

CONNECTION

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NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE



***Adventist Heritage in
Northern New England***

Message From The President

BOB CUNDIFF



I was busy at my desk when the church phone rang. My customarily cheerful greeting was met with sobs and garbled words I could not understand. I encouraged the caller to take all the time he needed to catch his breath and assured him that I would be patient. Long moments passed as the waves of emotion rolled over him giving witness to the depth of his grief. After two full minutes the caller was finally able to identify himself. It was one of my church members. The next thing he said was, "Pastor my wife just told me she's been having an affair. We are in my truck and are on our way to your office."

Minutes later the tear stained couple arrived and slumped into the couch in my office. Out tumbled the story of his years of insensitivity and her resulting loneliness and disillusion with their marriage. She assured me that she did not intend to be unfaithful but the power of unmet emotional needs compounded by years of bitterness left her vulnerable until she sought comfort in the arms of another.

As the conversation progressed I sensed that she lacked a proper understanding that what she did was morally wrong. I understood

FAITHFULNESS TO SCRIPTURE IN A "DON'T JUDGE ME" WORLD!



that her husband had been less than attentive, but the defending, deflection and blaming left me feeling increasingly uncomfortable. Eventually I asked how she felt about her decisions in light of the seven commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." To say I was not ready for her reaction is an understatement.

Her face contorted in anger as she flailed an angry finger at me and said, "How dare you! I come into my pastor's office seeking some help and comfort and you throw the Bible at me. How could you be so judgmental! You are supposed to be my pastor! You are just like the Pharisees!"

The next few minutes were a bit foggy for me. As she proceeded to give me a piece of her mind I was engaged in a simultaneous inner dialogue that went something like this. "I'm a jerk! I've made her feel horrible. That was the wrong thing to say. I don't want to be judgmental. I'm not feeling like a holier-than-thou Pharisee. How am I supposed to fill the dual tasks of comforting her while also encouraging her to honor the Lord with her body? What am I supposed to say? Should I apologize for what I said? But the Bible says...."

Perhaps you've been there before. Stuck somewhere between the comforting shepherd and the weeping prophet. Your compas-

sionate heart wants to empathize but you also sense a need to encourage others to live a God-honoring life. What was I to do?

That's when the Spirit gently whispered to me. "Bob....it's not your message. It's Mine. That means that you don't have to defend it. Nor should you apologize for it. You are delivering My word to her. This is what I've called you to do and you need not feel uncomfortable in this situation. Be gentle with her, but faithful to My word and you will have fulfilled your calling in this situation."

That was a formational moment in my understanding of how God's Word is to be applied to the everyday circumstances of life. It's helped me chart a course for being faithful to scripture while living in a "don't judge me" world.

James explains it this way. "There is only one law giver and judge, he was able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?" What the Apostle is saying is that God's judgment is authoritative, accurate and reliable. When He declares something good, it remains so regardless of how mortals may feel about it. Likewise, when He declares something evil, we do not have the privilege of reversing God's judgement based on our opinion, experience, understanding or lack thereof. In other words, human beings don't

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SO GOOD I HAD TO SHARE IT...



I have a deep admiration for my friend and mentor Don Shelton. He is a retired pastor, evangelist, conference president and ministerial director - an all around awesome guy! He also writes some of the most meaningful devotionals I've ever read. Below is one he recently wrote, and it was so good I wanted to share it with you.

Choosing friends is an important aspect of life that we begin doing at an early age in life. I chose Don Plemons when I was very young and growing up on Owens Street in Fort Worth, Texas. We did almost everything together - baseball, football, tennis, bowling, hunting, basketball, whiffle ball, bike riding. You name it, we did it. We're still best of friends today though I live some 800 miles away in Tennessee and Don remains in Texas.

We all need friends that we can tell just about anything to and know they will still stand by our side. Friends we can share our war stories with. Friends who won't put us down, spread rumors about us - but will calmly listen. Perhaps these good friends will try to give us some excellent counsel. As you can see from the picture, the gentleman I'm sitting with is a veteran. He's a good listener. We need that in a friend.

But we also need someone who can bring out the lighter side of life, make

us laugh and help us remember that we all make mistakes - someone who tells us we need to learn to laugh at those mistakes, learn from them and move forward. You will see in the picture that Ronald represents that kind of friend.

Unfortunately, sometimes we discover that some friends turn out to be very artificial - having no warmth, no feelings, no heart, pretty inflexible. Not there for us when we really need them. Sooner or later they will let us down. Unfortunately, most of mankind will do that at some time or another.

The best friend to have is a Man named Jesus. I haven't known Him all my life - sad to say. But since I have built a friendship with Him, I find that He is always willing to listen and provide good counsel. He's always there for me. He will tell me if I'm heading in a wrong direction. He's my Best Friend. I mean, what more can you ask of Someone who's willing to die for you?!



DEVOTED TO PRAYER

By Kelly Veilleux
NNEC Prayer Ministries Leader

I really like the theme "Houses of Prayer Everywhere" that North American Division launched last year. It's exciting to think about our churches being centers of "HOPE" or places where folks will come to experience the power of God in their lives. But then there's reality... Here in NNEC most of our churches are very small and located in rural communities and "prayer meeting" is something of the past, or perhaps a few dedicated saints that meet to pray over the list of missing members or weekly prayer requests. Not really the picture of a "house of prayer"...

So this year our Prayer Ministries department has launched a plan to invest deeply in our local church prayer coordinators. In order to have a "House of Prayer", there must be a leader with passion, purpose and a game plan! In May we invited all the local church prayer coordinators to attend a 3-day training retreat at Camp Lawroweld in Maine. God blessed

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VOLUNTEERS HELP LEAD NNEC SCHOOLS ON A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

By Trevor Schlisner



In my job as Education Director for the conference, I put a lot of miles on my car. I get the privilege of visiting our schools regularly, and when I say “privilege” I do not use the word casually. “Privilege” is exactly what it is. Our schools are amazing. They lead children to God. They prepare young minds for engagement and accomplishment in the world. And they change the fortunes of families. In two generations, our schools can help families progress from the hardscrabble existence of manual labor to the relative advantages of technical and professional jobs.

But our schools don’t just become amazing by chance. There are five overlapping groups that make our schools what they are: Incredible teachers, amazing kids, supportive parents, supportive churches, and volunteers. It is this last group - volunteers - that I want to spend a few minutes on. Simply put, volunteers are critical, not just to

the functioning of our schools, but for making them truly excellent schools. Let me give you a few examples.

In February, a Visiting Committee performing a school accreditation visit at Riverview Memorial School took note that snow banks had piled up so high that classroom windows were completely covered. After a quick call from Pastor Milano, a community member with a front-end loader was there to clear out the snow in front of the windows. The charge: free. This volunteer said he values what Riverview has offered to the community and wanted to give back.

On the opposite side of the conference, a special parent at Forrest Ward Memorial Christian School has devoted her time each day to selling books on the school eBay store, helped create and manage the only children’s museum in the Bennington area (located in our church), and also helps run the school antique

store. The reason is simple: she wants the school to have the finances necessary to stay open for her children. She values what Forrest Ward offers and wants to give back.

Sitting in the center of our conference is Capital Christian School in Concord, NH. Our teacher there, Bill Snow, is both invigorated and overwhelmed when talking about his volunteers. He has volunteers come in daily to help teach classes, grade papers, and do special projects with the students. Sometimes, the volunteers team up and help create something beautiful. Two of Bill’s special volunteers have helped the students write their own screenplay on the life of Moses, and now they are in the process of turning it into a feature film, green screen and all! They both value Capital Christian and are happy to give back.

The teachers of our schools and I would like to say a special thank you to all of our volun-

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NEXT STEPS

By Mark Tamaleaa



As a church we've been talking for many years about young people leaving our church. We've studied the situation with lots of data to support our findings. But now what? How do we reconnect with those who have left? How do we retain those who are currently here? Let's talk about the Next Steps we are taking and how you can help.

According to our conference data on membership, we have approximately 500 young adults between the ages of 18-30 that are on the books in the Northern New England Conference. As we've traveled around the conference, we are finding that some have moved away, some are here and serving in the church, some are here but no longer attending, and some have simply disappeared.

In the process of identifying who and where these young adults are, we have heard the pleas of parents and family members who have asked me us to reach out to a son or daughter or

grand child who needs to be re-connected with. Most of these young people - who are being prayed for by family - do not show up on our books. As a result, our list continues to grow exponentially.

The youth and young adult department has taken a very systematic and collaborative approach to reconnecting with our young adult. There are four steps to our approach.

Step 1: There are numerous leaders in the Northern New England family who are currently involved in ministries that serve youth and young adults. We've begun to organize ourselves in one collective effort that uses each other and the conference as a resource for ideas, support, and encouragement.

Step 2: When we talk about Next Steps, a big one is our first NNEC (Youth and Young Adult) Leadership Summit weekend in October at Lawroweld. This summit will work towards inspiring and supporting those who currently serve the youth and

young adults in the local church.

Step 3: At the Summit, we'll be laying out a plan that enlists and recruits each youth and young adult leader as an official "seeker" who will help us connect with those on our growing list. who have left

Step 4: Our goal, will be to simply make contact with those who have left and let them know we are thinking of them and are here to "do life" with them. Initially, the approach will be a phone call or text, a meal at a restaurant, a kind word or of encouragement, and a simple gesture of "we are here to love on you and do life with you". This is in full harmony with Christ's method of mingling with people as one who desires their good.

Pray for us family as we move into these Next Steps. It's a start to a monumental task that can only be accomplished with Gods leading and your help. Please don't hesitate to share with us a young person that we can connect with or pray for on your behalf.

RENOVATIONS AT PINE TREE ACADEMY

By Brendan Krueger

For those of you who attended Camp Meeting last summer, you may have wondered what was going on at Pine Tree Academy. The pictures were off of the walls, the walls themselves were in rough shape, and a number of classrooms were in disarray. We were unable to let most people know that this was not the school being run down, but it was the beginning of a transformation. Pine Tree Academy has been working with id8, a marketing and branding company out of Georgia. As a result, the school is getting a makeover which includes a redesigned logo, new colors, updated messaging, and upgrades to many areas of the physical plant and grounds. So, when you return to Camp Meeting this summer, you may notice a number of these changes.



The chapel and Bible room (which is part of the ABC at Camp Meeting) has had a complete facelift. The walls have been re-painted, energy efficient windows have been installed, new carpet has been laid, and new furnishings have been provided.



Currently, we are working to raise money for new lighting in that space. The school hallways have been repainted with the exception of the classroom doors which will be finished this summer. All student lockers have been repainted and new tile flooring has been installed in the academy wing. The entryway, which was dug up during Camp Meeting, has been finished with pavers and a bench that runs the length of the wall. Internal signage should be in place by Camp Meeting, and three of the school's classrooms are slated to be renovated and repurposed by the end of the summer.

We are blessed by the many generous donations of time and finances given by staff and friends of the school. If you are interested in helping out with either one of these resources, please contact the school at (207)865-4747. Feel free to keep up with activities and updates on the Pine Tree Academy website: www.pinetree-academy.org. A special interest to you may be our blog in which we document and chronicle the events throughout our school year.

CALEDONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL RECEIVES A SPECIAL GIFT

By Trevor Schlisner

Caledonia Christian School in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, is one of several Northern New England Conference schools to have recently received a very generous donation from the North American Division. Many Adventists have seen Nathan Greene's beautiful painting of the second coming of Jesus called "*The Blessed Hope*." This striking painting is, in fact, the centerpiece in the General Conference atrium. Nathan and some donors have agreed to provide a professionally framed 40"x 60" studio canvas giclée of this painting to each junior academy who asks. Also included is a plaque that is placed close to where the painting is displayed in the school. The value of this gift is approximately \$4000.00.

David Knott, the head teacher at Caledonia Christian, invited the church family, board, parents, and community members to an unveiling ceremony that included short messages on the second coming from Conference President Bob Cundiff, pastor Cornel Prada, and Trevor Schlisner. The students had not seen the painting prior to the unveiling and were a bit awe struck at the beauty of the work. Other conference schools who have received this gift include Riverview Memorial School, Estabrook Christian School, Capital Christian School, Webb River Christian School, and Pine Tree Academy. What a beautiful reminder of the mission of our schools - preparing young people for the soon-coming of Jesus!



PORTLAND SPANISH CHURCH GETS AGGRESSIVE (WITH EVANGELISM EFFORTS)

By Jennifer Hernandez

May of 2017 was a month filled with Evangelism events for the Portland Hispanic SDA Church. Our new pastor, Harry Sabnani, has firmly established evangelism as our primary area of effort, and we are off to a quick start. We got underway with a Mother's Day Event on May 6th (many Latin American countries celebrate Mother's Day on May 10th). The church was filled with both members and guests as Pastor Harry Sabnani gave a wonderful message on seven ways to love your mother. A fellowship meal followed and the many guests and extended family members were able to make new friends. The event was put together by a committee convened for the task, and team work and resourcefulness helped it come together.

The following Sabbath, Pastor Ludwing Morales from Colombia organized a youth training event as well as regular leadership training seminars. Speaking with some of the youth afterward, one of them said that they were learning a lot, and hoped even more young people would get involved. The Portland White Memorial SDA Church joined in for afternoon breakout sessions and there was joint brainstorming to come up with ideas on how to improve deacons and deaconess departments.

The very next day saw the start of a week of prayer, with 15-20 members and visitors coming together at 6 am in Tu Casa Restaurant (owned by a member) to sing, pray, and listen to powerful messages by Pastor Joel Toro from Colombia. The week was an extreme blessing for church members, who expressed that God had answered very specific prayers and had given them strength and peace. Members came away committed to spending time in the Bible and in prayer to grow in their relationship with Christ.

On Friday, May 19, two distinct branches of an evangelism series began, with one message for adults and one message for young people. The adults met in the upstairs auditorium of the NNEC building and the youth met in the downstairs conference room.

The Portland Hispanic Church is dedicated to proclaiming Christ and expanding His kingdom, and the new evangelism emphasis is part of doing just that.

ALL ABOUT JESUS

By Bruce Wilkinson



The Williston, Vermont church recently launched an "All About Jesus" series presented by writer and speaker, Pastor Lee Venden.

Preparations for the public event were significant. The Williston prayer team led out in a 40-day prayer-watch, and Sister Val Wheeler shared a spiritual nugget with 50 recipients via email each morning as part of that event. Some 100 posters were placed in business around Williston and Burlington, Vermont. Making contact with business owners and managers and placing the posters was in itself a blessing since every contact is a chance to plant a seed for Christ.

Sister Dotty Krueger took the Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers on the long drive to our church in order to help launch the series on Sabbath. And sister churches Bristol & St. Albans, Vermont each paused church services and attended evening meetings during the mini-series. The people of the church also engaged in a hospitality ministry, preparing a light supper each evening for those coming directly from work to worship.

Elder Venden and his wife, Marji, shared three presentations the first Sabbath with nearly 100 in attendance. Non-members hear Jesus presented as He was in Bible times - accessible and loving. It was the fervent prayer of the Williston District that the series proved to be a blessing to the community, and those who heard it were drawn closer to Christ.

We already know the series was a blessing to the church, but then again, how could it not be? After all, it was "All About Jesus."

A HISTORIC PULPIT

By Ted Huskins

There are so many unspoken stories in the artifacts in our new heritage museum set to open during camp meeting this year (see page 10). The Ellen White pulpit is a prime example. This pulpit was donated by the Bristol church and was used by Ellen and James White in the conferences that they spoke at in Vermont during the 19th Century. Here is an excerpt from one such trip:

Midwinter 1851 the Whites were invited to speak at a conference in Waterbury, Vermont. They had already lent Charlie, their faithful horse, and carriage to S. W. Rhodes and J. N. Andrews so these two preachers could meet appointments in Canada and northern Vermont. Along the way the Whites met a poor believer whom they encouraged to attend the conference. To make it possible, they gave him their train fare to help buy a horse—so that all three could ride in a sleigh together. Soon they met another believer and gave him five dollars to pay his fare on the train. The Whites continued in an open sleigh without blanket or buffalo robe in Vermont cold. Ellen wrote: “We suffered much.”¹

In our 21st century frame of reference, we would hold a conference in a hotel. But the Advent conferences in 19th century Vermont were mostly held

in the homes of members. The pulpit on display originally did not reside in a church. It was kept in the homes of local believers and when traveling preachers came to deliver a message on the Advent Hope, the pulpit was placed in the center of the parlor (or in nicer weather perhaps in the front yard). Can you imagine James or Ellen White standing behind this pulpit and proclaiming present truth?

I want to encourage you to make the trip to the conference office for the unveiling of the Heritage Center. Stand behind this pulpit and soak in some history. The stories told by artifacts in the collection are endless and represent the tremendous sacrifice our early pioneers endured to further the mission God had given them.

Consider their mission in a thumbnail: They had the challenge of sharing the Advent message with a modern world, of building the church where no infrastructure existed, and where resources seemed limited. They were challenged with sharing the Gospel and the three angels’ messages in a way that could be understood and embraced by the

people who lived in that day and time. This was a daunting task that required their time, talents, and treasure - and sometimes their lives. They were dedicated to the task, and today the Seventh-day Adventist Church is growing rapidly in many places around the world.

God has given us a mission, too. It is no less important than the mission He gave the early pioneers. In fact, you could argue that it is more important because we are closer to His return than they were! We are challenged to share the Advent message with a post-modern world, to rediscover passion and dedication in a church that has become bogged down by tradition, complacency, and structure that can at times inhibit creativity and growth. We are challenged to share the Gospel and the three angels’ messages in a way that can be understood and embraced by a post-Christian, post-modern world which finds church and religiosity irrelevant. It is a daunting task that requires our time, talents, and treasure - and even our very lives.

If you’ve attended one of the town hall meetings earlier this year, you



heard Elder Cundiff and the rest of our team talking about two exciting ventures which we hope will bring significant spiritual and numerical growth to this region again. They are twin initiatives we feel are God inspired, the Field School of Evangelism to be held in Lewiston, Maine in the spring of 2018 and the Church Planting Initiative. If you haven't heard of either of these initiatives, you will hear about them at camp meeting. If you can't make it to camp meeting, call Elder Cundiff, myself or Scott Christiansen - we'd be happy to tell you about them.

For these initiatives to be successful we need the faithful saints to stand like the pioneers and be willing to sacrifice for the mission and message we've been given. Sacrifice isn't a popular word in our culture. We live in a world that is focused on gratification, not sacrifice. But friends, now is the time to embrace this age-old practice that illustrates and confirms our commitment to the God who loves us. Now is the time to sacrifice our time, our talent and our treasure. Souls hang in the balance - the population of heaven is at stake.

Pray that the Lord will direct you as to how you should donate your time, talents, and treasure. Are you being called to volunteer at the field school of evangelism? Is God calling you to befriend people who are far from Him and share the loving character of Jesus? The possibilities are endless and I'd love to hear how God is speaking to your heart and where He is calling you to serve. Also, pray about God directing your sacrificial contribution to the camp meeting offering this year. We are setting a goal of \$250,000. Trying to grow in a post-Christian region and making an all-out effort to reach people with the message of Christ requires resources. We've never

reached such a goal, but we believe that it is possible.

Won't you please ask God what He would have you sacrifice for His mission and message, and then step out in faith and make that commitment? It may mean you don't go on that vacation or buy the new car. It may mean patching the old appliance and praying that it will keep on doing its job. But God wants us to step out in faith with Him. As you consider and pray about your sacrificial gift to evangelism, know that I am praying with you and for you. Let's remember something Ellen White wrote about sacrifice:

"We all went under the tree, and sat down to look at the glory of the place, when Brethren Fitch and Stockman, who had preached the Gospel of the Kingdom, and whom God had laid in the grave to save them, came up to us and asked us what we had passed through while they were sleeping. We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that surrounded us, that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, "Alleluia! Heaven is cheap enough!" and we touched our glorious harps and made heaven's arches ring."

1 See *Messenger of the Lord* chapter 8 page 1

Faithfulness to scripture...

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get editorial privileges over God's Word.

As I have reflected on my experience in the office that day, I think my best response would have been, "My dear sister...I am not judging you...however God has already judged this behavior and He has determined that it is wrong. As your pastor, I love you enough to point to you God's word and encourage you to accept the counsel He offers there."

In other words, my job as a Christian is to point people to God's word. If they don't like what they find there, then ultimately that is between them and God. But I need to realize that God is the One who is responsible for what they will learn from His word.

At the same time, James warns us there is a pitfall of judgmentalism to be avoided when he says, "But who are you to judge your neighbor?" We wrongly judge our neighbor when we choose to depart from the authority of scripture and cast a judgment that is different than what scripture teaches. Such judgment is hurtful to others and places Christians in a bad light. This kind of judgement departs of the authority of God's word and elevates a person to the position of God. This action is rightly categorized as 'judgmentalism' and should be avoided at all costs.

So how do we be loyal to scripture while living in a "don't judge me" world? By realizing the difference between positioning ourselves as judge, and encouraging others to be faithful to the authority of God's word. May it be rightly said that the Northern New England Conference is a place where judgementalism is shunned but our loyalty to God's word is unwavering.

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



NEW HERITAGE CENTER LAUNCHES AT NNEC

By Scott Christiansen



Sometimes even modest starts are a long time in the making. But sometimes these slow, modest starts become something very special. Perhaps this is the case with the new Northern New England Conference Heritage Center, located in three rooms on the lower level of the conference building.

Work on the Heritage Center has been a labor of love, sustained by a very modest budget and carried forward by the labor and vision of volunteers. Two years in the making, the Heritage Center now occupies three rooms that were once ill-lit storage areas. Those rooms needed to be cleaned out, remodeled, repaired, and repainted. The linoleum floors also needed to be refinished.

While all that was going on, an ad-hoc group of conference staff and volunteers at the conference designed the Center, starting first with the themes, then the layout, and finally working out specific displays. Key volunteer leader-

ship was provided by former conference office, John DePalma, while the late Stanley Hickerson of Andrews University provided invaluable insights and counsel.

In its final configuration the Center has three distinct rooms. The "big room" is where displays are mounted. This includes a dais, with a pulpit used by Ellen White (see accompanying article) and a Bible passingly similar to the one she held aloft in vision. In another corner is a hand-painted mural of the Washington, New Hampshire church painted by Joshua O'Donnell. A life-size cardboard cutout of the White family stands near a sleigh from the era. Cases and shelves display early Adventist books (including several first-editions), while pictures of the pioneers and other displays line the walls.

Beside the big room is the "theater," which is essentially a large, flat, wide-screen panel television that plays short features about camp meetings of the past. Seating in the room is on wooden benches built by Herb Noyes and Michael Russell - volunteer carpenters. The benches are designed to be just like camp meeting benches of the past.

Next to the theater is the meditation room. This room has a number of historic photos and sketches, as well as a very old "Daniel and Revelation" prophecy chart, complete with the 1260 days of Daniel and the beasts of Revelation. Such charts were used by the pioneers to illustrate and help interpret prophetic passages in the Bible during public seminars. There is also a couch for those who want to relax and reflect.

The Heritage Center is just beginning. It does not yet have elaborate displays or a wealth of historic local materials that can be put on rotating display. And yet those things may come. With the Center actually launched and running,

people who have interesting, historic materials squirreled away may decide to loan them to the Center for display. The Heritage Center is already slated to improve with interesting, new displays coming on through the summer and fall. It is the hope of the team that created the Heritage Center that it will eventually become an important regional center of Adventist history. If you ever plan to pass through the Portland, Maine area, plan to make a stop at the Heritage Center and take in some Adventist history.

FROM VISION TO REALITY

By Scott Christiansen



The new Heritage Center came about because it was a vision that animated leaders at NNEC. But, visions don't become reality on their own. They require steady and dedicated effort. Today the Heritage Center is a reality thanks to vision and support from many. But one particular person provided the steady and dedicated effort, coordinating the center, its design and reconstruction, and all the materials and volunteers, and that person is John DePalma (pictured above). Thank you, John, for your faithful and tireless work!

AT THE START OF ADVENTIST HISTORY:

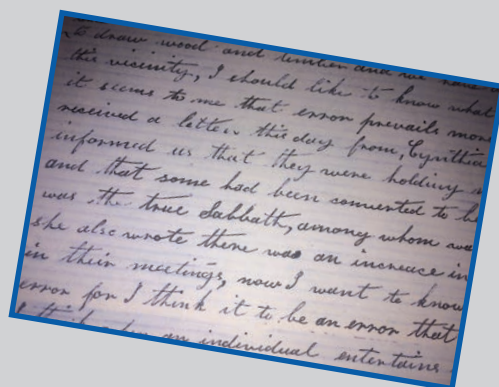
A Pointed Prediction

By Marsha Brummel

There is an interesting letter, dated January 22, 1851, that sheds light on the earliest beginnings of Seventh-day Adventist history. This letter, which has recently come to light, is in the possession of the Washington, New Hampshire Historical Society, and was penned in a neat and unadorned hand by John B. Cheney of Dunstable, New Hampshire. The recipient of the letter was Deacon Amos Russel of Washington. The letter was written to express growing concern Mr. Cheney had over the meetings being held, and his alarm that some were proclaiming Saturday as the true Sabbath.

After a greeting and a few remarks about the weather, Mr. Cheney outlines his concerns (punctuation supplied):

I should like to know what is going on in Washington. It seems to me that error prevails more than ever over there. We received a letter this day from Cynthia Jane Stowell that informed us that they were holding meetings at their house and that some had been converted to believe that Saturday was the true Sabbath, among whom was herself and Mrs. Stowell. She also wrote there was an increase in numbers and interest in their meetings. Now I want to know who is so ready to embrace error for I think it to be an error that ought to be opposed for I think when an individual entertains that belief, they are in danger of not keeping any Sabbath at all. And I fear those that profess to have so many revelations, if they are permitted to live, will by and by reject all revelation



and all Bible and have no Sabbath at all. We were greatly surprised to learn that Mrs. Stowell and Cynthia had so changed their views and we should like to know who influenced them thus to do, and I wish you would write respecting their meetings and inform us who their leaders are. And I hope that they may soon see their folly and turn and obey the truth.

The letter goes on to include a few remarks about pasturing cattle and closes with a cordial greeting.

The note prepared by the Washington Historical Society and displayed next to this letter indicates that the writer of the letter, John B. Cheney, lived another 40 years. That being the case, has was able to see that those first converts - who laid the foundations of the Seventh-day Adventist church - did not in fact give up on the Sabbath or the Bible, but rather formed a world-wide denomination. Today that denomination has over 20 million members spread all over the world.

Mr. Cheney's prediction did not come true, but there is a second lesson we can draw. Ironically, Dunstable, the New Hampshire Town where the letter was posted, no longer exists. The land that once comprised Dunstable is now parts of Nashua, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield and Merrimack, New Hampshire. In a way he never intended, Mr. Cheney's letter indicates that the things of earth pass away, but truth does not.

Bordoville...

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basis, but there are plans to re-open year-around and truly serve the community. After all, the people in this small village need the same Gospel as those in the big cities. This is true now and it was true some 107 years ago when Ellen White, in an article published in the Gleaner (1910), made an appeal to all for help and support evangelizing Northern New England as a way of recognizing the contributions of those great leaders who sacrificed so much.

Once, the Bordoville church was giving the world the best that it had - missionary people. Now maybe it is time for some young people, who are full of enthusiasm and zeal, to come and reconnect the church with its roots - the community. What was once a missionary factory is now in need of missionaries itself. Sometimes, this is how history works: what was once a missionary church has become a missionary field. But what is important is not the history, it's whether or not we daily seize the opportunities the Lord places before us to expand His Kingdom.



BORDOVILLE: HOW A MISSIONARY CHURCH HAS BECOME A MISSIONARY FIELD

By Cornel Preda



In 1856, Augustin Bourdeau accepted the Three Angels Message and tried to convince his younger brother, Daniel, that the biblical day of worship was Saturday, not Sunday. Daniel struggled with this idea and decided to study his Bible in order to show his brother he was wrong. Daniel and Augustin were both enthusiastic young men in their 20's and were both Baptist preachers in the small Vermont village of Bordoville.

It took almost a year for Daniel to be convinced the Sabbath of the Bible is Saturday, not Sunday. But, once he accepted the truth, both he and his brother preached the message to everyone who would listen. For years the brothers worked as self-supporting preachers, ranging through Vermont and Canada in order to preach Bible truth. As a result of their efforts, they gathered a number of converts and formed one of the first Seventh-day Adventist Churches in November 1861.

There was an organizing covenant signed by 11 original members who declared themselves Seventh-day Adventist that "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ." Among those who signed were Augustin and Daniel and their wives, their father and mother, and a former Catholic priest named Michal Belina Czechowski. Three years later, the group decided to build the Bordoville Church, one of the first Seventh-day Adventist Churches built by Seventh-day Adventists for Seventh-day Adventists. It was built in 1864.

With their organizational skills, Augustin and Daniel continued to work hard to organize other congregations and help them build churches. Augustin helped organize the Vermont Conference. Their missionary spirit and sacrifice did not stay contained in just our region. The brothers worked hard to preach the Gospel in the United States

and later in Europe. Michal B. Czechowski became the first unofficial Seventh-day Adventist missionary in Europe. The three men were on fire for the Lord and they were part of the first generation of Seventh-day Adventist missionaries.

One of the results of their missionary efforts was that the Bordoville church was left without its best leaders. For years, this tiny community was the locus of faith for so many. As the years passed, the busy community became a quiet community - a place where time stopped. For almost a century, the church was a vital community center and operated a school in which many children learned the Seventh-day Adventist message. But in time the school closed and so did the church.

For several years now, there has been an effort to reconnect with the past and with the Bordoville community. The little church has reopened, for now on a seasonal

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THESE STONES TELL STORIES

By Scott Christiansen

Being a guardian and preservationist of Adventist heritage is not easy, but it is rewarding. Just as Ken and Marsha Brummel, site coordinators for the Washington Church in New Hampshire. Trying to ready the church for swarms of visitors over the summer months, while maintaining the building and the Sabbath Trail and adding such things as a beautiful pavilion to the site is a challenge - especially when fundraising and volunteer coordination is added into the mix!

But one challenge in particular had the Brummels stumped: how to deal with the cracking, decay, and tilting of headstones in the graveyard. The small graveyard is filled with the headstones of Adventist pioneers, and with the march of time these headstones some headstones have been eroded by the elements while others have cracked and fallen over. Still others were tilting at sharp angles. The Brummels researched the problem thoroughly then looked for someone who could help. They finally made contact with Brian Post of Standing Stone Landscape Architecture in Vermont. Brian, somewhat impressively, is a certified dry stone master craftsman, a certified dry stone inspector, and a certified dry stone examiner. Brian agreed to take on the job of correcting the problems at the graveyard.

It turns out that stone is not a simple thing. Water migrates through it, especially when it is in ground contact. Elements and acid in rain erode it. Being in contact with carbon-rich soil affects it. Being in contact with other stones affects it. Fixing stones is also not a simple thing. Compounds, mortars and plasters

used cannot significantly affect the migration of water through the stone, and cannot have very different coefficient of expansion rates (in other words, need to expand and contract with heat at the same rate as the stone).

The Brummels were delighted that Brian took on the job. Some headstones and monuments were dug up completely and placed on a new base. Some headstones were repaired and reset. Others needed an aluminum frame to remain upright. All needed a good cleaning.

The effort involved was significant. The expense was not minor. But through the work of the Brummels as well as many volunteers and supporters, the Washington Church and Sabbath Trail continue to draw a significant number of tourists and worshippers, many of whom have not had previous contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And when people visit, part of what they see involves the stories of the pioneers in the graveyard, and the blessed hope they have of being called forth on resurrection day. Until that day, their stones tell their stories for them.

Devoted...

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this retreat in a powerful way as 20 leaders came together seeking His face and experiencing fellowship in prayer and ministry training.

One thing we discovered in God's Word is that being "devoted to prayer" is not optional; if we want to be effective in ministry that is. Following the example of the early church we read in Acts 2:42, Acts 6:4, Rom 12:12 that devotion to prayer was a priority for them personally AND corporately! So will it be for us!

direction. He's my Best Friend. I mean, what more can you ask of Someone who's willing to die for you?!

NEW HAMPSHIRE SENDS FLAMES TO ARIZONA

By Jim Thomas



The Pathfinder group for central New Hampshire, the Flames, is a very methodical and systematic group. We are also a very hard-working and adventurous group, traveling every five years to the Global Camporee in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin. We also try to undertake a large service project, meaning that we have a big event every 2 ½ years.

We are currently between Osh Kosh events, and we recently mounted our major service project. It was an aggressive effort! The club decided to go to Holbrook Indian School in Holbrook, Arizona and remodel the bathrooms in their administration building as well as undertake some painting projects.

Fundraising was a little harder than in times past - I have no idea why. We wouldn't have been able to go, except the Lord

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Church News

New Hampshire Sends...

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intervened on several occasions to make sure it happened. When it looked darkest, the Lord moved hearts and donors and parents stepped up.

The club flew to Phoenix on April 21st, rented vehicles, and drove a few miles to Peoria - the homes of Dick and Margaret Wilson. Margaret attends the Concord SDA church in the summer, and Arizona in the winter. They generously hosted all 20 of us!

We spent Friday night with the Wilson's and attended their church on Sabbath morning. Our club presented a short program for Sabbath School, which was well received. On Sunday, we ventured to the Grand Canyon. Four of my Pathfinders had seen the Canyon before, and they were excited. The rest understood once they got there. At the Grand Canyon, we met up with Conference Youth Ministries Director Mark Tamaleaa. He joined us in going to Holbrook, where he once taught for four years.

When we got to Holbrook, we had a week of hard work ahead of us. We couldn't all work on the bathrooms at once - there simply wasn't room. Half of the group went out to the stables for an assignment. The Holbrook staff asked our Pathfinders to clean out the horse stalls. Our kids knocked this "all day" task



out in about two hours, and the Holbrook staff then scrambled to find our "army" something else to do!

The Holbrook folks had gutted the women's bathroom before we arrived, and had hung about half the sheetrock. We finished hanging the rest, taped it out, mudded it, and eventually sanded. It helped enormously that a club parent, Jim Hunold, worked for several years doing drywall.

The men's room still needed to be gutted. We removed the stalls, plumbing fixtures, and plywood from the walls, and then hung sheetrock. The next day, the Indian students arrived (they had been on home-leave Monday), so some our kids got to spend time with them at recess, and read to the younger ones in the library. We noticed during chapel that night that most of the hymnals, song books, and bibles in the boy's dorm were falling apart. Since our club earned the Bookbinding honor last autumn, our non-bathroom squad sprang into action and repaired all of their books. Holbrook was grateful and asked us to take care of the books in the girl's dorm chapel, and in the church, as well.

The bathrooms needed tiling, which we began on Wednesday. After the first

day's effort, we could see we would be hard pressed to finish tiling both bathrooms before Friday. So on Thursday, we got up at 5:30 and got to work by 6:00. We worked until about 10:00 pm each evening. After those really long days, it was still looking like we might not finish before Sabbath, so we got up at 3:00 am on Friday and began

work at 3:30. It paid off! By mid-afternoon, the last tile had been laid and we started clean-up.

Friday night the Flames presented the vespers program. This was something that I left in the hands of my very capable TLT's, and they prepared a wonderful skit on self-esteem, and how God views each of His children. The Pathfinders in Concord (and all over the NNEC) have a heart for the Lord!

One of the beauties of Pathfinders is that it gives kids and parents experiences that they very likely would not have otherwise, and it fosters a stronger relationship with Jesus. The kids and parents in the club had an adventure, and also got to be givers of themselves - just as Jesus taught us.

Volunteers Help Lead...

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teers. We recognize that each play a pivotal role in creating a dynamic and enjoyable educational experience for our kids. We value you and thank you for giving back. I think the words of Paul to the church in Ephesus are fitting. "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:15,16 NIV



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.

RUNNING THE GOOD RACE

By Scott Christiansen

As I write this, I am in the midst of training for an attempt at an Ironman race in August. The Ironman race is timed, and athletes have to accomplish three things in less than 17 hours: They must swim 2.4 miles, then bicycle 112 miles, then run a full marathon - 26.2 miles. Each of these things is challenging. Doing them in sequence is extremely challenging.

Why am I doing an Ironman?

Well, partially because our president, Bob Cundiff, successfully completed one last year! But the real reason I'm doing it? I'll just dispense with pretense and admit that it is a male, mid-life crisis thing. My wife actually approves of this foolishness, as it gets me off the couch and isn't nearly as expensive as the usual male, mid-life crisis acquisition - a red sports car.

But even with my motives for attempting the Ironman, I've still learned some very valuable spiritual lessons from the effort. Let me explain. When training for an Ironman, you can't just focus on one thing. You have to work at swimming, cycling, and running while working on endurance and concentration. You have to become relatively good at three things, and also achieve staying strong under very difficult circumstances if you are to cross the finish line. Reflecting on this, it seems to me there is a direct correlation between Ironman training and our preparation for the end-times and the coming of Christ - both of which are immediately ahead of us.

We live at a time in earth's history when prophecy is being fulfilled right in front of us. We live in what are, and will increasingly become, the most trying times in human history. The days ahead will be a challenge, and we need to prepare - we need to train. Our training has three primary areas of focus. First, we first need to get deeply into God's word. We need to immerse ourselves in it like an athlete when swimming. We need to study scripture daily, storing it in our hearts. Secondly, we need to develop a vigorous and almost constant prayer life. We need an open, direct line to God. And part of our prayer life needs to be listening for the still, quiet responses that come back to us over that open line. Finally, we need to intentionally, purposefully, live out Christ in our lives. Our words and actions must match the presence of Christ in our hearts. We should constantly proclaim His character through word and deed and seek to be a blessing to everyone we come in contact with.

When an athlete trains for an Ironman, the unnecessary things of life are set aside. In their place is put the training regimen, and successful athletes follow their training program with grit and determination. Our pursuit of our relationship with God needs to be like that. We need to relentlessly pursue not just a relationship with God, but also the replication of the character of His Son in our every action.



We need to have our relationship with God crowd out unnecessary things in our life.

Finally we need to focus on the finish line. This race we are in is long, but it also takes place over a limited time. There is an end. During an Ironman race, the starting time is traditionally arranged so that the cut-off time for crossing the finish line is midnight. Athletes either cross that line by midnight or they don't. Throughout the race, every action is focused on getting across that line before midnight. And when an athlete does make it, there is usually an extremely emotional response - tears of joy and outright weeping are not uncommon at the finish line.

But whatever the celebrations are at the finish line of an admittedly trivial race here on earth, those celebrations will pale in comparison to those who fought the good fight, ran the good race, and enter into the kingdom of God. In this race, two things are clear: first, that we must work and train and be intentional about Christ living through us, and secondly, that whatever our trials, efforts, persecutions and exertions - heaven is cheap enough.

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