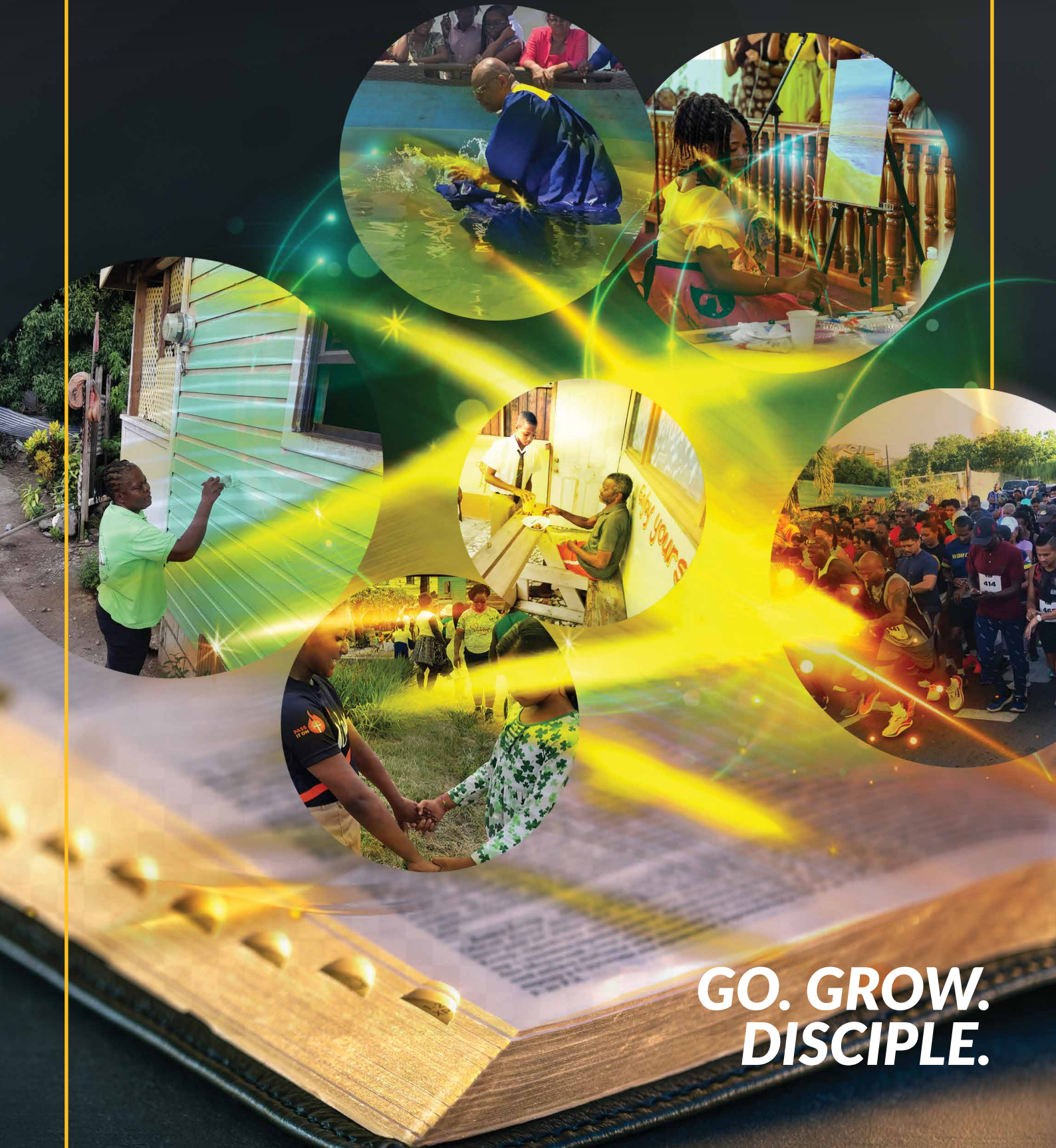


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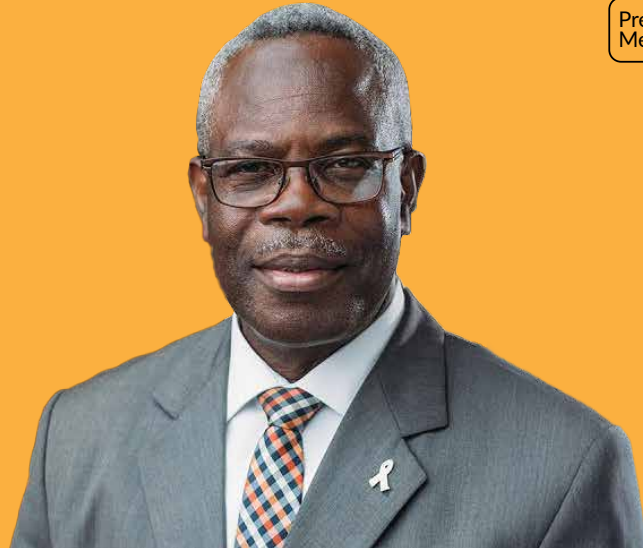
Gleanings

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE



**GO. GROW.
DISCIPLE.**





Dr. Kern Tobias
President

President's Message

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19, 20.

This raises important questions: **Who is a disciple of God? What does it truly mean to live as a disciple? And what vision does God have for each of us in this role?**

Let's begin by defining a disciple of God. A disciple is not just a believer but an active participant in God's mission. Disciples have a personal relationship with God and boldly share their faith in every aspect of life – at home, school, work, church, and within the community. Disciples embody the message of salvation and take on the responsibility of teaching and mentoring others. The Scripture urges us to teach others to observe all that God has commanded, which means we must first deeply understand and live those teachings ourselves.

Now, let us delve into what it truly means to be a disciple. Jesus entrusted His original disciples with the vital task of making more disciples. They were called to share the teachings they received directly from Him. This mission is not just for the early disciples but extends to us today. We are not merely instructors; we are to practice what we preach, becoming living examples of God's love and truth.

So, what are God's expectations of us as His disciples? He desires for us to follow Him wholeheartedly and to become reflections of His character in the world. By doing so, we invite others on this transformative journey, helping them to understand and obey God's Word. This is how we truly embody and share the essence of who God is.

We observe that a disciple actively engages in making disciples of others. Are there people to make disciples of in your home, school, work, or community? Have you been sharing the truth of God with them? Have you been listening to God's voice and obeying His Word?

I encourage you to take up this mantle with passion and commitment, knowing that in fulfilling this calling, we not only grow ourselves but lead others to the Truth. Together, let us become the disciples God calls us to be.

Yours in service,

Dr. Kern Tobias

Editorial

A Model Disciple in the Workplace

As Adventists, we often find ourselves working in environments where the majority do not share our faith. Yet, it is in these very places that our discipleship is most clearly tested and revealed. To follow Christ is not only to worship on Sabbath or lead in church—it is to embody His presence in the workplace, the classroom, the marketplace, and wherever life places us.

A model disciple is first a faithful worker. The apostle Paul reminds us: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters” (Colossians 3:23, NIV). Arriving early, staying focused, completing tasks

with excellence, and being consistent in character are not just professional habits—they are reflections of a heart committed to God.

Ellen G. White underscores this principle: “The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall” (Education, p. 57). Such integrity is not optional for disciples; it is central to our witness.

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.

Editorial



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Leadership expert John Maxwell wrote, “Your talk talks and your walk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk.” In the workplace, people may forget our words, but they will never forget the example of a consistent Christian life.

Discipleship is also about modeling Christian behavior under pressure. When others cut corners, we show integrity. When others gossip, we choose encouragement. When others complain, we radiate hope. By treating colleagues with respect, working with efficiency, and maintaining high ethical standards, we silently proclaim the gospel.

The workplace is a mission field. Every honest transaction, every act of reliability, every ethical decision plants seeds of influence. Our reputation as dependable, Christlike

workers becomes a sermon preached daily without words.

As the Caribbean Union celebrates its centennial, let us renew our commitment to being disciples not only in the sanctuary but also in the spaces where we labor. A disciple's greatest testimony is not spoken—it is lived.

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Table of Contents

President's Message.....	03
Editorial	04
Let My People Grow! A Biblical Discipleship Growth Plan	08
Christian Discipleship and Community Health	12
Discipleship in a Post-Christian, Post-Truth Context	14
Discipleship at Home: Guiding Children in Faith	16
Discipleship at the Table: Honoring God in Our Holiday Choices	17
Healing hands, discipling hearts: The Health Message in action	18
I Am a Disciple Too!	20
Salt and Light: Adventist Students on a Secular Mission Field	22
Discipleship	24
Digital Discipleship –Using Media for the Mission	25
Discipleship in Action throughout the fields	27
Ordination	32
Donné Haynes: Discipling Through the Brushstrokes of Faith	33
Book Review - Memoirs of an Island Belle	34
A reminder on the discipleship journey:	
Drawing down and not replenishing	35
Forres Park SDA 5K Walk/Run	36
Session Notice	37
Obituaries	38

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Let My People Grow!

A BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH PLAN

With Jesus, a disciple is more than a student. A disciple is a servant whose sole purpose in life is to do his master's bidding. In fact, the disciple of Jesus is a bonded servant or one who is totally and exclusively sold out to his Master (Romans 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1, James 1:1). His life is no longer his own. As a result, serving and pleasing Christ now becomes his absolute priority (Luke 5:10-11).

A disciple of Jesus enters a life of discipleship. He is not bonded for a year or two, but for the rest of his life. This disciple lives not just to learn from Jesus but also to know Him and His Father (John 17:3). This learning

experience causes him to think and act like Jesus, not just as a student but also as an apprentice and a friend (John 15:16). In this way, the true disciple of Christ does everything in Jesus' name and for the glory of His name (Matthew 28:19; John 17:26). Over time, and with much sacrifice, the disciple matures and fulfills the central purpose of the call that Jesus places on his or her life (Luke 9:24-27).

In Jesus' disciple-making model, everyone can be a disciple, but no one is made a disciple simply because they volunteer to do so. Each disciple had to believe that Jesus is the Christ (John 6:60-66). In his book, *The Training of the Twelve*, A. B. Bruce looks at the intention of Jesus' training methods and concludes that "The great founder of the faith desired not only



Dr. Wayne Knowles

Dr. Wayne R. Knowles, President Elect of the South Leeward Conference, is author of *Making Disciples Like Jesus Did*.



to have disciples, but to have about Him men who He might train to make disciples of others" (p. 13). This was the emphasis of Jesus' call to follow Him at the early stages of His training (Matthew 4:19). As a result, at His commissioning of the apostles (Matthew 28:19), Jesus had at His disposal eleven men who were fully equipped disciple-makers. These transformed men, rightly trained by the Master, were ready to change the world. Only when one reaches this final stage of transformation can discipleship truly happen (Romans 2:2). True transformation is the result of true disciple-making.

Discipleship leads to real and radical growth. This spiritual growth requires an all-encompassing spiritual change in the life of each disciple. To grow is to be transformed into the image of Christ, and this transformation

is continuous (2Corinthians 3:18). Spiritual growth is, therefore, a positive experience. Without a doubt, it is the antidote to death or dying. Hence, when Jesus called His disciples to experience transformational change in their lives, He was calling them to grow. No wonder the Great Commission was only given to those who had grown into maturity.

If you cannot grow, then you cannot go. Judas was absent from among the twelve when the commission was given by Jesus (Matthew 28:16). He did not grow, so he could not go on Christ's mission. In fact, by this time, he was dead, both physically and spiritually. It is fitting to conclude that not to grow spiritually is to die spiritually. Therefore, the great mission to the leaders of our churches today is to release God's people from

the shackles of stunted growth. Pastor and church leaders: "Let God's people grow!"

Additionally, Jesus' most famous statement on the call to discipleship is very radical. He said to a few fishermen, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Jesus made this specific call to persons whose livelihood came from catching fish. In Matthew 4, Jesus was calling the disciples to experience change in their profession, change in their value system, change in their worldview, and change in their world. What an important change! What a radical change!

These disciples were called upon to target the buyers of the fish instead of the fish for the buyers. They were to share with them the mercies of God instead of receiving from them the mammon of humanity. This means that becoming God's fisher of men is more than a change of profession, but a change of life's purpose and priority. This was the most radical change that they could have experienced.

The Power of Radical Change

One of Jesus' parables, The Parable of the Sower, explains the power of radical change very well. Some Bible commentators refer to this parable (Matthew 13:3-23) as the most important parable of Jesus, for in it, Jesus describes to His disciples how people grow and stay in the Kingdom of God. Thus, Bible commentators declare, it encapsulates the purpose of all parables (Mark 4:13-14). Here, Jesus emphasized the power of the Word of God in the individual's heart and life. He describes four types of hearts that the Word of God reaches: one had no growth; another, little growth; still another, lots of growth but no fruit; and the final one, lots of growth but with much fruit.



Jesus' Growth-Plan Included Stages

We can see from the parable of the Sower and from several other parables in the Gospels that Jesus placed a high premium on growth that leads to spiritual maturity. In His experience with His disciples, Jesus demonstrated how important spiritual growth really is. He grew His disciples from one stage to the next until they reached full spiritual maturity. They became His apostles. From His conversation with John's disciples, then with His disciples who were fishermen, to the calling of His twelve disciples, and finally to the commissioning of the apostles to become fruitful disciple-makers, Jesus created a model discipleship growth plan. A careful study of the four Gospels would reveal five stages of growth in the life of His disciples. These stages are described below in greater detail. They apply to both the unbeliever becoming a disciple and the believer growing in his or her faith.

1. Come and See Me Growth Stage

This is the first stage. It is where Jesus invited people of all echelons of society to get to know Him. To know Jesus includes knowing His Father and having an opportunity to receive eternal life (John 17:3). We have several examples in the Gospels of how Jesus encouraged people to get to know Him. In one of these examples, Jesus conversed with John's disciples about Himself (John 1:39-46). Jesus then invited them to His home and answered their most pressing questions. This experience resulted in these disciples of John becoming disciples of Jesus. By mingling with people and meeting their needs, the church helps people to see Jesus. Hence, at this stage the unbeliever sees Christ through the church. It is also the stage at which regular members reconnect to Christ. Knowing Christ is the central focus of this stage (John 17:3).

2. Come and Follow Me Growth Stage

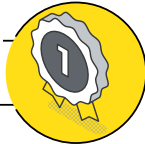
At this second stage, Jesus invited His disciples to commit to Him fully (Matthew 4:18-20). This is the soul-winning stage. It is the time when an individual decides for Christ through baptism. However, on several occasions in the Bible, the first two stages are merged as one. Matthew,

the Publican, is an example of one who was asked to follow Jesus as soon as he had made a personal encounter with Him (Matthew 9:9). Nevertheless, one always sees Jesus before he or she follows Him. Hence, both stages are important to becoming a disciple of Christ. The church should make sure that everyone who is given an opportunity to see Jesus also gets an invitation to follow Jesus by committing their lives to Him. For regular members whose faith have dwindled, this stage offers an opportunity for recommitment.

3. Come and Be with Me Growth Stage (Matthew 10:1-3)

This is the stage of maturing. At this third stage, Jesus called twelve of His many disciples to form a closed group where He would train them to become apostles. After two years of intense training, the twelve disciples were ready to become fruit-bearers. The church today should insist on an intentional and intense spiritual growth training program for all its members. In the church, this is the stage of deep, full-time, total commitment for new believers. It is also the stage at which regular members intentionally deepen their relationship with Christ.





4. Go and Bear Fruits Growth Stage

(John 15:8 & 16)

This is the stage where fruit-bearing takes place. It is the fourth growth stage. After about two years of intense training, these disciples of Jesus were commissioned to bear much fruit. They were ready to become soul-winners. Like in The Parable of the Sower, bearing fruit is the only acceptable result. For Jesus, fruit-bearing was more than character shaping; it was soul-winning. He prepared His disciples to become soul-winners. Jesus expected fruits. Hence, He demanded it. Our churches today should follow Jesus' example and prepare every committed member to become soul-winners. We should expect it because we have prepared them for it. Both the new members and existing members win souls for Christ at this stage. This is the soulwinners stage.

5. Go and Make Disciples Growth Stage

(Matthew 28:19-20)

The Great Commission describes what is involved in the fifth growth stage. It is the disciple-makers stage. Disciple-making is about maturing and keeping those that were won. This was what Jesus did with the twelve disciples through the first four stages, and this was what He commanded His disciples, now apostles, do for others. No doubt, Jesus was demanding conservation of the souls they won. Like the apostle Paul, those who win souls were expected to do their best to mature them. Although Paul was an itinerant evangelist, he often made sure that he stayed long enough to nurture those whom he had won to Christ (Acts 20:18-20; Philippians 4:9; 2 Timothy 3:19-11). If we intend to

make disciples who make other disciples, our church today must win people, spend time with them, and share our lives with them. Jesus commanded it, and the apostles modeled it. His church must also require it.

Jesus' Growth Plan for Making Disciples

Come and See Me – Salvation

Come and Follow Me – Redirection

Come and Be with Me – Transformation

Go and Bear Fruits – Multiplication

Go and Make Disciples – Mission

This material is adapted from the book, *Making Disciples Like Jesus Did*, by Dr. Wayne R. Knowles, pp. 6 and 10-13. (Amazon edition).

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Christian Discipleship and Community Health

The last time I checked, a disciple is a follower or adherent to someone or something, or one who learns from and follows a leader or another person. Most relevant, a disciple is a follower, or a representative of Jesus, the Master Leader. Also included in the definition is the ability to apply biblical principles and precepts in the daily life within the community in which each one lives and functions.

An important aspect for the Christian leader is to be equipped for life's challenges not only in the church but also in the wider community. Expecting others to follow you, means that you will exhibit positive examples. One who is not a follower of Christ will find it almost impossible to engage in discipleship, and the opposite is true. Becoming more like Christ and displaying Christlike behaviours including a healthy lifestyle happens in communities, schools, churches, and the market place.



This article focuses on community health, modeling health principles or health behaviour, and clean living, including a clean environment which begins in the home. This means that Christians should display the cleanest homes in the community where they live. Neighbours should not be aggravated by unkept surroundings of Christians, and especially Seventh-day Adventists. After all, cleanliness is a portrayal of godliness. Therefore, followers of Christ need to be taught how to live healthy lives in their homes, and to illuminate the community with health-related knowledge, and practices.

Community health is concerned with populations rather than individuals with the intent to apply the science of health promotion and disease prevention, to foster healthier communities. Early health intervention includes early detection of diseases, aimed at making deliberate changes to prevent further disability and premature or “untimely” deaths, as well as making the community a healthier place for children to live and thrive, and grow into healthy, productive adults.

The impact of health interventions, such as anti-smoking and other drug prevention campaigns among youth, improvement of physical, mental and emotional health, nutrition education, health screenings, and environmental improvement, will empower communities to make informed choices. According to the World Health Organization, data from 2016 estimated that 24% (or higher) of deaths were linked to environmental conditions, such as air pollution, poor sanitation, water pollution, contaminated food, and exposure to harmful chemicals. In addition, there is noise pollution, exposure to radiation, and other contaminants. It is no wonder that an estimated 70-90 percent of cancers are linked to environmental factors. Yes, it is easy to intimate that the responsibility for environmental protection rests on the government. However, the community members can do their part in promoting better health practices that will reduce environmental risk factors for diseases.

Community health also includes efforts to teach people where to turn for help. It reveals the resources available within the community and the best ways to access them. For example, at a community health fair, written information can be provided with telephone numbers and addresses of community resources that may meet their needs. Another aspect of community health includes community engagement. This involves engaging or collaborating with community leaders, forming social networks to help build trust, and be a positive influence in the community, all in an effort to meet the needs of the people.

Finally, community health addresses the well-being of people living within certain geographical areas who share the same culture, practices, and have common interests, and sometimes, the same diseases, or health issues. Therefore, mobilizing the community for better health enhancement, and modeling good health practices will help in the prevention of diseases, both communicable and non-communicable (NCDs). Community health happens outside of hospitals and health institutions, and can be promoted by most visionary community members, including church members. Community health is a subset of public health that purposefully addresses the determinants of health with the intent to enhance the quality of life through health education and promotion, active health outreach, and building workable partnerships with governmental organizations, all for a healthier society.



Dr. Naomi N. Modeste

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Discipleship in a Post-Christian, Post-Truth Context

Human civilization in its emerging process has always presented unique challenges for the mission of the church and its task of discipleship.

The apostle Paul captures this calling in Colossians 1:28–29, where he describes the goal of ministry as presenting everyone “mature in Christ.” Maturity is not a static destination but an ongoing journey of transformation shaped and sustained by the Spirit. Jesus reinforces this mandate in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19–20), commanding His followers to “make disciples” who, in turn, make more disciples. At its core, discipleship is following Jesus, being transformed by Him, and committing to His mission of reproducing disciples.

Today this mandate collides with complex cultural challenges. In 2016, the Oxford Dictionary identified post-truth as its word of the year. It is understood a disposition where emotions and personal beliefs outweigh objective facts. This mindset stands in direct tension with biblical Christianity’s fact-based claims. Compounding this is the rise of post-Christian ideology, which is an emerging social construct in which Christianity no longer serves as society’s primary influence. Instead, personal experience, cultural narratives, and alternative spiritualities often shape identity and morality.

The pressing question, then, is how should the church disciple in a culture defined by skepticism and relativism? While many approaches have been proposed, only the model of Jesus offers an enduring foundation. What follows is a synthesis of His model for discipleship within a post-truth, post-Christian context.

The Discipleship Model of Jesus

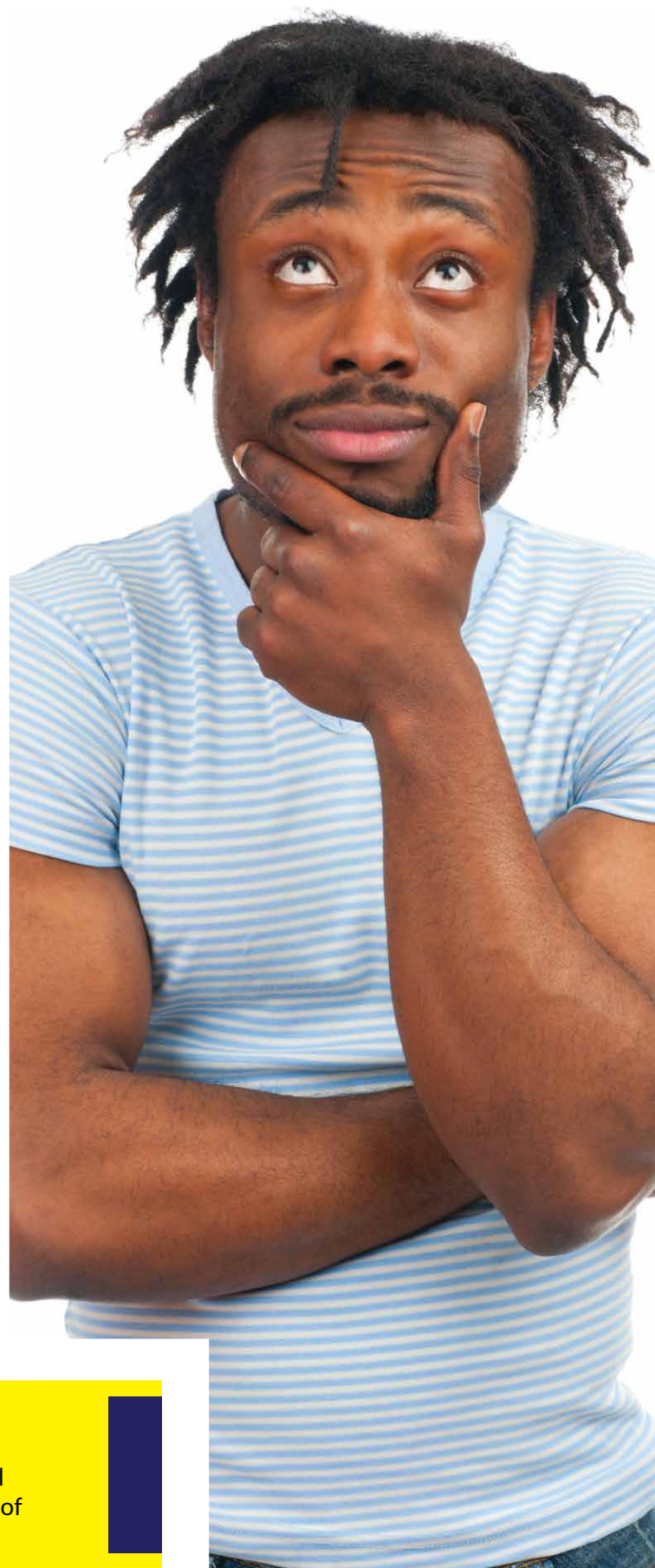
The Gospels present a story of Jesus’ model of discipleship in motion. At its core, this model is incarnational, relational, and transformational. Several features stand out:

- Incarnation & Presence – Jesus lived among His disciples, granting them access to His life so they could observe His character, emotional maturity, and spiritual depth (John 1:14).



Pastor Osley Edwards

Pastor Osley Edwards serves as Communication Director & Ministerial Secretary for the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.





- Invitation & Relationship – His simple call, “Follow Me”(Matt. 4:19), invited people into relationship, not a program.
- Instruction & Modeling – Jesus taught the Word (Matt. 5–7) and demonstrated obedience (John 13:15).
- Impartation of Life & Power – He entrusted His disciples with His Spirit and authority (Luke 9:1–2; John 20:22).
- Mission & Multiplication – He sent them to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19–20).

This holistic approach forms the framework for adapting discipleship to today’s cultural realities.

Principles for Ministry in Post-Truth and Post-Christian Contexts

As we attempt to assimilate a discipleship strategy which is mandated to the church into the skeptical and relativistic society, the following principles can be useful.

1. Authenticity over Authority

In a skeptical age, authority is no longer assumed but earned. Scandals and abuses have left many distrustful of religious institutions. Credibility in discipleship emerges through authenticity: transparency, integrity, and vulnerability. Jesus modeled this by sharing meals, emotions, and struggles with His followers (John 11:35; Matt. 26:38).

For contemporary disciple-makers, authenticity begins with visible devotion to Christ. It requires embodying the gospel through lived faith, listening empathetically, and offering acceptance without compromise. This authenticity opens hearts to transformation in cultures where authority is suspect.

2. Belief through Belonging

A critical question for discipleship is whether belief leads to belonging or belonging leads to belief. In post-Christian societies, belonging often comes first. Robin Gill puts it this way, “The priority should be to foster worshiping communities of belonging where belief can grow and mature. There need to be many entry points for belonging that can lead to believing.” Jesus Himself invited disciples into fellowship long before they grasped His full identity.

3. Integrative Impartation

Jesus not only taught but imparted His very life. He ate with His disciples, performed miracles before them, and walked with them daily, allowing His values and priorities to permeate their lives (Mark 3:14 & 15; John 20:22).

In a post-truth context, where knowledge is pervasive but wisdom is evasive, disciple-making must go beyond information transfer, beyond download or copy and paste. Integrative impartation means discipleship is not compartmentalized into “church” versus “life,” but woven into the fabric of everyday experience. It includes spiritual disciplines, moral formation, relational mentoring, and practical training for mission. Disciple-makers become “guides on the side” rather than “sages on the stage”.

4. Mission & Multiplication

The ultimate demonstration that the discipleship process has actualized is the transition from disciple to disciple-maker. Jesus sent His followers into ordinary spaces, from villages to marketplaces. Likewise, in post-Christian contexts, disciple-making flourishes not through attractional programs but through everyday missional presence.

Believers embody the gospel in their workplaces, neighborhoods, and digital networks, demonstrating faith in action. Multiplication occurs when disciples pass on relational discipleship to others in their spheres of influence. This grassroots approach mirrors the early church, which spread through ordinary believers living and sharing their faith (Acts 2:46–47).

Conclusion

Jesus’ model of discipleship remains both timeless and timely. His approach as elaborated, offers a framework uniquely suited to post-truth and post-Christian contexts. It counters skepticism with authenticity, addresses isolation through belonging, deepens formation through integrative impartation, and advances mission through everyday witness. When the church embodies this model, discipleship ceases to be a program and becomes a way of life for members. The result is resilient communities of faith that reflect Christ’s love and multiply His mission in a world longing for truth and belonging.

Discipleship at Home

Guiding Children in Faith



Dr. Mark L. Braithwaite

DMin., Pastor, Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Discipleship is often framed as a responsibility of the church, yet closer reflection reveals that it begins much earlier and in a much more intimate setting: the home. The family functions as the first environment where faith is both taught and caught. Within this setting, everyday experiences—whether in conversation, shared meals, or moments of discipline—become opportunities to shape the character and convictions of children. What happens in the home is foundational, establishing a pattern that church programs later reinforce rather than replace.

The Family as the Center of Spiritual Development

Ellen G. White describes the home as “the greatest of all educational agencies,” noting that the lessons learned in early family life often determine the direction of later years (Child Guidance, p. 21). Far from being a secondary classroom of faith, the home serves as the primary arena where Spiritual development takes place. This perspective is reinforced by Hubert A. Wilkie’s research within a Seventh-day Adventist congregation, which revealed that parents widely recognize their responsibility for spiritual leadership but frequently feel under-equipped to fulfill it. Such findings suggest that while the home provides fertile ground for discipleship, intentional support and resources are essential to help families carry out this sacred role effectively.

Modern Perspectives on Family Discipleship

Let us explore some insights on how discipleship can be embedded

in everyday life. Teresa Roberts, in *Raising Disciples*, describes faith development as a journey that progresses through identifiable stages from infancy to adolescence. She proposes that discipleship practices should align with these stages, introducing children to simple patterns of prayer and storytelling in early years, while later guiding them into acts of service and personal reflection.

Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin add another dimension through their framework of “time, moments, and milestones.” In *Family Discipleship* they suggest that ordinary routines such as family meals, bedtime rituals, and shared celebrations provide repeated opportunities to reinforce faith. Life’s milestones—birthdays, graduations, or other key transitions—become occasions to mark God’s faithfulness and to cast vision for the future. This approach presents discipleship not as a series of programs but as a way of life, woven seamlessly into the fabric of family experience.

Everyday Principles for Family Discipleship

Let us tie the above thoughts together into a few powerful themes:

1. Show, Don’t Just Tell – Children watch more closely than they listen. Acts of kindness, forgiveness, and steady faith leave impressions that lectures cannot.

2. Create Meaningful Rhythms – Small habits add up. A prayer before meals, a short devotional at bedtime, or regular family worship can become anchors that shape a child’s sense of God’s presence.

3. Hold Grace and Truth Together – A loving home welcomes mistakes

with patience, but it also sets clear boundaries. Both compassion and guidance are needed to mirror the heart of Christ.

4. Look Beyond the Family Circle – When families serve neighbors, open their homes, or join in community projects, children learn that discipleship is about blessing others, not just ourselves.

5. Encourage and Equip Parents – Parents often want to lead spiritually but may not know where to start. Churches and faith communities can offer resources, mentoring, and encouragement so that parents feel supported in their role.

Conclusion

Discipleship in the home is a process marked by both complexity and promise. It demands consistency, intentionality, and wisdom, but the outcome is far-reaching. By shaping children within the rhythms of family life, parents lay foundations for faith that can endure into adulthood. Both historic Seventh-day Adventist voices and modern authors converge on this central truth: homes are not peripheral to discipleship but are its very heart. When faith is nurtured through daily practices, modeled authentically, and celebrated in family life, children are far more likely to develop a durable and personal walk with Christ.

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Discipleship at the Table

Honoring God in Our Holiday Choices



Heida Selwood

is an educator with a background in nutrition and a passion for encouraging healthy lifestyle habits.

The holidays are a time for celebration, fellowship and food. Traditional foods, rich desserts and celebratory beverages abound on our tables.

However, for followers of Christ, the holidays are a time to live faithfully as well as to celebrate. We can emulate Christ's behaviour, take good care of God's creation and make decisions that respect our bodies and our testimony to others even while we are seated at the table.

Discipleship as Stewardship of Creation

The decisions we make when we eat together have an impact that extends beyond our plates. Scripture reminds us that the earth is the Lord's (Psalm 24:1) and we are called to care for it wisely. Selecting local produce, minimizing food waste, and choosing plant-based options reflect that care. Imagine enjoying holiday meals that include responsibly farmed food from your garden or a neighbour's garden. These choices not only celebrate our culture but also serve as acts of creation care. In this way, discipleship at the table becomes stewardship in action.

Healthy Eating as Missional Living

Eating healthily is important for mission as well as physical well-being. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, the apostle Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit resides in our bodies. We fortify ourselves for God's service when we feed our bodies healthful foods. Eating well throughout the holidays enables us to stay vigilant, energized and ready to serve as Christ's hands and feet in our families and communities. An act of witness can actually be something that appears to be a personal decision made at the dinner table.

Fruit of the Spirit at the Table

More than any other time of year, the holidays put our self-control to the test. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are listed as the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23. These qualities apply to how we treat ourselves as well as how we treat other people. Self-control is especially relevant when faced with overfilled plates or tempting sweets. Moderation is not about denial; it is about choosing in a way that reflects the

Spirit's work in us. Practicing balance allows us to enjoy the season without guilt or harm to our health.

Moderation as a Reflection of Christ

Jesus set an example for self-control, humility and intentionality. This Christlike posture is reflected in the choice to be moderate during the holidays. It entails saying "yes" to things that help and "no" to things that hinder. It is about honouring Jesus as we celebrate by not overindulging, but rather savouring both the food and the fellowship with gratitude. Through moderation, our tables become places where Christ's presence is visible in everyday actions.

Practical, Healthy Alternatives for Holiday Meals

Reimagining tradition is more important than letting it go when it comes to healthy eating.

Beverages: Use fruit-infused water, lime-infused sparkling water, or mildly sweetened herbal teas in place of sugary beverages.

Sides: As an alternative to heavy starches, try quinoa salads, roasted vegetables, or mashed sweet potatoes with a little cinnamon instead of sugar.

Proteins: In addition to conventional choices, include plant-based proteins and cooking methods such as baking or grilling.

Desserts: Serve yogurt parfaits, baked goods made with whole grains and less sugar, or platters of fresh fruit.

Portion sizes: Offer smaller servings and only encourage second helpings if one is really hungry.

These small changes result in healthier, lighter meals that are better suited to a discipleship lifestyle.

A Table that Provides Evidence

Even the food we eat on holidays as disciples can bear witness to the gospel. By exercising moderation, discipline and stewardship, we can transform joyous occasions into opportunities to exalt God. We can demonstrate around our tables that discipleship is woven into every meal, every decision and every act of thankfulness. May our tables honour the One who came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10).

Feature
Article





The slogan “Health is everybody’s business” is more than just a slogan. It is the church’s business as well. Health Ministry and the health message, as presented by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, meet felt needs and provide entry to hearts and homes that would otherwise be closed to the gospel.

Healing hands, discipling hearts

The Health Message in action

by Priscilla Prevost



Priscilla Prevost

Registered Nurse (RN) and Public Health specialist, Priscilla Prevost is the former ECC Health Ministries Director and current president of the General Nursing Council of Dominica.

The World Health Organization defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” The Seventh-day Adventist church, based on Scripture, believes in the wholeness of man and that Christ came to make man whole after being marred by sin. In John 10:10, Jesus says that “The thief cometh not but for to steal, kill and destroy, but I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” Jesus came to give life in abundance. He who breathed life into man at creation is still breathing life into man today.

Accepting the abundant life that Jesus offers is accepting the health He gives. Sharing that message of Jesus that He came to save (He came to heal) is in verity Health Evangelism.

When Jesus walked the face of this earth, great multitudes followed Him. Matthew 8:16 & 17 says “When evening came, they brought to him many who were demon-possessed and he cast out the spirit with a word and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled by Isaiah the prophet saying ‘He took our infirmities and bore our sickness’”. Before He encountered

the demoniacs, he had healed the centurion’s servant, Peter’s mother-in-law, the demoniacs at Gergesenes, the paralytic, and many other people. He restored life to a dead girl and healed the woman with the issue of blood, and two blind men. “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness among the people” (Matt 9:35). Verse 36 says “but when he saw the multitude, he had compassion on them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd.”

In *Ministry of Healing* p. 143, Ellen G. White wrote, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed his sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, won their confidence, then he bade them follow him.”

Effective health evangelism includes the following:

1. Mingling
2. Sympathy
3. Ministering to both felt and perceived needs
4. Winning influence



1

Mingling

We must draw near to people. Throughout Jesus' ministry, closeness made all the difference. Some reached out and touched Him—like the woman with the issue of blood. Others He reached out and touched—like the blind man in Mark 8 and the man with leprosy in Mark 1:40–42. Touch requires proximity. It means being close enough to see, to listen, and to understand. This closeness opens the way for genuine observation and heartfelt communication, stirring compassion within us. When we take the time to come close to others, we begin to notice needs that might otherwise remain hidden. And once those needs—whether physical, mental, emotional, social, or spiritual—are recognized, God empowers His people to meet them

2

Health Evangelism in Action

through the diverse gifts and blessings He has entrusted to us.

Health evangelism can serve as an entry point for sharing Christ's love when it brings together all aspects of caring ministry. This can take many forms, such as:

- **Community Health Fairs and Health Screenings** that reach people where they are.
- **Health Seminars** like "I Want to Live Healthy", **Diabetes Reversal**, or **Weight Management** sessions that inspire lifestyle change.
- **Nutrition and Cooking Classes** that

teach practical ways to care for the body God has given us.

- **Keep Fit or Exercise Classes** that promote wellness and fellowship.
- **Parenting Workshops** that strengthen families.
- **Home Visits to the Elderly and Shut-ins**—a tender form of home health care that offers both comfort and companionship.

Each of these activities provides a doorway for connection, compassion, and witness—allowing others to experience the healing touch of Jesus through practical ministry.

3

Health Evangelism as a Complete Series

Health evangelism can also be carried out as a full evangelistic series, where health presentations are integrated with gospel messages—such as the Health & Life Series developed by Dr. Gordon Martinborough and others.

4

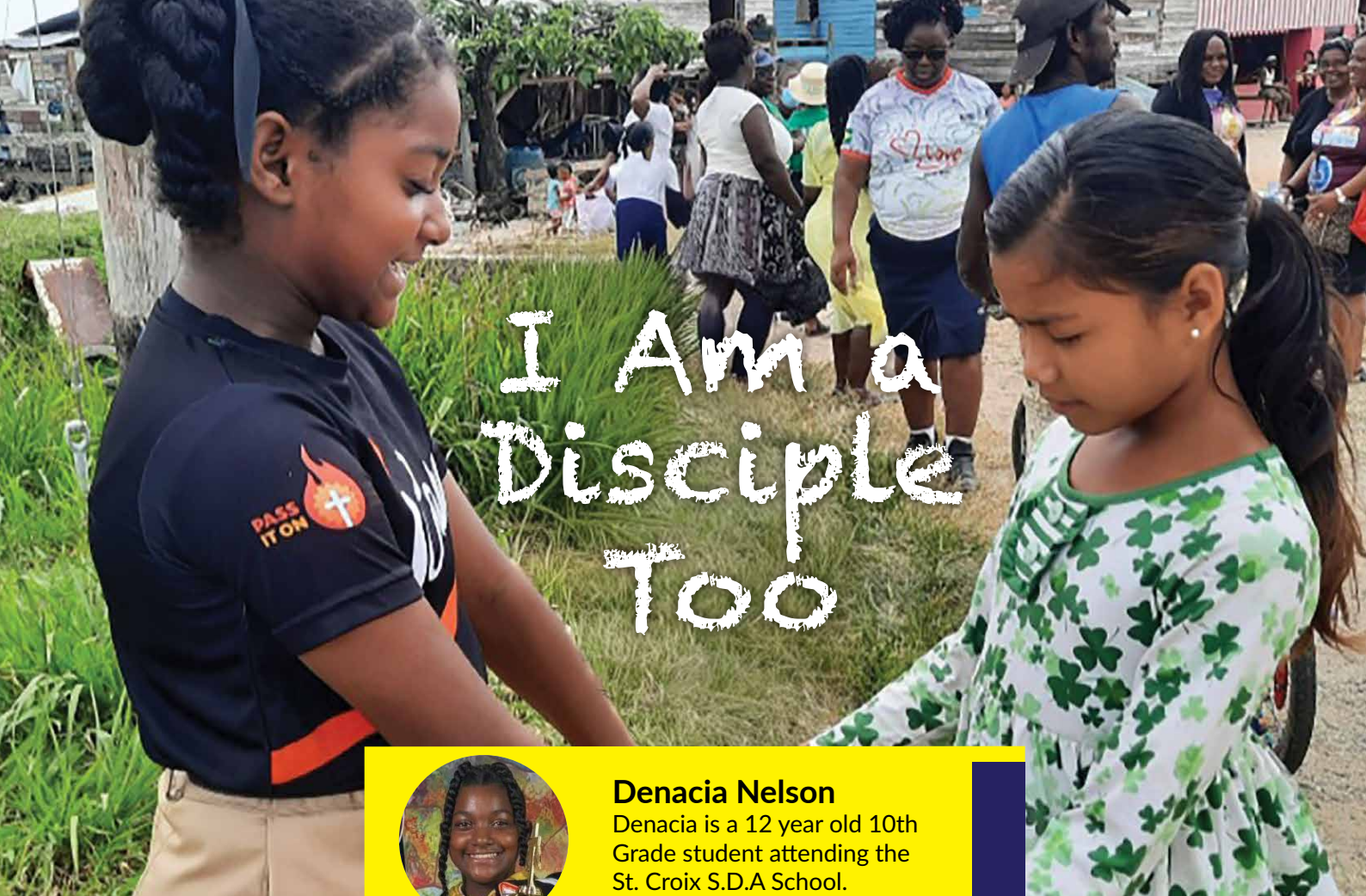
Workers in our Institutions

Evangelism flourishes when our health institutions are Christ-centered and led by God-fearing, Christ-like health professionals and allied workers. Every person who enters our hospitals, clinics, or wellness centers should experience more than medical care—they should encounter Jesus through compassionate hands and loving hearts.

I have been privileged to use all of the above methods over the years and have seen men, women, and children step out and surrender their lives to Jesus. Pastors like Winston Cooke in the East Caribbean Conference have used the health evangelism approach using both entry events and Health Evangelistic Series with tremendous success.

Measuring True Success

The success of health evangelism should not be measured only by the number of baptisms, but by the number of lives touched and transformed—some of which we may not fully understand until eternity reveals the lasting impact of our efforts. True success requires commitment, genuine connection, and a deep love for people—the very ones for whom Christ gave His life.



I Am a Disciple Too



Denacia Nelson

Denacia is a 12 year old 10th Grade student attending the St. Croix S.D.A School.

Many people believe that discipleship is a responsibility only for adults. They imagine experienced believers who know much about the Bible. However, I know from personal experience that discipleship can begin from a tender age. I am living proof that God calls the young, and that He equips them to serve in unique ways. I do not believe that I must wait until I am older to follow Jesus with my whole heart. I am a disciple.

To be a disciple means to live for Jesus every day. It is not limited to church attendance or formal worship. It is a daily choice to reflect His character in everything I do, at home, at school, and within the wider community. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the support of my family, and the nurturing of my church, I strive to walk faithfully with God.

At home, my family has always made worship a priority. Every morning and evening, we come together to sing, read a devotion, study the Bible, and pray. From the early age of three, I was given the opportunity to help lead family worship, and through those experiences, I developed a personal relationship with Jesus. These moments taught me who He is and how deeply He loves us. As I grew in my faith, I made the decision to be baptized; I was only six years old, fully committing my life to Jesus. Discipleship begins the moment we choose to follow Him.

Prayer has also become a special part of my discipleship journey. Whenever someone is facing hardship; whether he or she is sick, grieving, or in need, I take time to pray for that person. When someone gives his or her life to Jesus, I feel extremely happy. For me, discipleship is about loving people the way Jesus does, and interceding on their behalf through prayer is one way I express that love.



At school, I strive to be an example of Christ's love. I understand that not everyone is willing to hear about Jesus, and I respect that. However, I have learned that my actions can speak just as loudly as my words. I choose to be kind, respectful, and compassionate,



especially when my classmates have challenges in various subject areas. I have also shared my faith when the opportunity arises. I have invited classmates to church and shared devotions on my YouTube channel, always with the hope that something I say or do will lead someone closer to Jesus.

Church has been an important part of my spiritual growth. It is a place where I learn, serve, and use the gifts God has given me. I have participated in programs such as Subscribe to Jesus Children's initiatives, May Missionary, and the Caribbean Union Children's Week of Prayer. I have also been involved in outreach initiatives like, Global Youth Day, Cheer- A- Child and Christlike Care Over Cancer, through which I have supported children and those experiencing illness or hardship.

Moreover, God has blessed me with the ability to sing, preach, teach and memorize Scripture. I have used these gifts and talents in my ministry both locally and internationally. Each time I stand to speak or sing, I feel a deep sense of purpose. I am reminded of young disciples in the Bible who shared God's Word boldly. A young boy shared his small lunch, which Jesus used to feed thousands. The brave little maid who pointed Naaman to the prophet Elisha and helped lead to his healing; and Josiah, crowned king at only eight years old, grew up to lead his people back to God's ways. I may be young, but God is using me in ways that show age is not a limit in His Kingdom.



One of my most recent and memorable experiences was serving as the evangelist for the Champions for Christ Children's Cause, a special outreach event organized by the Children's Ministries Department of the Guyana Conference. At the end of the initiative, fourteen individuals gave their lives to Jesus: two adults and twelve children between the ages of eight and thirteen. That experience confirmed what I had always believed: no one is too young to make a difference for God.

Ellen G. White says it best: "The children should be so educated that they will sympathize with the aged

and afflicted and will seek to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and distressed... From their earliest years self-denial and sacrifice for the good of others and the advancement of Christ's cause should be inculcated, that they may be laborers together with God." (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 429)



This quote reminds me that children are not only the future of the church, but they are also workers in God's mission today. I want to be the kind of disciple who serves others, shares the gospel, and works faithfully for Jesus with love and joy.

Nothing I do, whether it is singing, preaching, or offering a helping hand, is for self-praise. I do these things because I love Jesus. My deepest desire is that others will come to know Him through the way I live. There are still many people who believe that disciples must be grown-ups. I understand why they might think that, but Jesus Himself said, "Let the little children come to Me." He welcomes us, calls us, and sends us, no matter how young we are. Therefore, being a disciple means to walk closely with Jesus, to reflect His light, and to help others find their way to Him. As such, whether I am at home, in the classroom, or in the church, I want my life to be a reflection of His love.

I Am a Disciple Too

I follow Jesus every day,
In little acts along the way.
At home, I lead with songs, prayer and show lots of care,
Just a Little Sunshine for Today devotions I share.
At school, I try to show His light,
With kindness, words, and actions right.
In church, I serve with heart and cheer,
His love around me, always near.
Though young in age, I share His grace,
I am a disciple in every time and place.

By Denacia Nelson



SALT AND LIGHT

Adventist Students on a Secular Mission Field

On public campuses across Guyana, where the air is filled with the chatter of students and the rush of academic life, something remarkable is happening. In classrooms meant for science experiments and agricultural lectures, hymns echo, prayers rise, and

friendships blossom in Christ. This is the heartbeat of Public Campus Ministries (PCM), a global movement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that equips students on secular campuses to be salt and light, witnesses of Christ in places where faith often takes a back seat to ambition and aspirations.



Paul Harris

Paul Jameer Harris, a Seventh-day Adventist lecturer at the Guyana School of Agriculture and Youth Representative on the Guyana Conference Executive Committee, has spent 17 years in ministry, mentoring young people through Public Campus Ministries to live purposefully and embrace God's calling.



Students in attendance at the PCM convention held at Cyril Potter College of Education, Guyana



Public Campus Ministries is not about pulling students away from their studies. Instead, it is about helping them live out their faith in the very spaces where they learn, study, and dream. Across lecture halls and dormitories, young Adventists are embracing their calling as missionaries

bringing the presence of Christ to classmates who may never set foot in a church, yet find themselves drawn into a circle of prayer or a Bible discussion led by their friends.

At the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), this vision has taken root in powerful ways. Here, twenty-six students have banded together to form a PCM group that meets faithfully every Friday evening, transforming ordinary classrooms into chapels, welcoming the Sabbath with songs of praise and heartfelt devotion. On Sabbath mornings, they extend their fellowship to nearby Adventist churches, sharing in worship and service with the wider body of Christ.



GSA's PCM students presenting their report

Over the past year, the GSA PCM has grown into more than just a campus group; it has become a close-knit family where members pray and fast together, and even hold one another accountable through an innovative "accountability program," pairing students to encourage daily devotion and prayer. The group's steady witness has attracted many of their non-Adventist peers, who now participate eagerly in Bible studies, meaningful conversations, and campus events. The Youth Week of Prayer 2025 highlighted this growth, filling classrooms with visitors and culminating in a stirring

sermon from Pastor Nimrod Alves, Associate Youth and PCM Director. In that moment, the classroom walls seemed to fade, and what remained was a glimpse of the church alive and thriving on campus.

Their ministry has also extended into practical acts of witness: over thirty pieces of literature, including *The Great Controversy*, have found their way into the hands of students and friends; bookmarks carrying messages of hope were shared with colleagues; and prayer circles were held before examinations, reminding everyone that faith speaks to every part of life, even academic success.

These efforts are part of a bigger story. The GSA PCM is one thread in the wider fabric of Public Campus Ministries in Guyana, a movement that is growing in strength and influence. What unites these groups is the belief that campuses are mission fields, and students are not merely learners; they are missionaries, ambassadors of Christ, where He is most needed.



Youth Week of Prayer held by GSA's PCM

are

This conviction shone brightly on June 28, 2025 when Public Campus Ministries across Guyana gathered for a massive convention at the Cyril Potter College of Education. Under the theme "Pursuing My Dreams, Fulfilling His Purpose," students were inspired by impactful presentations from Pastor Marvyn Smith, CARU Youth, and PCM Director. The day climaxed with a powerful sermon by Pastor Paul Roache, as the Spirit of God moved hearts. By the end of the service, six individuals made the life-changing decision to give their lives to Christ. Among them were four students from GSA; young people who had walked into classrooms for Bible study as curious visitors,



The fruits of PCM: six souls for Jesus



GSA students attending the Public Campus Ministries Convention

and walked out of the convention as newly committed disciples of Jesus.

The convention was not just a one-day event; it was the fruit of seeds planted week after week by faithful students on campuses like GSA. It was the harvest of quiet Bible studies, whispered prayers in classrooms, and the boldness of youth willing to be salt and light in challenging environments.

As Public Campus Ministries continues to grow in Guyana, the story of GSA stands as a testimony of what God can do when young people unite their academic pursuits with their divine mission. On secular mission fields, Adventist students are proving that the Gospel is not confined to pulpits; it is lived out in everyday life. And in doing so, they are not only pursuing their dreams but fulfilling His purpose.

Discipleship

by Shaquille Warren



Shaquille Warren

Shaquille is the winner of the First Citizens National Poetry Slam 2025. He's a graduate of CUC Secondary School.

Where would I be without the Saviour?
Without his grace and mercy to change my behaviour,
When I was acting prideful and brand new...
He already knew...
God knew that there was more to my surface...
He knew that he could use me for service...
He
Used the thorn in my flesh so that I could finally see...
That I was tossed back and forth like a ship in the sea...
Living like the prodigal
Ohh my mistakes were astronomical... But, God
forgives...
In my time of need He sent disciples to show me how
to live...

They reminded me of all the promises he gives...
Andrew Legall and Pastor Sean Simmons
Came in the middle of my mental and spiritual crucible
and they showed me the love of Christ by being
responsible...
Patience, kindness, long-suffering...
In my hardest times they were dropping in...
In the midst of my depression, they had me chuckling...
I am alive today because of the goodness of God and
the men and women he sent ...
Discipleship is necessary
To show Christ to the lost soul that is searching and
weary.



Digital Discipleship

—Using Media for the Mission

When the world went into isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people wrestled with silence and uncertainty.

But for one woman, that quiet season became the birthplace of a ministry—one that now reaches countless hearts through the written word, art, and digital connection.

The Birth of a Ministry

Writing had always been part of her rhythm—plays, sermons, music, and devotionals filled her past. But when her sister in Christ Tamika Cumberbatch, launched the Devotional Connect Journaling Challenge, within her stirred a desire to journal more consistently.

Daily journaling soon moved beyond private reflection. What began as a personal act of faith evolved into shared encouragement. She started passing entries to close friends for accountability—and before long, those reflections became a source of comfort for many.

Each devotional included personalized Bible texts from Gilbert Jn. François, with key words highlighted and vivid illustrations woven in. Words and images danced together, turning her journal into a tapestry of faith.

“I asked God to help me redevelop the gift of art I had abandoned as a child,” she reflects. “Over time, He showed me how to put everything together for His glory. Soon, God’s imprint became my footprint, and I became a messenger of peace to some, especially during moments of isolation.”

A Growing Team and Digital Presence

What began as simple handwritten reflections grew into a collaborative digital ministry—K.I.M. Devotions (Kingdom Inspired Messages)—powered by a team of creative, Spirit-led

believers.

- Slymond Jack-Roberts coined the acronym KIM from her nickname.
- Navanta Antoine-Griffith surprised her with a Wix blog—giving the devotions a home online and visibility on Instagram and Facebook.
- Paul Massiah, a gifted graphic artist, manages visuals, blog design, and podcast uploads.
- A dedicated network—including Kenisha Alexander, Tabitha Griffith, Kadesha Taylor, Chandoe Rock, Elijah Henry, and Maria King—share the devotions daily.
- The K.I.M. Devotions Podcast features the voices of Linda McClellan, Suzanne McCallister, Tonya King, Rashad St. Hill, Meladee Carter, and Lisa Johnson, who bring each reflection to life.
- Ministry leaders like Pastor Royston Philbert, amplify the reach by sharing entries on the Caribbean Union Facebook page.

This collaboration demonstrates the beauty of digital discipleship—ordinary people offering their talents to serve one extraordinary mission.



Kimberley Forte



Writing as Purpose

"I asked God to show me my purpose, and I was surprised to realize I had been walking in it all along."

Writing, once a quiet conversation between her and God, became a channel of healing and hope for others. Each devotion is Spirit-led, uniquely crafted, and deeply personal. Some readers are drawn by the art, others by the handwriting or the phrasing—but many testify that each message meets them just when they need it most.

Her faith is anchored in two promises:

- Isaiah 55:10–11 — God's Word never returns void.
- John 3:8 — The Spirit moves mysteriously and powerfully in every heart.

These verses remind her to stay grounded in humility and purpose—allowing the focus to remain on God's work, not her own recognition.

Testimonies of Impact

The ministry's impact is best expressed through the voices of its readers:

"K.I.M. Devotions somehow always include just the right message for me at the right time. The artwork is always so nice, and I enjoy the colorful words." – Sarah

"Each daily devotion seems to speak directly to what I'm facing. This confirms how Spirit-led they are. A true blessing." – Rochelle

"God has given you the marvellous gift of being vulnerable. You encourage others to trust God's Word and walk closer with Christ." – Linda Mc

"Kingdom Inspired Messages has been a source of strength when I needed it most. The Spirit

uses them to keep me moving Heavenward." – Dr. Terence Haynes

"On my most challenging days, they remind me of God's promises. Thank you for being a vessel." – Kevena

"These devotions give me hope when I feel out of it. They always arrive as the encouragement I need." – Kelda

"I come for the drawings, and I stay for the message. Always an inspiring lift to my day." – Simon

Others, like Maria, have shared how these devotions even minister to patients in hospitals—passed along by nurses to comfort those in pain. The ripples of faith continue to spread, one message at a time.

Discipleship Through Sharing

Digital discipleship is built on the simple act of sharing. Readers post the devotions on WhatsApp, forward them to friends, or repost them on social media. Each share is more than engagement—it's an act of witness.

"I started with just wanting to touch one person," she says. "Others did the same. That's how discipleship happens—through each of us allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us in our calling."

Her journey proves that digital tools aren't just for connection—they're for commission. When used for God's glory, media becomes ministry, and every post becomes a testimony.

A Final Word of Hope

Every K.I.M. devotional is anchored in a verse that continues to guide the writer and her readers alike:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Her message is as simple as it is profound:

"Be blessed to be a blessing."

Discipleship in Action throughout the fields

Discipleship



AWSDAA student delivers soup

ECC: Dominica: Soup Kitchen
Students of Arthur Waldron SDA Academy deliver 25 bowls of soup to shut-ins and the homeless in Portsmouth, Dominica, twice a term.



Members of the Boetica SDA Church, church members from across the island, villagers, and conference personnel listen intently to the message delivered by ECC President Ps. Anthony Hall

On October 19, 2025, the Boetica Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially rededicated by leaders of the East Caribbean Conference. Originally built in 1974 and rebuilt in 2019 after Hurricane Maria's devastation, the service celebrated faith, unity, and renewal. Members and guests honored volunteers who helped restore the church—a lasting reminder that while storms may destroy buildings, faith keeps the foundation strong.

ECC: Barbados: On January 25, 2025, six individuals publicly surrendered their lives to Christ in baptism—five from the Black Rock congregation and one from King Street. In the photo are Pastors

Hoyte and Blackman, who joyfully collaborated in the service at Brandons. The day marked four new accessions and one recommitment for Black Rock, and one new member added to King Street.



Pastor Blackman baptizing

ECC: Barbados: Five individuals publicly declared their faith in Christ through baptism after the transformative campaign held at Ebenezer SDA Church, conducted by Pastor Miguel Denny.



Barbados baptisms from campaign held at Ebenezer SDA Church

Tobago: Master Guides in Training (MIT) along with their youth director, Tracy Dick-Noel, travelled to Dominica for mission, impact and adventure. They walked from the north to the east of the island over a span of two days, stopping to eat, and pray and share God's Word with all they came in contact with.

NCC: St Croix: Leanna Carr first learned to crochet at age 12 through

the Pathfinder program, and now at 23, she used that skill to create more than 35 handmade hats for donation to cancer patients.



Leanna Carr NCC, fourth from the right

SLC: Pastor Brent St Jean baptized 128 in Days of Elijah evangelistic campaign in St. John's Antigua, South Leeward Conference (SLC).



Baptism at Fort James, St. John's, Antigua

Grenada: Three of our sisters prepare a variety of nuts, grains, and snacks to be served during the Conference Workers' Family Fun Day at the campsite. Photo courtesy of Kenlyn Peters, Media Center Worker, Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.





Grenada: Several individuals were baptized during an evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Lambert Paul at La Sagesse, St. David. The photo captures some of the newly baptized members celebrating their decision for Christ. Photo courtesy of Kenlyn Peters, Media Center Worker, Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



(Left) Deshorn Greaves

SVG: Brother Deshorn Greaves, a dedicated young man who has attended the Calder Seventh-day Adventist Church for over two years, recently gave his life to Christ through baptism. Despite facing challenges while growing up, he remains committed to living faithfully and leading others to know Jesus as their personal Saviour. The service was conducted by Pastor Sylvan Samuel, district pastor for the Calder church. The congregation wishes Brother Greaves continued growth in his spiritual walk with God.



Even while battling cancer, this young man chose to surrender his life to Christ through baptism

South Caribbean Conference: Pastor Inskip Richards led the

“Christ for the Crisis” crusade in Sangre Grande, Trinidad, resulting in 93 individuals being baptized—an outpouring of faith and commitment to Christ.



Pastor Inskip Richards

ECC & SLU MISSION: Community Services and Possibility Ministries mission trip : Dominica: Community Services and Possibility Ministries leaders from the St. Lucia Mission and the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Barbados and Dominica) joined together for a joint retreat and mission trip that combined spiritual renewal with community service. Their activities included open-air meetings, a prayer walk, and the distribution of books on hope and mental health.



St. Lucia Community Services painting houses

The team also painted houses and a school, visited nursing homes and hospitals, donated 25 water filters, cleaned a beach, built a wheelchair ramp, and shared 150 air fresheners with bus drivers—accompanied by prayer and uplifting literature.

SCC: Pastor David Lennard led a baptism service in Mafeking, South

East Zone, where seven individuals were baptized, celebrating their total surrender to Christ.



Pr David Lennard with baptismal candidates in Mafeking, Trinidad

Guyana Conference:



Pr. Malcolm Lafleur performing baptism at the Jesus is the Answer Evangelistic Series in Georgetown, Guyana

Suriname: President of the Suriname Mission, Pastor Guno Emanuelson, leads souls to Christ through baptism during Impact 2025.



Pastor Guno Emanuelson in the process of baptising a new disciple

Suriname: In a display of unity and service, church members in Suriname came together to clean and restore the Mission Street roadway—turning simple acts of care into a living witness of stewardship and community love.

Pastor Wilmoth James Elected President of North Caribbean Conference at 15th Session



ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands — Delegates to the 15th Session of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists elected Pastor Wilmoth James as president, ushering in a new era of leadership for the territory spanning ten islands across the Northern Caribbean.

The session, held August 20–23, 2025, brought together nearly 200 delegates at the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Croix. Delegates represented churches from the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Sint Maarten, Saba, and Sint Eustatius, voting on the administrative team to guide the conference for the next four years.

Pastor Wilmoth James succeeds Pastor Desmond James, who retired from denominational service after serving two terms as NCC president. Born in Antigua, Pastor Desmond James was widely recognized as a dynamic evangelist and administrator who also pastored in Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, and St. Croix.

“With heartfelt appreciation for Pastor Desmond James’s leadership, we welcome Pastor Wilmoth James into this vital role,” said Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and chairman of the nominating committee. “We pray for God’s guidance as he assumes this responsibility.”

Before his election, Pastor Wilmoth James held the dual roles of Executive Secretary and Director of the Adventist Development and Relief

Agency (ADRA) for the NCC. As Executive Secretary, he administered key operations and contributed to the strategic and spiritual direction of the conference. Through ADRA, he championed the church’s humanitarian outreach across the region.

Earlier in his ministry, Pastor James also served as Youth and Chaplaincy Director for the NCC. A well-sought-after evangelist, he has led numerous campaigns that resulted in significant church growth, reflecting his passion for mission and community engagement.

As president, Pastor Wilmoth James will oversee the spiritual and administrative work of the conference, serving thousands of Seventh-day Adventists across its territory. The leadership team for the new term will include officers and departmental directors tasked with advancing evangelism, education, youth ministry, and community services throughout the North Caribbean Conference.

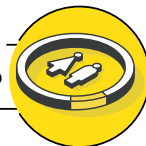
Pastor Wilmoth James is married to Linda James, an accomplished musician and science teacher. The couple has three adult children.

Unity in Action: Anse la Raye SDA Church Launches Holistic Small Groups to Strengthen Discipleship and Fellowship

By Pastor Lucius Philip

On Sabbath afternoon, August 23, at 4:00 p.m., the Anse la Raye Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church in St Lucia officially launched the Holistic Small Group Discipleship Initiative in a spirit-filled program marked by joy, unity, and vision.

Discipleship



Each small group wore specially designed T-shirts, uniquely branded with the group’s name and a chosen Bible passage. The colorful display reflected creativity and commitment, as members stood together to present their Group’s plans for discipleship. Some Groups also highlighted their Vision and Mission Statements, underscoring the purpose-driven direction of this new initiative.

The journey toward forming these small groups began under the ministry of Pastor Lucius Philip, Executive Secretary of the Saint Lucia Mission, who pastored the congregation for about a year. During his tenure, the foundation was laid for this discipleship thrust. The official launch, however, took place under the leadership of Pastor David Daniel, current pastor of the Anse la Raye SDA Church, who has embraced and advanced the vision with strong support from the elders, discipleship committee and the general membership.

Although only now formally inaugurated, the groups had already been meeting every Sabbath. They have engaged in fellowship, Bible study, and various spiritual activities, while also extending their ministry into the community through acts of service and outreach.

The launch program gave these groups a platform to share their goals, inspire one another, and renew their collective emphasis on discipleship.

The Holistic Small Group Initiative has already begun to breathe new life into the Anse la Raye Church by creating a caring and nurturing environment where members can grow spiritually, strengthen relationships, and serve others.

Above all, the initiative seeks to fulfill the divine mandate of Jesus Christ recorded in Matthew 28:18–20, which calls the church to “go and make disciples of all nations.”

As the holistic small groups move forward with renewed energy and vision, the Anse la Raye SDA Church stands poised to grow spiritually and numerically.

Healing Through Faith: The Discipleship Journey of Shirnan Jacobs

By Pastor Dayne Nichols

In a world where the line between work and witness is often blurred, Brother Shirnan Jacobs, a physiotherapist from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has found a unique way to live out the Great Commission. For him, discipleship isn't just something that happens within the walls of the church—it happens in every stretch, every session, and every prayer whispered beside a therapy bed.

A graduate of the International School of Physical Education and Sports in Havana, Cuba, Shirnan Jacobs has always believed that his hands were meant to heal—but not only the body. From 2014 to 2021, he served as a physiotherapist with the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. When national COVID-19 vaccination mandates threatened to compromise his convictions, he made a bold move of faith—transitioning fully into private practice. That decision opened the door to what would become a Spirit-led ministry of healing and discipleship.

Faith-Based Therapy: Healing Beyond the Physical

Jacobs' approach to therapy is what he calls faith-based therapy—a blend of professional physiotherapy and spiritual mentorship. "True healing can only come from God," he explains. "I see my work as a way to connect people to Him."

Every session begins with a conversation about faith. His first question to new patients

is simple yet profound: Do you know God? This question often leads to prayer, scripture readings, and encouragement drawn straight from the Word. Many of his patients come to him feeling broken—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But through the gentle combination of physical rehabilitation and spiritual renewal, lives are being transformed.

Discipleship in Action

The results of this Christ-centered approach speak for themselves. Many of Brother Jacobs' patients are individuals recovering from strokes or partial paralysis. Alongside the physical exercises, he guides them toward hope in Jesus. "When they understand that God is working in their healing, they respond better—not just to therapy, but to life," he says.



One of the most moving examples of this faith in action is the story of Brother Campbell (pictured above, right, with Elder Jacobs). After suffering a severe stroke that left him largely paralyzed, Campbell began therapy sessions with Elder Jacobs. Their sessions soon became opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Over time, Campbell regained not only his mobility but also his spiritual strength. He decided to give his life to Christ, declaring that he wanted to walk into the water himself when baptized.

On Sabbath, October 4, after months of prayer, therapy, and discipleship, Elder Jacobs stood beside him as Campbell, now walking with assistance, entered the river to be baptized. The moment was a powerful testimony of faith, perseverance, and divine healing.

Ministry in the Marketplace

Elder Jacobs' influence extends

far beyond his clinic. Over the years, he has worked with business professionals, community leaders, and even clergy from other denominations. Yet, his focus remains steadfast—making disciples of all, regardless of their background or status. "Whether it's a businessman or a bishop, the message is the same: Jesus still saves," he said with quiet conviction.

Today, Elder Shirnan Jacobs serves as the First Elder and Personal Ministries Director of the Lowmans Seventh-day Adventist Church. His dual roles—as both a healer of bodies and a shepherd of souls—perfectly illustrate what true discipleship looks like when faith permeates every aspect of life.

A Life Carried by Purpose

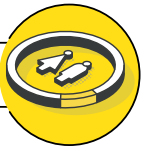
Elder Jacobs' story is a vivid reminder that discipleship isn't confined to the pulpit or the pew. It's lived out in the ordinary spaces where faith meets service. His hands may be trained to restore movement, but his heart is set on leading people to the ultimate source of healing—Jesus Christ.

Through every patient he touches and every prayer he offers, Shirnan Jacobs continues to demonstrate that the Great Commission can be fulfilled one healing, one heart, and one disciple at a time.

From Nature to Nations: Our Journey with Nhael's Nature Nuggets

By Jeannette & Nhael Barry

In the quiet hills of Dominica during the 2020 lockdown, seven-year-old Nhael Necroix Barry found peace not in screens, but in nature's symphony — rustling trees, chirping birds, and the hum of creation. Exploring his grandparents' yard, he observed insects, cared for animals, and discovered God's lessons in nature. For this reserved child,



exploration became both learning and therapy — a way to adjust to the “new normal.”

Then came a call that changed everything. Kenisha “Aunty K” Simms, a family friend from The Bahamas, was creating an online worship space for children and sought someone who loved nature. Nhael’s mother shared a short feature he had made about his pet tortoise for a church program, and as if by divine timing, Nhael’s Nature Nuggets was born.

What began as a simple one-minute video blossomed into a four-year ministry. Week after week, Nhael — guided by his parents — explored Dominica’s rivers, rainforests, and gardens, revealing spiritual truths through nature. “I love nature, and I was very excited to share the character lessons I learned from each plant, animal, or place I featured,” he recalls.

With every recording, Nhael’s

confidence grew. The quiet, soft-spoken boy became a bold, articulate presenter whose messages reached children across the Caribbean and as far as Africa. “It’s amazing how God used me to do these nuggets,” he says. “Through them, children all around the world learned that God has character-building lessons in everything He created.”

As schoolwork increased, the Barrys adjusted their filming routine — sometimes recording two episodes on Sabbath afternoons. “I remember the many adventures — the rivers, gardens, the fruits I tasted, and the times we had to redo a take,” Nhael laughs. “Sometimes I wanted to play games instead, but my parents always said, ‘Rest when you’re tired, don’t quit.’ So, we rested — and then we recorded.” That perseverance became its own life lesson in faith and teamwork.

At age eleven, Nhael transitioned from Nature Nuggets but was soon

invited by Aunty K to join Reality Check for PowerPoint Sabbath School lessons. “When my mom told me to pray about it, I already knew my answer,” he said. “I’m willing to serve.”

For his parents, Jeannette and Necroix Barry, his journey reflects the prayer of Jabez: “Oh that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory.”

Today, 12-year-old Nhael continues to grow in grace and curiosity as a student of Arthur Waldron SDA Academy. His love for science, piano, and nature remains strong — a reminder that even a child, when surrendered to God’s purpose, can impact the world one nugget at a time.

(Episodes of Nhael’s Nature Nuggets can be viewed on his YouTube channel and on Aunty K’s channel, which continues to feature weekly lessons.).

Christian Discipleship

by Pastor Albert Matthew - Dominica, ECC.

T’was our Saviour’s joy to walk beside the Sea of Galilee.

Seemed ‘twas God’s plan to make it part of our Lord’s history!

For, since one day as He walked by, four fishermen He’d find:

Peter, Andrew, James, and John, a catch of motley kind!

He would invite these motley four, who were just fishermen,

Life along the Marine Coast was all they knew back then.

The Saviour then called out to them, “Come, Follow Me, Today-

From now on you will Fish for Men and point them to the Way!”

Then Peter, Andrew, James and John anon cast off their nets;

Leaving all they had behind: their lives, their gains, their debts

To follow after Christ their Lord, the One who bade them Come;

Their lives transformed; their

mission changed-That’s Discipleship in sum!

Discipleship invites Us to a life-transforming journey

In just the way that Jesus called the men of Galilee!

It makes a change in who we are, in how we think and act:

At home, at work, at school, at church-Disciples too, in fact!

Disciples, called to be with Christ and learn of Him each day,

Receive His Word, His Spirit’s pow’r and wisdom as they pray;

From house to house and church to church, in oneness as they meet;

Find joy in sharing Jesus Christ with people down the street!

Discipleship: the Call to Leave, to come and Follow is Our Lord’s Command;

A Call into the Master’s Vineyard; A Call to Prepare, Sow and Cultivate the Land:

Then, anon the Harvest comes along, to reap the ripen golden grain
There shall be rejoicing great when Jesus comes to reign!

This is Discipleship, a Divine Cycle of Making Disciples of Christ the Nazarene;

He who receives the Call, a disciple oneself, anon begins to glean

As disciples and disciple-makers, We embrace the Harvest Cycle of: Preparing, Sowing and Cultivating:

The Saviour’s model for multiplying disciples, planting churches and building a movement of Kingdom living!





Ordination

Left to right: Dr. Kern Tobias and Linda Tobias; Pastor Jameil and Mona Blackman; Pastor Granville and Margaret Hinds; Pastor Samuel and Bronwin Burgess; Pastor Dean and Aleta Yearwood.

Ordained to Shepherd: ECC Pastors Commissioned for Gospel Ministry

By Pastor Royston Philbert

Oldbury, Barbados — Sabbath, August 16, 2025, marked a sacred milestone for the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (ECC), as four pastors were ordained into gospel ministry during the Conference's 7th Quadrennial Session at the Oldbury Campsite, Barbados.

Those ordained were Pastors Granville Merton Hinds (St. John District), Jameil Owen Donato Blackman (City North District), Samuel Burgess (St. Andrew District), and Dean Antonio Yearwood (St. Joseph District).

Hundreds gathered to witness this Spirit-filled service, which crowned a week of conference meetings and leadership elections. The atmosphere was reverent and celebratory as the Pathfinder Orchestra, praise team, and Vocal Mission led in worship.

In his message, Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference, reminded the ordinands that ministry begins with personal transformation:

"Before you are called to the ministry, you must be assured of your conversion. Not once, but every day. The encounter between you and the Messiah must be part of your daily walk."

He added, "Although today you are applauded, there will be days when you will be baptized by fire. Your success, however, is guaranteed—not by applause, but because you are Spirit-filled."

The candidates were presented by Pastor Maurice Morancie, ECC Ministerial Secretary, while Sister Linda Tobias, Assistant Ministerial Secretary for Ministerial Spouses, offered the consecration prayer for the ordinands' spouses. Dr. Balvin Braham, IAD Vice President, prayed for the newly ordained, after which the ordination charge was delivered by Pastor Ammaran Williams, Ministerial Secretary for the Caribbean Union.

Charging the pastors to faithful service, Pastor Williams said: "You are now invested in full ecclesiastical ministry. Minister as servants of the flock. Spend time in the Word, but more importantly, spend time with Him—for you cannot give what you do not have."

Each pastor's ministry reflects years of dedication and soul-winning:

- **Samuel Burgess** – Evangelist and Prison Ministries leader, with nearly 800 baptisms across Dominica, Trinidad, and Barbados.
- **Dean Antonio Yearwood** – Evangelist and scholar with 294 baptisms, currently pursuing Systematic Theology.
- **Granville Merton Hinds** – Youth-focused pastor with over 260 baptisms since 2012.
- **Jameil Owen Donato Blackman** – Missionary and youth chaplain with 425 baptisms, serving alongside his wife Mona and daughter Zayna.

Ordination sets these men apart to preach, teach, and shepherd God's people. The Conference affirmed their divine calling and readiness to serve with humility and Spirit-filled power.

As they begin this new chapter, members are encouraged to pray for and support their pastors, that together they may share the everlasting gospel and bring hope to a world in need.



Donné Haynes: Discipling Through the Brushstrokes of Faith

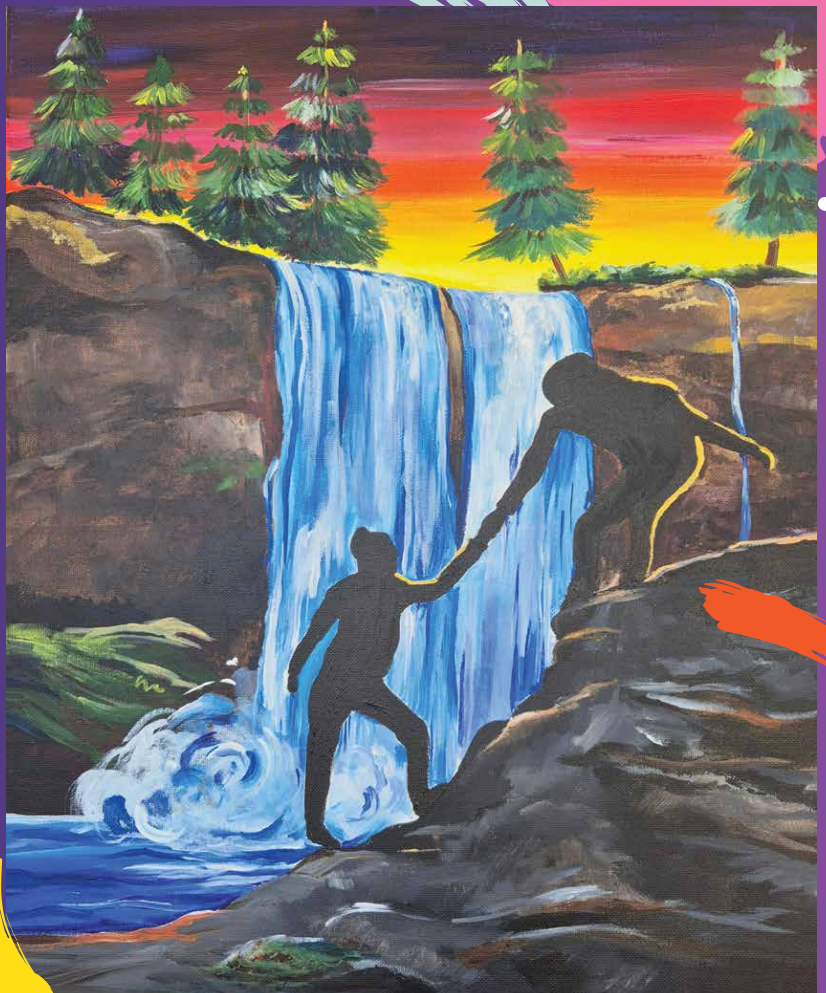
By Jeannette Barry

Donné Haynes, an award-winning Barbadian visual artist and art educator, beautifully blends creativity with ministry.

Her faith-driven artwork—rich with emotion and meaning—has been featured in numerous exhibitions across Barbados and recently highlighted by Adventist Review and the official Seventh-day Adventist Facebook page.

Passionate about nurturing others, Donné teaches art to help students discover the power of visual storytelling.

Through every brushstroke, she reminds the world that art is not only seen but felt, lived, and shared as ministry. Follow her journey on Instagram @brushstrokesinministry.



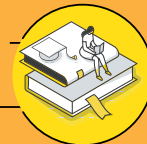
Memoirs of an Island Belle

Published by Xulon Press, USA. Available at Books and Office Supplies Ltd, Scarborough, Tobago.

By Dr. Desrian Wilson

Dr. Desrian Wilson, assistant professor and department chair at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), holds advanced education degrees, enjoys the arts, and volunteers as an interpreter.

Book
Review



In her latest book, *Memoirs of an Island Belle*, Dr. Naomi Modeste, emerita professor, public health educator and author, chronicles her life's trajectory from her childhood years in the Caribbean island of Tobago, offering nuanced reflections that played a pivotal role in defining her identity. The book begins with authentic depictions of island life in a large, close-knit family pre-1962, the year of Trinidad and Tobago's independence. Modeste's narrative highlights her penchant for independent thought, adventure and self-sufficiency.

A clever lexical turn in the title, *Memoirs of an Island Belle*, signals a layered interpretation, engaging with the location of the author's childhood home in Belle Garden, Tobago and she as 'island belle'. The reader is invited into the narrative's textured landscape of the author's recollections and insights. Home schooled, Modeste later segued into elementary and secondary school life at the Glamorgan Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) School, and later to the Caribbean Union College (CUC), Maracas, St. Joseph, located in the sister isle of Trinidad. CUC is, for Modeste, an adventurous undertaking that begins her foray into tertiary education life that eventually takes her to the United States of America (USA). Throughout this lighthearted narrative, sociocultural and historical glimpses of the Caribbean as well as North American influences that shaped her life's journey are proffered, undergirded by Modeste's unwavering trust in God. *Memoirs of an Island Belle*, narrated in anecdotal style, chronicles the author's trials and triumphs in a blend of the coming-of-age and spiritual memoir genres.

The overarching historical flavour of the book informs, encourages and highlights the providential leading of God in what Modeste notes is "a life well lived". The memoir includes stories of traditional Caribbean life in a bygone era – oral death announcements, walking to both church and school, churning butter, preparing and processing cocoa beans into balls for hot chocolate tea and bustling household preparations at Christmas time, to name a few. Modeste candidly embraces the spectrum of experiences and achievements that defined her personal narrative.

Memoirs of an Island Belle is in many respects motivational. Modeste demonstrates initiative, determination and drive. Her first job at CUC was cafeteria hostess and dorm monitor. She later briefly worked as an elementary teacher in Belmont, Trinidad. Her accounts of college life, juggling work and study and other emotionally challenging events – personal loss and discouragement – point to her faith and resilience. After earning her bachelor's degree at Union College, USA, she pursued her masters and doctoral degrees in the areas of health education and public health at Loma Linda University, USA. Modeste's journey from Belle Garden to her doctoral degree is a refreshing pen portrait into commitment to one's dreams under God's providential leading.

Sprinkled throughout the memoir are interesting travel experiences – by air, land and sea, as well as a few close encounters that strengthened her faith and trust in God's leading. A woman of purpose, Modeste began work at the South Caribbean Conference Office as the first female Health and Temperance Director, later transitioning to the Caribbean

Union Conference as Health Director. Soon the Director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) was added to her portfolio. Modeste worked at the Inter-American Division as Health Director, responsible for coordinating the Adventist health ministry in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Venezuela and Colombia. Modeste's engagement with community work in the USA and the Caribbean is also detailed in the memoir.

Naomi Modeste has authored the 1981 *Vegetarian Cookbook for Healthy Cooking* (over 100 recipes using foods of the Caribbean) and in 1990, *Dictionary of Public Health Promotion and Education: Terms and Concepts*. Snapshots of her experiences conducting health and nutrition courses with the American Indian community, USA and in the Caribbean, along with work with USAID show the author's multifaceted interests and philanthropic spirit.

Memoirs of an Island Belle is written in a refreshingly conversational tone, the authorial voice drawing the reader into her recollections. Rather than delving into emotional complexities, Modeste traces the edges of her inner world, choosing to touch on these moments with a light hand – an approach that lends to the narrative the suggestion of quiet strength and invites the reader at times to read between the lines. *Memoirs of an Island Belle* is intended to be inspirational – a personal testimony of a life journey led by divine intervention. The book is an interesting addition to any library. Tracing a journey of faith, education and purpose, *Memoirs of an Island Belle* is a recommended narrative for spiritually inclined, life-long learners.

(A reminder on the discipleship journey)

Feature
Article



Drawing down and not replenishing



Petra Pierre-Robertson

Petra Pierre-Robertson is a librarian, novelist, and inspirational writer who has authored fiction and nonfiction books, and contributed to the youth section of *Priorities Magazine*.

Lamentations 3:22, 23 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.



I reached into the cabinet for wipes. None were there. A puzzled frown creased my forehead; I had bought boxes. Where were they? I perused the shelves. Stocks were running low. I had bought a lot, but that had been months ago. For the past few months I couldn't find the time to get to the store; however, secure in my stored up stocks, I kept drawing down, and not replenishing.



The symbolism came instantly to mind. I was also guilty of drawing down and not replenishing in other areas:

- Drawing down on last week's study.

- Drawing down on last year's faith
- Drawing down on yesterday's meal
- Drawing down on last month's sleep
- Drawing down on last year's exercise
- Drawing down daily on waning strength mentally, emotionally and physically.



I was drawing down and not replenishing. My stocks dwindled, some had even finished, but I was not aware, secure in the knowledge that I had stocked up, even though it was months ago.

There are other stocks in life that we need to replenish on a regular basis. We cannot stock up on grace and mercy; they are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22, 23). We cannot rely on yesterday's faith to face today's challenges (Matthew

6:11). Manna must be collected daily (Exodus 16:20). We are to continuously walk in faith and pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

We need to restock (even as we draw down), daily. Restock on:

- Bible study
- Faith
- Diet
- Sleep
- Exercise
- Emotional, physical and spiritual strength



The only person who has an interminable supply and is forever filled, is the One who, alone, inhabits eternity - God. He is the well that will never run dry (John 4:13,14). He is our supplier. No matter how much we have and are, except we restock, we will run out.

May we make the time to restock so that a day doesn't come when we try to draw down and find that resources are low, or even worse, that there is nothing left and we are empty!

As the dawn broke in the eastern skies, 200-plus members of Forres Park SDA Church and participants from Icacos to Toco gathered on Sunday, 17th August 2025, at Mt. Pleasant Government Primary School, Trinidad, for the first of its annual 5K Walk/Run. The air hummed with anticipation as participants, young and old, male and female, twisted, turned, stretched, and prepared their minds for a blend of fitness, fellowship, and faith.

The start sent a wave of energy through the crowd; some walked, others ran; neighbours and friends cheered as the participants hustled to the finish line at the church compound. Strangers found kinship at the mile markers and the water stops that brought them all together.

On completing the race, each participant was awarded tokens of participation and perseverance. There were monetary gifts for the winners of various categories of runners in addition to medals. The gift bags reinforced the day's themes of learning, nourishment, inspiration, physical activity, and knowledge. The assortment of food items - a hearty sandwich, sweet bread, apples, cucumbers, watermelons, bananas, and granola from College Health Foods provided a satisfying spread to replenish lost energy. The treats did not end there: snow cones, A-Game drinks from Balgo's, and water kept everyone hydrated as the sun climbed higher in a clear, bright sky.

The day was not only about achievement and sustenance. It was a celebration of community. The atmosphere was thick with fellowship, laughter, and shared purpose. It was a reminder that fitness and faith can walk hand in hand, strengthening bonds and uplifting spirits.

The Member of Parliament for Claxton Bay, Mr. Hansen Narinesingh joined the race and mingled with church members and community. The goodwill and camaraderie visible on his face mirrored that of everyone who wandered the post-race grounds. Our church pastor, Pastor Edison Williams, encouraged the church through the preparation for this physical journey with a spiritual takeaway.

The journey, receipt of medals, gift bags and

Forres Park SDA 5K Walk/Run

By: Asha Rampersad



Asha Rampersad

Asha Rampersad is an ordained elder of the Forres Park SDA Church in Trinidad. She is a retired primary school principal.

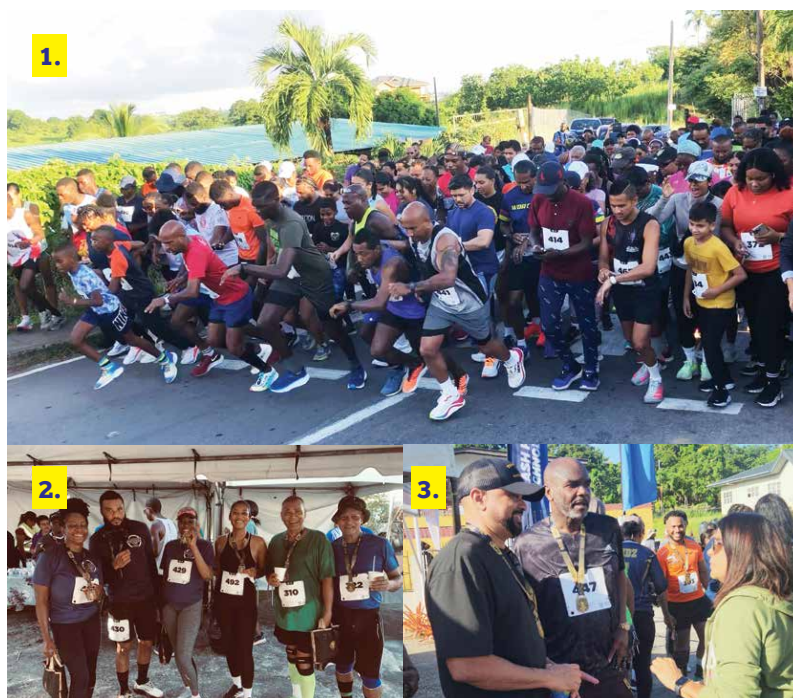


Photo 1: Start of the Forres Park 5K Walk/Run

Photo 2: Participants showing the Medals and Gift bags

Photo 3: Mr. Hansen Narinesingh, Member of Parliament for Claxton Bay, Pastor Edison Williams, Forres Park SDA Church and Sis. Indira Teelucksingh, Health and Temperance leader

shared post-race fellowship was one of gratitude to God. The event was a resounding success. Private messages and posts on social media testified that it was among the best. This blessing was the result of prayerful planning and generous hearts. It was a morning when health, faith, and community intertwined to create lasting memories.

Thanks to Pastor Williams; the Health and Temperance leader, Sis. Indira Teelucksingh; her hardworking team; members; friends; the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service; and others who contributed to the success of this event.

We give God all praise and thanks for good weather and an incident-free event. We look forward to future events of celebration, fitness, and faith, under the leadership of the Forres Park SDA Church.



SESSION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the eighteenth (18th) business session of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, scheduled for July 22-24, 2026 at the main auditorium building on the campus of the University of the Southern Caribbean in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Delegates will receive reports, elect officers, directors and members of the executive committee; submit plans and recommendations; may review the constitution and bylaws, and transact any other business as stipulated in the constitution and bylaws of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The session is scheduled to start at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the aforementioned venue.

Kern Tobias, President

Johnson Frederick, Executive Secretary

Obituaries



Glenda Bowen

July 9, 1957 – June 29, 2025

The Grenada Conference and its constituency are deeply touched by the passing of Sister Glenda Bowen, beloved wife of Pastor Joseph Saul Bowen. Sister Bowen served faithfully as an educator for many years before being elected to serve as Women's and Children's Ministries Director of the Grenada Conference.

She was a devoted wife, mother, teacher, and committed servant of God. Sister Glenda Bowen touched countless lives through her love, mentorship, and ministry, serving with grace and compassion. Her kindness, unwavering faith, and deep devotion to her church and family will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Joseph Saul Bowen, a pastor in the Grenada Conference; her children Rhonda McLeish Polson, Franz Jendi Bowen, Franzy Sally Ann Bowen, and Jeron Bradley Bowen, and their children in the United States; and Solvi Jeanel Bowen in Grenada. We take comfort in the blessed hope.

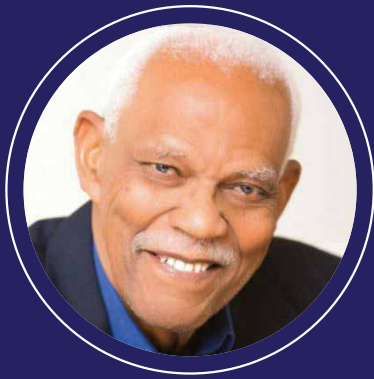


Pastor Lennon Cosmos Robley

July 13, 1954 – June 27, 2025

A dedicated minister of the gospel, Pastor Robley served faithfully in several fields - the Suriname Mission, the South Caribbean Conference, the North Caribbean Conference and the Tobago Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church until his retirement February 1, 2018. He was known for his powerful voice, musical talent, and his deep commitment to proclaiming the Word of God. He had a deep analysis of Scripture that caused the mind to be curious. For the average person listening to him, he brought deep truth that is simplified enough to make you want to know the Word of God.

Pastor Robley was deeply loved by parishioners across all his fields of ministry for his genuine pastoral care, joyful spirit, and deep faith in God. He leaves behind a strong example of discipleship, evangelism, and heartfelt ministry. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his three children; Andre Robley, Shirlenn Robley & Bernadette Pemberton-Robley, family, colleagues, and the many lives he touched throughout his ministry. May his memory continue to inspire us to keep hope in the soon return of Jesus alive.



Dr. Vernon E. Andrews

May 3, 1939 - November 8, 2025

Dr. Vernon Andrews was an administrator, choral conductor, pianist, and singer who served the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (CARU) with distinction for more than fifty years. His leadership as choir director at Caribbean Union College—now the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC)—brought national recognition to the institution and his love for music will continue to inspire generations. Under his direction, the CUC choir produced two long-playing albums in the 1970's titled *Echoes from the Valley* and toured across the Caribbean. At USC, Dr. Andrews served as Chair of the Education Department, Dean of Students, and later as President from 1983 to 1990. He went on to render outstanding service to the CARU as Communication Director, Education Director, Field Secretary, Executive Secretary, and Vice President. Even after his retirement in 2009, he remained actively engaged in ministry through music seminars and choral workshops. He also served as an evaluator with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Andrews was also an author, sharing his life story in his autobiography, *The Morning After the Night Before: Recollections of My Journey, A St. Joseph Son*. We extend condolences to his wife, Dr. Phyllis Andrews, surviving children—Vaughn, Veldon, and Verleyne and the entire family. May God comfort us all with the blessed hope of His soon return.



Pastor Joseph Mc Coon

September 19, 1941 - October 5, 2025

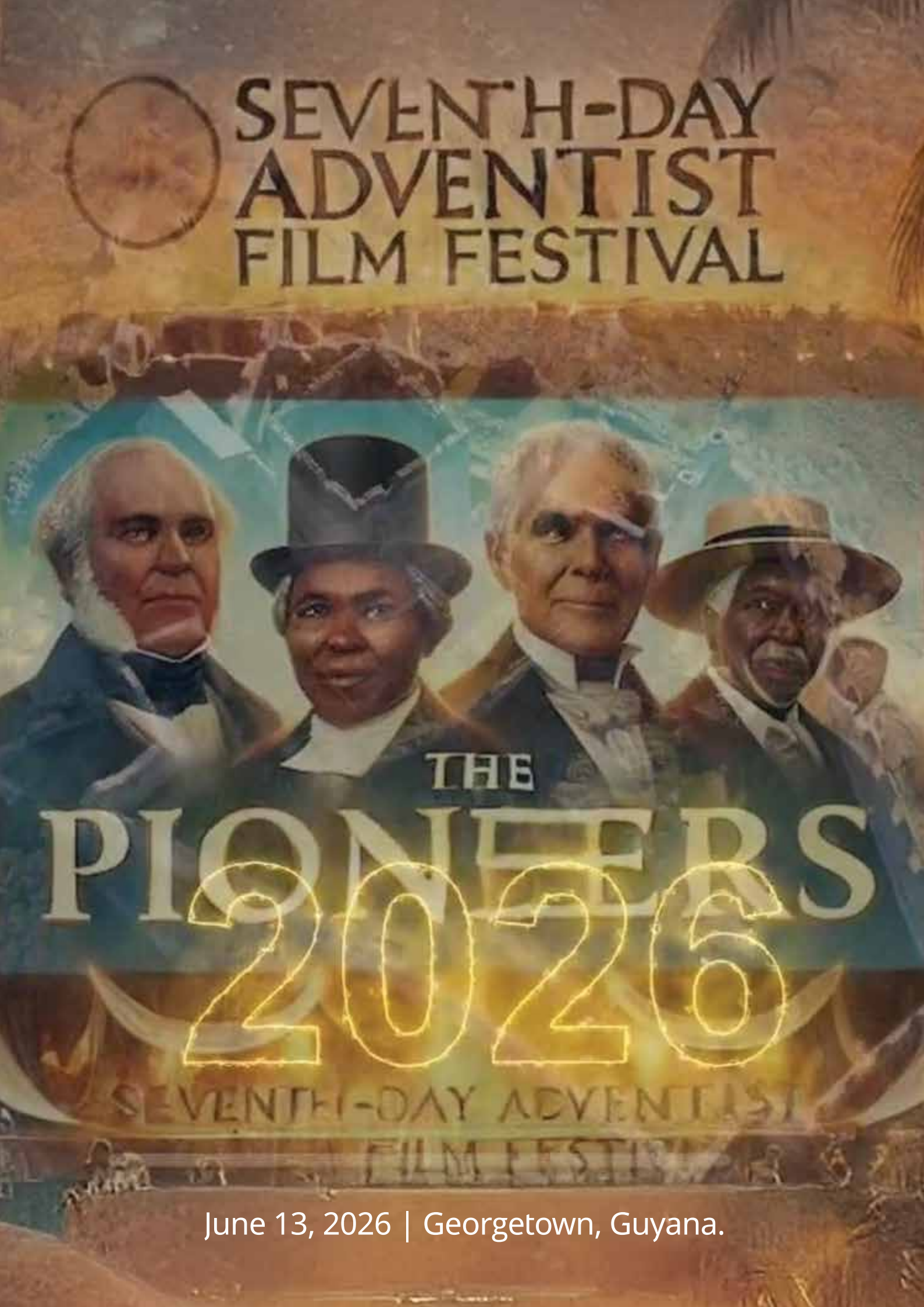
Joseph was born in the town of St. Joseph, Trinidad and Tobago. He was the second of seven children born to the Mc Coon family. As a young adult he enrolled in a Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course, and there began the discovery of Bible truths. But it was not until he attended a crusade conducted by Pastor Jacob Budhoo in a nearby community that he gave his life to Jesus in baptism. After working in the private sector for a while, Joseph matriculated for his Bachelor's degree at Caribbean Union College (now USC). He entered into the gospel ministry in 1980 in the city church at Stanmore Ave, in Port of Spain under the supervision of his friend and mentor Pastor Fitzgerald Harris. Mc Coon went on and matriculated for a Masters in Religion at West Indies College (now NCU). He gave 39 years of service to the church, serving with distinction as District Pastor and Departmental Director (Stewardship & Trust Service for 14 years and Prayer Ministries for 15 years). Joseph retired in 2019, but continued to give service to the church on a voluntary basis. On the afternoon of Sunday 05 October 2025 Joseph passed away peacefully at his home. We extend condolences to his son, Sean, and other family members. He awaits the voice of his Saviour saying 'Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' (Matthew 25:34)



Dr Hilary Bowman

July 30, 1950 - August 17, 2025

The Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) mourns the passing of visionary educator Dr. Hilary Bowman, who died on August 17, 2025, at AdventHealth Orlando. Dr. Bowman devoted over four decades to Seventh-day Adventist education, serving as teacher and principal at Mountain View Adventist Academy, Director of Education for the East Caribbean Conference and CARU, and President of the University of the Southern Caribbean 2016-2021. Honored with the Ellen G. White Medal of Merit in Education, he retired as CARU Education Director in 2023. He is survived by his wife, Verina Bacchus-Bowman; children—Dr. Kurt Bowman and Karen Swan; and five grandchildren. CARU extends heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the Bowman family, trusting in the hope of the resurrection (Psalm 34:18)



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June 13, 2026 | Georgetown, Guyana.