

DEDICATED, COMMITTED, UNITED AMID THE CRISIS

# Gleanings®

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

## UNITED



Presidents of the 5 English Unions. L to R top to bottom , Belize Union, Atlantic Caribbean Union, Dutch Caribbean, Jamaica Union and Caribbean Union

# CARIBBEAN UNION DIRECTORY

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## **Pastor Tulp baptizes his nephew Isaiah who wants to become a pastor and ADRA director in the future, just like his uncle.**

The Centrum SDA Church in Suriname hosted an evangelistic series captioned **Final Events** with the evangelist Ps. Steven Tulp from August 14 – 28, 2021, which culminated with a great family worship event with Advent Praise. With interesting topics on current events and Bible prophecies, the evangelist presented the present truth. In preparation for this evangelistic series the church was involved in a Revelation of Grace revival series with Ps. David Daniel, a 40 days of prayer initiative and a 7 days of morning prayer session before the campaign started.

This campaign was a hybrid series, incorporating physical attendance with Youtube livestream and simultaneous live broadcast on national television on channel 10.2 WB TV. The church experienced a true revival. The participation of the members of the Central Church was very encouraging as was the presence of the visitors. The nightly program comprising lovely singing by the praise and worship teams, music, health tips, prayers and the warmth of the hosts made an impact on the visitors in church, on Youtube and TV.

**Continued on page 12**

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## CENTENARIAN MEMBER



Charley Mack smiles big as church members, family and friends celebrated his 95 years during his Sister Violet Eversley's 100th birthday celebration held recently at the

Christiansted Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Church leaders praised Eversley for being an "ardent church member in St. Croix and for her knowledge of Ellen G. White writings."

Throughout the afternoon's celebration, those gathered shared accounts of God's leading over a century. Members who grew up in the Christiansted Adventist Church traded stories about attending church in the old days. Memories of the past were also shared through pictures and stories.

**(See Story on Page 35)**

**3 Photos - Royston Philbert—Communication Director NCC**

# SESSIONS NOTICES

## Notice of the 17th Quinquennial Session of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given of the seventeenth (17th) Quinquennial Business Session of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists which is rescheduled to July 20 - 22, 2022, to be convened at the auditorium building on the campus of the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad.

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

**Kern Tobias, President**

**Johnson Frederick, Executive Secretary**



## NOTICE OF THE 14TH QUADRENNIAL SESSION NORTH CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' FOURTEENTH (14TH) QUADRENNIAL SESSION will be held at the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 17A Plessen, Fredriksted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, from Wednesday, August 17, 2022, to Friday, August 19, 2022.

Delegates will receive reports, elect directors and members of the executive committee, submit plans and recommendations, amend the constitution and by-laws, and transact any other business as stipulated in the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventist operating policies.

The 14th Quadrennial Session of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will begin at 3.00 p.m. at the venue mentioned above.

**Desmond F. James, President**

**Wilmoth James, Executive Secretary**

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# SESSION NOTICE

## NOTICE OF THE 6TH QUADRENNIAL SESSION EAST CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour!

We are pleased to inform you that the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' Conference Session is scheduled for August 10-12, 2022, at the Oldbury, St. Philip Auditorium. The theme for our 6th Quadrennial Conference Session is "Obstacles Aplenty...Overcoming Is The Victory".

We look forward to your full participation in all our upcoming activities. Other correspondences will follow this initial announcement. May God bless and keep us all safe.

**Danforth Francis—President**

**Colin Thorne—Executive Secretary**



**Pastor Tulp in the gold mines in the interior of Suriname reaching the Brazillian working immigrants with the everlasting gospel. See story on page 11**



## *The President Writes*

We live in a time of crisis! The Bible observes, “And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:7). It is evident that we have been experiencing such difficult and dire situations.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a telling impact on the spiritual, socio-economic, educational, relational, occupational, and other aspects of life. This state of affairs is called a crisis, which means “A time of intense difficulty or danger; a time when a difficult or important decision must be made, or the turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death.”

In addition to the pandemic, there is the threat of global warming that has occasioned destructive fires, floods, droughts, and storms. There is a resurgence of volcanic eruptions that have devastating consequences. These crises have been accountable for the loss of many innocent lives.

Our inability to congregate as before, or host the mega in-person evangelistic campaigns, has forced

the church to be innovative and adopt the virtual platforms and social networks to fulfil the mission of the church. The commitment and consistency of those who have sacrificed their gifts and time must be admired and appreciated.

The current Gleanings magazine will showcase many of the initiatives and innovations that have been realized by the different territories, ministries, and personalities. We will be reminded that “Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity!”

I commend all those who have demonstrated total dedication to God amid the crisis!

**MARANATHA!**



**DR. KERN TOBIAS**



## COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR WRITES...

Are we getting comfortable living with the new normal? Wearing masks, sanitizing, staying at home? I believe that the spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus, like the many pandemics in history, even though it has changed the way we worship, will come to an end. This sign is only one of the many signs that Jesus indicated will occur (Luke 21:11; Matthew 24:7; Habakkuk 3:5).

It might be challenging to count our blessings in 2021, the year that may rank as the worst year in recent history. The pandemic has imposed some new restrictions on us but we can thank God for life, work, food and many other amenities that we often take for granted. My humble advice is that despite the challenges, you seek to maintain as positive an outlook as you can muster.

We at CARU applaud the church members who have been faithful to God in so many avenues during the crisis. We applaud the members in the fields who participated in or viewed the online programs and encouraged friends and relations to do the same.

The Corona pandemic did not diminish our motivation for the preaching of the gospel. Virus or no virus the gospel was and is being proclaimed. Congratulations to the many evangelists, pastors, and preachers who brought animation to the words of the song: "Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save."

COVID-19 reminds us that we cannot function alone. It made us cognizant of just how much we rely on other people for the gifts of everyday life, and how much other people rely on us. Our online programs during this pandemic have occasioned

our facing the stark reality of how much we need our young people and how dedicated and committed they can be and have been. What is evident as well, is the total involvement of the leadership of the fields in this union. From Suriname in the south to NCC in the north, our leadership has not only been dedicated and committed but they are united as we seek to fulfill the mission of the church in the shifting paradigms of evangelism.

And so, even though the Coronavirus pandemic and the resulting chaos, fear, and economic fallout have left many of us feeling like we're trapped in a colossal nightmare, we should be comforted by the fact that this is our Father's world. He has never left His church and His church cannot leave him now.

It behooves us to come together, stay together, plan together. The good news is that while some people are leaving the church, others are joining. Even if this is the sifting or shaking time, let us stay committed and united around the mission of the church. God expects nothing less! As the song says, "I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord, O'er mountain, or plain, or sea; I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord, I'll be what You want me to be."



**DR. CLAUDIUS C. MORGAN**

# DEDICATED, COMMITTED, UNITED AMID THE CRISIS



Youth Director  
Caribbean Union

No.	Avatar	User	Headquarters / Team	Correct	Points
1		Xabisa hamilton	GUYANA CONFERENCE	52	505
2		Keith george	TOBAGO MISSION	51	495
3		Melony mc nichols	Svg	42	425
4		Kelcey Noel	GRENADA CONFERENCE	43	405
5		Jahmeke Lake	NCC	twenty	170

**Story on Pages 13 and 14**



**See full story of ordinations on pages 15, 19, 21 and 23**



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# THIRTY SOULS BAPTIZED IN BEACON OF HOPE GOSPEL EXPLOSION

It was indeed “a beacon of hope” for the residents and members of the South Leeward District (SVG) when the exuberant, young, and dynamic evangelist, Elder Darian Rouse - a recent theology graduate from the University of the Southern Caribbean - executed a four-week campaign at the Clare Valley church amidst the debilitating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elder Rouse is a seasoned evangelist having blazed the trail for the master as a young Pathfinder. The remarkable difference in this effort though, was his ability to use his training in theology to underpin his messages. The sermons were timely and were geared to fulfil the needs of the diverse groups of persons who attended nightly. Many of the attendees attested to the novelty of the meetings, not only of the transformative messages and Bible truths that were delivered nightly, but also the nuggets that were presented on healthy living, money management, conflict resolution, inter alia.

Another innovative feature of this crusade was the nightly streaming of the programme on YouTube and Facebook. The programme received the full support of the district, as members and Bible workers ably supported by the district pastor, Chan Nichols, worked indefatigably to galvanize persons from within and without the district

to share in the metamorphic experience. Through the dynamic working of the Holy Spirit and the penetrating effect of the Word of God, 30 precious souls were released from the Kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light. We thank God for the ministry of Elder Darian Rouse and his commitment to continue to partner with God to ‘rescue the perishing.’ We give God all the glory and praise for His miraculous intervention and deliverance at the “Beacon of Hope Evangelistic Gospel Explosion.



**Profound and deliberate with his presentations, Evangelist Darian Rouse is here digging deep.**

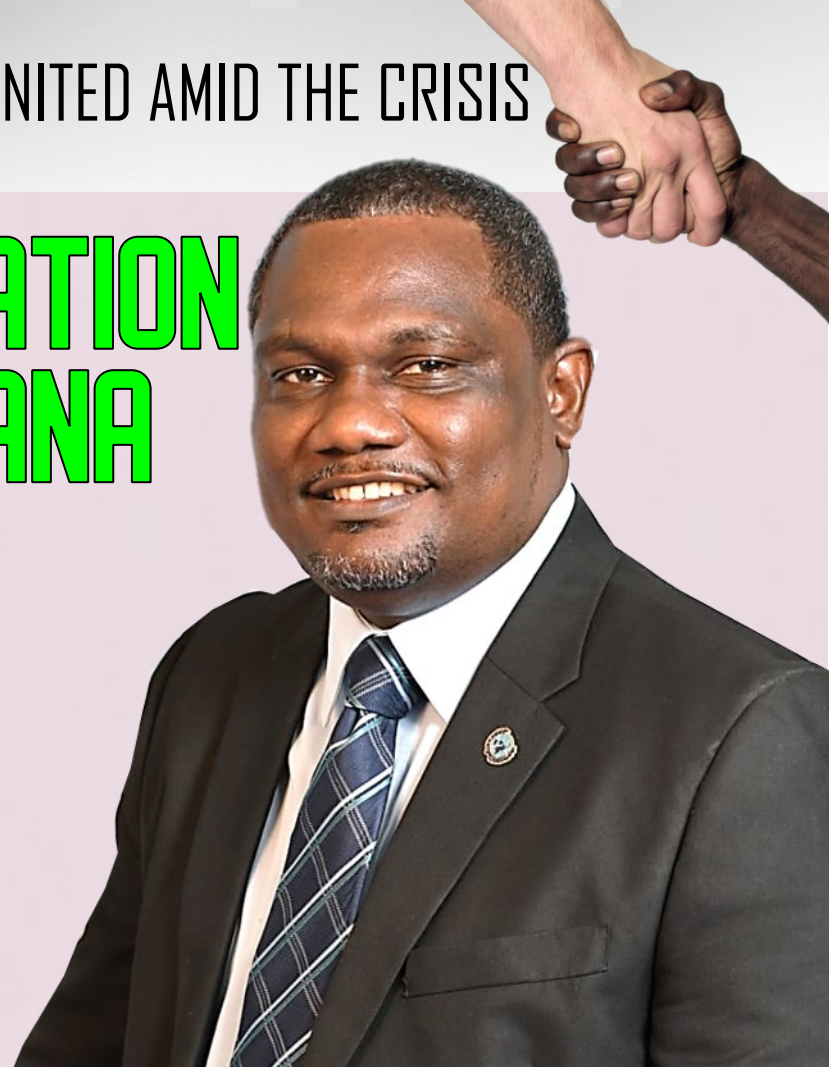
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# NEW COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR - GUYANA CONFERENCE

In his plan for enhanced quality output in ministry, Pastor Hugh McKenzie, the Communications Director of the Guyana Conference has proceeded on study leave from September 1, 2021, leaving the offices of Communications and Music vacant.

To fill the void, the Executive Committee voted Ps. Marvin Smith to assume the office of Music Coordinator and Ps. Osley Edwards to function as Communications Director.

We express sincere thanks and appreciation to Ps. Hugh McKenzie for his revolutionary contribution in piloting the media ministries through a pandemic period. We also express thanks to his wife Gayle for her sterling support of him in his tenure. We welcome Ps. Edwards to the CARU



**Pastor Osley Edwards**

communications ministry and wish him every success under God as he labors with his team to provide accurate information, relevant for salvation and the broadcasting of the Three Angels Messages.



**20 of the 30 persons baptized in the Beacon of Hope Gospel Explosion. At the front, Evangelist Darian Rouse is second from left, and district pastor Chan Nicholls is at his left. They are flanked by two elders.  
(Story on previous page)**

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# GLOBAL MISSION PROJECT

Reaching the Javanese, Brazilian and Spanish speaking in Suriname

By Steven Tulp



**Small group meeting with Javanese Community. The name of the group is Pretyaya Bebarregan (believing together)**

As many already know, Suriname is a plural society with various ethnic groups, languages, customs and religions. Of course, these demographics cannot be neglected when it comes to evangelism. The church in Suriname has not been very successful in reaching people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Various efforts have been made to work with Amerindians, East Indians, Javanese, Maroons, people from the interior, immigrants from Haiti, Brazil and Spanish speaking countries. Also reaching Hindus and Muslims is a priority since they make up 22.3% and 13.9% respectively of the Suriname population. There is still work to do with the upper class and centers of influence.

In relation to the immigrants from Brazil and Spanish speaking countries, Pastor Steven Tulp is in the frontline of the work in this community because of his ability to speak the language since he studied theology in Brazil. The name of this community is Esperança Viva (Living Hope) and they meet at the Mission office. Their strategy consists of four pillars: small group, evangelistic programs, Bible classes and talent-based ministries. These are gates to get people into the community of disciples. The main process is discipleship through communion with God, building relationships and a mission oriented focus. To be more effective we need a community center or a center of influence

to offer various low barrier services (such as English classes, healthy cooking, assisting with the immigration process, baby day care and other services) to build meaningful relationships with the Brazilian community in Suriname and to offer Bible studies.

Another focus group that recently took a more sustainable growth approach which has great potential, is the work among the Javanese. Since impact 2019 and earlier, the work under this group commenced and it continued in the background. Brother Fred Dipotaroeno (a SDA Javanese brother from the Elim Church) conducted small group prayer meetings with his former fellow church members on Wednesdays. This group has been growing and souls have been added. Recently, pastor Tulp held an evangelistic campaign and almost his entire immediate family accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. They have been inserted into this group and every other week on Thursdays they hold small group meetings at the house of a family member in the group. The father of Pastor Tulp always looks forward to these meetings and his prayer is that one day his father and another sister will also accept Jesus. We pray that this group continues to grow and to serve the more than 70.000 Javanese people in Suriname.

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# PASTOR BAPTIZES HIS MOTHER



**Tears of joy moments after the baptism of Mrs. Roestinah Tulp, Mother of Pastor Tulp**

(Continued from Page 2) Viewing the comments on the live chat on Youtube and hearing from people who watched on TV who called for more information, we can conclude that the seed was sown and God will bring in the sheaves when they are ripe. During the series, among the visitors, the father, mother, eldest sister, niece and nephew of the evangelist were present to initially support him and by the grace of God, almost the whole family accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and were baptized on the last day of the campaign. In total, we had four baptisms and one person who entered the church through profession of faith. To continue to nurture the newly baptized, they were inserted into a small, growing group with Javanese members who hold meetings every other Thursday. This was the first public evangelistic series Pastor Steven Tulp conducted after completing his theology studies in Brazil and we hope many more will follow. The series can be watched again on Youtube: Centrumkerk der Zda.

This evangelistic series created new opportunities for church growth in Suriname. We praise and thank the Lord for this wonderful experience and we look forward to what God will continue to do in our multi-ethnic country of Suriname.



**Pastor Tulp baptizes his eldest sister Roselien Tulp- a wonderful moment of surrendering to Jesus**



By Pr. Anthony S Hall

## New Records Set at CARU Bible Connection finals, 2021



**Xabisa Hamilton—Guyana Conference**

For the third consecutive year Xabisa Hamilton of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists emerged the winner of the Caribbean Union’s Bible Connection, Moses Award Finals. The hat-trick is a record performance as no other participant in the history of the program has accomplished this feat. Further, it is also the fourth consecutive win for the Guyana Youth Ministries Department as Tandika Dean was the winner in the year immediately before Hamilton burst on the scene.

Hamilton, the twenty year old, soft-spoken lass, is an active member of the Sophia church in Georgetown and also a University of Guyana, biol-

ogy student. She floated to the top of the list to clinch victory in the final round after trailing in second place for the two preceding rounds. Keith George, a first-timer and school teacher from the Tobago Mission, who led the way for the early rounds, seemed poised to break the Guyanese winning streak but in the crucial final round he faded into second spot as Hamilton surged past to take the top spot. In the end, only ten points, the value of a single question, separated the two as George finished on 495 points and Hamilton on 505 points. Melony McNichols, another first-timer from SVG Mission, was third with 425 points (43 under “correct” should have been reflected in table on page 8).



**Keith George—Tobago Mission**

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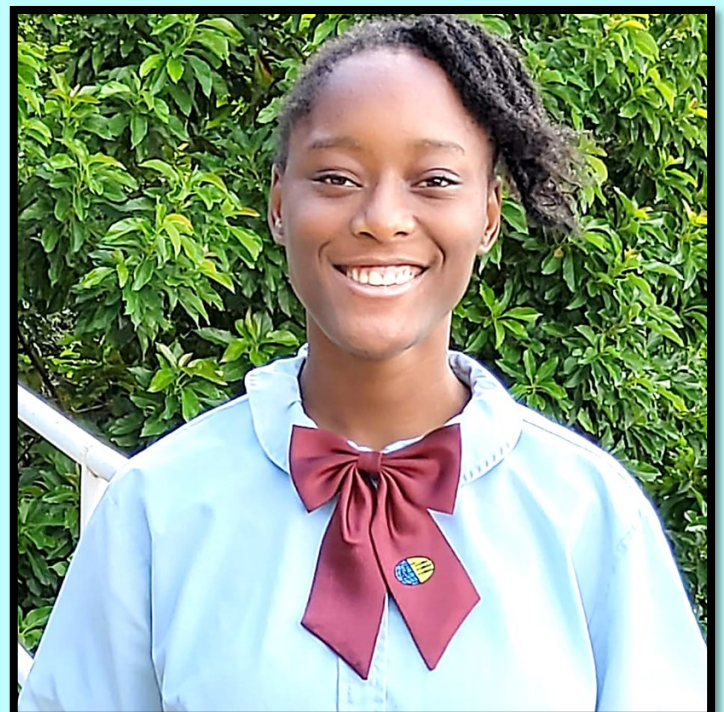
By Pr. Anthony S Hall

## New Records Set at CARU Bible Connection finals, 2021

Kelcey Noel (405 points) of the Grenada Conference and Jahmeka Lake, the youngest participant and also a first-timer (170 points) of North Caribbean Conference, were fourth and fifth, respectively. The Caribbean Union Conference congratulates all participants for their contributions and their success.

The 2021 virtual edition of the CARU Bible Connection Finals was hosted on October 23. In preparation for the now popular quiz event, participants were required to study Psalms 1- 46, the introduction to the Psalms contained in the SDA Bible Commentary and four Chapters relating to the life of King David, in the book Prophets and Kings, by Ellen G White.

Xabisa Hamilton now goes on to represent the Caribbean Union at the IAD finals scheduled for November 20, 2021.



**From l to r, top to bottom: Meloney Mc Nichols - SVG, Kelcey Noel - Grenada and Jahmeka Lake - NCC.**

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# ORDAINED TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY



**Pastor Leriano Webster along with his wife Jerriece and their daughter Lurnyah poses for the camera with his ordination certificate.**

**By Pastor Royston Philbert**

The North Caribbean Conference welcomed Pastor Leriano Webster into the cadre of ordained ministers during a deeply moving ceremony on Sabbath, August 21, 2021. A small group of pastoral families, active and retired conference workers, church members and close friends of the ordinand assembled for the service at the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church on St. Croix, VI, under strict pandemic protocols. The administrators of the Caribbean Union, dozens of other ministerial families from the Conference and Union, and Pastor Webster's parents were accommodated in a designated virtual space, from which their participation and loving encouragement were streamed. Hundreds of members and friends joined the live-stream and

sent messages of affirmation to Pastor Webster and his family.

For several months, the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) had anticipated its first virtual ordination ceremony while the pandemic disrupted and delayed the service protocol as established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Notwithstanding the hybrid service, there was prodigious support for Pastor Webster from his ministerial colleagues and church members. The service was infused with good Christian fellowship among the clergy and blessed with a series of musical items that immensely inspired and engaged attendees on the virtual platforms. **(Continued next page)**

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# ORDAINED AFTER 8 YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY



**Sister Hester Philbert, wife of the Communication and Ministerial Director of the North Caribbean Conference and Shepherdess Coordinator of the NCC, extending congratulations to Pastor Webster and his wife.**

From the welcome extended by Pastor Wilmoth James, the NCC Executive Secretary; the opening prayer by Pastor Hesketh Matthew, the NCC Stewardship Director; and the introductions by Pastor Desmond James, the NCC President; attendees noted that an impressive air covered the service. “Covid has deleted some of our programs but despite that, the ordination service was delayed but not denied,” said Pastor Desmond James. Pastor Desmond James and his wife, Sister Aline James, were the able escorts of the ordinand’s family during the service.

Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union, challenged the ordinand to live by the principles of the Good Shepherd. Dr. Tobias admonished, “Continue to be with Jesus. Be a priest, be a pastor, be a protector to your family so that God will always smile when He thinks of you and your family. Demonstrate to your family what God expects you to demonstrate to His Church.” He implored Pastor

Webster and all pastors to be community-oriented and allow God to be glorified by a consistent life-style.

The NCC Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Royston Philbert, presented Pastor Leriano Webster to the Caribbean Union President as a candidate for ordination. Pastor Johnson Frederick, the secretary of the Caribbean Union, offered the ordination prayer. He petitioned God for Pastor Webster to become a more powerful preacher of the gospel and a bold servant in delivering persons from the enemy. He prayed earnestly that the darker the times we live in, the more powerfully might the light of God shine through the young minister.

During the charge to the ordinand, Pastor Ammaran Williams, the Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union, reminded Pastor Webster, “The Church, through this service, has recognized that call in you today and has set you aside by the laying on of hands. **(Continued next page)**



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# ORDINATION SERVICE SECOND TO NONE

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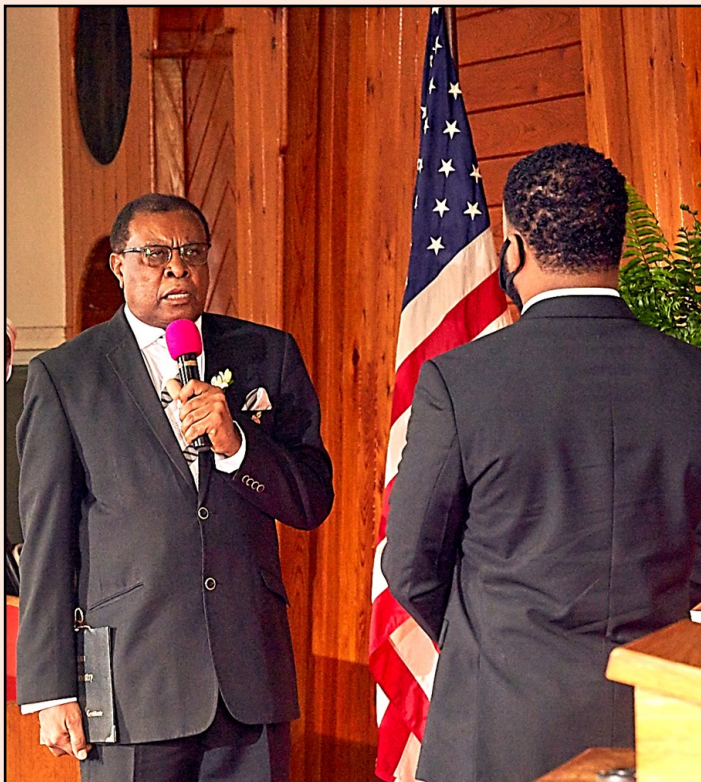
It is my pleasure to inform you, as of this moment, you are now invested with full ecclesiastical authority. There is no higher honor that can come upon any person than to be taken wholly and solely by God, for the work of ministry.”

In an impassioned response, Pastor Webster, on behalf of his family, expressed thanks to God, family, friends, church members and colleagues for making the day a reality.

Pastor Webster and his family were welcomed by representatives from the NCC and the Caribbean Union. Pastor Desmond James presented the ordination certificate. Pastor Royston Philbert and the NCC Shepherdess Coordinator, Sister Hester Philbert, celebrated the momentous occasion with gifts from the NCC for the family. Sister Linda Tobias, the Shepherdess Coordinator of the Caribbean Union, warmly commended Pastor Webster, his wife and daughter.

Congratulatory messages from the Carrot Bay and Belle Vue congregations, which Pastor Webster serves on Tortola, as well as from the NCC ministerial zones, enhanced the distinction of the service. The NCC Ministerial Chorale with its rendition, Just a Little Talk with Jesus, brought a fitting end to a historic occasion.

It is always encouraging to see the workforce of God increase in number and strength, especially as we draw closer to the return of Jesus Christ. This ordination service affirmed the call to ministry that God placed on the life of Pastor Webster many years ago, through the influence of a friend which exposed him to the Advent movement. May we seek God's wisdom to know His purpose for our lives, and how we can live accordingly, so that on that glorious day of Christ's appearing, He may say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25: 21, 23).



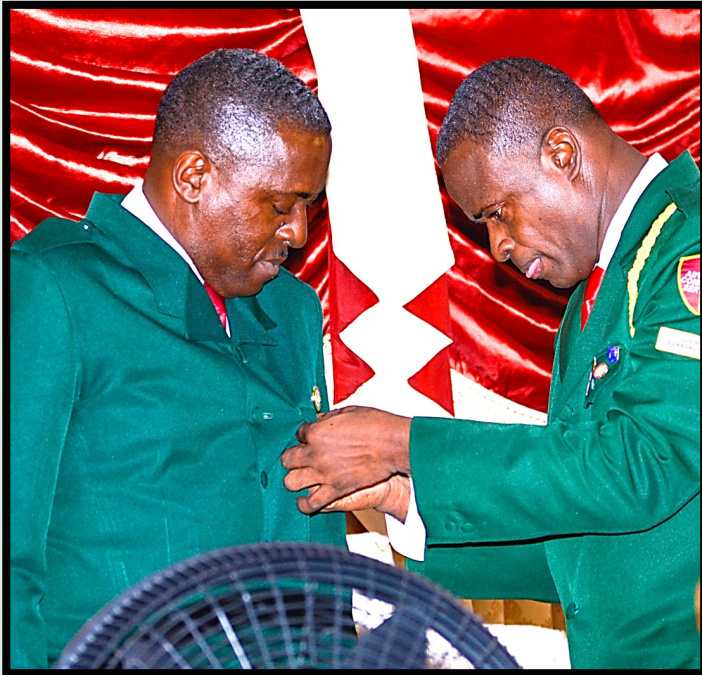
**President Desmond James congratulates the freshly ordained minister and welcomes him to the fraternity while presenting him with his ordination certificate.**



**Pastor Webster was baptized by Evangelist Hesketh Matthew in 2004 on the Island of Anguilla. Matthew is the Assistant to the President for Evangelism in NCC**

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# GUYANA CONFERENCE HOSTS FIRST EVER VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE INVESTITURE



The Community Services Department of the Guyana Conference hosted its first ever Virtual Retreat and Investiture Service on September 3 and 4, 2021. This was held under the Theme "Anointed for Service: I Will Go". This mega event saw over two hundred ACS members officially pinned all across Guyana.

The virtual training hosted by the Community Service Department over a period of two months, culminated with a spirit-filled, power-packed weekend. The training focused on areas such as:

True Perspective of Adventist Community Services

Contemporary Ways of Witnessing through ACS

Organizing the Church for Disaster Response/ Intervention

Strategies in Providing Emotional and Spiritual Intervention to Natural Disaster Victims

Possibilities for Ministry to Persons with Disabilities

Significantly, the president of Guyana Conference, Ps. Exton Clarke was formally pinned, and Executive Secretary, Ps. Jumoul Sancho was formally chorded in their ACS uniform. They have joined treasurer, Eld. Rovena Harrinauth, making the entire administration invested ACS members.

**Above: Pastor Exton Clarke, Conference President being pinned by Pastor Chichester -Community Services Director. Below: Pastor Jumoul Sancho - Executive Secretary receiving his community services chord**

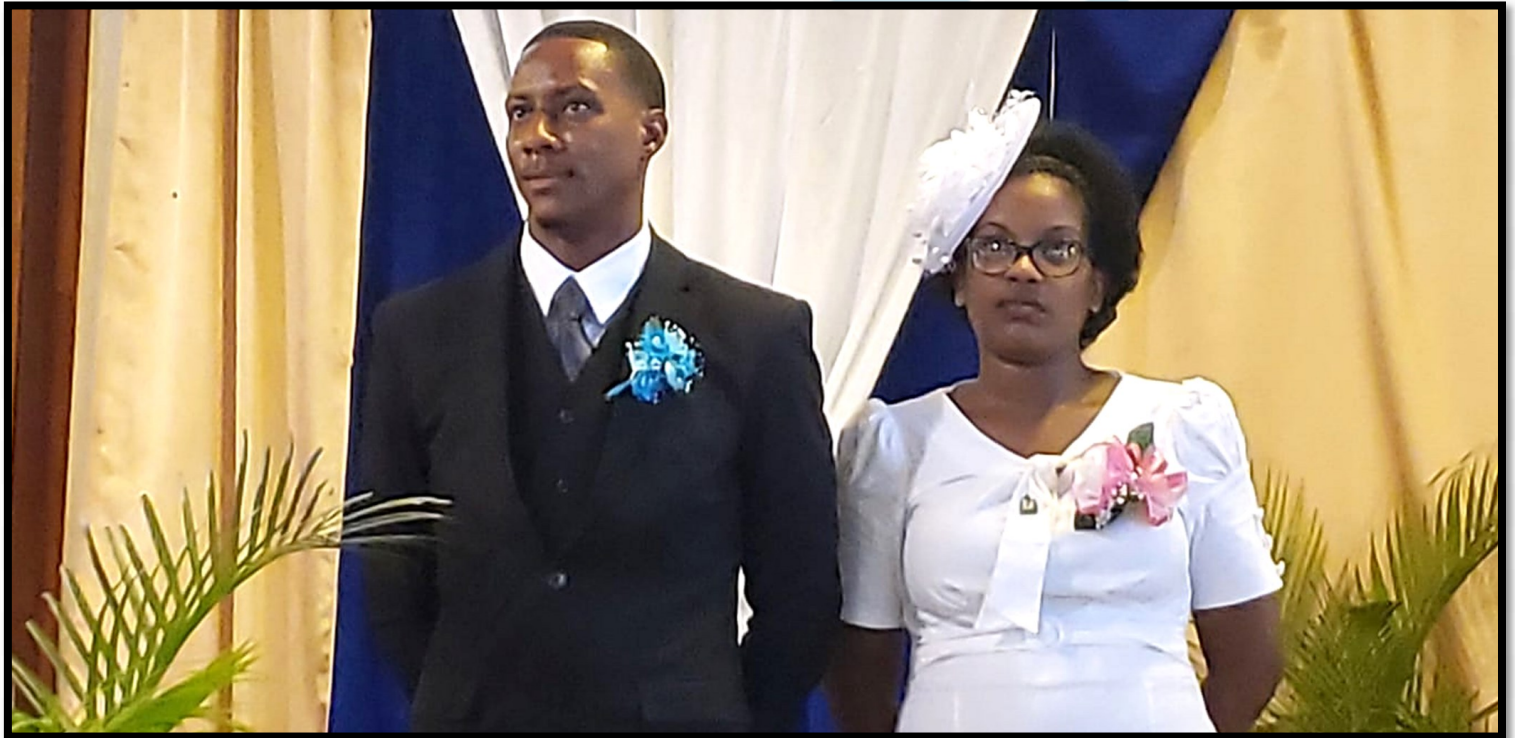
Another delight of the weekend's activities was the father and daughter tag-team preaching between 8-year-old Eden Smith on the Friday night Consecration service, and her father, Ps. Marvyn Smith, the speaker for the Sabbath Celebration service. The elated participants who were pinned at various sites simultaneously across the country, were exhorted through a stirring message by Executive Secretary, Ps. Jumoul Sancho, and received a powerful charge from Personal Ministries and Community Services Director of the Caribbean Union, Ps. Ashton O'Neil.

As the importance of Adventist Community Service is becoming more apparent, the ranks of compassion ambassadors are rising to the growing challenge to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the various communities.



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# ORDINATION SERVICE IN GRENADA



**Pastor Bernard Augustine Lyons and Sister Rowann Lalitte- Lyons**

It was a grand occasion as the church set aside Pastor Bernard Augustine Lyons in ordination to the gospel ministry of the world-wide Adventist Church. Pastor Lyons was ordained on Sabbath, July 17, 2021 at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Grenville, St. Andrew, Grenada. This was the first virtual ordination service in the history of the Conference. Officiating at this service were President, Dr. Kern Tobias; Executive Secretary, Pr. Johnson Frederick; Associate Treasurer, Elder Joel Hazelwood; and Ministerial Secretary, Pr. Amaran Williams of the Caribbean Union Conference. Leading the local officiants from Grenada Conference were President, Dr. Clinton Lewis; Executive Secretary, Pr. Oliver Scott; and Ministerial Secretary, Pr. Enoch Isaac. Sisters Linda Tobias, Femma Lewis and Camille Isaac also extended special words of welcome and exhortation to Sister Rowann Lalitte-Lyons, Pastor Lyons' wife, love and companion in ministry.

Among those gathered physically and virtually to witness this sacred and meaningful ceremony were the parents, family members and in-laws of Pr. Lyons. Also part of the ceremony were the couple's children: Zuriel, Zynnia and Zavari.

Pr. Bernard Augustine Lyons was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at a young age and he developed into an active member and contributor to the life of the Church. He became a member of the Pathfinder Club and was involved in other youth oriented ministries. Interestingly, today Pr. Lyons serves as the Youth Ministries Director of Grenada Conference. At his local church, he served in the eldership, groomed by Pr. Isaac Andrew for leadership.

In the course of time Pr. Lyons responded to the ministerial call and prepared formerly by obtaining a bachelor's degree in theology at the University of the Southern Caribbean. He began ministerial internship in 2011 and became a district pastor two years later. He subsequently completed a master's degree in pastoral theology. Pr. Lyons serves not only as the Youth Ministries Director of Grenada Conference, but also as the pastor of Mirabeau Church.

We wish Pr. Lyons and his family God's continued anointing, leading, favor and blessings in ministry.



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# WOW – WOMEN OF WORTH

The year 2021 brought out the diversity of gifts and talents of the workers of the South Caribbean Conference. The WOW initiative - Women of Worth Evangelism Extravaganza (the first of its kind) - was conducted from October 16 – 23, 2021.

Seven women including chaplains Michelle Mc Intyre and Beverly Samaroo Warner; religious educators Zaralyn Mc Leod-Williams, Candice Adams, Paula Collins and Vanessa Williams; and our guest pastor all the way from Tobago, Nicola English-Newsam; blazed the trail for one week under the theme “In Times Like These”.

They presented under topics such as “You Need a Man”, “The Gender Agenda”, “Reckless Love”, and “Actions Speak Louder than Words”.

These women brought hope and healing to our lives as we were reminded not only of the goodness of God, and that our anchor holds, but also of the imminent return of the King of Kings. God’s kingdom was enlarged as 81 precious souls surrendered their lives to Jesus as a result of this power-packed week. To God be the glory!



**From left to Right—top to bottom -Nicola English Newsam, Candice Adams, Vanessa Anderson,Paula Colling, Beverly Samaroo-Warner, Michelle Mc Intyre and Zaralyn Mc Cleod-Williams**

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# HISTORIC COVID - 19 ORDINATION



The South Caribbean Conference experienced its historic Covid-19 ordination on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Pastors Clarie Shannon Hospedales and Larry Kirk Harrow were ordained to gospel ministry at the San Fernando S.D.A. Church. It was the first ordination at a church in the southern part of Trinidad.

With all the protocols observed, the administration of the Caribbean Union Conference, together with the administrators of the South Caribbean Conference facilitated this ordination, Covid-19 style.

Promptly at 3:30 pm, the praise team took our minds heavenward with songs of hope and thanksgiving, followed by a warm welcome from our illustrious president, Pastor Leslie Moses. In his sermonette, Dr. Kern Tobias, president of the Caribbean Union Conference, reminded the two pastors of their calling to gospel ministry and their responsibility to become ministers because of Christ's mystery. He reiterated that the gospel is for all and that the church is formed from diverse groups and God extends grace to all; Gentiles and Jews.

Pastor Johnson Frederick, executive secretary (CARU), took the ordinands to the throne room of prayer asking God to cover them and their families as they enlarge their territory in ministry. The charge was executed by Ps. Bertie Henry, treasurer of CARU.



**On the left—Ps Larry and Kezlyn Harrow  
On the right— Ps Clarie and Tessa Hospedales  
and Tessa**

The two ministerial families, Pastor Clarie Hospedales and his wife Tessa and Pastor Larry Harrow and his wife Kezlyn, have both been in ministry for eleven years and served in several districts. We pray that God will continue to bless them as they forge ahead in service for the Master.



**From Left to right flanking the ordinands: Bertie Henry, Johnson and Pearlina Frederick and  
Linda and Kern Tobias.**

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# PASTOR EXTON CLARKE'S VIEW OF THE SVG SESSION AND ORDINATION

The SVG 2nd Quadrennial Session which was the first virtual session to be hosted in the Caribbean Union territory can be deemed as ultimately successful. I was privileged to participate for the entire period, and I have concluded that there was evidence of intentional visioning and planning, effective prayer and extensive mobilization of the requisite human resources particularly the technical team, in preparation for this historic event.

I was enriched by the meaningful praise and worship, the ministry of music and the messages of hope which were all aligned with the overarching theme "Led by His Spirit...I Will Go". The quadrennial video reports were of an exceptional quality, the election process was conducted professionally, the ordination service and the installation of the directors and the executive committee was undeniably a touch of class.

Without a doubt the progress of the work of the



**President Exton Clarke**

Mission during the quadrennium under review, irrespective of many challenges, is a telling reminder for the church that our persistent burdens provide the platform for God's progressive blessings.



**The pastoral team of the SVG Mission (Story of ordination next page)**

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## HISTORIC VIRTUAL SESSION - SVG MISSION



**Left to Right, Pastor Kenan and Desene Cain, Pastor Nigel and Lorencia DeRoche and Pastor Keith and Sonia Mc Donald**

The first virtual session held in the Caribbean Union Conference culminated in a grand ordination service held on Sabbath, September 30th, at the Richland Park SDA Church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The attendees included the president, secretary, treasurer and directors of the Caribbean Union, as well as presidents from all ten fields. Pastor Al Powell, youth director of the IAD was also in attendance.

**Pastor Dermoth Baptiste**, president of the SVG Mission, reported, “We were planning for an in-house physical session when two weeks before the date, there was a rapid spike in the COVID-19 virus cases including community spread, increased numbers of positive cases, isolations, hospitalizations and deaths. As a result, we had to make a quick transition from physical and blended

platforms to complete virtual, which necessitated putting all the necessary structures in place to accommodate this new normal.

There was no template or past experience to draw from, as this was the first virtual session for the Caribbean Union. We had to make huge withdrawals from the banks of experience, creativity and innovation, even requesting regional support from the technical team of the East Caribbean Conference and the Inter American Division.

There were two test trials before the commencement of the session to ensure that all the delegates were introduced to the virtual platform, knew how to access it and were familiar with the different on-line features.

**(Continued on next page)**

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# HISTORIC VIRTUAL SESSION - SVG MISSION

The end result was that we had one of the most seamless, inspirational, Spirit-led, cost-effective sessions that delegates, membership and observers have described as remarkable, outstanding, and phenomenal.

The devil's intention of using the novel Corona virus to bring about disruption, panic and confusion was reversed by God in unprecedented ways to effect a novel session for His sovereign glory and display of His Church.”

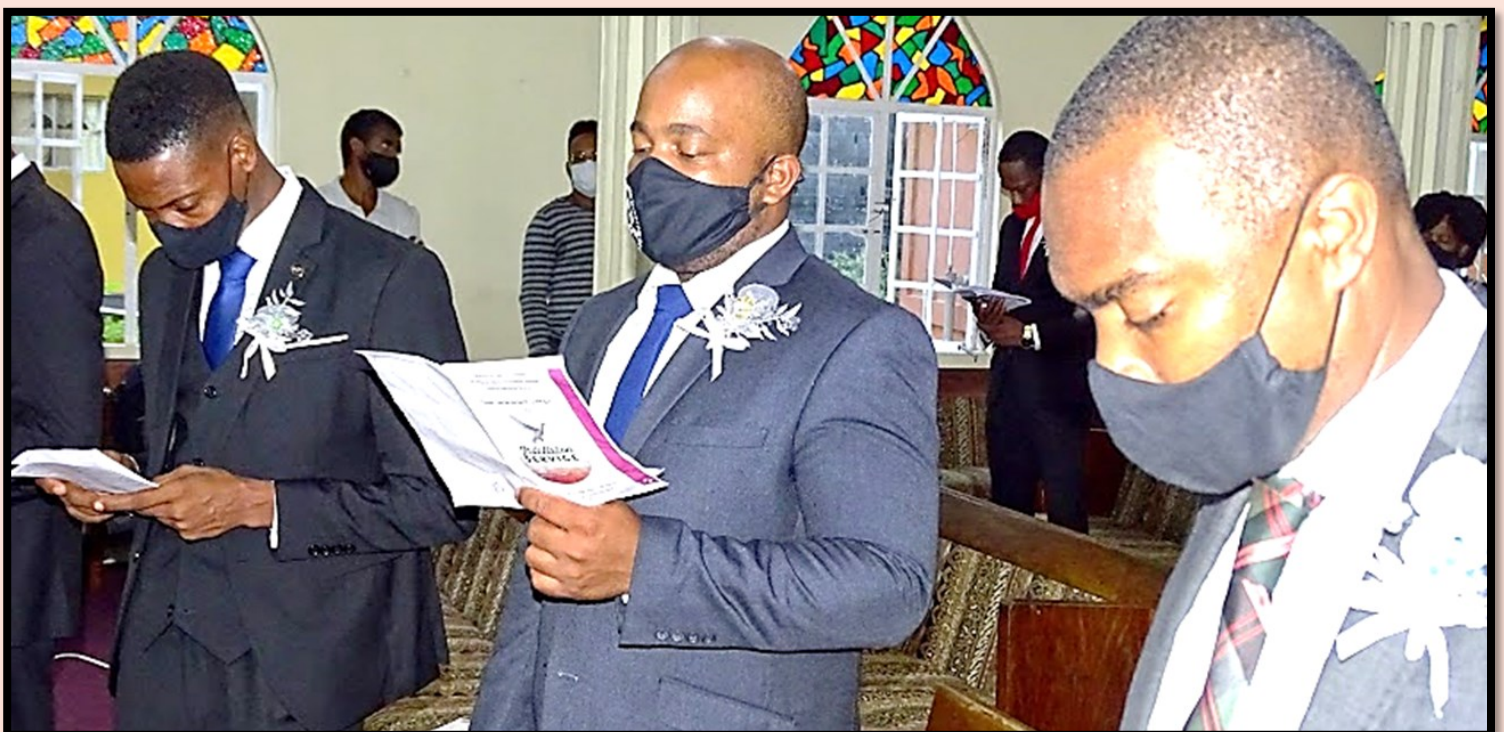
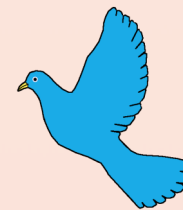
Indeed it was a seamless and inspirational session which saw the election of the following:

1. Personal Ministries & Sabbath School - **Karlson Samuel**
2. Adventist Youth Ministries, Health Ministries & Assistant to the President- **Brent St. Jean**
3. Ministerial Director, PARL, Stewardship - **Shane Franklyn**
4. Family Ministries - **Henry Snagg**

Pastor Kerry Kerr, the Communication Director for the SVG mission had this to say: “The transition from a physical session to a virtual one took place in a matter of two weeks before its realization. The Communication Department was tasked with the responsibility to plan and ensure that the novelty of a virtual session was executed as seamlessly as possible.

The various departmental reports were prerecorded and the platform that was chosen to be utilized for the event was ZOOM. Several practice runs were administered to expose the delegates and special invitees to the process and to afford them ease of access to materials and comfortable usage of the platform.”

Undoubtedly, the session was executed with minimal hiccups, thanks to the efforts of all stakeholders and the blessings of the Most High God.



**Directors elected from l to r: Pastors Karlson Samuel, Brent St Jean and Shane Franklyn**



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# HISTORIC VIRTUAL SESSION - SVG MISSION

The ordination speaker, the beloved president of our Caribbean Union, was profound and relevant in his sermon, **Called To Represent Permanently**. Dr. Tobias admonished, “Being called to be a minister is indeed a unique privilege.” Quoting Gospel Workers page 20, he stated, “The minister stands as God’s mouthpiece to the people, and in thought, in word, in act, he is to represent his Lord. When Moses was chosen as the messenger of the covenant, the word given him was, ‘be thou for the people to Godward’ (Exod 18:19). Today, God chooses men and women as He chose Moses, to be His messengers, and heavy is the woe resting on the one who dishonors his holy calling, or lowers the standard set for him in the life and labors of the Son of God.”

Dr. Tobias continued to challenge the ministers. “I want you to understand clearly that you are called and ordained to represent Christ permanently,” he said, and as he focused on piety and the quality of being religious or reverent, he exhorted, “Encountering the Master guarantees the experience of piety. Piety means reverence for God and love of His character; loving obedience to His will and earnest devotion to His service. A common element of piety is humility. Piety can be either genuine, in that it springs from spiritual piety, or false, in that it is an attempt to exhibit the signs of piety for their own sake, or for some other reason.” These exhortations were profound indeed.

All three Pastors gave their responses, expressing gratitude to family, friends, pastors/mentors, the churches that they have pastored and the ones they are currently managing; all who contributed to their growth and development.

They were welcomed into the fellowship of the SDA pastorate by President Dermoth Baptiste and by Shepherdess Director for the Caribbean Union, Sister Linda Tobias.

Pastor Cain joined the pastorate on February 1 2013. He served in 3 districts under supervision



**Dr. Tobias preaches from Trinidad.  
Photo captured from the screen**

and now serves as district pastor for the North Windward District.

Pastor De Roche joined the team of pastors in August 2014. He served under supervision in two districts. In 2016 he became district pastor of the South Windward District where he currently serves.

Pastor Mc Donald was appointed ministerial intern in 2015. He served in two districts under supervision before being appointed as district pastor in the Central Leeward District.

As stated on the ordination program, “The rite of ordination sets apart a minister to perform all the functions of ministry according to the usage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church not only in his local field where he is employed, but for the global field as well. The world is the mission field.”

This is the sum and essence of the ordination exercise that was so beautifully executed.

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# THE ASH SQUAD

The volcanic eruptions in the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines affected those islands in significant ways. However, not only these islands were inundated with ash fall and faced subsequent challenges, but her closest island neighbour, Barbados, suffered tremendously. The ash fall brought the entire country to a standstill with the closure of the airport, schools, and businesses and eventually occasioned a national shutdown. The cries of the citizens were, "Ash and more ash!" In light of this reality, the Community Service Department launched the ASH Squad (Assisting, Seeking, Helping Hands) as a means of serving in this time of great need. The department has always understood its role in national disasters, as one where it is in the forefront of the action and this time was no different. A partnership was formed with the Barbados Council for the Dis-

abled, and out of this, 21 homes of persons with special needs were cleaned and power washed.

Along with our partnership with the Barbados Council for the Disabled, we determined to continue our clean-up campaign efforts. The ash fall affected every neighbourhood, every community, every village, every 'nook and cranny. Therefore, after cleaning the homes, our efforts were centered on the streets. At the end, we were pleased with the level of volunteerism which allowed us to clean six (6) streets and one (1) community court. We saw the need and God supported our efforts. We sought to assist, using our hands and our feet, but more importantly, our hearts, to help individuals and serve our community.



**Waveney Kellman and Karen Lewis cleaning the homes of two blind persons**

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# ANDREWS UNIVERSITY NAMES ITS CHURCH HISTORY SUITE AFTER GRENADIAN BORN USC ALUMNUS

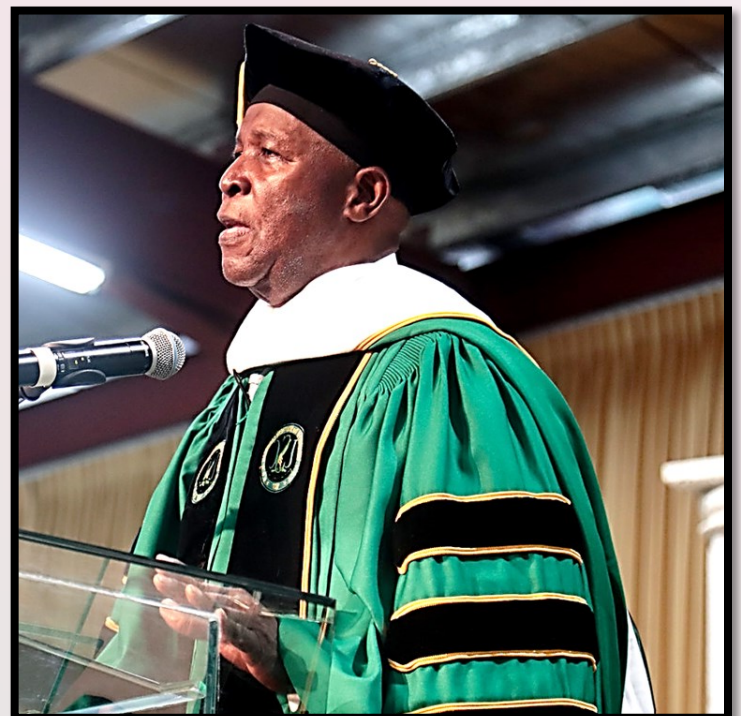
On September 25th, 2021, the Church History Suite at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (SATS) at Andrews University (AU) was named after the very influential, retired professor and pastor, Dr. Walter Baxter Theophilus Douglas. Positioned in a conspicuous place of honour on the upper floor of the building, is an artist's portrait of the man who in 1972, became the first person of colour to join the teaching faculty at AU. Dr. Douglas served with distinction as a scholar and member of teaching faculty at the SATS and in several other roles at AU for thirty-five years.

In his acceptance speech at the naming ceremony, Douglas, an alumnus of Caribbean Union College, Andrews University, McGill University and McMaster University chose to single out Caribbean Union College (CUC) - now the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) - as the veritable point of original inspiration for the distinguished life of service he has led.

Walter Douglas - at the insistence of his mother - came to the campus of Caribbean Training College (the immediate institutional forerunner to CUC) in the early 1950s from his native Grenada. He was an impressionable, eager, and intellectually curious sixteen-year-old. His studies on the campus prepared him for the gospel ministry in the first instance, and also laid a solid foundation for his illustrious career as a scholar, consultant, servant-leader and the many other interesting things

he has done with his life.

Douglas graduated from CUC as part of the very impressive class of 1958 and entered a brief stint of pastoral ministry in Port of Spain, Trinidad. His ambitions quickly took him to AU where he completed a baccalaureate degree in theology. He soon returned to CUC in 1963 as a member of its teaching faculty. Later in that year, he married Yvonne Sebro, an alumna of CUC and the daughter of Pastor Frederick A. Sebro - one of the first male students at East Caribbean Training School (the earliest formation of USC). Yvonne has been his supporter and partner in ministry, parenthood and life for almost fifty-eight years - and yes, they had a CUC campus wedding. **(Continued next page)**



**Dr. Walter Baxter Theophilus Douglas**

DEDICATED, COMMITTED, UNITED AMID THE CRISIS

# ANDREWS UNIVERSITY NAMES ITS CHURCH HISTORY SUITE AFTER GRENADIAN BORN USC ALUMNUS

Continued from page 27

In 1964, Walter Douglas was one of quite a few youthful members of CUC's teaching faculty to leave for North America to further their studies. He returned to Andrews University and there, as an exceptional graduate student, he left such an impression that soon after he moved to Canada for further graduate study at McGill University, he was invited by then AU president, Dr. Richard Hammill, to join the teaching faculty at the seminary. Douglas negotiated a postponed acceptance in order to complete his studies at McGill. In 1972, he took up what by then was a three-year old invitation and joined the teaching faculty at the seminary. He specialized in church history and the history of religion. He later added the emerging field of multiculturalism and diversity studies to his academic and professional skillset and was the founder and first director of The Institute for Diversity and Multiculturalism at AU.

In the privileged position of professor at the seminary – the epicenter of Adventist thought, research, scholarship and pastoral training - Dr. Douglas immensely impacted the world church directly and through his former students. For seminarians, being taught by Dr. Douglas became a rite of passage. The full stretch of his influence there will only be known when the records of heaven are unsealed. As for the more measurable, his exceptional work as a teacher and scholar at AU, earned him the John Nevins Andrews Medallion in 1993 – the superlative award AU reserves for its best scholars.

The demands of academic and professional responsibilities did not ameliorate the burden of his call to pastoral ministry and the pulpit. He was one the founders of the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA and was its senior pastor from 1980 to 2004. Even after his retirement from AU, Dr. Douglas continued active pastoral ministry in Florida.

Beyond the cloisters of the denominational work, Dr. Douglas' expertise and body of work in the field of multiculturalism and diversity studies brought him many special assignments in various parts of the world. One of the most memorable of these assignments for him, was his call to participate in an interim transitional government in his birthplace Grenada, after the fall of the People's Revolutionary Government and the US led military intervention there in 1983.

In a reflective conversation with Dr. Colwick Wilson, the current president of USC, Dr. Douglas expressed thanks to God for the privilege and opportunity of spending thirty-five years in service to Andrews University and the world. He considered it an opportunity to represent CUC/USC at that level and admitted that it was an honour for him to do so. He added that no man is an island and as such, his success is tied directly to the University of the Southern Caribbean. It was at CUC/USC that he experienced a call to ministry; it was there that he found Jesus; and it was there that he found his wife. Dr. Douglas even somehow managed to 'grand-father' the impact of CUC/USC into his explanation of the success of his three very accomplished adult children. He argues with a persuasive conviction that the blessings that he and his wife received from CUC/USC translated into opportunities for their children to be educated at some of the finest universities in North America and to experience outstanding successes in their own careers. Their children are Vonda, a pathologist; Derek, an attorney, university administrator and former aide to former US President Barack Obama; and La Vonne, a clinical psychologist.

The CARU constituency extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Walter B.T. Douglas on his most recent honour and embraces the inspiration and pride it carries for the people of Grenada and the Caribbean.

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# METAMORPHOSIS

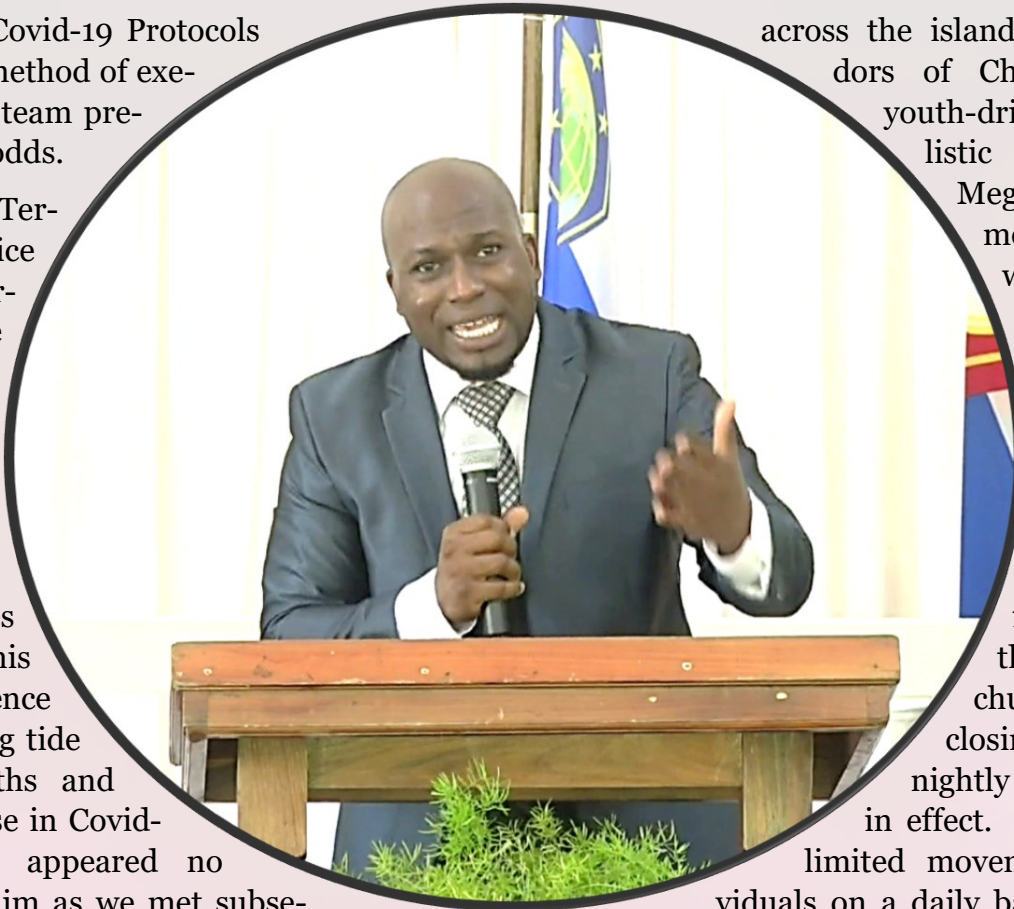
From change in Covid-19 Protocols to change in the method of execution, the youth team prevailed against all odds.

Evangelist Pastor Terry Alva John – Vice President of Spiritual Affairs at the University of the Southern Caribbean and Senior Pastor of the University Church consented to grace the shores of Grenada with his spirit-filled presence against the lurking tide of Covid-19 deaths and unprecedented rise in Covid-19 cases. There appeared no sense of fear in him as we met subsequent to his arrival from the airport; only the demeanor of a soldier of Christ enriched with the Word and ready to battle for the young people in the cause of Christ.

With the preacher on the island, promotions blazing the online platforms, and the youth team poised for action, Friday September 3, 2021 ushered in a sense of excitement and uncertainty as Mega Fest Metamorphosis was quietly creeping up on us.

To ensure the smooth planning and execution of Mega Fest, several meetings were held with key personnel within the youth department and other relevant individuals. Yet amid all the human efforts, no one could have predicted with precision what happened next.

It was opening night and we began with a resounding note of praise, mingled with an outflow of youthful energy. The young people came from



across the island as ambassadors of Christ for this youth-driven evangelistic initiative. Mega Fest commenced and we were ready for ministry.

As the night faded into the distance, however, we were confronted with the news that churches will be closing, and a nightly curfew will be in effect. There will be limited movement of individuals on a daily basis. All these

Covid-19 related regulations simply meant that it was not going to be Mega Fest as intended.

That very night, a meeting was held with the administration of the Conference, and after much deliberation, the blessing to proceed with a different strategy was given. Determined and relentless in our pursuits, the team of youth leaders pressed forward with the plan.

Our new plan was executed with whole day recording sessions from 9 am to about 6 pm daily. The days were long and tiring. The media team, praise team and preacher were among those who daily labored with heart and mind, giving their all in what can only be characterized as indelible service. The weariness and fatigue of the experience was often evident on the faces of individuals, emotions were at play and the very limits of the human nature were being tested in every sense as the days rolled on.

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# MEGA FEST 2021- GRENADA CONFERENCE



**Metamorphosis praise team from left to right, back row: Carina Phillips, Rochen Palmer and Marilyn Charles and front row: Soranna Phillip and Carmela Cyr**

The evangelist was now required to preach at least two sermons per day with great enthusiasm, even though there was not a notable crowd to give him the extra push. Nevertheless, he preached like a roaring lion. The praise team sang their vocal cords to a weary state but God kept them. The media team's presence was registered throughout the entire process. From recording the different preliminary pieces to editing with time against them, they were there. Also the hosts, who were both teachers by profession, came after their online classes to ensure that the recorded pieces came together with a systematic flow and to provide a touch of radiance to the online audience.

However, though the pressure of the situation hunted the team like a dreadful predator, it did not overtake us but made us stronger.

During the period, baptisms were basically prohibited and even when there was an ease in the proto-

cols to allow such services, there was a sense of reluctance that permeated the atmosphere. However, against all the odds, we have recorded 36 precious souls thus far and look forward to more baptisms.

Today, the Youth Ministries Department of the Grenada Conference expresses appreciation to the University, Union and Conference administrative teams for endorsing the initiative by honoring the different facets of the requests.

Special recognition is rendered to Pastor Terry John and his family, the youth teams tasked with planning and executing Mega Fest, the participants, and our loyal online audience.

Let us be poised to serve.



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## NEW WORKERS AT NCC



**By Pastor Royston Philbert**

Pastor Desmond James, president of the North Caribbean Conference (NCC), announced a slate of new employee assignments, effective September 1, 2021, as well as staff departures and additions. As Pastor James indicated, these assignments for the new term will remain in effect until the NCC Session of August, 2022. “We are glad to have committed servants who are mission-focused join us in ministry here in the North Caribbean Conference,” said Pastor James.

Mrs. Delia King, who had served as business manager of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) Seventh-day Adventist School since May of 2015, was voted auditor of the North Caribbean Conference. “I am very grateful to God for this opportunity to serve. I am ready and willing to serve,” Mrs. King told administrators and staff of the North Caribbean Conference during a virtual worship service on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Mrs. King has a BBA degree, with a major in accounting and a minor in human resources. She also holds a MBA degree, with a specialization in finance. Mrs. King has a passion for excellence and always strives for the best. She is quiet, easy to talk to, loyal, deeply spiritual and committed to God. She displays a remarkably high caliber of Christian ethics.

Mrs. King is the Children’s Ministries leader and assistant treasurer of the Road Town Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is also the assistant Children’s Ministries coordinator of the BVI. “Children have a special place in my heart,” she said. She is married to Michael Raphael King from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which is also her birthplace. He is a long-standing radio technician who currently works at a Christian radio station in the BVI.

The NCC family is also pleased to welcome a new addition to its ministerial complement – Pastor Danhugh Gordon and his wife, Patrice. He was appointed radio station manager of The North Caribbean Conference Broadcasting Corporation

(WGOD). Pastor Gordon is skilled in radio and television production and has been instrumental in growing ministry in his homeland, Jamaica and, most recently, in the Bahamas.



**Mrs. Delia King**



**Pastor Danhugh Gordon**

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# AUDITOR AND WGOD RADIO APPOINTED

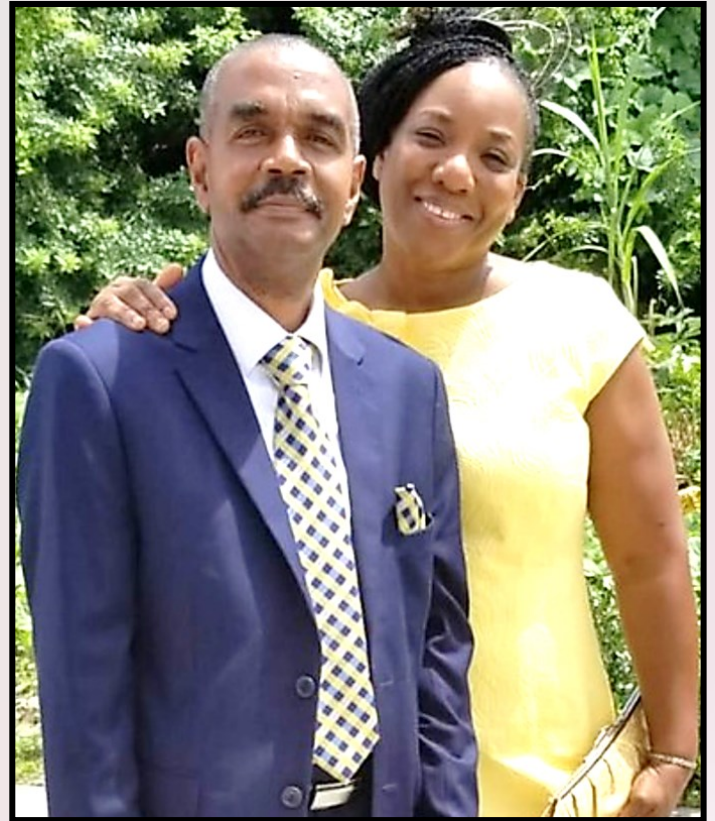
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His wife Patrice is an educator and renowned public speaker within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They are the proud parents of two college-age daughters, who attend Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. Pastor Gordon has been in ministry for more than twenty (20) years – the last eleven (11) were spent in the Bahamas. He has been described as a valuable worker, dedicated pastor, community-minded leader, committed spouse and father, and a responsible person.

Adjustments were also voted for NCC departmental and office staff portfolios. Dr. Vincent A. David has been assigned the additional duty of Family Life Director; Mrs. Linda Ambrose now has responsibility as Health Director; and Pastor Oscar Sanchez is the first NCC Assistant Treasurer.

At an impressive retirement ceremony, the NCC bade farewell to Mr. Mervin Rogers, who retired after forty-three years of dedicated service as teacher, business manager, and auditor. “We wish him good success as he detours into retirement. We deeply appreciate his invaluable contribution to the organization,” said Pastor Desmond James.

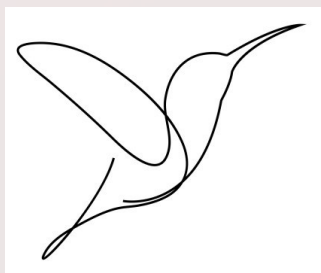
During the ceremony, other office and pastoral staff members also confirmed their decisions to exit the stage of active ministry – may God’s blessings continue to attend their endeavors



**Pastor Gordon and his wife Patrice**



**Delia and Michael King**





# DEDICATED, COMMITTED, UNITED AMID THE CRISIS



**Pastor Dayle Haynes, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director - ECC**

With severe water shortages that lasted months in Barbados, the Community Services Department got in gear to bring relief to persons affected in those areas in Barbados. Even during the rainy season there are some communities where consistent water shortage is a reality. In fact, some would argue that the days they have no water are more than the days they have water. Water is a basic essential of life and is needed in almost every facet of living. Especially in a pandemic where health is put on the front burner, having a constant water supply is not a luxury but a necessity.

Once again, our department was compelled to act; go out into the communities and do something to alleviate their burdens. Hence, the Water Outage Relief Drive (WORD) project was established as another effort to come to the rescue of communities and meet their immediate need. This saw the distribution of

720 cases of bottled water in those affected areas which supplemented the government's provision. We went even further and employed the services of skilled artisans who volunteered their time and sometimes materials to erect 4 water tanks at strategic points in the communities. This meant that residents in the neighbouring villages and communities could now have greater access to water.



**Photo on left—Sister Foster of the Sugar Hill SDA Church distributes water in the community  
Photo on right—Lamar King off loading water in St Joseph, Barbados**

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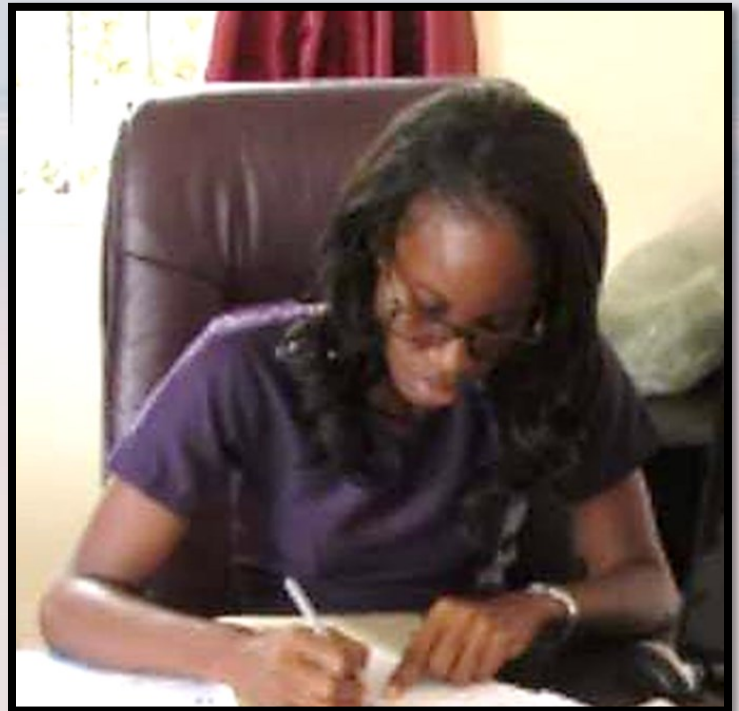
# GEORGETOWN SDA ACADEMY FORGING AHEAD DESPITE CHALLENGES

The Georgetown Seventh-day Adventist Academy, opened its doors September 2018. Since then God has moved tremendously in the progress of the school. With an initial enrolment of just 31 students, the school has grown to a total of more than one hundred students.

The forced transition to virtual classes brought on by the pandemic has not impeded the growth of the school which was able to offer a 25% discount to students whose revenue stream was affected, but the miraculous hand of God is still visible and discernible.

The school will soon embark on further extension projects before the end of 2021. This expansion will see six new rooms: four classrooms, a library and computer laboratory.

During the last school year, four students gave their lives to Christ and another three began the Adventurer programme. We continue to pray that God's favour is multiplied as the board, principal, faculty and staff join with divine help to nurture His young treasures.



**Principal of the Georgetown SDA Academy, Blondelle Campbell. Below is a side view of the SDA Academy**



**Georgetown, Guyana SDA Primary School**

# ST. CROIX - ADVENTISTS CELEBRATE LIFE OF CENTENARIAN MEMBER



Church members of the Christiansted Adventist Church in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, recently celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Violet Eversley during a special ceremony with her brother, Charley Mack, and family and friends.

Family members recounted the story of how, more than a century ago, Mary Ann Daniel left Antigua and joined thousands of migrant workers who were employed in the construction of the Panama Canal. There, Ms. Daniel met another Antiguan, Joseph Mack, who was also in search of a better life. Their union produced Violet on August 23, 1921. Five years later, Charley was born.

Violet Eversley (in photo above) sits in her yellow dress as church members and family celebrate her 100th birthday next to her brother Charley Mack who recently turned 95. The celebration was held at the Christiansted Seventh-day Adventist Church premises in St. Croix, on Aug. 22, 2021. [Photo: Royston Philbert]

The siblings have been keeping each other's company by sharing a residence during their golden years and are longstanding members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, leaders revealed.

## From Page 3

Pastor Earl Daniel, who oversees Christiansted Adventist Church and its district, was joined by church members in cheering for Ms. Eversley and her brother. "Sister Violet, it's a great privilege and joy to be here to celebrate your one hundredth birthday with you, as it is a blessing to live to see this milestone," said Pastor Daniel. "You are still moving around and it's a testament of God's blessings on your life. May He continually bless you." Eversley is one of two church members on St. Croix who recently turned 100, church leaders reported.

Nieces, nephews and other family members who travelled to St. Croix for the centennial celebration, described Eversley as dedicated and friendly. "Aunt Ida is a very hard-working woman, and she is very kind," said a family member. "She is charismatic and someone you want to be around. Her great smile makes you feel welcome and when she talks with you, you feel special."

Her Brother stated, "God has been good to us. My sister and I have had a long history of movement and trust in God," he said. "We realize the closing times we are living in, and we are preparing for the coming of the Lord...that will be something." Mack added that his sister lives her life in selfless service to God and His church and knows no other religious affiliations but the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mack, who once served as the principal of the St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School, recounted how he successfully addressed the reluctance of some denominations to work with Adventists and how God opened doors for spreading the gospel through the SDA school. He shared how God had miraculously led them.

Eversley, who was born in Panama, studied and worked as a nurse in New York. She was once married for six months before her husband died. She later remarried and moved to Barbados. Her second husband died after some years. She then decided to move to St. Croix where her brother lived and retire there.



**Courtesy Visit with USC President by  
MP Esmond Forde**

**Written by Shelley Lyons  
Assistant Professor**

The quest to measure a nation's president's initial days in office began rather memorably with US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933. He began his presidency during a very challenging time in American history; the Great Depression. He coined the "first 100 days in office" which he began by launching many critical initiatives to bring relief to America's devastating economic crisis. This Americanism that has become a ubiquitous metric of the early impact of leaders, has its original association with what for the US – and possibly the world - became presidential greatness.

In July of this year, the Board of Trustees of the University of the Southern Caribbean appointed Dr. Colwick Mervyn Wilson as president of the university. His appointment, like Franklin D. Roosevelt's, comes at a very challenging and memorable time in history; this time, it is during the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, just as many presidents after Roosevelt have been assessed for their likelihood of a successful administration, the first 100 days of Dr. Wilson's presidency are presented here as a means of sharing his initial strategies that will ultimately become part of his legacy.

Dr. Colwick Wilson was born in Guyana and is a proud alumnus of CUC/USC. He studied theology

## **USC'S PRESIDENT WILSON'S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE**

as a student at CUC/USC and following a stint of pastoral practice in the Guyana Conference, went on to the US where he completed a Master of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Michigan, a Master of Arts degree in leadership and counseling from Eastern Michigan University, and then a PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Wilson is married to Dr. Deleise Cole-Wilson and together they have two adult daughters Chidinma Wilson and Corliss Wilson.

His appointment to USC was received with delight and anticipation. Though, it was the first time in the history of the ninety-four-year-old institution, a presidential appointee was interviewed, introduced and installed remotely.

In his position as President Elect, while still in the US, the Guyana American Missionary Endeavour hosted a virtual event, "Let's Talk with President Wilson" that revealed enthusiastic national, regional and international support for his election. This was on April 24th 2021.

Thereafter, Dr. Wilson engaged in many programmes before physically arriving on the main campus. These included the commissioning and dedication ceremony for the new University Auditorium and home of the School of Nursing and Allied Health on May 26, as well as the eighty-eighth graduation exercises from June 18-20, where he participated as President Elect and guest of honour.

Dr. Wilson officially assumed duty as President on July 1st, 2021.

**(Continued on the next page)**

DEDICATED, COMMITTED, UNITED AMID THE CRISIS

## USC'S PRESIDENT WILSON'S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE



From his first day in office, Dr. Wilson has kept quite a hectic schedule of internal and external engagements with stakeholders that has included appearances at alumni activities, fundraising ventures, the annual Colloquium and quite a number of introductory meetings and courtesy calls with leaders in denominational, state and civic organizations.

He has resurrected the celebration of Founders' Day at USC and this year the commemoration was themed "Celebrating our Legacy: Reconnect, Re-commit, Reimagine". This programme was truly a strategic outreach that allowed USC to reconnect with many alumni family and friends who have become ambassadors who exemplify USCian men and women across the globe. Founders' Day 2021

also saw the launch of Dr. Wilson's "Get on the Bus Fundraising Campaign". Drawing on the metaphor of a Caribbean bus ride outing, the campaign appeals to all supporters of our university to purchase actual tickets and take an excursion with us to a stronger university that is enabled to meaningfully improve value proposition to the church and its young people and to the Caribbean region.

Dr. Wilson has also set his eyes on the historic milestone of USC's 100th anniversary celebration, due to take place in 2027. That anniversary celebration, he envisions, will be unlike any in USC's history.

**(Continued next page)**

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# USC'S PRESIDENT WILSON'S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

(Continued from previous page)

Since Dr. Wilson's arrival on the main USC campus in Maracas, St. Joseph, Trinidad and Tobago, he has hosted the President's Convocation. This was held in September and showcased never before seen snippets of USC's deans' acting skills and creative prowess. The President's Convocation was memorably encapsulated "Living Courageously: Faithfully and Fearlessly". His training in hermeneutics and experience in motivation shone brightly.

Dr. Wilson has met with the Honourable Esmond Forde, Member of Parliament for the constituency of Tunapuna, and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives who paid him a courtesy visit on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This was an introductory gesture to ensure the partnership and cordial relationship between the university and its neighbouring constituency.

On his 100th day in office, Dr. Wilson met with the USC Faculty Senate, the elected representatives of the faculty, and recounted important milestones.

He has held town meetings with internal stakeholders including deans, chairs, faculty and staff. He says he needed to meet with and listen to his constituents. He has begun an audit of some staff to ascertain the demography of campus personnel under his care. He has met individually with Board of Trustees

members, as a means of forging closer ties. He has engaged denominational stakeholders, the local pastors of the South Caribbean Conference and presidents of conferences and missions within the Caribbean Union. This outreach to those in the Caribbean Union is to initiate spiritual support and foster engagements for present and future initiatives. He has also set his radar on the Inter-American Division and the research opportunities and partnerships available through such linkages. He has begun talks with corporate stakeholders, such as Nestle Caribbean and academic institutions such as Howard University with a view to future collaborations. He has also strategically engaged state officials in various governments of CARICOM building-out his field of co-operation and relational resources in the region. The President has commenced alumni outreach and has also sourced sponsors who have already vowed financial support to USC. Additionally, Dr. Wilson has even made overtures to overseas sponsors who may have no specific links to USC, or who may never have donated to the university before.

Dr. Wilson often refers to USC as "Miracle Valley" [his term], where miracles still do take place. President Wilson sat for an interview in mid-October to discuss his vision and faculty matters and provided some intriguing insights.

*Dr. Colwick Wilson USC President and Phyllis Woolford, Director Department of Nurse Education*



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# USC'S PRESIDENT WILSON'S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

**(Continued from Previous Page)**

His real reason for leaving his distinguished career in the US to return to his alma mater, is rooted in a history of prioritizing Christian education and wanting to give back to the church and young people. He does admit he was encouraged by some close to him to apply for the position, with hopes of closer collaboration and lucrative partnerships with sister institutions.

When asked about seeming intentionality in engaging all stakeholders, and what he would like to achieve for faculty by the end of his presidency, Dr. Wilson has a bucket list including:

- i. faculty development
- ii. faculty contributing to national and regional discourses in the media on topical issues
- iii. faculty earning more attractive salaries with incremental annual wage increases
- iv. faculty participation in governance and operations of the university that is meaningful
- v. health and well-being of faculty and all employees

Note, Dr. Wilson also has great plans for students, alumni, the various extension sites and international stakeholders too. He shared his views of the COVID-19 era and believes the greatest downside is the loss of life of so many people around the world, as well as the long-term health effects. Sadly, the President has lost many loved ones to the virus.

He sees the greatest blessing of the pandemic as the technological adaptations from which all have been able to benefit. He admitted that what he most wished he had brought from the US to the campus are resources such as computers and lab equipment.

As a leader, he now sees his greatest weakness as his previous experience. That has affected his expectations and assumptions, but as president of his alma mater, his greatest asset is his resilience. He is not fearful of the challenges and always strives for personal and professional growth.

So far, Dr. Wilson most appreciates USC's many Christian employees who are committed to SDA education. He describes them as caring, decent and passionate. He loves the prevalence of prayer on the campus and treasures the growth of the institution since his time as a student. The slower pace of Caribbean life is tremendously appealing to him, as well as the culturally inbred "liming" trait of Trinbagonians.

As the USC President's "first 100 days in office" has been shared, we do trust and pray that the inspiring and responsive leadership style evident in President Wilson will continue to advance the Lord's commission. His early initiatives portend a positive trajectory. Do continue to pray for the growth and success of this president and may God continue to lead him as he leads. Also, do continue to support USC by your donations, attendance or sponsorship.



**President's Visit to the USC South Campus. From L to R: Mr. Rishi Gajadhar – Nursing Clinical Instructor, Mr. Jason Ramcharan - Nursing Clinical Instructor, and Dr. Colwick Wilson, USC President**

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# ANLE'S PRAISE STORY AMID

## COVID-19

**Joan Joachim, Literature Evangelist  
East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Dominica)**

When God says He will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19), He means it.

It was on 8th April, 2020, while on a mission of compassion, a church member met me and asked me how the sale was going?

I was taken aback, and responded, "What sale?"

She replied, "The books. I must give you a sale. I have to support you."

You see, these were acute times - massive job cuts, job losses, scarcity, economic challenges and substantial loss of lives, social distancing. Unbeknownst to me, God had even more blessings in store for me and for families in need. He would fulfill his promise found in Jeremiah 29:11.

On Sabbath, 11th April, 2020, about 2:30 pm, the Lord connected me via Whatsapp to an Adventist friend who resides in Texas, who is also a mother of five. We had last made contact on 7th October, 2019, via the same medium.

She penned, "Happy Sabbath dear heart. Love you."

I replied excitedly, "Well helloooooooo dear."

Then I made an instant decision to call to hear her voice and that turned out to be a blessing. After we had warmly exchanged pleasantries and shared our blessings of God's love and protection towards us, we then shared our latest testimonies on how God had led us. We were reassured by each other's story and ended our call with the words "pure words are as silver tried in the furnace of earth, purified seven times" (Psalm 12:6).

She then wrote, "Okay, so I pay for whatever book you got but I do not need it; but you have to give it to someone who needs it. To be honest, after I finished speaking to you, I cried a little, just listening to hear you talk about how deep your love is, in working for God. I can remember how God has blessed me. God knows what

He does indeed..."

The Spirit of God had moved upon the conscience of a young divorced Adventist mother of five children, to selflessly, without delay, support the work of Literature Ministry in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Immediately, after the Sabbath had come to a close, she had kept her promise to God and transferred an amount of about US\$150.00 for the mission.

In 2 Corinthians 12:10, Paul speaks of the impact of the power and goodness of God on his life: "For when I am weak, then am I strong." This verse tells me that when you've done all you can do, that's when God will step in and do what you can't do.

It also reminds me of one of my favourite passages that reassures that the Saviour will send help.

"The precious Saviour will send help just when we need it. The way to heaven is consecrated by His footprints. Every thorn that wounds our feet has wounded His. Every cross that we are called to bear, He has borne before us. The Lord permits conflicts, to prepare the soul for peace" (Colporteur Ministry Chap. 18 - Help for Every Difficulty [Taken from The great Controversy.633]).

I pray that my story will be a buttress to all Literature Evangelists it reaches.

**By Joan Joachim**





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# Adolescent Crusade 2021 – Can God Trust Me With Greatness?

Joel 2:28-29 - I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh...  
Act 1:8 - And you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit shall come ...

Under the theme “Can God Trust You With Greatness”, the collaborative team of Adolescents Ministries – Ps. Ruslyn Baptiste-Farfan, the Youth Department – Ps. Wayne Jeffrey, and ASI 2000 and Beyond – Bro. Avon and Dr. Lovern Browne, all came together to make this venture a dynamic one.

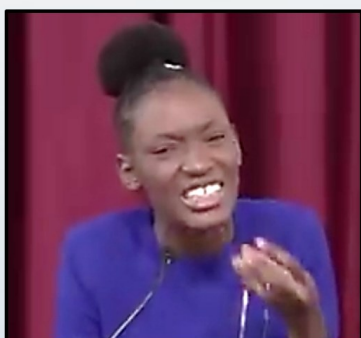
Nightly, we looked at our Youth proclaim the message of salvation, host, sing, pray and discuss issues live as they looked at the lives of Bible Characters whom God used to impact the world.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained... how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole

world!”—“[Education,](#)” [page 271](#). This became a reality as our young people allowed themselves to be used to spread the Gospel of Salvation.

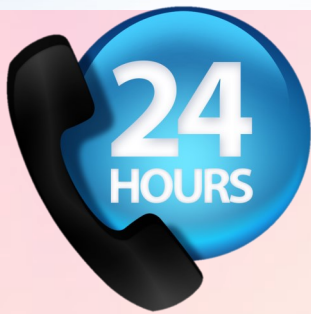
In the final analysis, while this programme was evangelistic in nature, one of its primary aims was the grounding and cementing of our young people in their convictions. This pandemic has brought to the fore some of the underlying issues impacting our youth. As a result, many of them are absent from our churches. By making the youth the focus of attention, they were able to own the gospel and better understand their direct role in the church in fulfilling the gospel commission. To God be the Glory!!!

*Ps. Ruslyn Baptiste-Farfan  
Women’s/Children’s/Adolescent’s Director*



**From left to right top to bottom—Faith Sawh, Jaban Telesford, Jaheim Telesford, Jounathan Peters, Kefentse Jones, Arielle Browne, Daniel Nelson, Chineka Boatswain, Khamisi Jones**

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# PRAYER ROOM EXPERIENCE

Do you want to spend some quality time with God and fellowship with the saints? The opportunity is yours to join the Prayer Ministries Department of the South Caribbean Conference every second Sunday at 8:00 pm. They have already hosted three (3) 24 hour sessions of prayer, intercession and worship. This worship session has been facilitated by the Prayer Ministries Director, Ps. Wayne Sampson and his Administrative Assistant, Sis. Nicole Shallow. For 24 hours, members and friends can join this prayer room where they can receive individual prayer, or fellowship in the worship session where there is singing, praying and testimonies.

The response has been very refreshing as members have indicated what a blessing it has been. This initiative is executed by the lay members of our eight (8) zones, assisted by the pastors and departmental Directors. God has been using this Ministry to strengthen the prayer life of the Saints.



**Prayer Ministry Director SCC Wayne Sampson**

**24 PRAYER Hour**

- ~Ongoing Intercession
- ~Spiritual Encouragement
- ~Professional Referrals (if needed)

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# BACK UP SUPPORT

We are familiar with the fact that Moses was a leader called by God and prepared by Him for service. One of the things he learnt in his preparation was that his sole reliance must be on the one who called him to service. He knew that, as the psalmist says, “My help comes from the Lord.” He regularly talked to God, submitted to his wisdom, and in times of crisis, turned to God for guidance, and God always supplied his needs.

Admittedly, Moses faltered at times. In Exodus 17, the Israelites were camped in Rephidim, but the Bible says there was no water there. The people were thirsty and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” Moses felt in this instance that the Israelites were speaking out against his leadership. Yes, He recognized that they were challenging God too but he could not help but feel the loneliness that can come with leadership. He cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

God miraculously provided the water they needed. When you think about it, isn't it ironic where they were camping at the time? Israel was camping in Rephidim. The very name Rephidim means one who offers support. It is always fascinating to me how names are used in the Bible to convey certain messages. They were complaining but the very place where they were, assured them that God, who had delivered them from Egypt and who was leading them, was the one who would support them and satisfy their needs. Where are you camped today? Regardless of where we are, we can praise God that He does not lead us to a place without His support.

But imagine what happens after their needs were satisfied and their thirst was quenched? The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim - the enemy attacked! Isn't it still like that today? We work hard to reach our goals, we reap success and then someone tries to take it from us, or tries to discredit us, or tries to make us out to be less of a person.

Moses laid out the battle strategy and gave Joshua the instructions to “choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites.” But that was not all. Moses also said, “Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.” What a battle strategy! Boots on the ground but

Moses standing with a staff in his hand? What does his standing on a hill with a staff in his hands have anything to do with winning a battle? Interestingly enough, Moses took the high ground, literally. But what was he doing there? He was praying.

- ◆ Brethren, when the enemy brings its low attacks on us, we too need to take the high ground. Go to God in prayer.
- ◆ We are not called on to fight with swords and shields but we must get on our knees. As we prepare to break the glass ceiling, we are encouraged to take the high ground in prayer but we also need soldiers on the front line of this fight.
- ◆ Moses held up the rod as a banner to encourage the soldiers and it also served as an appeal to God. Our banner is the way we live in our communities, on the job and even in our homes. Are we holding our banners high?

◆ **(Continued next Page 44)**



**Elder Anthony Sobers, a graduate of the School of Theology USC**

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# WELL DESERVED PROMOTIONS

Both Bro. Hugh Small and Bro. Kerwin Felix are well-entrenched staff members of the Treasury Department of the Caribbean Union Conference. They both contribute diligently and unreservedly to the work of that department and beyond. Recently, the Union recognized their diligence by updating their portfolio to what truly reflects their involvement in the work.

Effective September 1, 2021, Bro. Hugh Small moved from cashier to accountant and property care assistant while Bro. Kerwin Felix moved from junior accountant to accountant/cashier. We have no doubt that these gentlemen will continue to give committed service to the work.

**By: Sheryle Liverpool**  
**Admin. Assistant, Communication**  
**Dept.**



**Photos shows Hugh Small (above) and Kerwin Felix**

## BACK UP SUPPORT

**Continued from Page 43**

- ◆ At times, Moses' hands got weary. What is interesting is that when his hands failed, Israel was losing and when they were held up, Israel was winning. The victory was not in Moses' actions though; victory came from God. Sometimes we do get weary in well doing but God will not fail us. He has already won the victory.
- ◆ Moses was not alone. Aaron and Hur stood with him, not as critics or instructors but they offered support – they helped when Moses needed it. They were keenly aware of what happened when Moses' hands drooped. They didn't chastise him because his hands were weak or tell him to keep them up – they knew victory was at

stake and lent their support. Who do you have around you? Do they support you when you need it?

Today we are faced with a raging battle around us. Sin is threatening to overtake God's people and the world as we know it. Our God is the same God who supported the Israelites. He will support us too. He is calling us to play our part. Will you be a foot soldier or will you stand on the mountain? Regardless of where you answer the call, let us rally together, support one another and ensure that the battle is won in Jesus' name. God has promised victory; let's play our part.



# The Sky in Pretty Colours

The words “Lord put a hand” are often uttered in times of distress. They imply that in the midst of the loss of a job, life-threatening diagnosis, parents’ divorce or death of loved ones, God’s hands seem withdrawn. This phrase reveals a major misconception we have about God and exposes our internal questioning: “Where are you God?” That is what it really says. It says that we feel forsaken and forgotten. While these feelings are valid, they are not a replication of the reality. The disappearing act is in our nature, not God’s. The Lord is not slack concerning his promises and He promised to never leave us (2 Peter 3:9, Hebrews 13:5).

Have you ever taken the time to watch the sun set? How can you doubt whether God’s hands are still at work when you see daily, the sun disappear into the sea, the way it mysteriously levitates during the day, and then at dusk, slowly melts before your eyes? Almost simultaneously, hues of blue, pink, orange and/or even purple paint the sky. They are left as traces of the phenomenon that we often take for granted. Then in a matter of seconds everything dissolves leaving a black canvas ready for another kind of masterpiece.

Whenever I am able to witness the painting of such masterpieces as sunsets, I feel blessed because others pay hefty sums to see the handiwork of famous artists. There is just something about the sky being in pretty colours that excites me and I must photograph it. However, pictures can never fully capture its splendour. It is best to simply bask in its beauty yourself.

When you can’t seem to find God’s hand in your life, look up. David did this. The Psalms are an overwhelming testament that he did. David had his fair share of distress, between running from Saul for his life and family disputes, but he knew that the hand of God who could paint the sky in pretty colours was always there, always working for his children (Ps. 8:3-4). I have realized that when we are plagued with pain and hopelessness, we need more than ever to stand beneath the

heavens, to set our gaze to the skies in pretty colours. Indeed, they do proclaim the glorious work of the Lord’s hands.



**Photos of Gabrielle and Elijah Murray.  
Story by Gabrielle Murray in top photo.**

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# NEW ADDITION TO MINISTERIAL FRATERNITY IN ST. VINCENT

Amid the pandemic and violent volcanic eruption, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission of Seventh-day Adventists continues to push the mandate of God by employing recent graduate, Dayne Nichols as its latest intern in ministry.

Before answering the call to pastoral ministry, Dayne Nichols served as the First Elder of his

local congregation in Fountain, St. Vincent, and was employed at the National Insurance Services (NIS) in St. Vincent and The Grenadines. He had a distinguished career in information technology and had already given 22 years of outstanding service to the organization.

He admits that for several years he had felt the call to ministry but was torn between the call and his career. However, he decided to put God to the test and asked Him for very specific signs that would help him understand God's will for his life. God did not disappoint, and fulfilled his requests exactly as he had specified leaving no doubt that the rest of his life should be spent working full time in the service of Christ.

In 2016, having been assured of his calling, Dayne Nichols, his wife Karen, and two young children, Dayna-Marie (daughter) and Joshua (son), left the shores of St. Vincent for the University of The Southern Caribbean in Maracas Valley, Trinidad. He and his wife have completed a BA in Theology and Business Administration, respectively.

Dayne Nichols has no regrets in choosing to follow the path that God has laid for him. He

desires to be faithful and true to God, and to the work to which he has been appointed.

He is currently supervised by Pastor Shane Franklyn in the Southern District of Churches. It should be mentioned that on the heels of beginning ministry, he embarked on an evangelistic journey initiative, the "Almost Home Evangelistic Series"

By Kerry Kerr



**Pastor Dayne Nicholls and his family.  
Wife Karen, Dayna Marie and Joshua**

which was a blended virtual and physical event at the end of which 6 persons accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The leaders and members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission welcome the Nichols family to ministry in the blessed Isles of Hairouna.

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# REPORT

## ON POETRY AND PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGE

The book of Psalms is inspiring, comforting and life-changing and when interpreted by Caribbean young people with boundless ingenuity, energy and talent to create poetry and prose, the result is a powerful explosion of the gospel.

That's the treat the eight challengers in the inaugural Caribbean Union Publishing Ministries Poetry and Public Speaking Grand Finals served up to an engaging virtual audience of more than 3, 000 on June 26, 2021.

In the words of the viewers, the near three-hour event which featured gifted young people from the Grenada Conference, the Tobago Mission, and the North Caribbean Conference was "original and excellent."

Lance Ogiste described it as "the beauty and splendour of originality." Clifton Lewis said: "God has truly gifted his people. Congratulations to all the participants, we were truly blessed," and Pastor Clive Dottin remarked: "The gospel in poetry and prose. Imagine next year!"

The rave reviews were deserving and the lingering question for the organizers remains; when and where will be the second edition?

The idea, according to Judith Smith, the publishing director of the CARU, was the brainchild of Grenada's Publishing Director, Pastor Maxcen Noel who saw it as a wonderful opportunity to engage the young people of his conference in the publishing ministry.

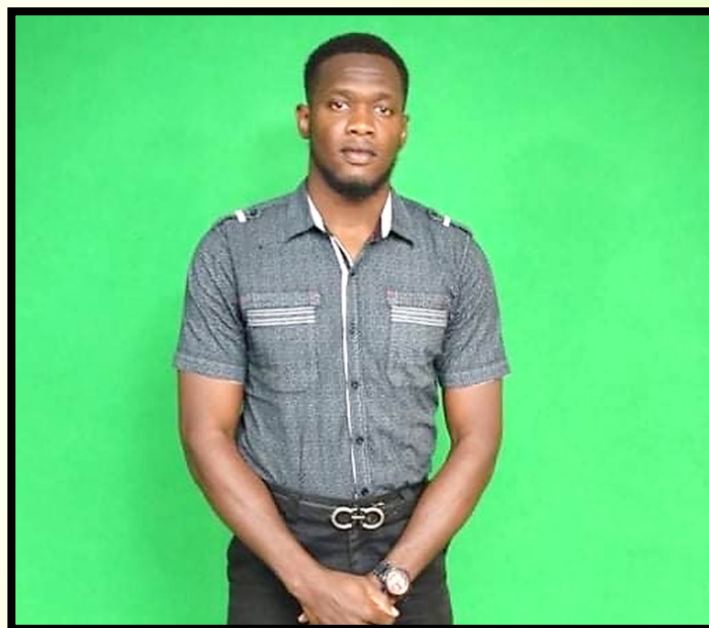
A fully supportive Smith who wanted more youth to get involved, got to work with event coordinator, Pastor Roosevelt Haynes, the publishing director

of the East Caribbean Conference and the rest of the team, to present the challenge she said would allow young people to showcase their skills and "represent the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

"You are here by God's grace to showcase how you have been able to interpret scripture either through poetry or spoken word. The activity is called a challenge and not a competition because we know that you are all champions," Smith said in her welcome address.

Gold, Silver and Bronze awards awaited the talented challengers whose performances were scrutinized by the well-qualified team of Chief Judge Deron Sandy, Pastor Oliver Scott and Pastor Anthony Hall.

Each presentation, both in the poetry and spoken word categories, was unique as it was educational and stirring. All deservingly ended the evening as winners.



**Alex Muriel—Silver Medalist**



# Poetry and Public Speaking Challenge

The under-13 blazed the trail for the evening of delight.

Jahzara Johnson, who hailed from Grenada, spiced up the challenge, first with her poem, ***Do the right to your delight***, based on Psalm 1, and also served up a spoken word piece entitled ***Sweet Bread*** that left listeners not only yearning for a slice of the favourite Caribbean dessert but a healthy portion of the Bread of Life.

It was no surprise that she was awarded a gold medal for that delicious slice of sweet bread and a silver medal for her poem.

Fellow under-13 challenger Neliah Homeward of Tobago did not disappoint as she offered her poem ***The Beauty in One's Name*** with much style and grace to capture a bronze medal.

The challenge only got better with the challengers in the 14 to 18 category.

Sixteen-year-old Gabrielle Murray from Tobago who has loved poetry from the time she was a child, enthralled her listeners with ***How Long*** to gain a gold award.

Fellow Tobagonian Iretiola Ogiste demonstrated the power of language in her spoken word piece based on the shortest Psalm - Psalm 117 - in which she examined what is praise, who should be praised. She convinced listeners that all praises must go to Almighty God who loves, blesses and sustains his people. A gold medal was her award.

The four challengers in the over-19 category brought a fitting end to the inspiring display of talent.

Sherese Moore-Beckles of Tobago warmed the hearts of the listeners with her poem based on Psalm 11:1-6, in which she enticed them to serve God first and faithfully. She gained a bronze award.

Cassie Murrel of Grenada, a college student, showcased a range of skills, adding her singing talent to her poem, ***Shaken, But Not forgotten***. She copped a silver medal for ably advising listeners to

delve into God's word and connect with Him to overcome times of fear and trouble.

The penultimate presentation, the poem, ***the Scoffer***, delivered by Karis George of the North Caribbean Conference took the challenge to a whole new level with her passionate, lyrical delivery. She deserved gold as awarded by the judges.

Rounding off the evening with a thought-provoking spoken word piece was the lone male, Alex Murrel. He copped a silver medal for admonishing listeners to pay attention to the signs all around that Jesus is coming soon and to be prepared.

Chief Judge Derron Sandy commended all the performers for their quality presentations and encouraged youth across the region to get involved in sharing their authentic Caribbean talents to glorify our awesome God.



**Cassie Murrel (above) and Jahzara Johnson**



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# ADVENTURERS LAUNCH ELECTRONIC MAGAZINE

The Youth Ministries Department of the South Leeward Conference (SLC) is on the move as it officially launched its electronic magazine, the “Antigua & Barbuda Adventurers on the Move” quarterly magazine. The virtual event which took place on July 10, 2021, was carried on the Adventurers’ YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Antigua & Barbuda Adventurers on the Move is a ministry that was developed because it was felt that the Church’s youth were not being catered for and that there are not enough programs planned with them in mind. The ministry hopes to cauterize the leak in the retention statistics through initiatives like the magazine.

Leaders in the Adventurers’ ministry officiated in the launch. Counselor Lindale Daniel welcomed the listening and viewing audience and highlighted, in the opening remarks, the aim of the magazine. Assistant Island Coordinator Maribane Romeo asked God’s blessings and guidance on every child, parent, counselor, director, area coordinator, island coordinator, youth director and anyone remotely connected to the Adventurers youth ministry.

Island Coordinator Kerneice Galloway gave a brief overview of the idea behind the magazine and what is to be expected in the initial and future editions. Following this, the listening and viewing audience celebrated a violin rendition of the hymn “This is My Father’s World”, skillfully performed by Audella Mae James of the Orion Club.

Youth Ministries Director, Carl Hastings, outlined the Adventurer program and curriculum. He noted that “it is significant to know that Christ admonishes us to suffer the little children. If we are to groom them for the Kingdom of heaven, we are to help them commit their lives to Jesus, live a Christ-centered life, to gain positive attitudes so that they can live in this crazy world, and to acquire good sportsmanship qualities.”

Communications Director of the Conference Dr. Wayne Knowles gave a comprehensive presentation that provided timely and expert advice on using evangelism and technology to minister to children. Some of the tips shared include:



**Youth Director - Carl Hastings**

- the importance of selecting your audience
- knowing and understanding the needs of your audience
- how to effectively use the digital platform
- using storytelling (an effective method used by Jesus)
- encouraging children to dramatize and narrate Bible stories with their friends
- organizing a YouTube channel where children can upload their Bible stories
- consulting the General Conference’s Children’s Ministries website for tips and tools to enhance the quality of the programs the department produces

Another item of special music was music rendered by the Seaglans Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Following this, Sean Joseph, graphic designer of the magazine, gave a page-by-page review to the viewing audience. He encouraged the parents to download the activity pages which are loaded with fun activities for the boys and girls.

After Mr. Joseph’s presentation, Dr. Carson Greene, president of the conference, hinted that there was a tinge of envy that this was not an adult magazine. Dr. Greene later consecrated the magazine asking God to let it be a blessing to boys and girls everywhere. Finally, Island Coordinator Loy Weste ended the launch by thanking the chief contributors and again asking the Lord to continue to keep His guiding hand on the magazine.

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# ST. CROIX CENTRAL CHURCH CELEBRATES A SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY



**Dr. Reginald Michael, first pastor of the Central SDA Church shares memories of the evangelistic crusade in 1971.**

## **How It All Began:**

On October 30, 2021, exactly fifty years since the baptism that marked its birth in 1971, Pastor Thomas Rose welcomed members and friends of Central Church in St. Croix who had gathered to give God glory for what He has done. The celebration was held on the exact “sacred spot” in Estate Calquhoun in St. Croix where fifty years ago members of Christiansted and Faith churches along with our Spanish brethren had pitched a tent to hold an evangelistic campaign. The Virgin Islands were considered difficult terrain for evangelism, but the leaders pressed on in faith. Pastor Kembleton S. Wiggins (now deceased) from the East Caribbean Conference was the evangelist. Pastor Steve Willsey, the senior pastor, led out in organizing the campaign, and Pastor Reginald Michael, the intern, was in charge of preparing the field. At that first baptism on October 30, 1971, two hundred and twenty-six precious souls were baptized. It was the start of what would be Central Church.

## **Memories and Testimonies:**

Dr. Lloyd Henry, a member of the planning committee, spoke of the excitement as the tent went

up on September 12, 1971, and of non-Adventists stopping to give a hand and then inviting people to the meetings. He mentioned the thrill of seeing on opening night - September 26, 1971 - visitors in a school bus rented by a church member to bring guests to the meetings. He admitted that he realized that “something big” was about to happen. One of the original ushers, Mary Kent, even dressed in her usher uniform and described the journey her life took, bringing her back to recommitting her life to Jesus again. The praise team sang the original theme song, “Since Jesus Came into my Heart” with voices a little older but still with the fervor of youth.

Testimonies flowed - Alvira Brooks described how she was invited to attend and did so with her husband, now deceased. She and Ophelia Walter, both still faithful members, helped swell the ranks of the St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist school, whose enrollment almost doubled as the children of the new believers joined their peers there. Whole families joined the school, like the Freemans with their seven, and the Christophers with their five.

**(Continued on next page)**

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# ST. CROIX CENTRAL CHURCH CELEBRATES A SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY



**Brother New Jacob and Bro. Steve Roberts (standing) were baptized on October 30, 1971. Brother Charles Richards (seated left) was baptized in a later baptism. Brother Ivan Sargeant (seated right) assisted in the preparation for the crusade.**

## **History Lessons:**

Karon Reynolds presented the church's history in prose (written by Annette Michael) and Jada Patrick and Reuben Christian re-echoed the events in poetry (written by Pastor/poet Maurice Andrews) These youthful presentations helped to take our memories back "to the place where we first received the message." No one could forget the mud; September and October being the rainy months. Yet, there was standing room only even as the rain poured down on the leaky tent.

Pastor Reginald Michael, now a retiree, shared some of his early memories of preparing the field for the crusade, and talked about the challenge of locating the right spot. He told of the excitement of learning evangelistic methods from the evangelist, Kem Wiggins. He also had for "show and tell" two of the original bumper stickers, one of which said, "Follow Me to the Big Green Tent". Pastor Michael was one of the eight pastors involved in baptizing groups of 8 in that October 30, 1971 baptism.

Although two hundred and twenty-six souls were baptized that Sabbath afternoon at the Altona lagoon in Christiansted, by the time the baptisms were over the following year, the number of new believers was 323, and a whole new and growing

church, Central Church, was born. Pastor Michael had been assigned by the Conference President W. W. Thompson to shepherd the young flock who, without a church home, were worshipping in leaky tents, in the wilderness and in Christiansted, before they purchased a plot and built a church home in Estate Plessen.



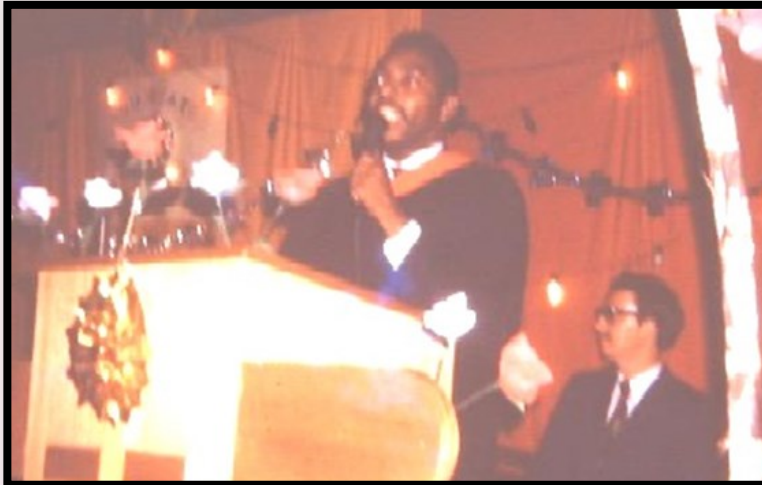
**Pastor Desmond James, president of the North Caribbean Conference was a former pastor of the Central SDA Church**

**(Continued on next page)**

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# ST. CROIX CENTRAL CHURCH CELEBRATES A SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY



**Dr. Kembleton Wiggins preaching at the crusade in 1971. Also in the photo is the then senior pastor of the English-speaking churches on St. Croix, Pastor Steve Willsey**



**Dr. Lloyd Henry was a member of the planning committee for the crusade and helped build the church.**

## **Passing the Baton:**

This October 2021 celebration, organized by Pastor Claudette Andrews, is really the celebration of that first baptism in 1971, her own baptism. Pastor Andrews, now a (retired) commissioned minister of the gospel, has also been an evangelist, leading men and women up and down the Caribbean to Christ, just as she was led 50 years ago. Elder Steve Roberts, another October 30, 1971 baptized member, has been preaching on the local TV station for over 14 years. Elder New Jacob, another member of the 1971 group, is an international evangelist, taking the Word of God to distant lands. Seeds planted 50 years ago have sprouted and are bearing fruit.

Central Church's membership doubled by 1977, the year of dedication of the church, and continued to grow although it helped give birth to Hope and Bethel churches. It is the largest church in St. Croix and one of the largest in the North Caribbe-

an Conference. In spite of COVID-19, Pastor Andrews has hinted that the celebrations will continue, for there are so many other dates in Central's 50-year history to celebrate including the official organization of the church in April 1972, the breaking of ground, and the dedication of the church.



**Central's current pastor, Thomas Rose**

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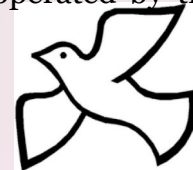


# COMMISSIONED TO SERVE A NOBLE ACHIEVEMENT

November 13, 2021, marked the celebration and honoring of teachers in the Caribbean Union of which the Saint Lucia Mission of SDA is a part. This celebration highlighted our regard and gratitude for those who have pledged their service to this noble profession. The administrators sought to commission them to serve a higher calling. Educating is considered more than an occupation; it is a calling. Teachers must mold minds not only to contribute to society but also to fear God, a role which our teachers have fulfilled excellently. E. G. White comments that teachers “have a most important field in the Lord's vineyard to cultivate” (CT 1912), and thus teachers must be God-fearing leaders who embody a Christlike character and are committed to the calling. Many of our

teachers have pledged and proven such commitment and were honored and commissioned to service.

The service was conducted virtually by officers and administrators of the Caribbean Union. In Saint Lucia, the educators and their families gathered at the Zion SDA Church to mark the occasion with one another and the administration of the Saint Lucia Mission. Among the cohort of the honorees, eleven of our teachers in Saint Lucia received the high honor of being set aside to serve. Of the eleven educators commissioned, four are principals of the four institutions operated by the Saint Lucia Mission.



## Principals of the SDA Schools in St. Lucia Mission

**l to r — Priscilla Stephen [ Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary School] Vidal Phillip [St Lucia SDA Academy]  
Bessie Augustine [Emmanuel Combined School] and Pamela Leon-Modeste [L'Abayee SDA Primary]**

**(Continued on next page)**

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# COMMISSIONED TO SERVE A NOBLE ACHIEVEMENT



**St Lucia Mission administrators stand in solidarity with commissioned teachers after distribution of certificates**

The list of teachers include:

**Bessie Augustin** – Principal – Emmanuel Combined

**Virginia Roserie** – Teacher – Emmanuel Combined

**Pamela Leon-Modeste** – Principal – L'Abayee SDA Primary

**Lelia Nelson** – Teacher – L'Abayee SDA Primary

**Priscilla Stephen** – Principal – Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary

**Perneta Francis** – Teacher – Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary

**Caron George-Monrose** – Teacher – Eucharist

Lewis SDA Primary

**Kerstin Peter-Stanislaus** – Teacher – Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary

**Vidal Philip** – **Principal** – SDA Academy

Agnel Gabriel – Teacher – SDA Academy

Florence Telgt-St. Juste – Teacher – SDA Academy

We thank God for their life-long commitment to the teaching ministry, the excellence they have embodied in their craft, and the care they have lavished upon their students. We wish the teachers success as they continue to impact the hearts and minds of those entrusted in their care and win souls for the kingdom.

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# Vision for a National Community Services Centre

By: Daryl St Clair & Janique Alfred

The Community Services Department is an integral component of the gospel commission.

The society has remained very active on the island of Saint Lucia, particularly during this challenging COVID-19 pandemic. To enhance and expand this ministry, Saint Lucia Mission, through its National Federation of SDA Community Services, is seeking to establish a community services centre at their former office building.

President of the Federation, Ms. Meriah Joseph, described the future centre as “a hub for the collection, storage, and distribution of basic-need items such as food, clothing, and other items, to the CS zones on island.” In times of disaster, the establishment of this centre will position the Federation to assist the government with providing relief to vulnerable groups. Additionally, the CS centre will allow for the Lifeline centre to resume its operations suspended in February of 2021 due to the pandemic. The Lifeline centre provided services such as counseling, after-school support, soft skills development, and other services to the community

since October 6, 2016 as part of the church’s centre of influence initiative.

The CS community in Saint Lucia is excited about this venture. Pastor Lucius Philip, Personal Ministries director, is most thrilled. He says, “This National Community Services Centre has been a dream of the Saint Lucian Mission of SDA. The centre will provide us with the resources to minister to the holistic needs of the citizenry. We are elated that this dream can finally come to fruition.”

A rallying cry has been made to all the stakeholders and well-wishers to support the cause. The Federation will host a grand telethon on December 12, 2021, under the theme Sacrificing for the Cause #ÈpiLafwa (#ByFaith). They appeal to patrons to contribute generously to help raise the \$209 000 Eastern Caribbean dollars needed for the renovation project. You can donate via debit or credit card on their online platform using the following link or QR code (link/QR code: <https://bovi.app/CS-Telethon>).



**President Roger Stephen moves from the desk to the field with food hampers to give to those in need.**



**Pastor Lucius Phillip Community Services Director - St Lucia Mission**

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# NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

By: Daryl St Clair & Janique Alfred

The Saint Lucia Mission welcomed Pastor Germy Fevrier to the Ministerial fraternity in September 2021. Pastor Fevrier, a graduate of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), brings a wealth of experience to the ministerial core. He served in various capacities in his local church and on the USC campus prior to his matriculation.

Pastor Fevrier hails from the cultural capital of Saint Lucia, the southwestern community of Choiseul which is home to the very first Seventh-day Adventist church on the island. It is also considered by some to be the cradle of Adventism in Saint Lucia. Pastor Fevrier's deep Adventist heritage and understanding of the locale positions him to contribute significantly to the indigenous population.

Pastor Fevrier is a family man. He is happily married to the love of his life, the beautiful Malika Nathaniel-Fevrier, and together they share a wonderful teenage daughter, Jermyah Fevrier. He enjoys pastoral living as he spends much of his free time engaging in agriculture. His understanding of nature, love for family, and constant study of God's word add depth to his homilies.

Pastor Fevrier loves the Lord, youth ministry, and the empowerment of others. He is known to be a good listener and always seeks to find the good in others. Our 'new kid on the block' is excited to begin a life of service for the Lord and His church. We welcome Pastor Germy Fevrier and his family to the joys and higher joys of pastoral ministry.



**Pastor Germy Fevrier**



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# GOD PLACED A DREAM ...VIP MOMS...

Out of concern for a young, single mother who had to convert her growing baby's onesies into vests and who had reached to the point of not being able to purchase disposable diapers for her little one, a thought was planted in the mind of Jamila Nicholls. Jamila Nicholls is the Women's Ministries director of the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, this being just one of the many hats she wears at the Mission. The thought lingered for months, but by October 2020, the season came to get the seed planted. Mrs. Nicholls was inspired to use the acronym V.I.P. MOMS to name her project: 'V' Vests, 'I' Inspirational, 'P' Pampers (meaning disposable diapers), and MOMS, the name of the beautiful mothers that she sought to serve. The inspiration was pivotal to guiding this new ministry because its purpose, from inception, was to encourage and inspire the MOMS with scriptural texts and other inspirational literature that would assist in the proper rearing of their young ones. An executive committee of seven (7) was formed, comprising the C.E.O., Mrs. Nicholls; a chairperson, Mrs. Sharon Job-Edwards; and five (5) other Women's Ministries leaders. God has blessed the executive with four additional ladies, since our launch in December 2020, and this committee meets virtually, as much as needs be, to plan for the various distributions (what, how and when).

The Bible expounds that the cattle on a thousand hills are God's. We have not killed any cattle to offset expenses, but God has provided donors to fuel this glorious initiative. Every month, a sum in the vicinity of

TT\$12,000.00 is contributed/raised. Contributors from various walks and professions make online and direct payments to the Mission - some \$100, some \$500, and some \$1 000. Some donate the proceeds from the sale of their avocados. This revenue is paid into the V.I.P. MOMS account. As a result of the generous hearts within and without the church, our first launch served fifty-six (56) mothers and as of September 2021, we have passed the 100 mark of mothers helped.

This God-birthing effort, this faith-moving exercise has opened the way for many other ministries. By faith, babies have been dedicated; clothing, shoes, walkers, and car seats have been distributed; food hampers have been served; medical assistance to V.I.P. MOMS has been given. By faith, Bible classes and prayer rooms have been opened; baptisms have been conducted; counselling sessions have been provided; parenting seminars are being conducted by professionals and pastors across the Tobago Mission and even the Caribbean Union. By faith, gifts from as far as Miami and New York are being mailed and/wire transferred. By faith we hope to see mothers gainfully employed so that they can meet their children's basic needs; by faith we want to see the fathers returning to take their rightful position in the homes. By faith, we see this concept being embraced by all Missions/Conferences, Unions and Divisions, so that all the world will know that we all care, and that Jesus is soon to return to this earth.



VIP Moms in Tobago

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# WATER, WORD ON WEDNESDAYS W.W.W. FROM CONCEPTION TO DELIVERY



**Shirma Frank-Joseph gives a bottle of cold water to a passerby.**

Going For More: Becoming A More Evangelistic Me! This was the mantra given by the Women's Ministries Director of the Tobago Mission of SDA, Sis Jamila Nicholls, to all the 2021 Women's Ministries leaders of the local churches.

I accepted the position of Women's Ministries leader for the year 2021 at the Bon Accord SDA Church after refusing it for a number of years.

WWW stands for Water, Word on Wednesdays. This ministry was conceived through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who disturbed my breakfast of oatmeal porridge, saying, "But you could go by the park on evenings and give out literature." You see, I live opposite the Coral Garden Park in Buccoo, Tobago, and the outskirts proved an ideal spot to set up a station to distribute Priority Mag-

azines and other literature.

I fought and argued with the Holy Spirit and like Moses and other Bible characters pointed out all the reasons why it cannot work. I told the Lord that I was shy and proposed that no one would stop to take the magazine, especially with Covid-19 just emerging. The Holy Spirit's impressions I shared with friends hoping for discouragement, but instead they were excited about the concept and even suggested that water be added.

From Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021 and continuing every Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm, members of the community, as well as others persons driving by, receive a bottle of water along with a Priority magazine or a book. Also assisting in this ministry is Pastor Vishnu Persad, pastor of the Southwest 1 District and Br. Joel Cadiz of the Bethel SDA Church. Other persons will visit from time to time to share in the experience.

Operations were suspended for some time from May 2021 due to the government's lockdown measures. Thank the Lord, however, that the ministry has resumed in September 2021.

So far, 479 pieces of literature and bottles of water have been distributed. The ministry is God-inspired and truly blessed. The response from the community is encouraging, and persons have indicated their desire to know more about God and end-time events.

Thanks be to God for all the persons who made donations (water and finances) to keep it going, and for the continued prayers and encouragement. Praises!!!!!!!!!!

**Written by Sherma Frank-Joseph  
WWW Founder  
Women's Ministries Leader,  
Bon Accord SDA Church– Tobago**



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# SUCCESS IN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM



**Some of the children who attended the Vacation Bible School**

It was the first day filled with anticipation and excitement as VBS 2021 began at the Gouyave SDA Church, Grenada, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August. Happy smiling faces, puzzled countenances, questioning eyes and energetic bodies of children filled the church compound, eagerly awaiting the official start of Vacation Bible School.

### **Some Groups**

What a week it was, as each day their young voices permeated the atmosphere with their lusty singing as we led them into the “Jungles of Africa”, focusing on the theme Jamii Kingdom – where we are all part of God’s family. The Bible story time was stimulating and powerful as the teachers enthusiastically reenacted stories from the Bible. Prayer station time was serene and inspiring as the children learnt how powerful prayer is and how easy it is to pray. Games station time was invigorating as the children learnt new exhilarating and super fun-filled games. During craft time, it was a pleasure to see children use their hands to cre-

ate beautiful items. Of course, there was snack time when the children looked forward to their delicious, healthy snacks.

The entire week progressed with each day proving to be better than the previous one. On Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m., there was a Spirit-filled impressive graduation ceremony at the church to culminate the week’s activities. Oh, what a delightful time it was! Parents’ faces beamed with pride and admiration as they excitedly watched their children participate in the program.

Sixty-three children were impacted by this evangelistic endeavor. It was very heartening for us, because of the 63 children, 27 were Seventh-day Adventists and 38 were non-Seventh-day Adventists. We commend them to God and trust that the values and truths taught will impact their lives permanently. To God be the glory! Great things He has done!

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# FAMILY MINISTRIES IN GRENADA

The Family Ministries Department of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists recognizes the significance of family and endeavors to strengthen the home as a disciple-making center where family members are encouraged in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The department celebrated Family Togetherness week of prayer, Sept 5 -11 2021 under the theme, Living Fruitful Love. During this Family Togetherness week of prayer, leaders led their church members daily in prayer, as our desire was for every husband and wife, every father and mother, every family member will cooperate with the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit in their lives each day.

Each day, an agreeable juicy fruit with its own unique taste and texture was presented to represent the fruit of the spirit to be exhibited in our families. The overarching fruit, Love, was represented by the mango. The other days exhibited other representative tropical fruits: cherries, pomegranates, guavas, sapodillas, soursops, and bananas.

In the book of Galatians, The Apostle Paul speaks about the other kind of fruit that is not bought at the market or cultivated on our farm lands; the

fruit of the Spirit comprising love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are virtues that are cultivated when we are filled with the Spirit of Jesus.

Additionally, the family life department was represented by thirteen (13) leaders who completed the Family Life Studies (Basic) Course with the University of the Southern Caribbean. Our leaders reported feeling better prepared to educate and enrich the family life ministry of the church.

The director also visited the Grenadines district and facilitated a family life session to enable the leaders to empower members with knowledge and skills for effective family management and to promote positive SDA Christian family values.

Leaders were engaged in distributing care packages, “physical distancing” visitation and ministering to our members and nonmembers alike, using various means including online resources and devices. Efforts to reach out to family members are urgent, vital and an integral part of the “I WILL GO WITH MY FAMILY” Message.



**Families in attendance at the session**

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# CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE OF SDA BREAKING THE EVANGELISTIC GLASS CEILING

Dates	Events	Venue
Jan. to March	Pastoral Campaigns	CARU
<b>February 2022</b>		
Feb. 11 -26	Crusade - Dr. Samuel Telemaque	N.C.C.
<b>March 2022</b>		
	March Pastoral Campaigns	
	CARU March 19-April 23 First Wave of Youth Campaigns	
	CARU March 19-April MEGA Regional Campaign(BELU) Dr Claudius Morgan	
March 21-April 16	MEGA Regional Campaign(CARU) Pastor David Campbell	BELU Grenada
March 26-April 23	MEGA Regional Campaign(CARU) Pastor Glen Samuels	South Carib-Trinidad
<b>April 2022</b>		
April 16-30	First Wave of 50 Lay Campaigns	
CARU April 29 – May 28	Mega Regional Campaign – Dr. Claudius Morgan	
ATCU		
<b>May 2022</b>	100 Pastoral Campaigns	
May 15- 28	Cross Cultural Campaigns with Jamaica	CARU
<b>July 2022</b>		
July 9 – August 27	Women & Children Campaigns	CARU
<b>August 2022</b>		
Aug. 1 -27	Women & Children Campaigns continue	CARU
<b>September 2022</b>		
Sept. – Dec.	Pastoral Campaigns	CARU (9 Fields)
Sept. 3 – Oct. 1	Second Wave Youth Campaigns	CARU ( 9 Fields)
Sept. 9 – Oct 14	Mega Regional Campaign – Dr. Claudius Morgan	Guyana
<b>October 2022</b>		
Oct. 1- 14	Mega Regional Campaign – Dr. Claudius Morgan continues	Guyana
<b>November 2022</b>		
Nov. 12 – Dec. 3	Third Wave Youth Campaigns	CARU

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## THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD!

On October 3, 1977, a young lady entered the offices of the Caribbean Union Conference. She was thrilled to have been chosen to be part of this illustrious work at the highest level of organization in the Caribbean Union. Marie George-Lawrence had no way of knowing that it would be 43 years later when, having developed personally and professionally, she would retire from the organization.

During her years of committed service, Marie worked in most of the departments of the organization, giving to each ministry her prayerful and dedicated duty and treasuring each responsibility as a gift from God. She cared about the work with equal intensity as she cared for the people for whom she worked. Dr. Naomi Modeste, a former health director of the Caribbean Union recalls that “Marie served as my secretary for several years. She was kind and considerate and very patient, but serious about getting things done on time. She was a very thoughtful organizer with excellent leadership skills. I never knew her to be a grumbler or complainer, but she would respectfully let me know how she felt about an issue. She is a woman of quality and faith, who cares about family and friends.”

Another former Union director, Dr. Samuel Telemaque remembers Marie as empowering everyone around her. “She empowered me with her wise counsel, positive attitude, and her participation in all major events. She gave me an excellent orientation to directorship at the level of the Union. Sister Lawrence’s empowerment ministry made us effective leaders in service of the Lord. We celebrate her for her excellent ministry of empowerment.”

On August 1, 2021, Marie George-Lawrence retired from the service of the Caribbean Union Conference, but not from active service of the Lord. Armed with several projects to keep her occupied, she continues to allow God to use her wherever He sees fit.

Faith Pustam-Ramdath was asked to fill the very large shoes that Marie George-Lawrence has left behind. Faith began services in the organization on January 16, 2000. She served in the Ministerial and Family Ministries Departments and then relocated to the Suriname Mission with her husband to give missionary service during the period 1st April 2012 - 28th February, 2014.

On returning to the Union office in 2014, Faith was assigned to the Publishing Ministries and Stewardship Departments where she lent her creativity and organi-

zational skills to assisting the respective directors to professionally conduct their programs.

Her reliance on God has forged her watch words: “You have the power to say this is NOT how my story will end.” She has seen God at work in her life and already her creativity is being felt around the Caribbean. As she has joined the president’s team to continue giving her faithful service, we wish her every blessing.

**By: Sheryle Liverpool**  
**Admin. Assistant, Communications**  
**Department**



**Faith Pustam Ramdath (above) and**  
**Marie George Lawrence**

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# NATIONAL MEN'S CONVENTION

On Sabbath, July 31, 2021, the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held its first ever men's convention at the Spice Basket under the theme: Men Rising to the Challenge: No more excuses. Indeed, it was a spectacle to see over three hundred men, young and old alike bursting with excitement and enthusiasm as they awaited what was going to be the meeting of a lifetime.

It was unusual, yet profound as hundreds of male voices blended together to bless the name of the Lord in praise and thanksgiving. Several presentations addressing the various needs of men characterized the day's proceedings.

Some of the highlights of the event included Pastor Charles Gittens' presentation on *The Roles of Christian Men in the Home and Society*. In this presentation, the men were challenged to take back their rightful places both as spiritual leaders in the home and also as strong community leaders and role models.

Following this challenge, Dr. Neals Chitan empowered the men with coping skills in dealing with failure and negative emotions that are often encountered by men and to a lesser extent, boys.

Other presentations included *Understanding Men's Health* by Dr. Linwall Fleary, and *Keeping Romance Alive: How to Handle Sexual Decline* by Brother Claude Douglas and Sister Ann Marie Phillip. These sessions were quite interactive and generated spirited discussions amongst the participants.

However, the highlight of the day's activity was an electrifying sermon presented by the Men's Ministries leader, Pastor Enoch Isaac under the Caption, *Taking Responsibility, Coming Out From the Shadows*.

The sermon challenged the men present to rise up and take back their rightful places in our society. In the face of destruction of the male species, men were challenged to stand up.

Men were also challenged to overcome their fears, which have the ability to paralyze the human psyche, stunt their growth, blunt their vision, and ultimately prevent them from realizing their dreams.

At the conclusion of a well-spent day, the general consensus was that men have been empowered and from henceforth there shall be no more excuses.



**Convention saw the attendance and participation of the SDA men of the Spice Isle**

# Gleanings®

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



## UNITED WE STAND!



**From Left to right and top to bottom—Pastors Cornwall, Lake, Campbell, Telemaque Samuels and Morgan**

UNITED is a word of worth. The word deals with cooperation, collaboration and team work. The story is told of a horse pull in Canada. One horse pulled 9,000 pounds, another pulled 8,000 pounds. Together you will expect them to pull 17,000 pounds. Not so! When teamed together they pulled 30,000 pounds.

The principle is called synergism. By definition, the simultaneous action of separate agents working together has a greater effect than the sum of one individual effort.

In order for this principle of synergism to work effectively, teamwork is crucial!

For the 100th year celebration of the Inter American Division, we experience the synergy among the 5 English unions of the 25 unions in our division.

The Jamaica Union, Belize Union, Atlantic Caribbean Union, Dutch Caribbean Union, and the Caribbean Union are working together as we celebrate this signal event. Five evangelists from the five unions will be on an exchange evangelistic program beginning January 8. Evangelist Glen

Samuels will be preaching from Jamaica to members and invitees in all five Unions, from January 8 to February 12, 2022.

According to the Breaking the Evangelistic Glass Ceiling initiative, the other four evangelists namely **Pablo Lake** from Dutch Caribbean Union, **David Campbell** from Belize Union, **Steve Cornwall** from the Atlantic Caribbean Union and **Claudius Morgan** from the Caribbean Union are assigned to the following fields:

Pablo Lake— CARU and Belize

David Campbell—CARU and Jamaica

Steve Cornwall—Belize and Dutch Caribbean Union

Claudius Morgan—Belize, Turks and Caicos and CARU

Additionally, other programs in 2022 will see Dr. Samuel Telemaque from the IAD assigned to CARU and Jamaica Union, Evangelist Sherwin White assigned to the SVG Mission and Evangelist Glen Samuels to the Caribbean Union.