

DECEMBER 2022

# GLEANINGS

OFFICIAL PERIODICAL OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



## Faithful In Service

Church for the  
Hearing Impaired  
Thrives  
in the Eastern  
Caribbean Conference

Worship,  
Reverence and  
Discipleship  
In a Post-Pandemic Era





**From The President's Desk** **03**

**Editorial** **04**

**ON THE COVER: Worship, Reverence and Discipleship in a Post-Pandemic Era...** **06**

**News Across the Union** **10**

Elders Baptize 36 in Guyana Hinterlands 10

Thousands Join Church, 200 Baptized... 10

Baptisms Soak the Region 11

Twenty-Five Baptised in Beacon of Hope Gospel Explosion 11

North-bound Prayer Caravan Intercedes for Grenada... 12

St. Vincent Mission Leaders Installed 13

East Caribbean Drives Prayer Motorcade 13

Davis Memorial Hospital Hosts Diabetic Support Group 14

Pastor Kumal Smith Ordained to Ministerial Service 15

CARU Executive Committee Completes List of Leaders... 16

President Challenges Saint Lucia Mission Leaders... 18

...Awardees Recognized for Outstanding Service 19

Tobago Mission Leaders Installed 20

Suriname Mission Leaders Installed 21

Veteran Cadre of NCC Officers Installed 22

Guyana Conference Hosts Religious Liberty Convention 23

South Caribbean Conference Wins CARU Bible Connect... 24

Acts of Kindness Highlight CARU Pathfinder Day 2022 25

Political Leaders Celebrate Adventist Influence in Mason... 26

Suriname Mission Pays Tribute to Adventist Pioneers 27

Families Renew Promises at Weekend Retreat 28

**Reflections of Primitive...** **29**

**Lockdown and Zoom Expand Family of Faith** **32**

**FEATURE REPORT: Church for the Hearing Impaired Thrives in the Eastern Caribbean Conference** **34**

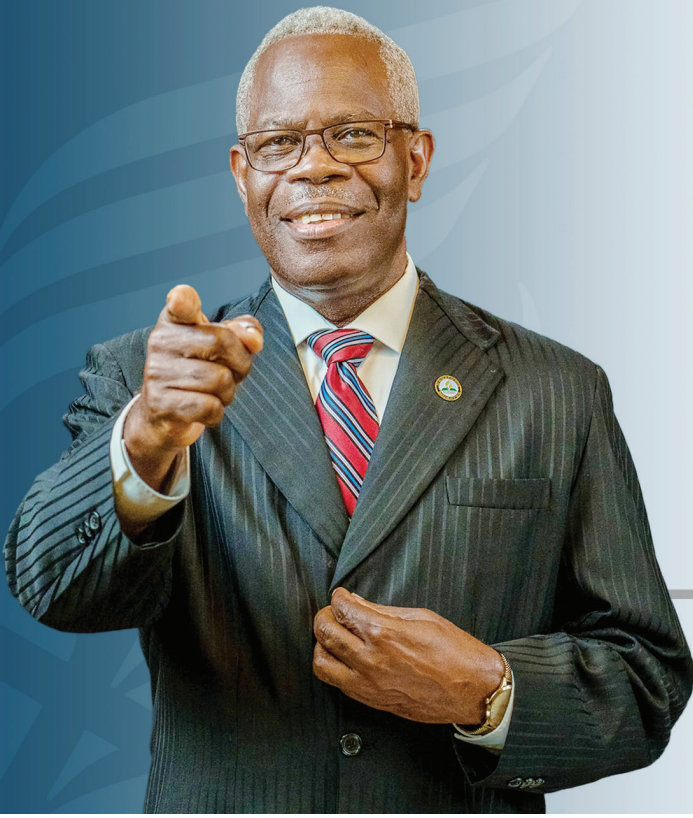
**General Notices** **37**

2nd Session of the South Leeward Conference 37

Obituaries 37

Career Opportunities 39





*“I Will Go:  
Faithful in Service.”*



**Caribbean Union Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists**

The theme of our recently concluded quinquennial session still resonates today. It is profound in its meaning, as you repeat it to yourself and to God: *“I Will Go: Faithful in Service.”*

This is a call for Christians to go, as well as a call for faithfulness as we go. Faithfulness to God and faithfulness in our service. On our Christian journey the road may appear narrow, the path may be rough and winding but, be assured, the God who has called us is able to keep us. Let us go knowing that we are not alone and that He will give us the strength for the journey. As we commit ourselves to God, we are asked to be faithful to Him in our ministries, to our families, in our workplaces, in our schools. Wherever we are or whatever we are doing, let us be found faithful. It is so encouraging and noteworthy that the Scripture says God Himself is faithful to us. Lamentations 3:22-23 *“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.”*

In our world today there is a plethora of issues which cannot be faced without God. Without Him, there is no hope, no peace, no joy, no love, no future, no strength, and no reason for living. Every day, there are merciless murders, senseless shootings, countless crimes, wars and so much more; but we are called to go, faithful in service since the hope that we have is much needed in our world. We have the answer to all their questionings for we have Jesus!

The signs keep reminding us to look upward, for soon we are to see our Saviour, our God, our Creator and our coming King. He will say it is enough and will come to take His people home. Let us not be found wanting but working and waiting. He is coming for a people who are faithful. Matthew 25:21 says *“His Lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”*

Keep Faithful,

Dr. Kern Tobias  
PRESIDENT



## TOUCHING HEARTS ON- AND OFFLINE

I am sure that you will agree that the words “good” and “COVID-19” don’t make sense together.

But here is my thought: COVID-19 has created the perfect opportunity for churches to re-think and to re-invent the way they engage with members and the community.

There’s a world full of people waiting for churches to make them feel that they belong. But are we ready to adapt or to change the way we interact and communicate in a fast-changing, post-pandemic world?

Are you ready?

During May 2021, In Christ Communication and Gray Matter Research and Counseling conducted a joint survey of Christian nonprofit, ministry and business leaders - as well as communications professionals - to determine their communications priorities post-COVID.

The results are in. According to the findings of the report *Enormous Expectations - Explosive Engagement*, Christian leaders value two things above everything else: engaging their audience and building personal connections.

But what have we all been doing for the past two years? Yes, we’ve been glued to our smartphones and other digital devices - consuming hours of video and streaming on-demand via YouTube, Netflix, Facebook, and other online platforms - and having conversations in real-time on Zoom, Messenger, WhatsApp, and other live-chat apps.

Unsurprisingly, ministry and nonprofit leaders are fully aware of this voracious appetite for video entertainment and live-chat engagement. After all, we’re all doing it.

Most nonprofits cite increasing their video capabilities as their top post-COVID communications goal. It’s not just the visual impact - and the effortless click-and-watch enticement - of video that’s so appealing to communicators and their audiences. It’s also the emotional and inspirational power of visual, online content.



## **AIMING FOR THE HEART**

Nearly half of the Christian leaders surveyed rate boosting their emotional and inspirational content at or near the top of their post-COVID wish list. They're seven times more likely to favor increasing the use of emotional content over purely factual or rational content. They want to engage their audiences and supporters, not merely inform them, like Wikipedia. They aim for the heart.

The desire for real relationships and genuine community is stronger now than ever before. Church members want to feel they're actually part of a cause, a ministry, a family. Post-COVID, they know they are craving personal connections. They want to be relationally invested in the work they're doing. And they want the relationship to be real. That means they're looking to have dynamic, real-time conversations - and they're increasingly turning to online live-chat platforms to initiate those conversations.

It sounds like a match made in heaven. Members are eager to engage their supporters. In turn, many are searching for an emotional, relational connection to a cause they authentically can be part of.

But there's a catch.

My own experience shows many churches are struggling to make this crucial emotional and relational connection. They're failing to show how they're different ... how their story stands out ... and why people should have a heart-tug toward their cause and engage with them. Studies show that ministry leaders believe in the power of brand, but often struggle with exactly how to express their own brand.

Instead of standing out, many churches risk drowning in the "sea of sameness." The good news is that we're no longer bound by the way things were done pre-COVID. We can unfurl our creativity to achieve multiple levels of member and community engagement.

Clearly, the pandemic has changed - possibly forever - the way we interact and connect with the world around us. More than ever, fully understanding our audience and giving them inspiring content that's easily consumable are vital to making our churches relevant and our stories attractive and winsome.

Now is the time to re-engage and create a new relationship-driven, community-centric, post-COVID communications strategy.

There's a world full of people waiting for us to make them feel they belong with us. Now is the time to make disciples for Jesus Christ, on- and offline.

## **PUBLISHER**

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

## **EXECUTIVE EDITOR/ DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS-CARU**

Royston Philbert

## **MANAGING EDITOR**

C.S. Johnson

## **CONSULTANT/ADVISER**

Dr. S. Reginald Michael

## **DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

Horace & Nancy Graham, iDeal 4Promo

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Vanessa Draaisma - Suriname Mission  
Osley Edwards - Guyana Conference  
Deborah Ferreira - South Caribbean Conference  
Wayne Knowles - South Leeward Conference  
Annette Lewis - Tobago Mission  
Chan Nichols - St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission  
Oliver Scott - Grenada Conference  
Daryl St. Clair - St. Lucia Mission  
Colin Thorne - East Caribbean Conference  
Leriano Webster - North Caribbean Conference

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Sheryle Liverpool

---

We welcome unsolicited manuscripts for consideration.

Address all editorial correspondence to  
[caribbeangleanings@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeangleanings@gmail.com)

The Gleanings is published twice yearly in print, electronic and online versions.

PDF issues of the Gleanings are available at  
<https://www.caribbeanunionadventists.org/news/gleanings>

Cover Photo: Dr. Eldon Blackman

# WORSHIP, REVERENCE AND DISCIPLESHIP IN A POST- PANDEMIC ERA

IMPLICATIONS FOR  
TODAY'S CHURCH

“

...what the church  
is experiencing is  
“climate change.”



*Carson L. Greene, DMin, is President of the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Caribbean.*



**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has had untold impact on the Church—from the discomforts of wearing masks to restrictions of attendees and limitations in time to total lockdowns. Now that the language is changing from pandemic to post-pandemic, a new reality is dawning upon us. There seems to be no returning to the way things were before. Our members have learnt the convenience of online worship from the comfort of their bedrooms and have become accustomed to meetings and even social gatherings via the Zoom platform. The virtual world, once looked upon as incompatible with church and worship, has taken over in a big way. So just how should we relate to all of this? Is it just a “new normal” which we should accept and move on, or must we seek to mitigate against the recent developments?

In our physical environment, we hear a lot, these days, about climate change. There is hardly any denying that it is happening and that the implications will be far-reaching. Scientists are warning that if nothing is done, we will suffer catastrophic loss. The latest predictions are that even with significant intervention, we are likely to experience irreversible negative changes. While I do not wish to sound like a prophet of doom, I cannot help thinking that what the church is experiencing is “climate change.” “Climate” in this context does not refer to the elements of nature but to the patterns and trends—the ideological and philosophical shifts that the technology and circumstances—world

conditions have caused. Like the physical climate change that is threatening our physical world, I suggest that the climate change in the church will also have significant implications and that, unless meaningful action is taken, we will end up with a very different church. The physical climate change is threatening the disappearance of low-lying areas. Coastal erosion is already evident in some instances. The church is also at risk of seeing the disappearance of congregations or at least, in the first instance, some demographics (such as young adults) as a result of climate change caused by the patterns and trends of technology. It is against this backdrop that I discuss certain issues that are confronting us—issues related to worship, reverence and discipleship.

### **WHAT IS THE CHURCH**

The word church is a New Testament concept that implies a gathering. The Lexham Bible Dictionary defines it as “Followers of Christ who derived their identity and mission from Jesus and understood themselves to be the true eschatological community of God.”<sup>1</sup> It is a Greek compound word “ἐκκλησία” (ekklēsia), from ek and kaleo. “Ek” has the meaning of “out” or “separation” and kaleo has the meaning of call, beckon or summon. When put together, we get the idea of a separated assembly. Thus, the church, from its inception by Jesus, was designated as an assembly—a gathering of people.

The church, as established by Jesus, was given the responsibility of breaking down

the stronghold of Satan. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declared that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church. This first reference of Jesus to the word “church” is instructive. He had just asked the disciples who they thought He was, and Peter had responded by saying that He was the Christ—Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus then responded by indicating that He was establishing His church—His called-out assembly—on the reality that He—Jesus was the Messiah—the Christ, and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Hence, the called-out ones were to be engaged in mission against hell and the assurance was that hell’s gates would not prevail. While Jesus did not spell out here just what was involved in the mission of defeating the strongholds of hell, the rest of scripture makes it clear that worship is an important dimension. C. Raymond Homes, in his essay on “The Church and Worship” quotes James F. White as stating that “Take away Christian worship, and it is hard to conceive of Christianity as long enduring.”<sup>2</sup>

### **WORSHIP AND THE NEW NORMAL**

I recall that at the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdowns, when congregations switched to online worship, many persons were posting that Satan thought that he had closed down the church but he only succeeded in opening it up to a limitless number of persons around the world. That sentiment was a celebration of victory on the part of Christians. During the said lockdowns, the church moved fully online. We did worship,

board meetings, evangelistic activities and even social events online. It was considered the new normal. In the interim, persons got accustomed to the convenience of choosing where they would attend church online, for how long and even what time. And they did all of this from the comfort of their bedroom. They did not have to wake up early, face the traffic and prepare clothes and spend a lot of time fixing their hair and the like. And if they had to make a presentation, they only needed to expose their upper body. In the meantime, they could turn off their mic and camera, eat their breakfast and hold a conversation with someone else during the worship experience. The church buildings have since reopened, but many have chosen to remain online. They reason that it is convenient, time-efficient and some even say that the quality is better. There is no doubt that Zoom and the various other online platforms did offer meaningful solutions during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. But does online worship fulfill all the essential elements of meaningful worship? I wish to posit the following considerations:

### **REVERENCE AND THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT**

Earlier in this article, I made reference to worshipping from the convenience of one's bedroom, eating breakfast and carrying on a private conversation all at the same time. Those were not speculative thoughts but confessions of individuals during their lockdown experiences. Very few persons I spoke to indicated that they prepared similarly to the pre-pandemic times. I am not in any way doubting that God can be present in an online environment. I believe He is. The question is, is there one standard of reverence

for the online environment and another for the church building? Does physical presence change what reverence is? According to the Collins English Online Dictionary, reverence is "a feeling or attitude of profound respect, usually reserved for the sacred or divine."<sup>3</sup> This means that the attitude to God and resultant behaviour should not change simply because persons are not able to see or observe you.

Having spoken to a large cross section of individuals and after observing the various "accidents" that occur on online platforms—someone forgetting to mute a mic or accidentally slipping and turning on a camera, it is clear that online worship promotes irreverence. It is important to note that I am not saying that it is irreverent, only that it encourages or makes persons more likely to practice it.

### **PARTICIPATORY WORSHIP AND THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT**

During the lockdowns, many congregations resorted to the Zoom or other similar platforms where worshipers were able to relate to one another and even meet in small groups. With the reopening of many houses of worship, most of the online environments are now via streaming on platforms such as Facebook or YouTube. I declare that the level of distraction increases in proportion to the level of absence of participation. Worship is participatory. It is not meant to be a spectator show. Scripture abounds with such statements such as "come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Ps 95:6) and "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord..." (Ps 66:1; 100:1). To what extent does the online environment allow for this kind of participation? It is possible, but it requires a certain



kind of discipline that most of us do not have.

### **FELLOWSHIP AND THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT**

A foundational principle of the New Testament church is fellowship. The Greek term "koinonia" from which we get the word fellowship, carries the meaning of "an association involving close mutual relations and involvement—'close association, fellowship.'"<sup>4</sup> While there is undoubtedly elements of belief and ideology, there is also the physical element of sharing and participation. Thus, in Acts 2:42 "they devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers." Fellowship then involved some element of physical presence.

It is worth noting that online gatherings, while serving meaningful purposes, have some significant limitation in terms of good communication principles. According to the Internet Public Library (IPL), "Online communication is usually inefficient on expression since it is of paralinguistic communication expression, including gesture, facial

expression and body language."<sup>5</sup> And we can equally argue that much of online communication lacks genuineness. In the online environment, we are in full control of turning off the other person or even leaving the conversation without the other knowing. As Nancy Ortberg



posited, it is relatively easy to be superficial in the online environment. She warns that “Because online communication is fraught with potential for deceit or withholding, we need to be deeply aware it provides

only a partial relationship.”<sup>6</sup> Since the kind of fellowship that the Bible calls for is to be genuine, we can therefore conclude that, notwithstanding the convenience on the online options to worship, the in-person experience provides more opportunities for meaningful fellowship. It is no wonder that Ekkehardt Mueller, Associate Director of the Adventist Biblical Research Institute, argued that “a Christian in deliberate isolation is an oxymoron.”<sup>7</sup>

## THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

We noted earlier that the church has a mission of breaking down the stronghold of the devil and rescuing lost souls for the kingdom of heaven. The individual member must therefore consider how his or her actions impact the overall mission of the church. The tendency to think only of oneself and what is convenient is against the very principle of Christianity which is built on the concept of service. We are called to be disciples. A great part of the discipleship journey is the way we live our lives from day to day. We each represent Jesus to those around us in our daily living. As we witness and mingle, and as we influence others to commit to Jesus, such persons are to be assimilated into the church. The fellowship dimension is especially important in the life of the new believer.

The Christian church was initially designed for Christian communion which best takes place in community. Since the

pandemic, we have tried various forms of evangelistic initiatives online and the experiences have taught us that persons seldom make decisions for Christ without the influence of others. In other words, an individual sitting at home and watching a service online may become convicted and experience a desire to surrender to Jesus but, without the presence of someone to encourage that individual, it is likely that he or she will find it difficult to step out and attach him or herself to a church. And even if he or she were to do so, research shows that if a new believer does not connect or form three to six friends within the first few weeks of baptism, that individual is more likely to leave the church.

The online environment provides much convenience. It has its place, but the nature of the church from the New Testament perspective is much more favorably disposed to the in-person format. The increasing numbers of persons who are opting to worship online will have a significant impact on both their discipleship process and also the effectiveness with which the church makes disciples. Our commission is to go and make disciples. We cannot give what we do not have. If our relationship with Jesus is not firm, we will be ineffective in sharing our faith.

The above was just a cursory overview of the challenges online worship poses when it becomes the regular or main choice of the believer. As a church, we understand that we have a special message to share with the world. One of the first aspects of that message is worship. In Revelation 14:6 and 7, the first Angel’s message not only calls people to the awareness of the judgment, but it is also a call

to worship—“and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” The point here is that worship is central to our mission of making disciples. And if it is, then we must encourage that which promotes meaningful worship and likewise warn against that which militates against it. If I am sick or shut-in at home, I would welcome connecting to my congregation by an appropriate online platform. Even so, I would expect that the brethren would recognize my limitations and use visitation to foster a level of fellowship. If, on the other hand, I am up and about, I believe that I have the responsibility to foster the fellowship and worship activities of the church which will build the effectiveness of the discipleship mechanisms.

<sup>1</sup> Greever, J. M. (2016). Church. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> James F. White, *New Forms of Worship* (Nashville, 1971), 52 quoted in C. Raymond Holmes, “The Church and Worship” <https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Church-and-worship-Holmes.pdf> (retrieved November 9, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/reverence> (retrieved on November 9, 2022).

<sup>4</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 445). United Bible Societies.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipl.org/essay/Advantages-And-Disadvantages-Of-Online-Communication-PKZQ5DNPC4D6> (retrieved on Nov. 10, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> Nancy Ortberg, “Do I Need to go to church when I can find fellowship online?” <https://www.christianitytoday.com/bible-studies/bible-answers/spirituallife/virtual-community.html> (Retrieved Nov. 10, 2022).

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/attending\\_church\\_0.pdf](https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/attending_church_0.pdf) (Retrieved on Nov. 10, 2022)



## Elders Baptize 36 in Guyana Hinterlands

In response to the Inter American Division's challenge for church elders to prepare candidates for baptisms across the region on Sabbath October 29, 2022, the Waramadong village church baptized 36 persons into Seventh-day Adventist fellowship.

While the community itself is home to one of the largest Seventh-day Adventist churches in the constituency, there was room to grow. So, in a collaborative effort between members and elders, the church labored through various outreach activities leading up to the campaign. When the campaign began, the lay evangelists, "under the Spirit's direction and with the skill of The Sower, planted the seed of The Word in the hearts of those in attendance at the various sites," according to Communication Director Osley Edwards.

He reported that the community praises God for this "impressively innovative initiative." Apparently, the mission of carrying the gospel through precept and example has been ingrained in the fabric of the congregation who welcomed the opportunity for the elders to make disciples all the way through to baptism.

The village of Waramadong is located in Upper Mazaruni, a subsection of Region 7, Cuyuni-Mazaruni in the hinterland of Guyana. With a population of just below one thousand residents, and populated predominantly of Indigenous Guyanese or Amerindians, whole main economic activities are farming and hunting.

## Thousands Join Church, 200 Baptized at Centennial Celebration

Celebrations commemorating the 100th anniversary since the church was officially organized in the Inter-American Division came to an end in the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) on October 29, 2022 with over 200 baptisms and members and pastors being recognized for their contribution to the life of the church.

CARU administrators along with key leaders traveled to the Dominican Republic to witness the closing ceremony to the year-long celebration hosted at the Higuey Central Adventist Church.

There, leaders reported that more than 12,000 persons had joined the church over the anniversary period. Following on, elders from seven churches across the Caribbean Union baptized 200 members as part of that Sabbath's closing ceremonies.

"This is a great day for the ministry of local elders," said Pastor Jerome Bevans, who serves on the island of Tortola.

"I am happy to be officiating in this historic event," said Elder Khoy Smith, who also serves as Personal Ministries director and who played a key role in four members' decisions to follow God.

"Several young people from our schools in Barbados were baptized as well as two deaf persons in the East Caribbean Conference," said Pastor Kern Tobias, president of the Caribbean Union Conference. "Heaven rejoices for each soul," he said.



# BAPTISMS SOAK THE REGION

**S**eventh-day Adventists in the Inter-American Division (IAD) welcomed thousands of baptized members across the region as they concluded a special year of evangelistic campaigns to commemorate the 100th anniversary on October 29, 2022.

Dr. Kern Tobias, president of the Caribbean Union, indicated that more than 200 new members joined the Seventh-day Adventist community in Guyana, Tortola, St. Maarten, and St. Thomas, USVI. The president of the Suriname Mission, Pastor Guno Emanuelson, said that nine persons were baptized in his district, while two were accepted on confession of their faith. They were among the new converts joining the Filadelfia, Carmel, Elim and Centrum congregations in northern South America.



## TWENTY-FIVE BAPTISED IN BEACON OF HOPE GOSPEL EXPLOSION

**T**he Beacon of Hope Gospel Explosion led by Pastor Darian Rouse reached its climax during the heart of the Tobago Carnival in October 2022 when twenty-five souls accepted God's offer of salvation. According to Pastor Rouse, "While the world was having its fête, we were busy welcoming those who said, 'Goodbye world. I'll stay no longer with you!'"

For four weeks under two white tents in the community of Canaan, Pastor Rouse – the most recent addition to the ministerial team of pastors in the Southwest 2 District – proclaimed the Three Angels' Messages with the eagerness and vigor of youth.

His evangelistic foundation was laid in his homeland St. Vincent and the Grenadines and his ministerial training at the University of the Southern Caribbean.

The campaign faced many challenges, including the need for the Personal Ministries director, Pastor Paul McKenzie, to stand in the gap and present the word during the last four nights of the series. But an army of praying members and Bible workers supported by the Senior District Pastor Leslie Butcher and others celebrated the victory.

Further, Pastor Rouse expressed appreciation to the hosts who interfaced with the online audience as well as for the indispensable work of the audio-visual team which made nightly streaming possible via Facebook, YouTube and the recently created Beacon of Hope website [beaconofhopegospel.com](http://beaconofhopegospel.com) with a nightly audience of hundreds gathered around their devices.

# North-bound Prayer Caravan Intercedes for Grenada Residents



The Prayer Ministry of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held its first prayer caravan on Sabbath, September 24, 2022. The effort was part of the Conference's comprehensive plan to bring messages of hope to communities across its constituency. Organizers earmarked the most northerly parish of St. Patrick, home to seven of the conference's 49 congregations, for an intense prayer vigil.

Scores of prayer warriors, deemed a mighty army, converged at six strategic locations in the parish. They visited homes, shared literature, and engaged people in prayers of hope for desperate times. The effort integrated church departments and ministries such as ministerial, youth, personal ministries, and the lay federations. Leaders and lay representatives united to address the community, be of benefit to families, and highlight the services and mission of the Church. Members were encouraged to present a

positive image of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church to residents of these communities.

"This is an extraordinary moment," said the Grenada Conference President, Dr. Clinton Lewis. "I want to thank those who participated. The decision to take our prayers to the community is part of Jesus' method of mingling with the community."

Pastor Oliver Scott, the Executive Secretary and Prayer Coordinator of the Grenada Conference, was the main organizer of the initiative. "The goal was to pray for every resident in the area, and villagers responded. People waved to the caravan and made prayer gestures - visibly moved. You could see how touched they were that someone was praying for them," said Pastor Scott.

The caravan stopped at the main town in the parish and scores of residents who were shopping could hear soul-stirring spiritual messages. Business owners welcomed prayer advocates who interceded for their success and

safety. As the motorcade wound its way through several towns, those caught in the vehicular traffic received a free copy of [Hope for Troubled Times: How to Thrive in a Shattered World](#), by Mark Finley.

Residents shared testimonies of the power of God in their lives. Mrs. Alison Belforn Bernard publicly declared that not only had she been delivered from habitual alcohol and substance abuse, but she was also freed from the tendency to attend worldly parties where such substances were offered. Finally, she is being healed of the debilitating effects of three strokes which left her paralyzed. As a result of God's transforming power, she is celebrating six years of sobriety and a new-found faith. She praised God for the group of SDA prayer warriors who visited her and encouraged her to accept Jesus while she was spiritually weak and physically bound to her hospital bed.

The Grenada Conference serves the islands of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.



*They visited homes, shared literature, and engaged people in prayers of hope for desperate times.*





*Ps. Henry Snagg*



*Ps. Shane Franklyn*



*Elder Rohand Charles*

## St. Vincent Mission Leaders Installed

**A**dministrators appointed to govern the Seventh-day Adventist church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) were installed on September 10, 2022, two months after their election to service during the July 20-22 Caribbean Union Quinquennial Session held at the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) in Trinidad.

Delegates elected Pastor Henry Snagg (former Executive Secretary) to serve as President, Pastor Share Franklyn to serve as Executive Secretary, and Elder Rohand Charles to serve as Treasurer of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Mission.

The Service of Installation, held at the Arnos Vale Stadium, followed a hiatus in national conventions due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in travel.

President of the Church in the Caribbean Union Dr. Kern Tobias, in his address, charged leaders “to accept their God-given responsibilities with humility, and to exhibit Christian leadership as they pledge to lead the church in the SVG Mission and the wider community through fellowship, nurture and positive interpersonal relationships.”

“You are called to lead with grace,” Dr. Tobias said, reminding the clergymen to “focus on

the mission of the church to lead people to the path of righteousness for the salvation of their souls through the grace of God.”

In his response, President Snagg affirmed his desire to “lead a united church closer to the coming of the Master.”

Both Presidents Tobias and Snagg paid tribute to the former president of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Pastor Dermoth

Baptiste, who served for five years as Coordinator of the SVG Region and ten years as President of the SVG Mission.

The convention featured inspiring music, creative Sabbath School, Bible-based boxing, recitals of memory texts, along with presentations of certificates to elders who completed the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists’ Elders’ Certification program.

## East Caribbean Drives Prayer Motorcade

**A** large truck decorated with waving banners and blasting religious music lumbered through Beckles Road, Brittons Hill, the Bonnets, Forde’s Road, and the Vauxhall areas of Barbados with 14 cars in tow. At various points, ministers and laity stopped to pray with residents, participating in a first-of-its-kind prayer rally. Sister Verna Francis, the Prayer Ministries Coordinator of the East Caribbean conference (ECC), led the Sabbath afternoon, October 15, 2022 event.

According to Sister Francis, the ECC through the Prayer Ministries Department has been seeking to lead members into a more devoted prayer life. Prayer meetings are conducted daily from 5-6am and prayer breakfasts have resumed with the lifting of the Covid-19 protocols. However,

with the increase in violence and other evils in the community, the coordinator said that they decided “not only to pray for the people from our homes and churches but to allow the church to be more visible, praying for the residents in their communities, while sharing with them some of our small books and magazines.”

Sister Francis believes that prayer is “a very powerful weapon – more powerful than many are prepared to acknowledge. However, it is the enemy’s plan to circumvent the abundant blessings God is willing to grant to mankind as a result of prayer. Many can attest that, whenever we take God at his word and “come boldly to the throne of grace...” to “pray without ceasing” the results are always astounding,” she said.

# DAVIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HOSTS DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP



Presenters at the opening ceremony



Dr. Yonnette Semple-Domer opens the door of the clinic.



Dr. Greene-Braithwaite screens patients



Showing appreciation to Lions Club members



Ms. Beverly Braithwaite-Chan, CEO

**“...in its early stages, diabetes has few symptoms; but, over time, it can significantly increase the risk of having a stroke or heart attack, as well as damage nerves, kidneys and eyes.”**

**B**ecause diabetes remains one of Guyana’s leading chronic diseases, Davis Memorial Hospital (DMH) in collaboration with

the Guyana Metropolitan Relief Organisation (GUYMETRO), a US-based Seventh-day Adventist group, launched a diabetic support group to help the community in the prevention and management of the disease. Those in attendance at the July 31, 2022 launch included Dr. Davina Ramsingh-Parsram from the Ministry of Health’s Chronic Diseases Unit; Dr. Alexis Reid, from our Wound and Foot Care Clinic; President of the Diabetic Association; Dr. Yonnette Semple-Domer from GUYMETRO; Ms. Beverly Braithwaite-Chan, CEO of the hospital, Ms. Colette Bryan, CFO, and Dr. Pharez George, DMH’s former administrator.

Seventy-five persons between ages 14 and 80 have joined the support group so far, and meet monthly at the Davis Memorial Hospital where they benefit from free services such as glucose

testing, diabetic education, nutritional classes, physical exercises for diabetics, massage therapy, and screening by attending physicians. Nutritional snacks are also served at each session. The initiative is managed by Dr. Kimberly Greene-Braithwaite, and has garnered support from the Guyana Diabetic Association, the Central Georgetown Lions Club, and a leading beverage company.

Type 2 diabetes is an increasingly common disease in western society and, according to Dr. Greene-Braithwaite, an estimated 14% of Guyana’s adult population suffers from diabetes. She said that, in its early stages, diabetes has few symptoms; but, over time, it can significantly increase the risk of having a stroke or heart attack, as well as damage nerves, kidneys and eyes.



# Pastor Kumal Smith Ordained to Ministerial Service

**A**fter eight years of service as an intern and associate minister, Pastor Kumal Smith has been ordained and positioned to perform all the duties of ministerial office. Officials from the Caribbean Union (CARU) and the North Caribbean Conference (NCC) of Seventh-Day Adventists presided over the initiatory rite held August 19, 2022, at the Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church on St. Croix, USVI.

CARU President, Dr. Kern Tobias, in his challenge to the young pastor, said: “You are being ordained at a time when weeping as a spiritual leader should be encouraged and demonstrated. Are you disposed to weep like the prophet Jeremiah for God’s people because of the decadent state of the world, but more so because of the apparent lukewarm condition of the church?” Dr Tobias posited.

In his address, the NCC President Pastor Desmond James welcomed Smith to the “joys and sorrows of ministry.” “I encourage you to run, persevere . . . And the Lord who called you will reward you with his final words of ‘Well done!’” James said.

Smith, who came up through ranks of Adventist training at the Mount Fortune Church in Anguilla, was an avid member of the Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs. And it was during his stint as the Ambassador Pathfinder Club director that he received

his call to the ministry, having experienced “a profound appreciation for both the theoretical and practical aspects of the program and church life.”

Smith expressed appreciation to the ministerial fraternity and administrative staff for their camaraderie, indispensable guidance and lasting influence in his growth and advancement as a pastor, adding “Like Jeremiah, I have felt in times past that I was too young to speak on God’s behalf and simply undone and too unworthy. . . but I have come to realize that God planted me in some unpleasant challenges..for the sake of my development.”

And he thanked God for His providence and power that “sometimes felt like persecution (but) I am broken, because I am becoming,” Smith said.

Inspired by Smith’s zeal for ministry and Bible work, all five elders of his pastorate at the Good News Church where he presently serves on Sint Maarten accompanied him to witness his rite of passage.

He also enjoyed the support of his wife, Daislyn, an upcoming dental surgeon. Together they were welcomed to wider service by Linda Tobias, Director of the Ministerial Spouses Association of CARU.

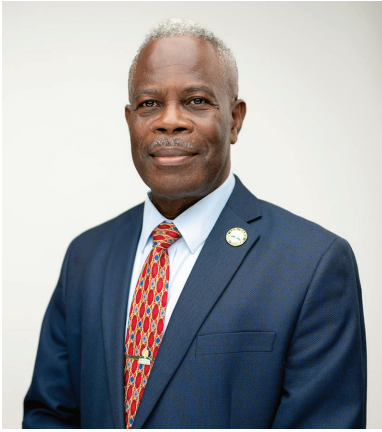
“Partner with him in this high and holy calling,” Tobias urged. “Move forward on your knees



... remain humble and holy to achieve positive influence on the church and the community,” she said. “In this ministry of reconciliation, the time will come when you’ll be transferred from island to island. Continue to shine for Jesus.”

Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Religion, with an emphasis in Pastoral Ministry from the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies.

Under the supervision of Pastor Trent Berg, Smith commenced pastoral duties in Anguilla in 2014 and played a key part in the 2017 evangelistic campaign led by the renowned evangelist, Dr. Claudius Morgan, which resulted in the Good News congregation, which Smith now shepherds. Smith was later transferred to St. Maarten where, mentored by Pastor Vashni Cuvalay, he conducted his first solo evangelistic campaign in which 21 persons were baptized. Evidence of Smith’s increasing maturity and religious fervor prompted his promotion to Associate Pastor two years ago.



*Dr. Kern Tobias, President*



*Ps. Johnson Frederick, Exec. Secretary*



*Ps. Bertie Henry, Treasurer*

## CARU Executive Committee Completes List of Leaders for Next Four Years

**T**op Seventh-day Adventist leaders of the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) confirmed union-level heads of ministries and boards of institutions via a virtual forum on October 4, 2022, the first executive committee meeting marking the new era.

The CARU administrators welcomed everyone, took time to greet those attending this meeting for the first time, and identified individuals who were serving the committee in a different capacity. These included Pastor Anthony Hall who was elected, in August 2022, to serve as president of the East Caribbean Conference.

Dr. Kern Tobias, the CARU President, addressed the leaders: “With all administration being installed, Caribbean Union Conference, East Caribbean Conference, North Caribbean Conference and the four missions

(Tobago, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Lucia), we are now ready for business. We give God thanks for His goodness and His blessing upon us.” Dr. Tobias added, “Every name, every position was analyzed carefully, and we are happy to have you as collaborators. We pray that you will be instruments in God’s hands for the progress of the Church in the Caribbean Union.”

The executive committee voted to accept the names presented by the administration, and this action completed the list of leaders who will serve the Caribbean Union Conference for the rest of the quinquennium. Most leaders were asked to serve in positions they previously held. In addition, the committee sought to give focus to conservation and discipleship by appointing Pastor Claudius Morgan to head that ministry.

“This is a very important moment in the life of the Church in the Caribbean Union,” said Pastor Johnson Frederick, the CARU Executive Secretary. “We must change the course of our actions and consider a new way of reaching, discipling and retaining members.” Members anticipate that this matter will be given due consideration when the committee convenes the quinquennium’s first in-person meeting in November 2022, on the island of Barbados.

The executive committee also reviewed plans for concluding the 100-year anniversary celebration of the Church in the Inter-American Division (IAD). Sister Debra Henry, the CARU Women and Children’s Ministries Director, was assigned the responsibility of leading this CARU sub-committee since the previous leader, Pastor Anthony Hall, had been asked to serve the East Caribbean Conference. The



*Dr. Alexander Isaacs*



*Mrs. Debbie Henry*



*Ps. Royston Philbert*



*Dr. Claudius Morgan*



*Dr. Hilary Bowman*



Caribbean Union comprised the great celebration streamed throughout the IAD on October 29, 2022.

Dr. Tobias thanked leaders in the Caribbean Union Conference for their dedication and service, some of whom were moving on to other activities. He emphasized the union’s debt of gratitude to those who expressed their desire to retire, stating: “We appreciate all that you have done, the time you worked at the Caribbean Union and we value your service. We believe that the Lord will give you the joy to see all your efforts bring forth wonderful fruits to God’s glory.”

Until the quinquennium ends in 2026, the following individuals were elected to lead the established departments, ministries, boards of institutions and positions at the Caribbean Union Office:

Dr. Kern Tobias	President
Ps. Johnson Frederick	Executive Secretary
Ps. Bertie Henry	Treasurer
Dr. Clive Dottin	Field Secretary/Director of Missions/Spirit of Prophecy/ PARL
Dr. Claudius Morgan	Asst. to the President for Evangelism/Director of Evangelism, Discipleship & Training
Mr. Joel Hazelwood	Associate Treasurer/Director of CURF
Ps. Ashton O’Neil	Director of Personal Ministries/Community Services/Publishing Ministries
Ps. Gandalal Samlalsingh	Director of Stewardship/ Planned Giving/Trust/ ASI
Ps. Marvyn Smith	Director of Youth, Chaplaincy and Public/Campus Ministries
Ps. Ammaran Williams	Ministerial Secretary/ Family Ministries Director
Mrs. Debra Felix	Director of Human Resources/ Sabbath School
Mrs. Debbie Henry	Director of Women, Children and Adolescent Ministries/Possibility Ministries
Ps. Royston Philbert	Director of Communications
Dr. Alexander Isaacs	Health Ministries Director/ ADRA
Mrs. Linda Tobias	Associate Ministerial Secretary
Dr. Hilary Bowman	Director of Education
Mrs. Jessica Cunningham	Asst. Director of Education



*Ps. Ammaran Williams*



*Ps. Ashton O’Neil*



*Mrs. Debra Felix*



*Dr. Clive Dottin*



*Ps. Marvyn Smith*



*Ps. Gandalal Samlalsingh*



*Mr. Joel Hazelwood*

# President Challenges Saint Lucia Mission Leaders to Achieve Divine Expectations



*Ps. Roger Stephen, President*



*Ps. Lucius Philip, Executive Secretary*



*Rose Mary Desir, Treasurer*

**C**aribbean Union Conference President Dr. Kern Tobias reminded newly installed leaders in the Saint Lucia Mission that “God is willing to use human effort.” Dr Tobias made the challenge against the background of a church entering a new era of service (2022 to 2026) with new directors and executive committee.

“Without God, you are nothing,” he said, adding that he has seen “the worst and the best of the church.” But “God wants the best of us. He is prepared to do for any human who will take Him at His word,” the president said.

As chief undershepherd in the Caribbean, Dr. Tobias cautioned that, in the pursuit of mission and despite human limitations, leaders must accept the responsibility of soaring to heights with God.

“You are installed to lift humanity . . . and understand that higher

than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children,” he said, reiterating the counsel of Ellen White. Using the story of Moses, Tobias reminded them that “as leaders to whom much is given, much is expected. . . The goal of the church is to change and transform lives. In that context the church is like a hospital with sin-sick people from every strata of society. Our goal is to lead everyone barring none to Jesus,” the CARU president said.

Further, Dr Tobias drew an analogy from the story of Moses and Joshua to remind executive committee members that God is always with His people but, as a church, we have to learn to have favor with man, adding that transitions are one of the inescapable realities.

As such, the executive committee must be courageous, not fearful, and look to the face of God. He referenced Pastor Clarke’s sermon, affirming God’s behind-

the-scenes operations in people’s lives. “Human effort is nothing without divine power,” he said.

Dr. Tobias reminded them that, to make God’s grace our own, we must act our part. “God is willing to make the church great. In God’s strength, we can conquer every difficulty,” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the leaders, President of the St. Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Pastor Roger Stephen purposed to “lead under God, serve under God and not unto men. We will lead with humility, understanding [since] it is not human agenda but... God’s will for his people in St. Lucia.”

Dr. Balvin Braham, Vice President of the Inter American Division gave the charge to the officers and executive committee while Pastor Johnson Frederick, Executive Secretary, and Pastor Bertie Henry, Treasurer, gave the Installation Prayer and Litany.



*Ps. Richard Randolph*



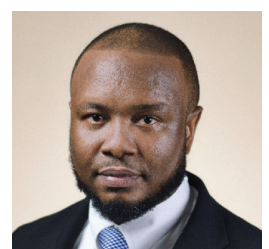
*Dr. Caius Alfred*



*Ps. Leeroy David*



*Ps. Alfred Joseph*



*Ps. Daryl St.Clair*



# LIST OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ST. LUCIA MISSION

Pastor Roger Stephen	President
Pastor Lucius Philip	Executive Secretary
Ms. Rose Mary Desir	Treasurer
Richard Randolph	Youth Director, Chaplaincy, Public Campus Ministry
Dr. Caius Alfred	Sabbath School, Family Ministries
Pastor Leeroy David	Personal Ministries, Community Services, Health Ministries, Adventist Development Relief Agency(ADRA)
Pastor Alfred Joseph	Ministerial, Stewardship, Planned Giving and Trust Services, Adventist Laymen Services and Industries (ASI)
Pastor Daryl St.Clair	Communication, Music Ministry
Pastor Roger Stephen	Public Affairs Religious Liberty

## Evangelist Claudius Morgan, Other Awardees Recognized for Outstanding Service

**M**embers across the territory celebrated the recognition granted to Caribbean Union Conference evangelist Dr. Claudius Morgan for presiding over the addition of 10,000 new members to the church. Joined by his wife Rhonda, Dr. Morgan traveled to the Dominican Republic to receive the accolades of members and leaders across the region.

Dr. Tobias affirmed Dr. Morgan’s “contribution to evangelism across the territory [for which] the world celebrates. We thank God for using him and for his family for the many sacrifices made for the cause of God,” he said.

“God has been good,” Pastor Morgan said, in response. “The evangelistic battle continues.” Meanwhile, across the territory, churches simultaneously recognized leaders in local congregations for their commitment and service. Among them was Dina Joseph from Guyana who, for more than 30 years, has been modeling Christ in service to her community. Currently serving as an elder in the Bath Settlement

Seventh-day Adventist church, she continues to bring relief, hope and care to many within her predominantly East Indian community, including the West Berbice district and the wider Guyana Conference constituency. Her work involves weekly visitations, special needs prayers, Bible studies, as well as a ministry to the sick and families in bereavement. She also participates in evangelistic outreach efforts whenever these activities are held in her community.

Aside from the church’s finances, Sister Joseph often collaborates with local businesses to donate supplies and often uses her personal funds to meet needs in as many homes as possible.

Sister Joseph contributes in the areas of planning and leadership as well, having served as president of the Demerara/Berbice Community Service Council, and as a long-standing Community Service Leader in her local church. She is the current Vice President of West Berbice Evangelism Council and oversees the year-end Love in Action program in her district.



*Evangelist Claudius Morgan*

President Tobias in recognizing the various awardees stated: “We are all in partnership with God and He has given to us a diversity of gifts to be used in fulfilling the mission to which we have been commissioned. I congratulate all the awardees for their contributions.”

“The work before us is great,” said Pastor Johnson Frederick, Union Executive Secretary. “But as church leaders and members unite with the Holy Spirit we can move forward in fulfilling the Great Commission entrusted to us by God Himself.” He challenged his audience to “commit and give our all to the mission, to become contributors and not just receivers, to be bold and partner with God in leading His end-time mission, and to claim the power of the Holy Spirit as we step out in faith, saying: ‘I Will Go.’”

# Tobago Mission Leaders Installed



*Ps. Vishnu Persad, President*



*Ps. Martin Cunningham, Exc. Secretary*



*Kerene Horsford-Nero, Treasurer*

**F**anfare from the Tobago Seventh-day Adventist Church Marching Band accompanied the presentation of Pastor Vishnu Persad - President, Pastor Martin Cunningham - Executive Secretary, and Sister Kerene Horsford-Nero - Treasurer, to the constituency gathered at Scarborough for the installation service.

“Today marks a new era in the leadership of the Tobago Mission,” said Pastor Johnson Frederick, Executive Secretary of the Caribbean Union Conference. He was the Caribbean Union Conference’s designee to lead the installation in the absence of Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference. Pastor Frederick went on to challenge the team and said, “That means progress and success. Leadership is far from a walk in the park; it is a long march through a dark valley and is complex, more so now than ever before. A successful leader is a leader with character, one who acknowledges their weaknesses and seeks to grow together with the people they lead - displaying moral transparency.” Drawing from the leadership style of Moses, he encouraged the leadership team

to spend time consulting with the Ultimate Leader for all aspects of their leadership journey and to take everything to The Lord.

Pastor Bertie Henry, Treasurer of the Caribbean Union Conference, encouraged leaders to continue to recognize and operate within the remit of the purpose of the church. He added that by doing so, the church should reach unprecedented heights, many would come to praise God, and all would recognize that something new is happening in Tobago.

During his response, Pastor Persad expressed thanks to God and to Pastor Toney Mapp who served the Tobago Mission as president for eleven years (2011-2022). “Thank you for being faithful to the very end. Thank you for being a mentor to a young president who is still trying to find out what happened at the Caribbean Union Conference Session,” said Pastor Persad, the youngest president to serve the Tobago Mission.

He was elected to serve as President and Prayer Coordinator in July 2022, along with the following administrators and departmental directors:

- Pastor Martin Cunningham:

- Executive Secretary and Community Services Director
- Sister Kerene Horsford-Nero: Treasurer and Director of Stewardship, Trust Services, Health and Safety
- Pastor Paul McKenzie: Assistant to the President for Evangelism and Director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries
- Pastor Richard Frederick: Publishing and Health Ministries Director
- Pastor Lowell Ottley: Ministerial Secretary and Family Ministries Director
- Sister Annette Lewis: Director of Youth & Adolescent Ministries, Chaplaincy and Communication
- Brother Wilfred Desvignes: Field Secretary and Director of ADRA, Men’s Ministries, Children’s Ministries, and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL)
- Sister Jamila Joseph-Nicholls: Director of Women’s Ministries, Education, and Human Resource

The Tobago Mission was organized in 2004 and, today, boasts a membership of about 8,660. The leadership team has supervisory responsibilities for 32 congregations.





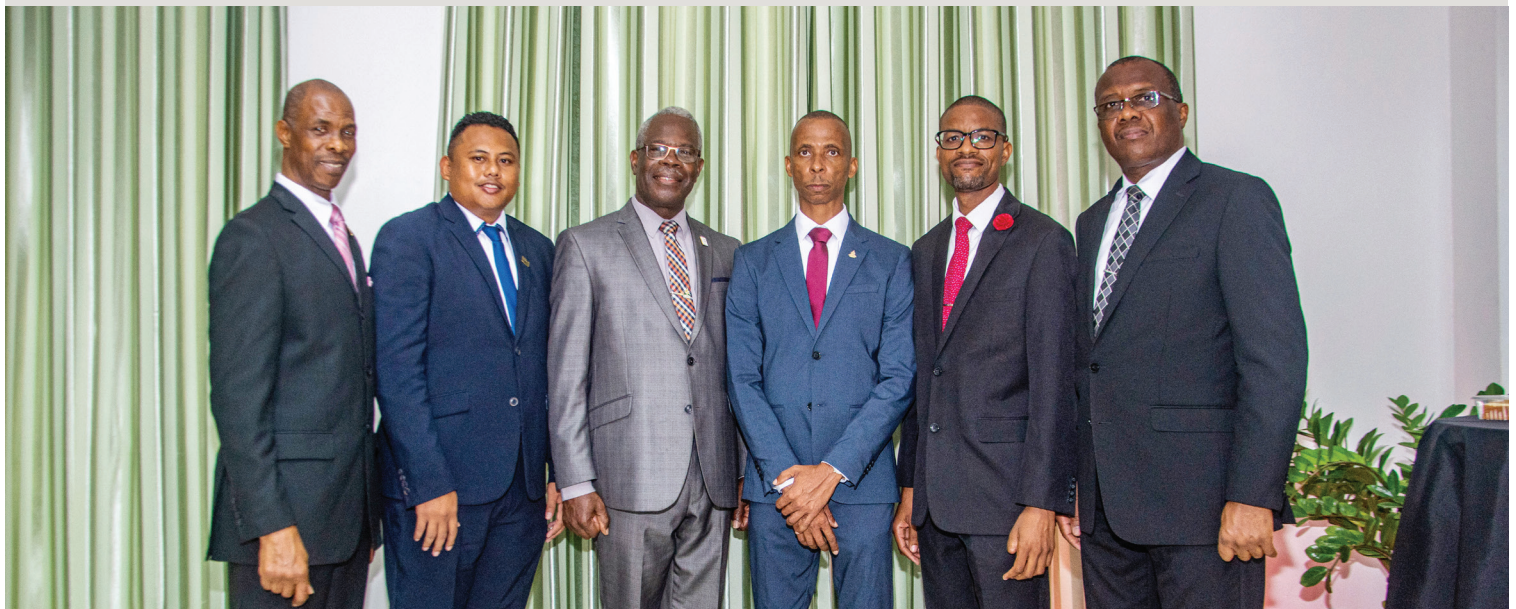
*(l-r) Pastor David Daniel - Secretary, Pastor Guno Emanuelson - President, Pastor Steven Tulp -Treasurer, Dr. Kern Tobias - CARU President*

## Suriname Mission Leaders Installed

**A** fresh cadre of administrators have commenced duties within the Suriname Mission. President and Director of Religious Freedom and Music Pastor Guno Emanuelson as well as Secretary and Director of Family Life Ministries Pastor David Daniel were installed September 24, 2022 alongside Pastor Steven Tulp, Treasurer and Global Mission ADRA director.

In his congratulatory response, Caribbean Union President Dr. Kern Tobias urged the officers to “never forget that God Almighty always guarantees success even with a minority,” while President Emanuelson, in his acceptance address, expressed admiration for “a Church where everyone is in the arena to fight and to labor, and that spectators who may happen to be there are just people to fire us up, not to criticize.”

The installation ceremony took place in the Multipurpose Room of the Suriname Mission Headquarters. The Mission comprises 16 churches, 6 groups, and 3,425 members.







*Ps. Desmond James, NCC President*



*Dr. Kern Tobias - CARU President and Ps. Wilmoth James, NCC Executive Secretary*



*Dr. Kern Tobias - CARU President and Ms. Sanida McKenzie, Treasurer*

## Veteran Cadre of NCC Officers Installed

**T**he North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists on August 19, 2022, installed veteran leaders to guide the 10-island conference into the next four years, under the banner “Empowered for Mission, Inspired by Hope.”

At the dedication service, Caribbean Union President Dr. Kern Tobias reminded the ten executive officers and department heads that “God knows what He’s about when He selects individuals for service.” NCC President Pastor Desmond James, along with Executive Secretary Pastor Wilmoth James and long-serving Treasurer Ms. Sanida McKenzie were re-elected to lead the NCC’s next term of service.

Speaking to NCC President Pastor Desmond James, Dr. Tobias said: “I’ve seen you endure challenge and trial that many would have pulled their hair out (for) and would have run and hide; but you stood up and took it, understanding that God was giving you a chance to be made into a better man.”

Dr. Tobias went on to tell the audience that he is duly impressed with the character of President Desmond James. “I

have had the privilege of leading and nurturing four mission presidents and six conference presidents,” Dr. Tobias said. “If you understand who a conference president is, then you would say “Thank you, sir! Thank you, sir!”

In response, James said that he is humbled and honored that God has appointed him with the sacred trust of leading His church. “I am not worthy for the task but, enabled and empowered by His Spirit, I pledge to be true and faithful to the heavenly calling,” he said.

Also dedicated to service were directors of the 18 departments comprising the NCC. The Stewardship, Trust Services, Spirit of Prophecy and Planned Giving departments are headed by Pastor Danny Philip, while Pastor Heskett Matthew has been appointed Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Community Services Director. The Director of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Ministries is Mrs. Linda Ambrose while Pastor Leriano Webster is Director of Campus Ministries, Youth, Chaplaincy and Communications. Pastor Glendon Cross heads up the Ministerial Secretary and Family Life departments and Pastor

Dr. Henry Peters the Publishing department. Mrs. Gerene Joseph presides over Education while Mrs. Delia King serves as auditor. The installation service took place at the conclusion of the 14th Quadrennial Conference at the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church on St Croix, USVI and President James encouraged his leadership team to adopt a HOPE outlook for the term ahead: a Homeward-bound mentality; Optimism, which is confidence in the future; Perseverance through difficulty and change; and Empowerment through the Spirit of God.

“The crises of this world have ushered us into a new paradigm and for all of us who think that things are going to be as usual, forget it. Times have changed, so we can never go back and do the things that we used to do the same way. We must be innovative and creative. We must plan and empower,” he said. “So, as you leave this mountaintop, I give you hope, (for) hope shapes my vision and agenda. As we head off into the new quadrennium, I want this conference to be the number one conference, not just in the Caribbean or the Inter-American Division, but in the world,” James said.



# Guyana Conference Hosts Religious Liberty Convention



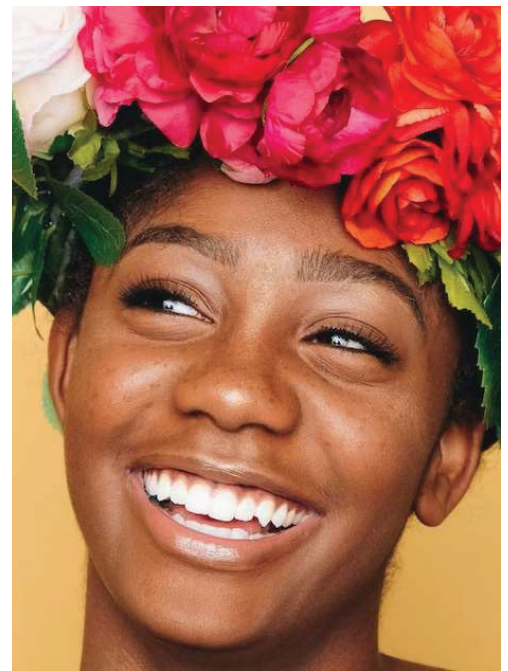
The Guyana Conference Religious Liberty Department and Guyana Religious Liberty Association (GURLA) convened a four-hours-long symposium at the Berbice High School auditorium in New Amsterdam on Sabbath morning, November 5, 2022.


The event marked the return of conventions to Berbician shores following a COVID-19 related hiatus. Adventist lawyers, doctors, clergy and other professionals, including attorneys Telisha Williams, Leslyn Charles, Fiona Hamilton-Young, Dr. David Young, Eld. Fenton Park along with Pastors Oliver Moore, Mark Glasgow and Franklyn Rogers led discourses within their areas of expertise, including: “Religious Liberty, a multifaceted gift to humanity;” “Freedom to make Health Choices;” “The Role of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) in the local Church;” and “Exercising your Freedom to Believe: Christian Diplomacy.”

GURLA President Pastor Martin Babb delivered the morning’s homily.




“The event marked the return of conventions to Berbician shores following a COVID-19 related hiatus.”



 Seventh-day Adventist  
Dental Clinic

◆ Professional ◆ Caring ◆ Service

*Giving Your Teeth  
Longer Life!*

 Block 2000  
Old Montrose  
Phone: 457-9877, 533-0772  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines



# BIBLE CONNECTIONS



## South Caribbean Conference Wins CARU Bible Connection Finals

**J**erren Brewster of the South Caribbean Conference (SCC) captured the winner's plaque in the Caribbean Union Conference-wide Bible Connection (BC) competition finals held in October 2022. Second and third places went to Keith George of the Tobago Mission and Xabisa Hamilton of the Guyana Conference, respectively.

CARU Youth Director and event coordinator Pastor Marvin Smith

described the annual initiative as “a great blessing” in the lives of many young people. “We want young people to walk closer with Jesus, learn about His life, passion and ministries, so that they, in turn, can continue impacting the lives of people in their communities every day and every week,” he said.

This year's competition and study guides were centered in the Book of Revelation. Smith said that studying the Book

of Revelation is both fulfilling and rewarding since properly understood, the prophecies of Revelation have practical application. “Studying them will, first, move young people to soul-searching and help them understand how they should live today while waiting for the future hope. Then, it will motivate them to take seriously their eternal destiny and to find their place in this world as they reach people around with the gospel message. This should help them to focus on preaching the last book of the Bible,” Pastor Smith said.

Among the eleven participating entities of the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) are its four missions, six conferences, and the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). The youth directors of all CARU fields, coaches, sponsors, supporters and youth representatives assemble at the USC campus, for the annual event.

The Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was represented by Xabisa Hamilton who holds the distinction of representing the Caribbean Union at the IAD Bible Connection finals for the last three years.



*Jerren Brewster (center) of the South Caribbean Conference is the top winner of this year's CARU-BC Representative. Xabisa Hamilton (far left) placed 3rd while Keith George (far right) obtained 2nd place honors. Pastor Marvin Smith stands in support.*



# Acts of Kindness Highlight CARU Pathfinder Day 2022

Pathfinders around the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (CARU) were mobilized to join the Adventist World Church as it celebrated 72 years of pathfinding. Young people rededicated themselves to the task of being the hands and feet of Christ in their communities as captured in the theme of the September 16, 2022, celebration, “Change the World.”

CARU President Dr. Kern Tobias emphasized that young people should never be taken for granted. “I’m hoping that many of them would realize that we are counting upon them to share God’s message for the end times,” he said. “The discipline exhibited by those Adventist young people still has an impact on our community. Perhaps, most importantly, Pathfinders showed, by their actions, that they were eager to make Pathfinder Day more than just a 24-hour period. They seemed to be committing to a lifestyle of helping others and changing their world.”

Youth Pastor Marvyn Smith said it was noteworthy that Pathfinders engaged in “random

acts of kindness, bringing hope to families [for] if there was ever a time for Pathfinders to change the world, it is now. God is calling us to shine brighter as this world gets darker,” he said.

Youth leaders recounted dozens of activities organized for the annual event. Across the territory, hundreds were invested at the respective levels of the Pathfinder ministry. Scores of Pathfinders stood in pulpits to deliver the Sabbath message. Club leaders displayed innovation through elaborate decorations that promoted the spirit and passion of pathfinding.

Program participants uploaded social media images and videos of Pathfinders involved in both musical and dramatic presentations, the latter depicting the importance of being a positive role model. Pathfinders rendered amazing music that thrilled and blessed the hearts of many congregants.

More than 2,000 Pathfinders were invested in the Guyana Conference and the activities included a baptismal ceremony



during which many took their stand for God, including the son of the conference’s Youth Director, Pastor Jason Fleming. Pastor Smith said he was delighted to officiate during the baptism and described the experience as “the highlight of the day.”

One week before Pathfinder Day, some of the CARU fields were threatened by a tropical storm. Pastor Smith assembled youth leaders from across the territory for a prayer of intercession. In the end, the North Caribbean Conference celebration suffered only a one-week delay due to blustery winds and rain.

Pathfinder Day is hosted on the third Saturday every September.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ADVENT RADIO MINISTRIES 101.5FM**

# CELEBRATION TIME

With Delma & Monica

Monday To Thursday  
From 8:00am - 10:00am

**LIVE ON**

SLCAdventist SecondAdventRadio 101.5FM

# Political Leaders Celebrate Adventist Influence in Mason Hall, Tobago

**R**eflections of the Mason Hall Seventh-day Adventist Church's (SDA) influence in the community marked the congregation's diamond jubilee service of thanksgiving, where enthusiastic applause from a crowd of more than 300 members and community friends echoed the impact of that church in the life of the community. Key national leaders attended the historic service held October 15, 2022 to share their personal encounters with the 75-year old church.

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley, told the gathering, "Standing before you is one of your very own, who started his education downstairs in that old house where the Seventh-day Adventists [were] represented. Having walked that school from the age of five - today, whatever you think of me, whatever honor or recognition you give to me, the foundation of what I am is my upbringing on this ground right here. . . in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. So today I ask you, more now than ever, to defend these principles. Your country needs you. If Mason Hall ever needed you, it is now; if Trinidad and Tobago ever needed you, it is now; answer to the call as I know you would."

The Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, himself a Seventh-day Adventist, reminded the gathering of how God used the SDA Church to bless the island: "You are privileged to be sitting in the same place with two leaders, both of whom are raised by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. With about 15% of the island affiliated with the Seventh-day



*Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Rowley is introduced by President of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventist Dr. Kern Tobias, second from left, to Pastor of the Mason Hall SDA Church Ein Kirk, on his arrival at the 75th Anniversary Celebrations. Also in this photo is Pastor Vishnu Persad, President of the Tobago Mission of SDA. File Image from Office of the Chief Secretary FB*

Adventist Church, it means that there is something about us; [there is] something about being a leader in the church that trains young people to be outstanding citizens. The Adventist people have impacted not only the local community, but the whole nation. We can say with considerable pride that the Adventists have had a crucial role in the development of Tobago," he said.

Seventy-five years ago, the Mason Hall SDA Church rose as a lighthouse in the community. The nucleus of Adventism began with Mr. Fitzgerald Louis, the first Seventh-day Adventist in the village of Mason Hall, who spent each Sunday preaching the gospel from village to village. This nucleus included the Tobias family whose faithfulness still influences the Church through the leadership of Dr. Kern Tobias - the Caribbean Union Conference President.

Dr. Tobias exalted the grace

and mercy of God, then shared his journey: "This church was already eight years [old] when I was privileged to be born into a family that was one of the beneficiaries and contributors... We can all agree that we have come this far by faith - hitherto has the Lord led us. As a church, you have been involved in the mission. The Lord will bless and will heal the land," he said. Tobias thanked God for the improved quality of life advanced by the Church in Mason Hall and referenced Brother Stephen McLeod who, at 104 years, is still a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "When one accepts Christ and agrees to live by the word, there is a better quality of life", Dr. Tobias concluded.

Pastor Vishnu Persad, the Tobago SDA Mission President, encouraged the audience to renew their commitment to God as they celebrate the historic occasion.





Former President Ps. Edward Blackman receives award of appreciation from newly elected President, Ps. Guno Emanuelson

# Suriname Mission Pays Tribute to Adventist Pioneers

Royston Philbert

The Suriname Mission of Seventh-day Adventists recognized the contributions of active and retired church leaders who served the mission field of Suriname. Families and friends packed the auditorium on September 1, 2022 to support the honorees and offer congratulatory remarks.

Pastor Guno Emanuelson, the Suriname Mission President, congratulated the pioneers who gave devoted service to the development of Adventism in Suriname. “Celebrating and recognizing these individuals [are] not just an event, but an opportunity to thank them for their contribution to the Church, especially during difficult times,” he said.

In August 2022, Suriname celebrated the 128th year since the arrival of Adventism to its shores which form part of the South American coastline. Congregations in Suriname have been making successful attempts to connect with the community. As of June 30, 2021, the Church in Suriname has gained 5,450

members, who were served by 17 congregations across the country.

The Church in Suriname has not had an explosive growth, like other fields, due to the secular influences on this former Dutch colony and the varied people groups, cultures and dialects spoken in Suriname. However, through the efforts of these committed workers and lay people, the Church tracked its impact in the areas of youth, radio ministry, health, and public evangelism.

Special awards and recognitions were given to administrators, retirees, and lay leaders for making significant contributions in their respective fields.

Pastor Lindon Gudge, who retired in July 2022, was recognized for 51 years of service. Pastor Gudge’s work began in 1971 and he served as an educator until 1975. Sensing the call of God on his life, he attended Caribbean Union College, now the University of the Southern Caribbean, and graduated in 1982 with a

Bachelor of Arts in Theology. That same year, he began his ministerial career in Guyana, the land of his birth. He served the Guyana Conference as district pastor, departmental director, and president. He retired as a denominational worker in Suriname, where he also served as pastor, departmental worker, and president.

Pastor Edward Blackman served as president of the Suriname Mission from 2011 to 2022, and was recognized for 11 years of dedicated and outstanding service. During his tenure as president, Pastor Blackman was credited with serving as district pastor and departmental director, simultaneously.

Brother James R. Newland served as treasurer of the Suriname Mission until 2022, and was recognized by the Church for his service. He began his denominational service with the Suriname Mission on January 1, 2018. Brother Newland was an outstanding chief financial officer and was admired for his efforts to facilitate the modernization of the treasury.



Ps. Lindon Gudge and Administrators of the Suriname Mission



Some retirees and their spouse of the Suriname Mission office



Former Education, Children, Communication and HR Director Carla Emanuelson, with newly elected administrators of Suriname Mission



Pastor Steven Tulp, who was elected in July 2022 to serve as the Suriname Mission Treasurer, was recognized for 10 years of faithful and outstanding service as a worker. Pastor Tulp served the Church as an accountant, district pastor, communication director and ADRA director.

The organization also spotlighted several retirees and workers who celebrated their wedding anniversaries. These couples included a former president of the Suriname Mission, Pastor Johannes Roseval and his wife

Carmen Roseval who is a former educator (60 years of marriage); a former treasurer, Brother Leslie Koordnijk and his wife Eline Koordnijk (50 years of marriage); Brother Dennis Emanuelson and his wife, Sister Carla Emanuelson van Brussel who is a former education director (45 years of marriage); and Pastor Roel Blackman and Sister Judith Blackman-Emanuelson who are still in active service (40 years of marriage).

At this event, the Suriname Mission also honored Brother

George Elshot who had recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Brother Elshot is well known for his passionate service within the education and health ministry departments.

The church in Suriname will continue to embrace its mission, even as these individuals retire or transition to other responsibilities within God's work. The Suriname Mission operates two primary schools and is a field within the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

## FAMILIES RENEW PROMISES AT WEEKEND RETREAT

In an effort to empower, build up and enhance the lives of ministerial families, the Office of the President together with the Family Ministries and Ministerial Departments planned a much needed hiatus and converged on the sister isle of Tobago to 'rest a while' for a Ministerial Families retreat from October 21 - 24, 2022 at the Rovanel's Resort and Conference Centre. The group of 190 persons along with the newly elected president, Pastor Vishnu Persad, enjoyed a weekend well spent.

The main facilitators were Dr. Willie and Mrs. Elaine Oliver, Family Ministries Directors

of the General Conference of SDAs. The couple proved to be the ideal coaches for the occasion, focusing on key topics including The Joy of Oneness, Communication, Problem Solving, and Sexual Oneness and Forgiveness. The use of their own personal life experiences further invigorated their presentations.

The weekend fare also included workshops for young adults and children. President Pastor Leslie Moses, School Chaplains Dr. Michelle McIntyre and Pastor Geovanni John-Keith, Tobago Mission Youth Director Sis. Annette Lewis and the South



Caribbean Conference Children's Ministries Director Pastor Ruslyn Baptiste-Farfan were among the hosts.

The program concluded with a recommitment ceremony and trips to two of Tobago's popular attractions, the Buccoo Reef and Nylon Pool.





# REFLECTIONS OF PRIMITIVE WORSHIP AT SESSION

*Royston Philbert*



“

...we should know our  
hymns and we should be  
able to sing our songs.”



It has always been inspirational to witness Adventism at its best. While that may be deemed a subjective experience, I know for certain that, whenever we experience biblical corporate worship, hearts are moved and souls are lifted heavenward. No doubt the sixth quadrennial session of the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists provided such an opportunity.

Adventist conferences and mission sessions are characterized not just by listening to reports and engaging in discussions on leadership appointments; rather, they are also occasions for biblical inspiration, spiritual renewal and musical refreshment.

As such, I applaud the music committee for including a range of music which revealed, not only talent and giftedness, but also an understanding of music and the effect certain melodies can have on the hearers. On Sabbath morning, the Maranatha Church praise team led out in hymns, including my mother's favorite, The Great Physician. I remember singing that song in the days when we had no instruments in church, so the members would beat out the rhythm on the backs of the pews and on the wooden floors. The session brought back primitive godliness among constituents. I seemed to not be alone in my great expectations about the spiritual and emotional lift from the congregational singing of that powerful song. It was as if members had been waiting to sing the piece the entire year and had finally gotten their chance.

I'd never heard it done with more spirit! So much so, the tears flowed. God's living power was evident in that room.

Zion SDA's Sister Shirleyann Cyril Mayers' rendition of "How Great thou Art" was a fitting demonstration that the power of a hymn does not lie alone in its lyrics. Only when set to music do those lyrics become fully loaded with emotive intensity to reach



the inmost soul. And that's my central point: we should know our hymns and we should be able to sing our songs.

There's something strange about a roomful of grown men and women opening their mouths and making sounds together. But the psychology of it is evident. It solidifies people; creates unity; strengthens resolve; brings comfort; deepens assurance; enhances hope. We do it for the exhilaration it gives, the goosebumps it creates, the confidence it produces. For one moment, I wondered what it was like for worshippers where the Sabbath convention was downlinked. Were they enjoying a similar experience?

The session theme, "Going with God, Striving For Excellence" provided the right platform

for any preacher to "bring a word." And Pastor Exton Clarke, President of the Guyana Conference of Seventh day Adventist, did not disappoint the 167 delegates and guests with his devotional presentations. The spiritual nuggets were refreshing and deep. In fact, Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union Conference, commended Mission President Pastor Roger Stephen for his choice of speaker. "You have not only chosen well, but you provided the correct individual to help me better connect with God," he said, of Pastor Clarke's two days of exhortations.

Elder Philip Leon of the Sarot Seventh day Adventist church, a longstanding leader at his church and a veteran session attendee, was

openly moved by Pastor Clarke's use of biblical examples of how to be a model disciple of Christ and to build a strong relationship with God. In one of his more strident devotionals, Pastor Clarke used the story of Elijah being fed by ravens to strike at nepotism and at individuals chasing gain and achievement instead of waiting at the brook to be fed by God. "Mister can really preach," Elder Leon declared.

From my college days when I roomed with Pastor Elwin St. Rose, I was aware of the St. Lucian layman's appetite for preaching. This session revealed the foundation. The foundation is laid on the involvement of the youth. Probably we can call it youth power. Pastor Stephen spoke of many of them being "solid, brilliant young men" in whom The Spirit resides. Young





people were leading in every aspect of the session. They displayed determination, love for the church and a capacity for growing spiritually. There are not many places where youth can be found sitting through church services not without being distracted by their electronic devices; but I observed many of them in one corner of the church, in rapt attention, especially on Sabbath morning during the collegiate lesson.

I sat with Trevon Pierre, youth representative on the Executive Committee for the quinquennium and I felt his passion for the church and the need for integrity in leadership. Among other pursuits, he runs a program on Praise FM, the Mission FM Radio Station. "I want to see young people make it to the kingdom,"

Pierre said. "The aim is to teach the Bible and help young people find their way to the kingdom of God," he said. As the second largest denomination on Saint Lucia, the SDA church holds to a strong Christian education philosophy. Its members are lodged in almost every facet of the St Lucia government and, with a membership of 24,391 dispersed across 44 churches, SDA congregations gather in virtually every village on the island.

There's something unique and unifying about the SDA message. Having served as a pastor for 37 years, this session has reinforced the truth that wherever I go, Adventists are easily recognisable. They preach the same message, and they are singing the same songs.

and believers take Christianity seriously. Seventh-day Adventists believe that the church will triumph and that they will be victorious. Both ministers and laity believe that the church militant should sound the clarion call. It's no wonder then that over 400 members were baptized by the laity alone during this quadrennium.

When the session ended, representatives set out for home, resolved in the context of Revelation 17 to saturate their minds, not with intoxicating music or the false doctrines of an apostate church, but with the outpourings from the Fountain of Life in order that they might sing the good old songs forever in the presence of the Lord.





# LOCKDOWN AND ZOOM EXPAND FAMILY OF FAITH

*Annette Walwyn Michael*



“ We enjoyed a fellowship dinner just feet away from balmy waters where, finally, I was face to face with children of God who accepted me.”

zoom

Join a Meeting

Sign In



**A** Sabbath School class in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, needed more time than the allotted 40 minutes on Sabbath morning for lesson review at the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. So even before the pandemic shut down churches, Brother Matthew's class had been meeting in person and online on Sabbath afternoons, sometimes studying until sunset. They had no idea that their Bible study would lead to an encounter with someone in a totally unexpected way.

Thousands of miles away in Missouri, Debbie had a chance telephone encounter with Olasee, a member of this Zoom class. Unbeknownst to either of them, they were grieving the loss of a mutual friend, Kofi, who had recently died.

Olasee sensed that Debbie was feeling down and made friendly enquiry. The conversation led to discussions about God and His ability to meet our deepest needs and to answer our faintest prayers. Having discovered their shared connection, Olasee invited Debbie to join him on the Sabbath School platform.

Even though she knew nothing about the Sabbath or Seventh-day Adventists, she kept logging on to the Zoom forum week after week. Soon the pandemic struck, and entire communities were quarantined at home; but Debbie still had her group of friends on St. Croix studying with and praying for her. In fact, when tragedy later struck her immediate family, she was grateful for the supportive counseling sessions with Ada Luz, who has since become a dear friend.



*Sabbath School class members (front row l-r) Laurette, Charlene, Bro Matthew, Debbie, Dianne, Myrtle. (back row l-r) Verleen, Patricia, Avril, Giddel and Sanida.*

Convinced of the truth she was hearing, Debbie changed her diet and began taking daily walks. As she did, her outlook greatly improved, and most of her health challenges started to clear up. She began to keep the Sabbath too and commenced her search for a Seventh-day Adventist church where she could worship. She found one, but immediately discovered that she was not welcome there. The following Sabbath, she wondered if she should continue attending even though, after introducing herself to several persons, no one said a word of greeting to her.

However, she still had her friends in Bro. Matthew's class on St. Croix. So she decided to board a plane to meet them in the Virgin Islands. "What a joy it was for me to sit with thirteen brothers and sisters whose faces I had seen only on Zoom. "We enjoyed a fellowship dinner just feet away from balmy waters where, finally,

I was face to face with children of God who accepted me," Debbie said.

On Sabbath, November 12, 2022, Debbie attended Central SDA church with her Zoom family for the first time. "We sat together in Sabbath School as I had imagined it so many times in Missouri," she said. "Now I'm looking forward to baptism and continuing Bible studies with my church family at Central on Sabbath afternoons via Zoom. I have come home to this loving church family. Hopefully, one day I can also feel at home with my SDA brothers and sisters in Missouri as we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth."

*Central Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of eight congregations on St. Croix, and is part of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Inter American Division.*



## FEATURE REPORT

# CHURCH FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED THRIVES IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

*Deborah Spooner*



“

“...the camps allowed attendees to build relationships, and find support for their spiritual and personal growth.”



## **HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**

The Deaf are said to be among the most overlooked and least evangelised groups in communities everywhere, but not in the Eastern Caribbean Conference. Deaf Ministries is thriving on the islands of Dominica and Barbados. In fact, the East Caribbean Conference is dotted with close to 100 congregations.

Fifty-eight churches, one company, and one group make up the 20,248 Barbados membership while 25 churches, five companies, and five groups make up the 7,403 Dominica constituency.

The movement, which began 30 years ago with Reach-Out SDA Deaf Ministries, was spearheaded by Elder Earlwaine Cumberbatch who desired to see the gospel spread to the deaf and hearing impaired. In the early years, the ministry met at the Breath of Life SDA Church in Bridgetown because of its central location.

Over the years, the church services have made great progress from initially just having a dedicated Sabbath School program to eventually achieving company status with all the services of the regular church (except Sunday night service), until it was fully established in November 2004.

Having attained church status, the members worshipped for a number of years in a classroom at the Barbados SDA Secondary school; however, in May 2017, through an initiative approved by the East Caribbean Conference, through Elder Beresford Hunte, and the under the care of Pastor Deborah Spooner, they moved into a building, the former Cave's Nursing Home.

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CHURCH**

The ministry/church over the years recognised that the growth of the church occurred through slightly different methods than that for a hearing church. The church organised week-long camps that brought the deaf together from across the island and other territories. These camps were coupled with nightly crusades. In the past they were held in Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad.

The evangelistic series held in conjunction with the camps allowed attendees to build relationships, and find support for their spiritual and personal growth. Many new and lasting friendships were made which, in turn, yielded a number of baptisms over the years.

The crusades, while organised by the local churches, sought help from deaf pastors from the US, namely: Pastors Jeffrey Jordan, David Trexler, and Paul Kelly. Additionally, Pastor Thompson Kay of the Christian Record Services for the Deaf provided invaluable assistance in voicing, training and coaching.

In 2014, 2016, and 2018, some hearing-impaired members and signers attended summer camps organised by the Southern Deaf Fellowship. The interpreting and training workshops convened were instrumental in the further development of the ministry in Barbados since there are no formally trained interpreters in the church.

## **HOW DOES THE GROUP FIT INTO THE OVERALL MINISTRY OF THE CONFERENCE**

In recognising that heaven will be made up of eclectic individuals, the Conference has included the church members

in a number of Conference Conventions and Special Needs outreach programmes.

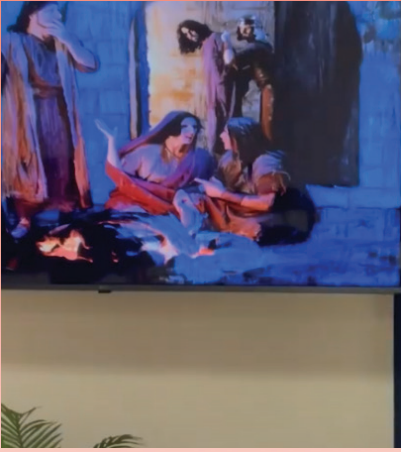
The deaf first elder of the church, Brother Anthony Pile, has been invited to sit on the Conference's Possibilities Ministry Committee where the needs of that demographic can be articulated.

## **OCTOBER 2022 EVANGELISTIC SERIES**

Luke 15:10 says that the angels will rejoice at one sinner that repents. Therefore, there was exceeding joy at the culmination of the Walking in His Steps Evangelistic series recently concluded (October 15 to 29, 2022).

This series was the brainchild of the Personal Ministries Department. Having witnessed the Good News Impact Evangelistic Series - the question was asked "Why can't a similar series be conducted for the Deaf in ASL [American Sign Language]?" The planning for this program began in 2021 during the surge in the Covid-19 pandemic. A small team of church members and media specialists came together to plan and execute this very special program; the Crusade Management Committee was chaired by Sister Roslyn Bullen, and consisted of Sister Sharon Jones, Elder Beresford Hunte, Elder Roger Bourne, Sister Donna Fraser-Bourne, Sister Gillian Hunte, Sister Muriel Stoute, Sister Sandra White-Belgrave, Brother Anthony Pile, Brother Wayne Morgan and Brother Simon Victor.

Undaunted by the challenges presented, the team put their heads together, rolled up their sleeves literally and began working towards this momentous event. Hours were spent in the



Pastor Jordan, Crusade Evangelist



Anthony Pile, Co-Evangelist

studio of the East Caribbean Conference recording the many videos that were needed. After months of prayer, planning a dedication the program was finally launched.

The Conference was on board with the project and joined the church in the community project which was to present the Irving Wilson School's Deaf Class, with some needed items.

**WHAT DID IT ENTAIL**

The team reached out to various parties in other islands/countries to join in the venture. Pastor Jordan, as usual, consented without hesitation to provide the series in the video format. The relationships gained at the past American Interpreters camps resources to assist with the voicing of the sermons and providing special music.

Signers from Barbados, the Deaf ministries from Jamaica and

Trinidad heeded the call and provided valuable material for inclusion in the overall program.

As with any evangelistic series - there are lessons in the leadup to the program. The very nature of this program allowed for these lessons to be produced in written and video format making it easier for dissemination on the social media platforms to the contacts made.

The objectives of the series were to:

- Increase awareness of the church ministry.
- Increase involvement of the deaf in witnessing.
- Spreading of the gospel.
- Harvesting.

By the grace of God by the end of the series the goals were achieved: two deaf persons, Diane Griffith and Akilah Charles were baptised in Barbados.

**GROWTH AND FUTURE PLANS OF THE CHURCH**

The current membership of the church includes active baptised deaf members who hold positions of first elder, elders-in-training, song service leaders, deacon and deaconess. The plan is to have a church that is for the deaf and managed by the deaf with their needs being met.

The church is going into the third year of the first elder being a deaf person. Brother Anthony Pile is a lay preacher in his own right, and played an important part in the virtual series through his appeals and encouragement every night as well as his dynamic preaching on Sabbath. Such ownership is a giant step in the direction the church is going with Deaf on Deaf ministry. The intention is to continue such evangelistic outreach until the Deaf of the whole island - the conference, the union-are reached.





## 2<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that the 2nd Session of the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists takes place in Antigua at the Bible Speaks Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 8 and May 9, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to transact the general business of the conference; to receive reports from the administrators, departmental directors and the auditor; to elect departmental directors and the executive committee; to review and/or create plans for moving the conference towards session; and to endorse or develop plans for the general conduct of the work in the territory.

### Obituaries



#### *Pastor Garvin Paul*

Retired pastor Garvin Paul passed away in April 2022 after 30 years of service. He will long be remembered for his sincere and vibrant dedication as district pastor, personal ministries director and music director. A gifted musician and singer, Pastor Paul made significant contributions in the area of music ministry throughout the national constituency. He is survived by his two sons, Jevin and Jeron.

#### *Samuel Eskine Alexander Lowe*

After an intense battle with illness, Samuel Eskine Alexander Lowe rested on July 16, 2022 at age 59. Pastor Lowe enjoyed the admiration and respect of students, colleagues and parishioners for his many years of service. He served with excellence as district pastor in the South Caribbean Conference for more than 16 years, shepherding many districts including Maraval, Guaico, Enterprise, Morvant, and Cleveland Temple. He also served at the University of the Southern Caribbean from 2003 to 2018 in various capacities as Associate Dean of Men, Dean of Men, Ag. Vice President of Student Services, Day Dean and part-time lecturer in the department of Family and Consumer Sciences. In addition, he served as first elder of the Barataria Seventh-day Adventist church when he held the position of Associate Dean of Men.



Pastor Lowe is an alumnus of Caribbean Union College now University of the Southern Caribbean where he studied Theology with a minor in Business (1991). After graduation, he began working at the South Caribbean Conference as an intern in the Blanchisseuse area where he served for 4 years. Then he became the pastor of said District.

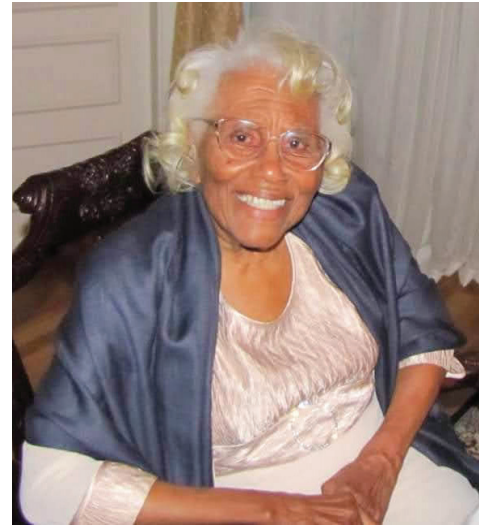
At age 28 on October 27th 1991, he married Florence Lydia nee Robinson and together they raised two young adult daughters, Shalanna Leynee Lowe and Shauna Liana Lowe who today are left to mourn his loss.

# Obituaries

## Joyce Barbara Shannon Forde

At the end of a life of service spanning 100 years, Sister Joyce Barbara Shannon Forde was on August 12, 2022 gently laid to rest. Born September 16, 1922, in Kittyville, British Guiana, she was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist church in her late 20's during an evangelistic campaign waged by Pastor Reid from Jamaica. Then for the next 75 years, Sister Forde would serve as homemaker, administrator, mother, teacher, poet, interior designer and inspirational speaker.

She is a 1948 alumnus of the Caribbean Training College, now University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) and a former executive secretary within the East Caribbean Conference, in Barbados. She also served at the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (CARU) in Trinidad after obtaining a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and minor in Home Economics from Atlantic Union College (AUC), Massachusetts. Interestingly, a young man, Kenneth Eugene Forde, had followed her to AUC to continue his studies. They married in 1955 and graduated together in 1958. Three daughters soon followed — Darlene Forde Alexander, Dianne Forde Richardson, and the wife of former NCC President Silton Browne, Barbara-Gene. In the home, Sis. Forde is said to have set high standards for herself and expected the same from everyone. Sis. Barbara-Gene attests: "[Mom] lived a remarkable life of service to God, the church, her alma mater, her husband, and her children, biological and non-biological [and] it is our hope that we will see her soon on that blessed resurrection day."



“  
... lived a remarkable life of service to God, the church, her alma mater, her husband, and her children, biological and non-biological”

A promotional graphic for the radio show 'Life's Encounter'. The background is red with yellow and white wavy lines. Two men are featured: one in a white shirt and black vest, and another in a black suit and red shirt. The text 'Life's Encounter' is written in a white, cursive font, with 'RADIO SHOW' in bold white capital letters below it. To the right, it says 'WITH PS. PRINCE HARRIS ELD. RUSSELL JAMES' in yellow and white. Below that, it says 'LIVE ON' in a dark blue box, followed by 'Second Advent Radio 101.5FM' and 'Second Advent Radio' with a YouTube icon. At the bottom right are logos for '2nd ADVENT RADIO MINISTRIES 101.5FM' and a stylized flame logo.





## DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT DEAN OF MEN

UNIVERSITY of the SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN | Royal Road, Maracas, St. Joseph

The University of the Southern Caribbean is a fully accredited educational institution with its main campus located in the beautiful Maracas Valley in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. We are committed to offering higher education based on the Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Education which fosters intellectual curiosity, cultural diversity, spiritual nurture and moral integrity. We have a multi-cultural mix of faculty, staff and students and offer a wide range of academic programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Currently we have an enrolment of two thousand and seven hundred students. As a religiously qualified Equal Opportunity Employer we reserve the right to prefer persons who are committed to our philosophy and advancing of Seventh-day Adventist Christian Education and service.

**JOB SUMMARY** | The Dean of Men is a highly responsible position at the Directorship level within the University. The Dean of Men is accountable for the general management of the Timothy S. Greaves Residence Hall and the conduct of students ensuring that the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy and principles are reflected in the activities and conduct of residents. The position holder is responsible for the development of programs, policies and activities as it pertains to the overall function and well-being of the residential community; aims to provide a quality housing experience, living and learning opportunities beyond the academic sphere, and to develop and build a culture and climate of community that is supportive of the mission and goals of the University. The Dean of Men is required to reside in the Dean's Apartment of the Timothy S. Greaves Residence Hall full-time, and to work non-standard hours at varying times which may include on-call/after work hours. The position requires compliance with established policies and procedures of the Division of Student Services and Enrolment Management and a high level of confidentiality. The Dean of Men reports to the Vice President of the Division of Student Services and Enrolment Management.

### QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A Bachelor's degree in Theology (Youth Emphasis), the Social Sciences or related field from an accredited institution.
- Experience living in a SDA Residence Hall and serving as Resident Assistant for a minimum of two years or experience as a Residence Hall Dean would be an asset.
- An understanding and deep commitment to the principles of Seventh-day Adventist youth ministry, student affairs management, student retention, student housing and student diversity and inclusion.
- Experience in program development and implementation.
- Extensive knowledge of the SDA Philosophy of Education.

***Applications should include a Cover Letter, a detailed Curriculum Vitae, two (2) written recommendations, including one from current employer, photocopies of relevant academic qualifications and contact number/s should be forwarded to:***

THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
UNIVERSITY of the SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN  
P. O. BOX 175  
PORT OF SPAIN  
TRINIDAD

Or email us at: [hr-recruitment@usc.edu.tt](mailto:hr-recruitment@usc.edu.tt)

Advertisement to be open until filled.

The University wishes to thank all applicants for their interest; however, only short-listed applicants will be contacted.



# UNIVERSITY *of the* SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN



The University of the Southern Caribbean  
is a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education.

**VISIT US ONLINE:**  
**[usc.edu.tt](http://usc.edu.tt)**

University of the Southern Caribbean  
Maracas Royal Road, St. Joseph, Trinidad  
Tel: +1 868-662-2241  
E-Mail: [info@usc.edu.tt](mailto:info@usc.edu.tt)

#### **ADDITIONAL CAMPUSES**

ANTIGUA | BARBADOS | GUYANA | ST. LUCIA | SOUTH CENTRE | TOBAGO