

The Northeastern Conference (NEC) Youth Ministries Department celebrated the 45th annual NEC Youth Olympics on July 19 at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Since its beginning in 1981, the NEC Youth Olympics has brought young people together through faith, fitness, and fellowship. This year's event welcomed 414 student-athletes, who competed in 71 track-and-field events, including sprints, middle-distance races, the mile, long jump, shotput, and relays.

The festivities began with the annual opening parade, as federations marched in a colorful display of team spirit. The Bronx-Manhattan Federation received this year's James Lambert Parade Trophy.



Athletes proudly display their track and field medals.

The celebration continued with a performance by the NextGen Impact

Drum Corps. The event also marked a first as a delegation from the Southern New

England Conference joined the NEC Youth Olympics.

At the conclusion of the competition, the New England South Federation was named the overall champion after earning the highest medal count. Mark Bevans of Brooklyn South/Staten Island received the Trevor Baker "Fastest Man" award, while Iheoma Ejiogu of Rock-West became the inaugural recipient of the Jasmine Hoyt "Fastest Woman" award.

As the NEC Youth Olympics marks its 45th anniversary, this annual tradition continues to inspire young people to pursue excellence, build lasting friendships, and honor God through athletics and fellowship.

—Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Northeastern Conference



The Hudson-Capital Youth Federation represents their district during the opening parade.

Free Benefit Concert Supports Lucca Mazone's Recovery

Wonderful orchestral music filled the Brunswick church in Brunswick, Maine, on the evening of March 14. The church hosted Topsham Strings, an ensemble of Adventist musicians from a neighboring congregation. The group, which includes about 20 members ranging in age from 8 to seniors, presented a free benefit concert to raise awareness of 19-year-old Lucca Mazone's recovery journey while inviting prayerful support for him and his family.

On Jan. 2, 2026, Lucca was seriously injured in a single-vehicle accident after his car unexpectedly hit ice on the road. He was transported to Maine Medical Center in Portland with a severe brain injury.

The Mazone family has expressed deep gratitude for the outpouring of love and support they have received throughout Lucca's recovery. To help keep family and friends informed, regular



The Mazone family surrounds Lucca during therapy time in March 2026.

updates are shared through a CaringBridge page.

Support from church members, friends, neighbors, and the broader community has helped meet a variety of needs during Lucca's recovery. According to the family, contributions have been used to establish a medical trust,

assist with medical expenses, provide a more suitable vehicle for transportation, and renovate the family's home to include a downstairs bedroom and accessible bathroom. The family is especially grateful for the generosity shown during this difficult season, as Kim, Lucca's

mother, has been unable to work, and his father, Zach, must travel frequently across Maine to support the family.

Throughout the journey, the family has witnessed significant progress. Early in Lucca's hospitalization, physicians shared that treatment options were limited. Since then, he has been relearning how to walk, talk, and even sing. The family credits God's leading, along with the prayers and encouragement of people from many states and countries, for sustaining them through the months of recovery.

More information about Lucca's recovery, including updates shared by the family, is available through his CaringBridge page. Information about the medical trust established on his behalf is also available online.

—Linda Dayen, associate pastor, Brunswick church, Brunswick, Maine

Information about the medical trust established for Lucca is available through his CaringBridge page at www.caringbridge.org.

NNEC Missionaries Share Hope in Distant Countries

Over the past year, Northern New England Conference members have been busy with mission trips! In late October 2025, a group of 19 headed to Cambita Garabitos in the Dominican Republic to serve in the small mountain town of Muchas Aguas. A torrential downpour dumped 16 inches of rain during the first few days of the mission trip, washing out part of the road to the village and causing part of a nearby mountain to slide into the river. In spite of the setbacks, the team carried on.

The following spring, in April 2026, another 11 team members flew to Panama City to serve in the major cargo port of Colón. Despite the different setting, the ministry focus remained the same. At each location, the team held evangelistic meetings, provided sewing classes and sewing machines for women in need, and conducted visitation and food distribution. Free reading glasses were distributed, a medical clinic served community members, and children's



Volunteers pose for a group picture in the Dominican Republic.



Making friends in Panama is another benefit of the mission trips.

programs welcomed eager young participants. In the Dominican Republic, the team also completed numerous construction and painting projects.

—Judy Sabnani, assistant to Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference missions director

The people in both countries were welcoming, and the teams were grateful for the opportunity to serve. Prayerfully, these trips were a blessing to many. They certainly were a blessing to all who participated.

'Faith Fest' 2026 Brings Worship, Family, and Community Together

The 2026 Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting, rebranded as "Faith Fest," was designed to be a week of worship, family, and community. Informative daily seminars were offered across the campus, along with age-specific programming for attendees of all ages. Evening worship services centered on the theme of God's presence with His people through the sanctuary message.

In addition to worship and seminars, Faith Fest featured family- and community-focused activities, including a pancake breakfast, veggie burger bash, 5K run, healthy living expo, bounce houses, and Slip 'N Slide afternoons for children. Each activity, seminar, and worship service encouraged attendees to trust God more fully—not only in times of blessing but also during seasons of waiting, uncertainty, and trial.

A central emphasis throughout the week was on God's desire to dwell with His people. The sanctuary services, sacrifices, priesthood, and holy places of ancient Israel pointed beyond themselves to the plan of salvation and the work of Christ,

reminding attendees that God's desire has always been to live among His people.

The main speaker was Ivor Myers, founder of Power of the Lamb Ministries and pastor of Living Manna Online Church. His nightly messages focused on forgiveness and cleansing, daily dependence on God through prayer, and the study of Scripture. Together, these themes highlighted God's holiness, mercy, and desire to restore broken lives.

Reinforcing the week's emphasis was Messiah's Mansion, a life-size replica of the Old Testament Mosaic sanctuary. Guided tours throughout the week brought biblical history to life through interactive demonstrations, giving visitors a deeper understanding of the sanctuary and its significance.

As Faith Fest concluded, attendees left with renewed confidence that God continues to call His people to draw near, trust His promises, and prepare their hearts for His presence now and for Christ's soon return.

—Debi Verrill, member, Woodstock church, Woodstock, Maine



Ivor Myers, founder of Power of the Lamb Ministries and pastor of Living Manna Online Church, preaches during camp meeting.



Pastor Raci Hernandez assists during the free pancake breakfast.

Impact Providence: 200 Volunteers Provide Hope and Compassion

On Sunday, July 19, the parking lot of Grace and Glory church in Providence, Rhode Island, became a place where faith was put into action. As part of Impact Providence, the Southern New England Conference's (SNEC) 2026 evangelism initiative, Adventist Community Services (ACS) hosted a community outreach that offered free clothing, food, hygiene supplies, household items, health support, prayer, and spiritual resources.

Approximately 200 pastors, church leaders, and members from across the conference—wearing bright yellow “We Care” vests—served an estimated 1,000 individuals and families, demonstrating the impact of churches working together.

Originally planned for April 26 at a downtown Providence location, the outreach was relocated after the venue authorization was unexpectedly withdrawn. What appeared

to be a setback became an opportunity as Grace and Glory church welcomed the event, allowing the congregation to serve its neighbors directly from its own campus.

A key partner was God Provides Ministries International, Inc., of Waterbury, Connecticut. Led by founder and CEO Joseph Ochieng, the ministry supplied the clothing, household goods, hygiene products, and other essential items distributed during the event. Ochieng and his team also coordinated the transportation, delivery, and setup of the donated materials, helping transform thousands of donated items into practical expressions of Christian compassion.

SNEC administrators also participated in the outreach. Edgardo Herrera, president; John K. Amoah, executive secretary; Joshua Tyman, treasurer; Alex Palmeira, vice president



Southern New England Conference leaders pose with Councilman Pedro Espinal (center). Pictured from left: Alex Palmeira, vice president for mission development; John K. Amoah, executive secretary; Edgardo Herrera, president; and Yves Francis, ACS director.



The medical team provides blood pressure checks.

for mission development; and Kenroy Malcolm, ministerial director, joined volunteers in serving the community.

The event also strengthened relationships with local leaders. Gubernatorial candidate Helena Buonanno-Foulkes and Ward 10 Councilman Pedro Espinal were among many civic leaders who visited the site, witnessed the outreach firsthand, and expressed support for continued community partnerships.

Special appreciation goes to God Provides Ministries International, Inc., pastors from the Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts districts, the medical team,

the Medical Cadet Corps, Pathfinder clubs, the SNEC communication team, vendors, the Lincoln food team, DEAF Ministry volunteers, barbers, hairstylists, and the many other volunteers whose service made the event possible.

Impact Providence 2026 was more than a distribution event—it was a testimony of unity, compassion, and mission. Through the combined efforts of churches, community partners, and volunteers, the Providence community experienced Christ's love in practical ways.

—Yves Francis, Adventist Community Services director, Southern New England Conference



Hundreds of individuals and families fill the Grace and Glory church parking lot during Impact Providence.

SNEC Approves Official Slavic Ministry

The Southern New England Conference (SNEC) has taken another step in expanding its outreach by officially establishing a Slavic Ministry. On June 15, the SNEC Administration Committee voted to approve the ministry, which currently supports two congregations meeting within the conference territory—one in Framingham, Massachusetts, and the other in the greater Hartford, Connecticut, area.

The ministry serves people from a variety of Slavic backgrounds, including those who speak Russian, Ukrainian, and other Slavic languages. Many immigrated to the United States from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, bringing with them diverse cultures and religious backgrounds. Demographic estimates indicate that the Greater Boston area is home to approximately 25,000 to 30,000 Russian speakers, while the Greater Hartford region includes an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 Slavic residents, making both areas significant mission fields for culturally relevant ministry.



The Boston Slavic group poses for a photo at the Framingham church with Galina Nikitina, fifth from left; Richardson Desire, center, group pastor; Aleksander Orfordiniy, right center, volunteer lay pastor; and Edgardo Herrera, SNEC president, right corner.

The Framingham congregation traces its roots to a small group that first met in Boston. After the Framingham church hosted a well-attended prayer vigil in 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine, members of the Boston group transferred their membership to the Framingham church. The congregation was officially organized as a group in June 2025 under the leadership

of Richardson Desire, SNEC pastor; volunteer lay pastor Aleksander Orfordiniy, and Galina Nikitina.

Today, the group has grown to between 30 and 40 members, with some traveling from as far away as Connecticut to attend services.

The Hartford-area group began in 2017 when Russian-speaking member Olga Moreira hosted a Bible study in her home. Although the ministry paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, Moreira sought to restart it in 2023 as more Slavic Adventist families moved into the area.

Her efforts took a new direction in November 2025 after a period of personal Bible study focusing on Christ's sacrifice.

Moreira said reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice reminded her of Christ's promise in John 12:32: "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." Believing that promise, she

invited several Russian-speaking church members to her home for tea and cookies to share what she had been studying. The response was overwhelmingly positive and laid the foundation for the current fellowship.

Members of the Hartford group have committed to praying daily for the Slavic community in their area. With support from the Connecticut Valley church, the Framingham Slavic group, and conference funding, they are planning a weeklong evangelistic series in Hartford with guest speaker Alexander Lisichniy, from Zaoksky Christian School, a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution in Russia.

Conference leaders are also planning a Slavic camp meeting in 2027 as the ministry continues to grow.

—Sandra Dombrowski,
communication team, Southern
New England Conference



A Bible study at Olga and Joe Moreira's home draws several families who speak Russian.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Submit your new address to your church clerk or conference.



Missed a magazine? Find it online at atlanticuniongleaner.org.

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 be 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

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

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 *North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3743 Bronxwood Avenue, Bronx, New York 10469. 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

*Updated venue location information provided by GNYC secretariat 7/28/2026.

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

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



**ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

125TH *Anniversary*

WEEKEND CELEBRATION

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 23

Virtual Consecration Service

'We are No Longer Disappointed'

  Atlantic Union Conference

SABBATH • OCTOBER 24

William Miller Farm

10:00am - Sabbath School - *'A Walk Back in Time'*

11:15am - Divine Worship

2:00pm - A tour of the Farm - including the Ascension Rock, William Miller's house, etc

• Sabbath Speaker - **Dr. Abraham J. Jules**, President of the Atlantic Union

• Lunch will be provided

All are Invited to this 125th Anniversary Fellowship experience!

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 25

125 Local Church Community Service

& Compassion Projects around the Union



CLASSIFIEDS

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.

The Atlantic Union GLEANER reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved.

Classified and display ads appearing in the Atlantic Union GLEANER are printed without endorsement or recommendation of the Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertisements, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or for typographical or categorical errors.

EMPLOYMENT

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for a Business Program Professor. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. A professor in the Business Program participates as a member of the team prepar-

ing professionals for Christian service in the business world by providing a quality, student-oriented education that emphasizes ethics and balances practice and theory. See the full job description and uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for a Clinical Coordinator in the Physician Assistant Program. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. The Clinical Coordinator assists the director in organizing and scheduling clinical rotations for PA students. See the job description and apply at 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. Please see the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for a Computer Technician in Information Systems. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. The Computer Technician is responsible for all hardware and software on desktop computers and other end user devices, including security. See the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

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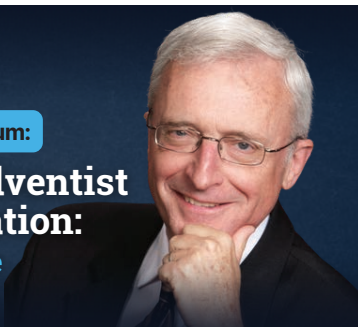
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DR. RICHARD OSBORN

Dr. Richard Osborn has an extensive background as a teacher, professor and administrator. He has served as director of education in the North American Division, president of Pacific Union College, president of the Association of Adventist Colleges & Universities, and president for the Council for American Private Education.

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OBITUARIES

HARRINGTON, Rebecca Dawn—90; b. Jan. 21, 1936, in Syracuse, N.Y.; d. Feb. 10, 2026, in Syracuse, N.Y. She was a member of the Roosevelt church in Fulton, N.Y. She is survived by her daughters, Rosamond Kline of Pennellville, N.Y., and Bonnie Kaszubinski of

N. Syracuse, N.Y.; a sister, Inez Baker of Brockport, N.Y., and a brother, Merle Hughson of Arlington, Tex.

PLUMLEY, Marjorie L.—91; b. May 20, 1952, in Waverly, N.Y.; d. July 17, 2026, in Painted Post, N.Y. She was a member of the Corning church in Corning, N.Y., and served as church treasurer for nearly 40 years. She is survived by her children James (Lucille) Plumley of Painted Post, N.Y., Joyce (Terry) Hall of Coopers Plains, N.Y., and Jan Plumley-Armstrong of Painted Post, N.Y.; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

VALENTINE, Norah Erica (Hornemann)—84; b. May 30, 1942, in Buenos Aires, Argentina; d. May 22, 2026, in Sudbury, Mass. Over the years, Norah worked in administrative, registrar, and payroll man-

agement roles, including many dedicated years at Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. She is survived by her son, Charles (Donice) Valentine of Massachusetts; her daughter, Sylvia (Paul) Henrichsen of California, and three grandchildren, Brandon, Ashley, and Elizabeth Valentine of Massachusetts.

Sunset Calendar

*Eastern Standard Time

	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27
Bangor, ME	6:16	6:03	5:50	5:39	5:28	4:19	4:10	4:04	3:59
Portland, ME	6:22	6:10	5:58	5:46	5:36	4:27	4:19	4:13	4:08
Boston, MA	6:26	6:14	6:02	5:51	5:42	4:33	4:26	4:20	4:15
South Lancaster, MA	6:28	6:16	6:05	5:54	5:44	4:35	4:28	4:22	4:18
Pittsfield, MA	6:34	6:22	6:11	6:00	5:50	4:42	4:34	4:28	4:24
Hartford, CT	6:32	6:21	6:09	5:59	5:49	4:41	4:33	4:28	4:24
Providence, RI	6:27	6:16	6:04	5:54	5:44	4:35	4:28	4:23	4:18
New York, NY	6:38	6:26	6:15	6:05	5:56	4:48	4:41	4:35	4:32
Albany, NY	6:36	6:24	6:13	6:02	5:52	4:43	4:36	4:30	4:27
Utica, NY	6:42	6:30	6:18	6:07	5:57	4:48	4:40	4:34	4:30
Syracuse, NY	6:46	6:34	6:22	6:11	6:01	4:52	4:44	4:38	4:34
Rochester, NY	6:52	6:39	6:28	6:17	6:06	4:57	4:50	4:44	4:39
Buffalo, NY	6:57	6:45	6:33	6:22	6:12	5:03	4:56	4:50	4:45
Keene, NH	6:30	6:18	6:06	5:56	5:45	4:37	4:29	4:23	4:19
Manchester, NH	6:27	6:15	6:03	5:52	5:42	4:33	4:26	4:20	4:15
Portsmouth, NH	6:24	6:12	6:00	5:49	5:39	4:30	4:23	4:17	4:12
Brattleboro, VT	6:32	6:19	6:08	5:57	5:47	4:38	4:30	4:24	4:20
Burlington, VT	6:34	6:21	6:09	5:57	5:46	4:37	4:29	4:22	4:18
Rutland, VT	6:33	6:20	6:09	5:57	5:47	4:38	4:30	4:24	4:19
Hamilton, Bda	7:04	6:55	6:46	6:39	6:32	5:26	5:21	5:17	5:15

*Eastern Standard Time begins November 1.

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Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff
E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor..... Debra Banks Cuadro
Copy Editor (off-site)..... Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design (off-site)..... Haziel Olivera
Proofreader (off-site)..... Lisa Krueger

Editorial Contributors

Bermuda..... Michael Simmons, communications@bermudaconference.org
Greater New York..... Clavour Tucker, ctucker@gnyc.org
New York..... Reynolds Rodríguez, reynoldsrodriguez@gmail.com
Northeastern..... Lavern Sturup, lsturup@northeastern.org
Northern New England..... Dustin Johnson, djohnson@nnec.org
Southern New England..... Shawn Santana, ssantana@sneonline.org

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