# **EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION**

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IMPACT TMI

Official Organ of the Caribbean Union Conference Of Seventh-Day Adventists

See pages 30 to 38 Welcome our new

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# **The "Shepherds" of CARU**



The IAD education tour to the Holy Land and Jordan had representatives from some 20 plus fields within the Division. The photo shows the CARU team dressed like people in Bible times (anachronism and all). Please try to identify the 19 persons in the photo. Email the answer to cmorgan@carusda.org for a prize. In Israel, we walked where Jesus walked, knelt in the Garden of Gethsemane, walked up the Via Dolorosa, visited the spot where He gave the beatitudes, bathed and dipped in the Dead Sea, rode camels, viewed the Mount of Temptation, dipped our feet in the Jordan river where Christ was baptized. These are just a few of the places we visited in Israel. In Jordan we went to Mt Nebo and toured Petra, an historical and archaeological city in southern Jordan, famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. We spent 11 days in the Holy land.

# tents

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Just before the cutting of the ribbon - Photo shows PM of SVG, The Right Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves greeting Dr. Tobias and Pastor Baptiste, in the presence of the Hon Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister of SVG, while overseas Administrators, local pastors and members look on.

# **NEW OFFICE COMPLEX-SVG MISSION**

Sunday 21st April 2019, hundreds of members and well-wishers witnessed the dedication of the newly constructed office complex of the SVG Mission.

The Dedication and Thanksgiving Service which began promptly at 3.00 pm, saw Administrators from all over the Caribbean in attendance. The Pathfinder Honor Guard was inspected by Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, The Right Hon. Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves accompanied by Inter American Division Vice President, Dr. James Daniel; CARU President, Dr. Kern Tobias; and SVG Mission President, Pastor Dermoth Baptiste.

In true military style, the national flag and the flag of the SVG Mission were raised by the Pathfinder Color Party to the accompaniment of the SVG Mission Drum Corps. The Laying of the commemorative stone was done by Dr. Kern Tobias who invited Dr. Gonsalves to assist. Stalwart members, Selwyn and Mercelle Jones were tasked with cutting the ribbon, which had been placed in an aesthetically-pleasing manner on the door. Pastor Bertie Henry (CARU's Treasurer) substituted for main donor, Mr. Mahase Ragoonath, who could not make the ceremony due to unforeseen circumstances.

The service allowed for several congratulatory remarks from the Area Representative Hon. Major St. Clair Leacock and Prime Minister Dr. Gonsalves, who both shared their joy in the Mission's achievement. The keynote speaker, Dr. James Daniel delivered an enlivening message on thankfulness entitled "Are we thankful or ungrateful". He challenged the audience that in all things we ought to give thanks.

The entire programme had been meticulously planned and was executed with precision and appropriate circumstance and fanfare and was well supported by both clergy and laity from across the St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mission.

The Administration, staff and members all express their gratitude to the entire Caribbean Union and the Inter-American Division for their thoughts, prayers, support and contributions towards our little Nehemiah Project. May God continue to guide, as we all move closer to the New Jerusalem.



# **CARIBBEAN UNION DIRECTORY**

## Administrators and Directors:

President Secretary Treasurer Assoc. Treasurer/CURF Field Secretary

Women Ministries/Children's Ministries and Adolescents

Communication/Editor Gleanings

Youth and Chaplaincy Ministries

**Pastor Anthony Hall** 

Dr. Claudius Morgan

Dr. Kern Tobias

Dr. Clive Dottin

Sister Debra Henry

**Pastor Bertie Henry** 

**Pastor Johnson Frederick** 

Elder Joel Hazelwood

Assistant to the **President** for Dr. Claudius Morgan Evangelism, Training and Development.

Family Ministries and **Ministerial Secretary** 

Trust, Stewardship Director/AS Dr. Gandalal Samlalsingh

Personal Ministries and Community Services

Public Affairs/Religious Liberty and Spirit of Prophecy.

Health and ADRA Education Sabbath School Director/HR Publishing Shepherdess Coordinator Associate Education Director Pastor Ammaran Williams

Pastor Ashton O Neil

Dr. Clive Dottin

Pastor Alexander Isaacs Dr. Hilary Bowman Debra Felix Sister Judith Smith Sister Linda Tobias Sister Jessica Cunningham

Produced by: The Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. 1868 223 3885 Edited by: Rhonda Morgan Design, Graphics, Claudius C. Morgan Photographs: Claudius Morgan, Garnet Joseph, Rodwell Anderson, Daniel Nanton and Jermaine Arthur. All rights reserved - May, 2019

#### Notice of the 5<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session – Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) Quadrennial Session of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will take place at the Archibald Avenue SDA Church. St Georges Grenada from Wednesday July 24 to Friday July 26, 2019.

Delegates will receive reports, elect directors and members of the executive committee, submit plans and recommendations, amend the constitution and bylaws and transact any other business as stipulated in the operating policies of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The session is due to begin at 3 pm at the aforementioned venue.

**Clinton Lewis, President Charles Gittens, Executive Secretary** 

Notice of the 43rd Quadrennial Session – South Caribbean **Conference of** Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given of the Forty third (43rd) quadrennial business session of the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, scheduled for August 7-9, 2019, at the University of the Southern Caribbean. Delegates will receive reports, elect directors and members of the executive committee. submit plans and recommendations, and transact any other business as stipulated in the operating policies of the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Session is due to start at 3:00 O'clock in the afternoon at the aforementioned venue.

Leslie Moses, President Michael Charles, Executive Secretary

# The President Writes

Transformation is a buzz word today in many spheres of life. It belongs ideally in the Christian experience but it is seen in the business and management spheres as well. It does not mean that we clean up our act, change our behavior to be more Christ-like, or live by a set of rules and regulations. While these patterns of behavior are admirable, and many Christians have attempted them, they are not a reflection of the internal change that transformation provides. Transformation is not merely an outward change, instead it is an internal change, occasioned by the Holy Spirit.

In the original Greek language of the New Testament, the word used for transformation is 'metamorphosis'. This means a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the life history of an organism, as from the caterpillar to the pupa and from the pupa to the adult butterfly.

Paul addresses this scenario beautifully in 2 Cor. 5:17. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." As Christians, we are brand-new people on the inside. The Holy Spirit gives us new life, and we are not the same anymore. We are not reformed, rehabilitated, or reeducated —we are new creations – transformed by the renewing of our minds. We are not merely turning over a new leaf; we are beginning a new life under a new Master.

The challenge we face is to embrace transformation and enjoy the miracles that Christ is able to work in us! Thank God for giving us Christ as our sacrifice and the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our transformation. Read and enjoy what God is doing in the lives of the transformed!



Dr. Clinton Lewis, President of the Grenada Conference and an evangelist at heart, can be considered the impact president of the Caribbean Union. He has preached at impact Guyana, Suriname, Bahamas, and other impacts in the Spanish Territory of the IAD. In this photo he greets persons as they exit the Centrum SDA Church in Paramaribo Suriname



# Communication Director Writes

IMAPCT Guyana was a "tremendous experience" shouted the pastors of the Guyana Conference at their local PLEC program organized by Pastor Jumoul Sancho and his team. CARU's Impact is like a blazing forest fire which cannot be contained. The IMPACT has been contributing to a renewed evangelistic excitement in the fields of the Union.

As it relates to the Lord Transform Me initiative, the impact comes under the fourth component, PROCLAIM AND REAP. It is a one-week program, which begins on a Friday and ends on the following Sabbath; an explosive event that embraces Total Member Involvement.

In one week in Guyana, we saw over 1,400 persons being baptized and in one week in Suriname over 400 persons. CARU's next Impact heads to the North Caribbean Conference in 2020.

The North Caribbean Conference and the South Caribbean Conference held their own impacts. Pastor Hesketh Matthew, the Assistant to the President in North Carib, refers to their impact as a dry –run. In both impacts, over 700 persons were baptized in one week.

We are working earnestly and steadily to improve the dynamics that make for successful Impact programs, and as the song claims, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before."

In addition to the Impacts, CARU is exposing our young and talented evangelists in each field. In Trinidad, we have sponsored five young evangelists for campaigns. At the Summit of Emerging Evangelists held in Trinidad in January, we formed (ACE) Association of Emerging Evangelists. In 2020 we will select about ten of these evangelists and send them to the districts of their colleagues who themselves are members of ACE. Our operation tactic in CARU is not only to loose the LAITY but to loose the MINIS-TRY.

The preparation aspect of our Impact needs attention and we are strategizing towards this. We have a plan which we will share as we move into the different Conferences and Missions in the Caribbean Union of SDA. After the one-week impact, we still allow for Proclaim and Reap to occur, for at least another three weeks but then comes the fifth component, CON-SERVE AND DISCIPLISHIP.



#### Dr. Claudius Morgan



Evangelist Hayden Lorde from the Tobago Mission participated in both the Guyana and Suriname impacts. In Suriname his site was 4 1/2 hours drive from Paramaribo. He journeyed there with pleasure. This was his first night preaching at the El Shaddi SDA Church in Nickerie, Suriname

# Communication Director Writes

#### The following remarks were included in the program booklet for the Suriname Impact:

In Christianity, the Great Commission is the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to his disciples to spread his teachings to all the nations of the world.

It is interesting to note that in the original Greek, the only direct command in Matthew 28:19–20 is "make disciples." The Great Commission instructs us to make disciples while we are going throughout the world. The instructions to "go, baptize, and teach," are indirect commands - participles in the original language. How are we to make disciples? By baptizing them and teaching them all that Jesus commanded. "Make disciples" is the primary command of the Great Commission. "Going, baptizing, and teaching" are the means by which we fulfill the command to "make disciples."

Therefore, after the impact and or evangelistic program it is now the responsibility of the administrators, directors, pastors, staff, leaders and members of the Conference or Mission, to fulfill the direct command given to us by our Lord. "Make disciples." Teach them how to witness and teach them the scriptures and the doctrines of the Bible. Involve them in the activities and services of the church. Remind them that God loves us as much now as He always has and when the sun shall cease to shine and the moons to show their feeble light, He will continue to love us forever and ever. Let us embrace the transformation!



Photo features two impacts. In the centre of the photo, evangelist Ashton in action at the Smyrna SDA Church (English Church) during the Suriname impact. At left is former president of the SCC baptizing one of the over 400 persons baptized. Dr. Ray Taylor is at the right plunging his candidate into the water.

## **MOST OUTSTANDING DISTRICT** PASTOR IN EACH FIELD IN CARU

bean Conference:		SVG Mission:
n Brome	49	1. Keith Mc Donald
e Morancie	48	2. Nigel DeRoche
n Cooke & Ricardo Selman	42	3. Kerry Kerr
McCallum	40	4. Shane Franklyn
mes	36	5. Karlson Samuel
Conference:		Suriname Mission:
d Lyons	35	1. Guno Emmanuels
s Isadore	33	2. David Daniel
n Clarke	24	3. Rodney Blomhof
e Noel	24	
Panchoo	23	<b>Tobago Mission:</b>
		1. Lowell Ottley
onference:		2. Nicola English Ne
James	513	3. Ein Kirk
us Bollers	326	4. Winston King
e Daniels	220	5. Charles Salandy
ackman	192	South Leeward Conf
Williams	180	1. Kay White
		2. Stanton Adams
ibbean Conference	2.6	3. Charles Hastings
Salas	36	4. Shelton Benjamin
Smith	33	5. Delroy Josiah
Webster	22	
daile	20	St Lucia Mission
Phillip	18	1. Nick Vitalis
		2. Alfred Joseph
ibbean Conference:		3. Vincent Emmanue
Valcott	54	4. Mattinson Preville

52

31

31

28

Travis Berrance



From L to R, top to bottom; Guno Emanuelson, Marco Salas, Nick Vitalis, Kevon James, Lowell Ottley, Kay White, Bernard Lyons, Sheldon Brome, Nigel Walcott and Keith Mc Donald.

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- 2. 3. 4. Earl Es 5. Danny South Car Nigel V 1. Kishford Frank 2. Wayne Andrews 3. Kurt Thomas
- 4. Erlin Dolly

East Carib Sheldo

Mauric

Winsto

George

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# CARU BAPTISMAL RESULTS AND GOALS 2017 AND 2018

<b>FIELDS</b>	Baptism Results 2017	Baptism Goal 2018	Baptism Results 2018 Reported to CARU Secretariat	Baptism Results 2018 Reported to CARU Evangelism Dept.
East Caribbean Conference	345	700	433	433
🔾 Grenada Conference	332	425	228	254
Guyana Conference	2,545	3,100	2,429	3,689
North Caribbean Conference	401	400	180	227
South Caribbean Conference	943	1200	764	764
South Leeward Conference	313	370	440	440
St Lucia Mission	586	635	170	469
SVG Mission	256	425	391	404
Suriname Mission	179	200	80	87
Tobago Mission	223	250	143	249
	6,123	7,705	5,258	7,016

It is time to sing praises and give God glory for the wonderful thing He has done. SVG Missior Headquarters Dedication.





#### **District Pastor with Most** Baptisms in 2018

Feature The Evangelism Council of the Caribbean Union has seen an upsurge in pastoral public evangelism in the past 3 years especially in the Guyana Conference. Last year more than 20 district pastors baptized over 100 persons in their districts, setting a record in the Guyana Conference for the most baptisms in its history (3689). The Council awards all district pastors and evangelists who baptize over 100 and the most outstanding district pastor in each field of the Caribbean Union. The Council is planning CAB, Celebration and Awards Banquet for all the district pastors baptizing the most in their field and all district pastors baptizing over 100 as well as evangelists who have baptized over 100 in 2018. We feature in this edition of the Gleanings Pastor Kevon James of the Guyana Conference who baptized 513 persons in 2018, the most for any district pastor in the Inter-American Division in 2018.

# PERSONAL PROFILE OF KEVON TIMOTHY JAMES

BA Theology, Emphasis: Youth; Associate Degree in Business Studies, Diploma in Advanced Studies, Certificate in Business Studies DISTRICT PASTOR, UPPER DEMERARA WEST DISTRICT PASTOR OF BUTUBA, YAHUKA, MALALI, PENIEL, BETHEL, BETHESDA & VICTORY TEMPLE.

Born to Mrs. Timoli Giles-James and Mr. Wilbert Cromwell on 1st December, 1990 at 25 Fernandes Street in the village of Golden Grove on the East Coast of Demerara, he was educated at the May 26 Nursery School, at the Golden Grove Primary School, and at the Prestigious President's College during the years 1996-2009. In 2002, he was the recipient of the Raphael Trotman Award for being the top student at the Golden Grove Primary School after writing the Secondary School Entrance Examination. He spent the majority of his formative years with his grandmother, the late Mrs. Esther Cole, a retired Senior Superintendent of the Guyana Police Force and a Pentecostal Pastor. He credits his organizational prowess and his diligence to the years he resided with Mrs. Cole. He later went on to complete his high school education in the year 2002, securing 12 subjects at the Caribbean Examination Council and nine units at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination in the years 2007-2009. He acquired an Associate Degree in Business Studies and a Diploma in Advanced Studies. The year 2009 was God's signal to Pastor James, that the time had come for him to surrender himself to His plan for his life. Bro. Kevon James was first exposed to Adventism in the year 2009, at Youth Congress 2009 at the National Park. He along with some friends engaged in two Bible Studies, ceased the studies thereafter, and he was baptized on Sabbath 26th December, 2009 by Ps. Elton Lindie at the Golden Grove Seventh-day Adventist church.

# **PERSONAL PROFILE OF KEVON TIMOTHY JAMES**

In 2010, the Lord spoke to him through an outreach program that USC Guyana had at the Golden Grove SDA Church. He had already enrolled at the University of Guyana to read for a degree in Economics a few weeks before, but like Peter, forsook all and hearkened to the voice of the Lord. He did not know from whence the finances would come but simply went. From that moment on he attended the University of the Southern Caribbean and in spite of the challenges, it was evident that the hand of the Lord was upon him. Kevon James graduated in the year 2016, after completing the Bachelor of Arts in Theology with Emphasis on Youth Ministries in the Summer of 2015. He was very active within the Youth Ministries department at his local church, serving as an officer of the Uniform Clubs until his departure for school. He also participated in many Bible challenges, Church Heritage, Bible Boom, as well as Interpretation. He was runner up for Church Heritage as well as Bible Boom at the National Level in 2012, and returned to be the National Bible Boom Champion in the Guyana Conference in 2013.

Upon enrollment at the University of Guyana, Kevon was employed at the Guyana Elections Commission, where he served as a Civic/Voter Education Assistant and subsequently as a Registration Clerk II until September 2013 at which time he departed for the University's Main Campus. During his time at the University's Main Campus, Kevon was very active as a member of the USC Masterguide Club, HIS LUV Choir, the Public Relations Officer of the Guyanese Club 2014-2015, the Secretary of the Timothy Greaves Hall Men's Club, represented USC at the CARU Bible Boom Challenge in 2014 and 2015, worked at Security, Events and Hospitality Department, as well as the Cafeteria. Kevon also represented the School of Theology at Academic Challenge is at School Debates and was also an active sportsman. He placed fourth in the Bible Boom Challenges in both 2014 and 2015 at the CARU Level.

Ps. James is a lover of sports, especially cricket, football, basketball, athletics and tennis. Since his return to the Guyana Conference of SDA in 2015, Pastor James has held many evangelistic campaigns and has supported three major evangelistic campaigns which resulted in over four hundred souls led to Christ. He is a lover of the Youth and continues to be actively involved in many Youth Camps, serving as Camp Pastor at quite a number of them, including the recently concluded I Dream of Greatness 2018 Union Camporee held in Guyana. He served as a member of the National Youth Council 2017-2019 as a Pastoral Representative, the Public Relations Officer of the Guyana Conference Ministerial Association and is presently undertaking his first assignment as District Pastor in the Upper Demerara West District, serving seven (7) churches. Pastor James is an aspiring specialist in Biblical Languages and Counseling (primarily the Youth), and Family Therapy.





Blessed of Suriname, if not the leading youth choir in CARU, then one of the leading choirs in the Union. It is led by Ellen Terborg, one of the outstanding soloists in the Suriname Mission.

At the end of the Sabbath Service and just before the beginning of the baptism an elated Edward Blackman, President of the Suriname Mission had this to say. "We are so thankful for the work that has been done in Suriname. Captain Morgan has been doing a fantastic job with the preachers, my pastors, the elders and the churches and we are happy with the results so far. We have passed the 400 already and there are more to be baptized, and we hope to finish it off at the end of April. We are rejoicing in Suriname. This is the first time we have passed 400 baptisms and we are very happy and looking forward for greater things that will happen in the Suriname Mission.' Impact Suriname was a journey of challenges, astute planning and commitment from CARU Administrators and Directors; Admin Assistant, Sheryle Liverpool; the Suriname workers; and 20 preachers from each field within the Caribbean Union.

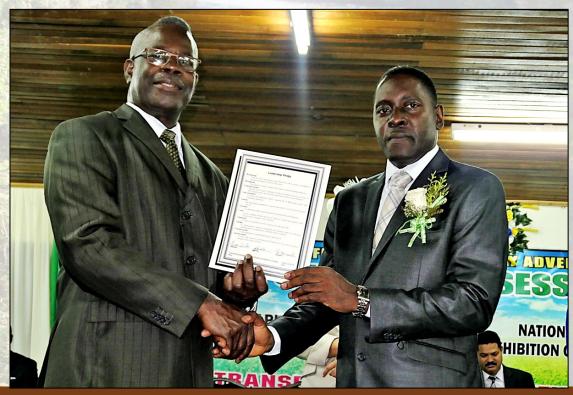
Suriname Mission is our smallest field with under a thousand active members (my assessment from visiting 17 of the 20 sites). At some sites, there were just five persons present. At others, 20 or 30. One of the well-attended sites had over 100 persons. What was clear as CARU Communications gathered from visiting the sites, was the passion of the preachers. They had to preach with translators, an experience which some had never been exposed to, but they were rolling like the waves of the ocean, preaching up a storm and calling men and women from being sucked into the pit of hell. At most sites they baptized more than seventy percent of the persons in attendance. Some baptized all the visitors who attended. In fact, the 400 plus baptisms may well be considered as approximately 65 percent of the active membership in Suriname.

At the grand convention, held at the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium on April 6th, the Shepherdesses of the Suriname Mission staged an outstanding Sabbath School Program titled: Be Ready - Jesus is coming. The aim of the Sabbath School program was to illustrate the importance of being ready at all times to meet our Lord and Savior and to show the dangers of putting off for later a decision to choose Jesus .

Then Captain of the Ship, Dr. Kern Tobias, took to the pulpit and preached an impactful evangelistic sermon incorporating in a profound way many stories in the gospel, especially the story of the Eunuch and Phillip. Then fearlessly, he plunged into the appeal, and called men and women to a decision to be baptized. On that Sabbath 83 persons were baptized to the glory of God.

Just under 1000 persons attended the convention, which was filled with pomp, splendor and spirituality. The preachers and churches were recognized and the impact ended with a concert of class at the same venue. Indeed the singers in Suriname Mission are second to none in the Caribbean Union. As most of the preachers submitted, Suriname will never be the same.





CARU Communications is in agreement with the scores of people who claim that this was the best Conference Session they ever attended.

From the perspective of CARU Communications, undoubtedly, a lot of planning characterized this Session; from the grand reception leaders received at the airport and afterwards to the auspicious opening ceremony and the activities in which delegates and delegates at large were involved.

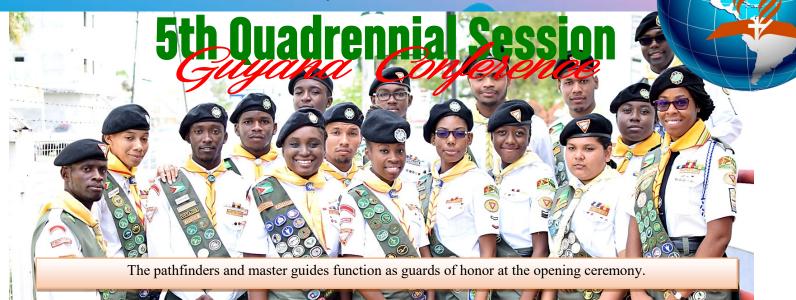
President Exton Clarke poses with CARU's President Kern Tobias after reading and signing the pledge document.

Even though the preaching of the home-grown Guyanese pastors, who now live and pastor overseas was delightful and powerful, what crowned off the session was the level of appreciation given to the outgoing president.

When it was announced that Pastor Exton Clarke is now the president there was an uproar but when Pastor Richard James conceded and with all the humility in the world, the uproar soared with voices and applauses, so much so that the delegates in the packed Central SDA Church had to be asked to please sit. Whether or not Pastor James knew he would not have returned, the great Guyanese was ready for the transition. He was calm, collected, gracious, and full of praise for his Executive Secretary, who is now his president. He was allowed to chair the remainder of the session.



The new administrators of the Guyana Conference. L to R Pastor Jumoul Sancho, Executive Secretary, Sister Rovena Harrinauth, Treasurer, and Pastor Exton Clarke, President.



Elected to serve at the session for the next four years are new administration was officially installed along with Pastor Jumoul Sancho, Executive Secretary; Rovena Harrinauth, Treasurer; Marvin Smith, Youth Ministries Director and Adventist Chaplaincy; Andrew Chichester, Personal Ministries Director and Assistant to the President for Evangelism, Training and Development; Malcolm La Fleur, Ministerial Secretary; Carolyn Brandon, Women and Children Ministries Director; John Joseph, Health Director; Osley Edwards, Sabbath School and PARL Director; Richard James, Family Life Director; Dennis Hamilton, Adventist Men's Ministries, CURF, Adventist Mission (Frontier) and Planned Giving and Trust Services; Hugh Mc Kenzie, Communication; and Naresh Lionel, Hindu/Muslim Ministries.

The convention was a grand and exciting event with over 10,000 persons in attendance. Again the high level of planning and preparation was evident. During the song service, pastors and members were seen lifting their hands and praising God. The drama on Sabbath; the special music, especially from the saxophonist, Roy Steward (aka -Sweet Sax); the theme song, written by Ishmael Abrams and sung by the Faith 4 Gospel Band of Upper Mazaruni were all exceptionally rendered. President of the IAD, who was met at the airport by the Guyana Conference team of professional welcomers, was whisked to Georgetown escorted by an outrider from the police force. It was his first visit to Guyana and he was treated with pomp and ceremony. He delivered the midday sermon, touching the hearts of many in the congregation.

In the afternoon, at the consecration service, Dr. Kern Tobias was again in his element. From his presentation, it appears to CARU Communication that he enjoys attending sessions, whether mission or conference. The

the newly elected directors. Pastors Clarke and Sancho and Sister Harrinauth repeated the pledge dictated by Dr. Kern Tobias and then signed it, making it an official document of the Guyana Conference.

It was a great session punctuated with joy, laughter, good food, sweet music, uplifting congregational singing, melodious special music and great preaching. And who can forget the geologist preacher as he expounded on the oil factor?

The session was graced with the presence of representatives from each field within the Caribbean Union including Administrators and Directors, President of USC and IAD representative, Pastor Al Powell, who preached the opening message. The theme for the session, Transformed Into His Likeness, is a reflection of the great and wonderful things that God will do in the Guyana Conference for the next 4 years.



Outgoing PM director passes the baton to newly elected PM Director Andrew Chichester at the Convention on Sabbath.



Congratulations to Dr. Greene by the leaders of the Church in the IAD and CARU. President, Dr. Kern Tobias-CARU, Dr. Elie Henry and Dr. Leonard Johnson, President and Secretary - IAD

#### THE NEWEST CONFERENCE OF CARU ELECTS ITS F FIRSTPRESID

Dr. Carson Greene, on May 2nd, 2019 was historically elected as the first president of the newly formed South Leeward Conference, as the delegates of the field met in their first Quadrennial Session at the Parham Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in St. Peters, Antigua.

There was an air of pomp and circumstance as persons gathered at the V.C. Bird International Airport in Antigua to welcome the president of the Inter-American Division (IAD) of Seventh-day Adventists, Dr. Elie Henry. Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 was going to be a historic day in the life of the South Leeward Mission. It was the first time that the IAD President was visiting Antigua and it was also the moment when the South Leeward Mission would become the South Leeward Conference.

The South Leeward Mission came into existence in March 2011 when the IAD authorized its formation. It was formerly a part of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis comprise the territories that would form this new field.

When it was first formed, the administration consisted of Pastor Desmond James as President and Dr. Carson Greene By: Mark L. Brathwaite

as Secretary/Treasurer. By July, 20th 2016 at the 16th Quinquennial Session of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists the Mission had experienced sufficient growth to necessitate the addition of the third administrator. At this time pastor Desmond James was re-appointed as President, Dr. Carson Greene was appointed as Executive Secretary and Sis Krista Moore joined the team as Treasurer.

Time moved swiftly and the movements of the church soon necessitated another adjustment. On August 17th, 2017 at the 13th Quadrennial Session of the North Caribbean Conference, Pastor Desmond James accepted a call to become their president. This meant that the South Leeward Mission was now in need of a president.



# **SLC FIRST QUADRENNIAL SESSION**

Instructions from the President of Caribbean Union indicated that with the departure of Pastor Desmond James, the mission would continue to function under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Carson Greene. He would function as President/Secretary until the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Union would be able to meet in November of 2017. The Executive Committee of the Caribbean Union met on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and regularized the mission's leadership by officially asking Dr. Carson Greene to serve as President, Dr. Wayne Knowles to serve as Executive Secretary and Sis. Krista Moore to serve as Treasurer.

The South Leeward Mission has been in existence for 8 years and approximately 1 month. During this period the Mission demonstrated that it was able to manage its own affairs and had the necessary elements, which would allow it to have a change in status from Mission to Conference. The Caribbean Union Conference and the IAD oversaw this process of transition with the final decision being given by the IAD. On November 12, 2018 the IAD voted to grant Conference status to the South Leeward Mission. The Arrival of the IAD President, Dr. Elie Henry on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>,2019 was to conduct the official change of status ceremony. Dr. Elie Henry arrived with his Executive Secretary, Dr. Leonard Johnson. Also arriving were other officials of the Caribbean Union.

Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference, was on hand at the V.C. Bird International Airport, In Antigua to meet Dr. Henry who was greeted by an Honor Guard of Pathfinders. At a very brief ceremony at the airport, Dr. Henry expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality and expressed ex-

citement at the prospect of being able to preside of the ceremony for the Mission's status change. On the evening of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at an official ceremony, at the Parham Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Peters, Antigua, Dr. Carson Greene was given the official certificate of status change by Dr. Elie Henry. Present at the service was Antigua/Barbuda's acting Governor General, Sir Clare Robert and leader of the Queens Opposition Mr. Jamal Pringle. On November  $2^{nd}$ , 2019 at the same venue, the dele-gates in session, voted to ask Dr. Carson Greene to serve as the South Leeward Conferences first President, to the thunderous applause of the excited congregation. Along with Dr. Greene the other administrators to be elected were Executive Secretary, Dr. Wayne Knowles and Treasurer, Sis Krista Moore. The delegates in session also accepted recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Directors of the Mission to include:

- 1. Dr. Mark L. Braithwaite Ministerial Secretary/ Family Life/Men's Ministries
- 2. Pastor Kay White Personal Ministries/Prayer Ministries/Prison Ministries
- Pastor Orville Joseph Sabbath School/ Community Services/Special Needs
- 4. Pastor Carl Hastings Youth/Chaplaincy

Also elected were the members of the constitution and bylaws committee and the executive committee. (More from the SLC 1st Quadrennial Session in next Gleanings)

Dr. Wayne Knowles and Sister Krista Moore are congratulated by Dr. Greene and Dr. Tobias after their election as Executive Secretary and Treasurer respectively.



**United In Spirit: Fulfilling God's Purpose** 

By: SLU Communication Department Contributor: Sister Shirlana Raphael



Preachers were fired up during the session. From I to r-Kern Tobias, Al Powell and Desmond James.

The Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists held our 5th quadrennial Session at the Zion Seventh-day Adventist church from November 21st – 23rd, 2018 under the theme United in Spirit: Fulfilling God's Purpose.

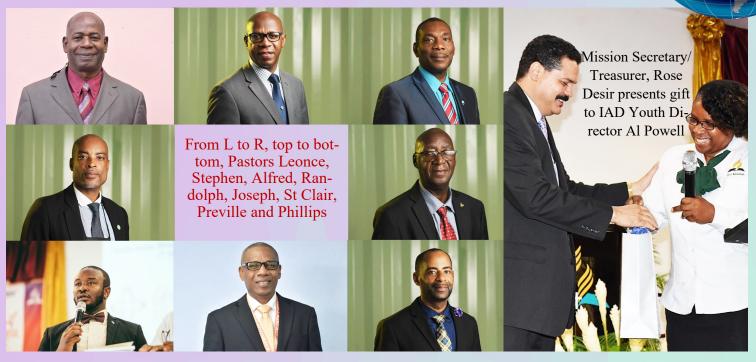
The Session was attended by Administrators from the Caribbean Union Conference, as well as Administrators from our 10 sister fields across the Union. Representing the Inter American Division was Pastor Al Powel, Youth Ministries Director. Pastor Powel gave the keynote address during the opening ceremony of the Session. In addition to our organization's dignitaries, we were graced with the presence of His Excellency Sir Emmanuel N. Cenac, Governor General of Saint Lucia. His Excellency Sir Cenac upon arrival, proceeded to inspect the guard of master guides who paraded to the sound of Saint Lucia's SDA Drum Corps. Additionally, His Excellency gave congratulatory remarks to the constituency on the achievement of our 5th quadrennial session.

The Session saw the presentation of reports from Mission Administrators and Directors, highlighting the work accomplished over the past four years. Breaking from the norm though, Administrators from the various fields served as the devotional speakers for the Session. Among those who set the spiritual tone for the Session's ' activities were Dr. Carson Greene, President of the South Leeward Mission, Dr. Clinton Lewis, President of the Grenada Conference, and Pastor Desmond James, President of the North Caribbean Conference.

Singing was one of the exciting features at the Session. In photo is the praise team at left and Julinna Florent from Marc SDA Church at right.



## **United In Spirit: Fulfilling God's Purpose**



During the Session, four churches were accepted into the sisterhood of churches. These are the Sarrot SDA Church, The Mount Carmel SDA Church, the Eden Guesneau SDA Church and the Ciceron SDA Church.

Several changes were made to the directorship during the Session. However, some directorships were referred to the executive committee. At the year-end Executive Committee meetings held on December 10th - 11th, persons were elected to complete the following cadre of directors:

- Ministerial Secretary and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) – Pastor Alfred Joseph (re-elected as Ministerial Secretary)
- 2. Personal Ministries, Health Ministries and ADRA Pastor Lucius Philip (re-elected as Personal Ministries and Health Ministries Director)
- 3. Youth Ministries, Publishing, Chaplaincy and Music Ministries – Pastor Richard Randolph
- 4. Family Life & Sabbath School Dr. Caius Alfred
- 5. Stewardship and Trust Services Pastor Roger Stephen
- 6. Education Sister Elsie Samuel (re-elected)
- 7. Women's Ministries Sister Carmen Charles (re-elected)
- 8. Prayer Ministries Dr. Andrew Leonce
- 9. Children's Ministries Sister Gabrielle Leonce
- 10. Assistant to the President for Evangelism Pastor Matison Preville (re-elected)
- 11. Communication Pastor Daryl St Clair

The Friday evening saw the curtains come down on a wonderful Session experience with a consecration service. Dr. Kern Tobias, president of the Caribbean Union delivered the Word, and set the administrators, directors and executive committee members apart for consecrated service for the next term.



His Excellency Sir Emmanuel N. Cenac, Governor General of Saint Lucia , Dr. Kern Tobias and Pastor Al Powell walk past the pathfinders at the opening session .

#### THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY IN THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE



22

Planted resolutely in the southern part of the Inter America Division stands the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists with seven (7) Conferences and three (3) Missions. Ably led by Dr. Kern Tobias (President) with headquarters on the beautiful island of Trinidad and Tobago, this formidable Union has over time equipped, reinforced and executed many evangelistic initiatives, merging both clergy and laity for the mission. Facilitated through the directorship of its administrators and its directors throughout the Caribbean, an exciting and life-changing initiative occurred on January 18th- 20th 2019; it was the dawning of a new day for evangelism. It was coined "Summit of Emerging Evangelists" under the directorship of Dr. Claudius Morgan (Assistant to the President for Evangelism in the Caribbean Union Conference).

The primary emphasis of this "Summit of Emerging Evangelists" was to identify and train prospective pastoral staff throughout the Union's fields in soul winning skills and evangelistic opportunities. Over 31 participants from throughout the Caribbean converged at the auditorium of the Caribbean Union Conference headquarters in Maraval, Trinidad. The participants were able to enjoy the spirit-filling devotions brought to us by varied dynamic speakers from diverse fields. Prayers and praises were not without exception, as the auditorium was set ablaze with worship that was second to none. This was then followed by powerful developmental seminars, which assisted all attendees to be reenergized and to be mission-focused.

Some of the presentations included *The Preacher and His Grammar, The Power of Prayer in Evangelism, Closing the Back Door (Conservation), The Dynamic Process of Field Preparation, How to Read With an*  *Evangelistic Mind* and *The Importance of Home Visitation*.

#### The Preacher and His Grammar

Certainly, *school days were here again*, with our facilitator Mrs. Rhonda Morgan who kept all of us focused with bated breath as we explored the whole system and structure of the language which included syntax, morphology and, in some instances, phonology and semantics. We were amazed by the unique Caribbean linguistic pronunciations that came out from the dialects of our counterparts and the many grammatical mistakes that we make but take for granted. It was an intriguing seminar that left almost all of us scared to even raise our hands in answer to her questions. However, this session was hailed "School Days are Here Again!" and we were truly grateful for the insightful, informative and professional mentorship that was shared with us.



#### The Dawning of a New Day in the Caribbean Union Conference

#### **Closing the Back Door (Conservation)**

*By: Kurt Thomas—MA South Caribbean Conference* 

Throughout the world church, the Caribbean being no exception, there is no novelty about the drop rate in the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This continues to be of alarming concern to church leaders, echoed by Dr. Clinton Lewis, President of the Grenada Conference. He emphasized that unless we shut the back door, this can develop into an epidemic issue for the church.

"Shut the Back Door!" he exclaimed. Time, energy and money are needed for the pre-work evangelistic series but in many instances, not sufficient resources are made available for follow up and nurturing. One writer puts it this way, "The pastor and the evangelist are the "obstetricians". They help in the "delivery" process. The church members are the "paediatricians" and the church is the "nursery" where the new babes are to receive all the tender, loving care possible!"

Therefore, the church must have a plan of action before the new converts arrive. Dr. Lewis stressed that this should be foremost in our minds in planning our future campaigns.

#### The Dynamic Process of Field Preparation:

Field preparation is of critical necessity in preparation for an evangelistic campaign. Pastor David Beckles, past President of the East Caribbean Conference, alluded to the fact that the evangelist and his assistant, the place of the preaching services, the training of the members for acceptable cooperation, the preparation of the field and the securing of attendance are the critical areas of focus for a successful campaign.

#### How to Read With an Evangelistic Mind:

Certainly, our general, Dr. Claudius Morgan, could not have been left out. Bold, effervescent and charismatic, he commanded our attention in showing us the tactical secret in reading with an evangelistic mind. "You must," as he exclaimed, "have a comprehensive knowledge of Scripture, be updated with what's around you i.e. newspaper, current events - both local and international. It involves comparing and contrasting and by diligent reading, it helps you to step out of the box."

Every participant was intensely shadowing the general as he illustrated the use of helpful tools and resources that brought success in the past, and even in present campaigns. As the gospel propels troops, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we were certainly grateful for Dr. Morgan's insightful presentation.



Pastor David Beckles appreciated by Admin Assistant for the Communication Department, Sheryle Liverpool, for his sterling contribution on field preparation





# Worthwhile Journey Pastor Richard Avert Tames

By: Lisa Hamilton - Journalist, Guyana Chronicle

As former President of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist, Pastor Avert James hands over the mantle of leadership to newly elected President Pastor Exton Clarke, he reminisced on his remarkable journey of leadership thus far.

On Saturday, April 13, 2019, James gave his blessings to Clarke at the installation ceremony at the Sophia Exhibition Centre in Georgetown, in the presence of hundreds of SDAs attending the Conference's Fifth Quadrennial Session.

"I hold the view that my life in ministry is God's doing. I never planned to be a Seventh-day Adventist," James told the Gleanings Magazine in an interview.

"I was serving in the sugar industry as a laboratory technician. One night I felt impressed to go to the Adventist church for a Sunday evening meeting and, to my surprise, when I got there they had a crusade going on with Pastor Philip Bowman and I eventually got baptized at that crusade."

James, 23 years old at the time, said that when he got baptized it was not because he felt that he wanted to become a minister but because he wanted to give his life completely over to Christ.

Soon, he left his job in the sugar industry to work at what is now known as the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) due to Sabbath-related challenges.

The church would later offer him the opportunity to work as a Bible instructor and, observing his potential, many began to encourage him to study to become a minister.

After studying, James received the position of Personal Ministries Director when Pastor Kurt Thomas migrated to England.

Then, at the 2011 Conference Session some four years later, James was appointed as President.

"I wasn't totally surprised but I didn't expect that it would happen so fast," he said.

"Yet, I never limited myself where that is concerned. When I look back, clearly, the hand of God must have been involved in terms of how my life unfolded."

As President, much of his efforts were invested in enabling the church's membership to be greater involved in evangelism across cultures and religions.

One of the significant accomplishments under the James-led Administration was the re-establishment of the formal Seventh-Day Adventist school system in Guyana after a 42 year hiatus.

Pastor James addresses the gathering at the 5th quadrennial session of the Guyana Conference of SDA at the Central SDA Church on Wednesday April 10.



# Embracing Transformation Feature Worthwhile Journey Pastor Richard Avert Tames

include almost doubling the church's workforce of ministers in and out of office and, through vari-Others ous departments, mobilizing youths to get more involved in evangelism and ingathering.

James has a Bachelor's Degree in Theology with an emphasis in Health from the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC).

He is currently in his third year pursuing a Masters of Pastoral Theology with emphasis on Church Leadership and Administration from the Inter-American Theological Seminary, offered through USC.

At the Fifth Quadrennial Session he was appointed as the new Family Life Ministries Director.

"I have a passion for Family Ministry. I'm very passionate about the relationship with my wife and our daughter and I see family ministry in a very broad way. I have an opportunity to minister to husbands and wives; address the area of parenting; reach teenagers, single persons and the family in general;" he projected.

He also looks forward to networking with other departments such as the Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, overseas stakeholders, and more.

"I welcome the challenge," he said optimistically.

In the coming years, James wants to see youths in Guyana becoming even more involved in shaping the direction of the church and wants more attention placed on developing the Adventist school system and ministry to various cultures.

Meanwhile, he is positive that under the leadership of Pastor Clarke, the local church and its influence will continue to grow.

"Pastor Clarke has worked along with me for a number of years and we share some similar visions when it comes to our preferred future for the church and I sense we will continue in that direction," James said.

Leaving words of advice to his successor, he added: "I would encourage him to keep the church focusing on the need to ensure that we become like Jesus and, as we strive to become like Jesus, we should encourage others to embrace our faith. The more that we are transformed into the likeness of Christ, the greater impact the church will have in Guyana and the lives of people.

pplause of appreciation for outgoing has pledged his support to the new president James. He has served w





The evangelistic fervor of the IMPACT initiative blazing throughout the Caribbean finally reached the shores of Trinidad during the week of March 15 - 23. About 160 pulpits were engulfed in gospel heat as pastors as well lay preachers were deployed throughout various points of this 4,827 square kilometers of real estate. One of the high-lights of the week was the inclusion of a Spanish speaking congregation that became enveloped in the flames of passionate preaching. Specially invited guest speaker, Michell Dean, of Panama was the man chosen to bear this torch at the Cocoyea Church, located in South Trinidad.

The series ended with a national convention held at the Ato Boldon Stadium in Couva where each church brought along those who finally surrendered to the heat wave of conviction. At the end of the feature presentation, 'The Savior Caught in Scandal' in which Pastor Steve Riley graphically portrayed the scandalous grace of Jesus, no less than 147 persons were plunged into the cooling waters of baptism. Several others from this experience would be baptized in the days that followed making a grand total of over 400 baptisms. To God be the glory!



# GOSPELEXPLOSIONNCC

Churches in the North Caribbean Conference are celebrating with more than 220 persons who committed their lives to Jesus Christ in baptism, during the 2019 Lord Transform Me Evangelistic Explosion held from February 15 to March 2, 2019.

The effort was the first of its kind organized by the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) and served as a precursor to another evangelistic activity that will be executed by the Caribbean Union Conference in the ten-island territory of the North Caribbean Conference in 2020.

Pastor Claudius Morgan - Assistant to the President of the Caribbean Union, with responsibility for Evangelism - expressed his satisfaction with the result of the NCC evangelistic thrust, "This is excel-

lent. Congratulations to all the warlords for the Lord our Maker. Great job! God be praised!"

"It took pastors, small group leaders and lay members working together across the ten islands of the Conference to bring about evangelistic success," said Pastor Hesketh Matthew, Assistant to the NCC President for Evangelism. "Working through the Evangelism Council and the Administration, we determined that we will field 28 preachers using a combination of lay and pastoral presence to accomplish our goal. It was no easy task to coordinate such a large program. We saw miracles every step of the way from the time we began getting ready for the initiative with our leaders, pastors and lay members to coordinating every detail of the program."

"The event became the first of its kind organized by the church in the NCC, and the biggest simultaneous evangelistic impact held in the history of Adventism in the country," added Pastor Desmond James, President of the North Caribbean Conference. "It was also part of an official launch of the NCC five-year evangelism strategic initiative to motivate its 15,000 members to seek a daily transformation in Jesus, become more involved in the life of the church, and commit to sharing the love of Jesus in their communities." During the eight months preceding the evangelistic program, pastors and laity worked extensively in their communities to prepare for the massive 2-week undertaking, expecting to baptize at least 12 persons per site. On February 15th, excitement filled the air as laity and clergy gave expression to God's impression at the 28 sites across the Conference – by the end of the first week, 103 persons were baptized into the Church! While the grand total is still being tallied, reports from the field indicated 230 baptisms, Bible Worker Margaret Peters netting 38 baptisms at the end of her campaign. Several wonderful stories of how God impacted the lives of men and women during the campaign, began to emerge.

Pastor Desmond James, President of the NCC, was enthused to see leaders and members mobilized and energized to win souls for the Kingdom of Christ. He said, "It was a marvelous display of God's power and saving grace. It was very uplifting. The church is blessed and everyone is happy. Evangelism has been given new life, a new fervor and passion that I hope will never die." In his closing message to worshipers at the Shiloh SDA Church, Pastor James said, "Two hundred souls in two weeks is a phenomenal, defining, re-calibration of evangelism in the NCC which we hope to build on in the coming years. *(Continued on pg.28)* 

#### By: Pastor Royston Philbert

It's red night at the site of President of NCC, Desmond James. Some 13 persons were baptized at this site. Shiloh SDA Church STT.



# ADVENTIST EDUCATION REVIVED IN GUYANA



The unveiling of the corner stone at the new Georgetown Seventh-Day Adventist Academy on Monday. Standing from left are: President of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) Dr. Hilary Bowman; President of the Guyana Conference of SDA, Pastor Richard James; Executive Secretary of the Guyana Conference of SDA, Pastor Richard James; Executive Secretary of the Guyana Conference of SDA, Pastor Clarke and Elder Michael Kendall (Samuel Maughn photo)

The most impacting accomplishment of the Guyana Conference for this quadrennium in the sphere of education is the re-opening of the doors of our Adventist-owned and operated school. To God be the Glory!

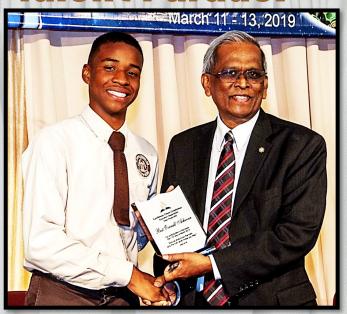
After 42 years, we made our way out of the wilderness into which we were banished when the government of 1976 wrestled from us our God-given responsibility to provide faith-based education for our children. The 2018/2019 academic year commenced on September 3, 2018 with the Georgetown Seventh-day Academy opening its doors with 19 registered students. One week later, enrolment increased by three, and at the close of the first term in December, the school population totaled 24. This is the humble, but promising start to destined great heights.

Even though the Josel Education Institute is managed by a Seventh-day Adventist, it is not the official Seventh-day Adventist Educational Institution in Guyana. The School that is officially the Adventist School in Guyana is the Georgetown Seventh-day Adventist Academy, Lot E7 Durban Backlands, Lodge, Georgetown. It is located directly in front of and opposite the Davis Memorial Hospital.

The present enrolment of pupils at the Georgetown Seventh-day Adventist Academy is 28. Three other pupils are registered to begin the new term after the Easter break. The school presently has six classrooms and has the capacity to accommodate 120 pupils. There is also provision for physical expansion. Three teachers are presently employed at the school. The school caters for children in the kindergarten and Primary levels. Presently there are two kindergartens and one primary level class. Come September 2019, we hope to have another kindergarten and two more primary levels. The target is to enroll 20 pupils in each Primary Class and 15 children in each kindergarten class. That would be the target to meet the school's financial commitments.

*By: Hugh McKenzie—Communication Director Guyana Conference* 

# 20 years of Secondary Schools Talent Parade. By: Jessica Cunningham-Asst. Education



Dr. Hilary Bowman, Education Director of CARU and President of USC, presents plaque to Andre Benjamin of the NCC

The Education Department of the Caribbean Union Conference hosted its 20th annual Talent Parade on March 11, 2019 at the University of the Southern Caribbean, in the luscious Maracas Valley, St. Joseph, Trinidad. Students from the 14 secondary schools dis-Real Information: Can the Media be Trusted? Each participant presented a prepared speech based on the topic and a two-minute impromptu speech on a surprise topic. After an interesting and informative set of both prepared and impromptu speech presentations, the afternoon's proceedings were spiced up, as each participant displayed his/her versatility through drama, spoken word and music.

March 11 - 13, 2019

By: Jessica Cunningham-Asst. Education Director CARU

All participants were duly applauded for their tremendous display of debating and public speaking skills. However, Andre Benjamin of the St. Thomas/St. John S.D.A Secondary School was a cut above the rest. He was the recipient of three awards: Best Prepared Speech, Best Talent and Best Overall Achiever. Gerron Bristol of the Grenada SDA Comprehensive School was adjudged as the Best Impromptu speaker. The Caribbean Union Conference, Department of Education must be applauded for its vision and resoluteness, in hosting this event for the past twenty years. It has given our secondary school students the opportunity to develop public speaking and debating skills along with their talents in drama, music and lately in a genre called, the spoken word. Students have also seized the opportunity to form relationships with their peers from across the Caribbean, thereby promoting both Seventh-day Adventist and Caribbean integration. In addition, participants have gone on to achieve great heights academically and professionally. A survey of the achievements of past participants would show that many have matriculated at university and played their debating skills on the topic: Fake News or begun their professional lives in careers which are fulfilling. No doubt, many continue to serve the church community through their oratory and musical abilities. Therefore, the Department is quite pleased to host this event annually in different territories of the Caribbean Union Conference. We invite you to come and experience the wonder of our students as the Talent Parade Caravan rolls into your territory in the near future.

> Pastor Bertie Henry, Treasurer and Sister Debra Henry, Women, Children & Adolescent Ministries Director, CARU present plaque to Jayanne John, participant from Harmon School of S.D.A. Jehan Carr from Bequia S.D.A Secondary, performing his talent piece at left of photo.

#### (Continued from pg. 25)

"The church in the NCC took this initiative as its own and made it work successfully," said Pastor Wilmoth James, Executive Secretary of the NCC. "We are working on re-kindling the fire of soul-winning throughout the NCC, stressing to our pastors not to stop or slow down on the mission to reach more souls for the Kingdom."

"Preachers really preached," emphasized Pastor Hesketh Matthew - Assistant to the NCC President for Evangelism. Pastor Matthew and Dr. Henry Peters, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director of the North Caribbean Conference, coordinated the program by visiting the sites to stimulate momentum for maximum results. They agreed that the program was, "... better, greater, far more inspiring and transformational. It fulfilled one of the objectives in helping to excite clergy and laity in evangelism.

Social media accounts around the NCC shared hundreds of pictures, videos and comments as members celebrated the exploits of soldiers around the NCC. "The event became one of the top trending topics on the NCC Facebook page," said Pastor Royston Philbert, NCC Ministerial Secretary and Communication

#### Director.

**GOSPELEXPLOSIONNCC** 

It is a special moment in the life of the church in the NCC because our efforts are a clear example of how effective the initiative can be in 2020 when the Union directs the event."



Gerene Joseph, Education Director of NCC and Charles Yard, Elder of the Bellevue SDA Church, Tortola, were two of the over 20 plus preacher in the NCC Gospel Explosion

#### THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY IN THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

#### (Continued from pg.21)

#### Importance of Home Visitation; Getting it Right

Through many fields in our world church, some say that there is a "dying art of home visitation." Quite frankly, is this a dying art? Dr. Kern Tobias explained that his greatest success in ministry can be attributed to home visitation. The very essence of the call to ministry is loving God's people enough to want to see them saved, which includes understanding their peculiar circumstances in the home setting in order to access an avenue through which to obtain their positive decision to accept Christ.

#### The Power of Prayer in Evangelism

A prolific Minister of God, Pastor Samuel Telemaque warmed and encouraged our hearts by reminding us that prayer is indeed the engine room for a successful campaign. Nothing can be more important or meaningful when we enter into our chamber in prayer with God. Only then will we be able to better appreciate and comprehend the nature of God and His leading. It allows us to admit that we are insufficient, that God is all-sufficient and that He would provide the harvest.

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to applaud Caribbean Union Administrators, Dr. Claudius Morgan, his dedicated Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Sheryle Liverpool, and his team of facilitators. All the Conference fields and their administrators have allowed us to experience such a life-changing weekend! To God be the glory, great things He has done!



#### By Pastor Steve Riley

American author, Harriett Jackson Brown Jr. said: "Don't work for recognition, but do work worthy of recognition." The Conference sponsored annual STAR AWARDS which took place during the afternoon of January 13, 2019 attracted hundreds of participants who converged at the USC Auditorium to recognize and celebrate inspirational achievements worthy of recognition. Celebrants, including individuals and ministries involved in various Evangelistic and Publishing campaigns and exploits during the year 2018, received tokens of appreciation and excellence during the over three hour long celebration that was hosted by the Personal Ministries' department. Ministers and members came in for special mention highlighting the importance of team effort in the

spreading of the gospel of Jesus. This initiative serves as a much needed incentive and impetus to propel the work of evangelism throughout the national constituency as many seek to establish and affirm their specialized call to ministry.

**Star Awards** 



Photos show from L to R top to bottom: Most outstanding Zonal Leader, Pastor Edwards; Joseph Charles, Lay Evangelistic Leadership; Brick Field Bhajan Group, outstanding Adventist Mission; and Delina Bowen, Dedication to Youth Ministry. President Moses, PM Director Patrick Clarke, Asst. Communicator Sheldon Moore and Lester Mitchell present plaques.



# ORDINATION SERVICE FOR 2 PASTORS In the grenada conference



Extreme left: Ministerial Secretary, Grenada Conference, Pastor Oliver Scott; Pastor Edward Guillaume and his wife Bernice Guillaume; Pastor Jamie Gordon, his wife Sheba Gordon and their daughter Sophia. Extreme right: CARU Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Ammaran Williams.

**Pastor Edward Guillaume and Pastor Jamie Gordon** were ordained to the worldwide gospel ministry on Sabbath November 3, 2018. The service took place at the SDA Church in Mt. Moritz. Pastor Guillaume presently pastors this church and Pastor Gordon preceded Pastor Guillaume as the church's pastor. It was a special occasion for the conference, and the two families. The service was well attended by members from the conference constituency. CARU president Dr. Kern Tobias gave a powerful and well received sermon on "The Good Shepherd" and also offered the prayer of ordination. The charge to the newly ordained pastors was presented by CARU Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Ammaran Williams. The service was indeed inspirational. We wish Pastor Edward Guillaume and Pastor Jamie Gordon God's continued leading in ministry. May God's leading also be upon their spouses [sister Bernice Guillaume and sister Sheba Gordon] and their entire family.

Pastor Oliver Scott Ministerial Secretary, Grenada Conference

Receiving the authority of the priesthood by the laying on of hands is an important beginning, but it is not enough. Ordination confers authority, but righteousness is required to act with power as we strive to lift souls, to teach and testify, to bless and counsel, and to advance the work of salvation. *David A. Bednar* 

# From the Cricket Field to the Pulpit: Ordination of Pastor Sylvester Williams

By Pastor Royston Philbert



CARU Shepherdess Coordinator, Linda Tobias, expounds upon the joys and sorrows of being a Pastor's wife.

Pastor Sylvester Williams, a former cricket star and currently the resident pastor on Virgin Gorda and Anegada, British Virgin Islands (BVI), was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath December 8, 2018, in an impressive and solemn ceremony at the Central SDA Church in St. Croix.

Pastor Williams is an innovative and exciting pastor who has built a strong relationship with numerous communities and groups, impacting many lives outside of the pew. He hails from the twin-island nation of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis where he attended the Irish Town Primary School. However, he spent most of his childhood days on Nevis where he attended The Prospect Primary and The Charlestown Secondary Schools, respectively.

As a young man, he had an avid love and passion for the game of cricket. He was an outstanding player and as a teenager he represented The Nevis National Cricket Team at all levels. His success also qualified him to be selected to The Leeward Islands Under-Nineteen Team, to play in the West Indies Under-Nineteen tournament in 1999. He cherished the lofty aspiration of becoming the next Derrick Parry and often dreamt of the day he would qualify to represent the West Indies Cricket Team. However, his dreams were dashed when domestic financial distress forced him to abandon his aspirations, goals, and dreams. He then had to seek stable employment.

The trajectory of his life was radically altered when he attended a crusade held by Evangelist Roosevelt Daniels, in Nevis, in 2003. He had an encounter with Jesus, was convicted and was eventually baptized on March 1, 2003. He became a member of the Browne Hill Company (now the Browne Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church) in Nevis. He soon became a Deacon in his church and, by the next January, he was elected to serve as an Elder. Sensing his call to ministry, his then Pastor (Pastor Orville Joseph) applied to the University of the Southern Caribbean (formerly known as the Caribbean Union College) on his behalf. In 2004, he was accepted as a provisional student but his status was regularized shortly thereafter. Pastor Williams was a dedicated and devoted student and after four years he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Theology in May, 2009.

In a sermon addressed directly to the ordinand --and indirectly to the entire audience--Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference, urged him to be, "Motivated by the Mystery of the Master." The President asked these piercing questions: "How sure are you that this is what you want to do for the rest of your life?" and "What evidence do you have that you were called to the gospel ministry?" Dr. Tobias emphasized Mark 3:13-16, where Jesus ordained his twelve disciples and gave them their charge - a charge that still resonates today. He closed his message with this appeal: "Look away from yourself to Jesus who is the perfect model for all pastors."

# Ordination of Pastor Sylvester Williams

*(Continued from pg. 31)* Pastor Royston Philbert, Ministerial and Communication Director of the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) presented the candidate and his wife Kay Resha to an audience of over five hundred members from the churches in St. Croix and hundreds of others following the live-stream. Pastor Ammaran Williams, Ministerial Secretary and Family Ministries Director of the Caribbean Union delivered

the ordination prayer while all ordained minordinand. Pastor Ammaran Williams James, President of the North Caribbeicate of Ordination. Mrs. Hester tor, joined Pastor James to wel-Williams into the family of orbouquets and other gifts. The Linda James, and the Pastoral ny, while Celeste David's piano audience's singing.

Pastor Williams' response was pressed gratitude to the many who journey - a journey that began in and the cricket field in Nevis. He excontinuous call to God's seeking to save to lead others to Christ, but that I too may be isters surrounded and laid hands on the also gave the charge. Pastor Desmond an Conference, presented the Certif-Philbert, Shepherdess' Coordinacome Pastor and Mrs. Sylvester dained ministerial families with music of Gillian Glasgow, Chorale enriched the ceremoaccompaniment enhanced the

dotted with humor as he exguided and assisted him on his Irish Town, Basseterre, St. Kitts, plained, "My call to ministry is a me. It's not just the burden of seeking saved in God's Kingdom. It is indeed hum-

bling to know God chose me for such a great task. I am indeed passionate in seeking to reflect the grace that He has flooded my soul with. I seek to love God supremely and love His people dearly."

Pastor Williams' pastoral sojourn began as a Ministerial Intern under the astute supervision of Pastor Earl Daniel, in Tortola, from January to November 2009. The second half of his internship was conducted under the tutelage of Pastor Wynfield Ambrose, in Tortola. He also served as an Assistant Pastor in Tortola District #2, from 2011 - 2012. In that same year, he was transferred to Anguilla and served as an Associate Pastor for a year and three months with Pastor Virgil Sams. On October 22, 2013, he was appointed his first pastoral district (the Virgin Gorda/Anegada district in the BVI) where he has faithfully served for the past five years. Pastor Sylvester Williams is a hardworking, devoted and dedicated pastor with a passion and desire for evangelism. Over 100 souls have been added to the Kingdom as a result of his ministry. We wish them continued success in their marriage and ministry as the transforming grace of God empowers them for greater service.



Photos show—Sister Kay Resha Sylvester escorted by Sister Hester Philbert, Shepherdess Coordinator NCC. Pastor Sylvester congratulated by immediate past president of NCC, Silton Browne and Pastor Sylvester with his escort, Pastor Winfield Ambrose, district pastor on the Island of St Croix.

## The Commissioning Service of PASTOR MELANIE RODGERS



A delighted president, Dr. Greene, congratulates Pastor Rodgers while her husband and Pastors Williams , Knowles and Doyle look on.

It was the

moment that we all anticipated and welcomed. The moment when the church witnessed the Commissioning Service of Pastor Melanie Rodgers. Commissioning is an acknowledgment by the church that we celebrate and endorse the calling of God in the life of

Pastor Rodgers and signifies that we are approving her representation in a significant and solemn service.

Pastor Melanie Rodgers has given approximately 13 years of service to the church and during these years she has excelled in areas of pastoral ministry and pastoral care serving in the congregations of Barbuda, New Bethel, Joyful Way, Buckleys and John Hughes. Her consistent improvement in key growth areas could not go unnoticed. Therefore, it was with tremendous joy and excitement that she received the news that the Car-ibbean Union Conference voted to have her commissioned.

On the 15th day of June in 1954, Melanie Charles was born on the beautiful island of St. Lucia to Augustine and Muriel Charles. Later, Melanie migrated to Guyana where she met and married Vincentian born, Jona-than Reuben Rodgers in 1972. In 1981 the young couple migrated to St. Vincent and then Antigua in 1993

where they presently reside. The union produced eight children, four sons and four daughters with one daughter deceased. After 46 years of marriage Pastor and Bro Rodgers have been blessed with nine wonderful and lovely grandchildren, three sons-in-law and four daughters-in-law.

Pastor Rodgers grew up as a Catholic and served the church from her childhood. She loves reading and this led her to leave the Catholic Church. Pastor Rodgers became a member of the New Testament Church of God. While there, she was encouraged by the leadership and members of the New Testament Church to go into ministry. During her third year while she studied church history, her teacher spoke about Constantine and mentioned the Sabbath and how it was changed. Reading further led Pastor Rodgers to the book



that really changed everything for her. That book was "The National Sunday Law". She knew that what was in the book was truth, and the truth spurred her to walk into the Seventh-day Adventist Church with her children and she was baptized. Later, Bro Rodgers also followed his wife and was baptized.

# The Commissioning Service of PASTOR MELANIE RODG-



Pastor Rodgers is flanked by (from l to r) by Pastors Williams, Benjamin, Josiah and Brathwaite

In 1994, Pastor Rodgers joined the GED class at the Adventist School in Antigua, and was successful in the exam in 1995. She then registered as a student at Caribbean Union College in Trinidad in 1998. In 2003, she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Theology with an emphasis in Pastoral Ministry. In 2011, Pastor Rodgers obtained a Master's degree from the Inter-American Theological Seminary at the University of the Southern Caribbean. She is presently pursuing a doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership with Andrews University in the USA.

Pastor Rodgers has worked in many islands as Bible worker, Associate Pastor and District Pastor. Today, she is pastoring District #11 in Antigua, her first pastoral district, which comprises the churches of Buckleys and John Hughes.

She gives all thanks to God for her husband. Bro Rodgers worked very hard as a builder to provide for his family and has been a very supportive partner in ministry. Pastor Rodgers declares, "Wherever I am, there he is also; whether night or day, he never complains."

Pastor Rodgers loves the Lord and her desire is to serve Him and lead others to have a closer walk with God. Throughout her pilgrim journey she has learnt to trust in God and to depend on Him. She looks forward to that great day when the Lord returns, and her prayer is that she will remain faithful to Him so that she can join in singing that heavenly music.

Church members and family members gathered in silence with unguarded expressions of unspeakable joy that defined the progress of ministry that aligns with the long term vision of the South Leeward Mission with its emphases on leadership development and excellence in ministry.

The beautiful processional of the leadership of the mission and their spouses reminded us of the passage in Psalm 68 that describes a beautiful processional going into the sanctuary to meet with God. Indeed, the presence of God was felt for this set the tone of the commissioning service that allowed for both celebration, inspection and reflection, through meditative songs, heartfelt testimonies and sincere prayers.

The perfect beginning to an inspirational service was the musical rendition by the daughter-in-law of Pastor Rodgers, who in a lovely duet combination with Darren Henry rendered the specially requested song, "Beauty for Ashes". One could sense that indeed the church is a beautiful place to connect with the love of God and the love of people. (Continued on pg. 35)



Ordinands and their spouses surrounded by leaders from CARU-SLC Administrators, Directors, Pastors and Spouses.

(Continued from pg. 34)

The President of the Caribbean Union, Dr. Kern Tobias challenged the congregants to live in the presence of God and to always keep the mission of the church in the forefront. Through shared stories and examples, he connected with Pastor Rodgers in shared understandings that clearly communicated that both men and women are significant parts of the world church and we should not allow controversial discussions to cause divisions but, to keep pressing forward.

By participating in worship, we help to create a corporate environment of God's presence that will accommodate faith and the richness of the Holy Spirit. As the ordained and commissioned pastors knelt in the presence of God and surrounded Pastor Rodgers; it seemed as if they were guided by the unseen hand to create a circle of protection, a ministerial community of support and spiritual friendships that will keep God's chosen people faithful.

As loved ones shared their commendations and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the service and the dedicated ministry of Pastor Rogers, tears mingled with joy and sentiments of, "finally", "beautiful service", "happy moment', "inspiring occasion" all captured the solemnity and significance of the moment.

The warm words of welcome to the ministerial fraternity from the associate ministerial secretary of the Caribbean Union Mrs. Linda Tobias and the shepherdess coordinator of the South Leeward Mission Mrs. Michelle Greene, caused both Pastor Rogers and her husband Jonathan Rogers to beam with a sense of pride that the long awaited moment was finally made a reality. May God bless them both as they continue to faithfully serve and impact lives across the South Leeward Mission and beyond.



## Pastors Benjamin and Josiah Ordained to the Gospel Ministry



By: Dr. Mark Brathwaite

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The call to the gospel ministry is considered a major event in the life of any pastor. Often times pastors recount their call. Some speak of dreams while others share the deep impression placed upon them by the Holy Spirit as their call to service for Him. Yet others outline a string of life events that may have led to their decision to follow God's calling on their lives.

Along with the call, another significant moment in the life of a pasgenerally understood as the setting aside of a pastor for try. It means that the pastor has demonstrated a his life to full-time ministry and it is also a confirmation, by the organization, that the has a measure of giftedness for this ministry.

On Sabbath, December 15th, 2018 two pastors in the South Leeward Mission (SLM) of Seventh-day Adventists were Ordained to the gospel ministry. Pastor's Shelton Benjamin and Delroy Josiah.

#### **Pastor Shelton Benjamin**

Pastor Shelton Benjamin, who is origifrom Nevis, now serves in Antigua and in District #6 which comprises the churches of Clare Hall, More Sure Word and Pigotts. Pastor married to Sharika and together they share two beautiful

dren; their daughter, Sheliqua who is 8 and their son, Shelvorn

min's story moves him from the police station to the pulpit. Benjamin was a police officer who was awarded for expert marksmanship. Today, his marksmanship aims at seeing people saved in the kingdom of God.

Pastors Josiah and Benjamin receive Certificates

Pastor Shelton Benjamin was born on the island of St. Kitts. He attended the St. Paul's Primary School and graduated in 1993. He then transitioned to the illustrious Sandy Point Secondary School where he graduated with a diploma in 1999.

In 2000, Pastor Benjamin joined the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force. The following year, 2001, he received the sad news of his mom's sudden death.

Pastor Benjamin started asking questions concerning the death of his mom and a chain of events would change his life. Ultimately, Pastor Benjamin received the call to the Gospel ministry in February of 2002.

He has served his local congregation, Mount Moriah-District 2, St. Kitts in various departments as Sabbath School superintendent, Sabbath School teacher, Adventurer leader, deacon and elder.

In January 2006, Pastor Benjamin pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad and graduated in May of 2009. On his return to St. Kitts, he was employed by the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and served for six months in District #2, St. Kitts as an intern pastor under the supervision of Pastor Virgil Sams and Pastor Kendol Doyle, respectively.

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Benjamin is and energetic chilwho is 3. Pastor Benja-

Pastors Benjamin and Josiah Ordained to the Gospel Ministry



Pastor Delroy and Shaniek Josiah and Pastor Shelton and Sharika Benjamin stand in reverent anticipation.

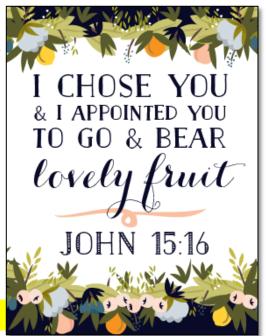
(Continued from Page 36)

In December of 2009, Pastor Benjamin was transferred to Nevis to serve as an intern pastor under the supervision of Pastor Jerry Languedoc. He completed his internship successfully in May 2012, and was immediately appointed by the South Leeward Mission as district pastor of District #2, Nevis which includes the Beulah and Mannings congregations.

Pastor Benjamin was transferred in July of 2015 to District 6, Antigua which includes the Pigotts, Potters, The More Sure Word of Prophecy and Clare Hall congregations where he presently serves.

Pastor Benjamin has recently completed a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology (Mission Emphasis) with Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary. The love of his life, the beautiful Sharika Benjamin of St. Kitts, is a certified early childhood development educator.

His philosophy in life and passion for souls are generated by the fact that there are many degrees of light and darkness, brighter light and deeper darkness. But from God's point of view, people are still either in the dark or in the light. Light and darkness won't mix. "Almost saved" means totally lost. Lukewarm is not acceptable to the God of the Bible, and so too none of God's faithful children should perish.



#### Pastors Benjamin and Josiah Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

#### **Pastor Delroy Josiah**

(Continued from pg. 37)

Pastor Delroy Josiah is originally from Antigua; however, he

now serves District #2 in Nevis, which comprises the two congregations of Mannings and Beulah. Pastor Josiah is married to Shaniek and the two have recently been blessed with a bouncing baby boy, Sakeri. Pastor Josiah's story takes him from the field of construction to the field of reaping souls for the Lord Jesus Christ as a minister of the gospel.

Born on 10th December 1985 to Calvin and Delrio Josiah, Delroy Josiah is a product of Christian Education only. At the age of 12, he gave his heart to the Lord at a Youth Week of Prayer where Pastor Steve Riley expounded the truths from the Holy Writ. Convinced this was his time, he was baptized by Pastor Royston Philbert and has not looked back since.

As he grew from that experience, he worked his way through the Pathfinder's Club where he developed a liking for youth ministry and later served in his home church, Tindall Adventist Church in Antigua, as junior

counselor, drill instructor and assisted where ever he could. He also held the office of Sabbath School secretary, which he executed with excellence and a sense of devotion.

Feeling a need to impact the youth in his church and community he decided to join the Gospel ministry with the intent of returning home to take up youth ministry in his local church. Need-less-to-say, God had bigger plans. He graduated with honors from the University of the Southern Caribbean in 2009 with a B.A. in Theology - Youth Ministries Emphasis.

In October 2009, he was hired promptly by the North

Caribbean Conference and was assigned to serve in the Antigua District # 2, New Bethel and Joyful Way Churches, under the astute leadership of Pastor Mark Braithwaite. Pastor Josiah would also spend one year under the supervision of the dynamic Pastor Kendol Doyle. His first pastoral district was district #5 in Antigua which consisted of the churches of Villa, New Winthorpes and Cedar Grove. Pastor Josiah is currently serving in Nevis, District # 2 where he has pastored for the past three years.

In 2012, Pastor Josiah married his sweetheart, Sis Shaniek Josiah (nee Sinclair). He and his darling wife have recently added to their family a son, Sakeri Josiah.

Pastor Josiah loves the Lord, has a genuine love for people, and his desire is always to see people experience joy and real happiness. In his estimation, this can only happen when someone knows and loves Christ. For him, ministry is a specialized mission, a calling for life, a duty with no higher honor.

The ordination service was a beautifully coordinated service, which began with the processional of platform personnel, SLM directors, ordained pastors and other pastors along with institutional workers from across the South Leeward Mission. They all entered the St. Johns Seventh-day Adventist Church to the organ music of Onward Christian Soldiers. After preliminaries, the President of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventhday Adventists, Dr. Kern Tobias, presented a stirring sermon based on 1 Timothy 3:1-7 where he highlighted 5P's in a successful pastors life which include the pastor's prayer life, private live, personal life, professional life, and public life.



Happy faces of the Shepherdesses.

### ESTABLISHING THE ROADMAP FOR HOLISTIC MINISTRY DELIVERY



By: Dr. Mark Brathwaite

All the fields of the Caribbean Union Conference were represented at the recently concluded ministerial, family life and men's ministries advisory, which was conducted by the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Conducted under the theme, "Establishing the Roadmap for Holistic Ministry Delivery", the advisory was held on the beautiful island of Antigua at the Starfish Jolly Beach Hotel from January 22 - 24, 2019.

Ministerial secretary and family ministries director of the Caribbean Union, Pastor Ammaran Williams has a passion for developing evidence-based ministry which places focus on gathering relevant statistical data in an effort to provide more focused ministry that has the potential to be of greater impact to those ministered to.

With this in mind, a team of competent professionals was selected which included Dr. Colwick Wilson, Provost at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama; Dr. Leon Wilson, Provost at University of the Southern Caribbean in Maracas Valley, Trinidad and Dr. Zephon Lister, Director - systems, families and couples PhD Program at Loma Linda University.

The team focused on highlighting the value of gathering data. Data can then be analyzed and become a source of information for church leaders who are responsible for providing ministry to meet the needs of their membership. Dr. Colwick Wilson drew illustrations from the health care industry to highlight the value of data collection and analysis. It became extremely clear throughout the sessions that developing a culture of data collection and analysis has its challenges. Dr. Zephon Lister addressed some of the challenges of data collection and also shared how several ministry issues have been addressed through specific analysis of data.

From the higher organization, Dr. Josney Rodriguez, Ministerial Secretary of the Inter-American Division, took the opportunity to meet with the Ministerial Secretaries of the Caribbean Union. Dr. Rodriguez has embarked on a significant program of training and continuing education for all pastors and elders of the Inter-American Division. Dr. Rodriguez focused on the Every Elder Involved (EEI) program and highlighted the critical nature of training, as a means to providing meaningful ministry.

Along with the very capable team of researchers, other leaders of the Caribbean also made significant contributions to the sessions. Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union of Seventh-day Day Adventists made several sterling contributions to the sessions. Significantly, Dr. Tobias highlighted that leaders must be empathetic when addressing the needs of those who may feel down trodden and broken. Dr. Tobias also indicated that we must, "lift the bar" as we provide ministry to the various congregations. He also clearly indicated that the evidenced based approach to ministry is a significant step in the right direction.



Dr. Kern Tobias, President of CARU, making his contribution for holistic ministry in the Caribbean Union.

### ESTABLISHING THE ROADMAP FOR HOLISTIC MINISTRY DELIVERY (Contri

(Continued from pg. 39)



From l to r at front — Dr. Greene and his wife, Pastor Williams, Dr. Tobias and his wife and Dr. Lewis. Behind stand representatives from each field within the Caribbean Union.

The Advisory also focused on several other areas of ministry and attracted presenters including Sis Linda Tobias - Associate Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union; Pastor Anthony Hall - Youth Director of the Caribbean Union and also a trained lawyer; Mrs. Debra Henry - Women's and Children's Ministries Director of the Caribbean Union; Dr. Clinton Lewis, President of the Grenada Conference; Dr. Carson Greene, President of the South Leeward Mission; Dr. Mark L. Braithwaite, Ministerial Secretary and Family Ministries Director of the South Leeward Mission; Pastor Royston Philbert - Ministerial Secretary of the North Caribbean Conference; Pastor Wayne Sampson - Men's Ministries Leader of the South Caribbean Conference and Sis Sheryl Liverpool - Secretary to the Ministerial Department of the Caribbean Union.

Over 30 leaders from around the Caribbean Union were present at the sessions along with invited pastors who reside on Antigua. With an almost unanimous voice, all indicated that the sessions were extremely valuable. Evidence based ministry has significant potential for the region of the Caribbean Union. In the coming months and years, as efforts are made to gather data in the region, the result could mean more focused ministry which meets the needs of the membership with greater accuracy.





Many Elders from SCC attended the Elders Empowerment Summit at the University of the Southern Caribbean Pastor Jack, organizer of the event, and his wife are seated third from left at the front.

The annual Elders' Empowerment Convention was held on January 19, 2019 at the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) to retool and refuel elders actively engaged in the service of God and men. The convention created an environment to foster and promote fellowship among the fraternity while providing an opportunity for spiritual renewal. Inspired by the theme, "Be an Example to the Believers," the over 420 elders in attendance, sat at the feet of the Personal Ministries Director, Pastor Ashton O'Neil (An Example in Soul Winning); Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Owen Jack, (An Example to the Believers); Pastor Andy Manzano, (An Example as Spouse and Parent); and Pastor Joseph Mahadeo (An Example in Healthful Living); during this one day engagement.

#### Pastors Benjamin and Josiah Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

#### (Continued from pg. 25)

At the completion of the sermon, Ministerial Secretary of the South Leeward Mission, Dr. Mark L. Braithwaite, presented the candidates to the President of the Union. The President then proceeded to offer the Ordination prayer during which hands were laid on each candidate. Pastor Benjamin and Pastor Josiah were then charged by the Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union, Pastor Ammaran Williams, who encouraged them be true to their calling and to be faithful representatives of God and the church. Both Candidates then responded to the charge and also thanked those who supported and prayed for them as they ministered over the years.

Next, they were welcomed to the ranks of ordained pastors by the President of the South Leeward Mission, while their wives were welcomed to the sisterhood of ordained pastors wives by Sis Michelle Greene, who is the Ministerial Spouses Coordinator of the South Leeward Mission. The Assistant Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union, Sis Linda Tobias also welcomed the spouses and shared remarks.

Next, came congratulations, gifts and greetings from various churches, colleagues and well wishers. The service was a beautiful one, which was dotted with beautiful items of special music.

The service came to an end as the pastoral chorale sang and Pastor Charles Heskey, Retired Ministerial Secretary of the South Leeward Mission, offered the benediction.

We say congratulations to Pastor Shelton Benjamin and his family and Pastor Delroy Josiah and his family. Their journeys have caused them to become clay in the hands of the Master Potter.

### Large Participation in Elders Leadership Certification Programs in Grenada Conference



Once again over one hundred elders have received certificates in the Elders Leadership Certification Program. We were graced with the presence of the Union's Ministerial Secretary at our graduation ceremony. He did the feature address for the occasion. The charge to the elders was delivered by the Conference President, Dr. Clinton Lewis. The graduation ceremony took place at the SDA Church in Mt. Rose on Sunday, 4th November, 2018. During this ceremony the elders were invited to participate in a re-consecration prayer. While each participant did not receive a certificate, approximately 200 elders participated in at least one phase of this particular level, with 128 receiving certificates.

We intend to continue equipping our elders for effective and efficient service and leadership in God's cause.

Some of the elders for a group photo after the graduation ceremony of the Elders Leadership Certification Program, level 2. In front from left to right: Union Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Ammaran Williams; Conference President, Dr. Clinton Lewis; Executive Secretary, Pastor Charles Gittens; and Conference Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Oliver Scott.



# **LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN SVG MISSION**



Elders stand to sing praises to God during the worship session of the Summit. Pastor Baptiste presented the message.

On the 12th of January over two hundred Elders gathered from throughout SVG mission for our first leadership summit. The main objective of this summit was to prepare the way for the calendar year through training and preparing leaders to function effectively in their local congregation. Presentations were held on visitation, evan-gelism, conservation and leadership. The day's program ended with a prayer of consecration and a charge to the elders to continue to be faithful. Presenters at the summit were Pastor Andrew Farrel, Former Ministerial secretary CARU; Ps Dermoth Baptiste, President SVG Mission of SDA; Ps Ian Williams, Personal Ministry and Sabbath School Director, SVG Mission; and Ps Brent St Jean, Assistant to the President for Evangelism, Training and Development. Also in attendance was the Assistant to the president of CARU for Evangelism and Communication, Director Dr. Claudius Morgan. The day's program was coordinated by the Ministerial Director of SVG Mission, Pastor Shane Franklyn.



It is celebration time at the Summit of Emerging Evangelists. Pastor Bloomhof of the Suriname Mission embraces his Public Evangelism lecturer, Pastor Rodwell Anderson receives certificate from Dr. Kern Tobias and Pastor Kurt Thomas, president of the newly formed ACE, (Association of Caribbean Evangelists) is being pinned by Dr. Claudius Morgan.

### Large Participation in Elders Leadership Certification Program in Grenada Conference



Over 100 Elders in attendance at this Leadership Certification Program in Grenada

The Ministerial Department of Grenada Conference has been engaged in a significant series of training and empowerment of church elders throughout the conference during the course of its present quadrennium. This includes the General Conference Elders Leadership Certification Program, level 1. We saw a great and encouraging attendance of our church elders. The feedback from the elders was positive and heartening. 173 persons received the G.C. certificates.

The level 1 and level 2 programs were bridged by local training in which approximately 150 elders were equipped for greater service to the Master. Also forming that bridge between the two levels was a grand weekend theological treat. We invited the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference to facilitate this Bible Conference. The elders were pleased with the edification they received over that weekend [Friday evening, Sabbath and Sunday].

We then moved to another General Conference curriculum and content which on communication with the G.C., we did as Elders Leadership Certification Program, level 2. The first phase of this program which took place on 3rd February 2018 saw approximately 175 elders in attendance. The other phases during the year each recorded attendance of over one hundred persons. Presentations were done by Local Conference Administrators, Directors, Pastors, and by both the Conference and Union Ministerial Secretaries. Some of the areas covered included: *The Elders and Their Relationship With God*, *The Elders and The Church Manual*, *The Work of the Elders and the Care of the New Converts*, *The Elders Working Together As A United Team*, *The Leadership of The Elder*, *The Dangers That Threaten The Leadership of Elders*, *Public Speaking In The Church*, *Spiritual Gifts*, *The Purpose For The Calling*, *The Leadership and Responsibilities of the Elders*, and *The Elder As A Promotor of Tithes and Offerings*.

The treasurer of Suriname - an accomplished musician and singer -performing at Dr. Greene's site for Impact Suriname.

Congrats Mr. President from IAD Al Powell



## Launching of the Ushering Ministry in Suriname



On the heels of Impact Suriname, history was made as the Suriname Mission hosted its first ever launching of the Usher Ministry. Union and Mission officials were present on Wednesday 27th March as 23 ushers were consecrated to the Usher Ministry. The Administrative Arm of the Union was represented by Pastor Bertie Henry who did the Consecration prayer. The Personal Ministries Director of the Union, Pastor Ashton O'Neil was the Keynote speaker for the evening. The ushers were truly inspired as he exhorted them to emulate the godly traits of Abigail. Sister Debra Henry, a powerful evangelist was also present and extended congratulatory remarks to the ushers and reminded them that it is a high and noble work and should be treated as such. The President of the Mission, Pastor Edward Blackman, expressed words of gratitude to Sister Gilma Emile-Daniel for taking the initiative to the Suriname Mission. He also encouraged the ushers to remain committed to the ministry and thanked them for their desire to be a part of the great work. The local Personal Ministries director Pastor Felix Boyce was proud to receive the ushers and present them their certificate of recognition.

(Continues on pg. 45)



Ushers of the Suriname Mission pose with their certificates in the presence of Mission leaders, Edward Blackman and Felix Boyce and CARU leaders, Bertie Henry and Ashton Oneil.. In a happy mood at the far right is, Emile Daniel, wife of Pastor David Daniel, coordinator of the ushering ministry.

#### POLICE AND ARMED FORCES HONORED IN GRENADA





By: Dr. Clinton Lewis Communication Director GC

On June 9, 2018, the Grenada Conference of Seventhday Adventists Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department held an appreciation service at the Seventh-day Adventist Church at La Poterie, St. Andrew for every department of the Police and Armed Forces and Her Majesty's Prison. Plaques for recognition of service to the Nation were given to every department. Dr. Clinton Lewis, President of the Conference, presented the sermon entitled, "From Perfection to Perfection". This was followed by a fellowship lunch for the officials of the various departments at the River Antoine Estate facility. We express our gratitude to the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director of the Grenada Conference, Pastor Jerome Gordon, for planning the event.

President Clinton receives Magazine from Winston James AG Commissioner of Police at the appreciation service.

#### HISTORY OF SAVED TO SERVE USHER MINISTRY

Well ahead of the Impact Suriname Campaigns, plans unfolded for the Saved to Serve Usher Ministry. Despite several limitations the initiative was bathed with prayer, promoted in the churches, the vision was shared, training sessions were held, ushers were motivated, uniforms were organized and before we knew it, Saved to Serve Usher Ministry became a reality. The Ministry is coordinated by Sister Gilma Emile-Daniel. She is passionate about the ministry and has great plans for the progress of evangelism in Suriname through the Usher Ministry. Sister Daniel is a native of Saint Lucia and is married to Pastor David Daniel, who serves as the Stewardship and Family Life Director of the Suriname Mission. She has strong family values and is passionate about the work of soul winning.

I thank God for helping me to accept the challenge of spearheading the Usher Ministry which he laid on my heart about a year ago. I did not know how the initiative would be received, so I prayed to the Lord for wisdom and evidence of his presence with me. I claimed 30 ushers for the ministry and the deal with the Lord was sealed. To date, 43 members have completed the introductory course to the Usher Ministry and others have already enrolled for the next round of introductory training. On Sabbath 27th April, 20 more ushers will be consecrated to the Usher Ministry at the Carmel SDA Church. I am thankful for the support received from both Union and Mission officials to make this ministry a reality in this mission field. A special thank you is also extended to the ushers for their commitment to the ministry.

The goal is to have a cadre of trained ushers visibly functioning in all local churches to provide professional hospitality services in an effort to enhance the worship experience, through their warmth and friendliness which will contribute to the evangelistic thrust of the personal ministries department. "Saved to Serve" Usher Ministry functions under the auspices of the Suriname Mission. It is hoped that by the start of the year 2021 at least 60 ushers would have completed the entire training program and would be ready for investiture.

## ASI Tobago Opens Media Center



The Tobago Chapter of ASI continues to make practical ministry possible. Their annual One Week Crusade and Revival was a bumper success again, between January 19th and 26th, with Brother Mario Alden Brussard of Hope Channel (Speaker of the "Let's Pray" Program). The simplicity and depth of the messages was the perfect blend to challenge all those in attendance to be better suited for a surrendered life of service. Questions were answered, special prayer sessions were included, the word was proclaimed with power, and 11 persons gave their lives to Jesus. In attendance were individuals from the Bahamas Union. and Dr James Daniel (Vice-President, Director of the department of Planned Giving and Trust Services; Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty; Associate Director of Stewardship Ministries; Coordinator of Spirit of Prophecy Ministries; and Secretary of ASI Inter-American Division.).

An outstanding attraction was the dedication of the First Adventist Media Centre on the Island of Tobago. On the afternoon of Sunday 27th January, the ASI team, the Administration of the Tobago Mission of SDA, representatives from the various Churches, and a host of well wishers and friends, assembled at Guy Street Extension,, Canaan, Tobago, to celebrate the blessings of the Lord. The entire process of the construction was declared an answer to prayer, with committed ASI members, and their friends making significant contributions.

The Media Ministry of the Island would now have a permanent place to call home, where ASI would be able to continue the production of their weekly lesson study program, sermons and nuggets, and the editing of recorded events for airing on local channels and online. To God be the glory!!!



Evangelist Damien Edwards, PRO and one of the contributors to the ASI project promotes the sale of tomatoes on the day of the dedication of the building. All were sold and the monies made were given for the upkeep of the Media Center.



From Left to Right - Elder Diamond Andrews, Br Mario Brussard, Dr. James Daniel, Pastor Toney Mapp, Kerene Horsford-Nero, Pastor Martin Cunningham

# The Ministry of Prayz FM Radio

*By: Wendy Frederick & Daryl St Clair* 

Over the past fifteen years the airwaves of Saint Lucia, the Helen of the West, has been infused with the sweet -sounding gospel message through the ministry of Prayz FM Radio. Prayz FM opened her doors in 2004 with the hope of contributing to the cause by spreading the everlasting gospel through the radio airwaves. July 4th will mark fifteen years since this institution has been in existence. This small endeavour, the brainchild of Pastor Livingstone Aaron and Pastor Johnson Frederick, then co-administrators of this constituency, has grown into a thriving ministry, poised to make an indelible impact on the landscape of Saint Lucia.

Feature

Though the main purpose for Prayz FM Radio is to compliment the evangelistic thrust in Saint Lucia, the ripples of her influence have gone beyond the shores of Saint Lucia. These ripples have been felt in places as far as Africa, Holland, Russia, USA, UK and many other countries.

Currently, Prayz FM Radio's staff consist of a vibrant team of five individuals. They are led by Sister Wendy Frederick, who serves as the Manager (Ag.). In addition to her duties as manager, she is the senior announcer at the station. Joining her on the airwaves are brothers Trevon Pierre and Nathaniel Emilien, two young and dynamic Christian soldiers. Brother Kendy Williams serves as the production manager, the technical brains of the operation. Last, but certainly not least, the smile which greets you whenever you visit, Sister Sherina Leon, is the Administrative Assistant. The size of the staff often necessitates the need for flexibility and pliability of function, and as such, the staff have developed a very good working relationship. It is evident whenever you enter their walls and observe them interact with one another.

In addition to the five staff members, many individuals volunteer their time and expertise to contribute to the myriad of programmes aired daily. This ministry would be impossible without their sacrificial contribution. Together with the staff, an ever-evolving cadre of programming is developed with the hope of meeting the needs of a wide cross-section of the community. These programmes are based on a variety of themes which impact life such as health (spiritual, social and physical), family life, finances, current events, and the environment, just to name a few. The quality of programming is evident in the public response to Prayz FM Radio. Out of more than 22 radio stations on the quaint island of Saint Lucia, Prayz FM has been able to maintain a position within the top five each year. In 2014 the station graciously accepted the #2 position on the island.

This national impact as indicated earlier, is felt beyond the shores of Fair Helen. Many have reported that they have come to know Christ though the ministry of this station. Some have even surrendered to Christ in baptism. One instance that stands out is a Canadian lawyer who left the shores of Canada to visit Saint Lucia and was baptized here because of the impact of Prayz FM.



Manager Wendy Frederick at the Controls.

# The Ministry of **Prayz FM Radio**



Prayz FM Staff-L to R: Trevon Pierre, Kendy Williams, Sherina Leon, Nathaniel Emilien and Wendy Frederick

With success, comes challenges. Prayz FM has weath- demographics. The Bible says in Matthew 24:14: "And ered many a storm, especially in the area of finances. this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the However, in spite of these challenges, they have pressed world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the on through the power and providence of God. During end come." Prayz FM is totally committed to exploring the early stages of the station, Prayz FM had minimal all media options available to promulgate the undiluted staff and depended heavily on commercials. It was then gospel message, bringing us one step closer to the end. decided by the board of directors that more focus should Even so, come Lord Jesus! be given to the gospel and as a result, commercials were discontinued. It was after that decision that the annual fundraising event called "Prayzathon" was birthed. Prayzathon is an opportunity for listeners to pledge financial support to the station. Again, the listenership has been very faithful in this regard, consistently pledging at or beyond the goals set for the respective years. In one given year, a gentleman gave \$50,000 to the ministry during the prayzathon campaign. We are very grateful for the selfless sacrifice of this individual and all other donors who give sacrificially to impact the work here at Prayz FM. To date, Prayz FM has been keeping its mandate in bringing the good news to all the world.

With the passing of time comes change and innovation. In addition to improving the already vibrant radio ministry, your prayers and support are encouraged as other media platforms such as television are explored to enhance the reach of this ministry into other untouched



Production Manager, Kendy Williams, in the production room at Prayz FM

#### SDA Churches Bring Relief to Flood Victims

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Trinidad and Tobago stands in solidarity with, and extends full support to the people of our great nation, Trinidad and Tobago, in the aftermath of the flood of October 19-25, 2018.

For many of us this was unprecedented as communities in Greenvale, La Horquetta, Sangre Grande, Mafekin, El Socorro, Bamboo #1, 2, 3, Manuel Congo, Vega de Oropouche, Manzanilla, Kelly Village, Penal, Las Lomas and St Helena to name a few, were inundated with flood waters.

The indomitable spirit of our people who were the most affected and the affable response of the thousands of volunteers speak volumes about the resilience, love and care we still have as a people. While criminality stole our headlines in the recent past, we have a new headline, and it is the strength we have in ourselves and the compassion we have for each other.

On behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist community, I congratulate the people of our Nation - Trinidad and Tobago on the response to this deluge. I pray God this spirit of being "my brother's keeper" that unified us as a people will be our new normal.

I am delighted to report that hundreds of our indefatigable members along with the staff of the South Caribbean Conference and Caribbean Union Conference of SDA left home and office and worked in the aforementioned communities in true 'Jesus style' during the last week. Homes of citizens were cleaned, power washed, sanitized, and repaired; many servings of hot meals were delivered to victims and volunteers alike.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Trinidad and Tobago and the Community Services volunteers of the Seventh-day Adventists will continue the work started on Saturday 20th October.

Our Head Office at the Corner of Deane Street and Eastern Main Road, St Augustine is still receiving food items, clothing, personal items, cleaning items and cash donations for the victims of this vicious flood.

Again, congratulations to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

As we continue with mopping-up operations, let us remember that:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. The Lord of Hosts is with us the God of Jacob is our refuge." Psalm 46:1, 2, 3, 11.

May we keep trusting God in every situation.

PASTOR LESLIE MOSES President, South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Pastor Moses, President of SCC collects contribution from the Portsmouth SDA Church in Portsmouth England. Presentation was made by Dr. Morgan while CARU Treasurer Bertie Henry Looks on.



Dr. Elie Henry and Dr. Kern Tobias cutting the ribbon for the opening of the new book center. President Clinton Lewis looks on.

## Dr. Elie Henry attends IADPA Bookstore Opening

The IADPA Bookstore in St. George's, Grenada was officially opened on September 27, 2018. The new store has much more space, an attractive look and layout. There were representatives from the Inter - American Division and the Caribbean Union Conference present. The entire office staff of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was in attendance, along with pastors and members. After the crowd shouted, " It's time to read!" the ribbon at the entrance of the bookstore was cut by four presidents namely President of the Inter-American Division. Dr. Elie Henry: President of the Inter-American Division Publishing Association, Saúl Andrés Ortiz; President of the Caribbean Union Conference, Dr. Kern Tobias: and President of the Grenada Conference, Dr. Clinton Lewis. This was the first visit of the newly elected president of the Inter - American Division to Grenada.







# Motivate, Engage, Empower

This was the theme of the annual Directors and Principals Workshop which was hosted on March 12-13, 2019 at the University of the Southern Caribbean. Education Directors and Principals of all ten Fields converged to be exposed to new insights in the areas of secondary student transition into university life, leadership, educational psychology, quality assurance, language development, assessment, inclusive education and the use of ICT technology.

Participants were reminded of their responsibility as 21st Century educators by Dr. Fazadudin Hosein and Pastor Kezlyn Daisley-Harrow as feature and devotional speakers, respectively, over the two days. Participants were then exposed to a battery of qualified and gifted presenters from the University of the Southern Caribbean, the University of Trinidad & Tobago and the Caribbean Union Conference.

Some of the professional presentations were:

- 1. Understanding and Developing Self Esteem Dr. Kern Tobias.
- 2. USC and the High School Student Dr. Leon Wilson.
- 3. Special Education & Inclusion Ms. Lee Anna Alexander.
- 4. Understanding the Social & Emotional Needs of the High School Student Dr. Edward Clarke.
- 5. Hassle-Free Accreditation Dr. Hilary Bowman.
- 6. Assessment & Evaluation Mrs. Gersha Pierre.
- From the Sacred to the Profane: An Examination of Language and Literacy at the School Level – Ms. Nichole Fraser & Mrs. Soushira Liverpool-Morris.
- 8. Protecting our Children against Sexual Predators in the School Environment Mrs. Debra Henry.

Dr. Hilary Bowman was one of the presenters at the workshop