

JUL-AUG 2026

Gleanings

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

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A New Generation of Leaders
for Mission and Service

South Caribbean Conference Ordination and
Commissioning Service March 2026
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GREATNESS II

Pathfinder Camporee in
Guyana.

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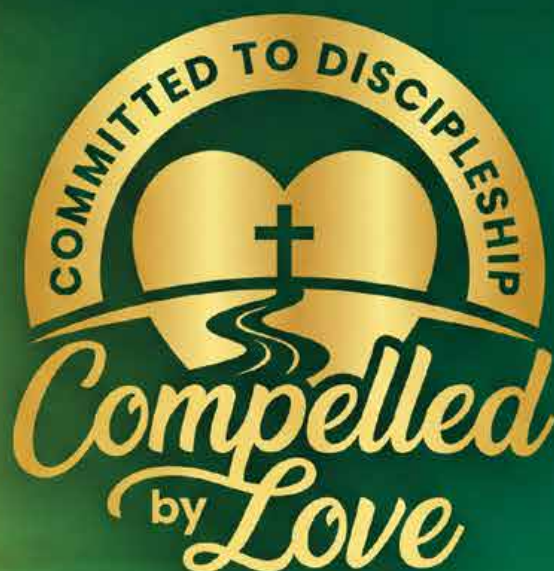
An experience beyond
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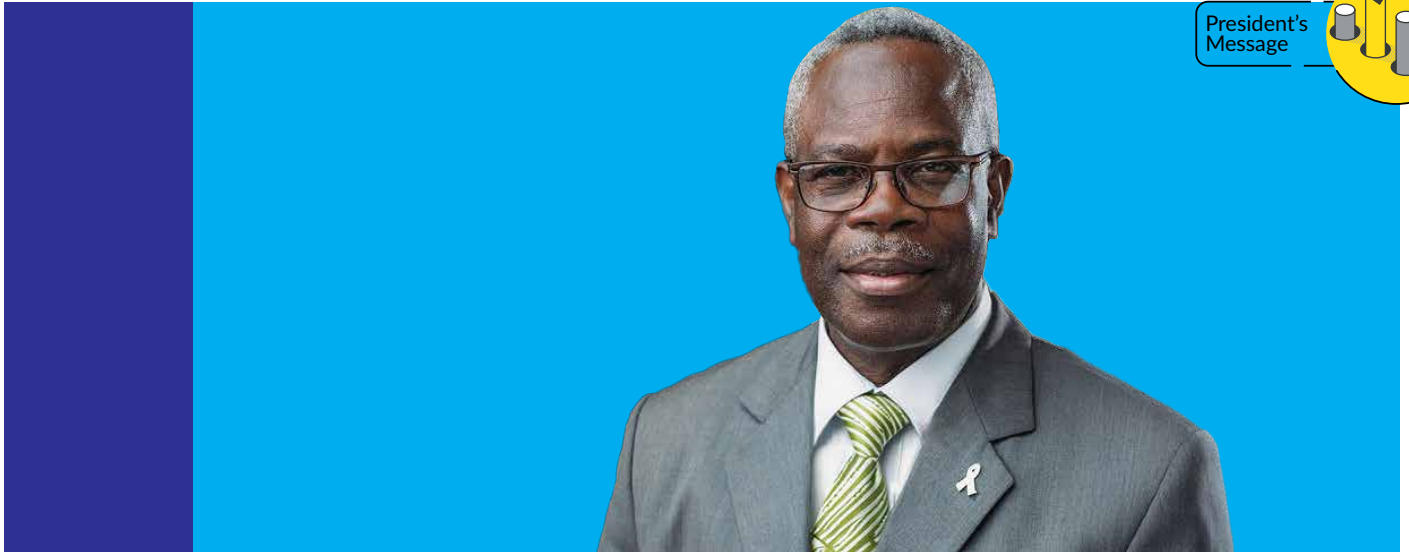


UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN
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18TH SESSION
CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE



@CARIBBEANUNIONCONFERENCE



Dr. Kern Tobias

President | Caribbean Union Conference

President's Message

**“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
–1 Thessalonians 5:18**

As I reflect on the journey God has led me through, my heart overflows with gratitude. Every season of life, whether marked by joy or challenge, success or disappointment, has revealed the faithfulness of God. Looking back, I can confidently say that His hand has guided every step, and for that, I give Him praise.

I am grateful first for the gift of family. God placed me in a home that nurtured my faith, shaped my character, and taught me values that continue to guide my life. Later, He blessed me with my own family—a loving wife and children who have brought immeasurable joy and purpose to my journey. Through them, I have experienced God’s love in profound ways. Truly, family is one of Heaven’s greatest blessings.

My heart is also filled with thanksgiving for the privilege of ministry. God called me to serve Him, and throughout the 49 years, He has surrounded me with mentors, colleagues, church members, and friends who have encouraged and strengthened me. Every congregation I have served, every field in which I have labored, and every person whose path has crossed mine has contributed to my growth and understanding of God’s purpose.

I am especially thankful for the opportunity to serve the Caribbean Union Conference. Working alongside dedicated leaders, administrators, directors, pastors, employees, and members across our territory has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Together, we have witnessed God’s blessings, celebrated victories, faced

challenges, and advanced His mission. Through it all, God has remained faithful.

As I consider the years behind us, I thank God not only for the achievements but also for the lessons learned through adversity. Challenges have strengthened our faith, deepened our dependence on God, and reminded us that His grace is always sufficient. Every experience has helped shape us for greater service.

Today, I extend my sincere gratitude to the constituency of the Caribbean Union Conference. Thank you for your prayers, support, commitment, and partnership in ministry. Your dedication to the mission of God has made a lasting difference throughout our territory and beyond.

As we move forward, let us continue to trust the God who has led us thus far. Let us remain anchored in His Word, committed to His mission, and united in purpose. The future is bright because God is leading. With grateful hearts, let us press onward until that glorious day when we shall see our Savior face to face.

May our lives continually reflect the words of the psalmist: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”

Maranatha.

Yours in Christian service,

Dr. Kern Tobias

President | Caribbean Union Conference

Editorial

The Measure of a Faithful Leader



Royston Philbert | Caribbean Union Conference,
Director, Communication Department



Some leaders are remembered for the positions they held. Others are remembered for the lives they touched. Dr. Kern Tobias belongs firmly in the latter category.

After 49 years of denominational service, including 15 years as president of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Dr. Tobias left a ministry defined not by titles, but by faithful leadership, pastoral compassion, and commitment to God's mission.

Throughout his ministry, he retained the heart of a

shepherd. Whether preaching in churches, mentoring young pastors, guiding institutions, or leading the Caribbean Union through seasons of growth and challenge, he remained approachable, thoughtful, and deeply respected.

Born in Mason Hall, Tobago, Dr. Tobias rose from humble beginnings to become one of the Caribbean church's most admired leaders. Yet even while serving in prominent leadership roles, he maintained a spirit of humility and grace that earned the confidence of both church members and fellow administrators.

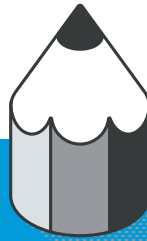
Under his leadership, the Caribbean Union strengthened its commitment to mission, education, evangelism, and discipleship across the region. His calm presence and steady leadership helped bring stability and direction to the church during a time of change.

In 2018, the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago recognized his contribution to national and community development with the Chaconia Medal (Silver), one of the country's highest honors. It was a fitting tribute to a man whose life has consistently reflected service above self.

But perhaps Dr. Tobias' greatest contribution cannot be measured in awards, committees, or years of service. His true legacy lives in the pastors he mentored, the members he encouraged, the institutions he strengthened, and the countless individuals whose lives were shaped by his ministry.

PUBLISHER

The Gleanings is a multinational, bi-annual periodical of the Caribbean Union of Seventh-day Adventists with focus on issues relevant to its members throughout its territory.



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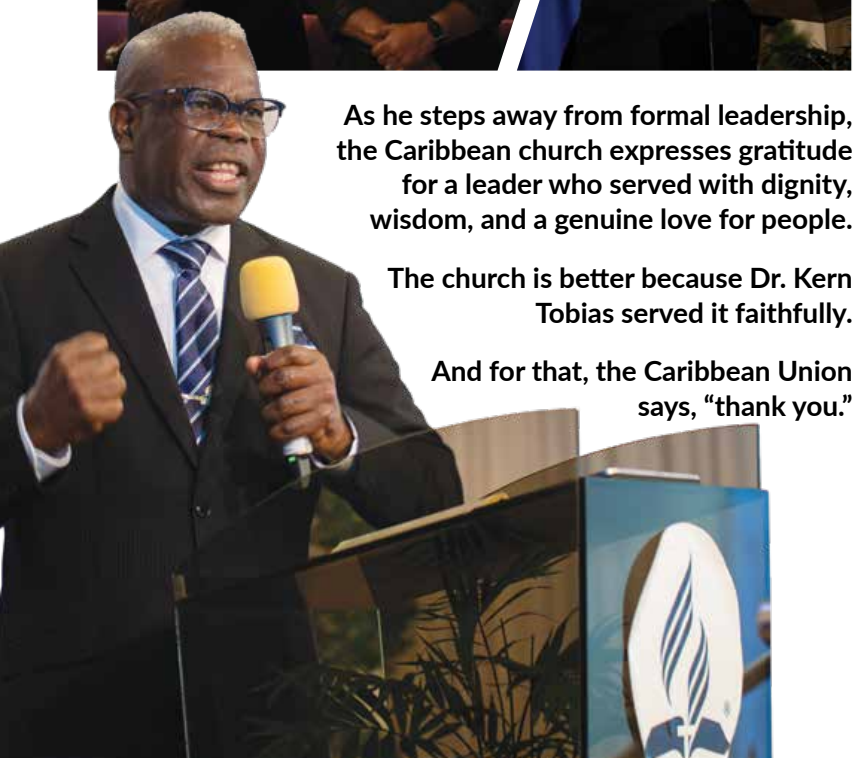
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As he steps away from formal leadership, the Caribbean church expresses gratitude for a leader who served with dignity, wisdom, and a genuine love for people.

The church is better because Dr. Kern Tobias served it faithfully.

And for that, the Caribbean Union says, "thank you."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Health Evangelism Leader

Dear Editor

The article on 'Healing hands, discipling hearts- The health message in action' by Priscilla Prevost on pages 18 & 19 of Gleanings December 2025 to January 2026- has been very practical in terms of how we can implement health evangelism in our communities. It emphasized the point of the use of Jesus' method to achieve true success in evangelism.

Looking within the church organization, I recognize that evangelism will never be effective without the involvement of the health message, since it is an opening wedge to reach people.

Some leaders in our churches may not be skilled or knowledgeable on health topics, but they can include persons in the health field, for example, medical doctors, nurses, and other health professionals on their team as they go house to house; as they conduct crusades and other evangelistic meetings within the communities. Lack of knowledge on health shouldn't limit our leaders from gaining such knowledge- they can do short courses on anatomy, physiology, and nutrition offered by tertiary level institutions, they can do research online, and even view YouTube videos by credible sources, which may simplify many health topics.

People in our communities are becoming more health-conscious, and they are ready to take charge of their health. Churches combining the health message and the gospel in one will make a great impact in reaching many for Jesus.

Let's be health-focused!!

Let's teach health!!

Let's live the health message!!

Malissa Wright
Mayaro, Trinidad



DR. KERN TOBIAS:

A Life of Faithful Service and Enduring Leadership



Dr. Kern Tobias stands as a distinguished servant of God whose life reflects dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His journey from humble beginnings in Tobago to influential leadership across the Caribbean is both inspiring and instructive.

Born in Mason Hall, Tobago, Dr. Tobias is the ninth of eleven children of Aldric and Caroline “Katie” Tobias. He was raised in a home that, while not marked by material abundance, was rich in discipline, unity, and strong Christian values. His parents played complementary roles in shaping his character. His mother, a firm and efficient homemaker, ensured

that every child was trained in responsibility—cooking, cleaning, making beds, and tending the garden. His father, a quiet, gentle, and caring man, modeled humility and steady leadership.

The Tobias household was firmly united. Their parents maintained a consistent and cohesive approach to parenting, leaving no room for division among the children. A guiding principle often emphasized by their mother was “the best is for your father,” instilling respect, order, and a deep sense of honor within the family.

Dr. Tobias began his education at Mason Hall Government School and later became a founding student of the Mason Hall Seventh-day Adventist School when it opened in 1963.

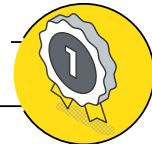
As a young boy, he demonstrated determination and discipline, riding his bicycle four miles each way over steep hills and winding roads to attend Harmon School of SDA. This daily journey was a testament to his resilience and commitment to education.

His childhood was marked by simple but meaningful joys. He loved gardening, enjoyed riding his bicycle, and appreciated good food. These early experiences helped shape a balanced individual who valued both hard work and life’s blessings.



Dr. Hamil Tobias

Dr. Hamil Tobias is a retired educator and school administrator who served as a principal in Trinidad and St. Croix. He also served as an instructor and as Vice President at the University of the Southern Caribbean. Dr. Tobias is the brother of Caribbean Union Conference President Dr. Kern Tobias.



A significant influence in his formative years was the example of his father, who was not only a builder, landowner, and farmer, but also a dedicated church leader. Serving as First Elder, Pathfinder leader, Missionary Volunteer leader and Sabbath School superintendent in the Mason Hall Seventh-day Adventist Church, he exposed young Kern to leadership and service from an early age. These experiences would later become foundational to Dr. Tobias's own path in ministry.

From his youth, Dr. Tobias's heart was devoted to Linda Hislop, who would later become his wife. Despite years of separation, his commitment remained steadfast. Upon completing his studies, he approached her father, Mr. Hugo Hislop, with humility and courage. His sincerity was rewarded with consent, and Dr. Tobias began his professional life as a teacher during his teenage years. He later pursued

higher education at Caribbean Union College (now the University of the Southern Caribbean), graduating in 1979. Answering the call to ministry, he served as a pastor in both Trinidad and Tobago, demonstrating faithfulness and a deep pastoral concern for the people he served.

His leadership abilities soon led to broader responsibilities. He was appointed Publishing Director of the South Caribbean Conference (SCC) and later elected President of the SCC. After serving one term, he returned to pastoral ministry, continuing to serve with dedication. In time, he was called upon again to provide leadership, completing the term of his successor and later being re-elected as President of the SCC.

In 2011, Dr. Tobias was elected President of the Caribbean Union Conference, the umbrella organization overseeing the

Adventist work across a vast region—from Guyana and Suriname in the south to St. Thomas and St. Croix in the north. Over the course of 15 years, spanning three full terms, he has provided visionary and steady leadership, strengthening the work of the Church throughout the Caribbean.

Dr. Tobias is married to Linda Tobias (née Hislop), and together they have built a strong and accomplished family. They are the proud parents of three children: Dr. Kerly-Ann Tobias, Kylon Tobias, and Linson Tobias, who is married. They are also blessed with one granddaughter.

His partner in life and ministry, Linda, was a career primary school teacher in Trinidad and Tobago for 49 years. She retired as principal of the Pinehaven SDA Primary School in December 2025. She currently serves as Associate Ministerial Secretary with responsibility for the Ministerial Spouses Association.

The retiring president came from a large family of 11 children who are listed in order of birth: George, Gerald, Cynthia, and Lester (all deceased); Keith; Hamil (the writer); Lenville (deceased); Evelyn; Kern; Verlyn; and Val. This close-knit family background contributed significantly to his development and lifelong values.

With nearly fifty years of active service in the Caribbean Union Conference, Dr. Kern Tobias has given his life to the work of God and the advancement of the Church. His journey reflects humility in service, resilience in adversity, and excellence in leadership.

We salute Dr. Kern Tobias for his outstanding and faithful service, and we thank God for his enduring contribution to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

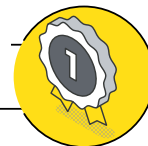
Caribbean Union Opens “GREATNESS II”

Pathfinder Camporee in Guyana



Pastor Royston Philbert

Pastor Royston Philbert is the Communication Director of CARU and Executive Editor of the Gleanings.



“ FOCUS ON BUILDING YOUR LIFE WITH PURPOSE... BECAUSE WHEN YOU DO THAT, YOU ARE HELPING TO BUILD SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN ANY EMPIRE—A FUTURE THAT CAN STAND THE TEST OF TIME. ”

Mohamed Irfaan Ali

President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

G EORGETOWN, Guyana — Thousands of uniformed Pathfinders representing fields across the Caribbean Union territory marched past union and conference officials on March 31, 2026, as the Caribbean Union Conference's (CARU) "Greatness 11" Pathfinder Camporee officially opened at the Guyana Conference's Loo Creek Campsite. Screams, cheers, drumbeats, steel pan music, cultural presentations, songs, and shouts filled the air, while dozens of flags waved in the evening breeze, signaling the start of the long-anticipated event.

Nearly 3,500 Pathfinders and leaders from 24 territories across the Caribbean Union attended the opening ceremony, where Adventist leaders and Guyana government officials welcomed participants. The program included two marching bands, a parade of territories, a musical drama on the story of David, and a spiritual message that set the tone for the five-day gathering.

Called to Rise Through Faith and Character

Referencing the biblical foundation of the camporee, Caribbean Union Conference President Dr. Kern Tobias urged Pathfinders to draw lessons from both David and Gideon, emphasizing courage and determination in fulfilling God's will.

"I exhort you, young people, to confront any internal or external challenge that may prevent you from rising to the glory of God," Tobias declared. "As your empire rises, be assured that God is as interested in you as He was in David. Let no one despise your youth."

Tobias also thanked past and present youth directors, administrative leaders, family members, and local conference organizers for their role in making the event possible.

President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Mohamed Irfaan Ali, challenged Pathfinders to build lives grounded in purpose and strong values, with a focus on character and integrity.

“When we hear the word empire, we often think about power, wealth, and control,” Ali stated. “But the Bible teaches us that no matter how strong an empire is, it does not last forever. Power fades, but values endure.”

He urged young people to pursue personal growth and responsibility, emphasizing that true success is rooted in discipline, respect, and trustworthiness.

“Focus on building your life with purpose... because when you do that, you are helping to build something far greater than any empire—a future that can stand the test of time,” he encouraged.

Learning Greatness Through David's Story

The camporee, themed “Greatness 11: The Rise of an Empire,” centers on the life and experience of David, said Pastor Marvyn Smith, youth ministries director and lead organizer of the event.

“We are looking at one of the world's greatest leaders and learning from his example—how, despite the challenges he faced, he never lost faith, remained steadfast, and rose to greatness,” Smith said. Keynote devotional speaker Paula Olivier, youth and young adult leader at the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and author of “Battle Tested”, encouraged campers through a personal testimony.

“This is where David's story begins,” she noted. “Not with a crown or on a throne, but in a moment when no one thought

he was significant... Even though David was not in the room, he was on God's mind.”

Pathfinders also experienced the first in a series of five locally produced drama presentations based on David's life. The opening production highlighted his early years—his humility, obscurity, and anointing—reminding campers that God often prepares leaders in quiet places before bringing them to prominence

Through acting, music, and visual storytelling, participants were invited to reflect on their own journeys and trust God through life's challenges.

Sacrifice and Commitment Mark the Journey

For many Pathfinders, attending the camporee required significant sacrifice. Delegations from remote regions faced financial and logistical challenges to be present.

One such group, led by Rudolph Wellington from the Upper Mazaruni District in Region 7, Guyana, brought 79 Pathfinders and leaders, many of whom traveled by air at a cost of approximately GYD \$79,000 per person.

“The commitment of these young people and their parents speaks volumes about the value of the Pathfinder ministry,” Wellington stated. “Parents are working extra hard, making real sacrifices, because they believe this experience is life-changing.”

Across the campsite, similar stories emerged. Parents took on additional work, made financial sacrifices, and prioritized their children's spiritual growth.

Months ahead of the event, clubs organized creative

fundraising initiatives, including food sales, community events, and sponsorship drives. “Our young people didn't just show up—they earned their way here,” one leader shared. “Every dollar raised represents commitment, teamwork, and belief in something greater.”

A Global Family Experience

For many campers, the experience extended beyond activities to a deeper appreciation of the global church.

One Pathfinder from the hinterland reflected on the diversity of the gathering. “Just standing here on opening night helps me understand how big the Adventist Church is,” she reflected. “Even though we don't all speak the same language, we understand each other.”

She was among the 67 Pathfinders from the Upper Mazaruni District and is embraced every moment of the experience. The opening night concluded with the singing of the official theme song, setting the stage for a week filled with marches, honors training, sports, competitions, and spiritual growth as Pathfinders continue their journey toward greatness.





Historic Seventh-day Adventist Church Building in St. Croix Destroyed by Fire

by Pastor Royston Philbert

A historic Seventh-day Adventist church building in Christiansted, St. Croix, believed to be among the earliest Adventist structures on the island, was destroyed by fire early Thursday morning, March 26, 2026.

The blaze engulfed the old structure, that church historians note as the first Seventh-day Adventist church established in Christiansted in 1908, marking the genesis of adventist movement in St. Croix.

Firefighters responded swiftly to the scene and were able to contain the fire before it spread to the adjacent main sanctuary, which remains intact.

“By God’s grace, we were able to prevent the fire from extending to the main worship facility,” said a senior fire officer on the scene. “However, the old structure suffered extensive damage, and both floors have been compromised.”

Authorities have since declared the site unsafe for entry, warning members and the public to stay clear while investigations continue.

A Loss of Heritage and Memory

For many members, the loss is deeply personal.

“This building was more than wood and concrete; it carried our history, our beginnings, and the faith of those who came before us,” stated the church’s first elder, Elder Horace Graham. “We are heartbroken, but we are also grateful that no lives were lost.”

A long-standing member of the congregation reflected on decades of worship and fellowship connected to the structure.

“I was baptized in that church,” the member shared. “Generations passed through those doors. Today we grieve, but we also remember that the church is not the building—it is the people of God.”

Conference Leadership Responds

Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the territory also expressed gratitude amid the loss.

“We thank God for His protecting hand,” said the conference president, Pastor Wilmoth James. “While we mourn the destruction of a historic landmark, we are encouraged that the main building was spared. This moment calls us not only to rebuild structures, but to reaffirm our mission and commitment to the communities we serve.”

Community Support and Next Steps

Church leaders extended appreciation to the Fire Department and first responders for their rapid intervention, as well as to community members who reached out in prayer and support throughout the morning. Investigations into the cause of the fire are ongoing.

In the meantime, members have been urged to avoid the area until officials deem it safe. Church services and activities are expected to continue in the main sanctuary while plans are made for recovery and rebuilding. Despite the loss, members remain resolute.

“We may have lost a building,” the first elder added, “but we have not lost our faith, our history, or our mission.”

THE PREACHING FORUM

RATIONALE

Some weeks ago, a colleague voiced his desire for more persuasive, divinely inspired preaching. I responded, sparking exchanges on the foolishness of preaching, especially in the Caribbean context. He suggested I publish my preaching framework, “Preaching that Persuades and Produces,” starting with “Reviving the 3C’s of Preaching.”

Instead, I’ve launched the Preaching Forum via The Caribbean Union Gleanings to engage discussions focused on rekindling preaching’s divine power—the God-ordained means of saving souls.

Let’s get it going!



Reviving the 3C’s of Preaching



Dr. Eugene F. Daniel

Dr. Eugene F. Daniel served as President of the Caribbean Union Conference from 2005 to 2011. Now retired, he resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

On an American Airlines flight from St. Croix to Puerto Rico, I overheard two young men disparage preachers, calling them idle and greedy. One opined that preaching is easy, just picking a Bible verse and some commentary. But is preaching really that simple?

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (2012) characterizes preaching as animating God’s Word, making it both audible and visible. Frederick Buechner considers it the act of expressing a truth deeply rooted in the preacher’s heart. Haddon Robinson and Craig Larson (2005) describe it as accurately communicating the inspired Word to help people hear and respond to God’s call. Additionally, Paul declares that God’s method of sharing salvation is through the foolishness of divine wisdom (1 Cor. 1:21).

These insights confirm that God endorses ‘the foolishness of preaching.’ Preaching is more than just sharing information; it requires structuring biblical messages with a clear outline and solid foundation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, effective preaching touches hearts and leads to meaningful transformation.

We shall focus initially on preaching’s profound purpose—connecting with God and strengthening the church—before addressing matters of sermon structure, content, and delivery. The goal is to ignite connection, spark certainty, and drive change, moving listeners from hearing to living victoriously through biblical principles and pastoral care.

The major strength of this framework is its clear, intentionally crafted structure, informed by homiletical standards. Preaching goes beyond sharing information; it fosters a spiritual experience that transforms the preacher and congregation, deepens the connection with God, and inspires real change within the church and community.



PREACHING PROMOTES CONNECTION TO GOD AND OTHERS

Preaching connects the Word to daily life — joy, sorrow, doubt, and hope — and reminds listeners they are not alone. D. L. Moody says the most needed sermons are those delivered “in shoes walking with Jesus Christ.” The Gospel of Mark presents God walking beside the sea, healing and delivering from disease, death, and demons. Preaching builds trust in the God of Scripture and encourages genuine, biblical transformations in people.

We build connection through clear, interpretive preaching that helps listeners understand how the biblical message shapes their worldview. It goes beyond conveying facts to ignite a desire for God and foster church unity. Preaching that connects inspires people to feel God’s love and divine presence: “God sees me, knows me, and speaks to me right here and now.”



PREACHING FOSTERS CERTAINTY AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Preaching Fosters Certainty and Certainty isn’t achieved solely through persuasive speech. In a world full of conflicting ideas and widespread doubt, many people grapple with uncertainty. Certainty-producing preaching shows what is objectively true and trustworthy. This process clarifies the meaning and relevance of the Church’s core beliefs.

Preaching promotes inquiry and establishes faith. Here, certainty creates well-informed confidence, capable of enduring doctrinal challenges. Preaching, as such, clarifies beliefs, highlights their significance, and demonstrates their practical value, creating a stable foundation that encourages confidence in God’s Word.

Preaching will cultivate certainty through its unwavering, well-informed articulation of God’s authoritative message. Proclaiming the foundational truths of Scripture can shift people’s perspective from anxious uncertainty to confidence, providing inner strength to stand unyieldingly amidst ubiquitous challenges.



PREACHING PRODUCES CHANGED VALUES AND LIVES

Preaching catalyzes spiritual growth and transformation. It aligns values with spiritual truths, reshapes beliefs and actions, transforming self-centered or secular views into vibrant, Christ-centered perspectives. Such transformations might involve forgiveness, generosity, integrity, or a shift in priorities—making the message both applicable and inspiring.

Imagine preaching as a powerful movement that takes people from building relationships to experiencing unwavering assurance. It pulls hearts toward God and community, fuels bold confidence in God’s truth and grace, and redefines daily living. We advance these through homiletical disciplines—prayerful preparation, exegetical rigor, and Christ-centered reflection. I will add more content later, highlighting the tensions within one’s exegesis.

SUMMARY

Effective preaching integrates all three aims—deepening the relationship with God, bolstering belief, and motivating change. Building a connection opens hearts to truth, while certainty empowers people to act confidently. Long-term change arises from authentic connection and steadfast confidence.

Allow me to provide an example of preaching that connects people with both God and their community. The framework grounds listeners in divine truth and will produce profound moral and spiritual transformations.

Preachers often sermonize Isaiah 7:14 as a standalone text, and its inherent structure plays no significant role in shaping the sermon. They reveal a common failure to account for the content and context of Ahaz’s preoccupation with the continuity of the house of David. The text’s context introduces listeners to Isaiah’s optimistic message from the eighth century B.C.

Threatened by Pekah and Rezin, Ahaz sought aid from Assyria. Isaiah warned that such help was like “smoldering stumps of firebrands,” an ominous image. Contextualizing Scripture offers hope and speaks messianic promises to our crises. God governs history; our security depends on trusting Him, not treaties or rulers, for grace and deliverance are available to all who trust God.

In upcoming presentations, we shall examine homiletical standards, beginning with our main goal and the practical steps for preparing and delivering sermons that effectively communicate the biblical kerygma. We will also focus on three hermeneutical elements: Context, Contest, and Content.

Until then, keep preaching, preacher! I encourage you with words attributed to John Wesley: “Set yourself on fire with the flames of the gospel, and people will come to see you burn.”

Eleven Set Apart for Ministry

in South Caribbean
Conference Ordination and
Commissioning Service



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad — Eleven ministers were set apart for gospel ministry on March 28, 2026, during a solemn and celebratory service hosted by the South Caribbean Conference (SCC), marking a significant moment of commitment, sacrifice, and mission within the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU). Nine pastors were ordained, while two were commissioned for ministry, as church leaders, family members, and congregants gathered to affirm God's calling on their lives.

The group included five single ministers, one female pastor, and a diverse cohort of young leaders who have embraced full-time ministry after leaving various professional paths.

“We act on behalf of God as we lay hands and set aside men and women for the gospel.”

—Pastor Leslie Moses, President SCC.



Ordained during the service were Pastors Bob Harris, Jude Valdez, Randy Dixon, Robern Castle, David Andrew Lennard, Jerome Adams, Brent Kirron Alexander, Ronald Allanson Josiah, and Christian Joel Sadlow. Commissioned during the service were Chaplain Rachel Sealy and Pastor Carol Caris Forteau.

A Call Affirmed and Supported

The journey to ordination was not undertaken alone. Church elders, local boards, and members played a vital role in nurturing and affirming the candidates' calling.

“These candidates did not arrive here by themselves,” Moses noted. “They were supported, mentored, and affirmed by their local churches.”

In preparation for the service, each candidate and their family were personally visited by the

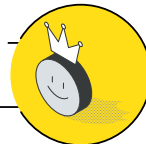
conference president and his wife over two weeks. The visits, marked by prayer and fellowship, provided encouragement and spiritual reflection, and were accompanied by a high level of hospitality.

Pastor David Holder, ministerial secretary of the SCC, formally introduced the candidates, highlighting their journey, calling, and readiness for ministry.

Pastor Johnson Frederick, executive secretary of CARU, led the ordination prayer, officially setting apart the nine pastors for ministry. Certificates were presented

by CARU President Dr. Kern Tobias, who presided over his final ordination service before retirement.

Ordination



A New Generation of Ministers

Many of the newly ordained and commissioned ministers represent a new generation of leaders with deep roots in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Several come from strong ministerial families, while others answered the call from diverse professional backgrounds.

The group is also marked by a range of talents and professions. Among them are a musician, an engineer, and a welder—individuals who have laid aside personal careers to answer God's call.

"They have given up their vocational paths and embraced the call to ministry," said one leader during the service. "They are committed to caring for the flock of God."



Pastor Ammaran Williams, ministerial secretary of CARU, delivered the charge to the ordained pastors, urging them to faithfully shepherd the flock and remain committed to their sacred responsibilities.



Pastor Royston Philbert, associate ministerial secretary of CARU, gave the charge to the two commissioned ministers, reminding them of their calling to serve with dedication and integrity.

Mrs. Linda Tobias, Associate Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union Conference, gave the special charge to the spouses of the ordinands, encouraging them to remain faithful partners in ministry. She then offered a prayer of dedication, asking God to strengthen and guide them as they support their spouses in service.



Dr. Tobias emphasized that ministry is not about status, but about service. "Your ordination does not make you a lord," he cautioned. "Your gifts are from God, and they must be used to draw souls closer to Him. Otherwise, they become a curse."

He also affirmed the role of women in ministry, noting that God's call extends to all who are willing to serve. "The invitation to salvation and to ministry is for all. Those who accept are given the opportunity," he shared.



A Charge to Serve with Humility and Purpose

Dr. Kern Tobias, CARU president, delivered the keynote message under the theme "Called, Commissioned, and Commanded," challenging the candidates to remain faithful to their divine calling.

"Regardless of your journey, each of you must understand that you have received a call from God. Ordination is a global recognition of that call, with full authority—but it must always be exercised with humility."

—Dr. Kern Tobias, CARU President



Encouraging the candidates to remain grounded, Tobias reminded them that God qualifies those He calls. “The fitting candidate may be called, but God determines to make fit those He has called,” he said. “Do not take this moment for granted.”

Responding on behalf of the candidates, Pastor Valdez expressed gratitude and commitment. “We thank God for His call on our lives and for the church that has supported us along the way,” he said. “By His grace, we will serve faithfully, care for His people, and remain true to the mission entrusted to us.”



As the eleven newly set-apart ministers began their journey, leaders expressed confidence that they will serve faithfully, shepherding God’s people with dedication and purpose.

ORDINATION & COMMISSIONING SERVICE



Pastor Royston Philbert

Pastor Royston Philbert is the Communication Director of CARU and Executive Editor of the Gleanings.

Ordination





ADVENTIST ASI IN TOBAGO CONVENES INAUGURAL EXPO TO ADVANCE MISSION THROUGH FAITH-DRIVEN ENTERPRISE

by Pastor Royston Philbert

SCARBOROUGH, Tobago —Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) in Tobago demonstrated how faith and entrepreneurship can

work together to advance the gospel during its Inaugural Advent Expo 2026, held at the Shaw Park Food Hub on January 25, 2026. Organized as part of the Caribbean Union Conference's centennial celebrations, the event brought together Adventist professionals, church ministries, and community members to demonstrate how businesses and professions can become instruments of ministry.

Held under the theme "Showcase • Connect • Inspire," the daylong Expo featured approximately 40 Seventh-day Adventist entrepreneurs and ministries who showcased products, services, and outreach initiatives while fostering connections between the church and the wider community.

Mission Beyond the Marketplace

The Advent Expo formed part of the annual ASI Convention in Tobago, now in its 24th year, reflecting the organization's long-standing commitment to evangelism. This year's Convention and Evangelism Week, held January 24–31, featured Pastor Marvyn Smith, Youth Ministries Director of the Caribbean Union Conference, as the guest speaker.

Throughout the week, ASI members intentionally extended ministry beyond the church walls by visiting one school each day, engaging students through presentations and distributing gifts to students and school administrators. Evening evangelistic meetings included special seasons of prayer for members of the protective services and healthcare professionals, recognizing their service while offering spiritual encouragement.

With 59 active members, the Tobago ASI chapter is regarded as one of the largest and most active ASI chapters in the Caribbean. Beyond its

annual convention, the chapter has established a strong record of humanitarian outreach. Members recently coordinated a plane load of relief supplies to Jamaica and were among the first Adventist groups to respond in Grenada following Hurricane Beryl in 2024.

Enterprise in Service to Mission

Organizers emphasized that the Expo demonstrated how faith can be expressed through the marketplace by placing professional skills and businesses in the service of God's mission.

“Today is about more than selling products; it is about using business as a platform for ministry, testimony, and service. ASI exists to help ordinary members do extraordinary things for God through their professions.”

Damian Edwards
President of the ASI Tobago Chapter.



"Today is about more than selling products," said Br. Damian Edwards, president of the ASI Tobago chapter. "It is about using business as a platform for ministry, testimony, and service. ASI exists to help ordinary members do extraordinary things for God through their professions."

Proceeds from the Expo will support the chapter's evangelistic, humanitarian, and community outreach initiatives.

Exhibits featured ministries and organizations including ADRA, Adventist Community Services, Youth Ministries, the University of the Southern Caribbean, food vendors, wellness products, counseling services, Christian literature, fresh produce, and other faith-based businesses.

The event created opportunities for meaningful conversations between exhibitors and visitors.

"This Expo gives us visibility, but more importantly, it allows us to share our story and our values," said one exhibitor. "People are not just buying; they are listening, asking questions, and connecting with the mission behind what we do."

Pastor Vishnu Persad, president of the Tobago Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, said the event demonstrated the broader impact of Christian entrepreneurship.

"Many engaged in thoughtful discussions, received prayer, and were reminded of the impact that purpose-led business can have on community development," he said.

The Expo also served as a reminder that business can be a powerful avenue for witness, service, and relationship-building within the community.

"The intention was to create an environment where Adventist members could network and showcase what they have to offer," said Joshua Stewart, public relations officer for the ASI Tobago chapter. "This is all about motivating chapter members to reaffirm their commitment to sharing Christ through their businesses and communities, while inviting other professionals to support the mission of the church."

The event reinforced its central message—Shop Local. Support Faith. Build Community. It was livestreamed on @ASIMediaTobago, with additional coverage provided by 3ABN Trinidad & Tobago, extending its reach beyond the island.

As the inaugural Expo concluded, organizers reaffirmed ASI's commitment to equipping Adventist professionals to use their businesses, talents, and resources as instruments of mission while strengthening partnerships between the church and the wider community. Plans are already underway for Advent Expo 2027, with expectations of expanded participation and an even stronger integration of faith, enterprise, and evangelism.

A Grateful Reflection



As my term as editor of CARU Gleanings comes to an end on July 22, I pause with deep gratitude for the remarkable journey we have shared over the past three years.

Together, we embraced the opportunity to strengthen and elevate CARU Gleanings as the premier publication of the Caribbean Union Conference. What we accomplished was never the work of one individual, but the result of a committed team that believed in excellence, storytelling, and the mission of communication.

I wish to express sincere appreciation to the members of our editorial board, Ian Green, Jeannette Languedoc - Barry, Jamie Iles, Nicaise Joseph-Mc Kenna and Sheryle Liverpool, for their support, insight, creativity, and dedication throughout this journey. Your contributions helped shape the vision, quality, and direction of this publication and ensured that each edition reflected professionalism, purpose, and relevance.

Thank you for the countless hours spent reviewing articles, refining ideas, offering encouragement, and helping to maintain a publication that informs, inspires, and connects our Caribbean Union family.

Serving as editor has been both an honor and a privilege. Through these pages we have shared stories of mission, faith, education, evangelism, service, and the transforming power of God across our territory. We have celebrated milestones, highlighted ordinary people doing extraordinary ministry, and preserved moments that tell the continuing story of God's leading in the Caribbean Union Conference.



I remain grateful for the trust placed in me to serve in this role and for the support received from our church leaders, contributors, photographers, writers, and readers across the region.

As this chapter closes, I do so with appreciation, fulfillment, and confidence that CARU Gleanings will continue to grow as a voice of hope, mission, and excellence for years to come.

Thank you for being part of this meaningful journey.

Pastor Royston Philbert
Executive Editor, CARU Gleanings

Youthful Honey



Adventist Church, ADRA, and Republic Bank launch Youth beekeeping initiative in St. Vincent

BELMONT, St. Vincent and the Grenadines – The Seventh-Day Adventist Church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in partnership with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Republic Bank, has launched a youth-centered beekeeping initiative, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, environmental stewardship, and food security across the island.

The initiative began with a two-day training workshop titled “Introduction to Beekeeping,” held April 15–16 at the Belmont Seventh-day Adventist Church. The training forms part of the “Youthful Honey Project – The Taste of Being Healthy,” a collaborative effort involving the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission of Seventh-day Adventists and the Adventist Youth Ministries Advisory Council.

The “Youthful Honey Project – The Taste of Being Healthy” in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a community-driven initiative designed to train young people in beekeeping as a viable pathway to self-employment while strengthening food security and environmental sustainability.

“The project is designed to equip young people with practical skills while creating pathways to self-employment and sustainable livelihoods,” said Roxanne John, chairperson of the project.

“The church is intentional about implementing programs that improve lives holistically, socially, emotionally, and physically,” said Pastor Shane Franklyn, president of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission. “This initiative reflects our commitment to empowering young people while addressing real needs within our communities.”

Pastor Franklyn also commended Republic Bank for its partnership, noting that its support aligns with the church’s mission to effect meaningful and lasting change.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Youthful Honey Committee chairperson Roxanne John, who underscored the importance of creating opportunities for youth through innovative and health-focused initiatives.

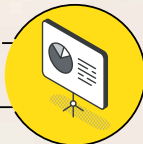
“We wanted to create something that young people could connect with, something practical, sustainable, and empowering,” John said. “This project gives them not just knowledge, but a sense of purpose and the confidence that they can build something meaningful for themselves and their communities.”

Building Skills for Sustainable Futures

Dawnette Constance, personal banking manager at Republic Bank (EC) Limited, said the bank’s support falls under its “Power to Make a Difference” program, which invests in community-driven initiatives across St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“Beekeeping’s value extends far beyond honey production,” Constance said. “It contributes to environmental health, strengthens food systems, and supports economic growth. The hive itself teaches us lessons about teamwork, communication, and shared





“
The project is
designed to equip
young people with
practical skills while
creating pathways to
self-employment and
sustainable
livelihoods.”

Roxanne John
Chairperson
Youthful Honey Project

purpose—principles that are essential in today's world.”

Participants were introduced to key aspects of beekeeping, including hive management, bee behavior, and the role of pollination in agriculture—skills organizers say can strengthen both livelihoods and national food systems.

A Movement for Change and Impact

Delivering the feature address, Pastor Brent St. Jean, youth ministries director for the SVG Mission, emphasized that the initiative is intended to go beyond a single training event.

“This is not just a project—it is a movement,” Pastor St. Jean said. “A movement of change, transformation, and making a difference in areas such as food security, biodiversity, youth employment, and support for vulnerable communities.”

He praised the collaboration among partners and expressed appreciation to Republic Bank for its confidence in the initiative.

Additional remarks were delivered by Pastor Ian Williams, director of ADRA in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and beekeeping extension officer Allan Williams, who encouraged participants to embrace opportunities in agriculture and entrepreneurship.

Organizers expressed optimism that the Youthful Honey Project will continue to expand, equipping more young people with practical skills while fostering resilience and innovation.

“As we invest in our youth, we are investing in the future of our communities,” Franklyn said. “This initiative is one way we demonstrate the love of Christ through action—meeting needs, building capacity, and creating hope.”



Pastor Royston Philbert

Pastor Royston Philbert is the Communication Director of CARU and Executive Editor of the Gleanings.



Antigua SDA Primary School Wins Top Prize at Inaugural AgriFest 2026 With 'Ah We Chips'

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua — The Antigua Seventh-day Adventist Primary School has captured first place at the inaugural AgriFest 2026 competition, with its Grade 3 students impressing judges through an innovative, all-natural product developed from their school garden.

The event, hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Forum for Youth (ABAFY), brought together primary school students in an agro-business competition designed to challenge participants to create, brand, and present agricultural products to a panel of judges.

The Adventist school's winning entry, "Ah We Chips," is a healthy kale-based snack made entirely from ingredients grown by the students. The product stood out for its quality, creativity, and strong presentation, earning the young team top honors among competing schools.

Students said the product name reflected their ownership of the entire process from planting and harvesting to production, highlighting their hands-on involvement at every stage.

Hands-on Learning Through Agriculture and Innovation

AgriFest 2026 served as more than a showcase of student talent. Organizers designed the event as a practical learning experience, blending agriculture, entrepreneurship, branding, and presentation skills.

For the students, the experience went beyond agriculture. Team leader Chezair Williams said the project helped them develop teamwork, responsibility, and creativity, describing the journey as both "inspiring and rewarding."

Participants were required to conceptualize and develop market-ready products, giving them early exposure to business principles and innovation within the agricultural sector. Judges commended the overall quality of the entries and encouraged students to continue cultivating their interest in agriculture.

Teacher Vallincia Henry credited the achievement to divine guidance and the students' dedication, noting that the experience reflected the school's commitment to its motto, "Education for Life," while expressing her joy at being part of the journey.

Education Director for the South Leeward Conference, Mrs. Cheryl Morris, also praised the initiative, highlighting the consistent efforts of Mrs. Claudine Webb-Josiah in integrating agriculture into student life, particularly through projects involving peppers and kale.

Recognition and Encouragement for Young Achievers

At the close of the competition, students were awarded medals, certificates, and additional prizes, including a cash award from the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural equipment from the Central Marketing Corporation, and other tokens of appreciation.

Students expressed gratitude for the opportunity to represent their school, acknowledging the support of teachers, parents, and mentors who guided them throughout the process.

The Adventist school's success highlights the value of integrating practical skills with education, while reinforcing the church's commitment to holistic development, nurturing the intellectual, physical, and spiritual growth of its students.

Founded in 1934, the Antigua Seventh-day Adventist Primary School is part of the global Adventist education system and has a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and holistic development. Operated by the South Leeward Conference, with fewer than 70 students it has since grown into one of the island's leading Christian institutions, committed to developing well-rounded students prepared for service and leadership.



Caribbean Union Youth Transform Communities on Global Youth Day, 2026

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Youth across the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church stepped beyond church walls on Global Youth Day (GYD) March 21, 2026, turning streets, hospitals, and communities into centers of service, compassion, and hope.

Observed annually around the world, Global Youth Day mobilizes young people to shift their focus from internal church activities to intentional community engagement. Guided this year by the theme “Communion in Action”, Caribbean youth embraced the call to demonstrate their faith through acts of kindness, showing that a living relationship with Christ is best expressed in service to others.

Service That Meets Real Needs

Across the union's territories, young people responded to practical needs in their communities through health outreach, environmental care, and personal ministry.

In Grenada, youth collaborated with local churches to conduct community clean-up campaigns, visit homes, and offer prayer and encouragement. At the same time, small health initiatives provided basic screenings and wellness education, reinforcing the Church's commitment to holistic ministry.

In Guyana, Pathfinders and Adventurers led environmental projects, cleaning public spaces and distributing care packages. Their efforts highlighted

stewardship of both community and environment while modeling leadership among younger members.

Meanwhile, in Trinidad and Tobago, youth groups organized health expos and neighborhood outreach, offering blood pressure checks, literature, and prayer support. The initiatives created meaningful connections with residents while addressing immediate physical and spiritual needs.

Building Relationships Through Compassion

Beyond structured programs, many youth focused on relational ministry—engaging individuals through simple but impactful acts of kindness.

In St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, young people visited homes, distributed food packages, and shared inspirational literature. Through conversations, songs, and prayer, they transformed ordinary encounters into moments of encouragement and hope.



Youth and other members of the Marisule S.D.A Church with Pastor Lucius Philip (top right) in St. Lucia distributing literature

In the East Caribbean Conference, on the islands of Barbados and Dominica, youth engaged in several innovative activities such as evangelism on wheels, where they drove through communities singing, preaching, and distributing food packages and literature. Other groups conducted health checks and conducted open-air services.

Families also joined the movement in several territories, working alongside youth to prepare care packages and outreach materials. This intergenerational participation strengthened the spirit of unity in mission and reinforced the idea that service is a shared responsibility.

“Global Youth Day reminds us that mission is not something we attend—it is something we live,” said one youth leader. “When our young people step into communities with compassion, they reflect the very heart of Christ.”

A Movement Beyond One Day

From bustling urban centers to quiet rural districts, a consistent message emerged across the Caribbean

Union: ministry does not end at the church door. Whether through health care, environmental stewardship, or personal outreach, youth demonstrated that even the simplest act of kindness can leave a lasting impact.



Church leaders commended the dedication and creativity of young people who chose to serve.

“Our youth are not waiting for the future—they are leading now,” said a regional church leader. “Global Youth Day shows the power of a generation committed to living out the gospel in practical ways.”

As the day concluded, many participants expressed a renewed commitment to continue serving beyond the annual event. For them, Global Youth Day was not just a moment—it was a reminder of a lifestyle of mission.

Across the Caribbean Union, that mission continues—one act of service at a time.



Pastor Royston Philbert

Pastor Royston Philbert is the Communication Director of CARU and Executive Editor of the Gleanings.





Elder Gilbert Jean-Francois

Former Treasurer, East Caribbean Conference; former Vice President for Finance, University of the Southern Caribbean. He writes from St. Lucia.



The Oak and the Seeds

Tribute to Dr. Hilary Bowman

Hilary Bowman was an Oak
Strong, steady, deeply rooted.
A giant in education,
A pillar in faith,
A leader in service.
In a time when Christian education
was often undervalued,
He lifted it high.
While others saw schools as
buildings,
He saw them as sanctuaries—
Places where faith and learning
embraced.
He stood as a voice of conviction,
Even when no one was listening.

Hilary was a preacher
Not just of sermons,
But of principles, of values, of
destiny.
I still remember his words:
“The dog you feed will win the
fight.”
A simple truth,
A timeless call to nurture what is
righteous.
And again he said,
“Give me this child; let me nurse it
for you.”
A reminder that education is
stewardship,
That children belong to God,
And we are but entrusted
aretakers.

Hilary was also a builder.
He built schools and programs,
And seemed always able to finish
what others could not.
He was a man who saw
possibilities where others saw
obstacles,
And through perseverance and
vision, he left behind works that
still stand.

He was a leader.
He served as Education Director
of the East Caribbean Conference,
Education Director of the
Caribbean Union Conference,
And President of the University of
the Southern Caribbean.
In each role, he built more than
systems
He built people.
He built faith.
He built vision.

But beyond the titles and offices,
I will remember him for his
generosity and hospitality.
Whenever I was in St. Vincent,
His home was my home.
He made sure I had what I loved—
My favorite ice cream,
And a fish steak prepared just
right.

That was Hilary.
Thoughtful.
Kind.
Giving.
A loyal friend.

Hilary and his beloved wife were
inseparable—
Two peas in a pod.
Together, they carved a path of
faith, service, and education.
And with the same dedication,
They laid foundations for their
children's education,
Ensuring they too would walk in
strength and purpose.

The oak has fallen—
And we feel the weight of it.
Yet the seeds he planted remain.
His vision for Christian education
stands tall.
And today we can thank God that:
He fought a good fight,
He finished the race,
He kept the faith.
Today we thank God for Hilary—
The Oak,
The man of vision,
The preacher of conviction,
The loyal friend,
The servant-leader whose legacy
will live on.

Day of Prayer Encourages Young People to Live as Disciples

Annual Day of Prayer Unites 52 Adventist Schools Across the Caribbean Union Conference

Fifty-two Seventh-day Adventist schools across the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) joined hundreds of Adventist schools throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) on March 11, 2026, for the region's annual Day of Prayer, encouraging students to "Live as Disciples."

The spiritual emphasis activity connected thousands of students from St. Croix in the north to Suriname in the south, encouraging young people to deepen their relationship with Christ and live out their faith through prayer, service, and daily discipleship.

Affirming the Power of Prayer
Education Director for the Caribbean Union Conference, Dr. Daphney Magloire, shared that the Day of Prayer serves as a powerful reminder that communion with God remains central to Adventist education.

"This day reminds our students that their strength comes from a living relationship with God," education leaders across the territory emphasized. "When young people pray, study the Bible, and trust God with their lives, they learn to face challenges with hope and courage."

Throughout the Caribbean Union territory, schools organized special assemblies, community events, and prayer sessions where students prayed for their families, teachers, communities, and the mission of the church.

"This special day of prayer is so important in our Adventist educational institutions because it cements in students the important aspects of communion with God: prayer, bible study, and service to others," stated Dr. Magloire. The day is also one to showcase activities that send a clear message that the best way to enjoy life is to trust and surrender to the will of God, she added.

The emphasis on prayer also reinforced the role of Adventist schools in nurturing spiritual formation alongside academic excellence.

Inspiring Students to Live as Disciples

In the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, students and staff of the Barbados Seventh-day Adventist School marked the International Day of Prayer with a public witness activity along the roadside. Students held signs inviting motorists to "Honk for Prayer," encouraging the wider community to join them in seeking God's guidance and blessing.

"We want the whole of Barbados to know that we are praying for them," said Mr. Nicholas Bedford, a teacher at the Barbados SDA Secondary school. "We also want to encourage our students to develop a strong prayer life."

The school reported that students were excited about the opportunity to participate. They distributed religious magazines and small care packages to passing motorists, many of whom responded by honking their horns in support of the initiative. Students also visited nearby schools and organizations, where they distributed additional care packages and shared messages of encouragement.

Teachers used the occasion to challenge students to live with purpose, reminding them that discipleship involves prayer, service, kindness, and standing for biblical values.

At the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Portsmouth, Dominica, the Day of Prayer was filled with creative, student-led activities organized across seven interactive prayer booths.

One station featured a “Burden Wall,” where students wrote personal struggles on sticky notes, prayed with one another, and placed the notes on the wall as a symbol of surrendering their burdens to God. Another booth, “Worldview Mapping,” invited students to place pins on a large world map marking countries affected by conflict, such as Venezuela, Russia, Ukraine, and Israel, while offering silent prayers for people facing hardship.

A third station, called the “Identity Mirror,” invited students to stand before mirrors surrounded by Bible verses describing how God sees His children. Students wrote declarations of faith on the mirror and prayed a simple prayer of gratitude, thanking God for valuing them even when they struggle to see their own worth. After completing the prayer stations, students gathered at the Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church, where board chairman Pastor James Colaie led a brief devotion and a symbolic bonfire in which the collected burden notes were burned, representing the release of their cares to God.

In the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Day of Prayer was preceded by a Week of Prayer for both primary and secondary students, led by newly appointed chaplain Pastor Ricardo Brandon, with support from Pastor Davin Scarborough. The emphasis culminated in an Education Convention at the New Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church, highlighting the value of Adventist education. The initiative, supported by home visits and counseling, resulted in 14

individuals committing to baptism on March 14, 2026.

In the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, students of the Grenada Seventh-day Adventist Comprehensive School lived out the theme “Living as Disciples” by reaching beyond their campus to serve their community. During the Day of Prayer activities, students went into nearby communities where they prayed with senior residents and distributed food baskets to families in need, demonstrating that discipleship includes acts of compassion and service.

“Being a disciple means more than attending church or praying in school. It means showing the love of Christ through service. Today, our students were able to pray for people and share food with families, reminding them that God cares for their needs.”

Mrs. Kimlyn De Coteau
School Principal



A Territory United in Prayer

Across the Caribbean Union Conference network of Adventist schools, serving more than 9,000 students throughout the territories, students participated in coordinated spiritual activities designed to strengthen their faith and encourage unity. Many of the programs highlighted activities from day three of the Week of Prayer materials. This year, the English version of the Inter-American Division Week of Prayer resources for both primary and secondary schools was produced in the Caribbean Union and prepared specifically for the region.

The materials were deeply rooted in the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists global mission strategic plan, “I Will Go: Living the Mission.” The secondary school readings were written by Dr. Daphney Magloire, while the primary school readings were prepared by Andrea Hudson-Hoyte, education director for the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“It’s so satisfying to see young people willing to invest their time and talents in God’s service and praise His name during these past years, celebrating the annual Day of Prayer,” said Magloire. At several institutions, students and teachers shared testimonies about the

impact of Adventist education, while special music, Bible quizzes, and interactive prayer segments formed part of the day’s programs, connecting students with the wider Adventist school system across the Inter-American Division, which serves more than 164,000 students throughout the

Continuing the Mission of Adventist Education

Church leaders say the annual Day of Prayer remains an important part of Adventist education, reinforcing the mission of schools to develop the whole person, spiritually, mentally, and physically.

By encouraging students to cultivate daily prayer and Bible study, Adventist educators hope to nurture a generation of young people committed to living as disciples of Jesus.

As President of the Caribbean Union, Dr. Kern Tobias noted, the goal is not only academic success but also spiritual transformation.

“Our schools exist to help young people discover their purpose in Christ,” Dr. Tobias said. “When students learn to walk with God, they become disciples who can impact their families, communities, and the world.”

South Leeward Conference Celebrates Centenarian Lucille Hampson

ST. JOHN’S, Antigua — The South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is celebrating the life of centenarian Lucille King Hampson, whose 100 years reflect a legacy of faith and service.

Born February 1, 1926, in Santo Domingo, she later settled in Antigua, where she married Wycliffe Hampson. Their 68-year union produced ten children.

Hampson was baptized in 1949, becoming the first Seventh-day Adventist in New Winthorpes. She opened her home for worship and Bible study, helping to establish the church in the community.

Her influence continues through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, many of whom remain active in the church.

Leaders say her life stands as a lasting testimony of faith, family, and dedication to God.



Adventist Church Launches 89.5 FM Radio Station in Anguilla

Expanding Voice of Hope Across the Caribbean

by Pastor Royston Philbert

ANGUILLA — Seventh-day Adventist leaders in the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) officially launched Advent Radio 89.5 FM on April 12, 2026, establishing a new spiritual voice designed to reach homes and hearts across Anguilla and beyond.

The opening ceremony brought together conference administrators, local church leaders, pastors, and members of the wider community, marking the fulfillment of a long-held vision rooted in sacrifice and a deep commitment to gospel outreach.

“This is a wonderful occasion for the North Caribbean Conference, and even more so for the people of Anguilla,” said NCC President Pastor Wilmoth James. He noted that the station extends “the voice of truth into every home and every heart,” emphasizing radio’s unique ability to reach individuals in moments of solitude and need.

The radio station was gifted to the Adventist Church by Brother Charles Webster, a longtime radio engineer whose passion for media ministry reflects both generosity and dedication to mission.

“We commend the donor for his contribution to advancing God’s gospel in these times,” James added, describing the gift as both timely and impactful.

The launch represents more than the start of a broadcast frequency—it signals a renewed commitment to the mission through media.

Meeting a World in Need of Good News

Addressing the gathering at the Mt. Fortune Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor James highlighted the

urgent need for hope-filled communication in a world often dominated by discouraging news.

“As we dedicate this station, we do more than dedicate equipment—we dedicate a mission,” he stated, underscoring the station’s role in offering spiritual encouragement and biblical guidance.

The station will feature a blend of teaching programs and Christian music, broadcasting both on-air and online. It is expected to serve approximately 15,000 residents in Anguilla and nearly 44,000 individuals in nearby Sint Maarten.

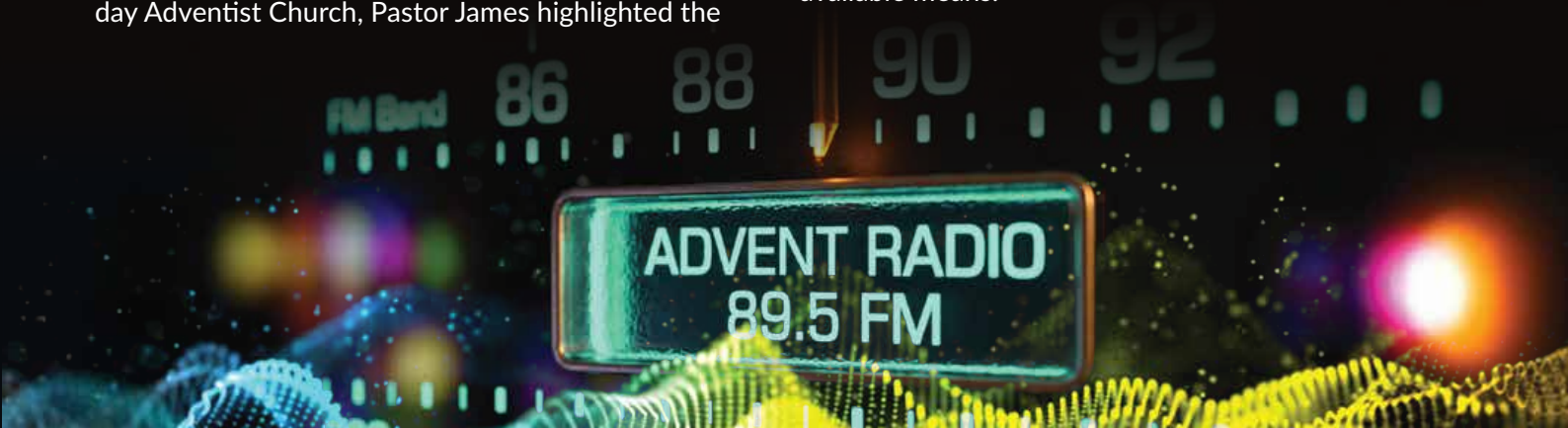
Pastor Ray Edwards, lead pastor in Anguilla, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, sharing that radio remains one of the most effective ways to reach people in their homes, in their vehicles, and during quiet moments. He added that the station will operate 24 hours a day, reaching listeners across Anguilla, Sint Maarten, St. Eustatius, and Saba.

Affirmation from Regional Leadership

In a message read by NCC Treasurer Sis Sanida McKenzie, Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) President Dr. Kern Tobias affirmed the initiative’s significance.

“Advent Radio 89.5 FM is an inspiring endeavor,” Tobias shared, emphasizing that the station will reach individuals in need of encouragement while advancing the church’s mission to share hope and salvation.

He emphasized the critical role of communication ministries in extending the gospel through every available means.





A Historic and Defining Moment

The launch represents a defining milestone in the church's outreach, said Pastor Royston Philbert, CARU communication director.

"This is a historic day in Anguilla," Philbert announced, sharing that the station marks the NCC's second radio outlet and strengthens the church's media presence within the Caribbean Union territory.

He described radio as a deeply personal medium that connects with individuals in moments of loneliness, uncertainty, and need, enhancing the church's ability to offer spiritual care and encouragement.

Reflecting on the vision behind the project, Philbert highlighted the broader purpose of media ministry and its role in sharing Christ's message of hope and maintaining a strong connection to the wider church.

Mrs. Linda Ambrose, NCC communication director, also commended Webster's contribution and his willingness to be led by faith as both inspiring and impactful.

Consecrating a Mission

Leaders framed the moment not merely as a launch but as a spiritual commissioning.

NCC Executive Secretary Dr. Howard Simon emphasized the power of radio ministry, noting its ability to reach where traditional preaching cannot. He then made the official pronouncement that Advent

Radio 89.5 FM is ready for broadcast and ministry, advancing the proclamation of the three angels' messages.

Positioned for Regional Impact

While rooted in Anguilla, Advent Radio 89.5 FM is expected to extend its influence across the region, contributing to the broader Adventist media network in the Caribbean.

Radio remains one of the most accessible and effective tools for evangelism, capable of crossing geographic and social boundaries. The station will offer diverse programming, including sermons, music, health features, youth-focused content, and community engagement initiatives.

Carrying the Message Forward

As the ceremony ended, a spirit of gratitude and anticipation filled the atmosphere, with leaders expressing confidence in the station's future impact.

Advent Radio 89.5 FM stands as a vision realized through sacrifice and faith in God. Through this ministry, the church is positioned to carry the message of hope into every corner it can reach.

The North Caribbean Conference oversees more than 16,000 members across 36 churches and congregations in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and the islands of Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten.

Suriname Mission to Broaden Outreach Efforts

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (IAD) — Leaders of the Suriname Mission are strengthening multilingual and cross-cultural outreach efforts after participating in the recent Intercultural Mission Church Planting Summit at the University of the Southern Caribbean from May 27–30, 2026.

The summit, organized by the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists in collaboration with regional church entities, brought together delegates from across the division to strengthen church planting, volunteer mission service, and cross-cultural ministry throughout the territory and beyond.

Mission administrators from Suriname said the event reaffirmed the need to intentionally reach the country's diverse communities through multilingual ministry, small groups, health evangelism, and member-led outreach initiatives. Suriname is considered one of the most culturally diverse countries in the Caribbean and South American region, with communities representing African, East Indian, Javanese, Indigenous, Chinese, Brazilian, Dutch, and Hispanic backgrounds. Church leaders believe this diversity presents unique opportunities for mission and discipleship.

"Suriname presents a unique mission field because of its many cultures, languages, and religious backgrounds," said Pastor Amazias Costa, Global Mission director of the Suriname Mission. "The summit reminded us that mission must move beyond traditional methods and intentionally meet people where they are."

Multilingual Ministry Creating Growth

One of the mission's most notable outreach efforts is the Comunidade Esperança Viva congregation, which ministers primarily to Brazilians and Hispanics, particularly Cubans, in both Portuguese and Spanish.

"To the honor and glory of God, the church has continued to grow steadily," Pastor Costa explained. "Last year we celebrated six baptisms and recorded more than US\$30,000 in tithes and offerings. These are signs of sustainable growth and commitment among the members." The congregation has also experienced growth in discipleship and small group ministry. During the recent "Impact 2026" initiative, the church's small groups increased from two to seven active groups focused on Bible study, fellowship, and community outreach.

Church officials said the progress demonstrates how multilingual ministry can create stronger relationships and open new opportunities for evangelism.

"The Intercultural Mission Summit challenged us to think differently about mission," said Pastor Guno Emanuelson, President of the Suriname Mission of Seventh-day Adventist. "We cannot wait for people to come to us. We must intentionally enter communities, understand their culture, and share Christ in meaningful ways."

Much of the growth has been driven by lay members who are using their languages, professions, and personal relationships to connect with communities across Suriname. One Cuban participant who recently began attending the congregation said the church became "a spiritual family" while adjusting to life in Suriname.

Expanding Outreach Across Cultures

In addition to Hispanic and Brazilian outreach, the mission is also strengthening ministry among Suriname's Javanese population. A developing Javanese small group led by Fred Dipotaroeno has expanded its activities and leadership participation in recent months.

Plans are also underway to strengthen ministry among East Indian communities with the anticipated involvement

of Pastor Andrew Mondal in specialized outreach efforts. Health evangelism is becoming another important component of the mission's strategy. According to church leaders, 38 lay members recently received training in health evangelism to better serve communities through practical ministry and lifestyle education.

The mission is also preparing to establish a Center of Influence in northern Paramaribo as part of its long-term strategy for urban outreach. Leaders reported that the first US\$10,000 toward the project has already been secured as construction efforts begin. Mission leaders explained that the summit also provided practical strategies in discipleship, church planting, and volunteer mission service that are already being adapted for local ministry initiatives throughout the territory.

Global Mission Director, CARU, Dr. Clive P. Dottin, said the developments in Suriname reflect the broader emphasis on mission throughout the Caribbean Union territory.

"Suriname represents the kind of multicultural mission field that requires intentional engagement, flexibility, and dependence on the Holy Spirit," Dr. Dottin said. "What is happening there demonstrates that people from different backgrounds are open to the gospel when ministry is contextualized and relational."

Mission Beyond Traditional Boundaries

Former Global Mission director Pastor Steven Tulp emphasized the importance of sustained missionary engagement and discipleship.

"Mission is not simply about conducting programs," Pastor Steven said. "It is about building relationships, discipling believers, and creating communities of faith that continue to grow and reproduce themselves."

Church leaders also revealed plans for a seven-member mission team to travel to French Guiana in July to conduct evangelism, discipleship training, and outreach among multicultural communities. The renewed focus on community-based evangelism follows repeated calls made throughout the summit for members to embrace “mission beyond the pulpit” and become actively involved in church planting and discipleship initiatives across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Dr. Samuel Telemaque reminded delegates during the summit that the future of mission in the Inter-American Division depends on the church’s willingness to intentionally

reach diverse populations.

“The vision is uncomfortable,” Dr. Telemaque said during one of the plenary sessions. “But God is calling His church to move beyond familiar spaces and engage people from every culture, language, and background.”

Church leaders hope the expanding outreach initiatives will lead to additional church plants and stronger missionary involvement across the territory in the coming years.

Despite the challenges of reaching increasingly diverse communities, mission leaders remain optimistic

about the opportunities ahead.

“We are praying that God will continue to open doors in unreached communities,” Pastor Amazes said. “Our desire is to see more churches planted, more disciples trained, and more people prepared for the soon return of Jesus.”

Leaders said they believe God is positioning the church in Suriname to become a model of multicultural ministry and community engagement throughout the region.

Caribbean Union Young Adults Answer the Call in Guadalajara Mission Outreach



Debra Felix

Debra Felix is the Sabbath School and Human Resource Director of CARU.

Eight young adults from the Caribbean Union Conference returned home inspired and transformed after participating in the Inter-American Division’s “Love Beyond Borders” Inverse Mission Trip in Guadalajara, Mexico, from August 20–31, 2025.

The outreach initiative brought together young people and leaders from across the Inter-American Division for a united season of evangelism, community service, and cross-cultural ministry. With a shared commitment to spreading the gospel, participants worked side by side to serve communities and uplift local churches.

Representing the Caribbean Union Conference, the delegation joined fellow missionaries from across the division in a variety of outreach activities. Their ministry included medical outreach programs, literature distribution, Branch Sabbath School for children, and dynamic evangelistic meetings.

By God’s blessing, the mission produced meaningful results. A total of 125 persons were baptized, while 14 new churches were established in different regions. The effort also brought encouragement to local congregations and renewed the faith of many believers.

Beyond the numbers, participants described the mission as a life-changing experience. Many testified that their own spiritual lives were strengthened as they encountered the warmth, resilience, and spiritual openness of the people of Guadalajara.

For several of the young adults, the mission was not only about giving service, but also about receiving valuable lessons, new friendships, and a deeper understanding of God’s global work.

The Caribbean Union Sabbath School Department expressed sincere appreciation to the Caribbean Union administrators and to Dr. Samuel Telemaque, Mission Director of the Inter-American Division, whose support helped make the experience possible.

Through this partnership, Caribbean Union youth were able to witness firsthand the joy of serving others and the power of the gospel to transform lives.

The Guadalajara mission was far more than an overseas trip. It was a spiritual journey that has left a lasting mark on those who attended and will continue to inspire young people across the Caribbean Union to answer God’s call to mission.

Grenada Youth Director Authors Devotional on David to Inspire Next Generation of Leaders

GEOGETOWN, Guyana — Pastor Jamie Gordon, youth director of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has authored a new devotional book aimed at inspiring young people and strengthening leaders across the Caribbean Union territory. The book, *Reflections on the Life of David-The Rise of an Empire*, was written in celebration of the theme of the recent “Greatness 11” Pathfinder Camporee held in Guyana and draws deeply from the biblical journey of David.

Gordon said the project reflects his conviction that young people possess immense potential when nurtured intentionally. “From the beginning of time, human beings have been inspired by stories,” he noted, explaining that the life of David, his humble beginnings as a shepherd, and his eventual rise to the throne, offer timeless lessons for leadership and faith. “At the recently concluded camporee, it was an honor and blessing to write this devotional book,” Gordon added. “This short devotional was designed to inspire, stir, motivate, and embolden young leaders in the making, while also strengthening and sharpening seasoned leaders.”

The devotional explores key leadership principles through David’s life, including formative development, self-awareness, dependence on God, and the cultivation of core character traits such as humility, patience, and sacrificial love. It also addresses handling adversity, emphasizing that life’s “giants” are opportunities to demonstrate faith rather than obstacles to avoid. Gordon underscores that leadership is not defined by position but by purpose, integrity, and a commitment to service.

“This book is the result of the influences and inspiration I received from various persons. This book is dedicated to God, for His amazing grace and favor,” Gordon said. “God still speaks to us today, and this book is a clear testament of that fact.” He expressed hope that the devotional will be widely accessible, encouraging readers to share it broadly as it becomes available in digital format.

Church leaders have also affirmed the book’s value as a resource for youth and those who mentor them. Pastor Marvin Smith, youth director of the Caribbean Union Conference, described it as a timely contribution to leadership development. “This book will be of significant benefit to young people, and to all who work with them,” he stated, “It reminds us that God often begins His greatest work in unlikely places and imperfect people and that true leadership is less about position and more about purpose.”

Smith added that the devotional not only traces David’s rise but also invites readers into personal transformation. “As you journey through these pages, you will find yourself encouraged, challenged, and equipped to lead with greater clarity, conviction, and compassion,” he said. “It invites its readers to rise, personally, spiritually, and missionally, in service to God and His kingdom.”

Through *Reflections on the Life of David-The Rise of an Empire*, Gordon presents a compelling message: that God continues to call, shape, and raise leaders from unexpected places, and that investing in young people today is essential for building a lasting legacy of faith and mission.

TRIBUTE TO DR. VERNON ANDREWS

by Dr. Austin Archer | Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Education at Walla Walla University.

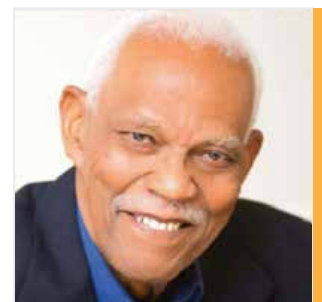
It is difficult to think of a life more intertwined with, and more consequential to USC/CUC in the latter half of the 20th Century than that of Vernon Euclid Andrews. Born in the nearby town of St Joseph, Vernon’s early life was shaped by the campus. Music was not his initial career choice, nor was it an obvious one. Yet his talent and competence were clear, and when his teacher, Mrs. Archbold departed, he was asked to fill the breach.

He completed examinations for the LRSM, before proceeding to Andrews University where he completed his musical studies in 1965.. What followed was more

than a decade of leadership in music that some would characterize as a golden age of music at CUC. Choir tours throughout the Caribbean cemented the College’s musical reputation throughout the region. Probably the crowning achievement was winning the Ashdown Cup at the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival in 1974.

But Vernon was much more than music. His leadership of the college as President marked a significant move towards the recognition of bachelor’s degrees through Andrews University. His later service to the Caribbean Union in various portfolios demonstrated his

versatility, and his devotion to his church. Yet, those who know him best think of him as a mentor and friend who always called to know how you were doing, and always ready with a quip and a smile, and a lift to the spirits.



Dr. Vernon Andrews

Be a Shepherd Like Jesus

Union Leader Calls Pastors to Christ-Centered Ministry at Grenada Ordination Service

by Pastor Royston Philbert

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada —In a spiritually uplifting service, the Caribbean Union Conference, in partnership with the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, ordained Pastors Lambert Dasta Paul and Kwame Matthew Diabour to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, January 24, 2026. Hundreds of worshippers, church leaders, family members, and ministers gathered at the St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Church, Grenada, for the special occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Grenada Conference President Pastor Enoch Isaac underscored the significance of the occasion, describing ordination as a defining moment not only for the ministers but also for the church's life and mission.

Delivering his final ordination sermon in the Grenada Conference before his retirement in July 2026, Dr. Kern Tobias called on pastors to reflect on Christ's model of leadership. Drawing from John 10:1–21, the Caribbean Union Conference president emphasized that pastoral ministry is not rooted in authority but in sacrificial service and relational shepherding shaped by the life and example of Jesus.

"Ordination is not about you; it is about Christ. It is the moment when God solemnly sets apart sinners to represent Him," Tobias said. "Jesus goes before His sheep, and a true shepherd places himself in harm's way to protect the flock."

Reflecting on his own ministerial journey, Tobias underscored the importance of accountability and self-awareness in pastoral leadership. "You must know who you are," he declared. "You carry a sacred responsibility to feed, protect, and guide the flock with humility and self-sacrificing love. The church does not belong to its leaders, but to Christ, who calls pastors to serve as under-shepherds, walking with the people, tending to the wounded, and faithfully reflecting the heart of the Chief Shepherd in every aspect of ministry."

Called, Equipped, and Sent

The service highlighted the unique journeys of the two ordinands, both exemplars of committed discipleship, evangelistic zeal, and pastoral heart.

Pastor Lambert Dasta Paul was born on April 3, 1986, in the fishing village of Soubise, St. Andrew, Grenada, where the values of community, hard work, and faith shaped his early years. After completing secondary education and an associate degree in building construction technology, Pastor Lambert's life changed forever during an evangelistic series in the village of La Digue when he surrendered his life to Christ and was baptized in 2003.

His early service in youth leadership, personal ministries, and church administration laid a firm foundation for ministry. Responding to God's call,





“Sometimes it’s hard to do what God has called us to do, but God will empower you.”

Linda Tobias

Associate Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union Conference with responsibility for Shepherdess Ministries.

he pursued pastoral training at the University of the Southern Caribbean and later at the Inter-American Theological Seminary, where he completed a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology. Pastor Paul has served in Colombia and across Grenada, currently providing oversight to congregations in the Southeastern District of the Grenada Conference. He and his wife, Lucy, are blessed with a daughter, Rayelle.

Pastor Kwame Matthew Diabour was born in Belmont, St. George, the son of a Ghanaian father and a Grenadian mother. Both challenge and blessing marked his early life: losing his father at a young age, he found spiritual nurture through Adventist neighbors and a life-changing decision to follow Jesus at an evangelistic crusade. Before answering the call to formal ministry, Pastor Kwame worked in housekeeping, painting, and bartending, all while serving in local church leadership.

Pastor Kwame pursued pastoral studies at the University of the Southern Caribbean, financing his education through Bible work and the generosity of others. After years of service as a Bible worker, intern pastor, missionary in Côte d'Ivoire, and church revitalizer, he earned a Master's in Biblical Missions and Wellness from Weimar University. Pastor Diabour currently pastors the Grenadines District with his wife Dahlia and their four children.

A Charge to Shepherd with Compassion

The live-streamed service was marked by inspiring music, prayer, and Scripture readings, creating an atmosphere of celebration reflected in smiles, tears, and heartfelt expressions of support. In their charge to the ordinands and their spouses, Pastor Royston Philbert, associate ministerial secretary of the Union, and Sis. Linda Tobias, associate ministerial secretary of the Caribbean Union Conference with responsibility for Shepherdess Ministries, urged the candidates to serve with a clear and unwavering sense of God's calling.

Addressing the spouses, Sis. Tobias acknowledged the challenges of ministry life and reminded them of God's sustaining grace. “Sometimes it's hard to do what God has called us to do,” she said, “but God will empower you.” Pastor Philbert emphasized that ordination is a sacred trust rather than a personal achievement. “No great honor can come to any individual,” he noted. “With this honor comes responsibility. Serve with integrity as unto God and not unto men.”

Responding on behalf of the ordinands, Pastor Lambert Paul reflected on God's leading throughout his ministerial journey. “When I look back on my life, I recognize the hand of God that has led and continues to guide every step I take,” he said, describing himself as a living testimony of what God can accomplish through a fully surrendered life.

The ordination prayer was offered by Pastor Bertie Henry, treasurer of the Caribbean Union Conference, and the candidates were presented by Dr. Frankie Noel, ministerial secretary of the Grenada Conference.

Filled with worship, prayer, and renewed commitment, the service stood as both a joyful celebration of ordination and a solemn reminder of the high calling of pastoral ministry—to lead with love, serve with humility, and faithfully point hearts to Christ.

Organized in 1983 and headquartered in Grenville, St. Andrew, the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists serves more than 12,000 members across 50 congregations in Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique. The conference focuses on evangelism, education, and community service, operating schools, health clinics, and the IADPA Book Store, and is supported by a team of 20 ministerial workers.

A Moment of Joy

The Commissioning of Dr. Janelle Scantlebury-Smith

By CARU Communication Department



Rooted in Faith and Caribbean Values

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Scantlebury-Smith's faith was shaped by her family, the Church, and active participation in Sabbath School. The example of her parents nurtured a lasting commitment to Christian service, excellence, and mission.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and a master's degree in International Studies from the University of Barcelona, specializing in International Organizations and International Cooperation for Development.

Before entering denominational service, she worked as a project researcher at the Association of Caribbean States, gaining experience in regional cooperation, research, and development. Although her education prepared her for a career in international diplomacy, her path ultimately led to the mission of the Church.

Service Through Education and Mission

At the University of the Southern Caribbean, Dr. Scantlebury-Smith served in institutional development, international student services, recruitment, and enrollment.

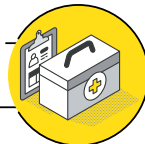
Her commitment to cross-cultural mission later expanded through Adventist Volunteer Service and related initiatives. Over 12 years, she helped facilitate the sending and receiving of nearly 1,000 volunteers. As International Service Employee Coordinator, she also supported 31 employees serving within the Inter-American Division and 30 employees from the Division serving abroad.

MIAMI, Florida — On Sabbath, May 2, 2026, the Seventh-day Adventist Church formally recognized Dr. Janelle Scantlebury-Smith's call to ministry through commissioning—a moment that celebrated not only personal achievement, but a life of faith, preparation, sacrifice, and service.

For her family, colleagues, church leaders, and members across the Caribbean Union Conference, the ceremony carried historic significance. During the service, Caribbean Union Conference President Dr. Kern Tobias shared a short video titled “A Moment of Joy,” capturing the meaning of the occasion for the Union and the wider Church.

“This is part of the history of the Caribbean Union,” one church leader reflected. “There are still individuals from our territory serving at the highest levels of the Church—and this time, it is a woman.”

The commissioning affirmed Dr. Scantlebury-Smith's spiritual calling, honored her years of service, and entrusted her with continued ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



This is a moment of joy for our union. Not simply because of her achievements, but because of her humility, her Christian character, and her willingness to serve God wherever He leads.”

Leadership in the Inter-American Division

Dr. Scantlebury-Smith currently serves as Associate Secretary of the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Her portfolio includes the Secretariat Academy, union and local field evaluations, Archives and Statistics, Inter-Union Workers, the English and French editions of the Inter-American Division Policy Book, corporate secretary functions, and other administrative responsibilities.

She also supports the analysis of membership trends, baptisms, accessions, retention, and losses—information that helps leaders identify areas of growth and determine where focused ministry and administrative support are most needed.

Her election marked a significant milestone: she became the first woman from the Caribbean Union Conference elected to one of the highest administrative offices in the Inter-American Division.

Scholarship in Service of Others

Alongside her leadership and ministry responsibilities, Dr. Scantlebury-Smith earned a doctoral degree in Health Policy and Leadership from Loma Linda University.

Her doctoral project, “Housing Allocation, Race and Systemic Constraints: A Qualitative Analysis of Homelessness in Miami-Dade County,” examined racial inequities, housing systems, and the structural barriers faced by people experiencing homelessness. The research reflects her broader commitment to using policy, scholarship, and leadership to improve the lives of underserved communities.

More Than a Ceremony

The commissioning brought together the many dimensions of Dr. Scantlebury-Smith’s journey—faith, family, education, mission, administration, leadership, and service. The Church was not simply recognizing her appointments or academic accomplishments; it was affirming her call to ministry.

“This is a moment of joy for our Union,” one leader said, “not simply because of her achievements, but because of her humility, Christian character, and willingness to serve God wherever He leads.”

For women and young people across the Caribbean Union, the ceremony offered a visible example of what can emerge through faith, preparation, and consistent service. For Dr. Scantlebury-Smith, however, the moment was not about titles or recognition. It was about answering God’s call and renewing her commitment to serve.

The joy of May 2 rested in that affirmation: God had already been at work through her life, and the commissioning publicly recognized both the journey behind her and the responsibility ahead.

When God calls, prepares, and commissions a willing servant, the moment becomes more than a ceremony. It becomes a testimony.

Saint Lucia Mission LAUNCHES DIGITAL Document Management System

The Secretariat Department of the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists has developed a new web-based Document Management System (DMS) aimed at improving efficiency, record keeping, and timely auditing of church board minutes across the Mission's 50 congregations.

The platform allows church clerks to securely upload church board minutes and official documents directly to the Mission office through a centralized online system. The initiative was designed to reduce administrative delays and create a reliable archive for important church records.

Pastor Lucius Philip, Executive Secretary of the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, conceptualized the application following a request from a church clerk seeking a more efficient and organized method to submit minutes to the Mission office.

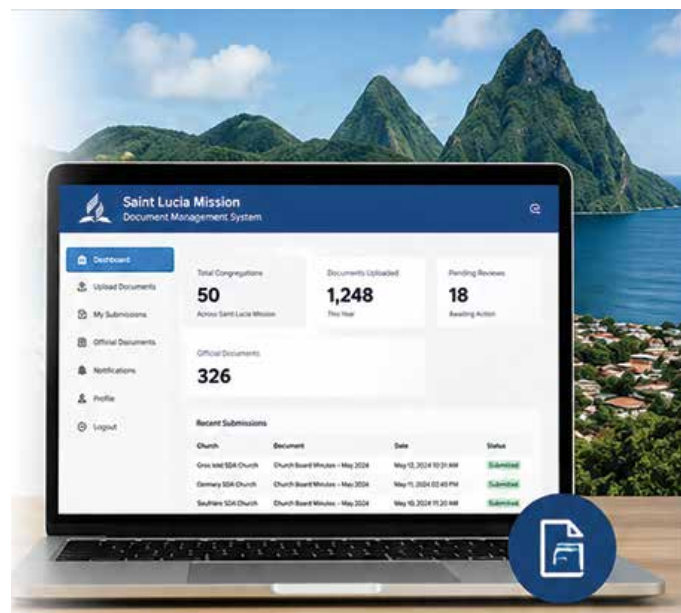


“The DMS will greatly facilitate continuity and preservation of church records while lessening the burden placed upon church clerks, who serve as essential volunteers within the church structure.”

Pastor Lucius Philip
Executive Secretary
Saint Lucia Mission of
Seventh-day Adventists.

Instructional video demonstrations prepared for the project showcase the simple workflow for uploading documents, reviewing submissions, and submission of official documents between the Mission office and local churches.

In addition to facilitating the work of local church clerks, the DMS will also enable the Saint Lucia Mission to archive Executive Committee minutes and other important administrative records for easier accessibility and long-term preservation.



KEY FEATURES



Secure login access for church clerks



Upload and archiving of PDF and DOCX minutes



Automatic timestamps for submissions



Instant notifications to Mission staff when documents are uploaded



Distribution of baptismal certificates, letters, and official documents to churches through the platform



A centralized dashboard displaying submission activity from all congregations



The system is also mobile-friendly and includes security measures such as encrypted access and automatic backups to ensure the protection and preservation of records.



The DMS forms part of the Mission's continued efforts to embrace technology in support of ministry and administration.



Caribbean Union's Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers Rebuild 60+ Homes in Jamaica

Regional team restores hope across West and North Jamaica following widespread storm damage.

A 34-member team of skilled volunteers from the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) traveled to Jamaica January 15–19, to assist with large-scale rebuilding efforts across the western and northern part of Jamaica following extensive storm-related destruction from hurricane Melissa late last October 2025.

Working under the banner of the “Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers,” the team brought together carpenters, masons, laborers, contractors, engineers, and union representatives from Barbados, St. Croix, St. Maarten, Dominica, Tortola, and Trinidad. Most volunteers personally financed their airfare and transported their own tools, reflecting a spirit of sacrifice and mission commitment, church leaders said.

“We did not come to Jamaica simply to repair roofs,” said Pastor Ashton O’Neil, general coordinator of the mission. “We came to rebuild lives. Every nail driven and every board lifted was an act of worship.”

Despite limited time and challenging conditions, the initiative resulted in significant reconstruction and repair across multiple communities, he said.

“Our volunteers understood that this was ministry in its purest form,



“We did not come to Jamaica simply to repair roofs; we came to rebuild lives. Every nail driven and every board lifted was an act of worship.”
Pastor Ashton O’Neil

and they gave themselves without hesitation,” O’Neil added.

The team split into four groups and followed a demanding schedule, rising early for devotions before traveling up to 90 minutes to worksites, where they often worked into the evening to complete roofing and structural tasks.

Rebuilding on a Large Scale

Volunteers repaired 34 roofs, constructed six complete houses, and carried out six minor repairs across the West Jamaica Conference.

In addition, a joint team from the North Caribbean Conference and

Trinidad extended their service for another week and a half in the North Jamaica Conference region, completing eight roofs, building three houses, and repairing three additional structures.

Projects included reroofing, flooring installation, wall reconstruction, the installation of windows and doors, and full structural rebuilding. Assistance was provided to both Adventist and non-Adventist families.

Many beneficiaries had been living under tarpaulins supported by makeshift frames, without proper walls, doors, or windows. Several homes had been destroyed or deemed structurally unsafe, church leaders said.

Coordinated for Mission

Elder Ezra Fabian of Dominica, who provided technical leadership for the initiative, emphasized the unity of the regional team.

“What stood out most was the level of cooperation and professionalism,” said Fabian. “Skilled workers from different islands came together as one body with one mission,” he said, adding that although the challenges were real, their commitment was even greater.

“We may have slept in bunks and traveled long hours each day, but every sacrifice was worth it,” said Pastor Dayle Haynes of the East Caribbean Conference. “When you see a family move from under a tarpaulin into a secure home, you realize this is more than construction, it is compassion in action.”

Pastor Glen O. Samuels, president of the West Jamaica Conference at the time expressed deep appreciation for the regional partnership. “The Caribbean Union has demonstrated what it truly means to be one family in Christ,” he said. “These volunteers gave sacrificially of their time, resources, and strength. West Jamaica will not forget this expression of love and solidarity.”

Ongoing Needs

While the January mission marked substantial progress, the need across the affected communities remains severe and widespread, volunteer team leaders said. Numerous families are still living in unsafe or temporary conditions, and several church buildings were either heavily damaged or destroyed, they said.

Conference leaders have identified an urgent need for additional building materials, increased financial support, and continued skilled volunteer assistance to sustain the rebuilding momentum, regional church leaders said.

Orville Morris, one of the site managers, underscored the urgency of continued support. “What we accomplished in a few days made a meaningful difference,” he said, “but there are still many families waiting, with more resources and more hands, we can accelerate the work and restore stability to entire communities.” Without further intervention, many communities will continue to face significant humanitarian and infrastructure challenges in the months ahead.



Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers stand with a grateful homeowner after completing repairs to his storm-damaged house in Jamaica. [Photo: Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers Team]



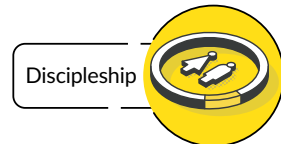
The Rio Bonito Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jamaica was rebuilt by the Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers during their January 2026 mission on the island. [Photo: Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers Team]



Pastor Karl Archer, former president of the North Jamaica Conference, worships with members on Sabbath following the rebuilding of the church. [Photo: Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers Team]

When the Tide Turns, God's People Stand

Nevis church challenged to protect, prepare, and persevere



Curtis Morton

Curtis Morton has been in active journalism since 1989. He previously did a weekly newsletter for the Seventh-day Adventist churches in Nevis.



LEFT PHOTO: MODERATOR - Pastor Delroy Josiah, BOTTOM MIDDLE PHOTO: Panelists: Dr. Clive P. Dottin, Mrs. Lornette Swanston-Morton, Mr. Craig David, Ms. Nigenda Walters, RIGHT PHOTO: Azel Williams

The island of Nevis experienced a weekend of spiritual renewal as believers gathered for the Liberty Convention and Seminar hosted by the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Department of the Caribbean Union Conference in collaboration with the Caribbean Religious Liberty Association (CARLA).

Held at the Gingerland Seventh-day Adventist Church from February 27–28, 2026, under the theme “The Turning of the Tide,” the event reminded members that changing times require committed disciples who are prepared to stand for God.

CARLA President Attorney Leslyn Charles emphasized the importance of religious liberty, encouraging churches to become more intentional in protecting the freedom to worship and serve God.

Pastor Kendol Doyle, in his keynote presentation titled “The Tide is Turning, but It is Time to Swim,” challenged believers to recognize that following Christ requires

courage and commitment, especially when society moves in another direction.

During the Sabbath programme, Elder Stevenson Byng encouraged the church to confront crime by becoming agents of healing and hope, while Dr. Clive P. Dottin reminded members to remain faithful and remember believers worldwide who continue to serve God through hardship.

The convention concluded with a youth empowerment seminar addressing mental health, technology, relationships, and spiritual growth. Presenters encouraged young people to build healthy habits, make wise choices, and remain connected to Christ.

The weekend ended with a renewed call for God’s people to remain faithful, courageous, and ready to serve as the tide continues to turn.

Obituaries



Bertrand Peter Archer

1935 - 2025

Veteran educator, Mr. B. Peter Archer, died in Tobago on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at age 90.

Born in Mount Pleasant, Tobago, the eleventh of twelve children of OBJ and Victoria Archer, he was raised by his elder sister, Beatha (Archer) Elliott. When Harmon School of SDA was founded in 1952, Peter Archer was one of the first students.

After completing secondary school, he began his teaching career, receiving his teacher's certificate at Government Teachers' College, and taught at several government schools in Tobago, coming to be known in many parts of the island as "Teacher Pete".

He then went abroad, eventually earning his Master's degree in Science Education from Long Island University. He returned to Tobago and was a Science teacher at Harmon before becoming principal of the school from 1978 to 1988.

From 1988 to 1992 he was Director of Education of the South Caribbean Conference. While serving there, Mr Archer taught Science classes as an adjunct faculty in the undergraduate program at CUC (now USC).

In 1992 Mr. Archer accepted a call to serve as principal of the St. Croix SDA School. After six years in St. Croix, Mr. Archer returned to Trinidad and Tobago, and served again as principal of Harmon School of SDA from 1998 to 2001.

Apart from his work in education, Mr Archer was the First Elder of Bon Accord SDA Church. He was also a Religious Liberty ambassador, serving for many years as a Tobago delegate at the annual Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Congress hosted by the Caribbean Union Conference in various countries of the region.

In addition, Mr. Archer was a delegate at the 6th and 7th World Congresses of the International Religious Liberty Association held in South Africa in 2007, and the Dominican Republic in 2012. He was also an avid gardener.

B. Peter Archer was preceded in death by his first wife, Gloria, daughter, Averlyn, and son Aristotle. He is survived by his wife Ingrid Samuel - Archer; three children Wendy, Anton and Andre; and siblings, John and Miriam, and many other family members.



Joseph Edison Archer

1931-2026

In losing Joseph Archer, on February 12, 2026, the CUC/USC alumni community has lost one of its brightest lights.

Born in the island of Tobago at a time when secondary education was available only to a few privileged families, Joseph entered the construction trade after elementary school.

By the early 1950s when Harmon School was founded to open opportunities to young Adventists, Joseph was already in his 20s. However, chastened by a construction accident that almost took his life, and at the encouragement of Harmon School founder and principal, Merrille McKenzie, Joseph traded his hammer for a pen, and entered Form 1 in his 22nd year, joining the second Harmon class.

Harmon gave way to CUC where he graduated in 1960. This was followed by a pastoral internship in British Guiana, during a time of extreme civil disturbance in the early sixties. He then went on to Columbia Union College to complete his degree in theology, and Andrews University, where he earned a Master's degree in educational administration.

Joseph Archer was married to Shirley James of Charlotteville, Tobago, a nurse and health educator, who eventually served as Health director of the South Caribbean Conference.

Joseph was a father of four, a grandfather, uncle, friend and mentor to many, who knew him simply as Uncle Joe. He served the church as pastor, teacher and principal in the Caribbean, New York, and Florida, and as Education director of the South Caribbean Conference. He was known for his gifted singing and for his uplifting and affable personality.

In his later years Joseph Archer served as president of the Florida USC/CUC Alumni chapter. His 94 years were marked by a spirit of service to God and an irrepressible affection for people.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley, and survived by three daughters, a son (who, sadly, has since died), and grandchildren.



Notice of the Seventh (7th) Quadrennial Business Session

Notice is hereby given of the Seventh (7th) Quadrennial Business Session of the St. Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, which is scheduled to be held from November 4–6 2026, at the Zion Seventh-day Adventist Church. The theme for the Session is “Going with God: Living the Mission.”

The Session is called to:

1. Receive reports from the administrators, departmental directors, and auditors.
2. Elect departmental directors and members of the Executive Committee.
3. Approve plans and recommendations for the next quadrennium.
4. Transact any other business as stipulated in the Operating Policy of the St. Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

The Opening Ceremony will commence at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at the aforementioned venue. Daily business meetings will continue from 8:30 a.m. thereafter.

As we prepare for this important Session, we invite all members to begin praying daily for the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit, that He may direct every deliberation and decision.

Yours Sincerely

Roger Stephen, President

Lucius Philip, Executive Secretary

EVERY MINISTRY HAS A STORY.

TELL YOURS.

Across the Caribbean, God is changing lives through evangelism, education, health ministries, youth programs, community outreach, and compassionate service.

HELP US SHARE THOSE STORIES.



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IF GOD IS MOVING IN YOUR COMMUNITY, LET THE CARIBBEAN KNOW.



JESUS IS COMING BACK.

◆
HERE'S WHAT THAT MEANS.



HE IS KING

King of kings
and Lord of lords.



WE CAN TRUST HIM

He is our God
and our Savior.



BE READY

The Son of Man
will come at an hour
you do not expect.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an
hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
Matthew 24:44

THE END OF ALL THINGS IS NEAR.
BE ALERT. PRAY. TRUST.

