

TRANSFORMED IN THE CRISIS

Gleanings®

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

COVERED





IMPACT PREACHERS ON THE ISLAND OF ST THOMAS



From Left to Right - Pastors Stephen, Dottin, John, Hall, Vanderhorst and Daniel - Impact Preachers St Thomas

Contents

Volume 6 May 2020

When Covid turns 20	Page 3	Covid Response SLC	Page 35
President Writes	Page 5	40+ years of service	Page 38
Communication Director Writes	Page 6	Publishing Safari	Page 40
Covid Response Grenada	Page 7,	Support for Children	Page 44
NCC Impact	Page 8,	Investiture Grenada	Page 45
Covid Response SCC	Page 11	Intern/Supervisor Training	Page 49
From the Secretariat	Page 12	Mt St George SDA Church	Page 50
Covid Response Suriname	Page 19	SDA Church to be Rebuilt	Page 54
SDA Church consumed by Fire	Page 20	Covid Response NCC	Page 57
President visits Tortola	Page 21	Covid Response Tobago Mission	Page 59
Suriname Session	Page 22	8 Teachers commissioned	Page 61
Covid Response SVG Mission	Page 24	Training SVG Mission	Page 62
Covid Response Guyana Conference	Page 25	Retirement Service SVG Mission	Page 63
Dental Clinic Reopens	Page 26	Covid Response ECC	Page 64
Covid Response St Lucia Mission	Page 27	Guyana Conference on the March	Page 66
PM ECC Covid Response	Page 28	Cast Deeper; I Will Go	Page 67
Free Sanitizer	Page 29,	Prayer Ministry Grenada	Page 68
Tobago Session	Page 30	Historic On-Line Evangelism	Page 70
St Lucia Mission in action	Page 32		



WHEN COVID 19 TURNS 20

The new dynamics for Public Evangelism in the Caribbean Union.

By Evangelist Claudius C. Morgan

By the time this article is read, we will still be in the COVID 19 season; over 5 million confirmed and some 325 thousand dead. The pandemic has driven the SDA Church in the Caribbean to a new normal - preaching on line. We have had two or three on-line crusades and our union has baptized since January over 700 persons. We give God thanks for the additions.

Social distancing (also called physical distancing), the wearing of masks, and staying at home have become part of us for over two months. In fact, in addition to everyday steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally, regionally, and globally.

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within 6 feet or less) for a prolonged period. Infection can occur when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms are likely also to play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

Public evangelism in our Union, whether in a building or under a tent involves close contact for a prolonged period. Our guests and members do not sit six feet apart. When an altar call is made the altar space is filled and so often Bible workers, pastors or elders are seen walking hand in hand with someone who responds to the voice of God. Are we going to get back to this place? If yes, how soon! And if no, what is our strategy going forward?

I am comforted by the fact that evangelism is God's divine prescription. We love it, but God loves it more than we do. God will add to His church in amazing ways. I am positive that God has not abandoned His church and He has not

abandoned what this Church does best, public evangelism.

However, the leaders of CARU believe that this is the time to make that phone call, send that email, write that letter explaining the hope we have within us (1 Peter 3:15). In addition, there are a hundred good acts of mercy we can and should do for our neighbors. We must make sacrifices to provide for others (Acts 2:44), and yes they will see Christ in how we serve (Matthew 5:16). But if performed in silence, all of those acts of kindness can be done by an atheist too. We have the eternal Word of God that transforms lives. Paul said in Romans 10:14, "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?" Today, we must deliver that saving message right along with our acts of mercy!

The new dynamics of **public evangelism** now involves, each one reaching one. A family reaching a family, a friend reaching a friend. The risk worth taking is not one that endangers someone's physical wellbeing by violating the spatial separation we must maintain. The risk worth taking is one that is bold enough to confront the spiritual and eternal danger others are already in. Being confined to our homes does not limit the power of the gospel or our freedom to proclaim it. Let the urgency of this current crisis provoke us to contact those who will listen to Christ's message of hope. The pandemic may rage on, but we long for others to know the peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7). That same peace guards the hearts and minds of those who turn from their sins and believe in Christ alone for salvation (Romans 10:9).

The Caribbean Union of SDA is on the move. Our leaders have embraced the **new normal**. Thank you Jesus!

CARIBBEAN UNION DIRECTORY

Administrators and Directors:

President	Dr. Kern Tobias
Secretary	Pastor Johnson Frederick
Treasurer	Pastor Bertie Henry
Assoc. Treasurer/CURF	Elder Joel Hazelwood
Field Secretary	Dr. Clive Dottin
Women Ministries/Children's Ministries and Adolescents	Sister Debra Henry
Communication/Editor Gleanings	Dr. Claudius Morgan
Youth and Chaplaincy Ministries	Pastor Anthony Hall
Assistant to the President for Evangelism, Training and Development.	Dr. Claudius Morgan
Family Ministries and Ministerial Secretary	Pastor Ammaran Williams
Trust, Stewardship Director/AS	Dr. Gandalal Samlalsingh
Personal Ministries and Community Services	Pastor Ashton O Neil
Public Affairs/Religious Liberty and Spirit of Prophecy.	Dr. Clive Dottin
Health and ADRA	Pastor Alexander Isaacs
Education	Dr. Hilary Bowman
Sabbath School Director/HR	Debra Felix
Publishing	Sister Judith Smith
Shepherdess Coordinator	Sister Linda Tobias
Associate Education Director	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, Field Communication Directors. All rights reserved - May, 2020

NOTICE SVG MISSION OF SDA

Notice is hereby given for the second (2nd) quadrennial session of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, scheduled for November 11 – 14, 2020, at the Conference Room of the Mission Office located at Old Montrose, Kingstown. The first business session will convene at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

Delegates will receive reports from administrators and directors, elect directors and members of the Executive Committee, submit plans and recommendations and transact any other business as stipulated by the Operating Policy of the SVG Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

Dermoth Baptiste, President

Henry Snagg, Executive Secretary



Pastor Inskip Richards preaching at the Cruz Bay SDA Church in St John. With an active membership of over 40, 9 persons were baptized. Cruz Bay SDA Church is the only Adventist Church on the small island of St Johns.



The President Writes

COPING AS A CHRISTIAN DURING THE COVID 19 CRISIS



The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about this disease can be overwhelming and can cause strong emotions in adults and children. Coping with stress can make you stronger.

Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can include but are not limited to:

Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones

1. Changes in sleep or eating patterns
2. Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
3. Worsening of chronic health problems
4. Worsening of mental health conditions

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations!

How you respond to the outbreak can depend on your background, the things that make you different from other people, and the community you live in.

Dr. Kern Tobias

CHRISTIANITY AS A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE:

The Bible affirms, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4,5). The born-again Christian is a special specie because he/she is born from above and is a new creature. In other words, such a person is transformed, not being conformed to the practices of this world, but being transformed by the renewing of the mind.

There is a significant difference in response for the transformed person because he/she adopts a new set of thoughts and judgments. Thus, the COVID 19 pandemic allows the Christian to trust the God who created the world and is in control of it, and recreates the human, making him/her a Christian, thus being in control of his/her life. You can cope because of Who is still in control. Soon Jesus will come and make all things new. Be ready. Maranatha!

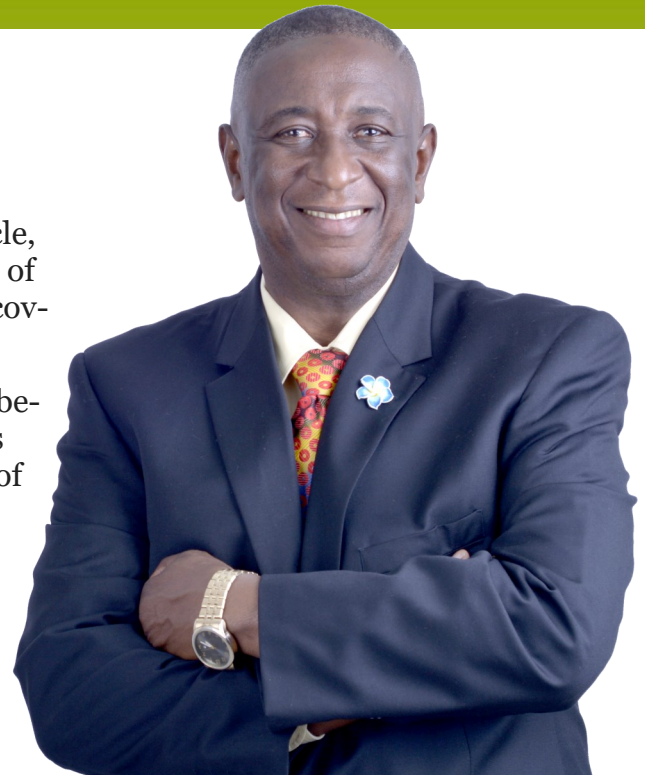


Communication Director Writes

COVERED

Covid 19 has taken many lives. At the time of writing this article, there were some 219,265 deaths in 212 countries. In the fields of the Caribbean Union, we had over 500 tested cases. Many recovered and sadly, some died.

COVID 19 has kept us homebound but for us here in the Caribbean Union there has been an exceedingly quick shift of religious services from physical to virtual, online worship. All 10 fields of our Union have experienced this phenomenon. The abrupt cessation of in-person worship in churches across our Union territory is one of the most significant sudden disruptions in the practice of religion. Consequently, the question is, Is “virtual” worship a new concept in this Caribbean Union and the world?



Dr. Claudius Morgan

Research indicates that for almost a century, religious entities have been using "new" methods of communication to reach vast audiences - first radio, then television, and in recent years, well before the current COVID-19 virus crisis, online technologies.

We have been using the technology at CARU for many of our meetings and I believe I can prophesy that this method of communication is here to stay.

What is revealing in this entire scenario is that God gets the glory.

I have received many calls and many messages on social media as to my take on this pandemic. My knowledge of Scripture tells me that this is a fulfillment of prophecy. I see the fulfillment in two passages of scripture; Matthew 24:7 and Luke 21:11. Matthew 24:7 says, “ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” Luke 21:11 continues, “And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”

In both instances, Jesus speaks of the calamity and pestilences of the last days. What is revealing in this entire scenario is that God gets the glory. This is evident in the many online church services that are being streamed live, across the Caribbean Union and beyond. We give God the glory for the young and the young-at-heart who are directly involved in the new methods of fulfilling the commission of the Bible.



COVID-19 IMPACT GRENADA CONFERENCE

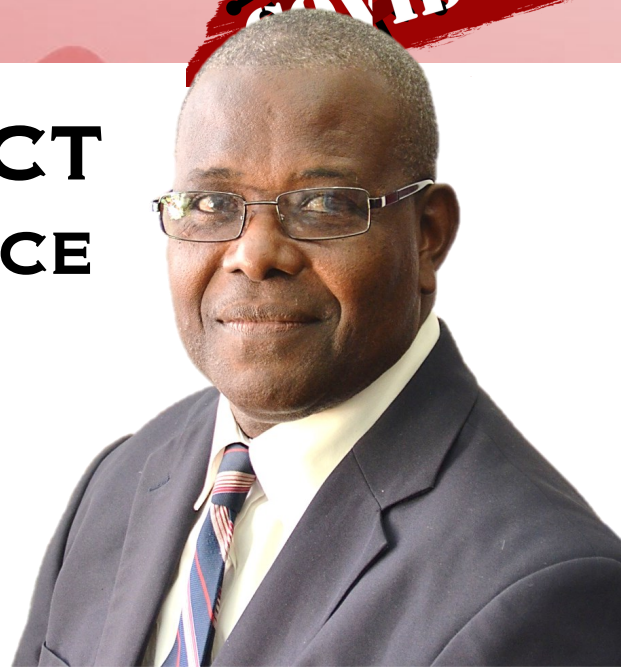
Recent news revealed that over 2.5 million persons are affected by COVID-19 and that over one hundred and seventy-two thousand deaths have resulted so far. Millions have lost their jobs around the world including many in Grenada. These worldwide figures increase daily as it is reported in the media. We are constantly bombarded with information regarding the fight to contain the virus and of the way the lives of millions are affected around the world.

Here in Grenada, we have fifteen confirmed cases to date, with fourteen presently on island and no deaths. Beginning March 25, 2020, Grenada started a limited state of emergency for twenty-one days. During this period, we are only allowed to leave our homes between the hours of 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. to access the limited services that were designated by the government. From March 30, 2020, our nation was placed under a 24-hour curfew with limited hours and days given to us for obtaining groceries and other services. Everybody is encouraged to stay at home and only one person per family must go to the groceries. Each government update is awaited with anxiety by many who are fed up with the curfew restrictions, even though they agree that it is necessary. To be in the public domain everyone is required to wear a mask and practise social distancing.

I will focus on some of my positive reflections of COVID-19 in the Grenada Conference in this article rather than giving despondent information.

I am happy to see the church's caring spirit displayed during this crisis. The New Testament concept exhibited by the laity giving care to each other, while the pastor manages this care and ministers where it is needed, is commendable. This model must continue beyond Covid-19. Members seeking out for those in the community who need assistance during this time must also be praised. This watchfulness for those needing food, psychosocial care and other assistance and the church meeting those needs is meritorious. We are all Community Services members and that attitude must drive us all year, not just in this crisis period.

COVID-19 brought to the forefront, vivid to our consciousness, the importance of the health message God has given to us. It gave us the opportunity to stress the urgency and relevance of the health message and to continuously remind us to



President Dr. Clinton Lewis

be intentional in implementing those principles in our daily living; a Conference wide emphasis and reminder that were greatly needed. A strong immune system is an asset in combating diseases. This challenging period brought to our awareness that life is truly like a vapour. (James 4:14). The permanence to our life comes from surrendering it unreservedly to God. This gives hope for living through the worst of times and being able to face even death confidently. Our surrender causes Faith to replace fear, peace to replace anxiety, hope to replace despair. Sermon after sermon focused on our omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, immutable, loving and sovereign God who makes these experiences possible.

(Continued on Page 53)



Pastor Oliver Scott is the new Communications Director for the Grenada Conference

NCC Impact 2020

Baptisms Hurdle 160



Vera Farrel is assisted to the waters by deacons and was baptized in grand style with much celebration.

When the 8-island evangelistic relay officially started on March 6, 2020, Tortola was already spiritually energized with at least ten (10) candidates ready for baptism. Still, the sister islands of the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) dutifully ran the 8-day race and welcomed scores of new members into the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, during Sabbath celebrations. On March 14, 2020, the baptism of almost 200 new believers was simultaneously streamed from beaches and baptismal fonts, on various social media platforms as well as on the NCC Communication Department's channel. Over 5,000 members across the territory celebrated the culmination of one week of intense evangelistic efforts throughout the Conference and listened to the conversion stories of several new members.

The Inter-American Division (IAD) invested some

of its leading evangelists in the NCC Impact 2020 venture. While Dr. Elie Henry, the IAD President, and Dr. Samuel Telemaque, the IAD Sabbath School Director, were deployed on St. Maarten, the Assistant to the IAD President for Evangelism, Dr. Balvin Braham's post of duty was St. Croix.

Dr. Braham commented, "Impact was well organized and the members were engaged and supported the meetings. It inspired the members to a spiritual high in preparation for the coming of Christ and most of all it brought members into the church of God." Dr. Braham also shared, "Through an evangelistic initiative which began in October, the Church has been training dozens of church members, called pioneers, to plant 100 new churches throughout Haiti. **(Continue on page 9)**



PREACHERS ON FIRE AT NCC IMPACT



Preacher in action at NCC Impact. From l to r Carson Greene, Balvin Braham and Marvin Smith

“The churches are expected to be established at the end of the year. The Division has an annual impact and it chooses a field to host the initiative. I want to commend the Union and Pastor Morgan for giving leadership to this. This is what we expect. It is one of the most organized Impacts we have seen.”

Dr. Telemaque spoke to the new and seasoned church members on St. Maarten and encouraged them to remain committed to fulfilling the Mission of the Church. He said, “God has called you and every member of the Adventist Church to be involved in this movement of men and women to preach the Three Angels’ Message. Our mission is to call all people to discipleship, preparing others for the Sec-

ond Coming of Jesus.”

In preparation for the evangelistic exploit, local pastors and leaders were involved in extensive training offered by the NCC Personal Ministries Director, Dr. Henry Peters. Impact 2020 was the NCC’s third rendezvous into scaled-evangelism and this partnership included the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) with the added responsibility for strategically positioning 23 evangelists throughout eight (8) islands for maximum spiritual engagement. The organizers included the Assistant to the CARU President for Evangelism, Dr. Claudius Morgan, and his counterpart at the NCC, Pastor Hesketh Matthew who worked alongside Dr. Peters to train members.



Pastor Terence Haynes of the SVG Mission was the speaker at the Spanish Church on Tortola



Dr. Samuel Telemaque’s site at the Ephesus SDA Church in St Maarten recorded the most baptisms during the impact.



President James Gave Impact NCC The Nod Amid Corona 19 Pandemic

Pastor Hesketh Matthew lauded the work of the 23 evangelists and members involved in the campaign. He stated, “I want to commend the preachers, pastors and scores of lay men and women who were involved in assisting to make this a reality. The preachers really delivered and the members were overjoyed at the kind of breakthrough and impact they were able to make on the lives of individuals.” Pastor Matthew highlighted the joy of Sister Theophilous whose husband joined the church after forty-nine years of prayers on his behalf.

Dr. Morgan was thrilled with the results. He said, “NCC is challenging for evangelization and even to allow the Impact to go on, in light of the Corona virus, is indicative of the support the Administration gave to the success of the program. Thanks to the Administration and the NCC Team. The 2020 Impact celebration is about making disciples. When we have these programs, we want serious visitation by church leaders so that we can connect with people. It’s all about making it better wherever we go; next Impact is in Grenada and we are taking all young preachers. Succession planning must give birth to new evangelists.”

The President of the Caribbean Union Conference, Dr. Kern Tobias, and his wife, Mrs. Linda Tobias, joined the brethren on Tortola for a convention finale. Dr. Tobias delivered the Sabbath sermon and shared his enthusiasm for the well-coordinated events, “Dr. Claudius Morgan is a great organizer and I want to thank him again for organizing this Impact 2020 in the North Caribbean Conference.”

(Continued on Page 56)

On our journey to Anguilla, one of the 8 islands we visited, we passed a thriving business named TOBY. We wondered and had a hearty laugh at the idea that Kern “Toby” Tobias runs a boat repair business in Anguilla!



Call the fire truck. Dr. Clinton Lewis on fire at the Cole Bay SDA Church in St Maarten



Pastor Cordell Williams delivers at the Spanish Church on St Maarten.





We have been forced into a new space of living and ministry.

By: Leslie Moses—President SCC

Helen Keller once stated, “When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

This is the perspective that the South Caribbean Conference (SCC) adopted in the face of COVID-19. We are keeping our eyes on the open doors. While this virus has caused much pain, suffering and social distancing, we at the SCC have kept our focus on our Goal and Prize, the Author and Finisher of our faith - Jesus Christ the King. While we do not have any members who died due to COVID-19, we do have several members at home and abroad who contracted the disease. Some have recovered, while others are fighting for their lives.

This pandemic has created for us a new normal as it relates to how we do church, collection of financial gifts and how we relate to our membership. We have been forced to do virtual church, affectionately called 'House Church' which has given us vastly more persons viewing our Sabbath Services than we have had during face to face church. The viewership ranges from 13, 000 (13K) to 16,000 (16K) views. Of course since several persons would view on one device, these views would total scores of thousands of persons. To God be the Glory!

Our Zones, districts, churches and families have conducted morning and evening worship including Friday evening worship. We were delighted to have Dr. Kern Tobias and family conduct one of these Friday evening worship services. The various departments of the conference conducted several programmes and webinars which have had thousands of views on the South Caribbean Conference YouTube Channel. We were especially blessed to have greetings and messages from the Presidents of the Wider Organization. These included greetings from Drs. Kern Tobias and Elie Henry, Presidents of the Caribbean Union Conference and the Inter

America Division respectively and a message from Dr. Ted Wilson, President of the General Conference of SDA.

The plan going forward is to have content and a constant presence on the YouTube platform even after COVID-19 is conquered. The following is a list of virtual programmes and Webinars we have conducted and those to be conducted:

Virtual Church (House Church) every Sabbath since the stay at home order:

1. SCC Kids - Episodes 1-4
2. AY Online
3. Kingdom Advancement - Online Prayer Service
4. Response 7:14 - Online Prayer Service

Continued on Pg. 36



**Leslie Moses—President
South Caribbean Conference**



STATISTICAL DIGEST

VOLUME I | ISSUE 001

IN THIS ISSUE

	PAGE
• Countries of our Union	1
• About Our Union	2
• Map of our Union	2
• From the Office of the Secretariat (CARU)	3
• Membership Statistics (2019)	4
• Baptism Statistics (2019)	5
• Milestone Statistics	6
• CARU Facts – Did You Know?	6

COUNTRIES OF OUR UNION



Anguilla
North Caribbean Conference, NCC



Antigua and Barbuda
South Leeward Conference, SLC



Barbados
East Caribbean Conference, ECC



Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
North Caribbean Conference, NCC



British Virgin Islands
North Caribbean Conference, NCC



Dominica
East Caribbean Conference, ECC



Grenada
Grenada Conference, GRN



Guyana
Guyana Conference, GUYC



Montserrat
South Leeward Conference, SLC



Saint Kitts and Nevis
South Leeward Conference, SLC



Saint Lucia
Saint Lucia Mission, SLU



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Mission, SVG



Sint Maarten
North Caribbean Conference, NCC



Suriname
Suriname Mission, SURM



Trinidad and Tobago
*South Caribbean Conference, SCC
Tobago Mission, TM*



United States Virgin Islands
North Caribbean Conference, NCC

ABOUT OUR UNION

The Caribbean Union Conference has a membership of 249,825 (as at December 31, 2019) within its territorial population of 3,968,823. CARU is divided amongst ten (10) local fields, sixteen (16) countries or twenty-two (22) islands.

MAP OF OUR UNION



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Best wishes to the saints of the Caribbean Union Conference! We are all captives of an unseen viral enemy whose impact is visible and devastating. We, at the secretariat, wish our brothers and sisters divine favour and protection. Echoing the most reassuring counsel of the divine messenger, "We have no need to be anxious or troubled. God is our trust" (PCL, 21).

Beginning with this issue of the Gleanings, we hope to share with you on an annual basis statistical data on church growth and other relevant statistics. The data presented in this extract represents membership statistics for the period ending December 31, 2019.

At CARU, we see more than figures; we believe figures should tell the truth about the Church's effectiveness in baptizing and nurturing God's sheep. This means that the local church should be diligent in providing accurate and timely monthly reports to the respective local fields of the Union.

As part of secretariat's strategic thrust, we have sought to lead the respective fields to aim for accuracy, integrity and reliability. Thus, every local church is expected to report monthly membership statistics on or before the stipulated date. In addition, from time to time, the secretariat will initiate research projects and surveys that will aim at providing vital information for planning, assessment of church growth and the spiritual development of members.

For the last two years, the respective secretariats of the conferences and missions have worked assiduously to compile and submit membership data to be uploaded to the Adventist Church Membership System (ACMS) of the General Conference. The information for three of our fields has now been uploaded to the membership online platform, while the others are now refining their data for uploading. The ACMS online platform will allow Caribbean Union Conference to interact with the thirteen (13) denominational Divisions of the world, especially in the transfer of membership, and empower the local fields to preserve membership records without threat of fire or flood, plan strategically with ready access to detailed membership data, among other benefits.

The secretariat team and Union administration thank sincerely all executive secretaries and their team, the church clerks, and the general membership for their cooperation and support to secretariat endeavors and initiatives. Let us face the future with infectious optimism and undaunted courage as we await the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Johnson Frederick
Executive Secretary, CARU



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS - 2019



In the period under review, 5,714 individuals were added to the membership by baptism, profession of faith and transfers. Baptism accounts for eighty-three percent (83%) of individuals added to CARU membership.

Adjustment in this category refers to additions of missing records with proof of baptismal certificate or unreported statistics of additions to membership for previous years.

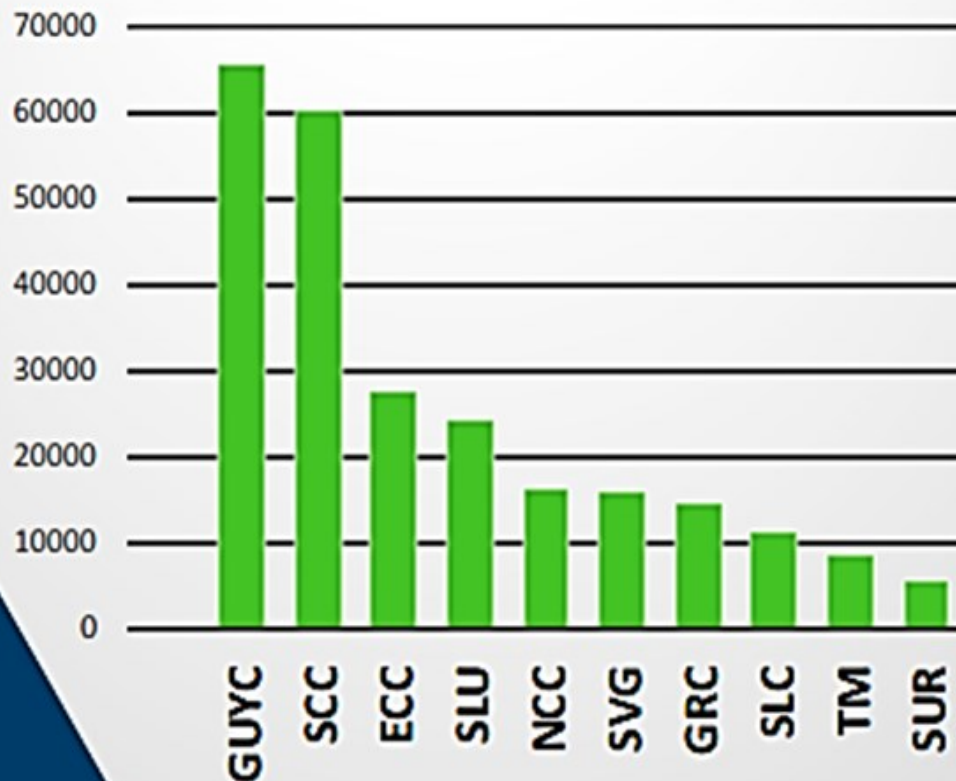


In the period under review, 5,525 members were removed from membership by transfers, apostasy and death. Apostasy accounts for eleven percent (11%) of all members removed from CARU membership.

4

Adjustment, in this classification, refers to corrections of membership records in cases of duplication of names or unreported statistics of decrease to membership for previous years.

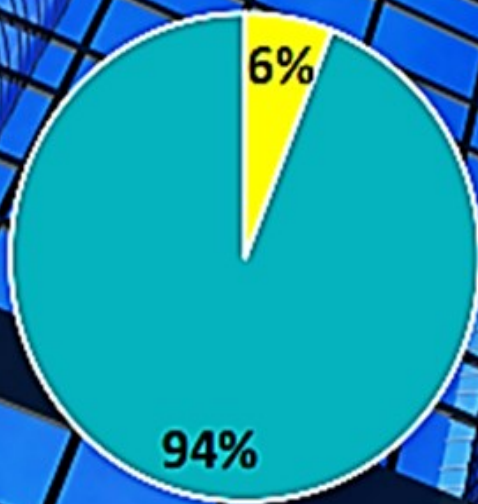
MEMBERSHIP BY FIELDS - 2019



FIELDS	MEMBERSHIP
GUYC	65,593
SCC	60,153
ECC	27,720
SLU	24,143
NCC	16,172
SVG	16,082
GRC	14,647
SLC	11,399
TM	8,494
SUR	5,422

The Caribbean Union Conference membership as at December 31, 2019, stands at, 249,825. Notably, Guyana Conference has the highest membership with 65,593 or 26% of CARU's total membership.

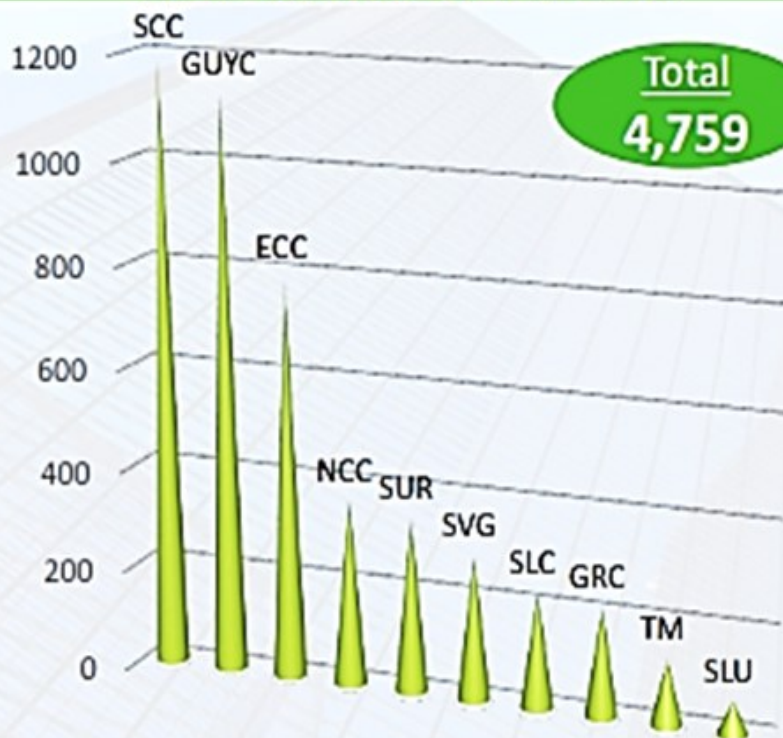
PERCENTAGE OF CARU MEMBERSHIP VS. REGIONAL POPULATION



■ SDA □ NON-SDA

The Caribbean Union Conference, membership represents 6% of the Regional Population of 3,968,823, whilst Roman Catholics, the highest Christian denomination accounts for 18% of the regional population. Anglicans and Hindus each accounts for 14%, whilst Pentecostals represent 12% of the regional population.

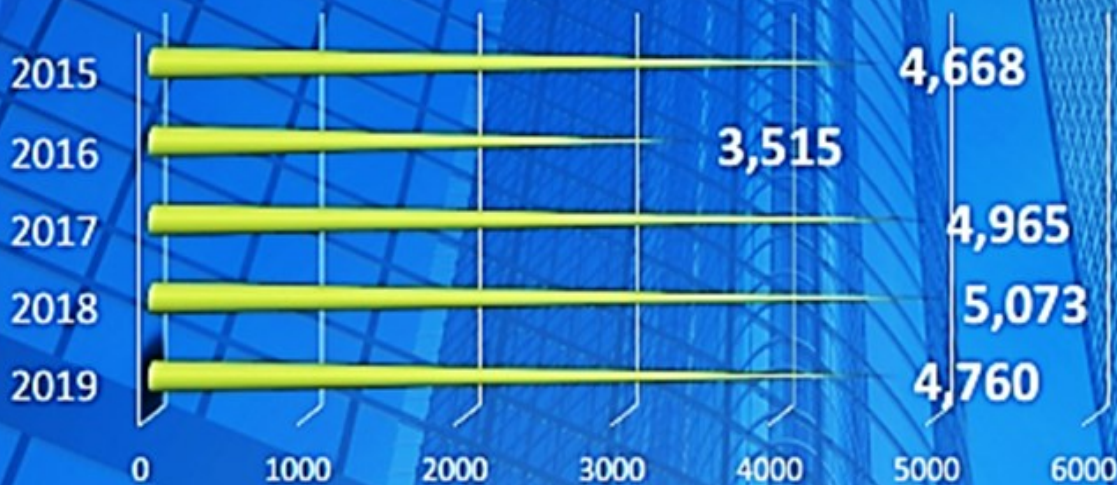
BAPTISM BY FIELDS



FIELDS	BAPTISM
SCC	1,187
GUYC	1,127
ECC	787
NCC	370
SUR	348
SVG	287
SLC	233
GRC	219
TM	132
SLU	69

In 2019, four thousand, seven hundred and fifty-nine (4,759) individuals were added to the church membership by baptism. The South Caribbean Conference reported the largest number of baptisms, a total of one thousand, one hundred and eighty-seven (1,187) souls.

COMPARATIVE BAPTISMS (2015 – 2019)



CARU FACTS – DID YOU KNOW?

The first Conference was organized in 1903

East Caribbean Conference was the first conference in the Caribbean region.

In 1903, East Caribbean Conference territories encompassed, the Gulanas, Trinidad, the Lesser Antilles, and Venezuela.

PASTOR A. J. HAYSMER was the first President of East Caribbean Conference. (1903 – 1904)

MILESTONE STATISTICS

In 2019, South Caribbean Conference reached 60,000+ members.

In 2019, North Caribbean Conference became the 5th largest field by membership surpassing St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission.

SECRETARIAT TEAM

Pastor Johnson Frederick
Executive Secretary, CARU



Mrs. Gail Smith-Anthony
Administrative Assistant, CARU



Ms. Onessa Hughes
Records Management and Research Assistant, CARU



Work Cited

1. *YEARBOOK of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination, 1094 Review and Herald Publishing Association, Page 74*
2. *YEARBOOK of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination, 1094 Review and Herald Publishing Association, Page 84*



COVID-19 IMPACT

The Covid-19 crisis the world is currently facing, does not only affect the world's health care system, education, economies, tourism, daily lives of everyone, but also the religious lives of the people. Our church is also facing various challenges during this crisis. The Suriname Mission took some decisions in accordance with the guidelines the government issued to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. In these times church buildings are closed, but the church and its mission remain open and vibrant. One of the initiatives taken to serve our membership and Suriname at large is a livestream program on YouTube of praise and worship, Bible study and the Spoken Word on Sabbath mornings. We have weekly seen an increase in viewers and subscribers from all over the world.

Various departments are working on projects to create programs for children, youth and family life.

The Family Life Department prepared an instructional video of what families can do during the "lockdown".

Pastors are encouraged to be innovative in their ministry during these challenging times, finding ways to maintain the contact with their local churches.

Some churches through their Community Services Department prepared food baskets and served food for



President Edward Blackman—Suriname Mission

those in need within the church but also in the community.

Members are encouraged to share the Missionary book of the Year: "Hope in the Midst of Chaos" with friends and family.



Live streaming from the Centrum SDA Church in Paramaribo Suriname.



Multiple-alarm Fire Consumes SDA Church on St. Croix



By Royston Philbert NCC

Fire man stoops with pouring hose to put out the fire

The Adventist community on St. Croix was in solidarity with the leaders and members of the Peter's Rest Seventh-day Adventist Church on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, as they watched their state-of-the-art church building demolished by fire. The imposing structure stood as monument at a strategic location in the Peter's Rest neighborhood and was considered a landmark by many on the island.

Several units from the Virgin Islands (VI) Fire Service responded and worked tirelessly to contain the fire which spread rapidly through the structure. Footage from inside the gutted building revealed that the fire destroyed the entire upper level of the church including pews, platform furniture, windows, doors, church decorations and communication equipment recently acquired to offer virtual ministry. Finally, sections of the massive roof collapsed taking with it the solar technology investment.

The leader of the congregation, Pastor Earl Daniel, was almost moved to tears by the heartbreaking situation and said that his congregation had received a double hit from the enemy. He spoke to the members who had gathered, "This is one worldwide Church. Whenever anything happens to any member, anywhere, as long as it is made known, the World Church stands ready to assist. Admittedly, I was really broken but it's all right. We believe that God is a God who hears and answers prayers. As far as we know, no life is lost and we believe that while there is life, there is hope. I urge you to continue to have faith in the God of hope. Ask Him to take care of all of us and we will see Peter's Rest Church restored to

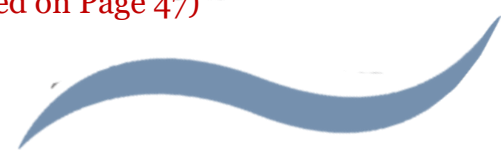
even a more magnificent edifice. Keep that in mind and let us do all we can to rise to the occasion and let us work together for a finished work."

The North Caribbean Conference (NCC) President, Pastor Desmond James, was visibly shaken to see the structure engulfed in flames when he arrived on the scene. Powerless to stem the raging inferno, he responded pensively, "It's one after the other," obviously referring to other catastrophic events the Conference suffered over the past three years. Pastor James reminded the members that the Administration of the Conference shares in their pain and that because God is a God of hope, they [should] look forward to bigger and better things. He indicated that leaders from around the Caribbean Union had called to express their regrets and that they would remember the congregation in prayer.

Senator Javan James, Sr., who is a member of the 33rd Legislature of the VI as well as a member of the church, was on hand to grieve with other members and shook his head in disbelief as he echoed, "This is a community loss."

Elder Olson Wallace, a long-standing member of the church tried to remain positive in his pain as he said, "The ministry continues. Adventists believe that the church is not the building. It's the people and as long as the people are there, the church will continue."

(Continued on Page 47)





CARU's President's First Visit to Tortola



In this photo Dr. Tobias and his wife Linda pose with their welcoming gifts given on arrival at the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport. The welcoming party consisted of all the Pastors on the Island, Dr. Morgan, Communication Director CARU and over one dozen Church Members. The president is flanked by Ketlene Bowman-Penn (left) and Violata Clyne (right)

In honor of the Caribbean Union (CARU) President's first official visit to Tortola, a contingent of pastors and church leaders welcomed Dr. Kern Tobias and his wife, Mrs. Linda Tobias, at the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport - a gateway to the territory of the British Virgin Islands (BVI).

In honor of the Caribbean Union (CARU) President's first official visit to Tortola, a contingent of pastors and church leaders welcomed Dr. Kern Tobias and his wife, Mrs. Linda Tobias, at the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport - a gateway to the territory of the British Virgin Islands (BVI).

Pastor Leriano Webster who leads Tortola District #2 (Carrot Bay and BelleVue Seventh-day Adventist Churches) headed the welcoming committee and warmly expressed, "On behalf of the Administration of the Conference and the people, we welcome you with open arms."

Dr. Tobias was delighted to connect with the pastoral staff and members of the SDA Church on Tortola. He stated, "So many stories have been heard about Tortola over the years and to be here and experience the stories is just marvelous. I have always heard of how wonderful the people of Tortola are and it's just wonderful to meet them. It is a pleasure that my wife and I can be in the North Caribbean Conference [NCC] and in Tortola."

The Union President's 4-day visit coincided with the closing activities for the Conference's evangelistic event, NCC Impact 2020. Commenting on the significance of the visit, Dr. Tobias said, "I must say thanks to Dr. [Claudius] Morgan for being such an outstanding organizer and facilitator for the Mission of the Church and to all the pastors and members who are here. Let us have a great celebration as we continue to lift the name of Christ and fulfill the Mission He has for us."

The island-wide convention which concluded NCC Impact 2020 united more than 500 members as well as new believers, community friends and visiting evangelists. Dr. Tobias' Sabbath message challenged the constituency to continue reaching more communities with the gospel message. He emphasized, "Now is the time. We need to do all we can to fulfill the Mission. This is the time. The conditions in the world tell that Jesus is coming!"





5th Quadrennial Session of the Suriname Mission of Seventh-day Adventist

The 5th quadrennial session of the Suriname Mission which convened from MARCH 4-6, 2020 was a blessed revival experience. Representatives from the Inter-American Division, the Caribbean Union Conference, other Unions such as the Dutch Caribbean and the Netherlands Union, sister fields, delegates of the local SDA churches and members were present and were inspired by powerful messages. The theme “Jesus is coming, be ready!” resounded during the morning and evening devotions.

The opening ceremony saw a group of Pathfinders and directors accompanied by the drum corps marching in with the flags of the different countries represented. A representative from the Ministry of Internal Affairs gave remarks on behalf of the Minister. The opening sermon was done by Pastor Max - Rene Laurent from the Inter-American Division. After the official opening of the session and the two companies namely Galilee (Haitian congregation) and Moria were voted to receive church status, Pastor Edward Blackman, president, gave his report.

The president’s address noted some of the highlights of the past quadrennial namely: the new Mission office, the revival of the Youth and Pathfinder Ministry, Impact Suriname 2019, ordination of three pastors, the start of groups Efraimszegen and the group Esperança Viva (Brazilian and Spanish speaking community). The net growth in membership of the period under review stands at 714.

The Nominating Committee deliberated and the following departmental directors were presented to and voted by the delegates: Ministerial and Family Life: Ps. David Daniel; Women, Children and Adolescent ministries: Sister Judith Blackman; Personal Ministries, Sabbath School & Possibility ministries: Ps. Felix Boyce; Youth and Pathfinder: Ps. Chester Hinds. *(Continued on page 23)*

Marlon and Ellen Terborg are flanked by the administration of the Suriname Mission. Ellen was honored for her contribution to music in the Suriname Mission. Members of the Redeemed Choir are in the background.



Continued on page 23



Session Theme: Jesus is Coming! Be Ready!

Continued from page 22

The remaining positions will be filled by the Executive Committee. In the meantime, the following directors continue in their respective positions namely: Publication and Health ministries: Sis. Eunice Roseval-Reiziger; Education: Sis Diana Telgt; Communication: Br. Ronald Newland.

On Sabbath, March 7, we had a grand convention at the Centrum Church. The Suriname Mission expressed its gratitude for the support of all the fields and Unions represented by presenting them with an award. Pastor Lindon Gudge who served the SDA church for more than 40 years was also acknowledged, and received plaques from the Union as well as the Mission. The constituency was encouraged by a stirring sermon by Dr. Kern Tobias, president of the Caribbean Union. In the afternoon there was a consecration service for the newly chosen directors and Executive committee members. Sister Ellen Terborg-Douglas who has been very consistent in leading two choirs (Happy Song Singers and Redeemed) for more than 20 years, was also given an award of appreciation for her dedication in supporting the music ministry of the Suriname mission.

The meetings concluded with the singing of the theme song, and the members leaving on a high note with a resolve to be ready, for Jesus is coming!



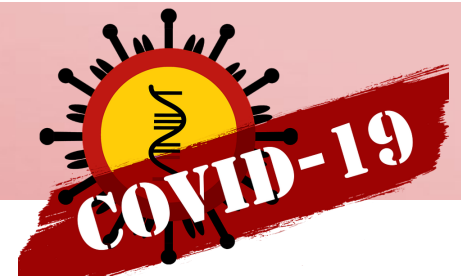
Desi Damerie translates for Pastor Max Laurent, IAD Field Secretary, the preacher on Sabbath a.m



Photo above shows, President Edward Blackman, flanked by the Administration of CARU and his fellow Administrators, being honored for 40 years of service to the Suriname Mission and the SDA Church.

Photo below shows, Pastor Lindon Gudge being honored for serving the SDA Church for over 40 years. He served as President of both the Guyana Conference and the Suriname Mission. With his adoring smile he is flanked by the President of the Suriname Mission and the Administrators of CARU.





THE CORONA PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SVG MISSION

By: Dermoth Baptiste - President SVG Mission

Recently, I've seen a sticker which says that the world is closed for renovation, thanks to the Novel Virus, Corona. Look out for the grand re-opening!

I believe this statement best encapsulates the current situation resulting from the dreaded Global Pandemic. COVID-19 has crossed borders and transcends every culture, class and creed in our world. It cuts across every political ideology, religious affiliation, commercial enterprise, social status and educational foundation. Economies have been brought to a grinding halt and for all of us it is a vicious assault upon life and living as we witness major international lock downs, colossal infectious outbreaks, major health problems, massive death tolls and unprecedented travel disruptions. .

Human history is replete with surges of infectious, communicable, deadly diseases, such as the Black Death of 1346-1350, Cholera of 1899-1923, Spanish Flu of 1918-1920, Asian Flu of 1957-1958, Hong Kong Flu of 1968-1969, Avian Flu of 2009 and MERS, Ebola and SARS within recent times which resulted in major disasters with unbearable loss of lives. COVID-19 may very well exceed all previous pandemic episodes with its deadly manifestations and become the great game changer of the 21st century.

How do we fare in St Vincent and the Grenadines? As I write this article, there are fourteen positive cases that have been identified of which five have fully recovered, resulting in nine being active and in protective quarantine. The cases are considered to be mild and are expected to fully recover. Although there have not been any limited state of emergency, curfew or border closure, the Government and officials from the Ministry of Health have been extremely vigilant, transparent and scientific in managing the crisis. Quarantine and isolation centers have been identified and equipped to keep extreme cases. Physical distancing, good

hygiene practices, cough etiquette, hand sanitizing, frequently disinfecting used surfaces and a hotline to report any flu-like symptoms have been implemented as mitigating and containment strategies. PCR testing of the wider population is to commence shortly. When compared to other countries, we recognize our enormous blessings and give God thanks for His care and protection over us.

In terms of church activities, currently we are in lock-down mode, but not locked away from worship. As of April 11 we have been having national virtual service, carried live on the SVG Mission Website, Facebook and youtube, with a national radio broadcast from 10:30 to 12:00 noon to meet the needs of those who prefer radio frequency. Schools have been closed and may remain so for the foreseeable future.

(Continued on Page 48)



President Dermoth Baptiste



Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists - COVID-19 Impact

By: Pastor Exton Clarke

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has been declared a global viral pandemic, made its lethal invasion into Guyana on March 5, 2020, when a 52-year-old woman traveled back home from the United States of America and subsequently succumbed to this dreaded disease by death on March 11, 2020. Since that moment of discovery, the virus has somewhat careened into our country, resulting in 105 confirmed cases and 10 deaths at the time of writing this article. The spiraling nature of this pandemic has not only driven many into the abyss of fear and anxiety, but also changed the characteristic norms which have become grounded in our cultural experience not only as a nation but as a church.

The prediction by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) that Guyana would see a total of 1400 Corona cases, and with the analysis done by the Ministry of Public Health which has projected the death of 300 persons by the end of the pandemic, and with the first COVID hospital in the Caribbean being constructed in Guyana, it seems to be the thinking by authorities, that this disease will prove resilient for a protracted period. While the overall impact of COVID-19 on our conference cannot be genuinely quantified by data-driven analysis at this point, its progressive effects can be captured under the areas identified below.

Reconceptualization of Relevant & Effective Communication

One of the striking effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is not just the reordering of life as a result of social distancing, but the reconceptualization of traditional modes of communication within the context of our organization. The government's order for a partial shutdown of our country, which became effective April 3, 2020, brought a painful blow to physical interactions not just in public spaces, but also in religious places. Under this governmental order, on April 4, 2020, we closed our churches for standard services across the en-

tire constituency. Concurrent with the closure of churches was the closing of our headquarters for general business as well. However, the treasury department continued to operate twice weekly with an adjusted schedule of four hours each day.



President, Pastor Exton Clarke

The restriction on public gathering caused us to rethink what constitutes relevant and useful modes of communication. This COVID-19 season has taught us that effective communication is not only realized by bringing people into a room, but also connecting them by zoom. Our traditional methods of communication, which have been deemed as non-negotiable for our survival, have practically become non-existent since the lockdown. It is unthinkable that our paper-based operation has almost become paperless since all of our correspondences, agendas, reports, and other relevant departmental data are now being disseminated electronically.

(Continued on page 33)



Grenada - Dental Clinic Opened After Many Years



Dr. Vernessa Noel, resident dentist of the clinic, and Dr. Clinton Lewis cut ribbon for the opening of the building.

The Church Street Dental Clinic has officially reopened its doors to the church and Grenadian public on Monday January 13th, 2020. This came after a brief ribbon cutting ceremony held outside its doors on Thursday January 9th 2020. In grand celebratory style the colourful ribbon was cut by Dr. Clinton Lewis, President of the Grenada Conference of SDA and Dr. Vernessa Noel, Resident Dentist. This was followed by a short celebratory ceremony inside the building where brief remarks were made by the Conference President. The feature address was delivered by Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Frankie Martin who, while commending the initiative, emphasized the need for primordial rather than restorative measures pertinent to health care including dentistry. In attendance were

Ps. Oliver Scott, Executive Secretary; Brother Anslem Joseph, Treasurer; Board Members and invitees from neighbouring business entities. Pastor Scott did the prayer of dedication of the clinic to the honour and glory of God.

Currently, in addition to Dr. Noel, the clinic is staffed with an Office Attendant and a Dental Assistant. Services offered and upcoming are prophylaxis, fillings, extractions, root canals, dentures, crowns and minor dental surgery. Special appreciation must be expressed to Dr. Triston Hamilton dental practitioner residing in the U.S., who contributed immeasurably to the procurement of dental equipment and supplies. He has a great passion to see the dental missionary work advance in our tri-island state. May God's continued blessings be upon him and his family.

By Pastor Edward Guillaume—Health Ministries Director



COVID -19 IMPACT: St. Lucia Mission

The St. Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists operates within a small developing Island Nation located in the Eastern Caribbean with an area of 238 square miles and a population of approximately 183,000. As recently as January 27, 2020 tourism accounted for 65% of St. Lucia's GDP and is also the island's main source of foreign exchange earnings.

Whereas, approximately 13, 000 persons in St. Lucia are directly employed in the hospitality industry, a large number of other smaller industries are directly dependent on tourism for their survival such as Fishing, Market vendors, Craft manufacturers, Taxi drivers, Water taxi operators, Tour operators, Agriculture, Heritage site operators, Wedding Caterers, and Restaurants, to name a few. Therefore, COVID-19 adversely affected over thirteen thousand (13,000) persons in March by way of layoffs within the hotel sector and a further three thousand (3,000) within the other supporting industries.

With this background one can immediately understand the profound impact COVID-19 has brought upon the St. Lucian economy. With all of our ports of entry closed from early March to all cruise ships and passenger aircrafts, with the closure of all businesses except for businesses dubbed "Essential Services" which are being allowed to operate with limited business hours, and the eventual 24 hours curfew from March 31 – April 7, the entire economy has been brought to a screeching halt.

However, we thank God for the manner in which he has spared St. Lucia from the dreaded Coronavirus and for its limited spread on the island. Altogether, the island recorded 15 cases and experienced 100% recovery. We praise God we had no deaths from COVID-19 and for the past two weeks



President Roger Stephen, St Lucia Mission

no new case has been detected. High commendations must be given for the proactive approach of the Prime Minister and his entire team for ensuring that protocols were put in place and adhered to in order to immediately flatten the curve.

With the constant adjustments being made in the Mass Crown Events protocol, on March 17th the Administration of the St. Lucia Mission met with all Departmental Directors, Pastors and School Principals and critically explored all options and immediately made recommendations to the executive committee to close all churches and also voted plans to execute virtual services which immediately commenced on March 21st, 2020.

A very capable livestream team headed by our communication director Pastor Daryl St. Clair was organized and since have done a phenomenal job. With the exception of the one week curfew when we had prerecorded programs and then streamed, all our programs have been streamed live from the Labayee SDA church on Sabbaths all day, as well as on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Continued on Page 42



THE PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT OF ECC: **OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

More on page 29 and 37

The Personal Ministries Department of the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, led by Pastor Dayle Haynes, began the fight of COVID-19 on March 23rd, 2020 when they funded and launched the **Hand Sanitizer Project**.

Local Chemist and Researcher with the Barbados Community College, Samuel Millar Ph.D. was the chief consultant on this Project. A short video was created showing Millar going through the process, step by step to make the hand sanitizer which utilized locally grown aloe vera. Samuel Millar Ph.D is also a member of the King Street Seventh-day Adventist church and can be seen clad in protective gear creating the product that aims to assist in the sanitary protection of many persons. The sanitizer was made from 97% surgical alcohol, distilled water, fragranced oil, olive oil and aloe vera and the packaged product bore the Seventh-day Adventist logo.

This project yielded some 750 bottles of hand sanitizer which were then distributed to the vulnerable members within the community along with several care packages.

The Personal Ministries Department also joined forces with the Ministry of Health to provide volunteers trained as psychological first aiders to lend support in the fight against COVID-19.



Pastor Dayle Haynes PM Director ECC

Along with the volunteers, Pastor Haynes has organized to have masks made for their workers. Pastor Dayle Haynes and the members of the Personal Ministries Department, with God directing are indeed helping to wage war on Covid-19.



Hand sanitizers packed and ready to be delivered



Bottling the hand sanitizers are members of the community services team, Karen Griffith and Waveny Kellman



Chemist, Free Sanitizer Maker Lends A Helping Hand

By Kareem Smith Barbados Nation
Newspaper April 24, 2020

The safety and health of needy citizens should never depend on their ability to pay, especially during a raging pandemic, said chemist Dr. Samuel Miller, who has so far manufactured more than 600 bottles of hand sanitizer for distribution to people in need.

As companies across the world cash in on the growing demand for alcohol-based hand cleaners to protect against the deadly COVID-19, he has been embarking on a labour of love from the kitchen of an Adventist church on the outskirts of Bridgetown.

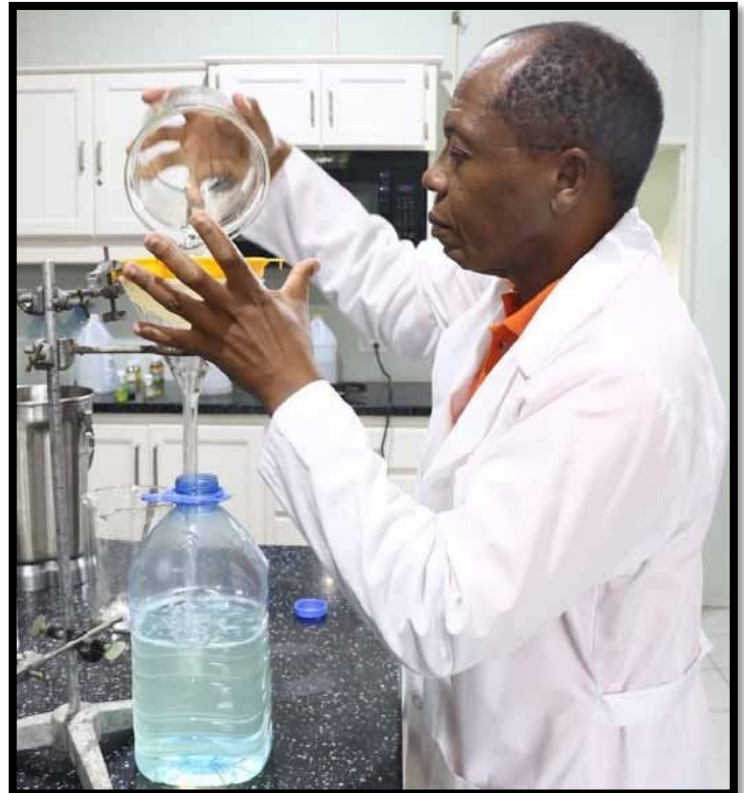
“First of all, there is a need, and no one should be charged for wanting to be safe. That is my perspective on the entire thing,” said Dr Miller, the Director of Research at the Barbados Community College.

“My aim is to serve the community and if someone needs help and we can do something to help them, there shouldn’t be a charge attached. It is that simple; it isn’t magic,” he added.

The educator has been working closely with the Personal Ministries Director of the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Dayle Haynes, who is stationed on the frontlines of an effort to provide supplies to Barbadians in need.

Dr. Miller explained that the idea took root as he and many others were combing Bridgetown three weeks ago desperately looking for hand sanitizer as supplies were starting to dwindle.

“I complained to a friend and she said, ‘Well you’re the chemist, you should make some,’ and I took her seriously,” Miller recalled with a



Chemist Dr. Samuel Miller

chuckle.

After some brief research into the composition and manufacture of the products, he realized the job would not be very difficult. His formula consists of aloe vera, glycerine, 97 per cent surgical alcohol, fragrance oil and distilled water.

“I wanted it to have a really nice and gentle effect on the hands as well, hence the inclusion of aloe vera and glycerine and I used the distilled water as a delusion factor. I did a test run here at church about three Saturdays ago and it worked very well among the children that I teach.

Pastor Dale Haynes heard about it and from then until now, this is what we have been doing to give away to our communities,” said the chemist.

Continued on page 37



TOBAGO MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

5TH QUADRENNIAL SESSION

The Tobago Mission held its 5th Quadrennial Session, November 20th-23rd, 2019 at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church under the theme Get Up! Get Ready! Jesus is Coming!

In Attendance

Inter-American Division Caribbean Union -	Dr. James Daniel – Vice President IAD Dr. Kern Tobias – President Pastor Johnson Frederick – Executive Secretary Pastor. Bertie Henry – Treasurer Sis. Judith Smith – Publishing Director
North Caribbean Conference -	Pastor Wilmoth James – Executive Secretary
South Caribbean Conference -	Pastor. Leslie Moses – President Pastor. Paul Philbert – Executive Secretary
East Caribbean Conference -	Pastor. Colin Thorne – Executive Secretary
Guyana Conference -	Pastor. Exton Clarke – President
Grenada Conference -	Bro. Anselm Joseph – Treasurer
St. Lucia Mission -	Pastor. Roger Stephen – President
Suriname Mission -	Bro. Ronal Newland – Treasurer
South Leeward Mission -	Dr. Wayne Knowles – Executive Secretary
St. Vincent & Grenadines Mission	Pastor. Dermoth Batiste – President
University of the Southern Caribbean	Dr. Hilary Bowman – President

Other Guests

Caribbean Union Conference -	Sis. Debra Felix – Sabbath School/Human Resources Director
South Caribbean Conference -	Pastor. Steve Riley – Devotional Speaker Dr. Yvette Peters – Treasurer SCC

On December 12th, 2019 the following Directorship Election adjustments were made and offices filled by the Mission Executive Committee:

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes	-Field Secretary, Children & Adolescent, Men's Ministry, PARL, ADRA
Mrs. Jamila Joseph-Nicholls	-Education & Human Resources
Psr. Richard Frederick	-Publishing & Health Ministries
Mrs. Melina Decoteau-Barrow	-Auditor
Psr. Vishnu Persad	-Chaplaincy & Prayer Coordinator
Psr. Paul McKenzie	-Assistant to the President for Evangelism
Mr. Wayne Richardson	-Assistant Education Director



Sister Annette Lewis –
Communications Director
Tobago Mission



TOBAGO MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS-5TH QUADRENNIAL SESSION

Pastor Toney Mapp, President of the Tobago Mission, welcomed all to the Session and introduced the representatives from the various fields of the Inter-American Division along with the Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, the Honourable Mr. Kelvin Charles.

In his opening address, the Honourable Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary THA, brought greetings and paid tribute to the work of the Adventist Church in Tobago emphasizing that whenever possible he would always seize the opportunity to connect and fellowship with the Adventist Community. Mr. Charles' recognition of the relentless fervour and dedication of the church to the community outside of the Adventist organization and also its demonstration of a strong commitment to education, health and wellness, music and overall mission was received with a round of applause from the members of the congregation.

On behalf of the President of Inter-American Division, Dr. James Daniels brought greetings and presented on the topic "Ebenezer – the shout at midnight". His words of encouragement were a reminder for the delegation gathered to look back at the past four years and to look forward to the future as we continue along the pilgrim journey. Members were to take note that there would be many difficulties along the way and just as many experiences to rejoice about. The enemy has been defeated.

Department Directors Elected at the Session

1. Mrs. Jamila Joseph-Nicholls -
Women, Children & Adolescent
2. Mrs. Annette Lewis -
Youth & Communication
3. Pastor. Vishnu Persad -
Ministerial Secretary & Family Life
4. Pastor. Paul McKenzie -
Personal Ministries & Sabbath School

During the session, spirit-filled messages were sent through an always delighted and excited Devotional Speaker Pastor Steve Riley, Senior Pastor of the Mt.

D'or SDA Church in Trinidad. A memorable presentation entitled "Afterward – the end of the story" was a comparative analysis between the books of Genesis and Revelation reminding God's people of the importance of the end of the story outlined in the book of Revelation, exposed in the book of Genesis. Text for reference Hebrews 12:11.

Remembering our young people, on Sabbath, November 23rd the children were engaged using age appropriate lessons, stories and hands-on activities during the children's church. Experienced coordinators including Sis. Sherma Alexander, Andrea Walters, Leeanna Alexander, Margaret Hamilton, Charles Smith, Vaughn Charles and Merrill Toppin ensured that the experience of the young people was truly a blessed one.

The Vision: "Let's Go for More, Get Up!"

The Session ended with a grand island-wide convention at the Scarborough S.D.A. Church with the Theme "It's No Longer a Dream". Later in the afternoon the members were blessed through music and song at the "Breathe Praise 3" Mini Concert through the talents of the many choirs in Tobago. To end the three days of business and the close of the Sabbath the installation of all officers took place with Pastor Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union, sharing his words of encouragement for the Administrative leadership of the Mission, the execution of the business of the Mission, the organization of the session and blessings upon the work to be carried out over the next four years.



*Paul
Mc Kenzie, APETD
and Personal
Ministries Director,
Tobago Mission.*



ADRA Saint Lucia and the National Federation of SDA Community Services ministers during Covid-19

By: Ps Lucius Philip and Nathaniel Emilien

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) St. Lucia and the National Federation of SDA Community Services under the leadership of Ps. Lucius Philip ministered to the physical needs of hundreds of St. Lucians who have been negatively impacted by this pandemic.

On Monday 20th April 2020 a total of 750 bags with food items were packaged for distribution and sent to SDA churches across the island for distribution to the most vulnerable. The National Federation of SDA Community Services mobilized its members to assist in the bagging and packaging of basic supplies. With the commitment of the mighty army of green, the task was accomplished by 1:00 PM whilst still observing the prescribed social distancing protocols.

A total of \$17,100 was raised for this timely initiative. We are grateful for the partnership of the Saint Lucia Mission, the SDA Credit Union and the National Federation of Community Services who all gave generous monetary contributions. According to Pastor Lucius Philip ADRA & Community Service Director, “Every congregation received at least 14 bags containing various food items for distribution to needy members and also community members.” This is just a drop in the bucket due to the plethora of needs; however, it showed that the church cares and does more than simply preaching the gospel.

The feedback and commendation from the island church and many individuals from across the island was very encouraging and positive.



Photo above shows Pastor Roger Stephen; Mission President hard at work. Photo below: Prepared bags; ready for collection and delivery



Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists - COVID-19 Impact

Continued from Page 25

Indeed, with the emergence of new and exciting virtual means of communicating, we have endeavored from the head office as well as at the pastoral district level to strategically use the technological machinery available to conduct meetings, provide leadership and spiritual nurture, and to keep the church community united. Quite apart from the many local online platforms being used by districts and churches, our conference has been providing all regular weekly church services to the constituency. While traditional methods of ministry are threatened, adaptive leadership must become treasured.

Reconfiguration of Family Roles & Resources

One area that has seen significant reconfiguration during this COVID season is the area of family roles and resources. Many family life educators have echoed the view that family dynamics can be fluid and are often redefined to face the demands of a different social context. It is undeniable that a partial lockdown in Guyana brought with it a series of attacks on the rhythm of the family where not only children found themselves at home, but due to social restrictions many parents have had to work from home, others lost jobs, while some who are self-employed are inhibited from plying their usual trade. No doubt, these new dynamics have derailed the habitual patterns, practices, and peculiarities of the family without consideration of their circumstances.

Admittedly, the COVID -19 crisis has created an opportunity for families to spend quality time together at home; most parents have had to reinvest that time into new and demanding roles in homeschooling their children or in many cases playing the role of teacher assistants or teacher aides as they support their children's class teachers who have employed social media or other forms of online learning while students are at home. Additionally, many homes have been put under some degree of financial burden, particularly for those parents whose children have been benefitting from the Ministry of Education's daily school feeding program. It stands to reason that many parents are now being forced to fund extra food bills, which would have been ordinarily covered by the government. With the lockdown, family income has decreased, while expenses have increased.

Recalibration of Income & Budgetary Allocations

The economic reality alluded to above gives us an indication of the negative financial impact this viral pandemic is poised to have on our comprehensive income

as an organization. The stark financial reality for many families will become much more evident in the months ahead as private companies continue to take radical austerity measures to stem the tide of the economic slow-down they have experienced as a result of the Corona crisis. Earlier in April 2020, the Guyana Tourism Authority published that 30% of tourism employees have lost their jobs, and another 36% have been furloughed or placed on no-pay leave.

The GOSHEN Family & ADVENT PRAISE Movement
PRESENTS
A Virtual Lockdown Production

#CatchMe Inside!
Praised Up and Sanctified!

SATURDAY MAY 16
TIME 7:30PM

Live On
GUYANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
f FACEBOOK PAGE

ALSO ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY: THE PATTERSON SISTERS
THE EVANGELICALS/INSPIRATION/CULTIVATED YOUTH DRAMA GROUP.

EXPECT MUSIC, POETRY, DRAMA, COMEDY AND MUCH MORE.

POWERED BY THE YOUTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT - GUYANA CONFERENCE OF SDA



Food Hampers for those in need.



Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists - COVID-19 Impact

Continued From Page 33

As gloomy as this picture may seem, it is likely just a microcosm of what might be replicated in many private companies across our constituency. With an average 34% of our working membership in governmental jobs, 39% employed with the private sector and 27% self-employed based on a Conference Census completed in 2016, it is not a surprise that we have seen a decline in our tithes and offerings remitted for March and April 2020. Careful analysis of the prevailing crisis, demands a response of prudence that we recalibrate our anticipated income and apply realistic adjustments to our 2020 budgetary allocations to guarantee survival in the face of the economic slowdown in our country. Arguably, financial stability during this COVID-19 season is not about realizing 100% liquidity but instead learning to live within your financial reality.

Reaffirmation of Prophetic & Eschatological Themes

One of the exciting outcomes of the outbreak of the Coronavirus is a renewed interest in the church's prophetic foundations. The global impacting nature of the pandemic has caused many of our members to see this disease as a fulfillment of the prophetic declaration made by Jesus in Matthew 24:7 highlighting the fact that in the last days, there will be pestilences. The word epidemic comes from a Greek word which is translated plague or disease and will occur as a precursor to the coming of Jesus. The way this disease has comprehensively affected the world, and the universally agreed-upon strategies and actions to curb its spread, is a fitting illustration of how easy compliance can be solicited globally as we contemplate the final crisis and implementation of the Sunday Law.

Interestingly, some members have had their challenge and reacted to the authorities viewing the closing of churches as a threat to religious liberty. However, the defining issue at the end will nar-

row its focus on God's remnant people who chose to be loyal to Him rather than an earthly religious system. It should be noted that the order from the government required all churches, even mosques, and temples to be closed. By no means was this an attack on those who refused to worship the image of the beast (Revelation 13:15). We are steadily moving to the end of earth's history, but we are not yet at the end. One positive outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it has created a renewed confidence in our prophetic foundations, and have sent many of our members back to the study of the apocalyptic prophecies of Daniel and Revelation in a quest to deepen knowledge of eschatological events.

While COVID-19 has brought its negative impacts socially and economically, it has undoubtedly brought its positive spiritual benefits by teaching us to depend absolutely on God, to deepen our value for eternal things, to demonstrate our commitment to mission in utilizing new methods, and to dedicate our lives each day to be ready for the imminent return of Christ. COVID-19 may slow us down, but should never keep us down from rising to the high calling of Christ as we build characters that are fit for heaven.



Pastor Mc Kenzie, Communication Director, coordinates the on-line streaming programs in the Guyana Conference



SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE: COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE



**President South Leeward Conference, Dr.
Carson Greene**

Like every other field in the Caribbean Union, the South Leeward Conference has been heavily impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The South Leeward Conference is a five island, three state territory comprising of the twin island state of Antigua/Barbuda, the twin island state of St Kitts/Nevis and the British dependent territory of Montserrat. All three states have been under a state of emergency with varying degrees of curfew. Only essential services have been allowed to operate while churches, schools, and places of entertainment including beaches have been closed.

This report will consider the following categories: Financial Impact and Response, Christian Education, Religious Activities, Humanitarian Response and Other Initiatives.

Financial Impact and Response:

The South Leeward Conference Territory is heavily dependent on tourism and with the closure of all hotels and airline companies, the mainstay of the economy has been directly impacted. The impact on the economy will, of course, be reflected in the church's income. Some of the territories of the Conference get as much as 80% of their revenues from tourism and related endeavors. This means that governments across the regions are likely to see a significant fall in revenue. Workers in the hotel industry have been laid off and many workers in other areas have likewise been affected. As indicated above, only essential businesses are opened in most of the territory. This means that even businesses not directly related to tourism and travel, have been impacted.

It is definitely true that with fewer members working, the Conference's income will be less. The situation is however not that simple. The state of emergency has resulted in the closure of

church buildings in all of the territories. This closure was almost immediate and came at a most inopportune time—March 26. This means that on the final Sabbath of March, the time when the significant percentage of membership return their tithe, the buildings were closed. With the territory under a 24-hour curfew, it became very difficult for members to return their tithes. It therefore means that in addition to the anticipated reduction of tithe income, the tithe collection process is now also affected.

The administration has commissioned a survey in every congregation to determine the extent to which members have been impacted in relation to employment. While all the information has not yet been collected, the initial indicators are that we can anticipate between 40 to 45% decline in employment.

The Conference's response to the financial impact involves the following:

1. We have asked pastors to connect with members and implement a system of tithe collection. Before the total lockdown, members met in small groups and group leaders collected the tithe and turned it over to the pastor who then turned it over to the church treasury who met at designated times to count and do the necessary transactions. A special form was created for group leaders and pastors for transparency and control measures. **(Continued on Page 46)**



We have been forced into a new space of living and ministry.

Continued From Page 11

The following Webinars were conducted:

1. How to Survive a Family Crisis (three part series)
2. Understanding and Coping with Mourning
3. Local Adventist Cuisine
4. A Crisis Within a Crisis: Domestic Violence and the Impact of COVID-19
5. Building the Holistic Child

Thank you Jesus!

We have also had virtual SCC Executive Committee, SCC Directors meeting, SCC Staff meeting, President's meeting (meeting with all ministerial workers) and Online Church Planning meeting. The team spirit among the administrators, directors and pastors has been enhanced even though we have been operating virtually. Special recognition must be given to the Online Church Planning Committee - Tristen Samuel, Sheldon Moore, Teelbany Singh, Robert Dilworth, Deborah Ferreira, Khia Orr, Lana Small, Steve Riley, Judy Haynes, Roslyn Baptiste-Farfan, Wayne Jeffery, Kay-Marie Fletcher and the SCC administration. Thank you.

One of the challenges we have had, is insufficient food to distribute to the needy on the island. We have been inundated with requests for help. We have however distributed several hundred hampers and will begin a more vigorous distribution drive in the weeks to come. On April 22, 2020 the SCC Executive Committee approved a plan to give financial support to the churches in the Conference to enable them to assist the economically challenged and most vulnerable church members and persons in the wider community who were impacted by COVID-19.

We believe that this too (COVID-19) will pass, and Jesus will come. In the mean time, we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)₃₆



Communication Director Deborah Ferreira and her assistants, Sheldon Moore and Robert Dilworth.



SCIENTIST OFFERS SERVICE

The cost of those critical ingredients is being covered by Dr. Miller, Pastor Haynes, the local SDA Conference and donations from the public.

The scientist said he is dedicated to offering the service as long as is necessary but acknowledged that some critical ingredients like glycerine have become very scarce owing to tremendous demand.

Added to the hours spent making gallons of sanitizer, Dr. Miller continues to honour his obligations to the BCC and he is currently preparing comprehensive surveys to examine the experiences of students and tutors at the college as they weather the COVID-19 storm.

“It’s easy,” he replied when asked how he balances the two time-consuming projects.

“I like working as a research leader and I like doing this labour of love. It takes time but it is necessary. I have also been given the endorsement of my principal in terms of assisting the community because we are a community college as well and this is one area where a member of the college can give back to the community,” Dr. Miller explained.

Given time constraints, the chemist has not been able to distribute the products with Pastor Haynes but says approximately 50 four-ounce bottles are prepared daily as he toils alone in the kitchen of the King Street SDA Church.

But he stressed: “If you have a choice, wash your hands with soap and water. Wash them carefully for about 20 seconds, and if you cannot get access to soap and water, the next best thing is the sanitizer. It should not replace soap and water.”

The veteran scientist has also praised the Mia Mottley administration’s management of the situation despite the perceived missteps along the way.

“I think the administration has been very proactive in terms of putting measures in place, sensitizing the people, encouraging them to do things like physical distancing, and personal hygiene.

It took some time for that to sink in for Barbadians,

but change is a slow process,” said Dr. Miller.

“I don’t think we will get it right without some attempts at modifying it. What we have done so far seems to be a bit more than just a step in the right direction...I can only encourage the leaders of this country to continue doing what they are doing because leadership is sometimes a thankless job,” he added.



Dr. Miller holds in his hands sanitizer in bottle as seen below.





CARU Colleagues Saluted as Longest-Serving Ministerial Workers

Two colleagues from the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) of Seventh-day Adventists shared the stage for the longest-serving ministerial workers in the Caribbean Union, as of December, 2019. On Thursday, January 8, 2020, Dr. Kern Tobias, CARU President, and Dr. Clive Dottin, CARU Religious Liberty Director, were presented with official plaques that recognized the 40 years of continuous service each had given to the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, thus far.

The milestone was indelibly etched in the CARU annals during a ceremony attended by the Ministerial Secretaries from the General Conference (Pastor Anthony Kent), the Inter-American Division (Pastor Josney Rodriguez), the Caribbean Union (Pastor Ammaran Williams) and all fields of the Caribbean Union.

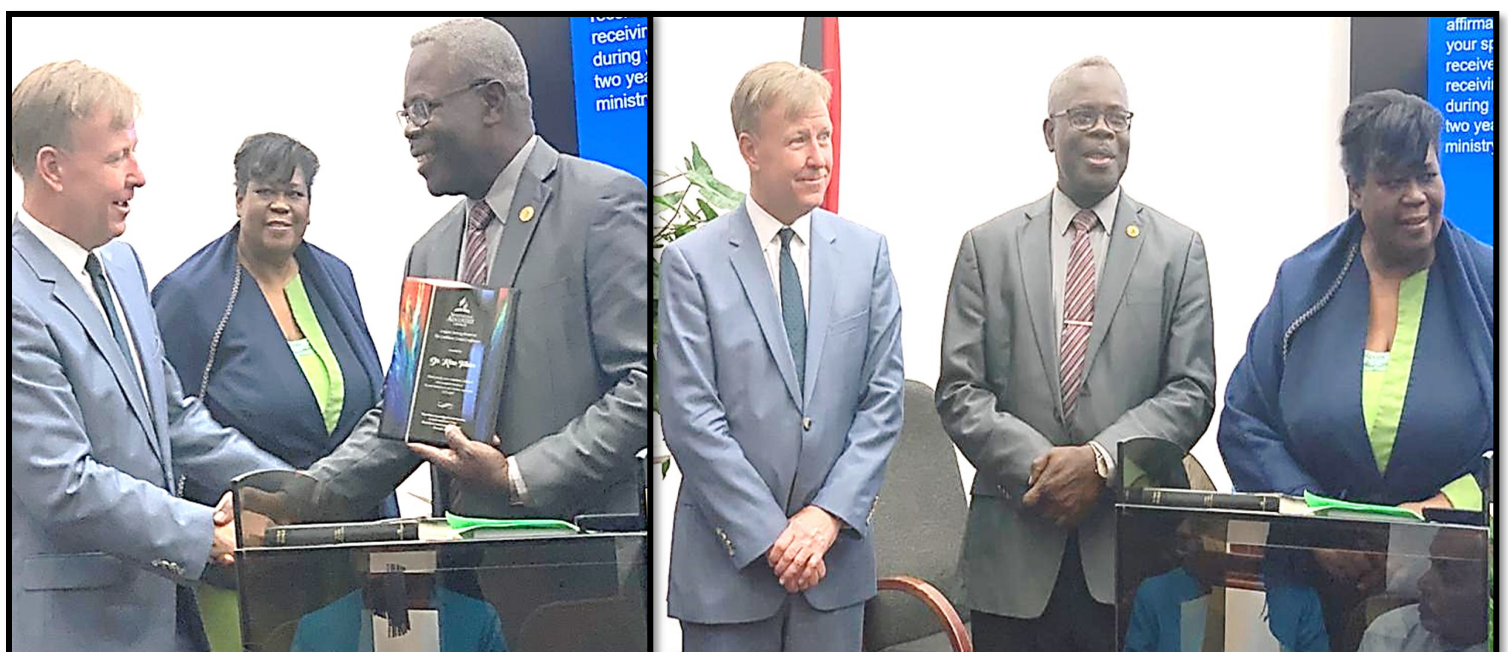
Pastor Anthony Kent commended Dr. Tobias, “It is always commendable to reward men who have given a lifetime of service to the church. I have known Pastor Tobias and I have seen, in full display, his sharing and modeling of ministry. He has and continues to inspire the church and its members by his walk with God. He is a true spiritual leader.”

Pastor Ammaran Williams was delighted to present his colleagues for commendation and said, “Over the years, where ever these humble servants have gone around the Caribbean Union, you can sense genuine love for them. They have the innate ability to affirm ministry in people and celebrate with them over every achievement.”

The chronicle of Dr. Tobias’ distinguished service was followed by the Dr. Dottin’s illustrious record. Raised in an Adventist home on the island of Tobago, Dr. Tobias is the product of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) educational system from the primary to the tertiary level. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Theology in 1979. He earned a Master’s degree in Religion from Andrews University in 1997, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Family Ministry, in 2010.

During his forty years of work for the Church, he has served as educator, district pastor, conference director, conference president and currently he is the President of the Caribbean Union Conference and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the University of the Southern Caribbean.

(Continued on page 39)



Pastor Anthony Kent congratulates Dr. Kern Tobias for his 40 years of committed service while Sheryle Liverpool looks on.

Dr. Kern Tobias is brought to tears as a short outline of his service is read while Pastor Kent listens intently.



CARU Colleagues Saluted as Longest-Serving Ministerial Workers

Continued from page 38

Dr. Tobias credits the SDA Church for his nurture and growth in ministry. He is known as a solid and consistent minister with a pastor's heart for people. Loved by many, Dr. Tobias is an excellent administrator, a true servant-leader and a capable presenter. Although he travels widely and his administrative duties embrace lots of his time, Dr. Tobias still makes pastoral visits and shares in ministry whenever he is asked.

He is married to Linda Tobias nee Hislop, and they have three children: Dr. Kerly-Ann Joseph, Kylon and Linson. His hobbies are table-tennis, scrabble, cooking, gardening and reading. He is a strong advocate for Christian Education, a healthy lifestyle and happy families. He is blessed with a happy and functional family; he is a servant of God and a friend to man.

Not known to ever be at a loss for words, Dr. Tobias seemed overwhelmed by the honor as he reminisced on his pastoral ministry, "God has been extremely good to me and I thank Him for allowing me to have a part in His Church and His Mission.

I love my district church[es]. When you reside where the people are, you can really minister to them."

After forty years of service the gracious Dr. Clive Dottin continues to serve as the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director as well as Field Secretary of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Dr. Dottin began his denominational service as an Integrated Science Teacher at the Maracas Seventh-day Adventist Primary and the Baratavia Junior Secondary Schools. He holds a Diploma in Elementary Teacher Education, a B.A. in Theology from the University of the Southern Caribbean, a Master's in Public Health from Loma Linda University and a doctoral degree from the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). At the 2009 graduation exercise for the University of the Southern Caribbean in Maracas, Trinidad, Pastor Dottin was awarded a honorary doctorate for his outstanding work in the areas of community service and rescuing youth in crisis.

(Continued on page 41)



Pastor Clive Dottin was also honored for 40 years of service along with Dr. Tobias. They are flanked by Pastors A. Williams and A. Kent.

Publishing Safari

Continued on page 43



The Publishing Safari team pose for photograph. Judith Smith is seated second from left.

The purpose of the Safari was to rekindle enthusiasm and passion of the full and part-time Literature Evangelists, Publishing Coordinators, and Pastors. The Union-wide event sought to underscore why publishing is still relevant at present and in the decade ahead. Publishing continues to play a vital role in the evangelistic life of the Church through sharing, giving, and selling. The event was designed to engage both members and Literature Evangelists because we are all tasked with the responsibility to warn others of the return of Jesus Christ.

The Publishing Safari was a historic trek across four (4) Conferences. The first leg of the Safari began in the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) on the island of St. Croix. It was a weekend activity that was hosted on February 21-23, 2020. The main presenters were Sister Judith Smith, Director, Caribbean Union Conference (CARU); Dr. Dudley Hosin, Director, Jamaica Union (JAMU); Pastor Patrick Clarke, Director, South Caribbean Conference (SCC); and Pastor Roosevelt Haynes, Director, East Caribbean Conference (ECC).

The second leg of the Safari was hosted on March 6-9, 2020 in the Vernon Andrews Amphitheater at the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). In attendance were 66 persons from Trinidad, as well as Pastor Durwin Patrick Clarke, Director; and Elder Lester Mitchell, Associate Director. From Tobago Mission, Pastor Toney Mapp, President; Pastor Richard Frederick, Director and nine (9) full and part-time LEs. Representing Grenada Conference was Pastor Maxcen Noel, Director; Sis Edlyn John, Administrative Professional to the president; and four (4) full and part-time LEs. The Student Literature Evangelist Club was also represented by Dr. Llyod Jacott of USC and six (6) students. Elder Joel Hazelwood, Associate Treasurer, represented CARU administrators, who were on assignment in Suriname. Also giving yeoman support and service was my committed and faithful administrative assistant, Sister Faith Pustam-Ramdath, and Pastor Ricky Ramdath, one of our devotional presenters. Our main presenter was Dr. Super Moesi, Director, South African Indian Ocean Division. His presentations were spiritual, inspiring and called for a recommitment to the publishing work. *(Continued on Pg. 43)*



CARU Colleagues Saluted as Longest-Serving Ministerial Workers

Continued from page 39

Dr. Dottin, who once served as Youth Director of the Caribbean Union, is the pioneer of and current chairperson of the Mega Mission Board that manages a Rehabilitation Centre located in Matura, Trinidad. The Mega Mission project has impacted thousands of youth and their families throughout the Caribbean.

He has served on several government commissions involving AIDS, youth development, drugs, crime and national security. For the past twenty-five (25) years, Dr. Dottin has worked with many groups, including the Republic Bank Youth Link Program, Servol, and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Dr. Dottin is the pioneer and first chairperson of 'Heart Home', an entity for abused children, which was established in 1991. He has assisted the 'Loveuntil' Foundation to develop a network of support group ministries in the East Port of Spain district.

In 1992, Dr. Dottin was appointed to a special government commission in Trinidad, led by a former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honorable Patrick Manning – the commission investigated an allegation that there was a drug cartel in

the police force. He served as a member of the Police Service Commission from 2007 to 2010 and developed the 'People Can Change' program for CNC3 in 2008. In 2013, he was appointed to be a member of the Child Protection Task Force, by another former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honorable Kamla Persad-Bissessar. From 2016 to 2018, Dr. Dottin, periodically, served as an acting Independent Senator.

In 2010, Dr. Dottin launched the *Hands Across the Caribbean NEWSTART* walk and exposition under the theme, *Protect Your Heart with NEWSTART*. In 2012, he was appointed PRO of the St. James Police Youth Club and assisted with counseling as well as program design and implementation.

He received community engagement awards from groups such as the IRO (Inter-Religious Organization), Alcoholics Anonymous, Friends Forever, the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), the Archbishop Pantin Award Committee and Hindi Nidhi Foundation. Dr. Dottin is currently involved in major inter-faith initiatives, designed to minister to hurting and depressed families.

HISTORIC ON-LINE EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE

Continued from page 69

After all was said and done, the South Leeward Conference was able to baptize thirty-two (32) souls for Jesus; twenty – eight (28) in Antigua and four (4) in Nevis. Additionally, there are souls yet to be baptized, in St. Kitts, Montserrat, Dominica and Texas awaiting clearance from their territorial restrictions in this Covid-19 season. We thank all those who gave of their time, energies and giftedness for this pioneering work, but ultimately, we give God all the praise, honour and glory for the mighty work that He has done, even in this season.

There is Power in the Blood!



Dr. Mark Brathwaite was featured nightly with his program "Family on the Sofa"



COVID -19 IMPACT: St. Lucia Mission

Continued from page 42

Our programs are being streamed on the St. Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Youtube page, LNO Studios Youtube page, LNO Studios Facebook page, Great Vision Design (GVD) Television Station on channel 115 on FLOW, and also aired on Prayz FM 98.5 and 92.5 FM.

Our online audience on Sabbaths has grown to more than five thousand viewers while our Sunday and Wednesday evening services are about three thousand. It must be noted, however, that these figures do not account for the many who are viewing from GVD television channel as well as those listening to Prayz FM. Our programs have been a blessing to not just the members of the St. Lucia Mission, but to the many following from around the Caribbean, USA, Canada, Singapore, Zimbabwe, Ukraine and many other parts of the world.

After the President's panel discussion on "Family Finance in the face of COVID -19" encouraging God's people to remain faithful, many persons from the diaspora pledged to make donations to the St. Lucia Mission as well as many St. Lucians living abroad have pledged to return their tithes to the St. Lucia Mission. We have received many of these pledges to date.

Whereas, the closure of churches has posed a challenge in the collecting of tithes, pastors were encouraged to open churches at times suited to their membership for these collections. We also arranged for members to return their tithes and offerings through the Mission Office, the S.D.A Credit Union, Prayz FM, and to use their online banking facilities through four different banks. We thank God for the faithfulness of his saints in the face of this pandemic.

We have used our virtual programs to minister through family Life ministries. Dr. Caius Alfred has recently launched a program on Facebook captioned "The Family Conversation" which has a very large following. The youth department is also using innovative ways to minister to the adventurers and pathfinders through the virtual "AdventPath" program every Sabbath afternoon from 2-3 p.m. We have also been ministering to our members through our health, stewardship and

counseling discussions during our livestream programs.

Pastors have been instructed to form small groups in all congregations in an effort to minister to all members and to also ensure that all members are accounted for. Many of our districts were proactive and purchased food items in bulk and have had food distributions to the shut-ins, needy, and those who have either been laid off temporarily or terminated. The St. Lucia Mission through the Island Development Council (IDC) collaborating with the SDA Credit Union, and the Community Services Federation spent ECD \$17,000.00 and packaged over 750 food bags and delivered to members and non members alike throughout the island on April 20th, 2020. We thank Pastor Lucius Philip for making this happen.

With the new thrust in St. Lucia to "grow what you eat and eat what you grow", the executive committee has voted an Agriculture Development Committee that will empower members who are interested in a career in agriculture and assist farmers who want to sharpen their skills altogether. The St. Lucia Mission is seeking to empower its members in a holistic way while we minister to their spiritual needs during this COVID crisis. **(Continued on Page 40)**



Communication Director Daryl St. Clair, on the ball with the live streaming



Publishing Safari

Continued from page 40

The Guyana Conference leg was hosted on March 10-11, 2020 at the Central SDA Church, Georgetown, Guyana. Included in the program were special sessions for the pastors, who were encouraged to identify challenges they encounter and the possible solutions to move the ministry forward. Our presenters for this third leg of the Safari were Dr. Super Moesi, and Sis Renisca Mutueel, Director of Curacao Conference.

The final leg of the Safari culminated in the ECC on the island of Barbados, from March 12-14, 2020. In attendance were Pastor Karlson Samuel, Director, SVG Mission; Pastor Richard Randolph, Director, St. Lucia Mission (SLuM); Pastor Carl Hastings, Director, South Leeward Mission (SLM); and a group of forty (40) excited Literature Evangelists who brought energy and passion to a well-planned and coordinated event. Also attending were all the other directors of the remaining fields of CARU. Like the past legs of the Safari, attendees were reminded by the two main presenters of the importance of the Publishing Ministry in the work of the Church. On Sabbath 14 March, 2020 a convocation was hosted at the Oldbury Campsite, with the full support of the administrators of ECC. Directors were deployed to churches around the island and over 50 full and part-time Literature Evangelists were recruited. In the afternoon a symposium was hosted for pastors and a presentation was given by Dr. Super Moesi. The program culminated with a pinning ceremony and presentations of gifts and tokens of appreciation to our presenters and directors.

Special commendations must be given to the chairpersons of the four conferences where the Safari was hosted: Dr Henry Peters, NCC; Pastor Patrick Clarke, SCC; Pastor Mark McPherson and Sis Anetta Thomas, Guyana Conference; and Pastor Roosevelt Haynes, ECC.

With the theme “*Cast Deeper - I Will Go*” train



Publishing Director Judith Smith

ing and resources were provided for Directors, Literature Evangelists, Coordinators, Personal Ministry Leaders, and Pastors. The intent at each leg of the Safari was accomplished by motivating and re-igniting in attendees a passion for the importance of the publishing work and a greater commitment for literature ministry.

We are confident that the Safari contributed to creating greater awareness, appreciation and commitment to the Publishing Ministry. Administrators, Directors, Pastors, Literature Evangelists and other attendees recommitted themselves to moving the work forward and confidently resolved that God will continue to open doors for people to receive our LEs and their service through Literature.



CORONA CRISIS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Children are more vulnerable during a crisis. We need to be prepared to do all within our power to continue protecting our children under any circumstance.

Listed below are some tips for parents and caregivers to help them provide the necessary protection and emotional support for the children in their care.

PROTECTION TIPS

1. Prevent Isolation.
 - ◆ Plan group activities in order to keep children around you.
 - ◆ If possible camp out in your living room or have slumber parties so you can all sleep together.
 - ◆ Keep doors open at all times.
2. Keep situations fluid so you can interrupt easily at any time.
3. Encourage your children to talk and be ready to listen to them.
 - ◆ Reassure them that there will be no blame or shame.
 - ◆ Create a code word together for the child to use if something or someone makes them uncomfortable or afraid.
4. Look for opportunities to talk about body safety and boundaries.
5. Teach them how to get away from unsafe situations.
6. Be ready to report.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TIPS

1. Reassure them constantly.
2. Be patient. Fear may be manifested in moody or unusual behavior.
 - ◆ Child may display regressive behavior, eg. thumb sucking, bed wetting.
 - ◆ Increased anxiety, sleep disruption, change in appetite, angry outbursts etc. may be seen.

3. Take a break from the information circulated via social media.
4. Share appropriate information in a child-friendly way.
5. Take time out as a family to do fun things.
6. Keep a prayerful, positive, hopeful disposition.
 - ◆ Remember children take their cues from the adults in their environment.

Information provided by Debra-Ann Henry, Women, Children, and adolescent Director CARU



Debra-Ann Henry, Women, Children, and Adolescent Director CARU





Grenada Youth Investiture 2019

What appeared to be a day destined for unreasonable weather conditions turned into a historic event within the Youth Department.

It was the morning of December 8, 2019. All the plans were set in motion for our Youth Ministries National Investiture. However, as the dew was forming on the trees and the night was giving way to the morning rays of sunshine, a loud gush of rain was heard pounding on the rooftops. It was at that moment that the possibility of having the program as planned became doubtful. Despite the undesirable conditions, a few minutes spent in conversation with God made the difference. The doubt was not sufficient to defeat the desire to proceed as scheduled and therefore we moved into action.

Dawn's early light was quickly approaching as we diligently loaded chairs, tents and other items for setup at the well-known Progress Park Playing Field. It was such a delight to offload the equipment unto the freshly cut blades of grass, that paved the way for the unimaginable units of uniformed personnel. The assignment was exhausting but we were soon to discover that it would be worth every drop of sweat.

The stage was set and the time was at hand as Adventurers, Pathfinders, Master Guides and AY uniformed persons, smartly dressed, walked through the Park. The sound of fading footsteps was heard as the afternoon sunshine beamed upon the faces of a tensely poised crowd. However, a sense of ease was noticed as the clubs marched around the Park showcasing their awards and uniform pieces. My Associate, Pastor Ja-

mie Gordon and I stood rooted as we received the eyes right from the passing uniformed clubs. The scenes of future generations driven with purpose were also witnessed.

After a brief inspection of the clubs, the ceremony got under way with competent staff at the helm, leading the way. We were joined by former Youth Directors: Pastors Christopher Williams, Emmanuel Marshall and Elvis Hillaire, who did justice to the tasks assigned to them. A remarkable milestone was attained, as the President, Dr. Clinton Lewis and Executive Secretary, Pastor Oliver Scott, fully attired in their A.Y uniform, addressed the Investees and onlookers. This must be noted since it is the first time within the history of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists that such an act is recorded. Hats off to our Administrators who are sound agents in echoing the mission of the Youth.

We concluded the afternoon with the fading sun signaling the end of a remarkable event. However, the incoming darkness could not stop the youth drills and drum squads. Fancy drill displays and drum clashes, intensified the rhythm of the afternoon as the crowd pressed closer to the animated showdown of electrifying performances. Special thanks must be extended to my Associate, Youth Leaders and family who continue to champion the agenda of the Youth Work.



By Pastor Bernard Lyons—Youth Ministries Director



Mother pinning her son (Photo inserted). Uniform groups.



SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE: COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE

Continued from page 35

2. After the lockdown was instituted, some congregations established a drop box system for members to deposit their tithes during the specially designated times when persons were allowed to leave home for shopping etc.
3. Tithe and offering promotion is done each week through the online service organized by the Conference via our YouTube channel, Facebook live, and our radio station.
4. The Conference is in the advanced stage of implementing an online giving system which will allow members to use their debit and credit card to return tithe to their local congregations. Provision is also made through the same system for members who do not have bank accounts to use the same system. Local Church treasurers are also able to use the same system to send reports to the office from the comfort of their homes.

Christian Education:

The South Leeward Conference operates five educational institutions: One early childhood centre, three primary schools and one secondary school. The early childhood centre, two primary and the secondary school are in Antigua and the third primary school is in St Kitts. In mid March, the Ministry of Education in Antigua issued a memorandum instructing that all schools should close and that the children should remain at home. Immediately, parents stopped paying school fees. As such, practically all outstanding balances remained unpaid for the duration of the school term.

The primary and secondary schools organized to do online instruction but the early childhood centre, for obvious reasons, could not do this. The Conference guaranteed that all workers would be paid their full salary for the month of April but the lack of income for the early childhood center led the committee to make the decision to lay off the workers at this institution for three months or until it is legally possible to continue. The other schools are aggressively seeking to collect as much tuition as possible in order to guarantee payment of salary at least up to the end of June.

The Conference also engaged the Ministry of Education in a meeting to determine what help the government is willing to give. The Conference proposed the following:

1. Subsidized or free internet access for students and teachers.
2. A grant/subvention to the school.
3. Access to electronic text book portal.

The Ministry of Education promised to investigate the possibility of assistance but warned that the government's revenue sources have suffered a near mortal wound.

Religious Activities:

The Conference was proactive in its ministry provision. Well before any government action, the Conference was putting a plan in place in the event of a lockdown which eventually came. The first aspect of the plan called for small group meetings or Sabbath school classes meeting. This functioned well when the limit for gatherings was not more than 25 persons. The second phase of the plan called for each local congregation to have online Sabbath School and AY meetings and for the Conference to live stream the divine worship service and midweek prayer meeting. This provides for local fellowship and accountability. The Conference has now been having the divine worship service and has been using our radio station-2nd Advent Radio (101.5 FM or online via Tune-In), our YouTube Channel - SLC Adventist and also on Facebook live at South Leeward Conference. Live streaming can also be accessed from the Conference's website at www.slcadventist.org. Mid-week prayer meeting is also done live on Second Advent Radio.

Continued on Page 52



Dr Wayne Knowles—Communication Director

Multiple-alarm Fire Consumes SDA Church on St. Croix

Continued from Page 17

Another member, Larry Thomas-Lewis, was overwhelmed with emotion as he watched the flames raze the church. He said, “Only last evening we were at the church preparing for this weekend’s service. We lost lots of our equipment in the fire but it’s not the equipment, it’s the impact of the ministry I am concerned [about].” He and his family are actively involved in improving the quality of ministry offered by the church and sacrifices to create content during this time and share the message of hope.

Dedicated on August 18, 1985, the church is home to over 400 members and is the preferred venue of worship for many who visit the island. The church has an effective pastoral ministry under the leadership of Pastor Earl Daniel and Sister Margaret Peters. The music ministry and online services are simply outstanding and the church received international recognition for the quality of its innovative ministry rendered to members and the community. During the stay-at-home virus mitigation mandate encouraged in the VI, teams of church members safely visited homes to bring cheer through music and prayer.

Several of the island’s pastors gathered to console the congregants. “The enemy is at their heels. He does not like what they are doing and is trying to stop them but God is greater,” said Pastor Arnaldo Gonzalez of the Sunny Acres SDA Church.

By mid-morning, social media came alive as scores of people from around the world shared comforting sentiments. The expressions of support revealed the positive impact of the church on members and the community. The First Elder, Herman Ravariere, said, “It’s hard to stand and see your church go up in flames. By God’s grace, we will keep moving on.”

The leadership of the Peter’s Rest SDA Church is grateful to everyone for their concerns and prayers. The VI Fire Services and the Police Department are to be commended for their professional actions.



Inside the Peter’s Rest SDA Church



The front of the Church on fire.



THE CORONA PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SVG MISSION

Continued from Pg. 19

E-classrooms have been created and virtual teaching/learning taking place, notwithstanding its many challenges. Members have been encouraged to be faithful to the Lord with their tithes and offerings, but recovering school fees for the third term of the school year may be a major financial set-back. The full assessment of our financial impact may not be known until the month of May when data are available and analyzed.

There are numerous conspiracy theories that abound with blame and counter-blames as to who and what are responsible for this pandemic. For one thing, at this time we should never become overwhelmed with feelings of insecurity, inadequacy, powerlessness and helplessness.

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet reminds us that “Evil is going forth from nation to nation, and a great storm is being stirred up from the remotest parts of the earth. The slain will be from one end of the earth to the other” (Jer. 25:32–33a, NASB).

Lucifer the arch deceiver is the master mind behind all the evils that stalk the land. While poli-

ticians train their guns at each other and the World Health Organization looks for a vaccine to combat this deadly respiratory virus, we must stand reassuringly on the pillars of our faith and hold resolutely to God’s promise that He will sustain His people during any pandemic or epidemic. He has done it before and He will do it again.

Corona does not have the final say; God does! Let us therefore choose:

- ♦ **faith over fear**
- ♦ **prayer over pain**
- ♦ **praise over panic**
- ♦ **assurance over anxiety**
- ♦ **worship over worry, and**
- ♦ **hope over hopelessness**

And so the world is closed for renovation. It’s evident that the Man the world needs most to undertake this renovation is Jesus Christ, the Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer. We must make urgent use of the crisis to publish glad tidings, pull out every stop and sound the alarm bell for He is coming back soon. Let’s look up and lift our sight heavenward. Footsteps are along the



Bjon Mc. Nicolas in black and Floyd Bailey in white at the controls at SVG Mission on-line Church housed at the Mt Moriah SDA Church.

The SVG mission runs one on-line program on Sunday, Wednesday and Sabbath. President Baptiste presented the first on-line message to the church in SVG. Communications Director Kerry Kerr inset



CARU Hosts Historic Intern Supervisors' Training

From January 9 – 12, 2020, the vital role of discipling interns was reaffirmed during a historic Intern Supervisors' training hosted for Ministerial Secretaries and Intern Supervisors who serve the fields across the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The three-day training-for-certification program, which took place at the Caribbean Union Conference headquarters in Maraval, Trinidad, featured empowering sessions led by the Ministerial Secretary of the General Conference, Pastor Anthony Kent. Under the theme, "Developing Successful Internship Supervision", the event sought to identify and hone the ministerial potential in interns.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference, expressed appreciation for the well-tailored program. "At a time when the membership is appealing for more committed and visible pastors, this initiative is relevant, necessary and timely. It is focused on developing the essentials of the intern and intern supervisor in an intentional way in the Caribbean Union, where we place emphasis on ministerial development and pastoral care. It is well established that an internship program, where adequate supervision is provided, is a key component and factor in guaranteeing that a quality pastor is produced. Focus must not be placed on the supervisor but on the supervisee."

Pastor Kent stated, "I congratulate the Caribbean Union for this initiative. In too many places, we are sending too many people out with little or no internship training. The emphasis must be at the local church where the supervisor is the trainer."

Pastor Ammaran Williams, Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union, emphasized, "This training is about giving attention to establishing proper habits in supervisors that can be passed on to interns, who, in turn, will model best practice. One of the main problems faced by the Seventh-day Adventist



Ministerial Director Pastor Amarran Williams

Church's present ministerial intern program is a lack of proper supervision. In the Caribbean Union, deliberate effort is made to address the issues and establish a solid base for the development of ministry. We need real field trainers who by experience, education, and spiritual leadership, are equipped to mold future workers."

The Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church is giving priority to the matter of assigning interns to trained ministers. The attitudes, role concepts and relationships cultivated during the internship period significantly affect the entire professional life; they often determine whether the intern will even continue in ministry.

Amazingly, supervisors seem to feel as strongly as interns about the need for supervisory training. One supervisor commented, "I feel very inadequate in training interns. I did not receive proper training as an intern and do not know how to train others. I need to be trained."

Another supervisor noted, "When I was first assigned an intern, no one ever explained to me my duties and responsibilities. I could have done a much better job with my first intern if such a program had been available to train me in supervising an intern."



CHURCH DEDICATION SERVICE

Mt. St. George SDA Church, Tobago Mission



Assemblyman Joel Jack, Deputy Chief Secretary, and Secretary of Finance and the Economy. Also, area representative for Bacolet/Mt St George along with Pastor Toney Mapp, President for the Tobago Mission cut the ribbon while Dr Kern Tobias, President of CARU looks on.

Written by Sis. Cindy Lorde—Submitted by Annette Lewis, Communications Director, Tobago Mission

It would be remembered as a ‘High day in Israel’. Sunday 22nd December 2019, heralded in the Dedication Service of the Mt. St. George Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Tobago Mission. The theme “Praise Him” was truly befitting of the grandeur and magnitude of the renovations that were accomplished. Their objective to give God all the glory and honour was realized.

The Service which began at 3pm, was aptly chaired by Pas. Reynold Thomas-District Pastor. The Praise and Worship team competently stirred the thankfulness within our souls. The CARU President, Pastor Dr. Kern Tobias - keynote speaker, Pas. Toney Mapp, President, Pas. Martin Cunningham, Executive Secretary and Mrs. Kerene Horsford-Nero, Administrators of the Tobago Mission, Pas. Vishnu Persad, Ministerial Secretary, Pas. Reynold Thomas, and the First Elder, Bro. Henson Lovelace comprised the platform personnel.

The congregation consisted of denominational leaders from the Anglican, Baptist, Church of God, Pentecostal, Catholic and Methodist churches. Community groups such as the Hope & Mt. St. George Community Councils and the Mt. St. George Police

Youth Club were represented. Assemblyman and Area Representative Mr. Joel Jack and delegate of the Minority Leader, Dr. Faith B. Yisreal were also part of the celebration. Other joyful faces were that of members of several SDA churches across the island, and well-wishers from near and far. The throng filled the newly expanded seating areas to capacity.

The Church is well known for its music and drama presentations and these were the mediums used to demonstrate the goodness of God. The church’s choir, Jewels of Praise and Golden Promises belted out notes which led to thunderous Amens. The Drama Crew relived the church’s history. The historical and cultural astuteness of the researchers married with the wittiness of the actors afforded those present to be transported to another time and another place. Updates were given on the various developments, accomplishments and vision of the church at present. Foundation members of the Mt. St. George SDA church, Bro. & Sis Timothy were remembered. The sacrifice of both past and present members was clearly evident.



CHURCH DEDICATION SERVICE

Mt. St. George SDA Church, Tobago Mission

Sis. Horsford-Nero led out in Worship in Giving. At this juncture numerous churches and well-wishers brought their blessings of monetary contributions.

The keynote speaker, the dynamic Pas. Dr. Kern Tobias delivered a message entitled, “Build Me a Sanctuary” referencing the text 1 Chronicles 29:10-14. He presented three symbolic aspects of God’s Church—Ceremonial, Typical and Futuristic. He emphasized that God manifests His presence through us, it’s an honour to share in God’s work, Christ is all about sacrifice thus deserving our best, and we are to adorn our lives with the righteousness of Christ. It was not only profound but relevant admonition.

The Act of Dedication and Prayer of Consecration were performed by Pas. Mapp and Pas. Cunningham, respectively.

Bro. Lovelace’s Vote of Thanks reflected the struggle, passion and joy of the membership. Tokens of appreciation were presented to persons in community and also to Bro. Holson Lovelace, chairman of the Building Committee and his wife Merla, for the extent of faithfulness towards the enhancement of the edifice.

The afternoon culminated with the Unveiling of the Cornerstone and the Cutting of the Ribbon which was met with shouts and applause of praises to the Most High. It was at this point the brethren officially entered the, “Light house on the hill”. What a momentous and thrilling experience it was – “Praise Him.”



President Toney Mapp along with Dr. Kern Tobias unveils the commemorative stones at the front of the church. Assemblyman Joel Jack looks on.



SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE: COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE

Continued from Page 46

Humanitarian Response:

South Leeward Conference believes that the church can best demonstrate the love of Jesus through its community outreach. For this reason, local congregations were encouraged to use in-gathering returns and funds from other sources to organize food distribution to vulnerable and needy persons. Several of our congregations distributed hundreds of care packages and the Conference also made a significant contribution to this venture.

We are pleased to say that the South Leeward Conference was the first religious body to contribute to the government's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference contributed XCD10,000.00 to the government of Montserrat to aid in the procurement of personal protective equipment for front line workers, XCD20,000.00 to the government of St Kitts and Nevis to aid in the treatment and care of those affected and XCD27,000.00 to the government of Antigua/ Barbuda to aid in the cost of testing kits for the COVID-19. The Conference has also offered to assist the government in the provision of counseling services; this offer was accepted.

Other Initiatives

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a serious health crisis for all our territories. People are generally scared and there is need to provide quality ministry. In addition to the measures mentioned above, the South Leeward Conference has also worked through its various departments to provide general ministry. The Health Department has mobilized various health professionals and they have worked to provide meaningful health information to members. They have daily health tips on Sec-

ond Advent Radio and have also developed a number of videos inclusive of one for the children.

The Family Life, Children Ministries and Youth Departments have provided a short series of Zoom discussions on the lockdown effect which were also aired on our YouTube channel, SLC Adventist. The Ministerial Department has a weekly prayer meeting with all pastors via Zoom. The Women Ministry Department has also organized a Women Ministries prayer program. The Sabbath School Department has been providing meaningful tips to superintendents on how to keep action units going amidst the crisis.

The president has a weekly Zoom meeting with the pastors to provide updates and to share ministry guidelines and other relevant information as well as ensuring that pastors provide meaningful ministry during this period of great uncertainty. The president also sends out weekly video messages to the constituency via WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter. On Sabbath May 2, the president will launch an interactive talk show on our YouTube Channel, SLC Adventist at 3p.m.

Evidently, a lot of what is being done now is made possible because our Communication Department has been actively working on various systems to increase our ability to communicate via various platforms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit us hard. It is possible and likely that other remedial measures will have to be taken, especially in the area of finance. Notwithstanding, we trust in God and are confident that he will see us through.



Pastor Stanton Adams, district pastor of district Number 1 and coordinator of the work in St Kitts makes COVID-19 contribution of 20,000 to St. Kitts/Nevis government to aid the fight against Covid 19. 20,000 and 10,000 were given to the Antigua/ Barbuda and Montserrat



COVID-19 IMPACT — GRENADA CONFERENCE

Continued From Page 7

Covid-19 forced us to turn quickly to technology to conduct worship, to communicate the gospel and to learn quickly how various media platforms could be used as assets to the mission of the church. We were driven in our Conference to do wide scale training of members to use social media. After COVID-19 there is no turning back. This now becomes another powerful avenue that every church can use effectively for mission and other meetings.

There has been a marked increase in attendance at Wednesday night and Adventist Youth services. One pastoral district has a notable increase at Sunday night services conducted online. This I hope will be an impetus to motivate members to make the effort to assemble for prayer and evangelistic meetings and Adventist Youth services after COVID-19. Leadership must ensure the same kind of innovation, planning, membership involvement and creativity is employed when preparing for the night services and the Adventist Youth services.

The opportunity for the strengthening of families during

this time is tremendous. We have experienced many families doing ministry together, families playing games together, families working gardens together, families growing spiritually together and the list continues.

COVID-19 gave us the opportunity to do what we usually do once or twice a year, attend conventions. We are able to worship together as a Conference week after week. We were able to give the opportunity to pastors from outside of Grenada to participate in our church services and welcome guests from overseas to join us in worship as well.

There are no reported cases of COVID-19 among our membership to date. We sincerely thank God for this. Constant appeals to our membership to comply with government releases and guidelines have been heeded. We continue to forge ahead under the guidance of our commander Jesus Christ knowing that this pandemic will pass away.



Photo shows Pastor Jamie Gordon hosting Sabbath morning service



Landmark SDA Church to be Rebuilt on St. Thomas

By: Royston Philbert, Communication Director NCC

Worshippers are excited that the work of rebuilding the Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church is underway. The majestic structure, located along the Weymouth Rhymer Highway on St. Thomas, had been a Virgin Island landmark since it was organized in 1973 under Pastor J. C. Shillingford.

When the sanctuary was decimated by Hurricane Irma in 2017, most of its members joined the fellowship at the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, which did not suffer significant damage. For eight months a strong relationship was forged between the two congregations and Shiloh grieved their departure when the members of Philadelphia prepared to host services in the lower-level fellowship hall of the ravaged structure. The leaders began to plan for rebuilding.

The First Elder, Gordon Williams, reminisced, “It was a wonderful edifice [dedicated] to God. It represented sacrifice, commitment and dedication of the membership who, at that time, were mainly immigrants but possessed the true spirit of Adventism. When the Category 5 [hurricane] hit, in September of 2017, many of them were devastated and saddened. It took a while getting the downstairs [fellowship hall] ready; we are grateful for those committed members who assisted in the preparation. We do have problems when it rains but we are coping. We are together. As part of their commitment to rebuilding, members are encouraged to make monthly contributions of \$50 to the project. We know God is with us; many of them have made substantial contributions as they all rally together for completion, expected by the end of 2020.”

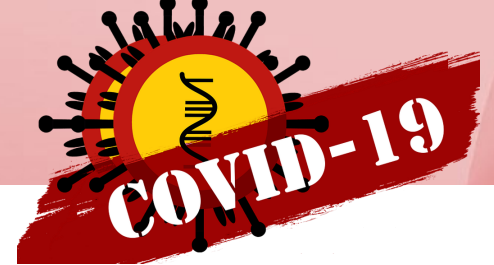
“Work started on the building three weeks ago,” said the leader of the congregation, Pastor Jerry Languedoc. “We are rejoicing today because God has been good. What you are witnessing today is

not just my dream come true, but the effort and commitment of each member and I am thankful to God for the leadership who rallied together to commence the building. We are replacing the front which was damaged with solid concrete, rather than blocks. We are also putting a wall at the back of the building. The wall to the front should be about 40 feet at the highest point. Sections of the roof [are] being replaced; electrical fittings and tiles will be replaced as well as [a] new rostrum and church furniture.”

The North Caribbean Conference President, Pastor Desmond James, who previously served on St. Thomas, stated, “The pastor is happy and we are happy too. We are committed to assisting with rebuilding and will do what we can to assist and make it comfortable for the members. This church stood as a monument on the island of St. Thomas. Its destruction brought pain to the entire community. I am convinced that a church in any community is a powerful tool for change. It is a beacon of light where children will find hope, young ladies [will find] good husbands, young men [will find] good wives, but most importantly sinners [will find] the Savior, Jesus Christ. Its rebuilding is bringing hope not only to the members but to an entire community.” (Continued next page 55)



Church Pastor Jerry Languedoc



LANDMARK SDA CHURCH TO BE REBUILT ON ST. THOMAS

One founding church member, Brother Percival James, expressed confidence that God's Church will always go forward, "It took us a long time and understandably so but to God be the glory, we are more than happy to see it to completion."

The Building Committee Chairperson, Brother Robert Quetel, visits the site frequently to assess progress. He is determined to complete the project to the honor of God and shared, "I am happy that we have started and the work is progressing well after the long delay, and optimistic that members will give their whole . . . support, financially, and pray for success."

"There's a lot of work to be done," said Karis George, a member of the church and teacher at the St. Thomas/St. John Seventh-day Adventist School. "It's a start over. We are not sure how we will end but we are hopeful and know that something good will work out for us."

This structure was one of six SDA Church buildings, in the North Caribbean Conference, devastated by hurricanes in 2017. Two were repaired and rededicated for worship; they are the Christiansted SDA Temple on St. Croix and the Ephesus SDA Church on Sint Maarten. Members are anxiously awaiting the rededication of the Philadelphia SDA Church.



The church now under construction was destroyed by Hurricane Irma 2017



NCC IMPACT 2020

Continued From Page 10



Front from l to r Pastor Daniel, Bible Instructor Peters, Pastors Rose and Frank. Back from l to r Pastors Ambrose, Smith, Braham, Morgan and Leito.. Picture on right shows David Daniel in action at the French Church St Thomas

The Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Honourable Andrew A. Fahie, spoke during the opening ceremony of one of the campaigns on Tortola and thanked the Seventh-day Adventist Church for [its] contribution to society. He stated, “Your Church stands out in the community as being always engaged in the lives of the people, both spiritually and educationally.” The Premier also encouraged members and community friends to attend the campaign.

The NCC President, Pastor Desmond James, said, “Almost one year ago, we sought to prepare for this event by having our own Impact 2019, using our local pastors and lay persons. Through the initiative, we have seen the rebirth of enthusiasm in evangelism and I am excited about seeing the wonderful impact with so many coordinated reaping campaigns.” Pastor James also reported that new members have continued to join the Church since the conclusion of the effort on March 14, 2020, “The figures are not final but as the churches report their baptisms, we are confident that we can

account for about 200 accessions for the week.” Dr. Carson Greene, President of the South Leeward Conference (SLC), was one of three (3) conference presidents among the evangelistic corps. He emphasized, “God’s power is amazing. Every time I preach these campaigns, I am aware that in evangelism the Holy Spirit does amazing things.” Elder Hayden Lord, a layman from Tobago preached on St. Eustatius and as a veteran elder, he was impressed with how local church leaders came together to support the campaign. He observed, “If we went on for another week, God would have done amazing things.”

The North Caribbean Conference was organized in August, 1975, and began functioning on January 1, 1976. Since then it has grown to 14,843 members, organized as 31 churches and 4 companies. The NCC is engaged in ministry to the community and operates five primary schools and three secondary schools. Church leaders anticipate that throughout the NCC, committed leaders and members will continue to use their talents and gifts to enhance the Kingdom of God.



NCC PRESIDENT WRITES

As the greatest pandemic the world has ever seen stealthily spread its deadly tentacles across the globe, silence slowly walked the empty streets and the hum of men and machines ceased. The word lockdown is now a global household word we hear every day. We too in the North Caribbean Conference from St. Croix to Saba have been impacted by the deadly virus. It has radically impacted our personal and private lives. It has altered our agendas, crippled our commerce, paralyzed and postponed our plans and programs. All of our islands have experienced some form of quarantine – from dusk-to-dawn curfews to total house lockdown. Tortola and Sint Maarten have experienced the most severe quarantine methods, each with thirty-one days of 24-hour lockdown periods.

In spite of that, the state of the Church in the North Caribbean Conference remains challenged but not cast down. Our dedicated and committed Pastors are courageously confronting the crisis and are delivering award-winning models of ministry that have been recognized around the world. All of our twenty pastoral districts across the territory swiftly adopted innovative models of ministry (from online platforms to drive-through services) and have actively maintained their weekly Sabbath, Sunday, and Wednesday night church services. Presently, church services across the North Caribbean Conference can be received from thirty-one social media pages. The pastoral ministry from St. Croix District #1, under the leadership of Pastor Earl Daniel and Sister Margaret Peters, received denominational recognition for innovation and was featured in prominent SDA publications.

The Administration of the North Caribbean Conference moved rapidly to methodically monitor and strategically address the immediate and anticipated impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its territory. COVID-19 Task Forces were established in each of 43 congregations and these, in turn, informed the COVID-19 Task Force at the NCC

headquarters. We are pleased to report that under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Pastor Wilmoth James, the Conference's Task Force surveyed the entire Conference and developed a comprehensive strategy to mitigate and minimize the present and long-term impact of COVID-19.

With the results of the survey in, we sought to comprehensively adjust our Conference's strategic focus to reflect the felt needs of the territory and gave laser focus to ministry models to address those needs. While the pandemic took much from us, it also gave us something special: The ability to come together; to work together; to love together; and to grow together. Presently our directors have synergized and adjusted their strategic focus to develop a revised Calendar of Events and are delivering quality ministry in focused areas.

(Continued on page 58)



Pastor Desmond James, President NCC



NCC PRESIDENT WRITES

Continued From Page 57

As the pandemic persists, we expect that life will change dramatically. The prediction is that we will experience an enormous financial fall-out. The Administration and Leadership Team are studying the financial implications and revising the budget to facilitate its expected debilitating economic impact. While we are yet to experience the full extent of the financial impact, we are thankful that we have been able to pay full salaries and maintain our workforce. In our geographical region, most of the respective national governments have offered attractive stimulus packages for our citizens which will greatly assist us in cushioning the financial blow and huge economic fallout expected from COVID-19.

Even though we were quarantined and locked down, COVID-19 could not contain our compassion. Though confined, our congregations found creative ways to mingle and meet needs. Across our territory our members—the faithful messengers of Hope and mercy—unleashed a series of ministries of compassion both within churches and communities. They sought out the aged, helped the down-trodden, comforted the bereaved, prayed for the distressed and disturbed, and gave hope to the hopeless. On Tortola, District #1 gave a combined \$30,000.00 (US) to assist members and the community. In St. Maarten, the SDA Church collaborated with the government in packing and distributing 300 meals to its senior citizens and other members who depend on the island's social aid system.

Our five educational flagships — our schools on St. Croix, St. Thomas, Tortola, St. Maarten and St. Eustatius — were also caught in the COVID-19 boisterous waves. But due to the swift, creative, and ambidexterous educational maneuverings of our ships' captains, they were able to rapidly switch to their virtual sails and avoid shipwreck. Reporting from the NCC Educational lighthouse, Director Gereone Joseph indicated that all Online platforms are working at optimum performance and they are peacefully crossing the COVID channel with megabyte speed. All our 83 teachers - crew, and 1006 students - sailors, are safely on board the NCC Educational Liner and are immensely enjoying their newly renovated home — cabin classrooms on its maiden virtual voyage.

Although church was abruptly displaced from its brick and mortar temples, it taught us in no uncertain terms that we are the church. They may lock us down but they can never lock down the gospel in us. Therefore our Pastors — the Gospel paramedics of mercy have been on the frontlines finding creative

ways to dispense the good news in this bad time. Pastor Jerome Bevans produced a riveting three-week evangelistic series, "Message of Hope — In time of Crisis". The series had approximately 1,500 views each night. He ministered in Spanish from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and in English from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He transmitted hope to scores of individuals and secured three baptisms to the glory of God.

Unfortunately, as the deadly virus continues to invade and ransack our homes and hearts, we regretfully share the sad news that COVID-19 has claimed its first victim through death in the Advent family in the North Caribbean Conference on the island of St. Maarten. Our hearts are saddened by this loss. We express sympathy to the immediate family and church family and to all who are bereaved, saddened, and mourning due to the pain of the loss of a loved one. We hold fast to the blessed hope which assures it that it is not what you die from that matters but who you die with. May Jesus comfort all his people in this season of sadness and sorrow!

I wish to highly applaud our Frontline Workers: our Pastoral Staff, our Church Leadership, as well as our School Principals and Staff for their outstanding leadership. They acted decisively so that the churches and our educational institutions could remain robust and relevant in the delivery of our mission during this crisis. Our history demonstrates that we have met formidable challenges before and, under God and with our combined dedicated spirit and committed service, we were more than conquerors. We will continue to trust in our God who promised to be our refuge and strength in trouble. May we allow him to be our refuge to hide us, our river to refresh us and our ruler to guide us safely through this



Pastor Royston Philbert is the Communication Director NCC



Tobago Mission Responds to Covid 19

Continued on Page 60

The Intention

We were making final preparations for Holy convocation. Just about everything was in place. By March 4th all Pastors had prepared their districts and issues of housing, meals, families visitation lists, and transportation were determined, and church/site coordinators were identified.

Having completed our session in November, 2019 and with Holy Convocation to take place in March, it was felt that the intended pastoral adjustments should take place April 1, 2020, after the holy convocation would have been completed. The consideration of other factors led us however, to effect district alignments effective March 1st instead. This proved to be a decision led by the Holy Spirit considering what transpired next.

The Interruption

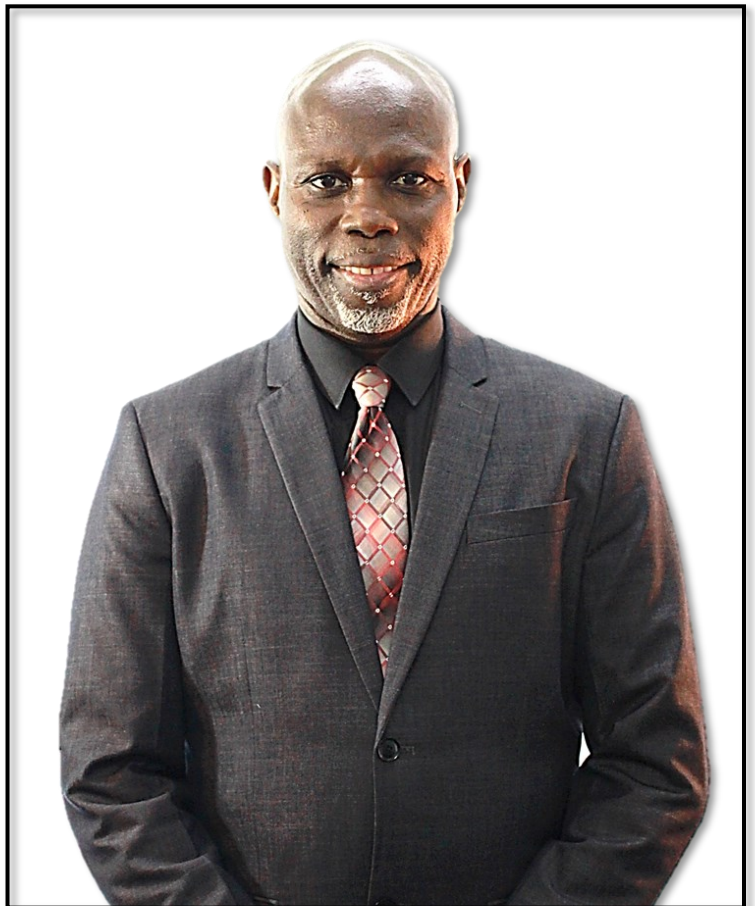
By March 12th as the rest of the world began to rock and reel in the perfect pandemic storm, things began to heat up quickly here in Trinidad and Tobago with the first Corona virus case being announced. Schools and Universities were to be closed with immediate effect until March 31st in the first instance. On the morning of March 16 in the Tobago Mission, a meeting was called for the Directors and Administrators to discuss the then present realities and the necessary steps we may have to take. Amongst them, all programs were put on hold. Shortly after the meeting ended we were told that the Prime Minister announced due to the seriousness of the Covid 19 virus, a new date for school reopening which was now April 20th.

The Intensity

Soon, we were told that the assembling of more than 10 persons was prohibited and this halted all our church services. Pastors were now required to form small groups within their churches and assign a leader for each group so as to keep in touch, as well as update the church registry to ensure members' contacts were easily accessible. Guidelines were given in relation to weddings, baptisms, anointing Services, funerals and such like to protect against the spread of the virus and in keeping with the government's outlined procedures and protocols. All workers were informed of the likely economic challenges that this pandemic can bring.

The Invention

On Friday the 20th of March all hands were on deck as we launched 'Online Church'. With the expertise and equipment of the ASI Tobago Media we have been able to provide online services on Sabbaths and Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Pastors and members from the churches throughout Tobago utilized their gifts and served in various capacities to bring Tobago styled programs that impacted not only Seventh-day Adventists, but the wider Tobago community. These services include lively singing, captivating story telling and puppeteering, relevant discussions, inspiring preaching and dramatizing, and soul stirring prayer sessions. All age groups are catered for in our services. Recently, the Youth Week of Prayer was conducted in this forum, and it was a resounding success.



President Tobago Mission—Toney Mapp



Tobago Mission Response to Covid 19

Continued From Page 57

The Intercession

Sabbath 28th we conducted a Watch and pray experience in which we had special prayer focus on each of the watches of the day: 6am, 9am, 12 noon, 3pm and 6pm. During this Sabbath we launched our Prayer Line (868) 774PRAY) which to date is being utilized by members and community persons. Additionally, with the call of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago we joined virtually for prayer and we were ably represented by the President of the Caribbean Union Dr. Kern Tobias.

The Innovation

Due to the closure of schools, teachers have searched for ways to continue the education of their charges; some initially on their own but largely through the vision and encouragement of their principals and the Education Director, Mrs. Jamila Nicholls. Through the tremendous work of each and the engagement in numerous meetings they have utilized the weeks ending the second term, and the entire Easter school-break to prepare SDA Schools Online utilizing the Google Classroom platform. Many parents and guardians have begun to register for school and at the time of preparing this report, the number of students registered was approaching 275, which is just one-third the number of students across our five schools. For SDA Schools Online there is a 20% decrease in the registration fee. Nevertheless, the quality of the program with its structure and substance is commendable. It is user friendly and its extensive evaluation possibilities make it stand out among Tobago schools. Moreover, we are confident that since these schools belong to God, He will ensure both their survival and success. This online education service has been extended to students of other schools.

The Impact

The closure of our churches due to this Covid-19 pandemic has impeded our ability to accumulate some of the Lord's tithes, offerings and gifts. While some employed members have utilized the option of direct deposits and online deposits, as well as other methods to ensure they faithfully give, we also have some members who are experiencing reduced salaries and others who unfortunately have faced job loss.

The Irony

With deaths in the hundreds and thousands per day in several countries of the world it is fortunate that in Tobago we've had so far five cases and one death. These figures have been our reality for the past three weeks. We give thanks to the leadership of the government of our twin island Republic, but to God we give all the praise.

The Irrepressible

This is both "My Father's World" and his "Church". We have no doubt whatsoever that in spite of the actions of man and their many negative implications, that the purposes of God will not and cannot be restricted or restrained.

The pioneers of our organization heralded the cry and have set the stage, and we can sense through this crisis that it is our time now to bring the curtains down. "Let us stand at our posts, faithful in the discharge of every duty, having our lives hid with Christ in God, that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, we shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." Signs of the Times, November 10, 1887.



Sabbath School at the Tobago Mission on line program. Studying the CQ lesson are left to Right—Host: Calisssa Joseph, David Roberts and Laurence Hislop





Tobago Mission Commissions 8 Teachers

This was the first of its kind to be held by the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, and what an experience it was! The newly renovated, Mt. St. George Seventh-day Adventist Church, was the ideal spot to hold this session on the 15th of February, 2020, since it lent itself to the pomp and circumstance that was expected in this program. The over 300 persons in attendance, were very satisfied that this teacher ‘ordination’, as it was aptly described by our Caribbean Union President, Doctor Pastor Kern Tobias (the keynote speaker), was a program with a difference. The theme for this 2020 Teacher Commissioning Sabbath School Service was “Give Me the Mountains”, and our teachers and the students of our five schools took us on a spiritual journey with the final destination being commitment to service no matter how insurmountable our challenges may appear. The program highlighted the talents and gifts that are housed at our schools. Renditions ranged from poetry, to singing, to flute, to steel pan, and to the famous bells’ ensemble. The presence and encouragement from the Caribbean Union Education Director, Dr. Hilary Bowman, and the President, Dr. Kern Tobias, made the day’s proceedings extremely special. They both reminded us of the real purpose and unique nature of

Christian Education. The keynote speaker admonished us to ensure that as we work to transform the lives of our boys and girls, that malaise and mediocrity be absent from our vocabulary. He also reminded us that to be an extraordinary teacher, we must make a lifelong commitment to God. The eight (8) educators that were commissioned were elated to be a part of such a grand experience. Their expressions about the program were appropriately described by the following statements: “It brought a feeling of great accomplishment; I felt humbled yet elated; I was reminded of my purpose; I felt a genuine pride to be honored; I was encouraged to be an exemplary teacher—one who can help to influence minds for God’s eternal Kingdom”. The curtains were drawn on the morning’s program when all the Commissioned teachers, their family, other specially invited guests, and the church as a whole, enjoyed a fellowship lunch within a well-decorated dining room setting. The members of Mt. St. George SDA Church must be commended for their selfless service. They ensured that all was in place to make this experience one that will never be forgotten. To God be glory as He continues to lead Tobago Mission Education department to greater.



At the back from left to right: Keisha Sargeant-Thompson (C), Lorraine Marcelle-Osborne (C), Pastor Winston King (Chairman of Cville SDA Primary), Wayne Richardson (Assistant Education Director), Jamila Nicholls (Education Director), Pastor Toney Mapp (President, Tobago Mission), Kerene Horsford-Nero (Treasurer, Tobago Mission), Pastor Martin Cunningham (Executive Secretary, Tobago Mission), Myril Kennedy (C), Pearlet George (C).

Front from left to right: Patricia Smart (C), Tracy Dick-Noel (C), Dr. Hilary Bowman (Education Director, Caribbean Union Conference), Dr. Kern Tobias (President, Caribbean Union Conference), Edd Osborne (C), Tresha Grimshaw (C).



PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT CONVENES TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR ELDERS, LAY PREACHERS & BIBLE WORKERS

By Ian Williams

In conjunction with the SVG Mission's theme for 2020: "Led By The Spirit; Going For More", the Personal Ministries Department has selected its own adaptation: "Laity: Transformed To Go". One of the objectives of the Personal Ministries Department for this year is to train all workers to better equip them to take on the challenge of the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19 in a comprehensive manner. To fulfil this objective, and to prepare for the great harvest in this evangelistic year, the department called out elders, lay preachers and Bible workers to better hone their skills for the great success that lies ahead. Representatives from across the Mission were in attendance and participated in the workshop, held on Sabbath, January 18, 2020, at the SVG Mission Headquarters.

We were blessed to have with us some of the most qualified presenters who are considered to be spiritually minded and gifted teachers. Among these presenters were six (6) males and one (1) female: Pastors Ashton O'Neil, Brent St. Jean, Kenan Cain, Terence Haynes and Shane Franklyn; Elder Kenyon Pierre, and Sister Iris Mounsey. These presenters were mainly from our local field here in SVG with the exception of Pastor Ashton O'Neil, who is the Personal Ministries Departmental Director from the Caribbean Union Conference.

Bringing the various groups of workers together eradicated the need for separate training for lay preachers and Bible workers. The topics for the lay preachers' training were carefully selected to meet the demands of preaching in the 21st century, while the sessions for the Bible workers were timely and relevant for greater effectiveness as Bible workers in a fast-paced society.

Some of the topics presented for the lay preachers' workshop were: "The Art of Public Speaking", "The Importance of Public and Personal Evangelism", "The Lay Preacher's Power", "The Art of Writing Evangelistic Sermons", and "Sermon Delivery". The Bible workers primarily focused on

the "Theology of Bible Work Preparation", "Building Interest for Bible Study", and "The Content Process and Sequence for Bible Study". Since the groups shared some aspects in common, they were able to share the same space and listen to the same presenters for the first two (2) sessions.

In addition to the training sessions, there was a moment of celebration in the afternoon, when we honoured one of our most outstanding lay preachers for 2019. Evangelist Alban Williams, an elder of Carrière SDA church, in 2019 baptized the largest number of persons in a single evangelistic effort. That campaign was held with the church at Stubbs. Br. Alban was given a plaque in recognition of his diligent service in soul winning.

At the end of the programme, a clarion call was made for persons to become more actively involved in public evangelism for 2020. It was inspiring to see many persons walking to the altar to pledge their commitment to conduct one or more evangelistic meetings in 2020.



Pastor Ian Williams—PM Director SVG Mission



SUG MISSION HOLDS RETIREMENT FUNCTION IN HONOR OF LARSON JARDINE & JANET DELVES

By Dermoth Baptiste, President/Education Director

On Sunday January 19, 2020 the SVG Mission held a special function in honor of Larson, Anthony Jardine and Janet Mohabir-Delves. These two teachers served with distinction in the teaching Ministry of the Church and have decided to retire from active duties after giving a combined total of 59 years of service to teaching.

The occasion was laced with inspirational songs, weaved with memorable tributes and garnished with sumptuous dishes in elegant banquet style as administrators, principals and colleagues took the appreciative gathering down memory lane, highlighting the professional journey of both stalwarts.

Janet Mohabir-Delves

Mrs. Delves is a naturalized Vincentian who was born in the Cooperate Republic of Guyana, but spent most of her working life as a teacher in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. After gaining employment with the East Caribbean Conference, she was assigned to the Bequia SDA Primary School on September 1, 1990 where she served under principals Ann Marie John and Jerane Gooding.

On September 1, 2002, Mrs Delves was transferred to the Leeward SDA Primary School where she served until her retirement under the leadership of Principals Curlena Kirby, Larson Jardine, and Jeaneth Pierre after giving 29 years of dedicated, faithful service to the Lord and to the Teaching Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Larson Anthony Jardine

Larson Anthony Jardine, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, first entered denominational service in January 1979 where he taught for a period of two years at the Bequia SDA Secondary School.

After migrating to Trinidad briefly he returned to SVG where he found employment at the Bishop's College Kingstown. In 1982 Mr. Jardine entered the St Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' College and was awarded a diploma in Education upon completion of his studies.

In 1986 he began his second stint in the Teaching Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and

was assigned to the Mountain View Adventist Academy. In October 2005, Mr. Jardine was appointed Acting Principal of the Leeward SDA Primary School where he served for a period of 5 years. In September 2010, he was transferred to the Bequia SDA Secondary School as the main mathematics teacher. In 2014 he was transferred again to the Mountain View Adventist Academy where he served until his retirement. In total, Brother Jardine has given 30 years of loyal, committed service to the Lord and to the Teaching Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

If I may paraphrase the wise man Solomon, "There is a time to be actively employed and a time to retire from active employment." The SVG Mission is very appreciative of the services of Mrs. Janet Delves and Mr. Larson Jardine to the Teaching Ministry of the Church and wishes them many years of happy retirement and fulfilled living.



Larson Jardine and his daughter Dr. Sheshana Jardine, wife of Pastor Carlson Samuel, sing beautifully at the farewell service.





IT'S NEARER THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED

By Danforth Francis

“I stood in my shoes and I wondered.” That was one of the responses that we made to the spreading of the Coronavirus now called COVID-19, which began to spread rapidly, evolving into an epidemic and then to a pandemic. Would it get to our shores? Yes, it certainly did, and brought with it a whole new way of life:

1. Hand washing
2. Physical distancing
3. Stronger emphasis on strengthening one's immune system
4. Travel restrictions
5. Continual reduction in the size of gatherings - 100, 25, 10
6. Curfews, total lockdown
7. No in-person meeting, church buildings closed
8. No work, incomes drying up
9. People who live from pay cheque to pay cheque needing help
10. Church members and parents not having the wherewithal to return their tithes or pay their fees
11. Higher organizations encouraging conferences and churches to develop new budgets to meet the unexpected challenges

The administration, directors and pastors got together and formulated the plan that is now being implemented.

Through the swift efforts of our pastors and local elders all our in-person services were transferred to virtual services. This was done in two ways; the individual churches did it for three weeks and then we would have a conference-wide event every third Sabbath. This Conference event was streamed to the whole world. We have been having remarkable numbers of viewers. It is understood that East Carib has the largest worship service, using the zoom platform. Even our local services are seeing an uptick in attendance, although we know that people have many choices.

In addition, our humanitarian work has expanded across the community. Between March 28 and May 15th we have spent over \$32,000 in humanitarian help. That represents over 1200 food hampers, over 400 masks made and given to frontline workers, 800 plus bottles of hand sanitizers.

We are happy to report that there have been no deaths from among our membership in our field from the Coronavirus disease.

All our departments have been involved in responding with unique programs for these circumstances with health tips and health programs directly related to the combat of COVID-19. Programs like NEWSTART were shared with the community.

Family life presentations through seminars and workshops were conducted for members and the community in face of the prolonged shutdown.

All our schools got on the E-platform in a hurry, so the third term is being executed virtually and they are overcoming all the hurdles associated with that move. Students who did not have the necessary devices were helped either by gifts or loans. We are proud to report that the Government of Barbados has used our schools' online program as an example of what private schools are doing in this crisis. *(Continued on page 65)*



President ECC, Pastor Danforth Francis



IT'S NEARER THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED

Continued from page 64

The Youth have done wonderfully well. Not only are we having Inverse Sabbath School lesson study on Zoom, but also AY and AJY programs along with their classwork are all on the Zoom platform. Kahoot has now become the in-thing for studying of the Bible for iConnect.

Children and Adolescent Ministries and Women's Ministries are providing children Sabbath School, and a special program for women at this time.

Our prayer program has buttressed all the efforts of the Conference especially now under COVID-19. We begin and close each day with special prayers for the slowdown of the spread, and the arrest of the virus. We pray every hour on the hour for the eradication of the virus. We pray every Sabbath for our church members, and the community to turn more directly to God so He can heal our nations. These Conference-wide programs are now conducted on Zoom, attracting hundreds of participants. We also join the World Church every Wednesday morning to celebrate God's goodness in spite of the challenges.

COVID-19 was not invited by anyone, for indeed it has more negatives than positives. Nevertheless, it has brought a number of positives in that it has conducted a SWOT analysis on our operations as a church.

We have seen our strength, by our talented and engaged members who are not afraid of the technological world.

We have seen our weaknesses: the emergence of congregationalism, the reality that the masses of our members are not involved in the life of the

church, declining loyalty to the church as a global organization.

We have also observed wonderful opportunities: the development of new skills and talents, using more members in conducting church, understand-



ing that the church building is not the end-all of church. Church can now be virtual. There is an abundance of new methods of witnessing: sharing eBooks, WhatsApp's and videos, and new ways of bonding.

Sadly, we have also seen threats: disunity, break down of the financial system when everyone is looking to themselves, and the inability to serve the community because of the death of the spirit of sacrifice.



Photo above shows supplies given to Frontline Worker.

Photo below shows Praise Team recording Song Service in ECC Studio for Conference-wide Sabbath program.





GUYANA CONFERENCE ON THE MOVE



The Guyana conference of Seventh-day Adventist is taking advantage of the positive opportunities this negative Coronavirus pandemic presents, to nurture the church and to spread the message of salvation. To this end, the Guyana Conference has been using the Zoom platform, YouTube and Facebook live, to share live services on Sabbaths, Sunday nights and Wednesday nights to keep the believers fed and the fellowship alive during the Coronavirus season.

The Youth Department has been presenting unique Adventist Youth Ministries Programs including an impacting and unique Mother's Day program on the Zoom platform. The Advent Praise Concert went live on Zoom on the 16th Of May at 7:30 pm.

Many churches are rising to the challenge and are distributing food hampers and sanitization materials to needy families in the community.

In spite of the challenge of adhering to the social dis-

tancing guidelines, Pastors are still conducting baptisms. The message of salvation is still changing lives. To continue the evangelistic thrust of the church, at least one revival and one evangelistic campaign will air shortly on the Zoom platform. Plans are in place for conducting another more intense evangelistic program shortly on the internet.

The members of some churches have found a way to continue the church building program in spite of the challenge of the Covid-19 season. One of the churches under construction is the Monkey Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church in the interior of Guyana and the other is the Amazing Grace Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Amazing Grace Seventh-day Adventist Church was raised up as a result of an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Claudius Morgan in the county of Essequibo, in Guyana. The campaign was conducted in February 2015.



Pastor Kevin and Elder Julian Frazer of the Danielstown SDA Church give hampers to resident of Danielstown, Essequibo coast, April 18, 2020.



Cast Deeper - I will go!

The Psalmist asked a very profound question in Psalm 85:6. “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” As a newly elected director filled with a passion for this noble task, it has been a rewarding experience to see the publishing work at the Grenada conference of SDA revive once again. And so, on February 2nd, 2020 the question of the Psalmist was answered when the publishing department hosted its first retreat of the New Year, which saw approximately 25-30 out of 51 churches present .

The weekend was truly a blessing to all. The present-

ers (Director Judith Smith, Director Ashton O’Neil and Pastor Roosevelt Haynes) were really remarkable and relevant, calling the members to be revived and to get on board in order to spread the Gospel through the printed pages.

After that weekend, I had no doubt in my heart that the Lord is about to do something great through the Publishing department of the Grenada conference. In fact, after that publishing and personal ministries’ retreat, I can say with the assurance that the publishing work is very alive.



Photo shows from l to r - Pastors Enoch Isaac and Aston O Neil; Sister Judith Smith, Pastors Clinton Lewis, Maxwell Noel and Roosevelt Haynes

IMPACT NCC

See Stories on pages 8, 9, 10,56



Dr. Colin Thorne preached in Anguilla. Pastor Nigel Walcott Anguilla and Pastor Kishford Frank St Croix



Prayer Ministries in Grenada Conference Casting the Vision.

By: Pastor Oliver Scott

The Grenada Conference has a vibrant and emerging Prayer Ministries. Under the leading and blessings of God, the best is yet to come! The guiding concepts are “Men ought always to pray and not faint” (Luke 18:1) and “Each member, mighty in prayer (a warrior in prayer)”. The mission is to help its members develop and maintain an intimate relationship with God through prayer. We also exist to help each member be involved in the ministry of intercessory prayer for both members and non-members. We envision a Church revived and reformed through the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer. The Prayer Ministries Director works with a committee consisting of prayer team members.

On December 14th, 2019 the Prayer Ministries convened a meeting at the Grenville Church. Present were pastors, first elders, prayer ministries coordinators and prayer team members from most of the churches throughout the island. The attendance was encouraging. Prayer Ministries Director, Pastor Oliver Scott, cast the vision and shared the plans for Prayer Ministries within the Conference. After the meeting, the newly produced Prayer Ministries booklets were given to the prayer ministries coordinators and sent electronically to elders and pastors. The book *Prayer* by Ellen White, was promoted as the Prayer Ministries book. After this meeting, there was a demand for the book at IADPA bookstores. Dialogue has taken place in relation to having a new order.

Prayer conferences at local churches have been among the features for prayer ministries. The goal is to cover all the congregations of the conference within the quadrennium. We have already done prayer conferences for a significant number of churches. The churches have been very amenable, receptive and accommodating.

On Sabbath February 1st, 2020, a Prayer Ministries Convention was held on the mainland for prayer ministries coordinators, prayer team members and other interested persons. This convention took place at La Poterie Church. The subject areas covered were: Praying for and Ministering to Sick Persons, Prayer in Evangelism, Protection Against Demon Possession and Praying for Demon Possessed Persons. Prayer Ministries convention for the Grenadines District was held at the Hillsborough Church in Carriacou the following

Sabbath. Approximately 44 of the 50 congregations were represented at the two conventions, with over 400 persons present.

There has been an encouraging interest and involvement in the prayer ministries programs of the conference. Encouraging also is the involvement in prayer programs at the level of the local church. Under the moving of the Holy Spirit, these will help pave the way to fulfilling the mission and achieving the goals.

With great anticipation we await the Prayer Ministries retreat which is scheduled for June 13th, 2020, at the elegant Belmont Estate, located in the rural area of Belmont, St. Patrick, Grenada. The retreat promises to be a great spiritual blessing. The focus will be on spiritual revival and reformation of persons involved in intercessory prayer ministry. It will be a day of prayer, worship, devotion and meditation. The gifted and dynamic, Dr. Clive Dottin of the Caribbean Union will be the main presenter.

It will be a September to remember with our Holy Ghost filled Prayer Caravan, which takes prayer ministries out in the field. During Prayer Caravans, we meet with persons in different communities, ministering to them by praying with and for them. There is also the preaching of the Word, bringing hope and comfort, and the message of salvation to all.

The goal and desire for Prayer Ministries is while we grow our prayer teams, each member of the Church in Grenada should be a prayer warrior. Each member should have a close and intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus through prayer. Each member should be involved in intercessory prayer ministry.





32 Baptized in South Leeward Conference - Virtual Evangelistic Campaign

Continued from back page

As is expected with any campaign, the South Leeward Conference (SLC) moved forward on the premise that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), and the declaration of the word of God by a preacher. For this novel campaign the Conference handpicked the seasoned and experienced evangelist Pastor Sherwin A.E. White (Assistant to the President for Evangelism) as the preacher for this campaign. It was decided that the campaign should cover the period April 19 – May 9, 2020.

In order to have the word enter into homes, the SLC leadership had the traditional strategy undergo a metamorphosis. Using technological means, the word was aired daily on the media, including the South Leeward Conference Website, Facebook, SLC Adventist (SLC’s YouTube channel), Second Advent Radio (Antigua), and ZJB Radio (Montserrat). The metamorphosis also impacted the “Bible Work” and various mediums of connecting became part of the work.

The Switchboard concept was developed and functioned like a hotline, but instead of being bound by area codes, the use of WhatsApp now allowed for any viewer with a smartphone to connect with us.

Upon interacting with the caller, the Switchboard team would then redirect the individual’s need(s) to the various teams, including prayer, counseling, humanitarian needs, Bible study, and baptism. This approach allowed for individuals with various skill-sets and spiritual gifts to provide maximum benefits to the callers. In addition, there was a team which was charged with the responsibility of analyzing the number of viewers that we had on our various platforms as well as seeking out prospects based on frequency of views and interactions. Over five thousand viewed our production nightly, while several thousand listened via the radio waves.

As it relates to how and when the messages were shared, the technology allowed us to rise above the challenges that the lockdown presented. Being very cognizant of the threat of the Coronavirus and the

need for individuals to be regularly informed, we chose not to have the service run during the 7:00 pm Prime Time News hour but waited until around 8:00 pm. However, because of the overwhelming requests for prayer we decided to run a special Power Prayer Hour from 7:00 pm - 7:55 pm. This initiative proved a blessing, as it was consistently viewed by hundreds of individuals from many Caribbean territories and countries around the world, many of whom testified that they received their breakthroughs.

On the foreground, individuals experienced the many captivatingly titled messages from the man of God, Evangelist Sherwin AE White: Courtroom Drama, Mad Man in The Bush, Insomnia, Mission Impossible, Somebody Call 911, and Unsolved Mysteries. These messages were skillfully articulated and delivered under the influence of the Holy Spirit - the minds of the adults were challenged and enlightened, and simultaneously, the messages were so contextualized that the children understood the details. Behind the scenes, we had Dr. Wayne Knowles managing and arranging the technical teams for the nightly production, Sister Donna Ible-White developing and managing the graphics for the Evangelist, Pastor Kay White managing the Bible Work, Pastor W. Kendol Doyle managing the Prayer Team and serving as moderator for the nightly Power Prayer Hour, Pastor Holford Brown arranging the special Music, Pastor Orville Joseph arranging the Praise Team and Dr. Carson Greene arranging the baptisms. In addition, there were special features within the **Power in the Blood Virtual Extravaganza**, which catered to specific needs of our listening audience. Such special features included *Family on the Sofa* with Dr. Mark Braithwaite and the Children’s Puppet Ministries by brothers Craig and Kayno David from Nevis which exposed Bible truths to our children in an engaging manner without losing the spirit-filled essence of the story. This was a united effort between the administrators, directors, district pastors and the laity across the Conference in order to provide meaningful ministry through the **Power in the Blood Virtual Extravaganza**.

Gleanings®

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

HISTORIC ON-LINE EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE South Leeward Conference



By Pastors Wayne Knowles and Davin Scarborough

Pastor Sherwin White, the preacher at this historical event baptized one of the 25 persons who were baptized.

While methods of evangelism vary from congregation to congregation, we can all agree that Public tent evangelism has afforded us the greatest yields as it relates to baptisms. However, in light of the restrictions brought on by the menacing marauder known as the Coronavirus COVID-19, all of our conference's evangelistic exploits came to a screeching halt. Yet, while some became engulfed in a whirlwind of panic, and while others desperately attempted to find solutions to all of the confusion, the Church sought God in prayer and the South Leeward Conference made history in the Caribbean Union by pioneering a project based on the great gospel commission to "go and make disciples of all nations".

Since the widespread effects of COVID-19 disabled many forms of outreach, how would the church honour its commitment to preach the word in season and out of season? And how would we manoeuvre beyond all of the new norms and realities that the lockdown caused? But just as God responded to

about one hundred and twenty saints who tarried in the upper room, and just as He was faithful to our pioneers after the Great Disappointment of 1844, God moved again, and the South Leeward Conference responded to the challenges by having a totally virtual crusade!

The South Leeward Conference's evangelism committee saw the need to reach the hearts and minds of the people in our territory and beyond with the good news of the gospel of Christ in these trying times. It was our intention to share the gospel on Second Advent Radio station, a conference-owned institution. Fortunately, the conference had purchased some much-needed video studio equipment a few months earlier. Hence, the idea of adding the video production to the radio ministry was birthed. With a few weeks of practice, using radio and social media, such as YouTube and Facebook live, we were well on our way to producing an effective, social-media styled evangelism effort, themed, "**Power in the Blood Virtual Gospel Extravaganza**".

Continued on page 69