

CoNNEction

Northern New England Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

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Persistence + HAYSTACK =

A Meeting with the First Lady in the White House

Twelve year old Sienna Mazone of Maine knows the importance of eating healthy foods. Her father Zach, a family medicine physician, often comes home with stories about people whose diet choices have netted them serious diseases that are entirely avoidable. Sienna has often discussed with her parents the physical, mental and financial impacts of an individual's lifestyle choices. Thus it is that Sienna, an aspiring chef, has made a habit of trying to create healthy, well-balanced, and deliciously appealing meals for herself and her family. Perhaps it was this innate creativity that caused Sienna's curiosity to be piqued when she found out about a recipe contest held by First Lady, Michelle Obama.



First Lady Michelle Obama and Sienna Mazone

It was 2013 when Sienna first heard of the Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, a national recipe contest that is part of the First Lady's 'Lets Move!' initiative. The contest was created to spotlight healthy meal choices and called upon all interested kids ages 8-12 to enter. Sienna was 11 at the time and entered the contest with a vege-burger, which she tailored to meet the USDA nutritional "My Plate" guidelines. Her entry was judged one of the top three in her state of Maine – an excellent effort by any standards just a whisker short of where she wanted to be. The first place winners from each state got to travel to the White House where the First Lady would host a "Kids State Dinner" and showcase their recipes.

When the contest rolled around again in 2014, Sienna was 12 and knew it would be her last chance to enter. Problem was she was stumped for a winning recipe. While pondering what

(continued on pg. 9)

Constituency Meeting Explained:

An Interview with Ted Huskins

By Scott Christiansen, Editor

On October 26, 2014, at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, delegates from Northern New England Conference will meet for the 40th Conference Constituency meeting. The constituency meeting is an extremely important part of conference governance, and as such it is critical that each member of the Conference understand how the entire process works. I have asked Elder Ted Huskins, conference executive secretary, to explain the purpose for this conference business meeting so that our minds and prayers may be focused.

SC: Elder Huskins, what is a conference constituency?

TH: A conference constituency is a conference-wide business meeting with a very specific purpose. Delegates are charged with three important mandates:

1. To review and learn from the past four years, but more importantly to think positively about the coming four years, embracing God's will and His plans for hastening His return. Remembering how God has led us in the past is always important; rehashing old hurts or shortcomings is rarely productive in this setting. Visioning and planning for the future will reflect the character of Christ and promote positive change.
2. According to NNEC Articles and Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will bring recommendations and the delegates will prayerfully consider those recommendations and elect a conference leadership team and an Executive Committee. The leadership team is charged with day-to-day operations for the conference and Executive Committee is the governance committee designed to give guidance to operations and initiatives for the next four years. In effect, the leadership of the conference for the next four years is determined through this meeting.
3. The delegates will also elect an Articles and Bylaws committee for the next four years and hear recommendations from the current committee concerning updates and changes to the Articles and Bylaws that govern us. This means that the leadership of the conference and the articles and bylaws that they operate by are either determined or highly influenced by this

(continued on pg. 10)



The *Secret* to a Successful Camp Meeting is...

What is it that makes one camp meeting so different from another? Is it the speakers? Is it the food? Is it the weather? Is it the preparation of the grounds and tents?

The answer is, "no." No single thing determines

the success or failure of a camp meeting. "Well then," you say, "it is all of the above combined!" Again, the answer is no. Camp meeting is not a sum of the preparations, speakers, volunteers and environment. Camp meeting is the sum of all its parts, which is to say that, in addition to the above, we must add in the attendees and the Holy Spirit. And here is the thing that may surprise you: The Holy Spirit is not just present at camp meeting because pastors and administrators and volunteers invited Him. He is present because all attending invited him and made room in their hearts for Him. He is present because there is a spiritual hunger and a spiritual focus.

In this regard, a spiritually hungry audience can be fed by a speaker who is weak and yet who allows the Spirit to work through him or her. Conversely, a speaker who is strong in the Lord and who has invited the Holy Spirit can utterly fail to spiritually move an audience who is disinterested in the message. But when you have a hungry, spiritually-focused audience and speakers who are spirit-filled and preaching a Christ-centered message, then an amazing experience results. By all accounts, it was this spiritual confluence that occurred at NNEC's 2014 camp meeting.

If the evaluation forms are any indication, attendees pretty much glowed by the end of the event

and many were reluctant to leave. Who can blame them? Who would want to leave the presence of the Holy Spirit? And yet, if the Holy Spirit came with the audience, He surely went home with them as well, for the job of The Comforter is not limited to a set of meetings or to a certain place.

There were many evaluation forms filled out and turned in – in sum they probably represented some 10% of total attendees and were therefore likely representative of the whole. Across the board the primary speakers (Elders Bradshaw, Lomacang and Jackson) were given almost perfect marks (that is, nearly 5 out of a possible 5), while speakers from the conference (pastors, administrators, lay leaders) were on balance given marks that were slightly lower but still very positive (approximately 4 out of 5).

There was, of course, an array of individual comments made on the forms. Some were suggestions for improvements through adding things. Some were suggestions for improvements by taking things out. But on the whole, the remainder of the comments amounted to a "That was wonderful! Praise the Lord and let's do it that well again next year!" And that is exactly what we will try to do. Next year, office staff will work for months ahead of the event to plan, prepare and arrange all the details. The pastors and administrators will prepare the grounds, tents and facilities for the members of NNEC. Our exceptionally talented cooks and kitchen staff will work for weeks ahead of time to plan and prepare wholesome meals that are astonishingly good. A small army of volunteers will prepare the seminars, presentations, youth programs, musical programs, and community work events. But things will not be complete, not only until everyone comes, but until everyone comes in a spiritually hungry mindset, bringing the Holy Spirit with them. *Then* we will have another camp meeting like we had this year.

Scott



rejoice in the Lord always
philippians 4:4

LET'S TALK ABOUT "The Conference"



I intentionally put those words in quotes for emphasis. What imagery comes to mind for you when you hear the term "the conference?" For some it's positive. They have a good feeling about our organization, our mission and the way we are doing the work that God has called us to do. They feel proud to be a member of the NNEC and are happy when they have the opportunity to interact with administrators and other employees.

But the phrase causes others to roll their eyes. For some, there seems to be an overarching feeling of negativism associated with "the conference." Maybe they have been hurt by a committee decision. Perhaps they have had a difficult interaction with an employee, a church or a school that left them so wounded that they lash out at the whole organization. Still others take issue with how monies are used, how tithe is distributed or some part of our policy structure.

It goes without saying that I wish all of us could find ourselves in the first group. As such, I'm committed to pursuing the healing that is needed to help move us in that direction. Perhaps a first step is to review exactly what "the conference" is and what it is not.

First, here are a few thoughts on what the conference is not.

"The conference" is not a person...

Recently I walked into a meeting and overheard someone whisper "The conference is here!" I thought, "You've got to be kidding!" I was quick to recognize that I was the new person in the room and that each person there had far more knowledge and experience in our conference than I did. Being elected president of our organization does not somehow transform me into "the conference."

"The conference" is not a building...

Our organization owns a building at 479 Main Street in Westbrook, Maine. This office serves as a launching pad for the administrative and departmental work in our territory, but it is only a building and "the conference" exists independently of the building that houses it.

"The conference" is not a collection of departments...

There are a variety of focused ministries at work in "the conference" such as youth ministries, education, trust services, communication, etc. However, since the various departments serve the conference constituency it would be illogical to attempt to identify them as "the conference."

"The conference" is not the 11.5 people who work at the conference office...

Sometimes when I interact with people across our territory it becomes clear that they think there is a whole army of people working at the office. They then express

frustration that this army of workers is not accomplishing the things they think should be getting done. People often express surprise when I tell them that only 11.5 people work at the physical conference office. Working at the conference are 3 officers, 1 assistant treasurer, 3 department heads, and 4.5 support staff.

So what exactly is "the conference?" Simply stated it's a group of churches that have figured out that they are better together than they are apart. That is to say that they are stronger as a group of churches than they are as individual churches. By supporting each other, encouraging each other, sharing ideas, resources and inspirations each church is better off because of its relationship to the whole. This relationship between our churches is often referred to as the sisterhood of churches. I maintain that it's a good model because none of us is as smart as all of us.

With this understanding in mind we recognize that when we refer to "the conference" what we are really referring to is ourselves. The next time you hear someone talking about "the conference" in a negative way, politely ask them to use the word "we" instead. This subtle shift in terminology helps us all remember that we are in this great controversy together and that we stand the best chance of getting out of it together.

"The conference" (we) are not some impersonal, out of touch entity that is 'over there' somewhere. If I am a member of the NNEC I don't get to talk about the conference as though I am not a part of it. When I build the conference up, I am also building up my church, my friends and my family. When I tear the conference down I damage those same people. What's worse is I am also tearing down the Kingdom for which Christ gave His life to protect.

As president I'm committed to doing my part to heal any divide that exists. I also want to be sure that my contribution to the discussion builds us up rather than tears us down. Would you join me in that endeavor so that our conference could move forward in accomplishing all that God has called us to do here in NNEC? I hope so. In fact, the conference....I mean "we" are counting on it.

Bob Cundiff, President

YOUTH: THE BRUNSWICK CHURCH HAS A PLAN

The Brunswick Church, located about midway up the coast of Maine, is the largest church in the Northern New England Conference, with just under 400 members. And of course, with that many members, the church has a fair-sized contingent of youth. The Brunswick congregation, like every



other congregation, struggles with what it can do to retain the interest and participation of its youth as they mature. According to Mark Pekar, long-time pastor of the church, Brunswick has a five-point plan.

“We have a large and active Pathfinder club,” said Pastor Pekar, “that is the first thing you do to involve youth and retain them in the church.” Beyond that, however, the church has four more things that it concentrates on – four more points in their five-point plan. The second of these points is leadership. “We make a real effort to invite youth to participate in leadership including on the platform on Sabbath,” says Pastor Pekar. “We have youth on the platform helping to lead the service every week.”

Pastor Pekar says that if you can tell the priorities of a church from its budget allocations, then it is obvious that youth and their Christian education is the top priority of the Brunswick church, and Adventist education is the third point in their plan. “Educating and training our youth is a huge priority for us. In addition to money, a good portion of our brightest and most energetic human resources are devoted to making our K-12 school, Pine Tree Elementary and Academy, the high-quality place of Christian learning that it is. Almost all the social programming for our kids outside of Sabbath morning is provided by the school.

“The fourth point is music,” Pastor Pekar explained. “Our kids not only love music, but many of them are also incredibly talented musicians. With this combination, it is only natural that youth would be both leading our song service and also enthusiastically participating in it. This means that some of our ‘blended style’ song service musical selections definitely are geared toward our youth, and that is okay. We want them to truly own what they are leading. Anything less would not be real participation.

“The final point,” said Pastor Pekar with a grin, “is food. Everyone who has ever had a teenager knows that food is a big part of their life and a big part of their social interactions. We put on a breakfast one Sabbath morning a month – a full breakfast with *a lot* of very good food – and it is extremely popular with the youth. The number of young people coming for that early breakfast fluctuates over the years, but they come and they actually get here on time, which in itself says a great deal. I guess people associate food with a warm, welcoming and familiar

atmosphere, and that is exactly the message we are trying to get across.”

Brunswick Church goes to a great deal of effort to involve its youth, but when asked about this Pastor Pekar just shrugs. “You hear a great deal about how youth are the future of the church but to me that misses the point. These kids contribute so much and get back so much that they are a big part of the *present* of the church. And if these kids are both leaders and participants now, the future will take care of itself.”

PORTLAND ALPHA AND OMEGAS:

First Hispanic Pathfinder Club in NNEC

The Portland Hispanic Church, led by Pastor Wilbert Hernandez, is a small congregation that meets in the auditorium on the second floor of the Northern New England Conference office. The challenges for the thirty-some members of the church are great. They do not yet have their own church building, and they are trying to reach Hispanics in a city that does not have Spanish-language media and does not have any one area that is heavily populated by Hispanics. For the Portland Hispanic Church, the challenges to witnessing are significant, especially since it is hard to find the very people they are trying to talk to. Regardless, the church is working to reach out to people in the community while at the same time they are reaching in to their own youth.



The newly organized Portland Hispanic Church Alpha and Omega Pathfinder Club

“The world has many deceptions that are attractive to youth,” said Pastor Hernandez. “If we are not actively trying to keep these kids in the church, they will drift away. That is why we recently started our own Pathfinder club – the first Hispanic Pathfinder club in Northern New England.”

The club, named “Portland Alpha and Omega” has eight members. It also has a great deal of adult support, since it also has eight staff members. According to club co-director Jessica Alvarez, herself a teen, the club was an instant success. “We organized last autumn and have now been to two regional camporees and the kids love these kinds of group activities. There is also a real pride in the club for being the first Hispanic Pathfinder club in

Northern New England. What a blessing that we have something to engage these kids that points them toward Jesus and not toward the world! What a blessing to me, as a young person, to be able to lead them away from the world and toward Christ!”

Pastor Hernandez added, “Satan puts up a battle for every soul – every soul. And he fights hard. I praise the Lord for the adults who are willing to battle Satan for the souls of these kids, and I praise the Lord for the privilege of working with these kids to help prepare them for a life of service.”

JOY IN HEAVEN:

Plainfield Church Has Second Generation Baptism

On June 21, 2014 the members of the Plainfield, New Hampshire Adventist Church gathered together on the shores of the Connecticut River to witness the spiritual resurrection of Joe Padron. But that isn’t the end of the story. The story began in 2010 when the congregation had a different name and worshipped in a different building in a different town.

In 2010, the church was called the West Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church. They had invited Pastor Rick Kuntz, conference evangelist, to spend time sharing Jesus with the community. The first night of the series brought a total of 50 people to hear the message that God had given Pastor Rick to share – 25 of whom were visitors. Among the 25 new faces were those of Jim and Eileen Willis and their two youngest children, Zachary and Cody. Here is their story in Eileen’s words:



(L) Joe Padron, (R) Jim Willis

“We have been Christians in several different Protestant churches for over 30 years. We both had been searching for clearer meaning to prophecy in Revelation. As much as we studied the Bible the churches we attended just gave us a lot of confusion about end-time prophecy. We really prayed to find a “true” church that had more understanding and truth. When a pamphlet came in the mail about a prophecy seminar in West Lebanon, Jim and I jumped for joy, thinking we would finally learn what all the symbols in Revelation meant. I didn’t even look at the name of the church, we just followed the directions and went. I had a hard time grasping it all due to what I was taught in the other churches. It was culture shock at first. It was a battle to relearn everything I had been taught.

Finally I realized that the church we were going to was Seventh-day Adventist. I’d often heard they were sort of like a cult, but I did not want to judge until I researched ALL their beliefs. So Jim and I did all our research. As

we researched the beliefs and read Ellen White’s books, everything started making more sense. All the confusion we had been taught in the past seemed to disappear. We were so glad that God’s own hands led our family into the Seventh-day Adventist Church (a church we hardly even knew existed), which is a place where truth is proclaimed.”

Soon after they joined the Plainfield Church, the Willis Family experienced a job loss. Jim applied for countless

positions in many companies. After 10 months of God meeting their jobless needs, Jim became a floor manager at the West Lebanon Walmart. He had many opportunities to share his faith when fellow workers would notice his lifestyle choices. It was at Walmart that Jim met Joe Padron. Jim and Joe conversed and soon Jim invited Joe to come to church. Joe



Pastor Ramsey Asenjo, of the Plainfield Church with Joe Padron

was encircled by the same church family that welcomed the Willis Family and he began his study of the Bible. He came to believe in the Love of Christ for us and expressed his desire to be part of the Seventh-day Adventist family. On June 21, 2014 the Heavenly Angels sang and rejoiced because Joe Padron chose to become part of the Family of God! From the message being proclaimed by Pastor Rick in 2010 resulting in a first generation of believers to the baptism of Joe Padron in 2014, it took four years for the church family to see a second-generation take root. Please pray for Joe as he continues his growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

By Rachel Kinne



Men’s Ministry Conference

October 3-5, 2014

At Camp Lawroweld

Presented by:

~ Elder, Ted Huskins ~

Executive Secretary of the Northern New England Conference

Pre-Registration is required!

FMI: Contact Tonya at 207.797.3760 Ext 216 or tturcotte@nnec.org

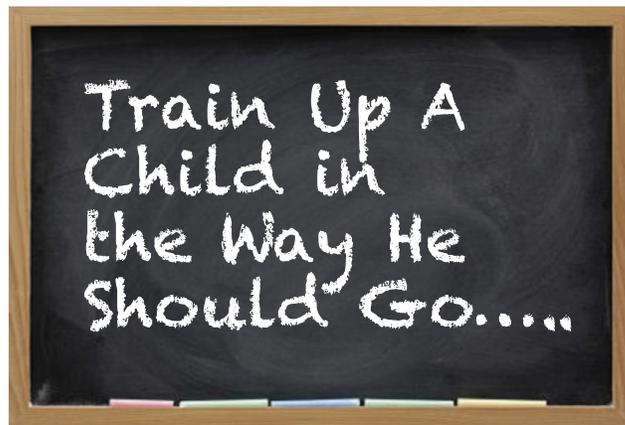
“What Religion Are you?”

by Pastor Donna Holland

Susan was a Seventh-day Adventist living in Africa when she met and started dating Sam. Susan had been praying to marry a Seventh-day Adventist man, because in their culture, if the man and woman get married and they are not of the same religion, then the woman is expected to take on the religion of her husband. Susan did not want to change her religion, so one thing she asked Sam early on in their relationship was, “What religion are you?” Upon learning that he was Catholic, she told him she didn’t think this would work. Sam told Susan that he did not attend the Catholic Church much, and he would not require her to change her religion. Then he went even further and said he would attend church with her at least one time, and see if he liked it. Later, Susan and Sam moved to the United States, settling in the Portland, Maine area.

Sam and Susan looked for a Seventh-day Adventist Church. Susan did not drive, so Sam had agreed to take her to church. They found a Seventh-day Adventist Church, but it was not an English-speaking church. They had found the Portland Hispanic Church, but neither of them spoke Spanish. A young lady translated for them, when she was there. Sam went with Susan one time and liked it! Then he started going more often, however, they really wanted to find an English-speaking Church. Sam decided to ask around at work, and someone who used to attend the Portland Church told him about that church, which was just a few miles from the Portland Hispanic Church. Sam and Susan started attending the Portland Church, and they both liked it.

After their first child, Faith, was born Sam explained how in the Catholic Church they baptized babies. Susan explained that Adventists do something special too, but it wasn’t a baptism. They agreed to ask the pastor about it. So it was that one day, Susan asked me after church about having a special service for their baby. As we talked, I learned that her husband was not at church, and that he was Catholic. I asked her how he would feel about the baby dedication. Well, after some discussions it was clear that Sam was in favor of it. Both parents wanted to dedicate little Faith to the Lord, so we had a baby dedication. Through God’s guidance that baby dedication was followed by Bible studies, and on July 12, 2014 a very happy Sam Saverio was baptized into the Portland Church. As she stood next to her newly-baptized husband and held their baby daughter, Susan was beaming and praising the Lord.



The next time you see a mother with a small child at church; ask her if she sang hymns to her baby before it was born, or if she talked to her baby before it was born. When she says “yes” it is extremely likely that she will), ask her if she thinks it made a difference to the baby. Again, the chances are that she will say yes, and will have her own (usually good) reasons for answering that way. The truth is, our modern culture believes that babies – even before they are born – can take in information. And we believe that giving information to babies and small children makes a difference in their lives.

The Manchester, Nashua and Derry church district, in southern New Hampshire, certainly believes that a child is never too young to be exposed to the stories and wisdom of the Bible. Claiming the promise in Proverbs 22:6, the church has built a very strong Adventurer club and an equally strong early-division Sabbath School, and the effort has paid surprise dividends. “We are seeing a good number of families with small children coming now who rarely previously attended, and who were not attending elsewhere,” says Pastor Carl Behrmann. “Actually, our Adventurer and early division programs have been growing and attracting a lot of our young parents back into church.”

The Adventurer Club at Manchester (aimed at ages 5-9) is led by Dianne Sikes, who is also one of the coordinators



A packed lower division class at Manchester, New Hampshire

CAMP MEETING 2015: It Will Be Held in August in the **BIG** tent!!!

There are big changes coming to the 2015 camp meeting: because of schedule conflicts with the General Conference session, camp meeting next year will be held from August 7 to August 15. The date change is more or less forced because speakers are pretty much unavailable for the usual dates. However, there is an interesting benefit to the change of date: the expectation of milder weather - less rain and less wind. Because of the expectation of milder weather, THE BIG TENT IS COMING BACK!!!

At this point in time, neither of these big changes can be assumed to be permanent. If the August date for camp meeting is universally loved and folks convey their enthusiasm for a later camp meeting to conference leadership, then perhaps a new date can be considered. And, if everything works out well with the use of our aging "big tent" then perhaps a way can be found to use the tent beyond 2015. The tent is enormously popular - this is clear - but it is also problematic: extremely difficult to put up, potentially dangerous in extreme weather, requires significant additional cost to build platforms and lay wiring for audio and lights, etc. Conference leadership is counting on lower wind loads and rain loads on the tent in August for an added margin of safety and is seeking a way to have a big tent in future years and thereby retain the "unique experience" that is NNEC camp meeting. However, there is no big tent solution that comes without cost. Please consider a special offering if you are willing to help support the use of the big tent in 2015 and potentially beyond. Please mark your offering "camp meeting big tent."

With the big tent coming back (and with the 2014 camp meeting having been such a wonderful spiritual feast), it is anticipated that tent and camper sites for 2015 will fill up quickly. To reserve a tent or camper site, please call Diane Kane at 207-797-3760, extension 211.



at the Conference level. At the Nashua Church there is a relative new comer to our church, Cecilia Foo, who decided to get involve as a leader and is doing an excellent job. According to Pastor Behrmann, "At Derry we do not have an active Adventurers program but we have a tireless leader in the early Sabbaths school division, Dot Flannery, and we know it's only a matter of time before an Adventurer program is developed there as well."

"The kids absolutely love Adventurers," says Pastor Behrmann. "They love the games, they love the trips and adventures, and more than anything else, they love the friends that they make. It is these bonds of friendship that help these kids look forward to Sabbath School each Sabbath and it is these enduring bonds of friendship that help kids make the transition from Adventurers to Pathfinders, all the while staying in Sabbath School and increasingly participating in church services."

It is true that what we learn as children is critically important because it stays in our minds. Recently, at the Manchester Church, a woman of a certain age shared a tearful testimony of just how therapeutic and blessed she was by attending one of the lower division Sabbath School classes and realizing that she remembered most of the songs. She was able to joyfully sing along with songs that she learned many decades before. Not only did she remember the songs, but she credited them as some of the early building blocks of her immovable faith in God.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it."*
Proverbs 22:6



***Beloved & Mourned,
Pastor Joppy Wauran Passed to His Rest in July***

Joppy M. Wauran, 58, Pastor of the Rochester Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist Church, died Sabbath, July 12th in Danville, Pennsylvania following an illness. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Yetty D. Kainde Wauran and his daughters, Marlynn and Angeline. He is also survived by four sisters and two brothers.

Born Jan. 20, 1956, in Parepei, Indonesia, son of the late Daan and Agustina Wauran, Joppy loved to play guitar and sing and loved to proclaim the love and soon coming of Jesus. Pastor Wauran is deeply mourned and missed by the members of the Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist community and by NNEC.

DR. MYRON KRUEGER

given

Lifetime Achievement Award



NNEC President Bob Cundiff and Dr. Myron Krueger hold the award given to Dr. Krueger by Philanthropic Services to Institutions, a part of the North American Division. In the background, Dr. Dan Jackson, President of the North American Division and Collette Pekar, Pastor of the Freeport Church, look on.

Recently, Dr. Myron Krueger of Brunswick, Maine, was honored at the annual Philanthropic Services for Institutions (PSI) meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Krueger was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award, a rare honor reserved for only those who provide distinguished and selfless service. PSI is part of the North American Division, and the organization is concerned exclusively with helping Adventist institutions to help others and helping others to help Adventist institutions.

At the PSI meeting, Dr. Krueger was introduced by NNEC president, Bob Cundiff, who counts himself among those who admire the doctor. “This is an amazing and humble guy who has quietly served those in need for many years. What a privilege to introduce him and see him be given such a meaningful award. What a privilege it is to have him in our conference.”

Dr. Krueger was given his award for his long record of arranging medical mission trips to Mexico. Over the years Dr. Krueger has recruited numerous medical teams (comprised of physicians, nurses and other specialists from around the US) to join him on service trips into Mexico. Time and again, Dr. Krueger has seen the hand of the Lord at work when an accident would happen somewhere in a remote area resulting in an unusual and life-threatening injury. Dr. Krueger’s team just “happened” to be available with the very specialists who could successfully treat the injury.

Described variously as a humble man, a dedicated and skilled physician, a man of God, and a “truly good and kind man,” Dr. Krueger seems to have won the heart of all whom he has served. Characteristically, however, Dr. Krueger always seems eager to shift the focus back on Christ and the blessings He gives to all.

At the Northern New England camp meeting, held just a week after Dr. Krueger’s award in Baltimore, the award was displayed to the audience and Dr. Krueger was the focus of a palpable love and affection from the many in the audience. Praise God for service-minded people like Dr. Krueger!



COMES TO NNEC!

In modern America, most innovation begins in the west and makes its way east. It is true of social trends. It is true of fashion trends. It is true of language trends (with the very notable exception of the uniquely New England use of the word “wicked” as in “wicked good” – which, like a salmon, has slowly worked its way against the flow over the past 30 years and become part of the wider American language). It just seems to be true that the west innovates and the east more slowly adopts, refining and improving as it does so.

Within this model, it is the Northeast who is the last place in the US to adopt new things. Northern New England is not on the cutting edge. You doubt this? I offer as evidence the town of Bryant Pond Maine, where the Woodstock Adventist Church is located. Bryant Pond was the last place in the United States to give up their hand-crank phones. When did they retire them? October 11, 1983. Think about that. In NNEC they gave up their last crank phones at the exact time the west coast was bringing the first internet (“ARPANET”) into advanced TCP/IP operation. We rest our case.

All of this only makes it more remarkable that NNEC has officially started a GLOW effort! What is GLOW? It is a simple and effective witnessing system that was developed (naturally) in the Central California Conference. Use of GLOW is making its way eastward, but an eager NNEC jumped far ahead of the normal flow and started its program on July 4 of this year.

A multitude of small, fold-out brochures are at the heart of GLOW, and their use is both profound and simple: people who are GLOWing decide that they will hand out at least one brochure a day, and then they sincerely pray for a divine appointment. Sometimes they hand the brochure to a person. Sometimes they leave the brochure on a park table. Sometimes they leave the brochure on a bus seat or tucked into an in-flight magazine, but always they listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and try to work in cooperation with Him. For the majority of Adventists whose hearts burn within them to witness but who are too shy or feel they lack training or feel they lack materials, the GLOW opportunity is, quite literally, an answer to prayer. GLOWers buy the small brochures (they are \$6 for packs of 100 – six cents each) and seek their divine appointments. People who faithfully hand out one brochure every day spend less than \$2 a month.

One brochure a day may seem like a little thing, but in the hands of the Holy Spirit every effort is powerful. Stories abound of people coming to Christ because they

found (or were given) a small brochure on the very issue that was burdening their heart. Lives have been saved, literally, through these small brochures, as the Spirit has guided the right message to people who were about to commit suicide.

How does follow-up occur? Simple. Those who yield to the urging of the Holy Spirit call a toll-free number on the back of the brochure, and their information is forwarded to the Conference, where it is passed on to the appropriate Bible worker or pastor.

NNEC's GLOW program was launched at camp meeting on July 4 in the form of a seminar. More than 30 people showed up. Most left with a handful of brochures that they had paid for. Would you like to work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit? Would you like to seek a divine appointment and lead people to Christ? Start GLOWing now. Call Scott Christiansen at 207-650-7443. Get some brochures, and keep your appointment with the Holy Spirit.

Persistence + Haystack = continued...

to enter, Sienna's mom helped her start the creative process one morning by challenging her to come up with a dish by lunchtime that included an avocado, a sweet potato, and a Fresno chili pepper.

Sienna checked other ingredients available in the fridge and decided to make a modified haystack. A "haystack" is a dish that is almost ubiquitous at Adventist gatherings



Sienna's winning "haystack" entry

and consists of layers of corn chips (or rice), beans, cheese, sliced olives, onions, shredded lettuce, cilantro, salsa, chopped tomatoes, etc. When Sienna made her haystack, she used a layer of simmered and spiced beans topped by a layer of whipped sweet potatoes with cumin, which was in turn topped by a layer of her home-made mango salsa and chopped tomatoes. The dish was crowned with a scoop of guacamole. Whole grain tortillas were cut into strips and then baked to make chips for dipping (see photo).

Once Sienna entered her recipe it was recreated by chefs and judged according to the contest criteria. In early July, Sienna was informed by email that she had won the contest for the state of Maine and would be traveling (with her mom, Kim) to the White House for a reception hosted by the First Lady. From that notification to July 18, Sienna along with winners from 49 other states and several territories gathered together to meet Michelle Obama and celebrate healthy eating choices. To the delight of the kids, they also got to meet with the White House chef and Senior Policy Advisor for Nutrition Policy, Sam Kass, who congratulated them on their accomplishments and urged them to keep cooking up healthy and delicious meals. The kids were then astounded to find that the reception had a special guest—President Obama dropped in to address

the kids and parents, praising them for the example they are setting.

When Sienna is asked what it was like to walk through the White House and talk with the First Lady her answer is quick and sure: "Amazing! There is so much history in that building! Think of all the Presidents who have walked there and all the decisions that were made! It was awesome!"



White House Chef Sam Kass with Sienna Mazone

Michelle Obama encouraged all the kids to go back to their home states and to get involved in their communities as healthy role models for others. What does 12-year old Sienna plan to do after her amazing experience? She is brainstorming new ideas, but will definitely continue volunteering at The Ark, a vegan restaurant and community resource in Lewiston, Maine, which is run by the Northern New England Conference. At The Ark Sienna volunteers in the kitchen and helps run the Kids2Kids Cooking Class, where she shares her passion for healthy and amazingly good food with her peers.

When asked what one thing stands out most about her trip, Sienna has a ready answer: "It is that one kid can make a difference, and that each and every one of us should be working for what we believe in."

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Constituency Meeting Explained: continued...

meeting. These are fundamental things that the membership of the conference are putting in place.

SC: *How did this meeting come to be? How often does it meet?*

TH: Going back almost 150 years, we find that as our young denomination grew the need for a legal, ethical and spiritual structure became apparent. The Constitution and Bylaws were developed and adopted by our General Conference. Constituencies became the birthplace of Godly prayer and petition for heavenly wisdom to lead this church. This process continues today. In fact, the rules are contained in the *Working Policy*, “an authoritative voice of the church in all matters pertaining to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in the North American Division. It shall be adhered to by all denominational organizations in North America.” (Introduction, North American Division of the General Conference *Working Policy*, 2013-2014) Each conference votes the frequency of these meetings every – every four or five years.

SC: *You have mentioned the term delegates. Who are delegates and how are they chosen?*

TH: About 88% of the delegates are members of our churches. Most have been chosen by their local church to meet with representatives from their sister churches in this conference. A conference-wide representation is thereby obtained. There are a variety of ways they are selected; however, the church board usually confirms their appointment. The other 12% of delegates will be comprised from the following groups: denominational employees within this conference, one representative from each of the five companies within our conference, representatives from the current Executive Committee and Articles and Bylaws Committee, representatives from Parkview Adventist Medical Center, the Atlantic Union Conference, and North American Division. Essentially, a representative from all relevant denominational organizations has a voice in this meeting, but the vast majority are from the sister churches of the conference.

SC: *Elder Huskins, I have heard that sometimes conference constituency meetings are characterized by an argumentative spirit, do you anticipate that spirit to be prevalent at our upcoming meeting?*

TH: Well, Scott, this is my first constituency meeting in Northern New England, so I’m not speaking from experience. I will say that I have been in constituency meetings where a few individuals seemed to believe that a rude and arrogant spirit was an appropriate way of handling the Lord’s business. Undoubtedly decisions are made over the course of time that we may disagree with, but exhibiting disrespect and anger are never appropriate responses to disappointment, especially when we are considering the work of the Lord’s church. I would be surprised if that spirit were manifested to a great degree. The people I have met in my short time here have been

so deeply Christ-centered and grace-oriented that I would find such behavior completely uncharacteristic of our constituency.

SC: *What does the day’s agenda look like?*

TH: The agenda will be voted as one of the first orders of business but delegates should expect the following:

- ~ Worship and Prayer
- ~ Guidelines will be established for the activities of the day and an agenda voted
- ~ Reports will be heard from the various Committees
- ~ Nominations for leadership will be presented and voted
- ~ Nominations for Executive Committee and the Articles and Bylaws Committee will be presented and voted
- ~ Vision casting for the future.

SC: *Who will chair this meeting?*

TH: Dr. Robert Cundiff, our conference president, will chair the meeting, but may turn the chair over to Dr. Donald King, the Atlantic Union Conference president, at appropriate times.

SC: *What can members and friends of this conference who will not be in attendance that day do?*

TH: First of all, non-delegates may attend and listen to the general discussion. However, only the delegates participate in discussion and voting. The constituency meeting is a wonderful opportunity for friends and members across our conference to make this day or the whole weekend, for that matter, a day of prayer and fasting. Pray for God’s leading. Pray for God to be glorified through our actions. We want to hear God’s voice in harmony and unity.

SC: *Elder Huskins, is there anything else you would like to add to this interview? I certainly appreciate the time you have spent. I also appreciate your significant research in preparing for this day.*

MK: Scott, I think we’ve hit the high spots, I’d be happy to speak to any delegate or constituent member prior to the meeting to answer any question or to pray with them over any concern. I will, though, add this final comment: God has designated this day for His glory to be especially manifested in Northern New England. We choose to be legal, balanced, ethical, innovative, relevant and Christ-like in all we do. We choose to take the beautiful present truths and make them meaningful to people today. We choose to have present truth with historical perspective and we do all of this prayerfully. Actually, our conference prayer coordinator, Kelly Veilleux, has organized an on-site prayer vigil at Pine Tree Academy the day of the meeting. May God be glorified as we spend time on His business for this conference.

Not your Typical Mission Story

By Ted Huskins

Fact number one: Mary Quinn is a member of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Bedford, New Hampshire. Fact number two: Mary Quinn is on a mission to build a Seventh-day Adventist church in Malawi. Those are two facts that you might not expect to see together and, seeing them together, you might expect that there would be a story behind them. You'd be right about that – there is indeed a story of God's amazing providence behind those two facts.

Mary's oldest daughter, Amy, is employed by the United States Agency for International Development, more commonly known as USAID. Amy is a foreign service public health officer currently assigned to Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi. Recently Mary went to visit Amy and her family in Malawi. While it was not a mission trip, Mary went with the desire to share Christ's love with the people of Malawi.

Mary had visited her daughter in Africa previously when Amy was stationed in Uganda. From this experience Mary knew of poverty as a constant, grinding reality in Africa. It was still hard for her to face what she saw in Malawi. Malawi is one of the least developed and most densely populated countries in the world. When countries are ranked by the UN according to their total human development (health, schools, economy, etc.), Malawi is in the bottom ten percent. Jobs are almost impossible to find. The AIDS epidemic continues to grow. Desperation abounds.

Upon her arrival in Malawi, Mary began to look for opportunities to help those around her. She found a compelling opportunity right under her nose. Rodwell Vanasiyo is the cook, housekeeper and gardener in Amy's home. Rodwell lives in Kauma, a congested "village" area on the edge of Lilongwe. His "neighborhood" has about 45,000 people, only 20% of whom have electricity. Rodwell is married with three small children and is a leader in his community. He serves as the clerk of the Kauma Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Picture of Rodwell (center), his family and Mary Quinn (second from right)

Each day Rodwell rides his bicycle from his impoverished neighborhood to Amy's home in the embassy district,

where many of the homes have pools and guest houses. The glaring disparity between Rodwell's life and the lives of those in the embassy district might make some people resentful, but Mary found no trace of resentment in Rodwell. She found instead that she was drawn to him by "his joyful spirit which shone clearly through his beautiful smile and his singing with the voice of an angel," as she phrased it. Rodwell arrived each morning singing praises to God and giving God thanks for all His blessings and continued to sing while he worked.

At first, Mary thought that she might somehow help Rodwell and his family. But upon talking to Rodwell, Mary learned that Rodwell's concerns were not for himself but for his church – the Kauma church – which was in the midst of a building campaign. The church had been growing by leaps and bounds, spreading joy and hope in the midst of despair, but progress on the building had stalled due to lack of funds. Mary visited Rodwell and his family at their home. He took her to see the half-built church. The congregation had gone forward in faith with the construction of their church, but could only progress as funds came in. The church needs \$35,000 US dollars to complete a sanctuary which will seat close to 700 people. But their smaller, more immediate need is the \$10,000 it will take to put a roof on the building, which will enable them to use the structure in an incomplete state during the rainy season.

Rodwell told Mary of the work the church did in the community and Mary came to see that by helping Rodwell and his congregation build their church, she could help an entire community. Mary purposed in her heart to help complete Rodwell's church, but she knew she would need help - a great deal of help. Thus it was that a nervous Mary, attending the recent Northern New England Conference camp meeting, mounted the platform steps on Sabbath morning and told her story to an amazed audience. She was very warmly received and some \$4,200 was collected for Rodwell's church that morning. Mary now wants to travel and visit other Adventist churches and church gatherings in the hope that she can help the Kauma church share the love of Jesus in Malawi.



Mary Quinn and Ted Huskins address NNEC camp meeting Sabbath morning.

God has thousands of faithful people who are willing to do his will when it is made known to them. We should all be encouraged to follow Mary Quinn's example and let the Lord use us to further his kingdom and help others. If you are impressed to help Mary build Rodwell's church, please contact Ted Huskins, Secretary of the Northern New England Conference. Ted can be reached at thuskins@nnec.org or at 207-797-3760 Ext. 217.

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Calendar of Events

October

- 1 - 31 Pastor Appreciation Month
- 3 - 5 Men's Ministries
Camp Lawroweld
- 9 - 12 Prayer Ministries Fall Retreat
Camp Lawroweld
- 18 Bordoville Church 150th Celebration
West Enosburg, VT
- 26 NNEC Constituency Meeting
Pine Tree Academy
- 31-Nov 1 Fall Youth Rally
Freeport Church

November

- 1 Fall Youth Rally
Freeport Church
- 27 NNEC Closed
Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 22 - 30 NNEC Closed
Christmas Holiday Break
- 31 NNEC Office Open

January

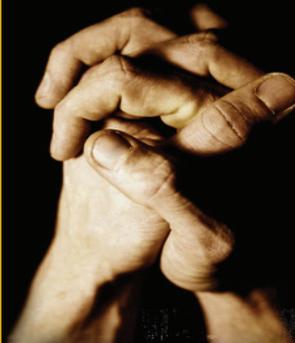
- 1 NNEC Closed
New Year's Day

PRAYER LINE NUMBER CHANGE

You have a standing invitation to join NNEC's Prayer Warriors in their critical mission as they pray for the work of the Lord throughout the conference. The prayer ministries team has recently upgraded their call-in service and is now using a new number and new passcode. For more information on all Prayer Ministries activities, including scheduled calls, see their website at:

www.nnecprayerministries.com
The new number is: 712-432-0232
The new code is: 310654#

If you have not previously joined in on a prayer ministries call, look over their website for a call time that suits you and join in on this profound spiritual blessing.



IF MY
PEOPLE...

2 chronicles 7:14