

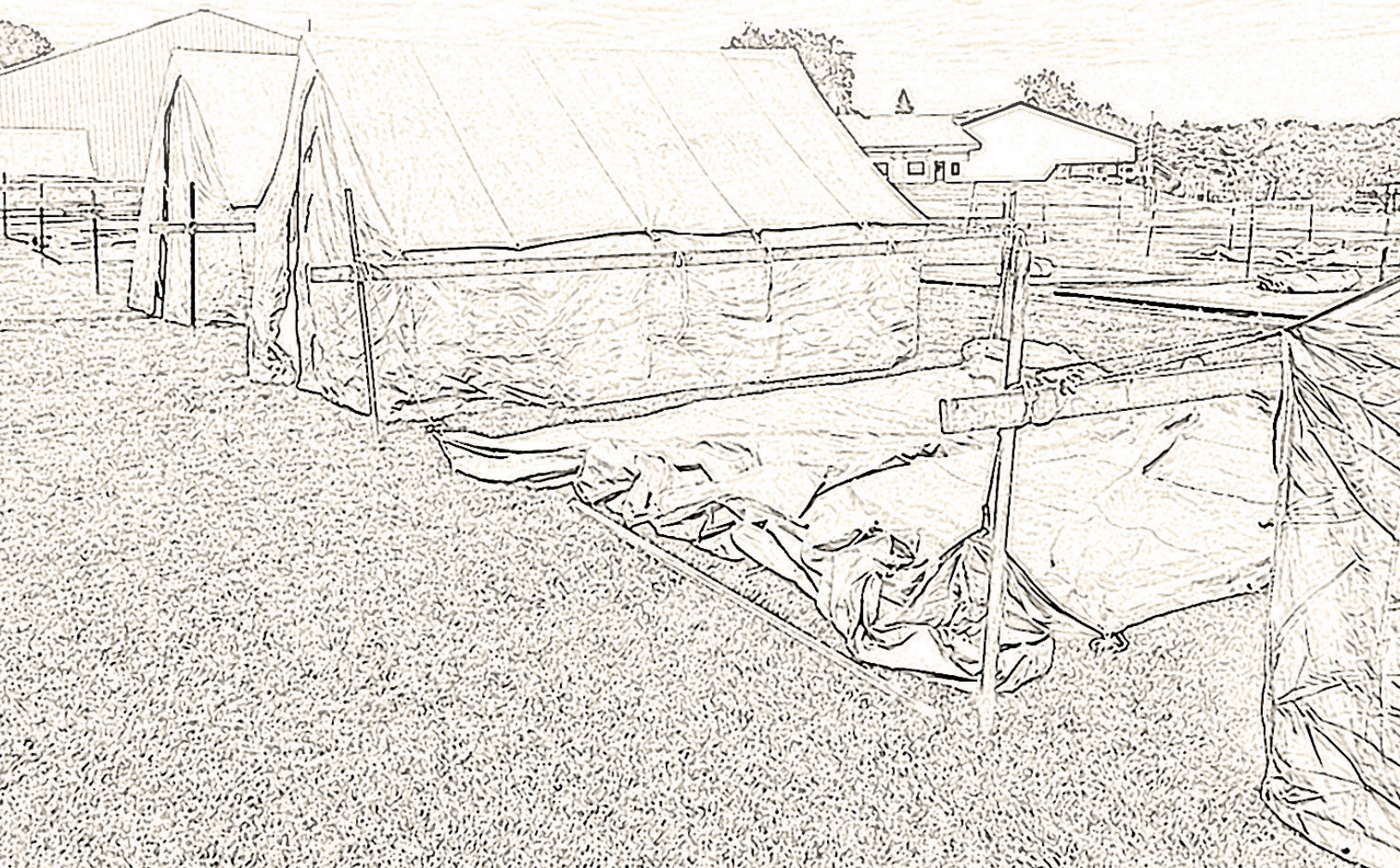
CONNECTION

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NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Camp Meeting

July 6th–14th, 2018



Message From The President

BOB CUNDIFF



THE SPIRITUAL IMPACTS OF THE HOLY LAND TRIP

In December Elder Huskins and I had the joy of leading 66 pilgrims, mostly from our conference, to the Holy Land. I expected the trip to be an amazing spiritual experience, but even with that, I underestimated the spiritual impact this trip would have on both me and members of our group. Let me tell you a few things we learned and recount some highlights from our trip.

The Holy Land is a physical dwarf among the nations of the world. It's only 200 miles long and 60 miles wide at the widest point. It would fit inside the state of New Jersey. A fighter jet can fly across the width of the country in 3 minutes. Yet this tiny land has played a key role in world history. Some 3,000 years ago King David recognized this when he prayed in 1 Chronicles 17:21, "What other nation, Oh God, have you redeemed from slavery to be your own people."

Perhaps that's what makes this land

so special – no other nation has been brought into being by God Himself and designated as His own people. This is why it is known as "The Holy Land." It's holy, not because of the great righteousness of the people, but because God chose this as the place where the Gospel would interrupt the story of broken humanity and reveal His plan of salvation.

Many Visitors to the Holy Land are surprised at the small size of the country. After visiting Israel in the late 1860s Mark Twain said, "The word 'Palestine' always brought to my mind a vague suggestion of a country as large as the United States. I suppose it was because I could not conceive of a small country having so large a history. I must try to reduce my ideas of Palestine to a more reasonable shape."

In terms of geography it's less than 1% of the Middle East. In terms of population it's home to 10 million people. That's how many people live in the State of Virginia. But don't make the mistake of thinking that because it's small it's insignificant. Israel has always

occupied the center stage of that part of the world. Basically, there are two reasons for this. First, Israel is a land bridge. It connects three continents...Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. That land bridge is hemmed in. It's western border ends in the Mediterranean Sea and it's eastern border fades into the Arabian desert.

Second, it also connects two major populations; Egypt in the south and Syria Iraq, and Turkey in the north. In Bible times the dominant cultures north and northeast of Israel were Assyria, Babylonia and Persia. This was the region known as Mesopotamia. What this meant is that caravans of traders carrying goods from Mesopotamia to Egypt and back had to pass through Israel. Thus the major world powers of the Bible struggled to control this tiny sliver of land.

Throughout its long history, it has been controlled by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Romans, Egyptians and the Turks. In 1948 it reclaimed its status as a sovereign nation known as the State of Israel. It's now a tiny Jewish state bordered by an ocean and on



every other side by Muslim nations that would like to push it into the Mediterranean and drown it. It's democratic form of governance make it unique in that part of the world.

I have a whole series of amazing memories from the trip, but there are four in particular I want to share with you.

1) Couples renewed wedding vows near the ancient site of Cana. This is, of course, where Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding. Pastor's Phil and Brenda Johnson led in the renewal service. Even those whose spouses were not able to accompany them on the trip were invited to participate by taking a video of their vow renewal on their phone. Singles were also encouraged to participate in the anticipation that they would one day be able to share their commitment to their future spouse. Saying these vows near this sacred location was meaningful in a way that I cannot adequately describe through words on a page.

2) Our Sabbath morning worship service took place on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Our worship was joyful, unbridled, spontaneous and deep. Familiar praise music was piped over the sound system and as our voices joined in we turned the entire lake into our sanctuary. Our tour guide demonstrated how the disciples would have cast their fishing nets on these very waters some 2,000 years ago. When his first cast produced no fish our group members shouted, "Cast your net on the other side!"

On the deck of the boat we learned several traditional Jewish community dances which the Jews have celebrated for thousands of years. These are the same dances Jesus would have participated in services like weddings and spiritual celebrations. In spite of our joy I should chidingly mention that no



member of our group took up my challenge to "walk in the footsteps of Jesus" by stepping out of the boat!

3) Elder Huskins and I had the incredible privilege of Ordaining Pastor Don Ball to the Gospel ministry while in the Garden of Gethsemane. Check out the full video on our conference Facebook page. To find it, just look up Northern New England Conference on Facebook. Now, I have organized and

participated in a number of ordination services but, once again, words fail me to adequately describe the joy that was ours as we participated in this sacred service. To be able to pray the prayer of ordination on the hallowed ground where Jesus so earnestly encouraged His disciples to pray fills my eyes with tears even as I pen these words. By this point in our tour our group was so well bonded

article continued on pg. 5

Message from the Executive Secretary

TED HUSKINS



By Ted Huskins

Life is changing very rapidly in our world. Prior to the Civil War and, in particular, prior to the Industrial Revolution, things changed very slowly. Men and women for the most part lived on the land their parents had lived on or very near to them. They did the same basic work, wore the same kinds of clothing, listened to the same music, told the same stories and worshipped in the same way. Since that time, change has become continuous and is accelerating. The problem is, with each generation living in its own reality, there is heightened suspicion, negativity and even hostility between generations.

The Baby Boomers were the first generation to really draw the attention of researchers and psychologists. It became clear that this generation born between the years 1945 and 1965 was very different from the generation that preceded it. Long hair, sit-ins, hippies, peaceful protests against the established order, casual clothing and a whole new style of music known as rock and roll typified this generation. They were the largest generation to inhabit the American landscape and they radically changed the face of our country. As they grew

HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER, AND HIS FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS. PSALMS 100:5 (ESV)

into adulthood they introduced a whole new set of values that in many ways contradicted the values of their parents. They parented their own children differently, saw the world differently, related to God differently and worshipped differently.

Now the Boomers are either entering retirement or are at least well ensconced in middle age. The half generation that followed them, Generation X, had its own unique attitudes and values. A small generation, their impact on American culture is modest in comparison to the Boomers. “Xers” are also now for the most part in middle age and there has yet to be an American president from this generation. Xers tend to be more cynical than Boomers and this is heightened by the fact they always seem to be overlooked.

Xers are followed by Millennials, a massive generation born between the years 1978 and 1996. Millennials are the largest generation ever in America. Like the Boomers, they actually have enough idealism to believe they can change the status quo. Perhaps you remember the Occupy Wall Street Movement. That was Millennials, and they are very different from the Xers or Boomers who are their parents or grandparents.

Often the early existing generations – the Silent generation 1927-1944, the Boomers ’45-’65 and the Xers ’66-’77 – fall into the trap of feeling like the following generations just don’t cut it. Those of us from senior generations sometimes feel that the workplace, the family, the church and society in general will fall apart if things are left in the hands of the Millennials

(’78-’96) or their younger siblings, (the Centennials ’96-?). There is reason for concern. Despite being the most educated generation they are underemployed. And despite being one of the most talented and privileged generations they don’t use those talents in church. In fact, over 80% of Millennials are unchurched.

I’d like to propose that the problems these young generations exhibit are not all their own making. We created them. We gave birth to them, parented them, and educated them. We’ve closed the doors of the HR department to them and we’ve often closed the doors of the church to them as well. Now I’m not saying they don’t bear some responsibility for the struggles they face. They make their own choices. But our responsibility – at least from a church perspective – is to understand how their needs differ from our own and create a place for them to lead and worship and champion the cause of Christ in this Century and Millennium. And here’s the good news: if we do that, I believe they will rise to the challenge and surpass all of us.

Recently I had the opportunity to go to the annual GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ) meeting with two Millennials. I was blown away by the passion and the willingness I observed in thousands of young people who are literally willing to go to the ends of the earth (even Northern New England) to change the world for Christ and hasten His soon Coming. They are generous not only with their time, talents, and money, but with their very lives! In fact many who are observing this generation in action note they are the most

Message from the Executive Secretary

TED HUSKINS

generous generation since their great grandparents, known as the Greatest Generation ('05-'26).



Our conference was selected by the General Conference's office of Missions as a conference of special distinction. Our work at the ARK and

in Church planting was brought to the attention of the General Conference and they've given us a grant to help the ARK and Olive Branch Café. More than that, they've also recognized us as a domestic mission field and a conference who is taking bold strides to creatively reach and church-plant among post-Christians who are far from God. As we sat at the GYC booth the General Conference provided us and spoke for seminars and at Sabbath School to these emerging generations, I was astounded by their sense of mission and willingness to consider leaving everything to come

to Northern New England as a church planting missionary.

God is blessing our efforts, but we still need help. We need more of these young people to come as missionaries. We need more money to help provide funding for their relocation and to fund the ministries and effort they will spearhead. Most importantly, we need prayers. Please pray for the Church Planting Project as it gains traction and accelerates. And, if you feel led, please also support this project through your evangelism offerings.

Holy Land Trip

article continued on pg. 3

that I sensed we were experiencing a quality of love and fellowship that is rarely experienced on this side of heavens gates.

4) And then comes my favorite memory of all. Some 40 members of our group were either baptized, or rededicated their lives through rebaptism in the Jordan River. Elder Huskins and I even had the rare and unique privilege of re-baptizing our wives, Cindy and Tanique. We conducted these baptisms last and each took a few moments to linger, share words of love, affirmation and encouragement for the decisions they were making.

Something surreal happened to me at this moment. Imagine the scene. I was standing in the water with my beautiful wife. She was wearing a long white robe and was surrounded by the beautiful green waters of the Jordan river. The water brought out the green of her eyes making them twinkle, and her cascading blond made her look more like an angel than a person.

We talked, shared, prayed and



A replica of period boats sails on the Sea of Galilee

enjoyed a wonderful few moments of spiritual intimacy. I think I even kissed her once (or maybe more than once). Then I looked back up to the shore and realized that I had completely forgotten where I was, and that I was with 64 other people. I laughed out loud when I saw the wall of cell phones all taking video and pictures of our celebration. I asked the group if it was OK that I had just kissed a baptismal candidate and said, "I've never done that before!" They all laughed and said, "Yes and it's going on Facebook!" Again, words fail me

to try to express the joy that was ours as we witnessed these re-dedication's. I sensed that the Holy Spirit was walking very closely to us in these moments.

So – would you like to go to Israel? I'd sure like to go again and so does Ted. Thus, we hope to soon announce dates and plans for another trip. If you'd like to make the trip of a lifetime with us, it's not too soon to begin saving and making plans to be part of our second NNEC Holy Land adventure!

DERECHO RIDES AGAIN!

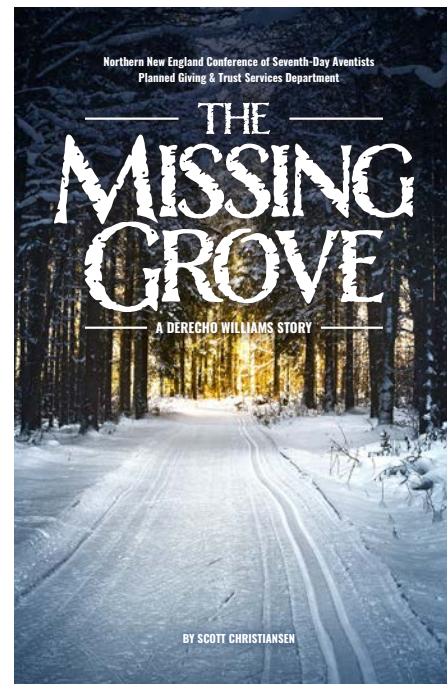
Your Planned Giving and Trust Services department has just released the new Derecho Williams story for this year, the third in the series. According to Jennifer Hernandez, the department director, the stories serve an important purpose.

“One of the most important legs of our ministry is educating our members, not that we know everything, but we help guide them in areas where they might be feeling a bit insecure or might need assistance figuring out what kind of instruments are available to solve an estate planning problem. For many, the legal world can be very intimidating. We take God’s calling and His ministry very seriously, and although it may be difficult for people to start thinking about planning for the end of their lives, these stories give the sense that talking about these things is not as scary as they may have anticipated, in fact, planning is beneficial to them and to the emotional health of their families.

We also share with people a sense of urgency. This urgency is not any type pressure to do things one way or another, but rather it is an urgency to seek the Lord, to discover His will and to make decisions with spiritual clarity. So that’s what we do with Derecho, and it’s working. After reading the story, people better understand what we do in our ministry and what they can expect when they work with us. They also learn a little more about trusts, wills, life-estates, and some of the pitfalls that can be encountered if sound end-of-life planning isn’t undertaken.”

This year’s Derecho story is a little different from the first two in the series. Most of the action takes place outside, and the story involves a retired Adventist Registered Maine Guide and the theft of some very valuable logs. Regular readers of the Derecho series will enjoy the story, but so too might less frequent readers who are lovers of the outdoors.

This year the Derecho story was sent out accompanying this edition of the CoNNEction, with both mailed in one plastic bag. If you somehow didn’t



receive a copy of the Derecho story, or if you want an extra one to send to a friend, simply call Jennifer at (207) 797-3760, Extension 215. And of course, if you just want to call her to discuss wills, trust, special gifts to the Lord, or any other aspect of her ministry, she’ll be glad to talk to you. Tell her Derecho sent you.

GETTING EXCITED AGAIN

By Pastor Bruce Wilkinson

When it comes to personal experiences, there is only one that comes close to my first love experience with God, and that was when I met my wife. That shouldn’t come as a surprise. After all, God instituted the marriage covenant in Eden to express the bond between two people. The other God given institution established at creation was Sabbath, a powerful memorial that

article continued on pg. 7



SERVICE TO THE LORD IN 2018

By Pastor Bruce W. Wilkinson

Our church takes service to the Lord seriously. When it comes time for nominating new officers to serve each year, it's done with much forethought, decision, and resolve. This year marks a new direction in our design of church offices. Until now we carefully nominated and elected church Deacons and Deaconesses to office. It was voiced in nominating committee this year that our Deacon and Deaconess lists were growing quite large so the opportunity to serve was limited, especially for Deaconesses. The direction our committee took because of this observation surprised me, causing me to rethink the needs of the church and the duties of Deacons and Deaconesses.

Rather than having two separate groups of Deacons, we combined the offices into one and call them Diaconates. This now allows the Ladies to serve the church at times other than potluck and Communion service. Taking it a step further, we formed four teams made up of Diaconates with two overseers for each team. The teams are used for, but not limited to, Sabbath School, Church service, Communion, church



opening/closing, taking up offerings, passing the roving microphone, greeting, minding the busy hallways of our church. The scheduling responsibility of the Head Diaconate are made easier as each team assignment rotates by the month.

Team 1 has January, team 2 February, etc. Having a male figure uncover the communion table or a young lady helping take up offering may be a different look for our church but there will be no mistaking the intent behind it, a genuine desire to serve the Lord.

Getting Excited Again *article continued on pg. 6*

enhances our love relationship with God. How fitting. No wonder when Laodicea turned lukewarm toward God He counseled them to return to their first love. The only experience to possibly compare both Sabbath and marriage to would be seeing Jesus for the first time. Can you imagine?

The small St. Albans church in St. Albans, Vermont, is experiencing

a real awakening, partly because a portion of our prayer meeting time is now spent in developing study skills. Advancing technology has provided opportunity for Bible study and research to be readily at our fingertips. Learning to use these mediums has sparked the creative side of our worship experience at St. Albans. Learning more of God through cyber-study has been a true awakening for many. Specialized research, ease of cross referencing,

and portability of research tools, have all added to the joy of enlarging God in our spiritual focus and causing us to be excited about our mission. With these study tools in hand, Sermons are now being developed and presented by some congregation members who heretofore would not have dreamed it possible. Getting excited again is a reality at St. Albans through study of the Word, and through devotion to God and our mission.

UPPER VALLEY ADVENTURERS

By Rebecca Barcelow

On January 13th, the Upper Valley Christian Fellowship in Hanover, NH, braved the sleet and snow to attend a special Sabbath Service. The program was completely put on by the Upper Valley Sapling Adventurer Club. The club is relatively new, and has many young members. The largest concentration of kids is in the Little Lamb and the Eager Beaver Classes.

It is hard to say what the highlight of the program was for the Adventurers. Marching in and out to trumpets certainly generated excitement. Seeing all the previous Adventurers and Pathfinders wear their old sashes and scarves also was riveting for them, especially because those with uniforms and sashes included a ninety-two-year-old great-grandmother who is a Master Comrade (the term Master Comrade was changed to Master Guide after WWII. This Great Grandmother said that during WWII most of the guys were off to war so the women worked on honors). Finally, getting the giant class achievement ribbons put a smile on every Adventurer's face.

For the audience, it was also difficult to decide what the main highlight was. Listening to the children sing through the entire Old Testament Books of the Bible (with associated hand motions to help them remember one story from each book) was a joyful experience. It was an equally joyful experience when listening to the youngest member, (our newly inducted three-year-old, Chase Barcelow,) lead the opening prayer. But maybe – just maybe – it was seeing the BIG smiles on the faces of the children that will be longest remembered.

The second blessing of the day was

the dedication of Micah Alexander Scott. Elder Bruce Conrad talked about the meaning of dedication and the responsibility of the entire fellowship in helping Micah grow to be a man of God. Micah's parents, his grandparents, and his four-year-

old, big brother, Ethan James Scott, were able to stand with him at this important service.

With such a great start to 2018, we can't wait to see what else God has in store for our fellowship and our adventurers!

ESTABROOK THIRD GRADER WINS POSTER CONTEST

By Ellen Busl

Elizabeth Runnals, a student at Estabrook Christian School, recently won the Cassella Poster contest offered exclusively to third graders in Vermont and New Hampshire. Her illustration was chosen for the 2018 Casella Calendar, and it emphasizes the fun and importance of preserving our environment.

Elizabeth is a talented young artist and enjoys adding a creative flair to all assignments. Her portfolio contains many impressive illustrations and sketches of her observations in the natural world that are of great interest to her. The school and her family will receive several complimentary copies of the 2018 calendar.



Ms. Hicks, Elizabeth Runnals and Ellen Busl pose with prize-winning poster. Photo Credit: Ed Runnals

The Estabrook Christian School is the education ministry of the Plainfield Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plainfield, New Hampshire.

"A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men."
Proverbs 18:16

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

By Jennifer Hernandez

Estate planning can be a very scary process, even when you know what you've got. I have a friend who during the process of estate planning, lost a good friend. How did this happen? Well, because of expectations.

Each one of us has certain expectations. We have expectations of parents, children, siblings, coworkers, our pastor, our leaders – people we have cared for and invested in. Expectations are important in order to get things done, and communicating expectations is important in every aspect of our lives. However, expectations can also be a hindrance to our spiritual and emotional health. This happens when our expectations are unreasonable or put our own needs and interests above those around us, especially those we are here to serve.

I am still young and have a lot to learn, however, one thing I have learned in serving you, the amazing members of NNEC, is that the most important expectations that I need to worry about are God's. If I am faithful to His calling, then I will also be faithful in serving you. Of course, I have my own expectations, and as I work with people and get to know their expectations of me, it creates a helpful basis from which to establish a relationship. However, I never want to be in a place where my expectations cannot be adjusted, either because the situation has changed or my understanding of it has changed. I want to follow through with my responsibilities, but I also want to be



Jennifer Hernandez on the Sea of Galilee

flexible enough to be able to meet an urgent need.

You are my family and you are the most important asset to our organization. Yes! You! It's not the tithe or the offering (though without them we would not be able to do what we do). It really is you! You are the most valuable asset because you are God's instrument on so many levels, physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and you make the church what it is today. You are the only one who can change the status quo. You are the only one who can maintain the good and clean up the bad. My friend lost a friend because this person was not asked to play the role they had anticipated in my friend's estate. It was nothing that anyone had done, per se, but it was a decision that had been made. It's tough enough to have to made end-of-life decisions, never

mind feeling pressure to make decisions so that no one feels hurt.

So, what are your expectations regarding your will, your estate, your end-of-life planning? You should expect my department to help you. That means I can help you see opportunities and methods that are not immediately apparent. It also means I can help you see pitfalls and problems that are not immediately apparent. And I do it without pushing and without pressure. Whatever is comfortable for you is comfortable for me. Whatever you don't feel comfortable with, I don't feel comfortable with. If you are not happy, neither am I.

While I work with you, here are the expectations I have of myself: honesty, transparency, and service. I do not expect you to do things my way or even do what *you think* "The Conference" may want. I expect you to pray about your decisions and to listen to the Holy Spirit's leading. I expect you to make decisions that *you and the Lord* will be happy with for the rest of *your* life, however long that may be.

How wonderful it feels to fulfill God's expectations of you in your life (which are very different from human expectations I might point out)! Expect estate planning to be a renewing experience. Expect to create a legacy that will last longer than you, that will bring salvation to people long after you are asleep and waiting for Jesus to raise you up. Expect your plans to make a difference in your life and the lives of others. These are great expectations!

NNEC'S SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN NATION-WIDE STUDY

By Trevor Schlisner

"True education...is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers." Ellen G. White, Education p. 13.

Before the start of the school year, NNEC's teachers get together at Camp Lawroweld for professional growth, collaboration, and fellowship. One of the central themes and goals for each of our schools this year was to raise the bar regarding physical activity, nutrition, and the overall health of our students. Our educators understand and believe that good health practices benefit the mind as clearly spelled out in the Scriptures and the book Ministry of Healing. This is why all twelve of our schools are participating in the North American Division "Physical Genesis

Study", which is the third study in the "Mind Body Spirit Triad" of research efforts focusing on students in the North American Division.

This study will investigate health behaviors and fitness levels of children and their relationship to health in their school and home environment. This research is essential because the benefits of a long, healthy life enjoyed by previous generations of the members of the Seventh-day Adventist church, as reflected in the ongoing Adventist Health Study II, may not be experienced by the school age children of the church today. If this is true, what has changed to make it so, and what do our schools have to change back to regain what previous generations had?

Our NNEC education team wants to play an important role in helping develop good health habits and create a passion for lifetime fitness. We invite you to be involved too! Here are a couple of ideas on things you can do: Help provide our students with plant-based snacks and meals. Lend some expertise by donating your time for a physical education program that is focused on lifetime fitness objectives. This could be a manual labor component via an agriculture program that would get the students outdoors and active! Let us all revisit our health beliefs that have their foundation in creation and restoration, with a renewed emphasis on fitness and health to restore balance and overall wellness in the lives of our students, staff and teachers!

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND ART CLINIC EXPANDING

By Scott Christiansen

NNEC's Art Clinic, held annually at Pine Tree Academy, is expanding. This year it was held on February 1st -3rd and some 170 students participated. Students came from NNEC's schools, home-schools, as well as schools outside the conference, and even from public schools in the region. According to NNEC Education Director, Trevor Schlisner, the event is growing both in participation and in the number of classes offered. "This year saw more participation for

home-schoolers and from schools outside of the conference, so I think there is steadily increasing interest, and with good reason because we are continuing to increase our class offerings. This year we had 14 separate classes including watercolor, photography, culinary arts, theatre arts, wood-carving, flower arranging and place-setting design. Next year we'll add sculpture, architectural design and acrylic painting. Every time we bring in a vehicle for creative expression, there are some students who find they have awesome talent, so we want to keep giving students every opportunity to discover and grow!"

Students compete for "best work" in each category, and the winner is given a cash scholarship. But, according to Trevor Schlisner, it's not the (very modest) scholarships that draws kids, but the opportunities to enhance their



Seventh-grade homeschooler Andrew Dombrowski's entry in the watercolor painting category

skills and make new friends. "It's all about being creative and being social. The kids love it."

**For upcoming events
calendar, please visit
www.NNEC.org
or find us on...**



PATHFINDERS: THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS IN NNEC

By Scott Christiansen

Let me say from the start that I am a huge fan of Pathfinders. No, wait. Make that a MASSIVE fan of Pathfinders. And why not? It's one of the most amazing ministries we have. Of course being, as I say, a MASSIVE fan of Pathfinders means that I'm not really objective on the subject. How could I be? My wife is the director of the Woodstock Whitetails club. Bearing in mind that I have a bias, let me list my five top reasons why I think Pathfinders is amazing, and see if you don't agree with me.

1. Pathfinders give our youth a safe, nurturing place to mature, develop skills, and grow in favor with God and man.
2. Pathfinders provide a structure of tasks and goals that somehow truly engage kids, and it allows critical spiritual lessons to be effectively delivered at a time when our youth are sometimes resistant to hearing them from their parents.
3. Pathfinders help form our young people into confident, self-possessed leaders who can interact with peers and adults with a level eye.
4. Pathfinders give our young people a chance to develop deep and meaningful friendships with their peers – friendships that can last a lifetime.
5. Pathfinders give our young people a chance to grow by traveling beyond their local area and forming friendships outside their home church.

Do you disagree with anything I've listed? Do you think I've left anything off the "top-five" list that you think should be there? But wait – I've only



New sign unveiled at Pathfinder Campground at Camp Lawroweld

listed about half the reasons I'm a MASSIVE fan of Pathfinders. You see, I only listed the reasons Pathfinders are good for our youth – I didn't list the reasons Pathfinders are good for our churches. So, let me throw a second "top-five" list at you:

1. Pathfinders allow members of the congregation to have a vibrant ministry —where they otherwise might not— by being Pathfinder leaders or assistants.
2. Pathfinders provide an opportunity and framework for attracting community youth into church activities.
3. Pathfinders provide an outreach opportunity for the church to participate in community events, such as fairs and parades.
4. Pathfinders, by asking the church to support big events (Oshkosh!), give churches an opportunity to rally around and support their youth.
5. Pathfinders present an opportunity for youth to put on the service once or twice a

year, presenting a message and a perspective that the church would not otherwise hear.

In carefully observing our churches, here is what I have noticed: There is a very big difference between churches that have Pathfinders and churches that have not. Churches that have Pathfinders are more vibrant, more energetic, more forward-looking. Now, the argument could be made that churches without youth don't have Pathfinders, and that's the real reason for any difference between churches. Well, okay, point taken. But even when I remove from the equation churches that don't have youth, we still have churches that have youth but don't have Pathfinders, and this means we have churches that are missing out on a huge – no, MASSIVE – blessing for both their youth and their members.

I'll tell you what – If your church wants to start an Adventurer or Pathfinder club, the conference is standing by to support you. Write Mark Tamaleaa, Youth Ministries Director, at the conference office. His email is mtamaleaa@nnec.org.

ELLEN WHITE ON CAMP MEETING

Let's sit down and have a "conversation" about camp meeting with Ellen White held in plain, contemporary English. Some of her writings are increasingly difficult to access because our language (especially our written language) has changed so much since Victorian prose was the standard. Perhaps her incredibly important advice will seem a little fresher and more pointed if we get it in conversational English. Let's tackle a series of questions about camp meeting. All her "responses" are drawn from Testimonies to the Church, Volume 6, Pages 31-53.

NNEC: So, Ellen –

EGW: Oh, please. It's fine to update the language, but we needn't lose all formality. Call me Sister White.

NNEC: Okay... Sister White, is camp meeting actually important?

EGW: Oh, wow. It is one of the most important things we do. You see, it is incredibly difficult to get people's attention in this day and age. So many other things are competing for people's minds – conflicts, politics, economics and pleasures of various kinds. Satan is doing everything he possibly can to keep people busy, deceived, and in a trance until it is too late for us to tell them the saving truth of the third angel's message. But camp meeting allows us an opportunity to get people away from Satan's tools and get people's undivided attention for a little while.

One reason camp meeting is a good solution is a very practical one: we cannot access other solutions. We can't preach in other churches, can we? Advertising is prohibitively expensive, as are the good theaters and stadiums. And even if we could afford the theatres and stadiums we likely would not be able to fill them. In part this is because we've

been regarded as fanatics or freaks who can't keep step with everyone else by worshipping on Sunday. Taken all together, trying to figure out how to reach people has been a perplexing thing.

NNEC: So wait, you are saying camp meeting is primarily meant to be an outreach?

EGW: Absolutely. Camp meeting is a rare opportunity to invite people into a non-church setting that excludes the messages and techniques of the world, and present them with real truth and let the Spirit do its work. And while they are taking in truth, they are also taking our measure and deciding for themselves if we are fanatics or if we are sincere in trying to follow God. Camp meeting is an ideal setting for bringing people to Christ, but our problem is that we don't make it much of an outreach and we don't act like Christ is coming soon. That's wrong! There is very, very little time left and we should be overcoming all our inhibitions and enthusiastically inviting everyone we come in contact with to our camp meetings. We need to do this very intentionally and plan our actions well in advance, and we need to be prayerful in each step. But we need to just actually put ourselves at risk and start inviting people.

NNEC: I always thought camp meeting was meant for church members. I mean, that's who attends...

EGW: You are half right. Camp meeting is for the spiritual development of church members.

NNEC: Wait... I thought you just said –

EGW: I did. Let me explain. See, people of this world don't know God – His beauty, love, kindness,

and amazing caring – and they don't understand His kingdom. It is our job – as members of the church – to show God and His kingdom to these people. That is a huge and solemn responsibility and we are meant to be fitted for it at camp meeting. But the thing is, we're going to take our responsibility much more seriously if and when camp meeting is full of guests from the community. See, witnessing and being fitted for witnessing are meant to be simultaneous, not sequential.

NNEC: So, camp meeting is a training ground for us as missionaries and at the same time an entering wedge?

EGW: Yes! Literally! Ideally, camp meeting should not be held in one place year after year. Instead, it should be moved to cities that have not been exposed to truth –

NNEC: So, in our context, that would mean perhaps the population centers of Southern New Hampshire?

EGW: Exactly! And Burlington and Bangor. We should be using our camp meetings as a tool for attracting seekers of truth, and should be working to convert souls then moving on. In fact, we really shouldn't be having one large camp meeting. We should be having a few smaller meetings here and there throughout the season.

NNEC: But wait – you are saying camp meeting is a place and time for me to get out of my comfort zone! That is the opposite of what I want! I go to camp meeting to see my friends and to be fed by the pastors. I even have the same camping spot every year – and that is comfortable for me! What you are describing is very, very different from what I'm accustomed to.

EGW: Yeah... Sorry, but there's no affirming way to say this: you're doing it wrong. See, camp meeting is supposed to be a place and time where we witness to the community



Tommie-Amber Pirie portrays Ellen White in the film "Tell the World"

and work to better fit ourselves and our children for service. Camp meeting is supposed to be an excellent opportunity to even more enthusiastically try to model the character of Christ, and to learn from each other as we attempt this. As for seeing friends, what could be better than working with them as a team, going door to door in the community to invite people to camp meeting? Camp meeting should be our biggest evangelism event. In fact, we should come to camp meeting prepared to share and witness – to feed others – and not expecting to lean on the pastors and have them merely feed us. In fact, the pastors should be spending their time with the guests from the community.

NNEC: So, you really are saying that camp meeting is one big evangelism effort, that reaches out and also reaches in?

EGW: I am saying that camp meeting should be designed and conducted so as to achieve the greatest amount of good on all fronts. Actually, this

is consistent with the character and methods of God, who seeks that every interaction among His followers should be a blessing to all involved. Accordingly, members should be involved going out and witnessing – going door to door and bringing in the local people. They will grow by doing so. Members should also be prepared to witness to each other and give their testimonies – they will grow by doing so. Pastors should be engaged with community members and will likely be rejuvenated by doing so. All these efforts, prayerfully undertaken and with the guidance of the Spirit, will result in growth so that a local church may be raised up. And it will be possible to raise up a church because people's hearts were moved by God when they responded to our efforts and were able to be set aside and listen for a while to truth being presented. Really, and I can't say this strongly enough, when it comes to camp meeting, our appeals to the world should be like that of Philip: "come and see." And, if we put prayer and earnest effort into making

that invitation at every opportunity, some will indeed come and see.

NNEC: What you describe is not exactly what we have in NNEC right now. Should we stop doing what we're doing, or what?

EGW: No. Just because you currently don't take your camp meeting to various population centers doesn't mean you can't take the people to camp meeting. Every individual member should be doing what they can to make each camp meeting a tremendous evangelistic event. And the entire sisterhood of churches in NNEC should be praying for their leadership, that they may do the best thing with and for camp meeting and all other opportunities, in harmony with God's will. But let individual action follow these individual prayers, so that we are all working where we are.

NNEC: We've covered a fair amount of ground here. If you were to try to sum up your camp meeting counsel in one succinct statement, what would it be?

EGW: Oh, my – I wrote pages and pages of camp meeting advice in Testimonies Volume 6 exactly because there is so much to be said on so many topics. I recommend to your readers that they read pages 31 to 60 or thereabouts to get a fuller sense of my writing on the subject. That said, if I were to offer short succinct counsel, here is what I would say: Christ is coming soon. Stop living a lukewarm life and put everything into your relationship with Christ, then let him pour Himself out through you, so that you are unstintingly proclaiming Him and His soon coming to all who will listen, and doing it without thought of being embarrassed or diminished in the eyes of the world. Live like you will meet your Savior this week, and hold camp meeting the same way.

Camp Meeting

CAMP MEETING 2018 – FEATURES & CHANGES

By **Scott Christiansen**

NNEC's camp meeting will soon be upon us! This year the dates are July 6-14 and, as usual, there will be a line-up of fantastic speakers, including Mike Ortel! That's right, our former Conference President will be returning as our featured evening speaker for the first weekend of camp meeting!

From Wednesday evening through the second weekend, the featured speaker will be Scott Ritsema, founder of Belt of Truth ministries. Scott presents around the nation on biblical sexuality, the dangers of entertainment media, and God's incredible blueprint for parenting and education. Recently, Scott launched a second ministry initiative called 11th Hour Dispatch, which seeks to shed prophetic light on the astounding news headlines of the unprecedented times in which we live.

As usual, there will be an abundance of excellent music over the camp meeting period, but you might pay particular attention to the second-weekend afternoon concert, which features Stephanie Dawn and accompanist Dann Thornton. They produce a blend of live music as well as testimony, scripture, and prayer.

As you prepare to make reservations for camp meeting, please be aware that the reservations system has moved entirely on-line. Please visit our (new and improved!) web site to make your tent or RV space reservation: www.nnec.org

If you are a senior, please remember to make your reservation for the senior banquet as early as possible.



Tents are being upgraded



Camp meeting baptism in the main tent



The 100-mile "Camp Meeting Century Ride" on Tuesday of camp meeting week, is the only one known to exist

You can make your reservation at the locating center/administrative office at the entrance to the grounds. Reservations are free, and you will be given tickets for your party – hold on to them, as you will need them to get into the banquet. The theme of the banquet this year is "The Tree of Life" and the meal will feature exotic fruit from around the world (Jennifer Hernandez, Trust Services Director, might even provide some small pieces of the world's most notorious fruit – fresh Durian – for those brave enough to try it. Though, if she does, she'll do it in an outdoor setting.)

The grounds and facilities continue to be steadily improved. If you are staying in a tent, you will notice that the oldest tents continue to be replaced with newer (in some cases brand new) tents. You may also notice that the flooring continues to be upgraded and replaced as it is possible to do so.

A great deal of work has gone into preparing the 2018 camp meeting. Please plan to attend and gain a blessing, and please multiply the blessing by inviting your friends!

The penultimate page is the one right before the last one. But here it means something extra, as we live in the penultimate age – the one right before the end. This page will feature a variety of writers talking about the fulfillment of prophecy.

WELCOME TO THE AGE OF RAPID DISRUPTION

By Scott Christiansen

Have you ever wondered how some things in prophecy could possibly be fulfilled? What chain of events would be required to take us from where we are now to where we are prophesied to be? Take some of the scenes painted in Matthew 24 and Luke 21, for instance. Taken together they paint a picture of a world embroiled in conflict, with state against state and people-groups (Jews and Arabs, Hutus and Tutsis) against people-groups, and with rampant hunger and disease (Matthew 24:6-8). These chapters also lead us to simultaneously expect significant disasters such as earthquakes (Matthew 24:7) and upset in the natural world and a state of agitation and bewilderment nearing panic among people (Luke 21:25&26). What course of events would be required to transition from the world the way it is to the world as described?

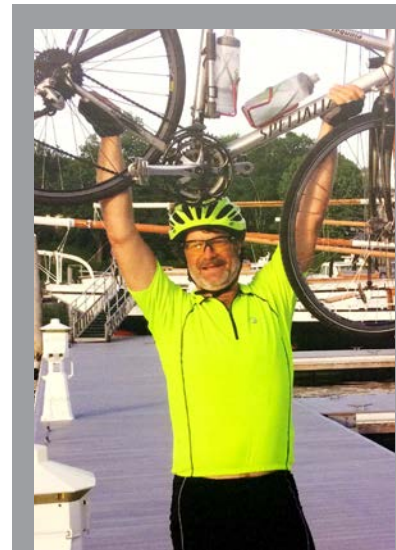
Adding in some prophecies in Revelation, where America enforces the sayings of the dragon and mightily oppresses and persecutes believers, the question becomes even more pointed. What would be required to shift the world from a relatively stable and predictable state to one where such things would not only happen, but would happen by popular demand?

The truth, though, is that the world is no longer relatively stable nor predictable. History moves in fits and starts, with a stable world giving way to rapid and dramatic change – periods of rapid disruption. Take, for instance, the rapid shift between the

dark ages and the renaissance. Or, looking at the same period through a different lens, look at the discovery of the Americas, with the prolonged period of expansion, power shifts and realignments that followed.

Looking at global events today, it very much feels like we have shifted into a new age, an age of rapid disruption. If we have, it's an age where historical taboos are easily broken, where things that would recently have shocked consciences are now accepted with a shrug. It seems we've entered an age where people's hearts have grown colder to the plight of others, and where selfishness is the metric unabashedly applied to both transactions and human interactions. Taken altogether, it seems we've entered an age where winds are blowing that were previously held back.

In such an age, dramatic and shocking change can take place very rapidly. Alliances weaken or become realigned. The outbreak of conflict becomes almost routine. Suffering and desperate masses who try to escape conflict, violent crime, or the ravishments of drought and desertification are vilified. Around the world, income inequality is not only at a shocking level and growing, but as the "haves" gather ever more and the "have-nots" suffer ever more, the sympathies of most seem to be with the "haves". The admiration of those who use every lever to grasp more and more is antithetical to the life and character of Christ, and yet in this age the Christian world is mostly mute, mostly complicit in the treading down of the poor and desperate.



In this new age, rapid and dramatic change is possible. But that is a good thing if we let the rapid and dramatic change be within us, and be for the good. Recognizing this new age for what it is, Christians face a choice: embrace this age and unreservedly model the character of Satan, or reject this age and unreservedly model the character of Christ, showing love, mercy and compassion as He did. There is, I suppose, a third choice: doing nothing and keeping our heads down. But really, this positioning of ourselves between hot and cold is no different in its final effect than embracing the world; it is merely a more cowardly route to the same end.

As Christians, we are here to show the world the character of Christ, to witness that there is a model other than selfishness, to demonstrate that lovingkindness is its own reward. If we do not do this, how will people know? If we do not at the same time proclaim Christ, how will people hear?

We've entered a new and unstable age. Let us redouble our determination to grasp onto and live out the character of Christ.

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NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Music Clinic 2018

April 5-7

Program Schedule - All Welcome

Clinician/Academy Concert-April 5, 5:15pm
Sacred Concert-April 6, 7:30pm
Sabbath School Concert-April 7, 9:30am
Church Service-April 7, 11:00am
Secular Concert-April 7, 7:30pm

Registration for all music groups other than piano ends
March 1, 2018 (piano deadline was February 1)!

Hosted by -

Pine Tree Academy Freeport, ME

FMI and to register, please visit our website at nne.org. Click on
Ministries & Departments for Education/Events.

Spring Prayer Retreat

MAY 24-MAY 27, 2018 | CAMP LAWROWELD, MAINE

JOIN US FOR THIS POWERFUL PRAYER RETREAT EXPERIENCE AS WE:

- ▶ Use inductive Bible study to mine truths from God's word
- ▶ Learn how to be creative in your prayer and devotional life
- ▶ Discover the joy of working with God
- ▶ Delicious meals and lots of fellowship

SUGGESTED STUDY TOOLS TO BRING:

- ▶ Study Bible
- ▶ Laptop, tablet or smart phone with eSword, MySword or PocketSword loaded (*Note: please come prepared by learning how to use these prior to the event*)

PROGRAM

- ▶ THURSDAY: Supper 5:30 p.m., Worship 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ FRIDAY: Full day of prayer, fellowship and seminars
- ▶ SABATH: Another full day of prayer, fellowship and seminars
- ▶ SUNDAY MORNING: Worship and brunch

Children's Program: Ages 4-12

Don't miss this deeply spiritual prayer retreat experience!

"...for by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature..."

2 Peter 1:4

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Download a registration form from
www.nneprayerministries.com

or contact Paula at
paula.roeloffs@gmail.com

